

Morgan Lewis Nabs 2 Bracewell Partners For Dallas Office

By Adam Lidgett

Law360 (May 15, 2019, 8:14 PM EDT) -- Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP has beefed up its Dallas presence by adding a seasoned labor and employment litigator and an experienced mergers and acquisitions attorney as partners from Bracewell LLP.

Robert Sheeder, who was the head of Bracewell's labor and employment practice group, and Janice Davis, who was the co-chair of Bracewell's technology transaction group, have jumped ship to Morgan Lewis with two other attorneys, according to an announcement last week. The partners joined the firm with Lauren West, who serves as of counsel, and Clayton Davis, an associate.

Sheeder told Law360 that part of what piqued his interest about Morgan Lewis was when Philip Miscimarra — whom he worked with at what is now Reed Smith LLP — decided to rejoin the firm after leaving his position as chairman of the National Labor Relations Board. Sheeder also commended the firm on its labor and employment practice.

"In my own case, I do labor and employment, and Morgan Lewis has the finest labor and employment group and practice in the nation. And I've always been impressed by them, and they set the standard," Sheeder said.

Sheeder said he works on a lot of litigation, including trials, defending against class and collective actions and claims including discrimination, harassment and wrongful discharge. He also does a lot of traditional labor work, like collective bargaining, arbitrations and NLRB-related work, he said.

He was at Bracewell for about 13 years, he said, and before that he spent 15 years at Jenkins & Gilchrist PC. Before that, he spent about six years at Winstead PC, where he started the firm's labor section, he said, and he also worked at Reed Smith.

He represents clients in various industries, including oil refineries, news publications and accounting firms, he said.

Janice Davis, who focuses on representing clients in the health care and technology spaces, said she was presented with an excellent chance to join a firm with a great reputation for its mergers and acquisitions practice and for client service.



Janice Davis



Robert Sheeder

"I'm a corporate attorney and I focus on mergers and acquisitions, and obviously, Morgan Lewis has a great mergers and acquisitions team," she said. "It advises clients on a range of global mergers and acquisitions and has approximately 70 attorneys on the mergers and acquisitions team. I thought it was a great opportunity to join a deep and diverse team that is particularly strong in the mergers and acquisitions and private equity space."

Davis handles a variety of transactions, including investments, she said. She counts among her clients manufacturers and hospital districts, as well as clients in the dental profession and in health care analytics, she said.

Davis said she was at Bracewell for about 20 years, and before that she was at Arter & Hadden LLP.

She said she has also worked at Vial Hamilton Koch & Knox and the firm Shank Irwin Conant Lipsky & Casterline. Before attending law school at Baylor University, she worked at Arthur Andersen LLP doing audit and tax work, she said.

"Janice and Bob have outstanding reputations as longtime leaders in their fields in Texas and across the United States, and I am delighted to welcome them to Morgan Lewis," Morgan Lewis chair Jami McKeon said in a statement. "Their high energy and determination are assets our clients will value greatly when seeking advice to achieve sophisticated business goals or facing complex employment litigation challenges."

--Editing by Haylee Pearl.