Insights: News Releases

Leading Finance Partner Shannon Baxter Joins Kilpatrick Townsend

September 1, 2020

Firm's Growing Private Equity Team Also Adds Associate Leah Petersen

ATLANTA (SEPTEMBER 1) -- Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton announced today that **Shannon Baxter** is joining the firm as a partner in Atlanta. Ms. Baxter will be a member of Kilpatrick Townsend's Corporate Department and the firm's expanding Leveraged Finance and Private Equity Teams. **Leah Petersen**, an associate, is becoming a member of the firm's Leveraged Finance and Private Equity Teams in Atlanta also. Both Ms. Baxter and Ms. Petersen practiced with Dentons US LLP immediately prior to Kilpatrick Townsend.

The firm has now added three new attorneys to the firm's Private Equity Team in the past month, including **Mick Cochran**, a partner, who came on board in July.

"Kilpatrick Townsend offers a strong, robust platform in the leveraged finance arena and I look forward to using that strength to serve clients and grow my practice," said Shannon Baxter. "It is clear the firm and I share the same client-focused vision that is necessary to meet the ever-growing, complex needs of clients and prospective clients. I am thrilled to continue working with Mick Cochran as I get to know my new colleagues across the firm here at Kilpatrick Townsend. "

"We welcome Shannon and Leah to the firm," said **Ben Barkley**, Kilpatrick Townsend Corporate Department Chair. "Shannon brings an outstanding, established practice that complements the firm's growing eminence in the areas of Leveraged Finance, Private Equity and Venture Capital. Clients will benefit from the breadth and depth of expertise that comes from these two strategic additions."

Ms. Baxter has nearly 25 years of experience representing creditors and borrowers in financing transactions. Her clients include large U.S. and non-U.S. banks, finance companies, private equity and hedge funds, and public and private companies. Ms. Baxter's experience includes secured and unsecured credit facilities, bankruptcies, reorganizations and workouts, cross-border transactions, acquisition, recapitalization and other leveraged financings, and facilities structured to comply with Shari'ah law. She has substantial knowledge of syndicated loan transactions, first lien/second lien, mezzanine and subordinated debt facilities, subscription lines of credit, and asset-based financings. Ms. Baxter has closed transactions in a variety of industries, including aerospace, distribution, energy, food and agribusiness, gaming, health care, manufacturing, retail, service, sports, technology, and telecommunications.

Georgia Trend has selected Ms. Baxter as one of the state's Legal Elite in the Bankruptcy/Creditors' Rights category. She was nominated by *Acritas Stars* as a standout lawyer in a survey of nearly 4,000 general counsel and other senior leaders at legal departments around the world.

Ms. Baxter is actively involved in the community. She supports the Atlanta Women's Foundation and the Atlanta Community Food Bank and is an OnBoard Advocate. Ms. Baxter has been an Emory School of Law, Adjunct Professor of Commercial Loan Transactions as well. She is an active participant in the activities of the Association of Corporate Growth, the Secured Finance Network and the Turnaround Management Association.

Ms. Baxter earned her J.D. from the University of Georgia School of Law, *cum laude,* and her B.A. from the University of Virginia.

Ms. Petersen represents lenders and corporate borrowers in financing transactions involving secured and unsecured credit facilities, reorganizations, cross-border transactions and acquisitions. She is experienced in drafting and negotiating the full range of financing documentation, including commitment letters, credit agreements, intercreditor and subordination agreements, collateral documents and other ancillary transaction documents. Ms. Petersen also advises clients on general operational and corporate governance issues. She has represented clients in completed mergers, acquisitions and financing transactions worth more than U.S. $2 billion combined.

Ms. Petersen earned her J.D. from Georgia State University School of Law, *magna cum laude,* and her B.A. in Political Science from George Washington University.

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Related People



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