

Bowman And Brooke Opens 3 Additional Offices

By **Adrian Cruz**

Law360 (January 3, 2024, 4:37 PM EST) -- Product liability trial firm Bowman and Brooke LLP has announced an expansion of its services into new locations in Charlotte, North Carolina; New York City; and Orange County, California.

With the opening of the three new offices, Bowman and Brooke said in its Tuesday announcement that the firm now has more than 170 attorneys across 15 locations nationwide.

Bowman and Brooke Chair Paul Cereghini told Law360 Pulse on Wednesday that the decision to expand to the new cities was made in response to client demand, citing New York as one example given that, prior to establishing a physical presence in the city, the closest office had previously been the firm's location in New Brunswick, New Jersey.

"We want to grow when growing helps our clients, and there's a lot of opportunity in all three of these cities we're opening offices in," he said. "We have great lawyers there, and they all have venues that we've already been defending a significant amount of litigation for clients. Opening these offices helps us provide even more high-level support for our clients."

New York is currently staffed by five attorneys splitting their practice with the New Jersey location, and office managing partner Chris Carton told Law360 Pulse on Wednesday that the New York shop is already planning to expand further, both in terms of attorney headcount and client portfolio.

"It was an easy decision to formalize an office based on existing and projected New York litigation volume," Carton said. "Opening the New York office was largely client driven. As case counts and client demand have been steadily increasing for years, the timing to formalize a presence was evident. We're excited about it; we are already receiving calls from potential clients and other lawyers looking to join us."

Cereghini said that the move into Orange County was driven by the needs of Bowman and Brooke's automotive clients based in the area, along with neighboring Los Angeles County's status as one of the most common venues in which the firm litigates.

"It was natural for us to have an Orange County office, and it also allows some of our lawyers who live there to work in an office that's much more convenient for them," he said.

Orange County currently has nine attorneys, with several more expected to join by the end of 2024, office managing partner Paul Alarcón told Law360 Pulse on Wednesday.

"We opened the office to bring us closer to several clients, to be more integrated into the Orange County legal and business community, and to accommodate a growing group of attorneys and staff from our Los Angeles office who live in Orange County," he said. "My intentions are to expand the firm's presence in the Orange County community, specifically growing the teams that are currently handling work for clients throughout Southern California and across the country."

Cereghini said that the expansion to Charlotte gives Bowman and Brooke more of a cohesive presence across the Carolinas, which are also served by another office in Columbia, South Carolina.

"The opportunity to be in Columbia and Charlotte gives us coverage of the Carolinas in a way that we feel will be very beneficial to our clients," he said. "One commonality with all three offices is that, by having these locations, we can attract other lawyers to Bowman and Brooke who live and practice in

those venues. Our opportunity to recruit top-flight legal talent has expanded as a result."

The new Charlotte location opened with four attorneys, and two more are expected to join in the following months, according to office managing partner Angela Strickland.

"This is an exciting time for our firm in the Carolinas, as we've had an office in South Carolina since 2009 and now in Charlotte," she said. "We have long represented clients throughout the Southeast and nationally, including in North Carolina, so expanding to Charlotte was a natural next step. We have had friends and colleagues in Charlotte for many years, and when the opportunity arose for them to join us, including one of our previous partners Courtney Shytle, we jumped at the chance."

Over the last two years, Texas has been the main focus of Bowman and Brooke's growth, with the firm **adding six attorneys** in Austin in 2022 and **six more** across both its Dallas and Austin locations in 2023.

Cereghini said that, going forward, Bowman and Brooke's priority will be growing its existing offices; however, if the right opportunity presents itself in a new location, further expansion is always possible, he added.

"We're actively recruiting with great expressions of interest from other lawyers joining the team, and that is not at the exclusion of opening offices in other geographic locations where there's client demand for us to do so and lawyers who we'd like to be part of Bowman and Brooke," he said.

--Editing by Melissa Treolo.

Correction: An earlier version of this article misspelled the firm's name in one instance. The error has been corrected.

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