

Is E&Y Accountable?

Trial to decide if hiring of Van Scoyoc star was fair

Excerpts from article by T.R. Goldman

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The Inner workings of the lobbying business will be on rare public display beginning next week in the courtroom of D.C. Superior Court Judge Stephanie Duncan-Peters. Jury selection is slated to begin Jan. 14 in a two-year-old grudge match between Van Scoyoc Associates and Ernst & Young.

Van Scoyoc founder H. Stewart Van Scoyoc has been trying to get Ernst & Young into court ever since the accounting giant hired away Van Scoyoc's star employee, Phillip Moseley, in 1998 – reducing the value of his company, he claims, by \$4 million.

Ernst & Young, represented by Mayer, Brown & Platt and former Mayer, Brown partner Lawrence Robbins, argues in court papers that it was merely an auditor and had no fiduciary obligation to Van Scoyoc. Furthermore, no accounting industry standard required Ernst & Young to disclose its discussions with an employee of a firm it was auditing.