

## Mayer Brown Adds Former Senior DOJ Atty To NY, DC Offices

By **Andrea Keckley**

*Law360 (May 15, 2023, 8:02 AM EDT)* -- Mayer Brown LLP announced Monday that it has hired a former deputy assistant attorney general with the U.S. Department of Justice's National Security Division and former assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York to bolster its Manhattan and Washington, D.C., offices.

Adam Hickey is joining Mayer Brown's cybersecurity and data privacy, national security, and global investigations & white collar defense practices.

"There came a point where I was just ready for a new set of challenges," Hickey told Law360 Pulse.



Adam Hickey

In his new position with Mayer Brown, Hickey will focus on cybersecurity investigations and related litigation, investigations and enforcement actions related to national security authorities and foreign investment security reviews.

"From where I sat before, I see a connection between the computer intrusion cases I'm working on and some of the foreign investment threats you're dealing with on a regulatory channel, and [the Foreign Agents Registration Act], and export control and sanctions, because I was looking at problems from a counterintelligence perspective, which is very big picture," Hickey said. "I think major businesses benefit from a similar big-picture perspective."

Hickey brings more than 15 years of experience with the DOJ alone to his new position. He was working as a national security prosecutor in the Southern District of New York when he was recruited to join the DOJ's National Security Division and establish the department's national security cyber program. The program focused on malicious cyber activity that affected the private sector and critical infrastructure.

"At that point in time, the federal government had yet to identify any nation as responsible for any particular hack," Hickey recalls. "The media, starting in 2013 and 2014, started to talk about China a bit and Russia. But the federal government didn't really make that what we call attribution until later."

Since then, Hickey says one major shift he's seen is the government becoming more proactive on cyber threats, looking to interventions such as seizing servers and repossessing data rather than just investigating and charging people.

"The second is, I really think ransomware over the last few years proliferated," he said. "We began to see the connection between what we would traditionally treat as criminal activity and critical infrastructure."

As deputy assistant attorney general, Hickey led investigations into foreign companies and governments and negotiated corporate resolutions, according to Mayer Brown. As a prosecutor in the Southern District of New York, he focused on international narcotics trafficking, export control and terrorism, among other things. He also spent time as a member of the Guantánamo Review Task Force and was one of the prosecutors who indicted five defendants accused in connection with the Sept. 11 attacks.

Hickey earned his law degree from Yale Law School.

"Adam's distinguished track record at Main Justice and the SDNY makes him a unique and valuable addition to our cybersecurity and national security practices," Raj De, a member of Mayer Brown's global management committee, leader of the firm's global cybersecurity and data privacy practice and co-leader of the national security practice, said in a statement. "Companies are facing an unprecedented era of global risk. Our clients will greatly benefit from Adam's experience as a senior Justice Department official who has guided some of our country's most high-profile and cutting-edge security and enforcement matters."

Hickey will work out of Mayer Brown's New York and Washington, D.C., offices.

"Adam's enforcement experience, particularly involving data security and privacy issues provides an important nexus between our New York and D.C. capabilities," Matthew Ingber, managing partner of Mayer Brown's New York office, said in a statement.

--Editing by Jay Jackson Jr.