

Ex-FTC Commissioner McSweeney Joins Covington's DC Office

By **Matt Bernardini**

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Covington & Burling LLP has hired Terrell McSweeney, a former commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission, as a partner in its Washington, D.C., office to boost its antitrust and competition, and data privacy and cybersecurity practices, the firm said Monday.

McSweeney, whose experience also includes consumer protection matters and mergers, told Law360 on Monday that she is thrilled to join a firm with people who have significant experience in government like herself.

"I am very excited to be joining a terrific firm to deal with the global challenges of antitrust, cybersecurity and consumer protection," she said.

"Having served both at the FTC and in the [U.S. Department of Justice's] Antitrust Division, Terrell has an exceptionally broad base of experience to draw upon in helping clients understand and manage antitrust enforcement, privacy, and data security issues. She also has developed relationships with and an understanding of other enforcement agencies around the world," Deborah Garza, co-chair of Covington's antitrust and competition practice, said in a statement.

Prior to appointment as an FTC commissioner in 2014, McSweeney served as chief counsel for competition policy and intergovernmental relations for the Antitrust Division.

From 2009 to 2012, McSweeney served as a deputy assistant to President Barack Obama and a domestic policy adviser to Vice President Joe Biden. She also worked as Biden's deputy chief of staff when he served as a senator.

In 2014, McSweeney, a Democrat, was appointed as an FTC commissioner where she served for a time on an all-woman panel with Maureen Ohlhausen, a Republican. McSweeney touted her bipartisan record as one of the best things about her tenure.

"Together we were able to cast over 500 unanimous votes," McSweeney said.

McSweeney does not anticipate that the switch from working in the public sector to the private arena will be a difficult one.



Terrell McSweeney

“In government I was always interested in helping people follow and understand the law,” she said. “It’s the same with clients in the private area.”

McSweeney received her law degree from Georgetown University Law Center and her undergraduate degree from Harvard University.

McSweeney’s hiring comes on the heels of other attorneys who have previous experience working in the federal government being hired by Covington. **In August**, the firm added Trisha B. Anderson, who had previously worked in the general counsel’s office at the FBI. **And in February**, it added Gerald Hodgkins, who had worked in the enforcement division of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

--Additional reporting by RJ Vogt and McCord Pagan. Editing by Bruce Goldman.

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