

King & Spalding Atty Joins Mayer Brown's Private Credit Team

By **Andrea Keckley**

Law360 (October 31, 2024, 4:21 PM EDT) -- Mayer Brown LLP has tapped a King & Spalding LLP partner to oversee its private credit practice in New York, saying Thursday that his hiring will solidify its place in the New York market as a destination for finance transactions.

Sheel Patel told Law360 Pulse on Thursday that he had had working relationships with Mayer Brown attorneys, like global private credit practice head Matt O'Meara, for about a decade and was excited to rejoin forces with them. He said he liked the firm's specialization, not just in leveraged finance but all types of asset classes and financing products,



Sheel Patel

"That's where private credit is going," Patel said. "They're looking at esoteric financing products, asset-based facilities, securitization, fund finance, and then also, as these funds are getting bigger and bigger, [and] as my clients are getting bigger and bigger, they're going to need specialized expertise in areas such as insurance and asset management."

Patel said the firm's global footprint would also help Mayer Brown continue to meet evolving client needs.

"As these deals get bigger, and as firms start to tap into international markets, such as Europe, they're going to need firms that have that global footprint," he said.

Patel takes on his new leadership role with 15 years of experience in financial transactions under his belt. His practice spans leveraged finance transactions, event-driven and opportunistic financing transactions, asset-based and mezzanine lending, and preferred-equity investments, according to the firm.

He also has experience with special situations, workouts, restructurings and insolvency matters.

"Sheel has developed a significant following among blue-chip private credit funds in New York, making him the perfect fit to bolster our market-leading leveraged finance and private credit platform globally," New York managing partner Matthew Ingber said in a statement. "His hire, coupled with our other recent arrivals, reinforces Mayer Brown's reputation as the top destination for our clients' most sophisticated and complex finance transactions."

Patel earned his law degree from Hofstra University School of Law. Before working for King & Spalding, he was a partner at Jones Day. While there, Patel said, he worked closely with O'Meara and with private credit partner Beth Vogel.

"We've been working together since 2013, so it was just an easy choice for me, because we've had such a strong relationship for such a long period of time," he said.

In a statement, O'Meara said Patel's appointment "further solidifies Mayer Brown's position as a preeminent player in private credit."

"His extensive experience and deep understanding of the private credit market will significantly enhance our capabilities and further strengthen our commitment to providing exceptional service to our clients in New York and all over the globe," he said.

Patel is one of several attorneys to join Mayer Brown's leveraged finance or private credit practice in New York in recent years, following the hiring of Blaise Latella, Jason Friedman and Ben Snyder.

"We're excited about the recent additions of these highly talented partners to our preeminent finance team here in New York," Scott Zemser, the global leader of Mayer Brown's leveraged finance practice, said in the statement. "We expect private credit and leveraged lending to continue to be very active components of the U.S. and global financing systems. Our market-leading practice will continue to evolve and grow, particularly as large-asset managers diversify their offerings in private credit."

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