

# Gaining Steam in Los Angeles, Shook Hires Litigation Group From Carlton Fields

By Dan Roe

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### What You Need to Know

- Shook, Hardy & Bacon has hired a group of litigation partners from Carlton Fields.
- The group arrives with decades of experience litigating class actions, mass torts and MDLs on behalf of Fortune 100 companies in a variety of industries.
- Shook recently added the co-leader of Sidley Austin's products liability and mass torts practice in the same office.

Shook, Hardy & Bacon continues to expand its mass torts and products liability practices, as well as its Los Angeles presence, with the hiring of a group of lateral partners from Carlton Fields.

On Thursday, Shook announced the hiring of partners Steven B. Weisburd and Jan Dodd in Los Angeles, Ryan Cobbs in West Palm Beach, and Ashley Drumm in Atlanta.

Weisburd, a litigator with more than 30 years of experience in consumer class actions, mass torts and products liability cases, said Shook had continually lured former colleagues and



Courtesy photos

**Shook, Hardy & Bacon partners Jan Dodd, left, and Steven B. Weisburd, right.**

co-counsel to its Los Angeles office after launching in the city in 2019.

Last week, Shook announced the hiring of Los Angeles-based partner Alycia Degen, the former co-leader of Sidley Austin's products liability and mass torts practice. She rejoined former Sidley colleague and co-head of Sidley's consumer class action defense practice, Michael Mallow, who left Sidley in 2019 to launch Shook's LA office. Another ex-Sidley litigator, Michael

Shortnacy, joined as a partner in January after a five-year stint at King & Spalding's LA location.

"It was one of those moments when you see an office growing and gaining a certain critical mass, and then you see some of the people, both Michaels—Shortnacy and Mallow—and Alycia Degen, who I think very highly of," Weisburd said. "I saw a great group coming together and it was exciting to jump in and be a part of that group."

In a press release, Cobbs said Shook's "trial acumen, depth of talent, culture and warmth of the lawyers" attracted him to the firm. He formerly chaired Carlton Fields' mass tort and products liability practice.

Florida-founded Carlton Fields has a longer tenure in Los Angeles, having launched that location in 2014. The firm tapped Weisburd as leader of the office last year. Via email, a Carlton Fields spokesperson said the firm appreciated the group's contributions and wished them well.

Weisburd joined Carlton Fields in 2018, while Dodd arrived at Carlton Fields' LA office in February 2022 after an 11-year stay at Norton



Courtesy photo

### **Shook, Hardy & Bacon partner Ryan Cobbs.**

Rose Fulbright. Cobbs, of West Palm Beach, spent his entire 17-year private practice career at Carlton Fields after clerking for former U.S. District Court Judge Ursula Ungaro. Drumm, who is in Atlanta, joined Carlton Fields as an associate in 2014 and made shareholder in February 2021.

Weisburd declined to discuss whether his former clients would be making the move. Over his career, his clients have included Philip Morris, AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson.