

Sheppard Mullin Snaps Up Ex-Garfunkel Wild Health Pro

By Jessica Corso

Law360, New York (June 29, 2015, 2:42 PM ET) -- Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP has boosted its bench of health care regulatory experts with the former head of Garfunkel Wild PC's compliance and white collar defense practice.

Steven J. Chananie will join the 60 attorneys based out of Sheppard Mullin's New York office, the firm said Thursday. Chairman Guy N. Halgren said he was "thrilled" to add Chananie to the over 100 health care attorneys in the firm's 15 offices worldwide.

"In addition to the growth of our health care regulatory and compliance practice, he expands and deepens our ability to serve as special health care counsel for private equity funds, commercial and investment banks and strategic investors targeting the health care industry," Halgren said in a statement Thursday.

The bulk of Chananie's work is focused on advising health care clients on regulatory compliance and defending them from abuse and fraud investigations, according to his profile.

In July 2013, the 1983 Pace Law School valedictorian guided Park Avenue Medical Associates through a \$1 million deal with the federal government to end a lawsuit accusing Park of charging unneeded psychiatric services to Medicare.

Chananie also brings years of prosecutorial experience to the table, having begun his legal career with the Manhattan District Attorney's Office before moving on to the state Organized Crime Task Force and the Queens County DA's office.

He joined Garfunkel Wild in 1996, according to a profile on the firm's website, and once clerked for former Chief Judge Judith Kaye on the New York State Court of Appeals.

"Sheppard Mullin provides me with a very strong platform and a deep bench of very experienced attorneys in diverse practice specialties, all of which is essential to enable me to provide the best possible service to my clients," Chananie said in a statement.

He joins recent hire Michael G. McKinnon, a mergers and acquisitions pro focused on the health care industry, who was nabbed from Greenberg Traurig LLP in April to work in Sheppard Mullin's office in Orange County, California.

Sheppard Mullin has also been busy snapping up intellectual property experts in recent months, just weeks ago adding three former Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP attorneys who focus on technology-related IP.

Prior to those additions, the firm snagged an IP litigator from Brinks Gilson & Lione for Sheppard Mullin's Chicago office, as well as a Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP attorney advising clients in the life sciences, technology and telecommunications industries on patent issues.

--Additional reporting by Kat Greene, Kelly Knaub and Dan Prochilo. Editing by Edrienne Su.

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