

Mover of the Week

Patrick Nash Brings Experience To Kirkland's Turnaround Team

By Rachel Feintzeig



In a world where so many professionals hone in on one area of expertise, Patrick Nash Jr. is proud to tackle a wide variety of topics and challenges in his role as a bankruptcy attorney.

The new Kirkland & Ellis partner sees his field as one of the only remaining forums in which lawyers touch upon so many different angles of a case.

You have “to understand financing, understand corporate governance, understand litigation,” he said. “I think of us as generalists, probably the last of the generalists in what is an increasingly specialized profession.”

Nash was attracted to the fact that restructuring’s faithful must be flexible and quick on their feet, ready to tackle issues that arise both behind the scenes and in front of a judge.

“The best restructuring lawyers are lawyers who are comfortable in court, comfortable in a board room,” he said.

Nash, a graduate of the University of Illinois College of Law, joins Kirkland & Ellis’ Chicago office after nine years with Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP. There, he was able to put his love of variety into action, representing companies in industries ranging from automotive to food services.

In the case of Meridian Technologies Inc., he worked with the company’s lenders to engineer a restructuring that largely took place outside of court and only required the business to briefly file for protection in Canada. The company, which made magnesium parts increasingly in demand by the auto industry, really “had a reason to live,” Nash said. And cooperation between the company, its lenders, customers and vendors made that happen.

“That was a real success story,” Nash said.

Still, only one of Nash’s clients lay claim to a never-ending stash of baked goods. Krispy Kreme tapped Skadden and Nash to represent several of its troubled franchisees struggling to get their balance sheets in check through out-of-court restructurings and a bankruptcy proceeding. And yes, he did get to eat a lot of donuts.

There were “more than we could handle,” he said.

During his time at Skadden, Nash often found himself facing off against Kirkland lawyers in the courtroom. He said he enjoyed practicing opposite from them and admired their work.

According to James H.M. Sprayregen, the feeling was mutual. Sprayregen, a longtime partner in Kirkland’s restructuring group who recently returned to the firm following a nearly three-year stint at Goldman Sachs, said he was impressed by the 37-year-old’s good judgment and maturity.

“We added Pat to the team because he has a reputation as a young rising superstar in the restructuring profession,” Sprayregen said. “He brings experience and quality and the ability to jump right in and handle major matters.”