

## DuCharme, Ex-Acting US Attorney for EDNY, Joins Bracewell

BY JANE WESTER

TWO months after announcing his resignation as acting U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of New York, Seth DuCharme has joined Bracewell, the firm confirmed Monday.

DuCharme, who served as principal associate deputy attorney general to former Attorney General William Barr before taking the reins in the EDNY, will be a partner in the government enforcement and investigations practice at Bracewell's New York office.

DuCharme will focus on cybersecurity issues, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act cases, export controls, sanctions compliance and anti-money laundering matters, and he said he expects to provide proactive advice about avoiding exposure along with representing clients amid investigations.

"I think the [Biden] administration has been pretty vocal in stating publicly that they're going to apply scrutiny to corporations, they're going to look at environmental justice issues, they're going to be forward-leaning in cyber and looking at some of those matters," he said. "So ... I think the department and its partners in other agencies are going to be looking at corporate conduct, looking at senior executive conduct, across sectors."

Until he moved to Washington, D.C., to work as Barr's counselor in early 2019, DuCharme served as chief of the Eastern District's criminal division. Before that, he was chief of national security and

cybercrime. He worked on several of the Eastern District's highest-profile cases in recent years, including the convictions of Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán and NXIVM leader Keith Raniere and investigations into Goldman Sachs amid the 1Malaysia Development Berhad scandal and the Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei.

"I've always been drawn to complex international stuff," he said. "I love being a lawyer and I love a challenge."

Before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Eastern District, DuCharme clerked for U.S. District Judge Richard Owen of the Southern District of New York and worked as an associate at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett. He also previously served in the U.S. Marshals Service.

He said Bracewell stood out to him because, with about 200 partners, the firm is the right size to maintain good communication and a cohesive culture without sacrificing capacity. The EDNY U.S. Attorney's Office has about the same number of prosecutors, he noted.

DuCharme also said he appreciates that the firm, which was founded in Houston, has "a little bit of Texas trial lawyer swagger in a way that's not overbearing."

"The lawyers that I've met here have confidence without arrogance," he said. "To be blunt, that's not always easy to find in the legal profession."

Stephen Braga, chair of the government enforcement and investigations



COURTESY PHOTO

Seth DuCharme

practice, said he's excited DuCharme will be joining the team.

"Corporations, even large ones with sophisticated legal and compliance departments, need experienced legal counsel to provide informed, strategic advice on internal investigations, criminal investigations and prosecutions, regulatory investigations and enforcement actions," Braga said. "Seth brings a real-world understanding of what our corporate clients can expect from federal, state and foreign law enforcement authorities in these kinds of matters."

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