

Alternative Investment Software Provider Hires New GC

News In Brief:

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Paladyne Systems, an alternative investment software provider, hired Steve Vogel as chief financial officer and general counsel. With more than 20 years of industry experience, Vogel has worked for startup to mid-sized companies in both software and hi-tech. He founded consulting firm Sanguinity and has served as both chief financial officer and general counsel at Chordiant Software, Tessera, iLogistix, and Microbank Software. Of Vogel, Sameer Shalaby, chief executive of Paladyne, said, "Steve's industry expertise and leadership make him an invaluable and welcome addition to Paladyne's executive team at this important time in the company's life cycle."

Town Sports International Hires New GC

Town Sports International made adjustments to its senior management team, including hiring David Kastin as senior vice president, secretary, and general counsel. Kastin, along with Daniel Gallagher (promoted to senior vice president of finance) and James Rizzo (hired as senior vice president of human resources), has been recognized by Town Sports Chief Executive Officer Alex Alimanestianu as being "top talent." Having spent more than 15 years in government, Kastin has worked as an attorney in the enforcement division of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in New York as well as an associate in the corporate and securities departments at several New York law firms. He received his law degree from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law

and his BBA in Finance from The George Washington University.

State Insurance Department Hires New GC

On Wednesday, State Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner hired Adam M. Cole as his new general counsel. Cole, a San Francisco attorney and a partner with Heller Ehrman, LLP, an insurance firm that represents State Farm Insurance, has almost 20 years' experience in suing insurance companies. In his new role, Cole will oversee 80 government attorneys and will replace Gary Cohen, who will become Fireman's Fund Insurance Co.'s chief lawyer.

Avvo Hires GC to Help in Lawsuit

Avvo, an attorney rating website, was hit with a lawsuit by class action specialist Steve Berman just nine days after launching. Berman accused the website of being faulty, ranking some prestigious attorneys below lawyers who had committed crimes. Because of this, Avvo has added General Counsel and Vice President of Business Development Josh King to its team. King, who previously served as director of business development at Clearwire and in other executive roles at AT&T Wireless, was given a 9.1 rating by Avvo.

NPS Pharmaceuticals Promotes Associate GC

Biopharmaceutical company NPS Pharmaceuticals promoted Andrew Rackear to senior vice president of legal affairs and general counsel. Rackear, who joined NPS in 2007 as its associate general counsel, previously served as vice president and general counsel at Chugai Pharma and vice president and general counsel at Amersham Biosciences Corp. Along with receiving his law degree from New York University, Rackear is a member of both the New York and New Jersey state bar associations. He will replace Val Antczak, who is retiring.

