

Buchalter opens San Diego office with added lawyers, expansion plans

By Matthew Sanderson
Daily Journal Staff Writer

Buchalter opened its eighth office on Monday on West Broadway in San Diego, adding several attorneys and staff to the 3,187-square-foot space.

The firm plans to have a local footprint to leverage the growing demands for its service in the region's technology, manufacturing, health care and cybersecurity industries, according to president and CEO Adam J. Bass. Practice groups operating out of the office will include labor and employment, trade secrets and employee mobility, health care, intellectual property and bank and finance.

"San Diego was a natural fit for us, geographically," Bass said. "The firm has offices now from Seattle to San Diego so a pretty good footprint across the west. We always have work down there."

Managing shareholder Tracy A. Warren, who joined in February from Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart PC, takes the helm at the new office of eight attorneys, three staff and one other shareholder, J. Rick Tache, who will co-chair the intellectual property group and spend a significant amount of time in San Diego.

Warren will work with attorneys J. Patrick Allen, Brittany R. Dobbins, Kathryn B. Fox and



WARREN

Rick A. Waltman. Robert Zadek, previously with the firm's San Francisco office, will now be in San Diego full time, along with Jeff P.M. Lewis, a member of the health care practice group.

"I am thrilled to offer my clients the full range of business services and exceptional client service the firm has to offer," Warren said.

She will be focused on growing the firm's presence in San Diego and represents national and international clients in employment matters involving single plaintiff and class action defense.

Warren also advises, counsels, trains and litigates in areas including pay equity, wage and hour compliance, sexual harassment, employee discipline and NCAA bylaw compliance. She graduat-

ed from the University of Notre Dame Law School.

Zadek focuses on matters involving factoring, supply-chain finance, asset-based lending, commercial loan documentation, trade finance and bankruptcy. Allen represents employers in single plaintiff and class action litigation involving discrimination, harassment, wrongful termination and wage and hour violations.

"So much about Buchalter is building relationships, and we plugged into downtown San Diego," Warren said. "We're close to the courts."

The San Diego team set up at a temporary office in February, getting to full speed, Warren said. There are several potential teammates anticipated to be added to the office as the firm also adds to its Sacramento and Irvine offices. She hopes the San Diego office can grow to 20 to 30 attorneys.

"We're on that trajectory," Warren said. "We want to continue to embrace diversity and equity. We definitely want to partner with the downtown San Diego area."

Larry Watanabe, a recruiter at Watanabe Nason LLC, said he has engaged in probably 200 lateral partner deals in the San Diego region over the year.

"It's interesting," he said about Buchalter opening. "San Diego has not been a destination for new offices for quite some time."