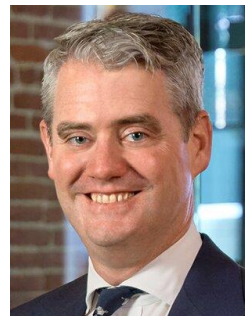


Former Calif. Federal Prosecutor Rejoins Keker Van Nest In SF

By James Mills

Law360 (September 3, 2024, 4:29 PM EDT) -- Keker Van Nest & Peters LLP is expanding its white collar litigation team, welcoming back a former first chair federal prosecutor as a partner in its San Francisco office, the firm said Tuesday.

Andrew Dawson, who had two separate stints at the firm, has rejoined Keker Van Nest after almost nine years as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Northern District of California. While a prosecutor, he primarily handled white collar matters as well as intellectual property cases, cyberintrusions, civil rights violations, corporate fraud, public corruption and pharmaceutical fraud.



Andrew Dawson

In a Tuesday interview, Dawson told Law360 Pulse that several of the cases he'd been handling for years as an assistant U.S. attorney wrapped up recently, and it felt like a natural breaking point in his career.

"It felt like the right time to move back to private practice, which I'd always had on my mind," Dawson said. "I'd been at KVP before I went to the government. I have a ton of friends here. They're the best trial lawyers I've ever worked with. I knew going out of government, this would be the place I would want to go back. I was thrilled when I reached out to the firm and they were interested. It's felt like a wonderful kind of homecoming to be able to be back at this wonderful group of people."

Dawson said Keker Van Nest, which was founded in 1978 as a litigation boutique and today has around 100 attorneys, has a unique culture and yet is still small enough that everyone works together.

"It avoids some of the pitfalls of BigLaw culture," he said. "It's a very dynamic group, a very creative group. The fact it's one office meant a lot to me. We're all collaborators in this. Across the range of practice areas that KVP has from patent to white collar criminal defense, the through line is all this commitment to trial work. So everybody is rowing in the same direction, sharing insights, sharing experiences, drawing on these different subject matter backgrounds, all to make each other better trial lawyers."

Keker Van Nest's managing partner Laurie Carr Mims speaks highly of Dawson.

"Andrew's impressive experience aligns with our firm's longstanding commitment to excellence in white collar representations, internal investigations and civil litigation," she said in a statement. "We look forward to having Andrew back at our firm and are excited about all the courtroom experience and

expertise he will bring to our clients."

Dawson, who was raised in the Washington, D.C., area, earned his law degree in 2008 at Stanford Law School after earning his bachelor's degree there in humanities interdisciplinary studies on modern thought and literature.

He clerked for U.S. Circuit Judge William A. Fletcher of the Ninth Circuit. After that, he spent a year with U.S. District Judge Charles R. Breyer of the Northern District of California.

He worked a year as an associate with Keker Van Nest, then left to serve a year as a law clerk with Justice Stephen G. Breyer of the U.S. Supreme Court.

He returned to Keker Van Nest in 2012, staying three years before moving to be an assistant U.S. attorney, according to his LinkedIn profile.

While a federal prosecutor, he was deputy chief of the Special Prosecutions and National Security Unit. Most recently, he served as chief of the Northern District of California's Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force.

Dawson likes the competitive nature of litigation as well as the fact that it keeps him on his toes.

"There's just something about a good scrap," he said. "The antagonistic kind of intellectual contest; it's a back-and-forth where each side is trying to win. There's something very appealing about having that back-and-forth and that contrast, but relying on the intellectual side to actually win a case. There's nothing more thrilling than standing up in court in front of a jury and explaining why you should win and the other side should lose. There's just nothing in the world like it."

--Editing by Adam LoBelia.