

Latham Nabs Litigator From Hueston Hennigan

By Rachel Rippetoe

Law360 (January 5, 2021, 2:25 PM EST) -- Latham & Watkins LLP has plucked a Rising Star litigator away from Hueston Hennigan LLP as an addition to its litigation and trial department, the global firm announced Tuesday.

Steven Feldman, 38, a litigator who has represented clients including T-Mobile, Peloton and Alec Baldwin, has joined Latham as a partner. He'll split time between the Los Angeles and New York City offices and lead his global practice, which crosses numerous industries.



Steven Feldman

Feldman told Law360 that as a large global firm, Latham presented him with the chance to grow his practice.

"It was a phenomenal opportunity that came up at the right time," Feldman said. "Latham presents a unique platform with best-in-class attorneys across the globe in every practice area, which is incredibly helpful for my clients."

His 2019 victory in the U.S. Supreme Court defending health product maker Nutraceutical Corp. landed him on Law360's list of Rising Stars.

He also represented actor Alec Baldwin in his suit against gallery owner Mary Boone over a counterfeit painting she sold him, for which Baldwin won a seven-figure settlement.

Feldman has successfully defended numerous class actions, including one against an Allergan PLC unit claiming it tricked customers into thinking its product was "FDA-approved" when it was only "FDA-cleared." Feldman convinced a California federal judge that the "FDA-cleared" label was factually accurate and thus the class had no basis to sue.

Feldman, who works across a variety of industries, says what he enjoys most about his job is finding nuances in the law and unique strategies for defending clients, which is why he is excited to join Latham's complex commercial litigation practice.

"I'm just one of those litigators who loves what they do," Feldman said.

The coronavirus pandemic has changed much about how trials and corporate litigation works, removing

litigators such as Feldman from courtrooms for the larger part of a year. But Feldman says his work has continued as seamlessly as possible.

"I think it's really a triumph of technology and effort," Feldman said.

He said he's tried multiple cases via videoconference since the pandemic started.

"You've got to be smart and understand how things play over Zoom, and you need to be thinking strategically about the best way to communicate with judges, whether it's a hearing or trial or taking a deposition," he said. "I'm excited to get back into the courtroom, but I've been impressed with how things have continued to move forward."

One of the advantages of COVID-19, Feldman said, is the time he's gotten to spend with his two young children, ages 5 and 2.

"There's not nearly as much business travel as there normally is, which gives me more time with my family and to sit down every night and play the guitar," Feldman said.

Feldman graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School and sits on the board of directors of the Harvard Law School Alumni Association of Los Angeles. Before becoming a partner at Hueston Hennigan in Los Angeles he also clerked for Judge Jacqueline H. Nguyen in both California federal court and the Ninth Circuit.

"Steve brings a fantastic set of skills to our market-leading litigation and trial department," Michele Johnson, Latham's global chair of the litigation and trial department, said in a statement.

"Complementing his phenomenal and varied litigation talents, he brings a strong entrepreneurial sensibility and the ability to develop deep relationships with clients."

--Editing by Stephen Berg.