

Bowman And Brooke Expands Into Baltimore And San Diego

By James Mills

Law360 (September 5, 2024, 12:04 PM EDT) -- Product liability defense trial firm Bowman and Brooke LLP is expanding its national footprint, announcing Wednesday it is opening two new offices — a brand-new office in Baltimore and a relaunched office in San Diego.

The San Diego office will be the firm's fourth in California, following Los Angeles, San Jose and Orange County. The new San Diego office will be located downtown at 501 W. Broadway, three blocks from its previous location at 750 B St. That previous San Diego office was open for nine years, from late 2013 to early 2022.

The Baltimore office will be Bowman and Brooke's first in the Washington, D.C.-Maryland area. It will be located in Hunt Valley, north of Baltimore, in the One Hunt Valley business center at 11311 McCormick Road, near the I-83 intersection with Shawan Road.

"We are committed to being where our clients need us most," firm chair Paul Cereghini said in a statement. "The addition of these two offices in Baltimore and San Diego is a strategic move that extends our coast-to-coast reach and continues our mission of delivering a top-tier legal defense for our clients where and when they need counsel."

With the opening of these two offices, Bowman and Brooke will have 18 locations and about 170 attorneys. The firm launched in 1985 with 14 attorneys and just two offices — Minneapolis and Phoenix.

The Baltimore office opens with three attorneys, including partner Marisa A. Trasatti and of counsel Robert E. Scott Jr., both of whom joined from Cipriani & Werner PC, and worked together at Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP before that. They will be joined by their staff and by current Bowman and Brooke partner Michelle Noorani.

"Bob Scott and I were looking for a national footprint and a firm that could support our national clients," Trasatti, the senior partner in the Baltimore office, told Law360 in a Wednesday interview. "We know the stellar reputation that Bowman has enjoyed for years. We also knew they had a deep bench in product liability and litigation generally, so we set out to open up a dialogue with Bowman and Brooke. Fortunately, Bowman was interested in Baltimore and our book of business meshed well with what Bowman and Brooke had, so here we are opening the Baltimore office."

With this expansion into Baltimore, Bowman and Brooke hopes to also expand into not only the Washington, D.C., market, but the adjacent Northern Virginia market as well.

"Our clients have cases all over the country," Trasatti said. "Not only will we be growing in states where Bowman already is, but the Baltimore litigation market is hot. Our clients are actively engaged in litigation in the state, so we are very much looking to grow the Baltimore office, both organically from the clients that we had, but augment the business the firm is already building."



Marisa A. Trasatti



Patrick J. Raue

The new San Diego office opens with six lawyers and two staff members. Attorneys Patrick J. Raue, Tucker Dowling and Austin R. Henderson have returned to the firm. The three had previously been with Bowman and Brooke's San Diego office, but the firm closed that office when they left in early 2022 to pursue other opportunities.

"The timing was right to come back to Bowman and look to build a team and open an office," Raue, the senior partner in the San Diego office, told Law360. "We all focus on automotive warranty litigation, which is extremely hot in California with the California lemon law. What we have seen year to year, especially since COVID started, is just an exponential increase of filings where our clients are just underwater with litigation."

Raue expects the San Diego office to grow quickly in the coming months.

"We are consistently hiring more attorneys to handle the caseloads and looking to expand our geographic footprint in California," Raue said. "A lot of our clients have so many cases, they don't know what to do with it. We want to be a team that can take on that capacity not just for Southern California but for the whole state. It's about building an organic and close-knit team that can handle the volume and the strenuous nature of warranty litigation and additionally support the firm's product liability clients that are nationwide."

Trasatti said Bowman and Brooke's outstanding reputation as a product liability defense firm is what attracted her to the firm, and Raue said that reputation is well deserved and what brought him back.

"The reputation of Bowman nationwide is what's going to attract additional talent to my office and beyond," Trasatti said. "We are so excited to be part of the Bowman and Brooke team. It really is one cohesive team across the country. They bring a force to bear. There's a reason the tiger is their mascot. This group is a force of nature."

--Editing by Alyssa Miller.