

## Insurance Recovery Firm Anderson Kill Hits Dallas

By Jess Davis

*Law360, Dallas (March 05, 2014, 5:36 PM ET)* -- Anderson Kill PC, a national firm specializing in insurance recovery, opened a new office in Dallas that will focus on asset recovery for the health care, hospitality, energy and manufacturing industries, the firm announced Wednesday.

The Dallas office, which opened March 1, is launching with Richard Cheng, a former general counsel for several long-term care service providers who had been running a solo practice before joining Anderson Kill. The firm's David Bender will also help start operations at the Dallas office, splitting his time between Ventura, Calif., and Texas.

"As Texas' economy continues to grow and attract Fortune 500 companies, an on-the-ground presence here has become an imperative for us," Bender said in a statement. "We are looking forward to becoming recognized as the go-to firm for insurance recovery in the state."

Bender told Law360 that the firm's existing Texas clients wanted to have an in-state presence and that he and Cheng will focus initially on serving the needs of existing clients, but as their business grows, they want to expand the Dallas office to be a significant location for the firm, adding associates and partners as the work demands it. He also said Anderson Kill expects to stand out because of its boutique specialty in insurance recovery and won't have the same hurdles a full-service firm trying to break into the Texas market would have.

"A good market for us is one that has a strong and growing business presence because as there's business expansion and growth, there's a need for law firms like us to help businesses when they sustain losses," Bender said.

The firm has successfully represented many Texas-based businesses in previous high-stakes insurance coverage disputes, including suits concerning coverage for a mining company's asbestos claims, an oil company's pollution liability, business interruption, cyber liability and property damage. The firm saw an opportunity in Dallas's diverse and rapidly growing economic base and is talking with companies across a wide spectrum of industries, including advanced technologies and manufacturing, health care, hospitality, energy and financial services industries.

Bender, who serves as co-chairman of the firm's hospitality practice group, is a policyholder rights advocate who has represented public and private corporations, financial institutions, private and public educational institutions and corporate boards in coverage disputes with insurance companies. He was previously a partner in the Los Angeles office of Epstein Becker & Green PC and owned his own firm,

Wood & Bender, before joining Anderson Kill.

He met Cheng through the Association of Corporate Counsel and saw a synergy between the firm's specialty and Cheng's experience as a general counsel and vice president at two health care companies, where he started the legal and medical appeals departments, overseeing staff who recovered millions of dollars in governmental and private health care insurance claims.

"Richard is a terrific and versatile lawyer, well-respected in the Dallas legal community," Bender said. "The industries in which his practice is concentrated mesh well with Anderson Kill's historical client base. We're looking forward tremendously to working with him in Dallas."

The Dallas office is the seventh location for Anderson Kill, which is based in New York and also has offices in California, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia.

--Editing by Christine Chun.

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