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### Former N.Y. Deputy AG Joins Proskauer as Partner

Dan Slater  
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As an associate at Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler, Dietrich Snell helped defend Claus von Bulow, the socialite accused of attempting to murder his wife with an insulin overdose, when von Bulow's stepchildren brought a wrongful death suit against him.

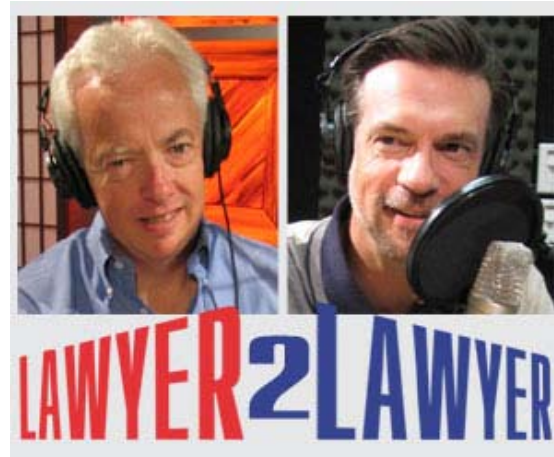
"In those early days, that was the closest thing I did to white-collar work," says Snell, now 51.

After a 19-year break from private practice -- during which he served in Manhattan's U.S. Attorney's Office, Eliot Spitzer's New York state attorney general's office and as senior counsel on the committee that drafted the 9/11 Commission Report -- Snell returned last month to law firm life as a partner at the New York office of Proskauer Rose. There, he'll work with Bob Cleary, who supervised Snell at the U.S. Attorney's Office and now heads Proskauer's white-collar defense practice.

In 1988, as a fourth-year associate, Snell left Patterson Belknap for the attorney general's office, following other lawyers from the firm. These included Michael Mukasey, whom President Reagan appointed a district court judge in the Southern District of New York, and Rudy Giuliani, who practiced at Patterson Belknap from 1977 to 1981 before being named associate attorney general in the Reagan administration. As a prosecutor, Snell, a graduate of Yale University and its law school, led a team that convicted 1993 World Trade Center bomber Ramzi Yousef for his plot to destroy 12 passenger aircraft in midair.

Snell landed in Spitzer's office in 1998 thanks to Anne Vitale, a former U.S. Attorney who was brought on to fill the top positions on Spitzer's staff. Vitale recommended Snell to run the public advocacy division, responsible for all affirmative civil enforcement, from investor protection to civil rights. In that role, Snell managed more than 160 assistant attorneys general and supervised high-profile investigations, including the analyst-conflict cases against Wall Street firms.

Because of Snell's work on terrorism prosecutions in the 1990s, he was called to Washington in 2003 to head a team that investigated the plot that led to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. After 18 months there, Snell returned to the AG's office, where he worked through the transition from Spitzer to Andrew Cuomo. "I thought about staying on," says



Snell, "but after an eight-year period, I felt like I'd reached a point in my career where it was time to consider something new. It's healthy that there's turnover, especially in those managerial positions."

At Proskauer, in addition to Cleary, Snell will work with Ron Wood, who recently joined the firm's Los Angeles office. Wood used to manage Morgan Stanley's legal staff in Southern California. Prior to that, he was the assistant director of the Securities and Exchange Commission's Pacific regional office's enforcement staff.

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