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## Browne George Ross keeps growing with addition of former DOJ tax chief

By Erin Lee  
Daily Journal Staff Writer

**T**he litigation boutique Browne George Ross LLP has added another high-profile litigator to its roster.

Veteran white collar defense and tax attorney Nathan J. Hochman made the jump to Browne George Ross on July 8, a move he said would allow him to expand his practice into business litigation and intellectual property work.

“I’ve always been interested in the intersection between the entertainment and intellectual property worlds and the government investigations, tax litigation and complex business disputes worlds,” Hochman said. “Browne George Ross’ platform, particularly for its size, is as good as it gets to be a player in all these legal arenas.”

Hochman served as assistant attorney general in the U.S. Department of Justice’s tax division in 2008.

He spent about a decade at Bingham McCutchen LLP, which merged with Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP in 2014. He chaired Morgan Lewis’ white collar litigation and government investigations group.

Hochman is the third former federal prosecutor at the firm, joining white collar defense lawyer Thomas P. O’Brien and litigator Joseph P. Russoniello. O’Brien is the former U.S. attorney in Los Angeles and Russoniello was U.S. attorney in San Francisco.

“Nathan’s a man for all seasons — great with the law, with clients, with judges, and with opposing counsel,” said founding partner Eric M. George. “We’re thrilled to have him.”

Hochman said he’s enjoying the flexibility of a smaller firm as it offers fewer conflicts of interest and allows him to represent a more diverse range of clients.

Hochman has had multiple high-profile matters on his recent docket.



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From left, Peter Ross, Nathan Hochman, and Eric George of Browne, George Ross LLP.

He represents Devin Sloane, a Los Angeles-based water systems company executive who was indicted in the college admissions scandal. Sloane paid college counselor Rick Singer \$250,000 to submit a fabricated water polo resume and Photoshopped images to USC, according to an FBI affidavit.

Sloane pleaded guilty to a mail fraud conspiracy charge in May. His sentencing is scheduled for September. *United States v. Abbott*, 19-CR-110117 (D. Mass., filed April 8, 2019).

Hochman also led the defense of ex-Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca, who was indicted for obstruction of justice related to an FBI investigation of abuses in county jails. Baca was convicted and sentenced to three years in federal prison. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the decision this

year, but Hochman previously said he plans to appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. *United States v. Baca*, 16-CR66 (C.D. Cal., filed Feb. 10, 2016).

Hochman has also recently represented individuals under insider trading securities and state criminal and civil tax investigations and a Fortune 500 company in a business dispute, he said.

Early in his career, Hochman worked at a firm founded by his father, Hochman Salkin Rettig Toscher & Perez PC. This month’s move presented an opportunity to join a different family member, Peter Ross, Hochman’s brother-in-law.

“We’d been talking for a little over a decade at Sunday night dinners about joining forces,” Hochman said.