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

Reid Collins Opens Dallas Office With Diamond McCarthy Hires

By **Jess Krochtengel**

Law360, Dallas (August 27, 2013, 8:37 PM EDT) -- The boutique trial firm Reid Collins & Tsai LLP launched a Dallas office Monday with two bankruptcy litigation partners hired away from Diamond McCarthy LLP, its second location in Texas and fourth office in the country.

The move reunites partners Eric Madden and J. Benjamin King with some of their former Diamond McCarthy colleagues who left the firm in 2009 to found what became Reid Collins. Both Madden and King specialize in litigation relating to bankruptcy and insolvency and will continue that focus as they build the Dallas office, they told Law360 on Tuesday.

Madden said he's watched the Reid Collins firm grow and flourish in the years since its founders left Diamond McCarthy and that the time had come when it made sense to rejoin them.

"I had the chance to join a young, talented and dynamic group of lawyers that consistently deliver great results for their clients," Madden said.

Jason Collins, a founding partner of the firm, told Law360 the boutique trial group is in a growth mode right now and was thrilled when the opportunity came to expand with attorneys the firm knew well and who have a proven track record. He said the Dallas office will add associates soon and more partners over time as client needs demand.

Collins said having a presence in Dallas is important for the firm and that opening a Dallas office is something the firm has been considering for a long time, both to meet the needs of a significant client in the area and to take advantage of the amount of insolvency litigation work available in the region.

"Ben and Eric have handled some of the most prominent litigations arising out of major bankruptcies in the country," founding partner Bill Reid said in a statement. "They are go-to, zealous litigators, and we are extremely happy that they have decided to join our firm and open our new office."

Madden, who practiced with Carrington Coleman Sloman & Blumenthal LLP before joining Diamond McCarthy, said though not everything has been finalized with the transition, so far every one of his clients has come with him to Reid Collins.

Among those is the post-confirmation trustee for Seahawk Drilling Inc., which last week became one of the six test cases in the multidistrict litigation for so-called moratorium claimants who lost money during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Seahawk, which is seeking \$175 million from BP Plc, was a publicly traded company but said its business was destroyed in the aftermath of the oil spill.

Among the highlights from the high-profile bankruptcy cases Madden has handled was representing the post-confirmation trustee of LJM2 Co-Investment LP, the Enron-affiliated partnership that Andrew Fastow used to conceal hundreds of millions of dollars in losses from Enron's investors.

King said he was recruited to join Diamond McCarthy in 2004 by Reid, after working on the defense side for Arnold & Porter LLP in Washington, D.C.

At Diamond McCarthy, King represented the bankruptcy trustee of Dreier LLP, the firm founded by convicted Ponzi schemer Mark Dreier and represented the bankruptcy trustee for Howrey LLP in bringing claims for unfinished business and overpayment against the firm's former partners.

He also represented the liquidating committee for Mississippi's largest-ever bankruptcy and the liquidators for three Cayman Island entities destroyed by the collapse of the Italian dairy giant Parmalat SpA.

"It's a young, exciting firm that's growing," King told Law360. "Bill is a very dynamic personality and the other people that work there are as well. I'm excited to have the opportunity to be part of the success they've built."

--Editing by Chris Yates.

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