

Morgan Lewis Adds 4 Litigators To Toxic Torts Team

By Ryan Boysen

Law360 (January 9, 2023, 2:22 PM EST) -- Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP has hired four longtime litigators to its high-profile toxic tort practice, including a duo from ArentFox Schiff and another from Foley & Mansfield.

Paul Scrudato and Jill Berry join Morgan Lewis from ArentFox, while Thomas Burns and Stephanie Spardone join from Foley, according to a Monday press release. Scrudato and Berry join as partners and are based in New York. Burns also joins as a partner and is based in Chicago, while Spardone joins as of counsel and is based in Dallas.

All four attorneys "will continue to serve as lead trial lawyers who coordinate national defense strategies and negotiations for Fortune 500 companies" on mass tort cases across the country, the firm said.

"We know firsthand that these are outstanding and accomplished practitioners who will help us expand our national asbestos and broader mass torts practice," Brady Edwards, leader of Morgan Lewis' mass torts practice, said in Monday's release. "Their experience and understanding of mass tort and products cases, particularly in the asbestos and talc space, will be of immense value to our clients."

Scrudato served as lead counsel while defending the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey in mass tort litigation over the Sept. 11 disaster site, and has helped negotiate several settlement agreements in complicated mass tort cases.

Berry also worked on the 9/11 disaster site litigation and has worked on numerous other mass tort cases, representing "manufacturers of consumer products and agricultural and construction equipment," the release said. She also has experience working on joint defense initiatives that "shape mass tort litigation dockets."

Burns, meanwhile, is another mass tort vet known for his asbestos litigation work and many other cases, including "cannabis concentrates, chemical solvents and bottles," the release said. He has tried more than 100 mesothelioma cases to verdict.

Spardone has taken on leadership roles in mass tort cases involving "asbestos, silica, benzene, and heavy metals such as cadmium and chromium," the release said.



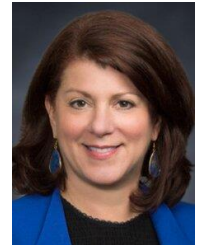
Paul Scrudato



Jill Berry



Thomas Burns



Stephanie
Spardone

"These talented lawyers have been at the forefront of the ever-growing mass tort and product liability docket and they have well-deserved reputations as leaders in this complex field," Morgan Lewis chair Jami McKeon said in the statement. "Such cases require a strong, deep bench with significant first-chair trial capability, seasoned negotiation skills, and sophisticated defense strategies, and this group enhances our ability to deliver just that."

--Editing by Alyssa Miller.

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