

Cooley Nabs Tax Partner From PwC, Growing VC Practice

By **Dorothy Atkins**

Law360, San Francisco (October 7, 2016, 10:20 PM EDT) -- An experienced international tax attorney and former PricewaterhouseCoopers LLC partner has joined Cooley LLP, bolstering its growing international venture capital and private equity practice, according to the firm.

Cooley on Oct. 3 announced that Paul Roberts is joining the firm's San Francisco office, bringing to the practice more than 23 years of experience working with global asset management firms and their investors to help manage and grow a variety of investment funds. Roberts said he's looking forward to joining Cooley's venture capital and private equity teams, particularly in light of the firm's growing international sectors.

"Cooley's international growth in China and Europe makes this opportunity particularly exciting," Roberts said in a statement.

Roberts has specialized in helping clients design effective tax strategies and report investment activity on federal and state tax returns. He's also represented clients before federal and state tax authorities and helped investors navigate complex cross-border funds and investment structures that involve multiple jurisdictions, Cooley said.

In 23 years as a tax attorney, Roberts has also developed a specialty working with Australian "superannuation" retirement funds, and he has helped one Australian client receive a refund from Internal Revenue Service, according to his LinkedIn page.

Roberts earned his law degree from the Boston University School of Law and a degree in accounting from Saint Mary's College of California. He has an undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan.

Roberts joins Cooley amid the firm's recent push to grow its venture capital and private equity practice, the firm said. In May, Cooley added three partners to its private equity team: Ron Hopkinson in New York, Eric Schwartzman in Palo Alto, California, and Stephen Rosen in London.

"The work that we handle presents increasingly complex tax issues, which Paul is well positioned to navigate," said Craig Dauchy, partner and head of Cooley's venture capital practice.

Cooley represents over 350 organizations and has handled closings on more than 100 funds in the past year, the firm said. Some of its top clients include Google Inc., Facebook Inc. and eBay Inc.

Cooley is known for its venture capital expertise and public offering prowess, having completed nearly 100 public offerings in 2015 alone. The firm has also steadily assembled an impressive litigation practice, now boasting 370 attorneys in its litigation group, 122 of whom are partners.

Spurring that growth has been a wave of new Cooley offices in the past decade, with the firm opening outposts in Boston, New York, Seattle, Los Angeles and most recently London.

Roberts did not respond late Friday to additional requests for comment.

--Additional reporting by Allissa Wickham. Editing by Catherine Sum.

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