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Covington Nabs Sidley NorCal Vet To Lead West Coast Deals

By **Daniel Siegal**

Law360, Los Angeles (September 12, 2016, 6:21 PM EDT) --
The former chair of Sidley Austin LLP's Palo Alto, California, office — an experienced deal-making attorney — has joined Covington & Burling LLP to head its West Coast corporate practice as a partner in its Silicon Valley office, the firm announced on Monday.

Tom DeFilipps

Tom DeFilipps brings extensive experience not just in representing corporate clients on a broad range of legal matters, but also in helping grow and manage teams of attorneys to his new firm at a time when it is looking to expand its presence in his state, Covington announced.

"Adding Tom to our Silicon Valley office is a major step forward in our plan for continued growth in California," Timothy Hester, Covington's chairman, said in a statement on Monday. "Tom has built a successful Northern California corporate practice over many years and has a demonstrated track record of building teams of lawyers in the competitive Silicon Valley market."

DeFilipps' practice runs the gamut of legal matters for companies in Silicon Valley, including corporate formation, venture capital financings, public offerings, strategic partnerships and joint ventures, mergers and acquisitions and public company governance and disclosure, according to Covington. DeFilipps represents both foreign and domestic companies in technology industries, including software, digital media, telecommunications, internet infrastructure, e-commerce, social networking, renewable energy and life sciences, according to the firm.

DeFilipps has managed public offerings for "numerous" Nasdaq and NYSE-listed corporations, and his startup clients have received funding from "almost every significant venture capital investor" in Silicon Valley, according to Covington.

On Monday, DeFilipps said in a statement that his move is a chance to bring his skill set to a firm whose culture and interest in growing in the Bay Area are a snug fit for his own practice.

"I am very pleased to join Covington's growing California practice," DeFilipps said. "I am particularly attracted to the firm's culture of collaboration and sharing as well as its commitment to building its Bay Area offices and its corporate practice. I look forward to contributing to those efforts in every way possible."

DeFilipps has earned three degrees — a bachelor of arts, bachelor of science and his law degree — from Stanford University, after which he clerked for U.S. District Judge Samuel Conti of the Northern District of California, according to Covington.

At Covington, DeFilipps is joining a nearly 100-year-old firm with more than 800 lawyers in offices in Beijing, Brussels, London, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Seoul, Shanghai, Silicon Valley and Washington, D.C., that focuses on providing corporate, litigation and regulatory counsel to businesses.

--Editing by Stephen Berg.

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