

Katten Muchin Bolsters Securities Practice

Thursday, March 09, 2006 --- Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP has snagged the high-profile and experienced litigator Bruce G. Vanyo in a move designed to strengthen its securities practice group in the firm's Los Angeles office.

"Bruce and I have known each other for more than a decade and we have always had tremendous respect for each other," said David H. Kistenbrocker, chairman of Katten Muchin's national litigation department and co-chair of the securities litigation practice, in a statement.

Vanyo, formerly a partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP and previously a co-chairman of the securities litigation group at Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, joins the firm as partner and co-chair of the securities litigation practice and will also join the firm's board of directors.

During his career, Vanyo has litigated over 200 major securities cases and possesses more than 30 years of securities litigation experience.

Vanyo said the move to Katten Muchin made sense because of the firm's "national reach," its established credentials in securities litigation and its substantial presence in Los Angeles.

The firm has "quality human beings" that work there, Vanyo noted.

Due to his reputation in the development and practice of securities law, Congress called on Vanyo to write the safe harbor and pleading provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995.

In the past five years, he has locked down complete victories in 21 cases, including seven appellate wins in five different federal courts of appeal.

"By adding Bruce to the partnership, we will have an even greater ability to represent many companies involved in these types of cases from coast to coast," said Vincent A.F. Sergi, the firm's managing partner, in the statement. "We are thrilled to have Bruce join our firm."

Vanyo's practice includes defense of derivative litigation, defense of securities actions, representation before the Securities and Exchange Commission and representation of board committees in facilitating internal investigations.

He has a nationwide practice with clients in many different industries, with a special focus on technology businesses; he also works with companies in the motion picture, airline, life sciences, banking and insurance sectors.

Since 1984, Vanyo has served as chair of the Annual Securities Litigation and Enforcement Institute for the Practicing Law Institute. He was also chairman of the Committee for the Administration of Justice Reform of the State Bar of California.

“I’m very excited to be at the firm,” Vanyo said.

--By J.J. Helland, jj.helland@portfoliomedia.com