

## Sullivan & Cromwell Signs Up 3 Recent SCOTUS Clerks

BY **MARCIA COYLE**

Sullivan & Cromwell, moving aggressively in the market for former U.S. Supreme Court clerks, has added three more to its litigation group, and Supreme Court and appellate practice, led by veteran advocate Jeffrey Wall.

Just last month, the law firm and Wall, who was acting U.S. solicitor general and principal deputy solicitor general in the Trump administration, brought on board Morgan Ratner, a former assistant to the solicitor general who clerked for Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. Ratner, a Harvard Law graduate, has argued eight Supreme Court cases and will be special counsel in the Supreme Court practice. Wall, who was a partner in the firm before going into government, has argued 30 cases.

The three new hires—Daniel Richardson, Leslie Arffa and Zoe Jacoby—are joining the firm directly from their Supreme Court clerkships in the October 2020-21 term. Richardson and Arffa are interested in general litigation, while Jacoby is more focused on Supreme Court and appellate litigation.

For Richardson, the move to Sullivan & Cromwell is something of a return to “home.”



(L-R) Leslie Arffa, Daniel Richardson and Zoe Jacoby of Sullivan & Cromwell.

Courtesy photos

He worked as a summer associate in the firm’s Washington, D.C., office. A graduate of the University of Virginia Law School, Richardson just wrapped up his clerkship with Justice Stephen Breyer. He also clerked for Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and served as a prestigious Bristow fellow in the Office of the U.S. Solicitor General.

“My summer experience [with the firm] was a huge part of my decision to join Sullivan & Cromwell,” Richardson said. He already knew members of the firm, he added, and liked and respected them. That knowledge, combined

with a “top notch” litigation practice offering broad experience across the firm, he said, confirmed his decision.

Arffa echoed some of his comments about the firm but added, “For me, it was a rare opportunity to be with a firm with a general litigation practice where you don’t have to specialize and that’s becoming rare at large firms.”

Arffa said she also was interested in a firm in which she could have a long-term relationship and one that promotes women. “The firm has an incredible reputation,” she said.

The firm’s commitment to developing and promoting women leaders was also “truly

important” and “personal” to Ratner’s decision to join. Ratner told The National Law Journal in July that the firm has a “track record so far and a vision for moving forward.”

Arffa and Jacoby are graduates of Yale Law School—2018 and 2019, respectively. Arffa clerked for Roberts and before that, for Chief Judge Debra Livingston of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and U.S. District Judge James Boasberg in Washington, D.C.

Jacoby, who clerked for Justice Brett Kavanaugh and before that, for then Judge Amy Coney Barrett of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, said the strength of the firm’s litigation practice

and the diversity of its cases was a huge draw.

Also, she added, “The growth and development of the Supreme Court and appellate practice, with Jeff coming back and Morgan coming, to be there while the firm is developing and building that practice is really exciting to me.”

The three former high court clerks will be based in the firm’s D.C. office. Wall, who officially takes up firm duties at summer’s end, will be joined by Ratner in October.

“Sullivan & Cromwell is committed to hiring talented lawyers who can help clients navigate tough cases and issues,” Sharon Nelles, managing partner of the litigation group, said.