

Dickstein Shapiro's LA Insurance Team To Leave For Liner

By **Beth Winegarner**

Law360, San Francisco (July 17, 2015, 10:55 PM ET) -- Ten Dickstein Shapiro LLP attorneys, including insurance group head Kirk Pasich, are decamping for Liner LLP and leaving just a handful of attorneys in Dickstein Shapiro's Los Angeles office, a source close to the move told Law360 on Friday.

Three other partners, including Sandra Smith Thayer, Fiona Chaney and Michael Gehr, along with six other attorneys, will join Liner's Los Angeles office to form a new insurance recovery practice at the firm, said the source, who didn't wish to be identified. The move is expected to be made public next week.

Pasich didn't respond to requests for comment Friday, and was still listed as an attorney with Dickstein Shapiro Friday afternoon. James Turken, managing partner of Dickstein Shapiro's Los Angeles office, and Stuart Liner, managing partner at Liner Law, didn't respond to requests for comment.

Dickstein Shapiro made headlines this spring when former firm lobbyist for Dickstein Shapiro and former House Speaker Dennis Hastert stepped down — and then pled not guilty in June to charges that he violated federal banking laws and lied to investigators in an effort to conceal his payment of \$1.7 million in hush money to an acquaintance against whom he had committed misconduct.

News of the latest Dickstein Shapiro departures comes just two months after Cozen O'Connor snapped up 10 other Dickstein Shapiro attorneys from its state attorneys general practice to form a new Cozen practice group focusing on consumer protection, antitrust, environmental and other issues across the country. Earlier this year, Arent Fox LLP and Kaye Scholer LLP landed six intellectual property attorneys from Dickstein Shapiro in New York and Silicon Valley.

A year ago, former Dickstein Shapiro LLP partner Andrew Zausner led a contingent of 13 attorneys and directors to Greenberg Traurig LLP, to head up the government law and policy practice in Greenberg's Washington office.

Dickstein Shapiro's insurance practice, which includes attorneys in Los Angeles, New York, Silicon Valley, Connecticut and Washington, D.C., was named one of Law360's Insurance Groups of the year for its work representing an NRG Energy Inc. unit in litigation over coverage for a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency suit and securing a \$1.6 million jury verdict in a Superstorm Sandy dispute. At the time, the group included 31 attorneys.

Pasich came to Dickstein Shapiro 10 years ago, according to his LinkedIn profile. He has focused his insurance work on entertainment industry issues as well as natural disaster and environmental litigation,

product liability, employment claims and computer-related insurance matters, and is a co-owner of independent record company Blue Elan Records LLC, according to Dickstein Shapiro's website.

— Additional reporting by Daniel Siegal, Margaret Harding, Jeff Sistrunk and Lance Duroni. Editing by Ben Guilfooy.

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