

Anderson Kill Lures Construction Insurance Vet From Olshan

By Andrew Scurria

Law360, New York (August 21, 2013, 8:25 PM ET) -- Anderson Kill PC has snagged a former Olshan Frome Wolosky LLP partner in New York specializing in shepherding construction projects from start to finish and securing insurance coverage for real estate developers and contractors, the firm said Wednesday.

Allen R. Wolff joined Anderson Kill as a shareholder Monday, following a five-year stretch at Olshan's New York office, where he developed a resume stacked with work in real estate project development and policyholder recovery for construction outfits and landowners, as well as occasional forays into policyholder disputes involving employment, fiduciary obligation and intellectual property laws.

At Anderson Kill, Wolff will focus on the real estate development, construction and insurance recovery fields. He was specifically drawn to Anderson Kill's reputation in the insurance space, which he called "unparalleled" in the field.

"Given that that's the nature of a substantial part of my practice, it was a very natural draw," Wolff told Law360 on Wednesday. "Anderson Kill has offices in multiple locations and has a much larger practice base in this field than my previous firm had, and it will present me with the opportunity to grow my practice on a larger platform."

Wolff will report to both the insurance recovery group and the real estate and construction group at Anderson Kill, he said.

In his practice, Wolff is involved with construction projects from their inception and typically drafts the underlying construction contracts between builders and developers, drawing on his insurance litigation experience to ensure that all parties involved procure the appropriate coverage.

His role also involves resolving payment disputes and property liens as they arise, keeping projects on track and out of court. He also handles claims for defective engineering or construction work that are typically brought after a project's completion, as well as legal action seeking the recovery of insurance proceeds related to those claims.

His insurance recovery clients have included property owners, contractors and subcontractors, retailers, financial institutions, hospitality businesses, condominium associations, and tenants' associations, according to Anderson Kill.

Wolff also advises policyholders generally on issues related to exclusions, subrogation, defense, indemnity and bad faith, and has secured coverage for corporate entities facing claims for directors and officers liability, employment law violations, intellectual property misappropriation, and breaches of Employee Retirement Income Security Act duties, he said.

“Allen has a wealth of experience in real estate and insurance law and a distinguished track record in complex litigation on both fronts,” said Larry Bartelemucci, chair of the firm’s real estate practice. “We are thrilled to welcome him to Anderson Kill.”

In February, the firm expanded its captive insurance offerings by adding a new office in Burlington, Vt., a state home to a large number of licensed captive insurers.

And in September, the firm picked up former Lowenstein Sandler PC policyholder attorney Robert D. Chesler to serve in its Newark, N.J., office.

Before moving to New York and Olshan in 2008, Wolff practiced at Carlsmith Ball LLP, a preeminent Pacific Rim firm based in Hawaii, according to Anderson Kill.

He earned his law degree from Albany Law School and his undergraduate degree from Cornell University. He also holds a master's degree from the U.S. Army War College in Strategic Studies.

--Editing by Elizabeth Bowen.

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