

Hinckley Allen Adds Ex-US Atty And National Security Expert

By Chris Villani

Law360 (March 8, 2022, 2:35 PM EST) -- Hinckley Allen LLP has added a former assistant U.S. attorney who will spearhead the firm's International Trade & Global Security practice in its Boston office, beefing up its white-collar group amid global turmoil that could produce regulatory challenges for companies at home.

B. Stephanie Siegmann joined the firm Monday after spending 22 years in government between her time as a federal prosecutor and her work as a prosecutor in the Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps.

Siegmann served as the national security chief for the Boston U.S. Attorney's Office before joining Hinckley Allen and said her experience and expertise will help clients work through existing regulations and new tranches of sanctions against Russia following that nation's invasion of Ukraine.



B. Stephanie
Siegmann

"Companies are faced with the question of, 'How are we going to navigate this and stay out of trouble?'" Siegmann told Law360 in an interview Tuesday. "The best way, and this is where our practice group comes in, is compliance programs. The importance of compliance programs cannot be overstated right now."

As part of her new gig, Siegmann said she will be helping companies set up programs to deal with myriad government regulations, doing investigations when companies have to self-report potential problems and litigating when needed if problems with compliance arise.

She expected the sanctions tied to the Ukrainian invasion to be a focal point of her work.

"The sanctions are huge," Siegmann said. "Typically, things like this take years, but the administration was able to put them together in short order with approval from our allies, which is historical in nature."

But they also open the door to millions of dollars in fines for those found to be in violation, she added, and the U.S. Department of Justice has made clear it will pull out all the stops to see that the sanctions are enforced, raising the possibility of U.S. entities being caught in the government's crosshairs.

"It might not happen immediately, but there is going to be a whistleblower, a competitor, someone who will find out if you're not following the law," Siegmann said.

While a federal prosecutor, Siegmann worked on several high-profile cases, including the extradition and successful prosecution of a Chinese businessman for illegally supplying a critical component in developing weapons-grade uranium to Iran's nuclear program.

Additionally, she secured a guilty plea from a Chinese businessman for illegally supplying parts with applications in anti-submarine warfare to a prohibited end-user on the Department of Commerce's Entity List, and also prosecuted three friends of Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev for the obstruction of the investigation.

In a statement, Hinckley Allen managing partner David Rubin called Siegmann "another outstanding hire" for the firm.

"With nearly two decades of experience in national security and prosecution, Stephanie brings a wealth of knowledge in areas of great importance to our clients that will contribute to the further growth and depth of our litigation practice," Rubin said.

Siegmann said another focus of her practice will be cybersecurity and making sure companies have processes in place to prevent cyberattacks and making sure breaches are reported when they do occur.

As Boston became more of a white-collar enforcement hotbed, Hinckley Allen beefed up that department in early 2021 with the addition of eight attorneys from Barrett & Singal PC. Siegmann said the commitment to that work is what led her to choose Hinckley Allen as a landing spot for her new practice.

"Hinckley has become nationally known for having a really great litigation practice," Siegmann said.

"With this group, I hope to expand it so people think about the firm for construction law, litigation, corporate and real estate law, and now, if you have an issue related to sanctions or export controls or compliance issues, that we can help you in that arena as well."

--Editing by Philip Shea.