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Phone: +1 646 783 7100 | Fax: +1 646 783 7161 | customerservice@law360.com

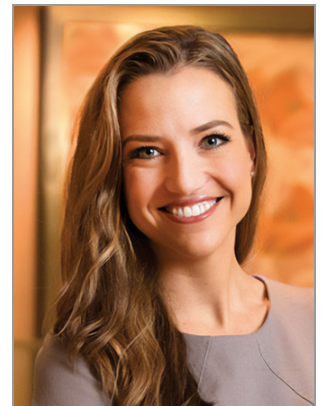
Alston & Bird Litigator Joins Growing Texas Boutique

By **Emily Johnson**

Law360 (August 16, 2024, 4:12 PM EDT) -- Since opening earlier this year, North Texas law firm Vartabedian Hester & Haynes LLP has grown from 12 attorneys to 16 attorneys, including its most recent addition, a former Alston & Bird LLP partner who will lead the firm's commercial litigation practice.

Daniella P. Main joins the firm as partner after spending much of her legal career at Alston & Bird, the firm said. Before shifting to the Dallas office, Main worked at Alston & Bird's New York office. For more than 13 years, she was a senior associate and then partner at Alston & Bird, according to her LinkedIn profile.

Vartabedian Hester has also added Jackson Field and Weldon Sloan as associates and Austin Priddy as a senior associate.



Daniella Main

Main told Law360 Pulse on Thursday that she hadn't thought about departing Alston & Bird until founding partner Robert Vartabedian and managing partner Conrad Hester reached out.

"Rob and Conrad were former colleagues of mine at Alston," Main said. "I really liked and respected them deeply. They approached me with an opportunity that turned out to be one that I couldn't pass up."

Main said she was drawn to being able "to meaningfully contribute" to the firm's growth.

For her, that means "being able to bring my experience and skill set in commercial litigation that I've developed over the last 13 years here to this firm" to help grow the commercial litigation practice.

"It was equally important to me that I was going to be able to do that in a way that would best service my clients with a rate structure and flexibility that best served their interests," Main said.

Main said Vartabedian and Hester are both "exceptionally talented attorneys" and "really skilled businessmen."

"They have this deep understanding of the client's needs and more importantly, a commitment to prioritizing the client so they can best service those needs," Main said. "One example of that is the rate flexibility and rate structure and working with clients to provide services that make sense for particular cases throughout the relationship."

She said she has confidence in the firm because of its leaders.

"I knew this place was going to be successful because the people at the helm are successful," she said. "They were going to run their shop in a way that prioritized and best served the client. That's just a recipe for success under any metric."

Vartabedian told Law360 Pulse on Thursday that while he, Hester and Craig Haynes, a founding partner, are mostly focused on oil and gas litigation, they want Main to help the firm build out its capabilities.

"We've been getting a lot more opportunities at the new firm to handle commercial litigation in other

industries," Vartabedian said. "We thought Daniella would be the perfect person to help us capitalize on those opportunities and grow that part of the firm."

Vartabedian previously worked with Main for about three years while they were both at Alston & Bird, he said.

"We have a lot of respect for Daniella based on our prior years working with her at Alston & Bird," Vartabedian said. "She has a very broad commercial litigation practice."

"It's unusual to see a person who's spent all of their career at one place when they're at Daniella's level of seniority," Vartabedian added. "I think it's a testament to how valuable she was there. Alston & Bird is a great place to practice."

The three new associates handle oil and gas disputes, the firm said. Field handles commercial litigation, and Priddy also has experience guiding clients on litigation matters. Before joining the firm, Sloan was a clerk for Texas Supreme Court Justice Brett Busby, the firm said.

Main earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and her law degree from Emory University School of Law.

Field earned his bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University and his law degree from Texas Tech University School of Law. Sloan earned his bachelor's degree from Hardin-Simmons University and his law degree from the University of Texas School of Law.

The firm has offices in Dallas and Fort Worth.

--Editing by Drashti Mehta.