Hire Up: Big Law Adding Litigators, Cybersecurity Lawyers, Former Government Attorneys and More

With in-person hearings and trials expected to ramp up over the next few months, firms are expanding their trial teams.

Big Law firms around the country added litigators this week as in-person court hearings and trials are expected to resume over the next several months with more people receiving the COVID-19 vaccine.

In Los Angeles, Norton Rose Fulbright picked up four commercial litigators from Greenspoon Marder, including partners James Turken and Rebecca Lawlor Calkins.

In Minneapolis, Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr hired Steven Kerbaugh as counsel in the litigation and labor and employment practice. He came from Jackson Lewis.

And, Buchalter added Cecilia Miller as a shareholder in the litigation and insurance law practice groups in San Diego. She had been a partner at Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch.

Firms also continue to expand other practices on the shortlist to be busy under the Biden administration, particularly as business scales up following the pandemic, such as cybersecurity and privacy, insurance recovery and government contracts.

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough added a four-lawyer data breach team from Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz, led by partners Gina Greenwood and Brad Moody, who will co-head Nelson Mullins’ new dedicated data breach response team. The lawyers are in Atlanta and Jackson, Mississippi.

Michael Vernick, the head of the government contracts practice group at Hogan Lovells, moved to Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, where he will lead the firm’s government contracts practice as a partner in Washington, D.C.

Blank Rome expanded its insurance recovery group with Chicago-based Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg partner Seth Lamden.

Plus, government lawyers continue to find new homes in the private sector.

Davis Wright Tremaine picked up Federal Communications Commission appellate lawyer Thaila Sundaresan, who joined as a partner in the technology and communications practice in San Francisco.

David Morrell has returned to Jones Day as a government regulation practice partner in Washington, D.C. He formerly served in senior roles at the U.S. Department of Justice and the White House. Morrell was on a team of government lawyers in court cases backing the Trump administration’s effort to put a citizenship question on the 2020 census.

In other hires, White & Case expanded its global M&A roster in New York with Thomas Christopher, who came from Latham & Watkins, and James Hu, who came from Kirkland & Ellis. Both focus on public company transactions.

In another M&A hire, Jason Quintana joined Mayer Brown as a partner in its M&A practice in Chicago. He came from Perkins Coie.

Hogan Lovells added Steve Argeris as counsel to its corporate and finance practice, adding M&A and sports sector experience. Argeris, who is based in New York and Washington, D.C., most recently was
vice president and general counsel at Tepper Sports & Entertainment, which owns the Carolina Panthers and Charlotte FC in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Also, K&L Gates added Mitchell Weiss and Balazs Danko as partners in the firm's tax practice in Chicago. Both came from Deloitte Tax, where Weiss was managing director and Danko a senior manager in the international tax practice. Counsel Josh Fieldstone, who served as an international tax manager at Deloitte, also made the move.

K&L Gates also hired Matthew Miller as a health care partner in the firm's Nashville, Tennessee, office, which opened in February. Miller previously practiced at Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis.

And in New York, Noah Bilenker joined Willkie Farr & Gallagher as a partner in the real estate department in New York, where he will also be a part of the real estate finance practice group. He had been director and general counsel at Mesa West Capital, the asset management division of Morgan Stanley.