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Ford O'Brien Lands Former Federal Prosecutor In NY Office

By **Chart Riggall**

Law360 (July 17, 2023, 2:35 PM EDT) -- White collar defense boutique Ford O'Brien Landy LLP announced Monday that it has added a former federal prosecutor to its New York office as a partner.

Jamie Hoxie Solano joins the firm after most recently serving as an assistant United States attorney for the District of New Jersey, and is expected to bolster Ford O'Brien's practice in white collar defense, regulatory enforcement and commercial litigation.

Solano, a graduate of Vanderbilt Law School, has shuttled between private practice and the public sector more than once over her 15-plus-year legal career, she told Law360 Pulse on Monday.

After law school, she began clerking for U.S. District Judge John H. McBryde before joining the U.S. Department of Justice's Civil Division. She then moved to Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP, where she primarily worked on the legal team defending American International Group against a lawsuit challenging the legality of the government's bailout of the insurer during the 2008 financial crisis.

Solano then went to Clifford Chance LLP, working on white collar and anti-terrorism defense cases, before returning to the DOJ's Criminal Division in the Northern District of Texas. There she led the office's child exploitation cases before moving to its cybercrime and terrorism unit.

Solano later returned to the East Coast, working in the District of New Jersey, where she "focused a lot on foreign foreign-based, internet-enabled crime, including romance scams, business email compromises, money laundering offenses and Ponzi schemes," she said.

That work included charging several foreign nationals in South Africa with alleged ties to organized crime who were accused of operating various online scams.

Solano said that in her past stints in private practice, criminal defense was a part of her work she was drawn to, and she was looking for an opportunity to rejoin the defense bar. The difference now, she noted, is that she's been "behind the curtain."

"I've handled several cases where it's been mass coordination among several different districts and jurisdictions and agencies," she said. "So I kind of see it from a different perspective than when you're just seeing words on a page."

"I've also had lots of trial experience now. I had two trials ... when I was in private practice on the civil side. But now I've had 10 federal trials, several of which have been a crazy set of circumstances involving cross-examining defense witnesses and defendants themselves," she said.

Ford O'Brien was a natural fit, Solano said, because its propensity for vigorous defense scratches the same itch of courtroom combat.

"This firm is generally hired for people who are in a tough bind and want to fight. I certainly was a very tenacious prosecutor during my time with the federal government, and I intend to be an equally



Jamie Hoxie Solano

tenacious attorney on the defense side," she said.

Solano is the third partner hire the firm has announced in recent months. **In May**, it opened a Miami office to be led by former Kobre & Kim LLP attorney Gabriela Ruiz, and **in June**, it brought on former U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission trial counsel Michael Piazza in its Austin, Texas, office.

"Jamie's addition to the firm strengthens our already-deep roster of partners with prior prosecutorial and regulatory experience," Adam Ford, co-founder of the firm and managing partner of its white collar, regulatory and sanctions practices, said in a statement. "As we continue our strategic growth, we are thrilled to welcome a talented and experienced former government professional like Jamie to the firm."

--Editing by Stephen Berg.

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