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Glenn Agre Lands Ex-US Atty From Goodwin As Partner In SF

By James Mills

Law360 (April 5, 2023, 4:53 PM EDT) -- Boutique firm Glenn Agre Bergman & Fuentes LLP is expanding its litigation team, adding a former federal prosecutor most recently with Goodwin Procter LLP as a partner in its San Francisco office.



David Callaway

David Callaway has joined the Glenn Agre complex commercial litigation and white-collar litigation and investigations practices, the firm announced Monday. He spent 18 years as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Northern District of California, during which time he served as chief of the criminal division, overseeing prosecution of all federal criminal cases in the district. He also served for a time as chief of the economic crimes and securities fraud section and later was chief of the San Jose branch office. He also spent time with the computer hacking and intellectual property unit in San Jose, the first unit of its kind in the nation.

For the past four years, Callaway has been with Goodwin.

At Glenn Agre, Callaway will handle criminal and civil litigation, as well as counsel corporate and individual clients on criminal matters related to economic crime, including securities and commodities fraud, national security, public corruption, privacy and cybercrime, and trade secrets. Additionally, he advises companies on high-stakes commercial litigation and internal investigations.

Callaway told Law360 in an email statement that he has known firm co-founder Lyn Agre since the mid-1990s, when he was a deputy district attorney in Santa Clara County and she was a deputy public defender.

"I was looking to leave BigLaw behind and find a smaller firm where I could be a part of helping the practice grow," he said. "Lyn [the firm's only partner based on the West Coast] pointed out that, by joining her, I would be doubling the firm's headcount in the Bay Area. The chance to get in on the ground floor and help to build a white collar and commercial litigation practice in the Bay Area — not to mention work with one of my favorite people — was too good to pass up."

He said a BigLaw firm wasn't the right place for him; he likes the energy and excitement of a small firm.

"Leaving Goodwin was definitely bittersweet — the firm was nothing but good to me, and I left behind a number of folks who are, and will remain, my very good friends. But BigLaw is ... BigLaw; the firm shapes

you more than you can ever hope to shape the firm, and I wanted something different," Callaway said. "What I love about Glenn Agre is its entrepreneurial vitality: They are small, exceptional, and hungry, and they want to try cases. And I have the chance to help them do that, and grow the practice on the West Coast with my good friend and now partner Lyn Agre (not to mention the other super-talented lawyers the founders have assembled in New York)."

Agre is excited to have Callaway on board, saying in a statement, "David is an elite trial lawyer, and his nearly 20-year tenure at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California handling some of the most significant criminal cases in the district will provide tremendous value to our clients. David brings a new dimension to our service offerings as we continue to strategically grow our footprint."

Glenn Agre launched in February 2021, handling complex litigation, white collar litigation and bankruptcy. With offices in New York and San Francisco, the firm now has 32 attorneys — 14 partners, 14 associates and four of counsels.

Callaway earned his law degree in 1985 from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law. He spent three years in the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps. Upon leaving the Army, he joined Topel & Goodman LLP in San Francisco as a defense attorney, staying there for almost six years.

In 1995, he became a deputy district attorney in Santa Clara County. Then in 1998, he joined the U.S. attorney's office, staying there until 2016. He worked three years at Baker McKenzie before joining Goodwin in 2019.

Callaway said he enjoys litigation because he thrives in the courtroom.

"I love the courtroom," he said. "I've been going to court since my mom (who came to the United States from El Salvador and became the first federally certified court interpreter in Northern California) used to drag me along when she couldn't find a babysitter on short notice. I'll do conference rooms if I have to, but I am most at home in courtrooms, preferably in front of a jury."

Callaway was on the team defending Peter Chang, the CEO of Alliance Fiber Optics Products Inc., on insider trading charges in 2018.

In 2020, he led the team defending the chairman of Chinese telescope company Ningbo Sunny Electronic Co. Ltd. on charges of smuggling money out of the U.S. following a \$50 million antitrust judgment.

--Additional reporting by Bonnie Eslinger and Julia Arciga. Editing by Rich Mills.

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