

## **Bowman & Brooke Expands To Florida With Merger, Laterals**

By **Carolina Bolado**

*Law360, Fort Myers (January 29, 2016, 9:10 PM ET)* -- Bowman & Brooke LLP said Friday it is breaking into the Florida market with the acquisition of fellow product liability firm Seipp Flick & Hosley LLP and the hire of two partners from Carlton Fields and Arnstein & Lehr LLP.

The Seipp Flick acquisition sees Minneapolis-based Bowman & Brooke picking up 29 attorneys, 16 paralegals, more than a dozen other staff, and two offices in Miami and Orlando, the firm said. Meanwhile, three attorneys currently in Seipp Flick's Detroit office will join the existing Bowman & Brooke office there.

Also coming aboard is Wendy Lumish, the former head of the appellate and trial support practice at Carlton Fields in Miami, and Robert Rudock, a former member of the litigation group at Arnstein & Lehr in Fort Lauderdale.

Bowman & Brooke Chairman Paul Cereghini called the Florida expansion “a significant milestone in the history of the firm.”

“This move builds on Bowman & Brooke's core group of nationally recognized first-chair trial lawyers, and adds significantly to our discovery coordination and appellate teams,” Cereghini said. “Our growth plans are always based on meeting the needs of our product manufacturing clients. We are very excited to have these great groups of lawyers join ranks with us and to be opening offices in Florida.”

Seipp Flick's clients include most of the major automotive manufacturers and many household names in other industry sectors, according to the firm.

“For us, this combination has tremendous strategic value, as it allows us to maximize our platform in Florida while joining Bowman & Brooke's top-tier work in other parts of the country,” attorney John C. Seipp Jr. said. “It has definitive professional value as well because, simply enough, we'll be working side-by-side with lawyers who are equally dedicated to legal service excellence.”

As for Lumish and Rudock, they provide “even more bench strength” to Bowman & Brooke's Florida practice, according to Cereghini.

Lumish's practice focuses on trial support and product liability, personal injury and medical malpractice defense appeals, according to the firm. Rudock brings extensive experience in automotive product liability cases.

“As a lawyer who has represented the automotive industry throughout my career, I have long known Bowman and Brooke as a great trial firm,” Rudock said. “I’ve been seeing how they work for years, and I am proud to join them now.”

Bowman & Brooke has nearly 200 attorneys in offices in Minneapolis; Phoenix; Detroit; San Jose, San Diego and Los Angeles, California; Richmond, Virginia; Columbia, South Carolina; Dallas and Austin, Texas; and Miami and Orlando, Florida.

--Editing by Edrienne Su.

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