

King & Spalding Launches In Dallas With Gibson Dunn Leader

By Lynn LaRowe

Law360 (February 26, 2024, 11:44 AM EST) -- King & Spalding LLP has planted its flag in Dallas with a new office "anchored" by a longtime trial attorney who co-chaired Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP's global litigation practice group, the firm said Monday.

As an "anchor hire" for what represents the firm's third shop in the Lone Star State, Veronica Moyé is "a star first-chair trial lawyer with valuable in-house experience and a passion for mentoring and developing the next generation that aligns with our commitment to clients and associates," King & Spalding chairman Robert D. Hays Jr. said.



Veronica Moyé

"While our firm has long-term relationships with a number of key clients in Dallas, the critical mass of talent we now have there internally solidified our decision to commit on-the-ground resources in this important market, which is home to many of the country's top corporations," Hays said in a statement. "Veronica is a terrific anchor hire for the office, and we are confident it will expand quickly with additional talent."

The firm's new Dallas shop is its 24th overall and first new office in Texas in more than 15 years, following Houston, which launched in 1995, and Austin, which opened in 2008, the firm said.

Moyé told Law360 Pulse on Monday that she won't be taking on the role of managing partner for the office and the administrative duties that come with it but she does "expect and believe that I will be a key part in growing the Dallas office and determining the direction of it."

"That was one of the things that was extremely exciting to me, to build a new office and build something incredible," she said. "The opportunity came along and the more people I met at King & Spalding the more irresistible the opportunity became. I wasn't out looking for a job. It was a unique opportunity at a great time at a great firm."

Moyé said she is extremely committed to helping the next generation of lawyers succeed and that as a Black woman, she feels obligated to mentor women and people of color. She said the firm's governance and management structure, including its practice of putting young lawyers in key positions within the firm, particularly impressed her.

"It inspires new ideas," Moyé said. "The firm has done such a masterful job of transforming and growing, particularly over the last decade. The management structure and strategic plan are so well thought out."

They're very smart about how they deliver client service so that it's delivered seamlessly across practices."

Moyé said the Dallas team is currently working from temporary space but expects a permanent location to be acquired soon.

Joining Moyé in Dallas are King & Spalding partners Sean Royall, who helms the firm's global antitrust and consumer protection practice, and intellectual property attorney Alfonso Chan. Royall and Chan both joined within the last six months, the firm said. The firm said it employs about a dozen associates in the Dallas area and has committed associates already lined up to bulk up the Dallas roster in the fall.

The office will focus on corporate, finance and restructuring, business litigation, government investigations, real estate and investment funds, and product liability and mass tort work for a broad range of clients across multiple sectors, the firm said.

Moyé — who spent nearly 13 years at Gibson Dunn and served on the firm's executive committee — has a trial practice that touches on a range of matters including antitrust, intellectual property, class action and commercial disputes, King & Spalding said. She earned her law degree from Harvard Law School and holds a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Moyé said in a statement from the firm that, "King & Spalding has a collaborative, team-oriented approach to client and practice development that has clearly paid dividends in terms of growth without sacrificing a strong sense of esprit de corps and a one-firm culture."

"I am excited to work with my new partners and former colleagues who are at K&S now to help build a strong Dallas office and grow the firm's business litigation practice," Moyé said.

King & Spalding is an international law firm that employs about 1,300 attorneys across its 24 locations in the U.S., Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

--Additional reporting by Andrea Keckley. Editing by Alyssa Miller.