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Clayton office of global law firm picks up four partners from Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner

BY JAMES DREW
Reporter, St. Louis Business Journal

Four partners of St. Louis-based Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner have jumped to the local office of a global law firm competitor.

Norton Rose Fulbright said the additions of Kevin Fischer and Bruce Baty, former co-leaders of BCPL's Transactional and Regulatory Insurance Group, will enhance its U.S. corporate Insurance practice. They are joined by BCLP partners Michael Schwartz and Jodi Adolf. Monday was the quartet's first day with Norton Rose Fulbright.

"We believe this move significantly deepens the expertise we can provide to our clients both in the U.S. and globally," Fischer said.

Fischer and Schwartz worked in BCLP's St. Louis office. Baty and Adolf were based in the Kansas City office and are working there remotely for the Norton Rose Fulbright office in Clayton, 7676 Forsyth Blvd.

Also, two partners in BCLP's Atlanta office moved to Norton Rose Fulbright on Monday. Sean Christy and Chuck Hollis, co-leaders of BCLP's global Technology & Commercial Transactions practice, will work with multiple Norton Rose Fulbright offices including the one in Clayton and will work remotely from the Atlanta area.

"I believe that bringing in these lawyers and their teams is a transformational move for our firm and for our St. Louis



Centene Plaza C, home of Norton Rose Fulbright

office,” Stacey Murphy, Norton Rose Fulbright’s St. Louis office partner-in-charge, said in a statement.

The recruitment of the BCLP partners is a direct challenge from Norton Rose Fulbright, which said it has more than doubled its Midwest footprint by lawyer headcount over the past year. That expansion has included the opening of a Chicago office which now has 24 lawyers and the onboarding of an 11-lawyer trial team in Minneapolis.

BCLP has about 1,275 lawyers in 30 offices across North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia. Norton Rose Fulbright, with headquarters in London, England, has 3,151 lawyers in 53 offices in those regions as well as Latin America and Africa.

The addition of the four BCLP partners increases the Norton

Rose Fulbright office in Clayton to 22 – 17 of whom are lawyers, including 10 partners.

Reached for comment, a BCLP spokesperson thanked the six former partners for their contributions.

“At the same time, we are focused on investing in strategic hires who can take full advantage of our Corporate and Finance Transactions capabilities as we continue to build our international platform and best serve our clients around the globe,” the spokesperson said in an email.

As an example, BCLP announced last week that Rob Crea had joined the firm’s San Francisco office, working within the Corporate Transaction Practice as the new U.S. Head of Fund Formation. Crea moved to BCLP from the Price Vedder law firm.

Fischer and Baty counsel insurance sector clients on a range of corporate, transactional and regulatory matters, including merger and acquisition transactions, reinsurance agreements, sales and purchases of blocks of business, renewal rights transactions and InsurTech investments and initiatives.

Fischer earned his law degree in 1996 and his bachelor of arts degree in history in 1993, both from Vanderbilt University. Baty received his law degree in 1982 and his bachelor of arts degree in government and international relations in 1979, both from the University of Notre Dame.

Schwartz focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions, strategic alliances, venture capital investments and corporate restructurings. He advises private equity funds,

insurers, brokers, InsurTech innovators and other insurance sector clients on insurance M&A transactions and on a range of corporate and transactional matters.

He received his law degree in 2008 from American University and a bachelor of arts degree in political science and psychology from Tulane University in 2002.

Adolf specializes in insurance regulatory, InsurTech and insurance insolvency matters. She advises life, accident and health as well as property and casualty insurers on a range of insurance regulatory and compliance issues.

She earned her law degree in 2002 from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas, and her bachelor of science degree in political science from Southern Connecticut State University in 1999.



KEVIN FISCHER

New partner at Norton Rose Fulbright office in Clayton and former co-leader of Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner’s Transaction and Regulatory Insurance Group in St. Louis.



BRUCE BATY

New partner at Norton Rose Fulbright office in Clayton and former co-leader of Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner’s Transaction and Regulatory Insurance Group in Kansas City.



MICHAEL SCHWARTZ

New partner at Norton Rose Fulbright office in Clayton and former corporate and mergers and M&A partner at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner in St. Louis.



JODI ADOLF

New partner at Norton Rose Fulbright office in Clayton and former partner at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner in Kansas City.