

Thompson Hine Adds Transactions Partners To Chicago Office

By Celeste Bott

Law360 (April 16, 2021, 4:39 PM EDT) -- Thompson Hine LLP has hired two former Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP attorneys to join the Chicago office as partners in its real estate, and corporate transactions and securities practice groups, the firm announced Wednesday.

Simone Randolph and Layla Dotson Lumpkin told Law360 on Friday that Thompson Hine offers them a renowned national platform to grow in their respective practice areas.

For Randolph, that practice entails complex commercial real estate and finance transactions. Lumpkin's work centers around corporate transactions, such as mergers and acquisitions, venture capital financing and commercial contracts, according to the firm.

"Thompson Hine has a really wonderful reputation in the real estate and corporate areas," Randolph said, adding that the firm prioritizes innovation and transparency in their work for clients.

Lumpkin also cited strong leadership and the firm's commitment to diversity and inclusion as reasons behind the move.

"We couldn't be more excited to welcome Simone and Layla to Thompson Hine," Frank Chaiken, who leads the Chicago office, said in a statement. "There are numerous synergies between their capabilities and our existing practices. Also, they both have demonstrated strong leadership in promoting diversity, equity and inclusion and a dedication to innovation — both of which are core Thompson Hine values and keys to our success."

The firm highlights Randolph's experience in syndicated, mezzanine and construction financing, saying she's closed more than \$500 million in multifamily, industrial, retail, office and commercial asset transactions in just the last two years. Her work also entails advising lending institutions on loan purchases and sales, loan restructures and modifications, as well as counseling companies with large real estate portfolios, Thompson Hine said.



Simone Randolph



Layla Dotson Lumpkin

Randolph says she often works with Chicago-based banks. Among the legal work she highlights is her representation of a lender in the syndicated construction financing of a \$150 million, tri-branded Hilton development project in Chicago.

Randolph kicked off her legal career at Perkins Coie LLP, later joining Bryan Cave and then Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila, where she was a partner in the firm's business transactions group. She received her undergraduate degree from Duke University and her law degree from Harvard Law School.

Lumpkin, who has worked at McDermott Will & Emery and Horwood Marcus & Berk Chartered, also joins the firm from Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila's business transactions group, where she was a partner.

Her practice focuses on corporate transactions, and she also serves as outside general counsel for early-stage and emerging companies, according to the firm.

Lumpkin cites her experience representing a \$125 million venture capital fund on substantially all of its investment deals, from initial fund closing through the end of its investment period. She told Law360 that part of what drew her to Thompson Hine is "the firm's ability to be nimble and efficient and serve clients at all stages of their development," given that many of her clients are newer companies.

She specifically points to the firm's early-stage and emerging companies practice, which is tailored to meet the needs of early-stage corporate clients as they grow.

Lumpkin received her undergraduate degree from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and her law degree from Northwestern University School of Law.

--Editing by Regan Estes.