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Diamond McCarthy Snags Heller Bankruptcy In 7-Atty Hire

By Kurt Orzeck

Law360, Los Angeles (May 05, 2014, 7:13 PM ET) -- Diamond McCarthy LLP has hired seven attorneys, including a former Greenfield Sullivan Draa & Harrington LLP name partner who is handling the Heller Ehrman LLP bankruptcy and will lead the case for Diamond McCarthy at its brand-new San Francisco office, the firm announced Monday.

Diamond McCarthy, which is also working on the Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP and Howrey LLP bankruptcies, is expanding its roster with the Heller Ehrman case courtesy of Christopher Sullivan, who joins Diamond McCarthy in San Francisco along with partners Kenneth Brunetti, Gregory Rougeau and Matthew Schultz and associate Matt Sepuya. The team has served as lead trial counsel to the creditors committee and plan administrator for the Heller law firm bankruptcy.

Meanwhile, the firm has also enhanced its New York and Dallas offices with the addition of Mark Krum and Mark K. Sales, respectively.

Allan Diamond, Diamond McCarthy's managing partner, said in a Monday statement that the firm had wanted to open a Bay Area office for years and that the five attorneys it had brought on for the job were a perfect fit.

"They are respected trial lawyers with outstanding credentials and litigate the same kinds of complex commercial cases in California that we pursue across the U.S. and globally," Diamond said.

Sullivan, who will manage Diamond McCarthy's San Francisco office, said in a Monday statement that his team was excited to join one of the premier trial boutiques in the U.S.

"Like Diamond McCarthy, we have been handling cases involving complex litigation in the business/financial and intellectual property areas, as well as insolvency-related cases, for quite some time," Sullivan said. "The synergies are obvious, and we are looking forward to expanding both geographic and industry reach by partnering with this team of experienced business trial lawyers."

Sullivan has represented business litigation plaintiffs and major corporate defendants, according to his new firm. He received his law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law with magna cum laude honors in 1990, five years after receiving his bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

New Diamond McCarthy partner Brunetti received his law degree from the same school of law with magna cum laude honors, Order of the Coif, in 1991, after earning his bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1986, the firm said. He is an expert in complex business litigation and bankruptcy and also has a deep background in telecommunications litigation.

Rougeau has expertise in complex commercial and individual Chapter 11 and Chapter 7 bankruptcies, according to Diamond McCarthy. He received his law degree from William & Mary's Marshall Wythe School of Law in 1996, after obtaining his bachelor's degree with distinction from the Virginia Military Institute in 1989.

Schultz focuses on intellectual property, breach of contract, fraud, consumer protection, antitrust, unfair competition, professional negligence and employment law, Diamond McCarthy said. He notched his law degree from the University of California, Berkeley School of Law, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif, in 2000, after getting his bachelor's degree summa cum laude from the University of Maryland, College Park in 1997. At the University of Maryland, he was a member of Phi Beta Kappa.

Business and bankruptcy litigation specialist Sepuya received his law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in 2012 and his bachelor's degree in political science from Stanford University in 2006, according to Diamond McCarthy.

Diamond McCarthy's San Francisco office will be located at 150 California St.

Krum, who joins the New York office, is a former senior assistant U.S. attorney who has an international practice specializing in white collar criminal defense and complex commercial litigation. His clients include businesses, institutions and individuals facing investigation by federal and state law enforcement authorities and government regulatory agencies, as well as businesses and individuals who have been financial victims of crimes.

"The addition of [Krum] to our New York City office expands our litigation practice reach into white collar crime and complex securities," Diamond said. "[Krum had] a reputation across the [U.S.] as one of the best trial lawyers in the U.S. attorneys' office."

Sales, who is joining the firm's Dallas office, brings with him a primary practice in commercial litigation with a focus on probate, trust and fiduciary duty litigation, according to his new firm. The ex-Dykema Gossett PLLC partner's clients include high-net worth individuals and corporate fiduciaries.

"The addition of [Sales] to our Dallas office enhances our business trial group and adds expertise in probate, trust and fiduciary litigation," Diamond said. "We have known [him] for many years, and his reputation not only as a trial lawyer but as a respected leader of the Dallas Bar Association, where he served as its former president, as well as the state bar and Texas Bar Foundation, is the gold standard."

--Editing by Kat Laskowski.

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