

Covington Nabs Tax Partner From PwC For NY Office

By **Derek Major**

Law360 (February 4, 2019, 7:21 PM EST) -- Covington & Burling LLP has announced that the former leader of managed services tax risk management at PwC, experienced in tax controversy matters, joined the firm's tax practice group as a partner in New York.

Kevin Otero joined the firm Friday after two years at PwC. Before joining PwC, Otero spent eight years as the senior tax counsel and tax director of Internal Revenue Service examinations, appeals and litigation for General Electric Co. He transferred to PwC, also known as PricewaterhouseCoopers, when GE moved its tax department to the firm.



Kevin Otero

According to a Covington statement, Otero has more than a decade of experience advising clients on tax controversy issues such as technical tax risk management, strategic audit and litigation readiness, and the development of best practices and policies for tax departments.

At Covington, Otero will represent large corporations and individuals before the IRS. He also will advise and represent clients before the U.S. Tax Court, U.S. Court of Federal Claims, and federal district and appellate courts across the country.

Otero said recent tax changes in many countries over the last couple of years was a factor in his moving to Covington.

"There's been a lot of developments in the tax law in the last couple years in the U.S. And globally as well, there have been a lot of dynamic changes, so I look forward to helping clients navigate that complex landscape," Otero said.

Otero received his undergraduate degree from Yale University and his law degree from Columbia Law School. He is a member of the New York and Washington, D.C., bar associations.

Daniel Luchsinger, the chair of Covington's tax practice group, said Otero's experience with the IRS was second to none and that he'd be a huge asset to the firm.

"Kevin's experience leading the defense of all aspects of some of the most complex multiyear and multi-issue IRS audits in the country is highly unique and distinguishes him in the market," Luchsinger said in a

statement. “We anticipate that clients will seek Kevin’s expertise in successfully defending high-value tax matters before the IRS and [Department of Justice], especially in the coming years, where tax authorities will likely focus more of their limited resources on large, high-risk controversies.”

Otero said he’s excited about moving to the firm and advising a wide array of clients.

“I think the firm has all the makings to be one of the premier tax practices in the country,” Otero said.

--Editing by Tim Ruel.