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Shumaker Adds Insurance Recovery Group In Ohio

By **Emma Cueto**

Law360 (May 16, 2023, 3:41 PM EDT) -- Shumaker Loop & Kendrick LLP has brought on a nine-attorney insurance recovery group from Ohio business firm Brouse McDowell and opened an Akron, Ohio, office, according to an announcement Tuesday.

Shumaker touted the group — which includes seven partners, two associates and three support staff members — as a "significant boost" to the existing insurance practice, which the firm said has been growing in recent years. One of the new additions, Amanda Leffler, will act as managing partner for the new Akron office, where many of the group are based.

"As natural disasters, cyber attacks, and other catastrophic events continue to impact businesses, the demand for insurance recovery services has increased exponentially," Shumaker's management committee chair Jennifer Compton said. "Our new colleagues bring a wealth of experience to our insurance recovery practice and are well equipped to support our clients nationwide. We also are excited to expand our presence in Ohio with the addition of this excellent team."

The group also includes partners Stacy Berliner, Wes Lambert, Lucas Blower, Drew Miller, Joe Cole and Joe Thacker.

Leffler told Law360 Pulse that, although she was never interested in joining a "mega firm," she has long been interested in joining a firm with a strong presence outside of Ohio. Shumaker, which has offices in Ohio, Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina, was a perfect fit, she said.

"Shumaker was a firm I have long been interested in," she said. "I love that it was born in Toledo and based in the Midwest. To me, it represents Midwest values. And it's very active in the communities in which it operates."

The group makes the move at a time when Leffler says their practice has been very active. After COVID-19 and the rise in cybersecurity- and natural disaster-related claims, she said, insurers have less capacity and are more aggressive in denying claims. Now at a firm with Florida offices, she added that the group also sees opportunities there due to recent changes in the law.

The group is very close-knit, she added, and were pleased to land at a firm that also valued collaboration and work-life balance.

--Editing by Kelly Duncan.

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