

Press Release

# Akerman Expands National Fraud and Recovery Practice with Dallas Partners Eduardo Espinosa, Michael Napoli

March 15, 2018

Firm Advances Texas Growth; Bolsters Capabilities in Investor Recovery

Akerman LLP, a top 100 U.S. law firm serving clients across the Americas, today continued the national expansion of the Fraud and Recovery Practice Group with the addition of Dallas partners Eduardo “Eddy” Espinosa and Michael Napoli. Their arrival grows Akerman’s headcount in Texas to nearly 60 litigation and transactional lawyers in Dallas, Houston, San Antonio and Austin, and builds upon the firm’s leading capabilities in investor recovery.

“The expansion of our fraud and recovery team in Texas is a continuation of our commitment to the eradication of fraud against corporate and investor victims nationwide,” said Sandra Heller, chair of Akerman’s Fraud and Recovery Practice Group. “Eddy and Michael are exceptional lawyers and highly regarded by the receivership community. They bring important experience in securities litigation and enforcement, and they are responsible for leading many notable recoveries.”

## **Eduardo Espinosa**

Espinosa is an experienced court-appointed fiduciary frequently recommended by regulators to serve in proceedings where there is concern that alleged fraudsters will dissipate the remaining

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## Related People

Eduardo S. Espinosa  
Michael D. Napoli

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## Related Work

Fraud and Recovery

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## Related Offices

Dallas

assets. A former enforcement lawyer with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, he has served as either the receiver, receiver's counsel or trustee in various federal and state proceedings in the life settlement sector, fraudulent securities offerings, EB-5 offerings and general commercial litigation. In addition to his fraud and recovery practice, Espinosa advises clients on the legal and regulatory aspects of their commercial and transactional opportunities. His practice covers an enterprise's entire lifecycle, including formation, capitalization, governance, domestic and international transactions, mergers and acquisitions, reporting requirements and regulatory enforcement. He also serves on the board of the Dallas Hispanic Law Foundation.

### **Michael Napoli**

Napoli serves as a court-appointed receiver and counsel to receivers and trustees. He works to maximize the value of insolvent entities to make a fair and equitable distribution to creditors. His experience covers a variety of sectors with an emphasis on life settlements. Outside the insolvency arena, Napoli protects individuals and companies facing lawsuits. He works closely with clients to resolve litigation through creative and practical solutions. Representing both plaintiffs and defendants, Napoli works on a wide variety of cases, including securities, commercial and products liability matters.

Espinosa and Napoli follow a wave of laterals joining Akerman's Dallas office, which has grown to nearly 30 litigators and transactional lawyers serving clients in the financial services, energy, oil and gas and other dynamic sectors. Recent additions include a team of five international trade lawyers and business professionals, led by partners Michelle Schulz and Elsa Manzanares.

### **About Akerman**

Akerman LLP is a top 100 U.S. law firm recognized by *Financial Times* as among the most forward thinking firms in the industry. Its more than 650

lawyers and business professionals collaborate with the world's most successful enterprises and entrepreneurs to navigate change, seize opportunities, and overcome barriers to innovation and growth. Akerman is known for its results in middle market M&A and complex disputes, and for helping clients achieve their most important business objectives in the financial services, real estate, and other dynamic sectors across the United States and Latin America.

Akerman's Fraud and Recovery Practice Group provides comprehensive fraud management services to clients throughout the United States with a focus on investigation and litigation of complex fraud schemes and unfair and deceptive practices. The team advises clients in the insurance, healthcare, and retail sectors on strategic prevention, proactive detection and investigation, affirmative litigation, and exhaustive recovery.