

Montgomery McCracken Nabs Ex-Buchanan Ingersoll Litigator

By **Dan Packel**

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Montgomery McCracken Walker & Rhoads LLP has landed a former Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC trial lawyer with a wide-ranging litigation practice to serve as a partner in its Philadelphia office.

Richard M. Simins rejoined the firm where he started his legal career on March 1, after 16 years at Buchanan Ingersoll. He boasts 25 years of diverse experience in civil litigation, having represented clients in pharmaceuticals, real estate, heavy industry and health care, among others.



Richard M. Simins

Simins told Law360 that he had been thinking about leaving Buchanan Ingersoll for the past year, after one of his closest friends, Steve Bizar, moved to Dechert LLP. He said he would give himself a year, and then consider moving on himself.

“I had a busy year, but I still had an itch, so I decided to put myself out there,” he said. “I had some very intriguing opportunities that were put before me. But once I had the idea to leave Buchanan Ingersoll, which I loved, it became clear to me that Montgomery McCracken was the place I wanted to go.”

Simins noted that much had changed since his last stint at the firm, which began in 1989 after a federal clerkship and ran until 2001.

“It’s smaller, considerably more nimble and much more entrepreneurial,” he said.

He also noted the firm’s expansion into New York, with 30 lawyers it hopes to grow to 40. But he said that the firm had succeeded in avoiding the trap of growth for the sake of growth.

“Montgomery McCracken has remained committed to retaining that special boutique culture at the same time as growing when opportunities present themselves to build out that critical mass,” he said. “In my view, that’s very unusual. That’s unique in Philadelphia.”

Simins trumpeted the collaborative culture he discovered at the firm in his first week back, pointing to incidental discussions over cases unfolding in hallways and at lunches.

“You get a collective chewing over a client’s problems which never get billed to the client but comes out in terms of better client service,” he said. “It’s happening from top to bottom, from senior partners to

younger lawyers.”

In recent years, Simins helped successfully defend The Procter & Gamble Co. against a mass tort over its Fixodent dental adhesive and secured a favorable settlement defending a hospital and ambulatory surgery center in kickback fraud litigation brought by insurer Aenta.

“We are thrilled to welcome Rick back to the firm as our partner,” Montgomery McCracken Chairman Louis A. Petroni said in a statement. “He is an outstanding litigator and we look forward to his leadership and counsel again. Rick has an impressive background and his breadth of experience and representations will make him a valuable asset to the firm.”

The firm also announced that it had brought an associate, Jackson Warren, from Buchanan Ingersoll along with Simins.

--Editing by Stephen Berg.