

Locke Lord Brings On Greenberg Glusker Corporate Pro In LA

By James Mills

Law360 (January 9, 2024, 4:42 PM EST) -- Locke Lord LLP is growing its corporate team, announcing Tuesday it is bringing in a Greenberg Glusker Fields Claman & Machtinger LLP transactional attorney as a partner in its Los Angeles office.

Katy Spillers has joined Locke Lord's corporate and transactional practice group after spending the past 18 years at Greenberg Glusker. She handles high-value transactions for clients in the entertainment, media and consumer good sectors. She also advises clients of emerging growth firms on various corporate issues including mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, financings, branding and licensing, and related issues.



Katy Spillers

In a Tuesday morning interview, Spillers told Law360 she needed to move to a larger firm to grow her practice and continue serving her clients.

"I was at Greenberg for 18 years and it was a great platform, but as the size of my book grew and certainly my clients are very much bicoastal, international, across the country, so the resources and expertise that Locke Lord has is tremendous," Spillers said. "It levels up the service that I can provide my clients, which is exciting."

She reported her clients approve of the move to Locke Lord.

"My clients are press-worthy and at the end of the day, I have chosen to partner with clients who I think are good people — most of them have become longtime friends — and appreciate collaboration," Spillers said. "They are very committed to diversity issues and in consultation with them, I wanted to pick a place where not only are they excellent lawyers, but they are good people at the end of the day. That matters to me, it matters to my clients. I think Locke Lord's collegiality, collaboration, diversity are really core tenets."

Even though she's just started at Locke Lord, it feels like the right place for her to be.

"I wanted to find a place that is going to be my second home," Spillers said. "I don't want to go to a place where if things are changing, you have to move your book somewhere else. This felt like a home to me and a place that offers so many opportunities. The capital markets expertise, private equity, fund formation, regulatory. These benches are deep and it gives me a lot of comfort to know that as my clients and transaction size continues to grow, this is a place that will not only provide me what I need now, but will grow with me and my clients."

Nina Huerta, the managing partner of Locke Lord's Los Angeles office, is excited to have Spillers join.

"Katy is a game-changing addition to our Los Angeles office as well as to our firm," Huerta said in a statement. "She has a significant transactional practice with an extensive network in the entertainment and media sectors, which will be integral to expanding the firm's offerings in these areas while building out our West Coast presence. She is also a proven leader, mentor and team builder, who will be an important part of our ongoing strategic efforts to position Locke Lord as a premier firm servicing the middle market."

Mike Wilson, co-chair of Locke Lord's corporate and transactional department, also spoke highly of Spillers.

"Katy has a stellar reputation as not only a leading M&A and corporate lawyer but as a highly valued business adviser and counselor," Wilson said in a statement. "Katy is a team-oriented, proven leader, and we are very excited for the myriad opportunities to collaborate and provide excellent service to our clients."

Locke Lord traces its roots back to the late 1880s and today has about 650 attorneys in 20 offices worldwide. It was formed in 2007 via the merger of Texas-based Locke Liddell & Sapp PLLC and Chicago-based Lord Bissell & Brook LLP.

Spillers, who grew up in Riverside, California, earned her law degree in 2005 at the UCLA School of Law after earning her bachelor's degree in English at the University of California, Berkeley.

She joined Greenberg Glusker shortly after graduating from law school. She also served as a summer associate there while in law school.

Spillers enjoys transactional work because she's a people-oriented person, she said.

"I love running businesses with my clients. I always joke that I am more of a therapist than a lawyer. My strength — a strength that a lot of other M&A attorneys don't have — is I have really high EQ, I'm a great listener and I want to provide advice, not memos," she said. "I have a lot of companies that were founded by women [as clients], I have a lot of companies with diverse founders across all categories, so being able to help partner with them and see them succeed is win for me every single time."

--Editing by Scott Russell.