

Greenberg Opens In Nashville With Ex-Tenn. Insurance Official

By **Sam Reisman**

Law360 (June 14, 2019, 5:06 PM EDT) -- Greenberg Traurig LLP will open a Nashville office on Monday, the firm's 31st in the U.S., led by the former commissioner of Tennessee's Department of Commerce and Insurance and bolstered by the firm's media and entertainment practice.

Julie Mix McPeak, who was of counsel in Burr & Forman LLP's insurance practice before her initial appointment as commissioner in January 2011, will join Greenberg Traurig's insurance regulatory and transactions practice as a shareholder and the new Nashville office's first practitioner, the firm said Friday.

"Greenberg Traurig's reputation as a well-managed global law firm, its existing relationships in Nashville, and the strength of its insurance regulatory and transactions practice were all factors in my decision to rejoin the private sector and specifically to join this firm," McPeak said in a statement.

McPeak also served as president of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, or NAIC, in 2018 and has served on the executive committee of the national standard-setting organization since 2013. Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee had reappointed McPeak to the commissioner role in January.

Fred E. Karlinsky and Thomas J. Bond, the co-chairs of the firm's insurance practice, praised McPeak for her accomplishments in both the public and private sectors.

"Her track record of success, as well as her leadership roles in the [NAIC], will provide a great benefit for the firm and for our clients," they said in a joint statement. "We look forward to working closely with her to continue expanding our existing client relationships by further enhancing Greenberg Traurig's commitment to serving the needs of our clients in this critical area of law."

Although the new office will open with just McPeak, it is expected to grow and provide a beachhead for entertainment attorneys with work in the Nashville music scene, the firm said in a statement.

Joel A. Katz, founding chairman of the firm's entertainment and media practice, said, "Nashville is a dynamic market with an infrastructure that attracts this type of quality professional, and our new office will serve as an important asset to many of our firm's clients across a wide range of sectors."



Julie McPeak

The Nashville office represents the latest expansion for the global firm. In February, Greenberg Traurig opened a new office in Minneapolis with three DLA Piper lawyers. In May, it announced that it would acquire Milan-based boutique Santa Maria Studio Legale and open an office in the northern Italy city, its fifth in Europe. The office will be known in Italy as Greenberg Traurig Santa Maria.

Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP also recently opened a Nashville office, which was announced in November alongside the launch of a location in Birmingham, Alabama.

--Additional reporting by Kevin Penton and Michele Gorman. Editing by Jay Jackson Jr.