

## Ex-EDNY Acting US Attorney, DOJ Boss Joins Bracewell

By Jack Queen

*Law360 (May 7, 2021, 6:27 PM EDT)* -- Former acting Brooklyn U.S. Attorney Seth DuCharme has joined Bracewell LLP as a partner in the firm's government enforcement and investigations practice, according to an announcement Friday.

DuCharme, who has also served as a principal associate deputy attorney general and a criminal division chief in the Eastern District of New York, will advise clients on cybersecurity and breach response, Foreign Corrupt Practices Act diligence and litigation, export controls, sanctions compliance and anti-money laundering matters, Bracewell said.



Seth D. DuCharme

During his eight-month tenure as Brooklyn's top federal prosecutor, DuCharme oversaw major white collar cases including a record-shattering FCPA settlement with Goldman Sachs over its role in the 1MDB Malaysian sovereign wealth fund scandal. DuCharme also secured a \$135 million penalty as part of a deferred prosecution agreement with energy trading firm Vitol Inc., which was accused of bribing Brazilian officials. In March, DuCharme's office unveiled criminal charges against three executives of asset manager GPB Capital Holdings, who are accused of running a Ponzi-like \$1.8 billion fraud scheme.

DuCharme also led the high-profile prosecutions of drug kingpin "El Chapo" Guzman and Keith Rainier, the leader of the purported cult NXIVM. Rainier was sentenced to 120 years and fined \$1.75 million for racketeering, sex trafficking and other charges. El Chapo was sentenced to life in prison.

From 2019 to 2020, DuCharme served as the highest-ranking career lawyer at the U.S. Department of Justice. In that role, he oversaw all of the DOJ's litigation components and supervised complex matters in the criminal, civil, antitrust and national security divisions. He also advised the deputy attorney general and attorney general on criminal and civil litigation matters, as well as policies related to COVID-19 response.

DuCharme previously headed the criminal division at the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York, overseeing securities fraud, terrorism, cybercrime, public corruption, international drug trafficking and organized crime prosecutions. He first joined the office in 2008.

"I am excited to join a dynamic team of seasoned trial lawyers, former federal prosecutors and judges. I look forward to working with my new partners in serving the needs of our clients with the same

judgment and creativity that I brought to my roles at the Eastern District and Justice Department," DuCharme said in a statement Friday.

Daniel S. Connolly, Bracewell's managing partner in New York and a former Manhattan federal prosecutor, said in a statement that DuCharme brings strong experience in internal investigations, criminal investigations and compliance matters.

"Seth supervised some of the biggest and most complex federal cases in New York," Connolly said. "This experience compliments the strengths of our existing team, which includes retired District Court Judge Barbara S. Jones and Paul Shechtman."

DuCharme is a graduate of Hamilton College and Fordham University School of Law.

Bracewell is a law and government relations firm that primarily serves energy, infrastructure finance and technology sector clients.

--Editing by Steven Edelstone.