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Munger Tolles attorney leaves to launch boutique

Miranda Kane joins a former government colleague to start Berkeley-based firm

By Joshua Sebold
Daily Journal Staff Writer

The former chief of the criminal division in the Northern District U.S. attorney's office has departed Munger, Tolles & Olson LLP to launch a firm of her own.

Miranda B. Kane, who joined Munger's San Francisco office in January 2014, will join a former Department of Justice colleague, William H. Kimball, who has been working as a sole practitioner.

Their new firm, Kane Kimball LLP, based in Berkeley, will focus on white collar criminal, internal investigations and securities investigations and litigation in addition to some regulatory work.

Kane led a team of more than 80 attorneys in the Northern District and oversaw the prosecution in a variety of cases involving the Mara Salvatrucha or "MS-13" gang in Oakland. She also oversaw major trade secret cases, such as U.S. v. Liew, which involved the theft and sale of trade secrets from DuPont to a state-owned company in China. That case finally ended in March 2014, after Kane left the Department of Justice, with a



Courtesy of Kane Kimball LLP

Munger Tolles partner Miranda B. Kane, left, joins former Department of Justice colleague William H. Kimball to form Kane Kimball LLP.

federal judge sentencing Walter Lian-Heen Liew to 15 years in prison after a jury found him guilty on all 20 counts.

Kimball began his government career at the Securities and Exchange Commission, an experience that proved extremely useful when he later became a member of the Department of Justice's Enron Corp. task force.

Kimball said it was fitting to team up with Kane, because she was the person he turned to for advice after he left Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP in 2010.

"She gave me the idea of

being in a solo practice after being at a big firm," he said.

Kane said Munger was everything she expected it to be, but ultimately she wanted to have more control over her practice.

"The conflicts check is me and Bill taking to each other instead of 200 people deciding if a case makes sense to take on," she said.

She added that her primary motivation for leaving the USAO was to get back in the courtroom more often. She said the new firm will allow her even more freedom to do trial work by taking projects from

the Criminal Justice Act Panel, which appoints attorneys to represent criminal defendants who can't afford representation.

The space the firm launched into isn't large enough to accommodate immediate expansion, but the partners said they would explore the possibility of adding attorneys at the end of the year, when their current lease is up.

Kane said she would continue to collaborate with Munger attorneys on a variety of ongoing matters.

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