

Press Release

Akerman Continues Houston Growth with Top Insurance Litigation Team

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Firm Has More Than Doubled Its Texas Presence Since 2016; Bolsters Core Insurance Sector Strengths

Akerman LLP, a top 100 U.S. law firm serving clients across the Americas, today further advanced its Houston expansion with a leading group of four insurance litigators, including experienced partners [David Clark](#) and [Kristen McDanald](#). They enhance the capabilities of the national Litigation Practice Group, at a time when *Corporate Counsel* ranked [Akerman first](#) among the top 10 law firms dedicated to financial services and insurance clients. Alongside associates [Rick Gene Boepple](#) and [Mark Shutt](#), their arrival more than doubles Akerman's Texas headcount since 2016. Akerman has grown to 65 litigation and transactional lawyers in Houston, Dallas, San Antonio and Austin.

“David and Kristen bring decades of combined experience in high stakes, multi-district insurance litigation, bolstering our core capabilities for insurance carriers,” said [Lawrence Rochefort](#), chair of the Litigation Practice Group. “They also bring new coverage panel attachment serving the interests of a prominent Oklahoma- and Texas-based insurer that provides national coverage, with an emphasis on the western United States and the Gulf Coast.”

“With David and Kristen, we continue to attract top

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talent across Texas to serve clients in strategic sectors of rising importance to them,” said Scott Marrs, Regional Managing Partner - Texas. “We are confident their arrival will bring immediate value to our Houston team and nationally, as we continue developing exceptional teams of lawyers dedicated to problem-solve our clients’ most complex disputes and transactions.”

David Clark

Clark is a veteran trial lawyer with more than 30 years of experience litigating commercial disputes. He centers his practice on insurance litigation. Clark analyzes coverage and defends insurers in both first-party and third-party disputes across a range of policy lines with an emphasis on CGL, excess/umbrella, commercial auto, E&O and property matters. He also represents insurance brokers and agents in lawsuits alleging negligent procurement or placement of insurance coverage. Additionally, Clark has extensive experience advising clients on product liability litigation in the automotive, aviation and healthcare sectors.

Kristen McDonald

McDonald concentrates her practice on insurance coverage and commercial litigation. In her insurance practice, she analyzes coverage and defends insurers with respect to both first- and third-party actions across a variety of policy tiers and lines. McDonald also counsels clients on issues tied to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, primarily defending companies in connection with Superfund sites. Furthermore, she defends clients in professional liability suits.

About Akerman LLP

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 700 lawyers and business professionals collaborate with the world’s most successful enterprises and entrepreneurs to navigate change, seize

opportunities, and help drive 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 Litigation Practice Group has vast experience in a wide range of civil and criminal litigation, including class action defense, securities and corporate litigation, banking, white collar crime and government investigations, insurance, and real estate. The team is ranked tier one nationally by *U.S. News – Best Lawyers* in several categories including Commercial Litigation and Appellate.