

Shook Hardy Names 3 New Office Leaders Amid Expansion

By **Marco Poggio**

Law360 (July 21, 2021, 3:48 PM EDT) -- Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP has named new office leaders that will shape its growing presence in the pharmaceutical and environmental industries and continue its expansion across the country, the firm said Tuesday.

Amy Cho, a seasoned business litigator, will lead the firm's Chicago office succeeding longtime office managing partner Lynn Murray. Adam Miller, an environmental and toxic tort litigator, will head Shook's St. Louis office, which opened in June. Scott Chesin, an appellate litigator and strategist, will manage the firm's New York office, which opened earlier this year, Shook said in a statement.

The leadership changes and additions come at a time when the firm has been opening new shops across the United States.

"We are experiencing an exciting time of growth and change. In addition to a deep understanding of the law, each of these partners has demonstrated a strong commitment to client service," Madeleine McDonough, Shook's chairperson, said in a statement. "I'm confident Amy, Adam and Scott will do great things for their offices and the firm, and I look forward to working with them closely."

Cho started her legal career as an associate at Chicago-based Grippo & Elden LLC in 2008. In 2015, Shook acquired the firm, and Cho made partner three years later. She will now lead Shook's Chicago office through the expansion of its business litigation practice, she said.

"I'm very excited to carry the torch and teach and mentor associates in the way I was taught and mentored," Cho said. "I'm really looking forward to building the new generation of Chicago associate attorneys."

Cho represents clients in trial and arbitration in proceedings involving insurance and reinsurance, banking and financial services, and technology and telecommunications industries, the firm said. She represented Microsoft Corp. in a putative class action filed in 2017 alleging the company violated consumer protection laws by suspending accounts for its video gaming service Xbox Live and then



Adam Miller



Scott Chesin



Amy Cho

refusing to reimburse people for the time their accounts were unusable.

Cho was among the attorneys who successfully represented Costco Wholesale Corp. in an investor's suit accusing the company of facilitating a Ponzi scheme that cost an investment firm nearly \$100 million. The suit was thrown out by a federal judge in Illinois in 2018.

In another noteworthy case, Cho advised Union Pacific Railroad Co. in a privacy suit brought by a truck driver who alleged the company never explained to him and his co-workers why it had been collecting their biometric data.

Miller, an attorney with experience advising Fortune 500 companies, particularly in environmental litigation and toxic tort and exposure litigation, joined Shook in June from Capes Sokol Goodman & Sarachan PC to kickstart the firm's practice in St. Louis.

He represents manufacturers, suppliers and industrial users of products containing polychlorinated biphenyls, benzene, solvents, dioxins, and tobacco products against claims involving cancers, pulmonary and cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and other ailments, according to his biography page on Shook's website.

Miller represents Monsanto in a suit brought by 2,500 local communities in California alleging the company, the sole domestic manufacturer of PCBs, contaminated the waterways with such chemicals.

Miller was also among the attorneys to have won a summary judgment on behalf of Pharmacia Corp., a Pfizer-owned company sued by a Massachusetts town on allegations that it was liable for carcinogenic material it had produced that was installed in a school over 40 years ago.

A Shook spokesperson told Law360 Pulse that Miller was not available to comment Wednesday because he was attending a trial.

Chesin, an experienced appellate lawyer who focuses on product liability defense, joined Shook at the end of March, taking the helm of a rapidly growing practice in New York City.

Shook's Big Apple venture began in late January when it opened an office and brought over two partners from Phillips Lytle LLP, Kimberly S. Penner and Thomas J. Sheehan, who focus on pharmaceutical and medical device defense. The firm then hired William E. Vita, a business litigation generalist who joined from Long Island-based Westerman Ball Ederer Miller Zucker & Sharfstein LLP.

"We started with just two lawyers. We now have six, and we're still growing," Chesin said. "We're actively recruiting both associates and more lateral partners, and the idea is that we're trying to build a serious, nimble New York-based litigation practice to complement what the firm can do nationally."

Shook has 17 offices nationwide and employs more than 500 attorneys. About 90% of them are trial litigators. The firm has been envisioning an expansion in New York and the Northeast legal market for years, Chesin said. The ambition was to accommodate the needs of clients in the area as well as those in other states who have litigation matters in the region.

"The time is now," Chesin said.

The Kansas City-based firm has outgrown its current office space in midtown Manhattan and is now

looking at new real estate in the city to accommodate its growing team, Chesin said.

Chesin represents large corporations such as Philip Morris, Union Carbide Corp. and Dow Chemical Co. His team represents other big names, including GlaxoSmithKline and other large pharmaceutical and technology companies and advises clients in general product liability litigation.

Chesin joined Shook from Mayer Brown LLP, where he had been for 17 years — his whole legal career. He was lured to Shook by the firm's extensive litigation portfolio, he said.

"This was not a move that I made lightly, and it's only because I believe in the opportunity," he said. "It just seems like a really exciting time to be trying to build something."

--Additional reporting by Diana Novak Jones, Craig Clough and Lauraann Wood. Editing by Marygrace Murphy.