

Akin Gump Adds Former Texas Rep. Tom Loeffler

By **Carolina Bolado**

Law360, New York (November 09, 2011, 6:54 PM ET) -- Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP has brought former U.S. Rep. Tom Loeffler, R-Texas, onboard as a partner in its public law and policy practice, the firm announced Wednesday.

Loeffler, who represented the 21st Congressional District of Texas for four terms from 1979 until 1987 in the U.S. House of Representatives, will work out of Akin Gump's Washington and San Antonio offices.

"Tom is a tremendous addition to Akin Gump," Akin Gump Chairman R. Bruce McLean said. "I am pleased to have the opportunity to welcome someone with such a distinguished record of public service and accomplishment to the firm."

Loeffler, who has spent the last two years at his Washington-based consulting firm GrayLoeffler LLC, will represent clients before the executive and legislative branches of government and work as part of the firm's policy team on the government affairs side.

"Tom has been providing excellent policy advice and advocacy to business clients for decades," Smith W. Davis, Akin Gump's public law and policy practice head, said. "I'm thrilled that he will now be applying his immense skills and experience — in both the public and private arenas — on behalf of Akin Gump's clients."

Akin Gump is a firm with which Loeffler's been familiar throughout his career, given its large footprint in Texas with offices in San Antonio, Houston, Dallas and Austin, he said. Loeffler said he was attracted to Akin Gump not just because of the firm's stellar reputation but also because of the breadth of services it provides to clients.

"It is energizing to join a firm that enjoys such an exceptional national and global reputation as Akin Gump," Loeffler said. "I look forward to continuing to provide the kind of counsel and advocacy that will help the firm's clients solve their most challenging issues."

Loeffler began his career as legislative counsel to the late Sen. John Tower, R-Tex., before moving on to work as special assistant for legislative affairs to President Gerald R. Ford.

In 1979, his congressional district — which consists of San Antonio and a large rural expanse in Texas' Hill Country — was an open seat, so he came home to campaign for a spot in the House. Loeffler was the first Republican to win the seat.

During his four terms in Congress, Loeffler served as deputy whip and chief deputy whip and on the Appropriations Committee, the Energy and Commerce Committee, and Budget Committee.

In 1987, President Ronald Reagan nominated him to serve as principal coordinator for Central America in the White House Office of Legislative Affairs.

His hands-on expertise in the Senate, House and the White House will help the team at Akin Gump best advise their clients in the public policy arena, he said.

Loeffler holds a J.D. from the University of Texas School of Law and an undergraduate degree from the University of Texas at Austin.

--Editing by John Quinn.

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