

BERENBLAT FLIPS FROM ACTIVIST ADVISER TO ACTIVISM DEFENSE

Ron Berenblat recently joined Elizabeth Gonzalez-Sussman in Skadden's shareholder engagement and activism defense practice after nearly 25 years at Olshan.

BY RONALD OROL

Ron S. Berenblat recently joined Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP in New York, as of counsel, where he'll work with Elizabeth R. Gonzalez-Sussman to advise companies targeted by activists in the firm's shareholder engagement and activism defense practice.

Before joining Skadden, Berenblat worked at Olshan Frome Wololsky LLP for nearly 25 years, advising hedge funds and other large investors in activist campaigns. Gonzalez-Sussman left Olshan last year to run Skadden's shareholder engagement and activism practice.

"For nearly 25 years, Ron has advised on some of the most high-profile and complex activist campaigns," Gonzalez-Sussman said in a statement. "Shareholder activism activity has picked up meaningfully in the past year, and we expect that trend to continue."

At Olshan, Berenblat advised Warren Lichtenstein's Steel Partners LP, a prolific activist in the mid-2000s, in its campaigns, including in Korea and Japan. During his years at Olshan, Berenblat played a key role in developing activist strategies, and he produced articles, research reports and client alerts covering a broad range of activism-related topics.

"The activism space has really come a long way as an asset class since I began my career at Olshan in 2000. The number of activist campaigns has skyrocketed since then," Berenblat said. "I helped



Skadden's Rob Berenblat

build out the practice to handle the volume of activist situations taken on by the firm."

Berenblat said he switched to Skadden to take advantage of a new challenge.

"I was intrigued by the unique defense practice Skadden was building and knew that I could leverage my prior experience to formulate processes and procedures for companies to best prepare for and engage with activists," he said.

He graduated from Emory University in 1995 and received his J.D. from Brooklyn Law School in 1998. ■