

Chicago Daily Law Bulletin®

Volume 161, No. 145

Firm forms from Cassidy, Schade split

4 former partners leave to open up Brennan, Garvey

BY ROY STROM
Law Bulletin staff writer

A group of four former Cassidy, Schade LLP partners has splintered from the firm, formed a new one and hired six lawyers within the past month.

Brennan, Garvey LLC was founded July 3 by former Cassidy, Schade executive committee members Mark M. Brennan and Catherine L. Garvey and former partners Robert S. Burtker and Anthony J. Longo.

Those four recruited six other attorneys with ties to their former firm. That includes Joseph A. Camarra, who retired in 2013, and joined Brennan, Garvey as of counsel. Five other associates joined, and one of them, Daniel J. Pylman, was promoted to partner at the new firm, which primarily defends health-care clients in litigation.

All four partners brought their main clients from Cassidy, Schade to the new firm, said Longo, who declined to identify the clients.

He said the partners' main reason for splitting from the firm was because they did not want to pass up an opportunity to practice together. At the same time, he said the decision was not the result of extensive planning.

"It's something that developed rather quickly from our point of view," Longo said.

"There's nothing we dislike about Cassidy. Nothing like that. It's just that sometimes these opportunities come along in life, and when they are great ideas, you jump on them rather quickly."

Longo said the firm's clients include community hospitals, physician practices, academic medicine clients, dialysis providers, insurance companies and other health-care professionals and businesses. The firm also handles litigation for insured and self-insured clients.

Garvey joined Cassidy, Schade in 1990, and Brennan began working there in 1993. Garvey had been a co-chair of the firm's medical liability practice group.

In 2011, the pair was simultaneously elected to the firm's executive committee. Brennan remained a member of the executive committee at the time the pair left the firm.

Rudolf G. Schade Jr. — Cassidy, Schade's co-founder — wished his former colleagues well.

"We're very grateful to these people for the contributions they made to our firm," Schade said.

Cassiday, Schade's website currently lists 98 attorneys.

"Leaving a law firm that recruited me out of law school 22 years ago was not an easy decision," Brennan said. "However, we are very excited to form a new law firm dedicated to those basic values of hard work and mutual respect for each other."

The core Brennan, Garvey team could possibly have been an avenue for yet another out-of-town firm to establish a Chicago beachhead. But Longo said the partners never seriously considered joining another firm.

"Our driving force was to start something new together, and starting Brennan, Garvey LLC was really the only way to do that," Longo said.

Brennan, Garvey's associates are Sherita S. Glover, Jonathan E. Cavins, Rachel S. Stern and Dana N. Cyze.

Brennan said the firm plans to continue hiring lawyers "for our current caseload." The firm has been approached by attorneys with clients and practices in areas of litigation other than health care, he said, and the firm is considering those potential hires.