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Phone: +1 646 783 7100 | Fax: +1 646 783 7161 | customerservice@law360.com

Ex-Sidley, Covington Partners Launch White Collar Boutique

By **Phillip Bantz**

Law360 (June 23, 2025, 12:01 AM EDT) -- The former global co-head of Sidley Austin LLP's white collar defense and investigations practice has joined an ex-white collar partner from Covington & Burling LLP to launch a boutique litigation firm based in New York.

Tim Treanor and Arlo Devlin-Brown, both former unit chiefs in the Manhattan U.S. Attorney's Office, officially opened the doors on Monday to their new firm, Treanor Devlin Brown PLLC, with a focus on defense in white collar and government investigations along with crypto-related litigation.

"We're seeing a boom in crypto again and all sorts of fraud schemes while, at the same time, the government seems to be retreating from enforcement in that space," which has increased the "need for the private bar to step up and pursue claims for both individual and institutional investors seeking recovery," Devlin-Brown told Law360.

Treanor added in an interview, "So a significant part of our focus is on representing folks who will need representation to vindicate their rights."

He currently represents a buyer in the Libra crypto scandal who secured a temporary restraining order earlier this month that froze more than **\$57 million** in proceeds from the alleged scheme, which involves Argentine President Javier Milei.

Treanor Devlin Brown also aims to pursue affirmative litigation to defend the rights of clients facing "arbitrary and capricious" government investigations and enforcement actions, Devlin-Brown said.

"We're living in an age of unpredictability, where the certainty that the rule of law provides means something only if lawyers step up to enforce it," he added.

He and Devlin-Brown are alums of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York. Treanor was deputy chief of the office's Organized Crime Unit and acting chief of the Violent Crimes and Narcotics Unit, while Devlin-Brown served as a leading securities fraud prosecutor and chief of the Public Corruption Unit.

As prosecutors, Devlin-Brown and Treanor spearheaded the Justice Department enforcement actions against illegal internet gambling operations that netted more than \$3 billion in penalties and industry reforms. Devlin-Brown also helped recover \$1.7 billion for the victims of Bernie Madoff's massive Ponzi scheme.

"There are other lawyers who represent victims of cryptocurrency scams, but few have the background we bring to this as former federal prosecutors," Devlin-Brown said. "The skills we developed in investigating and prosecuting complex financial fraud cases will serve us well in pursuing fraud recovery claims on behalf of private litigants."



Tim Treanor



Arlo Devlin-Brown

He parted ways with Covington on June 18 after nine years at the firm, where recent high-profile clients included former Locke Lord LLP partner **Mark Scott**, who was convicted of helping to launder about \$400 million in proceeds from the OneCoin crypto scheme, and former Ozy Media Inc. CEO **Carlos Watson**.

A New York federal jury found Watson guilty last year of lying to banks and investors. He was facing nearly a decade in prison, but President Donald Trump stepped in and **commuted** Watson's sentence in late March.

Treanor split with Sidley in January, after 17 years at the firm, to start a solo practice, Treanor Law PLLC. He said he felt it was "time for me to start writing my own chapter on a clean slate" and wanted to focus more on "representing victims and doing more civil enforcement-type work."

At Sidley, Treanor helped to steer \$201 million in victim payouts to global soccer organizations in the FIFA corruption probe and negotiated a \$90 million foreign bribery settlement for waste management company Stericycle.

After he exited Big Law and hung his own shingle, Treanor said he met up with Devlin-Brown for a cocktail and the two quickly realized that their practice interests were aligned, sparking the idea to launch Treanor Devlin Brown.

"I feel like we're seeing things exactly the same," Treanor said. "I hope that lasts as we practice together. But it's really incredible. We both have the same interests, and we're very much in lockstep in what we want to do with this."

--Additional reporting by Aislinn Keely, Hailey Konnath and Elliot Weld. Editing by Emily Kokoll.