



## **Class Action “Next Gen” Litigator to Lead Shook Houston**

**HOUSTON (January 13, 2025)** Shook, Hardy & Bacon selected class action litigator Stephanie McGraw to lead the firm’s Houston office. McGraw, who joined Shook as a lateral in 2013, is an experienced litigator with first chair trial experience. Active in the Houston community and the American Bar Association, McGraw has built a national practice while maintaining her ties with Houston and Texas. Prior to accepting the Houston office managing partner role, McGraw served on Shook’s Search and Associate Committees, and was active in mentoring and leadership in the Class Action Appellate Group for the firm.

“Stephanie will bring a dynamic presence to her role as leader of our Houston office,” said Shook Chair Madeleine McDonough. “She’s a natural motivator who will carry out the firm’s priorities of growth and obtaining successful results for our clients in Houston and nationally.”

In 2025, Shook will mark 30 years in the Houston market. Opening in 1995, Houston is Shook’s second oldest office and one of the largest in terms of lawyers. During that time, Shook Houston has built a reputation as a premier firm for complex litigations involving product liability and intellectual property. McGraw hopes to build on recent growth in the firm’s class action, business litigation, and transactional practices in Texas and beyond.

“Shook’s trial reputation is attractive to laterals but there’s much more to the firm,” said McGraw. “Shook’s culture and collaborative spirit are paramount for retention. We are fortunate to have astute legal minds, sophisticated clients, and also be a great place to build a legal career.”

In addition to lateral recruitment, McGraw also anticipates continuing mentoring younger attorneys. “I’m looking forward to providing business development opportunities for rising lawyers and continuing to foster the collaborative atmosphere of Shook in our 18 offices across the country.”

In recent years, Shook Houston has also expanded its pro bono services, with the addition of Civil Rights and Racial Justice Senior Counsel Michael Harrison. After winning a high profile prisoner’s rights case in St. Louis in 2022, Shook dedicated the fee award to the expansion of the firm’s civil rights and racial justice pro bono efforts. Harrison, a former civil rights division prosecutor in Houston, spearheaded this expansion and is working to transform Shook’s current civil rights efforts into a nationally recognized practice. This is another area of practice McGraw is focused on fostering.

Houston attorneys serve their community through pro bono work and through hundreds of volunteer hours for organizations including the Houston Arboretum & Nature Center; Rebuilding Together Houston; The Women's Home; Justice for Children; Big Brothers Big Sisters; Habitat for Humanity; and Operation Underground Railroad. They also work with the Houston Bar Association on the Campaign for the Homeless, Lawyers for Literacy, and the Law Week Fun Run.

Previous Houston Managing Partner John Lewis, Jr. will remain at Shook as a leader in the firm's Corporate DEI Consulting, Compliance and Disputes Group; and the Bankruptcy, Creditor's Rights and Receiverships Group. Lewis is also the chair of Shook's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion initiatives.

To speak to a Shook attorney, contact Shook Director of Communications, Heather McMichael, 816.389.0419, [hmemichael@shb.com](mailto:hmemichael@shb.com).

### **About Shook, Hardy & Bacon**

Founded in 1889, Shook, Hardy & Bacon L.L.P. has 18 offices in the United States with attorneys and professional staff serving clients in the health, science and technology sectors in areas ranging from product liability defense and business litigation to intellectual property prosecution and litigation, environmental and toxic tort, privacy and data security and regulatory counseling.