

Barclay Damon Lands Ex-Cullen And Dykman Litigator In NY

By **Adrian Cruz**

Law360 (May 4, 2022, 3:35 PM EDT) -- Barclay Damon LLP announced Tuesday it hired a veteran litigation attorney with over 30 years of experience in a variety of practice areas as a partner in its New York office.

Michael Lane joined Barclay Damon's commercial litigation, and labor and employment practice groups at the end of March following nearly 10 years as a partner with Cullen and Dykman LLP. He told Law360 on Wednesday he joined the firm after being approached by one of the management committee members, whom he helped train at a previous firm.



Michael Lane

Lane added that the firm culture and its deep platform in northeastern markets such as New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts were major motivators that influenced his decision to join Barclay Damon.

"The first thing I did after leaving Cullen and Dykman was to fly upstate for a firm retreat, which gives you a sense of the firm's collegiality," Lane said. "I was interested in expanding my footprint at a firm with these qualities of collegiality, transparency and sophistication."

Lane also said Barclay Damon's dedication to diversity, equity and inclusion was another big factor that influenced his decision to join the firm.

"A lot of people talk about diversity, but it's lip service," he said. "A major part of my orientation into Barclay Damon was their significant DEI program, and commitment to recruiting and retaining women, people of color and people of different backgrounds. I was pleasantly surprised at the commitment the firm has made."

A graduate of Fordham University School of Law, Lane brings a diverse litigation practice to the firm, with experience representing clients such as Hearst Communications and Mexican cement giant Cemex, and working on a wide range of suits including commercial, securities, intellectual property, insurance, employment and real estate issues.

"Barclay Damon's New York City office has been recruiting attorneys with substantial experience in an effort to grow the firm's presence in the major markets to serve the firm's clients with additional depth," managing partner Connie Cahill said in a statement. "Adding Michael is an important piece of the firm's growth plan, and we're looking forward to seeing how his practice enhances the firm's well-established

commercial litigation, and labor and employment practice areas."

Lane also brings cross-border arbitration experience to Barclay Damon, working with clients in the Americas and Europe, including an arbitration at the London Court of International Arbitration involving a Canadian company and the head of a Jamaican bank. Lane said he expects to do a good amount of work in Canada, where the firm has an office in.

"The firm has a dedicated group of lawyers, and a specific cross-border team working between the U.S. and Canada," he said. "I've represented clients in Canada and I know lawyers there, so it has dovetailed well. I plan to go up to Quebec where my contacts are so we can help them and hopefully bring work across the border."

Along with his work as an attorney, Lane has spent nearly 30 years as an adjunct professor at Fordham University's law school, teaching a first-year seminar on legal writing and research.

"It's been an awful lot of fun and I think it's made me a better trial lawyer," he said. "Editing people's writing makes your writing better and I've been able to bring former students of mine to my different firms, something I hope to do here."

Barclay Damon has made a number of hires in its New York offices in recent months. In February, Barclay Damon hired tax partner Andy Oppenheimer in Buffalo and environmental of counsel Bill Holzhauer joined in Syracuse. Last year, the firm also brought on New York-based cybersecurity co-head Charles Nerko and white collar partner Chris Shaw, along with cannabis attorney Jason Klimek in Rochester.

Barclay Damon currently has nearly 300 attorneys located across its New York state offices in New York City, Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester and Albany, and in its offices in Boston; New Haven, Connecticut; Washington, D.C.; and Toronto, according to the firm.

--Editing by Lakshna Mehta.