

## Sheppard Mullin Picks Up Ex-Paul Hastings Antitrust Chair

By Kurt Orzek

*Law360, Los Angeles (November 16, 2015, 5:40 PM ET)* -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP said on Monday that it has hired the former chair of Paul Hastings LLP's global antitrust and international competition practice to serve as a partner in Sheppard Mullin's San Francisco office.

Michael P. A. Cohen — who has spent more than 20 years defending multinational clients in business conduct cases and investigations — joins Sheppard Mullin's antitrust and competition practice group, according to a Monday statement.

Cohen's new employer said he is among a small number of attorneys who have successfully defended mergers through trial and appeal in the U.S. He was co-lead counsel to Western Refining Inc. in its \$1.4 billion merger with Giant Industries Inc., which went from complaint through trial in 21 days and proceeded through appeal in less than two weeks, Monday's

statement said.

Cohen represents clients in sectors including high tech, software, oil and gas, heavy manufacturing, transportation, food processing, broadcast, digital media and health care, according to Sheppard Mullin. He also specializes in bridging environmental organizations and stakeholders with industry in sustainability joint ventures.

Sheppard Mullin Chairman Guy Halgren said in Monday's statement that "Michael is a talented and high-performing antitrust attorney, as well as an exceptional fit for the firm. He is well known and highly regarded in the market, adding both depth and breadth to our antitrust practice."

The addition of Cohen comes after Sheppard Mullin said roughly a month ago that it had strengthened its presence in its Brussels office by launching a European Union competition and regulatory practice group, which would be led by the former head of Hogan Lovells' Brussels competition practice.

The new team followed the addition of European competition and intellectual property expert Oliver Heinisch as a partner to its competition practice group in London, Sheppard Mullin said.

"Following last month's launch of our EU competition practice in Brussels with a highly regarded group of lateral partners, we are thrilled to add another top-notch attorney to the antitrust group," said Gary Halling, Sheppard Mullin's antitrust and competition practice group leader. "Michael further diversifies our client base and helps drive our merger, health care and cartel antitrust capabilities."



Michael P. A. Cohen

Cohen said in Monday's statement that he is thrilled to join Sheppard Mullin's "historic" antitrust group.

"The firm's longstanding commitment to antitrust and international competition law, marked most recently by its landmark multi-partner expansion in Brussels, as well as the firm's Asia offices, match the multinational client businesses and industries I serve," Cohen said. "The firm's nationally ranked 100-plus attorney full-service health care practice in the United States also adds deep dimensional experience to growing client demands for antitrust work in this critical domestic industry."

Cohen earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics, history, art history, philosophy and art from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in 1987, according to his LinkedIn profile. He then obtained his law degree, magna cum laude, Order of the Coif, from Washington & Lee University in 1990.

Cohen started his career in law enforcement as an assistant special prosecutor, according to Monday's statement. His LinkedIn profile says he served as a partner at Howrey LLP from August 1990 to March 2003 and as a partner at Heller Ehrman LLP from that month until October 2008.

The antitrust expert also currently serves as a professor at the Monterey College of Law, where he teaches Constitutional Law and Business Organizations, according to Sheppard Mullin.

Sheppard Mullin employs 95 attorneys in its San Francisco office, while the firm's antitrust and competition practice group has 35 attorneys total, Monday's statement said.

-- Additional reporting by Kelly Knaub and Vin Gurrieri. Editing by Kelly Duncan.

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