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Ward Greenberg Attys Join Freeman Mathis, Hodgson Russ

By **Adrian Cruz**

Law360 (November 27, 2023, 4:42 PM EST) -- Northeast regional firm Ward Greenberg announced that about half of its attorneys will join Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP, with the Rochester, New York, team making the move to Hodgson Russ LLP.

Ward Greenberg said Wednesday that the entirety of its Philadelphia, Mt. Laurel, New Jersey, and Wilmington, Delaware, offices will officially join Freeman Mathis at the start of January, with the same applying for the Rochester attorneys at Hodgson Russ. The moves mark the end of Ward Greenberg.

According to Hodgson Russ' announcement last week, 10 attorneys will join its Rochester office from Ward Greenberg, including name partner Eric Ward and partners Amanda Burns, Meghan DiPasquale, Joshua Agins, Joseph Curran, Thomas D'Antonio and Scott Jennette. The firm said that the move nearly doubles the location's headcount and managing partner Benjamin Zuffranieri Jr. added that discussions between the two sides had been going on for over eight months.

"After serving the Rochester business community for over two decades as a boutique firm, we are excited by the opportunities to both our attorneys and our clients afforded by joining a full-service firm like Hodgson Russ," Ward told Law360 Pulse on Monday. "The attorneys from Ward Greenberg who are joining Hodgson Russ will continue providing exceptional service to not only our clients, but also the community in which we live."

Zuffranieri said that the new attorneys joining Hodgson Russ focus their practices on a wide range of areas such as business litigation, tort, labor and intellectual property. Going forward, he said that he expects the firm to add another five to 10 attorneys in Rochester by the end of 2024.

"Since reopening our Rochester office in 2019, we have been fortunate to attract quality attorneys to our platform and with the addition of this talented group, we expect that to accelerate and continue," Zuffranieri told Law360 Pulse on Monday.

"The addition of these attorneys to our Rochester office will provide a more visible and robust platform, nearly doubling the size of the firm's existing Rochester footprint. Moreover, we look forward to offering Ward Greenberg clients an enhanced range of services."

Freeman Mathis said that name partner Ed Greenberg along with partners Gerhard Dietrich, Dennis Callahan and Daniel Young are some of the eight-person contingent joining the firm.

"We are excited to welcome this talented group of attorneys to FMG. Ed, Gerry, and their team have been go-to lawyers for many years for high stakes trial and appellate work," Freeman Mathis managing partner Ben Mathis said in a statement. "They will be valuable additions to our existing team of trial and appellate lawyers. Great trial lawyers and advocates are hard to find, and this group adds more depth to our capabilities nationally and in the region."

The addition of the Ward Greenberg attorneys also marks Freeman Mathis' first entry into the Wilmington market, according to the firm, which said it will have over 55 attorneys across its Mid-Atlantic offices with the new hires.

"We were attracted by FMG's national platform and their stellar reputation for litigation and appellate capabilities," Greenberg said in a statement. "We believe the resources FMG brings will allow us to

better serve clients both locally and throughout the country. We look forward to continuing FMG's growth nationally and in the Mid-Atlantic region."

According to the firm's website, Ward Greenberg's attorneys work on a variety of litigation and business operational matters for high-profile clients such as 7-Eleven, Cornell University, Dave & Buster's, Eastman Kodak and GE Power.

A representative from Freeman Mathis didn't immediately respond to a request for comment Monday.

--Editing by Michael Watanabe.

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