

Benesch Adds Litigation Partner In San Francisco

By **Emma Cueto**

Law360 (May 13, 2021, 3:53 PM EDT) -- A former Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP litigator has joined Benesch Friedlander Coplan & Aronoff LLP as a partner in San Francisco as the firm continues expanding its litigation-heavy West Coast office.

In an announcement on Wednesday, the firm touted James Thompson's experience handling various types of disputes and representing clients in a range of industries.

"Jim is a strong addition to our team and a great resource for our clients," Gregg Eisenberg, Benesch's managing partner and executive committee member, said in a statement. "He is skilled at tackling highly sensitive matters that require an attorney who can quickly mobilize a team to deliver a strategic, results-oriented approach to litigation. He is a seasoned and versatile litigator and adapts his core strategy to fit his clients' business needs and objectives."



James Thompson

Thompson joins the firm after 15 years at Orrick, according to his online resume. He told Law360 that he felt that moving to a smaller firm like Benesch, which has roughly 275 attorneys, opens new doors in the form of more flexible and creative pricing options. He also said that he was impressed by the quality of talent already at the firm.

"I like the growth potential ... but I also think that the culture that the firm embodies is impressive. Really good lawyers and really good people with a lot of enthusiasm for what they do," he said. "And they can deliver the same quality work I was doing before, but they can do it at lower rates and with more creative ways to provide services to the client, where the client can afford it."

Thompson added that he is also excited about the prospect of helping to grow the San Francisco office, including helping it branch into new practice areas beyond litigation.

Benesch, an Ohio-based firm that has been growing through a daring strategy of **intense lateral recruitment** for several years, launched its San Francisco office in 2019. The office has since grown to nine attorneys, three of whom, including Thompson, are partners and all of whom are part of the litigation practice.

Thompson said that he sees a lot of opportunities for litigators across the country and especially in the Bay Area. There has been an uptick in financial markets work, and commercial business disputes have been booming for years, he said, and he agrees with the conventional wisdom that a wave of COVID-19 litigation is likely on the horizon, as well.

Thompson is a graduate of the University of California, Davis School of Law.

--Editing by Nicole Bleier.