

News

Vorys Houston Office Continues Expansion With Two New Attorneys

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NEWS | 6.3.2013

Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP announced today that two attorneys have joined the firm's Houston office. John J. Sparacino, who has 20 years of experience in bankruptcy law, joined as a partner in the finance, energy and real estate group. Randell J. Gartin joined as of counsel in the tax and probate group and will strengthen Vorys' international tax capabilities.

"John and Randy have excellent reputations. Their experience will strengthen our office and expand the legal work that we can do on behalf of our Texas and national clients," said David Oliver, the managing partner of the Vorys Houston office. "Four years ago, the Houston office opened with just four attorneys. We've experienced significant growth since then and, with John and Randy joining us, Vorys now has 18 attorneys working here."

Sparacino focuses his practice on bankruptcy related matters including litigation, receiverships and out-of-court restructurings. He has worked on bankruptcy matters throughout Texas and across the United States. Sparacino has represented secured and unsecured creditors, ad hoc creditors' committees, statutory creditors' committees, equity security holders, companies reorganizing under Chapter 11, DIP lenders and purchasers of distressed assets and companies. He also has represented purchasers and sellers of assets, claims and equity interests in distressed situations. In addition, he has represented indenture trustees in connection with bond debt transactions, including new issuances, tender offers, exchange offers, redemptions, amendments, work-outs and bankruptcies. Prior to joining Vorys, Sparacino was a partner at Andrews Kurth LLP.

Gartin advises clients on the complex U.S. tax rules that apply to ownership and operation of international businesses. In addition, he assists clients with international transactions and restructurings, including the application of U.S. anti-deferral regimes, foreign investment in the United States, and U.S. withholding and treaty planning. Gartin also advises clients on a wide range of U.S. federal income tax planning matters, including tax planning matter with respect to mergers and acquisitions, financings, reorganizations, and

general corporate and partnership tax issues. He provides tax planning and restructuring advice and has experience identifying and mitigating tax risk and exposure, structuring tax-free reorganizations, and structuring joint ventures and asset/equity dispositions. Prior to joining Vorys, Gartin was an associate attorney in the Dallas office of Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP and the Chicago office of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP.

About Vorys: Vorys was established in 1909 and has grown to be one of the largest Ohio-based law firms with nearly 375 attorneys in six offices in Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Akron, Ohio; Washington, D.C.; and Houston, Texas. The firm opened its Houston office in February 2009. Vorys currently ranks as one of the 200 largest law firms in the United States according to *American Lawyer* magazine.