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Dilworth Paxson Opens New York Office With Commercial Litigator Hire

BY GINA PASSARELLA

Of the Legal Staff

Dilworth Paxson has opened an office in New York with the hire of a commercial litigator with a financial services and bankruptcy focus.

Sole practitioner Gregory Blue will head up the new location, which makes for the firm's seventh office, Dilworth Paxson said.

Blue's practice is primarily devoted to business litigation and the representation of creditors, shareholders and official committees in complex bankruptcy cases.

Blue has spent his career in boutique litigation and bankruptcy firms, spending the last two years running his own practice representing business and sophisticated individuals in complex financial matters with some emphasis on financial fraud and securities fraud cases, he said.

It was Blue's work on the high-profile Adelphia Communications Corp. bankruptcy several years ago that first put Dilworth Paxson's Lawrence McMichael, co-chairman of the firm's bankruptcy practice, on Blue's radar screen. McMichael was representing several Rigas family members in the criminal forfeiture and bankruptcy matters against them related to the collapse of Adelphia. Blue was one of the lead counsel for the equity committee representing shareholders.

The two spent many days in the courtroom together, albeit on opposite sides of the table, Blue said.

From there, Blue and Dilworth Paxson lawyers would often serve as co-counsel on matters Dilworth Paxson had in New York. Blue said there were conversations over the years about formalizing the relationship. But it was just a few months ago when Dilworth Paxson decided the time was right to launch in New York that the firm reached out to Blue and discussions went from there.



BLUE

“Our New York office will enable us to better serve our clients, many of whom have significant and growing business and operations there,” Dilworth Paxson Chairman Joseph H. Jacovini said in a statement. “The level of our practice in New York has grown considerably over the past few years, and we determined it was the right time to formally open an office in New York City.”

Dilworth Paxson managing partner Jim Hennessey said a growing number of clients indicated they would give the firm more work if it had a New York location. The bulk of those clients were in the firm's litigation practice, making Blue's focus on complex litigation and financial services a particularly good fit for the launch, Hennessey said.

As head of the new office, Blue said he will be focusing on expanding the location to include the same services Dilworth Paxson provides in its other locations. That was one of the appeals of joining the firm, Blue said. He said his practice has been very litigation-heavy over the past few years. When clients asked him to handle other matters for them, Blue would have to send them out to other firms. Joining Dilworth Paxson means he won't have to do that, Blue said.

For now, Dilworth Paxson is starting on “a small scale” and subleasing space in New York, Hennessey said. He said the plan is to open with one or two attorneys and see how things go. If demand rises to the level the firm is expecting, then it will look to get its own space and grow from there, Hennessey said.

Blue said his practice handling commercial litigation and creditors issues in bankruptcy cases is national in scope. He

said he is licensed in New York, New Jersey and California and has clients from across the country.

As part of his practice dealing with financial fraud matters, Blue has served as lead counsel for a group of investors in securities fraud litigation involving Tyco International Ltd., obtaining a \$36 million settlement. He has also advised Madoff investors and other Ponzi scheme victims concerning “clawback” litigation, Securities Investor Protection Corp. coverage and potential third-party claims.

Blue got media attention for another type of case in February 2012 when he was one of two lawyers who sued Westlaw and LexisNexis for copyright infringement, arguing the companies violated lawyers' rights through the companies' repackaging and sale of legal filings. The proposed class action, *White v. West Publishing*, was dismissed last month by U.S. District Judge Jed Rakoff of the Southern District of New York.

Aside from New York and its Philadelphia headquarters, Dilworth Paxson has offices in Harrisburg; Cherry Hill and Red Bank, N.J.; Washington, D.C.; and Wilmington, Del. Dilworth Paxson ranked 32nd in *Legal* affiliate *PaLaw 2012*'s annual listing of the 100 largest law firms in Pennsylvania. According to the publication, Dilworth Paxson had 79 full-time attorneys in Pennsylvania for a total of 106 lawyers firmwide. The firm was ranked 33rd the year before with 77 full-time attorneys in the state and 100 firmwide.

Gina Passarella can be contacted at 215-557-2494 or at gpassarella@alm.com. Follow her on Twitter @GPassarellaTLI.

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