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Press Release

Akerman Expands Franchise Offering in Texas with William Sentell

December 18, 2020

Akerman LLP, a top 100 U.S. law firm serving clients across the Americas, is pleased to announce that <u>William Sentell</u> has joined the firm's Litigation Practice Group as a partner in the firm's Houston office. Sentell focuses his practice on franchise dispute resolution and related corporate, regulatory, and compliance matters. He brings experience representing franchise clients, including franchisors, brand owners, distributors, licensors, manufacturers, and other industry stakeholders.

"William brings a valuable skillset that combines national litigation experience with a deep knowledge of the franchise regulatory environment," said Litigation Practice Group Chair Lawrence Rochefort. "Our clients will benefit from his advocacy and devotion to the franchise community."

Sentell's addition in Texas further strengthens the firm's capabilities in the franchise space. He follows the arrival of a three-person lawyer team led by <u>Kevin Hein</u>, who serves as co-chair of the firm's Franchise and Licensing Practice, a highly experienced team that handles U.S. and international franchise and distribution matters.

With more than a decade of complex commercial litigation experience, including first- and secondchair trial and arbitration experience, Sentell provides support and clear risk assessment in all

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phases of litigation and arbitration. Avoiding risk in the area of franchise sales, and managing relationships throughout the franchise lifecycle, are a practice focus for Sentell.

In addition to helping clients anticipate and avoid costly disputes, he also advises on a variety of corporate and regulatory matters, including franchise disclosures, sales and acquisitions. His combination of litigation and transactional experience allows him to provide practical advice to clients.

About Akerman

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