

## Covington & Burling Adds Ex-Tyco Counsel In M&A Practice

By **Darcy Reddan**

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The former in-house counsel in charge of mergers and acquisitions for Tyco International PLC, including the Irish fire and security systems company's \$16.6 billion tax inversion with Johnson Controls, has joined Covington & Burling LLP in Washington, D.C.

Thomas Repke joined Covington & Burling after spending seven years with Tyco International, where he served as counsel in its M&A practice, the firm said on April 7. While at Tyco, Repke advised on the 2016 \$16.6 billion tax inversion with Johnson Controls and Tyco's \$10 billion sale of its water filtration unit to Pentair Inc. in 2012.



Thomas Repke

As Repke makes the transition from in-house to private practice, he told Law360 on Wednesday that he is looking forward to collaborating with the attorneys at Covington & Burling.

"This is an opportunity to share best practices, put the best teams together, which the firm is really conducive to," Repke said. "Providing excellence in client service and that's really the goal. Having been in-house for the past seven years, that's extremely important as I look to go back to private practice and that kind of environment."

During his time as counsel at Tyco, Repke advised the company on various mergers and international transactions.

The most high-profile transaction was in 2016 when Repke advised Tyco in a \$16.6 billion tax inversion with automotive and energy conglomerate Johnson Controls. The deal was one of the biggest of the year and saw Johnson Controls move its legal domicile to Cork, Ireland, in a maneuver that cut the corporate tax rate while keeping operational headquarters in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The deal was subject to scrutiny in the wake of newly minted anti-tax inversion regulations put in place by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, but was completed with both companies forming Johnson Controls PLC.

In 2012, Repke advised on a \$10 billion deal that saw Pentair Inc. acquire Tyco's flow control division and form a global water solutions and filtration company.

Repke began his career as an associate at a predecessor firm of Hogan Lovells in 1992 and was made a

partner in 1999 before leaving the firm in 2007. He was partner at McDermott Will & Emery LLP from 2007 to 2010 before he joined Tyco in 2010.

Repke received his bachelor's degree in economics from the College of William & Mary in 1987 and his law degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1990.

--Additional reporting by Michael Macagnone & Chelsea Naso. Editing by Stephen Berg.

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