

NYPD Legal Head Maynard Returns To Akin Gump

By **Cara Salvatore**

Law360, New York (August 13, 2014, 3:48 PM ET) -- Douglass Maynard has rejoined Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, returning to insider-trading, media and Foreign Corrupt Practices Act litigation after a year and a half as the New York City Police Department's top legal officer.

Maynard rejoined Akin Gump officially on Monday, he said, after ending his stint as NYPD deputy commissioner for legal matters on July 25. He'll pick back up on litigation matters related to government investigations and white collar crime, the type of things he focused on during his previous years at the firm.

"Public service is a wonderful opportunity to do interesting work and represent greater interests," Maynard said Wednesday. "And I think it's healthy for public servants to go in and out of public service. I think everybody benefits from the experience that you can bring to private clients."

"Did I look at any other firms? I didn't," he said. "But one of the reasons was Akin Gump has a premier white collar practice. ... I really didn't have any interest in looking anywhere else."

Maynard said he expected to dive back into corporate white collar work similar to what he was doing before joining the NYPD in January 2013.

"I will be continuing the work that I did before, with government investigations and regulatory matters, representing corporate boards and individuals in white collar work," Maynard said. "I'm sure I will also be doing a variety of complex litigation. I did a fair amount of media work previously, which I expect I'll do in the future as well."

Maynard had served as the firm's New York co-head of litigation before moving to the police department, and hopes to step into another leadership role when possible, he said.

"They replaced me while I was gone," he said with a laugh.

Maynard's career since he earned his law degree in 1986 has taken him to Time Inc. and to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, where he worked on RICO issues, bank fraud and wire fraud, according to his NYPD bio.

That's also where he got his first taste of public legal service, and it's even where he met some of the friends he would work with 20 years later in the NYPD, he said.

As a cub lawyer, he also spent a few years at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, according to the NYPD.

In a statement, Akin Gump litigation practice head Steve Baldini said: “Doug is a fantastic litigator and an even better colleague, and I’m extremely happy to welcome him back following his second stint in public service. Both our firm and our clients will benefit tremendously by having someone with his skills and experience back at Akin Gump.”

--Editing by Jeremy Barker.

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