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DOJ Prosecutor Rejoins Jenner & Block's DC Office

By **Jacqueline Bell**

Law360, New York (March 16, 2009) -- Jenner & Block LLP has lured former U.S. Department of Justice attorney Jessie K. Liu back to the firm where she began her career.

Liu, who until recently was a deputy assistant attorney general in the Civil Rights Division of the DOJ, returned Monday to Jenner & Block's Washington, D.C., office, this time as a partner, after more than six years in the public sector.

She will work in the firm's litigation department and white collar criminal defense and investigations practice, as well as counseling clients on government contracts and national security-related issues.

"I'm thrilled to rejoin Jenner & Block," Liu said. "The values and exceptional devotion to client service that first drew me here after law school still distinguish Jenner & Block, and I'm excited to come back and contribute the skills and experience I acquired in government service."

In her most recent post at the Justice Department, Liu supervised the agency's appellate, employment litigation, and housing and civil enforcement sections, as well as managing the DOJ's enforcement of several anti-discrimination laws, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act and the Fair Housing Act.

In one recent FHA case, *U.S. v. Pine Properties Inc.*, the department secured a consent decree in a case that alleged that owners and managers of multifamily housing in Lowell, Mass., were discriminating against Cambodian-Americans.

The case was developed through evidence gathered by the department's fair housing testing program, in which individuals posed as prospective renters to gather information

on potential instances of discrimination based on race, national origin, disability or family status.

“It's very sobering to see differences in treatment,” Liu said of the suit.

Liu held a number of positions during her time at the DOJ. Before she joined the Civil Rights Division, she served as deputy chief of staff in the National Security Division and as counsel to the deputy attorney general for National Security Affairs, where she worked on a variety of issues, including export controls, economic and trade sanctions, and national security-related civil litigation.

Liu also advised department officials on the questions that can arise when a U.S. company is acquired by a foreign business.

She also served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of Columbia, building significant additional experience as a prosecutor.

Jenner & Block has a number of former federal prosecutors in its litigation group, including six partners in the Washington, D.C., office who are former senior-level attorneys with the DOJ or the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

“We're delighted that Jessie is returning to Jenner & Block. Our firm has a long and proud tradition of public service and as being a place where former government attorneys flourish after returning to the private sector,” Jenner & Block managing partner Susan C. Levy said.

“Jessie's skills and experience in multiple leadership roles within the government will be a tremendous asset to our clients,” Levy said.

Liu has a law degree from Yale Law School, where she was also editor of the Yale Law Journal.