

# Stearns Weaver Brings On Ex-NY Federal Prosecutor In Miami

By [Madison Arnold](#) | 2023-09-29 14:46:14 -0400 · [Listen to article](#)

A former Manhattan federal prosecutor has jumped to [Stearns Weaver Miller Weissler Alhadeff & Sitterson PA](#) as a litigation shareholder in Miami.

Brett Kalikow joins as a shareholder handling complex commercial litigation matters, the firm announced Wednesday. He spent four years serving as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Southern District of New York.



Brett M. Kalikow

"I really took some time after leaving the government to speak to a lot of people in the Florida legal scene and get a sense of where would be a place where I could practice at a very high caliber, a very professional environment," Kalikow told Law360 Pulse on Friday. "Stearns Weaver just kept coming up in lots of different conversations and decided to talk to them and obviously [I] got a great impression of the firm and happy to have ended up here."

During his time as an assistant U.S. attorney, Kalikow handled cases such as international money laundering, embezzlement, mail and wire fraud, tax fraud, computer crimes and narcotics and firearms trafficking, the firm said. He secured convictions as a lead prosecutor, including in highly publicized cases such as one involving a woman who climbed the Statue of Liberty on the Fourth of July, the firm said.

Additionally, he pursued a violation of supervised release evidentiary hearing related to a robbery and stabbing that local prosecutors declined to charge, Stearns Weaver said.

Kalikow has also been the lead author of several briefs for the Second Circuit, and he's secured tens of millions of dollars in civil and criminal forfeitures and restitution to victims, the firm said.

"Number one, being a prosecutor, you're in court a lot, and you get a lot of comfort being able to stand up and represent your client," Kalikow said. "But I also think that it gave me a lot of experience in complex investigations, and that doesn't just apply to the internal investigations that companies do, but any case is about gathering the facts, knowing what questions to ask, knowing

where you're going to be able to find information, and then taking all the pieces of the puzzle and putting them together in a compelling story that makes clear why you think your client should win."

In his new position, Kalikow represents both corporations and individuals on the plaintiff and defense side in the areas of contract litigation, business torts, consumer protection, securities litigation, investigations, class action litigation and appeals.

After graduating from Harvard Law School, Kalikow clerked for Judge Pierre N. Leval on the Second Circuit and Judge Paul A. Engelmayer in the Southern District of New York. He holds a government and economics degree from Harvard College and spent time in the litigation department of [Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP](#) in New York City earlier in his career.

"We are excited about Brett joining the firm. As a former Assistant United States Attorney, he is a skilled litigator and has unique insights, knowledge, and trial experience that will be a huge asset to clients," firm managing director Rick Schatz said in a statement.

Stearns Weaver was established more than 40 years ago and has grown its roster to more than 150 attorneys across Florida offices in Miami, Coral Gables, Fort Lauderdale, Tampa and Tallahassee.

Kalikow followed in the footsteps of [Andrew Foti](#) who joined Stearns Weaver's construction and litigation groups at the firm's offices in Fort Lauderdale, the firm announced last month.

--Additional reporting by Jack Rodgers. Editing by Nicole Bleier.

*Update: This story was updated to include comments from Kalikow.*

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