Shook Recruits From Winston, E-Discovery Group to Bolster Litigation Strategy Practice

By Andrew Maloney

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Amid still surging demand in mass tort litigation, Shook, Hardy & Bacon has added two partners with expertise in discovery and emerging technology.

The additions include Washington, D.C.-based John Rosenthal, arriving from Winston & Strawn, where he was a chair of the firm's e-discovery & information management practice. His exit comes about five weeks after Winston announced its intention to combine with Taylor Wessing.

Joining him at Shook is New York-based Jamie Brown, of Lighthouse eDiscovery. Both are joining the firm's complex litigation strategic counseling practice, the firm said Thursday.

The additions give litigation-focused Shook 10 partners in a practice that's aimed at helping clients coordinate mass torts and multidistrict litigation. The additions also reinforce Shook's focus on "operational excellence and strategic growth" in litigation, said Patrick Oot, co-chair of the firm's practice.

Large law firms more broadly have doubled down on mass torts and MDL capabilities over

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the last few years, with Nelson Mullins Riley & Scorborough; Morgan Lewis & Bockius; and Kirkland & Ellis among many of the Am Law 100 firms making significant investments in mass torts defense lately. Litigation demand also grew 2.5% year-over-year in 2025, according to one industry report this month, trailing only M&A demand growth, among practice areas that were tracked.

"All of us are growing to meet the demand," Oot said in an interview, pointing to increases in litigation funding and data-focused cases as two of the demand drivers.

He added that one of the things that makes Shook unique and which drew Rosenthal and Brown is its use of emerging technology in trials.

"John has been focusing on use of generative AI in the discovery space, and it's something that we've really harnessed as well, both in responding to discovery in litigation and kind of normalizing that approach," he said. He added that the strategic counseling group is also "leading the way in the use of predictive modeling at trial," saying they've used approaches in multiple trials to get a handle on "what's going on day-to-day" in certain cases. "That's something that I think was really enticing to them."

Rosenthal brings 30-plus years of experience defending clients in complex commercial, class action and products liability cases, the firm noted, adding that he is a first-chair trial lawyer and national discovery counsel for global companies and manages "ground game" matters in MDLs. Oot said he often represents clients in the life sciences and automotive spaces.

Brown has spent 25 years working on complex litigation involving information and technology, responding to enforcement bodies, and managing ediscovery programs for financial services firms, Shook noted. Oot added that in addition to financial services and insurance, Brown's client base is in life sciences and technology.

Over the last couple of years, Shook has grown the practice by adding Kimberly Priest Johnson, a former U.S. Magistrate Judge in the Eastern District of Texas, and Michael Shortnacy, formerly of King & Spalding, as partners, plus senior counsel Geoffrey Geftman. Oot also pointed to the addition of Ashoke Prasad, from Deloitte, as a key recent hire. "So, if you think about where we want to leave our footprint, it's kind of always pointing back to operational excellence of large matters," he said.