

Mintz Adds Haug Litigation Partner With Life Sciences Chops

By **Chris Villani**

Law360 (March 18, 2021, 6:41 PM EDT) -- Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC has snagged a life sciences litigation partner from Haug Partners for its Boston office who said the firm's commitment to growth and ability to collaborate between practices is what led to him making the change.

John Dougherty officially joined Mintz's litigation practice on Tuesday. He said he is hoping to continue to represent life sciences companies in court, as well as counsel them on how to avoid litigation whenever possible.

"Clients were taking me to a place where I needed to have more of a full-service firm behind me," Dougherty said in an interview Thursday, adding that it wasn't "a knock on Haug at all."

"I loved Haug Partners, I loved what we built here in Boston," he said. "I was honored to have a chance to do it, but you have to follow where the clients are taking you."

Dougherty served as co-chair of Haug's life sciences practice, as a member of the firm's executive committee, and as managing partner and founder of the firm's Boston office. Prior to joining Haug Partners, he practiced at DLA Piper for 25 years, rising to the level of co-chair of the firm's global life sciences sector and co-chair of patent litigation.

He said the difference in what Mintz could offer centered on the firm's commitment to a "multidisciplinary, collaborative approach" to trying to solve client's problems.

"Having those practices inside our firm allows you to go to the market with service offerings that are different," he said.

"The nice thing about Mintz, they are growing," Dougherty added. "Boston is adding people all the time. They have a refreshing approach to growth and the importance of growth."

Dougherty has been part of a number of high-profile cases, including some recent victories. He won a case before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in a suit claiming a Genzyme Corp. supplement worsened a woman's arthritis. The top court issued a first-of-its kind ruling that, while her claims aren't preempted by federal law, she nonetheless failed to back them up with specific factual accusations.

Dougherty said the SJC ruling set the pleading standard for determining whether the federal Medical

Device Amendments to the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act preempt state manufacturer-liability claims and settled what had been an inconsistently applied standard within the state.

Another recent win involved the dismissal of a case attempting to set aside a purchase and sale agreement in Delaware Chancery Court. Dougherty, representing a company called Hatch Tech, was able to get the case dismissed on the doctrine of laches.

Scott Ford, the chair of Mintz's litigation practice, praised Dougherty as a "go-to counsel for life sciences innovators."

"His broad-based practice and breadth of experience as a trial lawyer makes him a terrific asset to our litigation practice, and to our life sciences clients," Ford said.

Mintz Managing Member Bob Bodian added "John's arrival will add to Mintz's existing strength in providing life sciences clients with a full suite of legal services, including advising on corporate deals, intellectual property matters, and litigation and disputes."

--Editing by Emily Kokoll.