

Drinker Biddle

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Eisenberg Raizman Thurston & Wong LLP Joins Drinker Biddle's Los Angeles Office

LOS ANGELES – In a move that expands its commercial and complex litigation and labor and employment capabilities for clients both in Southern California and nationally, Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP has combined with the boutique firm of Eisenberg Raizman Thurston & Wong LLP (ERTW).

The six new lawyers who have joined Drinker Biddle's Century City office are the four noted trial attorneys who were the named partners at ERTW: Sheldon Eisenberg, David H. Raizman, Adam J. Thurston and Christopher F. Wong, along with their associates, Ryan S. Fife and Elena S. Min.

"These skilled lawyers are a terrific addition to our firm," said Drinker Biddle Chairman Alfred W. Putnam, Jr. "This move continues our strategy of bringing top-notch litigators on board in Los Angeles to serve clients in California and nationwide."

Eisenberg, who began his legal career with Irell & Manella in Los Angeles in 1981 and became a partner in 1987, is known for handling many significant trials and appeals in the entertainment, technology, real estate and corporate arenas, in both federal and state courts nationwide, as well as in arbitrations. He joined Bryan Cave in 1997, and was leading the firm's Los Angeles litigation practice when he co-founded ERTW in 2006.

Raizman, who met Eisenberg at Irell & Manella when he joined that firm in 1987, is one of the leading labor and employment lawyers in California, known especially for his work defending claims under the Americans with Disabilities Act. He currently represents the City of Los Angeles in multiple class actions seeking to enforce accommodations on virtually every street corner throughout the city. He joined Eisenberg at Bryan Cave in 1997, and was coordinating its Southern California labor and employment practice when he co-founded ERTW with Eisenberg in 2006.

"At ERTW, we continued our complex litigation practice and helped our clients with a wide variety of dispute resolution issues in a boutique setting," said Eisenberg. "At Drinker, we are now excited to bring that same value to our clients, as well as offering them the depth, skill and resources of a large, well-respected national firm with comprehensive corporate and litigation practices."

Drinker Biddle now has 17 lawyers in Los Angeles, split between its longtime downtown office and the Century City office, which opened in December 2009. Eisenberg and Raizman, as well as

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Wong, join fellow Irell & Manella alumni George T. Caplan and Henry Shields, Jr., at Drinker Biddle's Century City office. Caplan, Shields and four other litigators launched the Century City office in late 2009. In addition to complex commercial litigation and labor and employment matters, the firm's Southern California lawyers focus on large products liability matters, class actions, real estate litigation and other significant business litigation. Drinker Biddle also has nearly 40 lawyers in its San Francisco office and more than 650 lawyers in its 12 offices nationwide, with approximately half of them involved in handling litigation matters.

Brief biographies of the new Drinker Biddle lawyers in Los Angeles follow:

Sheldon Eisenberg, a partner in the Commercial Litigation Practice Group, has focused his practice for more than 25 years on helping large companies and talented entrepreneurs succeed when facing some of their most significant litigation problems. He has represented clients from all sectors of the Southern California economy, from cutting-edge technology and telecommunications companies to financial institutions and real estate developers, as well as major Hollywood studios and other entertainment companies, software developers and publishers, literary and talent agencies, and advertising and public relations firms. Prior to co-founding ERTW in 2006, Eisenberg was a partner at Irell & Manella and Bryan Cave. He has served as a judge pro tem for the Los Angeles Municipal Court and continues to act as a volunteer arbitrator for the Los Angeles County Bar Association's Fee Arbitration Program. He earned his bachelor's degree at the University of California, Berkeley, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and his law degree from that school's Boalt Hall, where he was an extern with Justice Stanley Mosk of the California Supreme Court.

David H. Raizman, a partner in the Labor and Employment Practice Group, has developed a substantial focus of his practice in the areas of disability rights and trade secrets and non-compete agreements. He is called upon regularly to help international and domestic companies formulate restrictive covenants that courts in California and in other jurisdictions will enforce. He also has advised numerous clients on disability compliance matters, both in the employment context and in complying with architectural and operations mandates for disabled access. From 1993-1997, Raizman served as director of litigation for the Western Law Center for Disability Rights (now the Disability Rights Legal Center). He also was a partner at Bryan Cave before co-founding ERTW in 2006. Raizman earned both his law degree and a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University, and received his bachelor's degree from Vassar College, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Adam J. Thurston, of counsel in the Commercial Litigation Practice Group, has built a litigation practice specializing in complex commercial, intellectual property and entertainment litigation. His commercial litigation experience covers a broad spectrum of matters, from business disputes to large-scale class actions, multi-district litigation and international trade, across a variety of industries, including manufacturing, consumer products and technology. His entertainment and intellectual property practice includes profit participation, copyright and trademark infringement matters in industries ranging from television and feature films to consumer product manufacturing and brand licensing. Thurston has trial experience in federal and state courts in California and New York. Previously a partner at Bryan Cave and ERTW, Thurston serves as a board member of the Santa Monica Bar Association and chairs its entertainment section. He earned his law degree from Vanderbilt University and his bachelor's degree from Boston University, *magna cum laude*.

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Christopher F. Wong, of counsel in the Commercial Litigation Practice Group, focuses his practice on business litigation matters, representing corporations, partnerships, investor groups, individuals and public entities. He has handled a wide variety of cases, at the state and federal levels, involving investor fraud, real estate disputes, commercial contracts, partnership disputes, securities and shareholder claims, deceptive advertising, unfair competition, trade secrets and class actions in a variety of contexts. Wong began his legal career at Irell & Manella and later became a partner at Bryan Cave before joining ERTW. He earned his law degree from Yale University and his bachelor's degree from the University of California, Berkeley, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Ryan S. Fife, an associate in the Commercial Litigation Practice Group, has participated in numerous complex litigation matters involving commercial contract disputes, construction defects, securities law and entertainment law, among others. He also has experience with environmental matters arising under California's Proposition 65. He earned his law degree from the University of Southern California and his bachelor's degree, *magna cum laude*, from Utah State University.

Elena S. Min, an associate in the Labor and Employment Practice Group, represents employers and individuals in a variety of litigation matters, including misappropriation of trade secrets, unfair competition, harassment, discrimination, retaliation, wrongful termination, and non-compete and non-solicitation agreements. She also counsels employers on personnel decisions, including wage and hour classifications and medical leaves of absence. She previously was an associate at Bryan Cave and ERTW, as well as a staff attorney at the Children's Law Center of Los Angeles. She earned her law degree from the University of Southern California and her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP is a national law firm with more than 650 lawyers in 12 offices providing client service in areas such as commercial litigation, labor and employment, intellectual property, corporate and securities, corporate restructuring, investment management, health care, real estate, environment and energy, employee benefits and executive compensation, life insurance and annuities, insurance coverage, government and regulatory affairs, communications litigation, products liability and mass tort litigation, and private client services.