

Cooley Boosts NY Capital Markets Team With Ex-Skadden Atty

By **Linda Chiem**

Law360, New York (July 14, 2015, 2:59 PM ET) --

Cooley LLP deepened its corporate bench in New York by snagging an equity and debt capital markets pro from Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP as Cooley continues its hot streak steering technology- and life sciences-related transactions and offerings.

Joshua Kaufman, a former counsel specializing in corporate finance with Skadden, joins Cooley as a partner in its New York business and finance practice where he'll mostly advise on capital markets and other corporate matters, Cooley said Tuesday.

"Cooley's momentum in the U.S. and globally is not going unnoticed, particularly by the investment banks that it represents in tech and life sciences transactions," Kaufman said in a statement on Tuesday. "This is a timely opportunity for me to join Cooley to help further deepen the firm's leading corporate group."



Joshua Kaufman

Kaufman focuses his practice on equity and debt capital markets work, representing U.S. and foreign private issuers, as well as underwriters on complex transactions. He also advises public companies on major transactions, corporate law and governance, federal securities law, public reporting requirements and exchange regulations, the firm said.

Kaufman comes on board at Cooley as the firm rides a wave of momentum handling capital markets transactions. In 2014, the firm advised on 100 completed equity offerings, including 50 initial public offerings, Cooley said.

The firm has been a dominating force, particularly in the areas of technology and life sciences. Last month, Cooley advised Axovant Sciences Ltd., a biopharmaceutical company developing treatments for dementia in patients with Alzheimer's disease, in its \$315 million debut on the New York Stock Exchange last month. Axovant ended up raking in \$362 million in the float after underwriters fully exercised their option to buy additional shares.

Cooley is also advising underwriters of cancer immunotherapy treatment developer Conkwest Inc.'s proposed \$172.5 million IPO. And it also represented underwriters of the \$100 million IPO of

venture capital-backed Mindbody Inc., a cloud-based business management software platform for the fitness and wellness industry. In April, it flexed its muscle and flaunted its expertise in the life sciences space by representing immuno-oncology firm Aduro Biotech Inc. in an upsized IPO that raised \$119 million. Aduro then saw its shares soar after its trading debut and ended up raking in a total \$137 million, including the fully exercised overallotment option.

“We’re continuing to experience record levels of activity across our public companies, M&A and capital markets practices,” Fred Muto, chair of Cooley’s business department, said in a statement on Tuesday. “Josh’s experience in these key areas will be an asset to our clients engaged in major transactions and offerings.”

Kaufman is a Harvard University graduate who earned an MBA and his law degree from Columbia University. He also was a former investment banker with Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.

Kaufman marks the second attorney that Cooley has recruited from Skadden this summer. Just last month, Cooley bolstered its compensation and benefits practice in Los Angeles with the addition of Barbara Mirza, a former counsel with Skadden who had worked with Ernst & Young LLP before that.

The firm's full-throttle corporate expansion has also extended across the pond with a highly touted launch of a London outpost in January with more than 55 lawyers, many of whom were poached from Morrison & Foerster LLP and Edwards Wildman Palmer LLP. Cooley made quick work of building up that office with the addition in March of a trio of corporate finance attorneys, including leading mergers and acquisitions and private equity pro Stephen Rosen from Olswang LLP and a pair of life sciences and intellectual property partners, John Wilkinson and Nicola Maguire, from Reed Smith LLP.

Cooley has 850 lawyers in 12 offices in the U.S., China and Europe.

--Additional reporting by Chelsea Naso, Kurt Orzeck and Lisa Ryan. Editing by Patricia K. Cole.