



Saul Ewing Adds Reed Smith Higher Ed Atty In New York Law360

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Saul Ewing LLP has expanded its litigation services in the New York office with this week's addition of an attorney who specializes in representing colleges and universities and moved his practice after 10 years with Reed Smith LLP.

Brian Willett joined Saul Ewing as counsel in the higher education practice, the firm announced Wednesday. Willett told Law360 Pulse in emails that he was attracted by the firm's culture of innovation and collaboration, and was excited for the opportunities Saul Ewing will provide.

"I think of the firm as an upside-down iceberg," Willett said. "It's evident on the surface that Saul has a wide breadth of practice areas and geographic locations, and when you look under the surface, you also see that the lawyers have a depth of knowledge in very specific areas."

Those areas include higher education, cybersecurity, privacy and financial services litigation, a combination that Willett said paired well with his practice and career goals.

Willett's practice represents clients in commercial disputes, class actions and appeals in state and federal courts, with a focus on institutions of higher education. His work includes matters involving student affairs, scholarship equity and internal investigations. Willett also counsels educational institutions facing government investigations and advises them on compliance with state and federal regulations.

"We are thrilled to welcome Brian to Saul Ewing," said James Keller, co-chair of Saul Ewing's higher education practice. "Brian will enhance our already deep bench of attorneys who represent colleges and universities facing complex disputes and rely on our firm for advice on how to meet their regulatory obligations. He is also an outstanding addition to our campus investigations team."

Willett's litigation experience also includes issues outside the higher education industry, such as representing financial institutions in embezzlement and regulatory investigations and advising clients on data privacy laws.

"We are excited to add another versatile litigator to the firm," Laurie Kamaiko, New York office managing partner, said in a statement. "Clients from across various industries

also rely on Brian to represent them in commercial disputes and class actions related to mergers and acquisitions, securities, contract and fraud claims, and federal and state consumer protection cases."

Willett told Law360 Pulse that he was also impressed with Saul Ewing's commitment to pro bono work. He just received a firmwide email explaining how attorneys can provide legal assistance to victims of Hurricane Helene.

"As a graduate of [the University of North Carolina School of Law], which prides itself on public service, that sort of dedication struck a chord with me," Willett said.

Saul Ewing's flexible remote working policy is also a highlight for Willett, saying he appreciates having more time to spend with his wife and two young children, while having more availability for clients in other parts of the day.

"Everyone here works hard and provides great results for clients, and I think being happy to go to work is a big part of that," Willett said.