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LAW FIRM BUSINESS

Star prosecutor leaves for WilmerHale

Heather Tewksbury, best known for her prosecution of AU Optronics, departs

By David Ruiz
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Former Department of Justice trial attorney Heather S. Tewksbury, who recently handled a marquee price-fixing case involving electronic liquid-crystal displays, will join the Palo Alto office of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr LLP, the firm announced Monday.

Tewksbury, scheduled to begin at WilmerHale on Jan. 21, will join as a partner in the firm's antitrust and competition practice after nearly eight years at the DOJ's antitrust division in San Francisco. After working on several noteworthy cases in

2013, Tewksbury said she is excited and ready for the move.

"Over the last year and a half at the division, I had the opportunity to be involved in significant trials and ended up trying four cases," Tewksbury said. "At the end of that experience, I really wanted to take the next step in developing my own profession."

Tewksbury recently served as one of the lead trial attorneys in *U.S. v. AU Optronics Corp.*, in which AU Optronics and two of its top executives were convicted in September 2012 of fixing the prices of LCD components used in numerous electronic devices. She led the sentencing phase of that case and obtained a record \$500 million fine.

Tewksbury also prosecuted *U.S. v. Peake*, which concluded last month with the longest sentence ever against an individual for violating the Sherman Act.

Prior to the Department of Justice, Tewksbury worked at San

Francisco-based Farella, Braun & Martell LLP.

Mark D. Selwyn, partner-in-charge of WilmerHale's Palo Alto office, said Tewksbury will be a fantastic addition. "Antitrust and government investigations are major practices of the firm," he said. "Heather will help lead continued growth in those areas nationwide and in the West Coast."

Major, Lindsey & Africa legal recruiter Robert J. Brigham, who along with Natasha Innocenti facilitated Tewksbury's move, called her a "great catch" for the firm.

"Heather has a reputation within the Department of Justice as one of the rising stars there," he said. "The sky was the limit for her if she decided to stay."

Tewksbury said she decided to leave the department because of a lull in her trial schedule.

"With cartel work, investigations are so long and all-encompassing," she said. "Because I just finished



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wrapping up work on some longstanding, significant investigations, it's the perfect time to do it."

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