

Jackson Lewis Names New Office Leaders In 4 Cities

By **Emily Johnson**

Law360 (August 24, 2023, 4:51 PM EDT) -- Employment law firm Jackson Lewis PC has promoted attorneys to lead offices in Atlanta, Dallas, Minneapolis and Orlando, Florida, the firm announced on Thursday.

Justin R. Barnes, who serves as co-leader of the firm's wage and hour group, was named as office managing principal in the Atlanta office, which opened in 1978. The firm also tapped Eric R. Magnus to serve as the Atlanta office litigation manager.

In Dallas, Talley R. Parker was named as office managing principal, while Michael J. DePonte will continue to serve as the office litigation manager. That office has been open since 1994.

Amanda A. Simpson was named as office managing principal in Orlando, and Alicia M. Chiu was named as the office litigation manager. That office has been open since 1992.

And in Minneapolis, Gina K. Janeiro has been named to again serve as office manager principal, a role she previously held from 2013 through 2017, according to a firm spokesperson. She is also the firm's office litigation manager. The Minneapolis office opened in 1997.

"Since joining Jackson Lewis, Justin, Talley, Gina and Amanda have proven themselves to be exceptional leaders within their offices and practice areas," firm Chair Kevin G. Lauri said in a statement. "Our new OMPs are well-positioned for success in this role and will continue our growth efforts in these markets."

Barnes told Law360 Pulse on Thursday that he is excited to lead the office of 26 attorneys, which will grow to 28 in early September. He has practiced law at the firm for nearly 14 years after serving as a law clerk in the Northern District of Georgia, according to his LinkedIn profile.

"This is the only firm that I've ever worked at," Barnes said. "I grew up in this firm and certainly the firm has done a lot for me, and I'm excited to give back. I was very excited when I got the call from our firm chair about it."

Barnes said his goals over the next year include growing the number of lawyers in the



Justin R. Barnes



Talley R. Parker



Gina K. Janeiro



Amanda A. Simpson

office, as well as the office's number of clients.

"As an office, we have seen the amount of work coming in this year has just been tremendous, and we certainly see that continuing into the future," Barnes said. "One of my business goals is to continue growing that business and our relationships with our clients — not just here in Atlanta, but certainly nationally, and growing the number of attorneys and support staff in order to support those needs from our clients."

Barnes will continue to co-lead the more than 150 attorneys in the firmwide wage and hour group, a role he's held for nearly three years, he said.

Barnes specializes in guiding employers in collective and class action wage and hour disputes and complex single-plaintiff wage and benefit disputes. He handles matters in federal and state court and before administrative agencies.

Parker told Law360 Pulse on Thursday that he's excited to lead the 18 other attorneys in the Dallas office, especially after starting at the firm in April 2010 as a second-year associate. He was previously an associate at Baker Botts LLP.

"I really grew up here, I would say, as a lawyer," Parker said. "I've been here my whole legal career with the exception of about a year and a half, progressing from associate to principal, and was obviously very excited when I was asked to take over this role as office managing principal and step into a leadership role with the firm."

Parker guides clients on issues and disputes involving wrongful termination, wage and hour and restrictive covenant claims in state and federal courts. He said that the Dallas office guides clients in a variety of industries, including energy, retail and financial services.

"Dallas, like all of Texas, has a really thriving economy," Parker said. "It's very business-friendly, which is why we've seen companies across the country and really a lot from California moving their operations to Texas. With all of those new employers here and creating new jobs here in Texas, that creates an increased demand for our services in labor and employment and immigration space. It creates opportunities not only for Jackson Lewis but our Texas offices, including Dallas, to really step up and be the go-to firm in our space for labor and employment law for all of these companies."

Simpson has practiced law with the firm for eight years, according to her LinkedIn profile. Previously, she served as a commercial litigation associate for Zimmerman Kiser & Sutcliffe PA and Page Mrachek Fitzgerald & Rose PA, now known as Mrachek Fitzgerald Rose Konopka Thomas & Weiss PA.

Simpson told Law360 Pulse that she's honored by the appointment to lead the Orlando office, which has 11 attorneys.

"Jackson Lewis has been such a huge support to me over the years, and I look forward to supporting the entire Orlando office," Simpson said.

Simpson said the firm's attorneys in Orlando are "uniquely positioned in Central Florida" to be able to work with the firm's offices in Miami, Jacksonville and Tampa. Her goals in taking the reins include growing the office's team and taking the practice "to the next level," which she says means "being laser-focused on further enhancing client services to deliver effective and practical advice and counsel and

legal defense as needed."

In Minneapolis, Janeiro guides clients in labor and employment matters, including discrimination and harassment, disability management, employment contracts, complying with wage and hour laws, commission claims, noncompetition litigation, laws around drug testing, defamation, whistleblower and corporation and partnership disputes.

According to her LinkedIn profile, Janeiro has practiced law at the firm for nearly 18 years. Before that, she was an associate at Nixon Peabody LLP, Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC and Krupin Greenbaum & O'Brien LLC.

Janeiro told Law360 Pulse on Thursday that she's excited to once again lead the Minneapolis office, where she has practiced law for nearly 18 years. In addition to previously serving as office managing principal, Janeiro also previously served as the Minneapolis office litigation manager.

She said she's eager to build off what her successor, Lee A. Lastovich, has done.

"My fondest memories and the times where I felt like my passion and skill set were best served — outside of servicing clients — was when I have been in leadership roles," Janeiro said. "I really do enjoy working with people and trying to lead a team and create a culture within the office and the firm that people are proud to work out. So I'm excited about that opportunity and very thankful for our staff and attorneys we have currently in our office, and looking forward to moving the office forward even more than I had done previously and of course [building on] what Lee has done in the last seven years."

The office has 10 attorneys currently and will have 12 in September, she said. The office advises clients across sectors, including health care, technology, manufacturing and hospitality, she said.

Janeiro said that the office's strengths include litigation, representation before administrative agencies and counseling regarding labor and employment matters. She said she plans on continuing to ensure that the office serves clients "in the best way possible" and building out the office's legal ranks.

Janeiro has stayed with the firm over the years because its supportive culture has been a great opportunity for her own growth, she said.

"I have always believed in the firm," Janeiro said. "I think our culture is far superior [to] others in terms of we really are focused on the people. I think that we've always been there to support each other. There are amazing attorneys and resources within the firm and at any given time, I can reach out and access those resources whether it's people or technology."

The new office managing principals are replacing attorneys who will continue to work at the firm focusing on their practice areas, according to the firm. Barnes is succeeding Todd Van Dyke; Parker is succeeding Paul E. Hash, who held the leadership role for eight years; and Simpson is succeeding Joanne Braddock Lambert.

Jackson Lewis has more than 950 attorneys across more than 60 U.S. offices. It was the 38th largest U.S. firm in 2022, according to the Law360 400.

--Additional reporting by Sam Bell and Pamela Wilkinson. Editing by Alanna Weissman.
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