

Cooley Scores Pioneering Fintech Team From Pillsbury

By **Melissa Daniels**

Law360, Los Angeles (November 3, 2016, 9:11 PM EDT) -- Cooley LLP snagged two top digital currency and blockchain technology experts from Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, the firm announced on Thursday, adding partner Marco Santori in New York and Patrick Murck as special counsel in Boston to bolster its financial technology practice.

Santori and Murck have worked together since 2011 representing clients working in blockchain, the distributed database technology that is a key component of bitcoin, while the industry was still getting off the ground.

Santori told Law360 that the move to Cooley is a natural and exciting fit, marrying his and Murck's pioneering work of the past five years with Cooley's established reputation taking a renewed focus in fintech.

"Cooley has always represented the most innovative companies in this space, and we're happy to join forces," he said. "We believe that the future of fintech belongs to those who are going to pushing the envelope, the ones who are going to be disrupting the status quo."

The pair will begin working Nov. 7.

Santori worked as a financial services litigator, before getting into the fintech field, he said.

"Back then it was just bitcoin," he said. "Nobody was talking about blockchain technology."

Now, he said, he's an expert in how laws like the Bank Secrecy Act and Patriot Act apply to digital currency, and works with clients on regulatory and compliance matters. He and Murck work with banks and financial institutions, as well as smaller tech companies.

Santori chairs the Bitcoin Foundation Regulatory Affairs Committee and is global policy counsel for bitcoin wallet provider Blockchain Ltd., and discusses the industry on CoinDesk, CNBC, Al Jazeera America's Real Money with Ali Velshi and Bloomberg TV.



Patrick Murck



Marco Santori

Murck is the co-founder and general counsel of the Bitcoin Foundation has worked for and with numerous fintech startups. He researches the industry as a fellow at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University, and examines the law and policy implications of bitcoin, distributed ledgers and smart contracts.

Cooley earlier this year hired Andy Roth, formerly of Dentons, who is another leader in the fintech space with expertise in digital payments, virtual currencies and cybersecurity.

“Marco’s experience and leadership in the fintech industry is unparalleled,” said Mike Lincoln, partner and chair of Cooley’s business department. “Together with Patrick, and with the recent arrival of Andy Roth, Cooley delivers a unique and powerfully positioned resource for the global fintech community as it navigates the complex regulatory issues related to using innovative technologies in the financial sector.”

Santori graduated from University of California, Berkeley and obtained his J.D. from the University of Notre Dame Law School.

Murck earned his J.D. at Catholic University of America’s Columbus School of Law and has a bachelor’s degree from American University in Washington, D.C.

--Editing by Brian Baresch.