

Army Judge Advocate General Joins Shook Hardy

By Lynn LaRowe

Law360 (October 1, 2024, 3:51 PM EDT) -- Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP announced Tuesday that it has added a retired Army Judge Advocate General in Washington, D.C., bolstering the firm's business litigation, government investigations and white collar practices.

Stuart Risch retired in July at the rank of lieutenant general from his post as the Army's top lawyer. He led the JAG Corps attorneys and certified paralegals around the world and served as the senior military legal adviser to the civilian secretary of the Army and the Army's four-star chief of staff, the firm said in a statement.



Stuart Risch

Risch, the 41st Army JAG, said in a statement, "What I enjoyed most about serving in our nation's Army and leading the JAG Corps was our people."

"In Shook, I found the same positive culture focused on the welfare of our people and commitment to clients — demonstrating that a law firm can, in fact, have it all — achieving unbridled success for its clients in and out of the courtroom, while simultaneously caring for its people through compassionate leaders and mentors at every level," Risch said. "Plus, Shook's strong focus on supporting veterans through hiring former military personnel, and its pro bono work on behalf of veterans and many other important causes, was very appealing to me."

"I'm enthusiastic about supporting and growing the firm's government investigations and defense industry practice areas and contributing to our national recruiting efforts," Risch added.

Risch has come aboard as partner and is expected to leverage his more than three decades of experience for the benefit of clients in the aerospace, defense, manufacturing, technology and transportation industries, to name a few, the firm said.

Madeleine McDonough, firm chair, said in a statement that, "Stuart leads by example, bringing together the highest levels of service, leadership and legal excellence."

"Not only will he leverage his understanding of complex legal, regulatory and administrative issues for Shook's clients, but he has a reputation for inspiring and mentoring the next generation of lawyers," McDonough said. "We are thrilled to welcome him to the firm."

Risch, who began his active duty service with the JAG Corps in 1988, has held a number of leadership

positions throughout his career, the firm said, noting roles such as commanding general of the U.S. Army Legal Services Agency, where he supervised representation of the Army in civil matters before foreign, state and federal courts. He also filled the roles of chief judge for the Army's Court of Criminal Appeals, commanding general of the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School in Charlottesville, Virginia, and as deputy Judge Advocate General for four years, the firm said.

Risch earned his law degree from Seton Hall School of Law, holds master's degrees from the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School and the U.S. Army War College and has a bachelor's degree from Lafayette College.

Former service members make up about 4% of Shook Hardy's roster of approximately 540 attorneys, the firm said.

Matt Bernstein, co-leader of the firm's veterans employee resource group and a former JAG lawyer who served under Risch's leadership, said in a statement, "The firm is a leader in not only hiring and developing military lawyers but also selecting pro bono projects that impact veterans."

"Shook's actions show a deep commitment to our military," Bernstein said.

Shook Hardy is an international firm with 18 locations across the U.S. as well as an office in London.

--Editing by Kelly Duncan.