

Health Hires: Vt. SG To Stris, BCBS In-House To Kilpatrick

By **Dani Kass**

Law360, New York (April 7, 2017, 4:13 PM EDT) -- Stris & Maher LLP has opened a Vermont office led by two of the state's top attorneys; in-house counsel at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina has rejoined Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP; Maxor National Pharmacy Services LLC has named a new general counsel; Hinckley Allen & Snyder LLP has a new health care partner from Brown Rudnick LLP; and Cozen O'Connor has brought on a government relations professional focused on health care policy.

Stris & Maher Opens Vt. Office With Top State Gov't Attys

Bridget Asay, who was Vermont's first solicitor general, and Mike Donofrio, former general counsel for the state's Green Mountain Care Board, have launched Stris & Maher's new office in Montpelier, Vermont.

The new partners, who will focus on complex health care litigation, had first worked with Stris & Maher when the firm represented Vermont in *Gobeille v. Liberty Mutual Insurance Co.*, a U.S. Supreme Court appeal they ultimately lost in March 2016. The court had decided that the Employee Retirement Income Security Act's reporting requirements trump those of individual states, including a Vermont requirement that self-insured employee health plans must report claims data.

But during that effort, Asay and Donofrio found the firm "to be responsive, creative, and smart," Asay said in a statement. "They added tremendous value to our efforts in *Gobeille*, and they were great colleagues throughout the process."

Asay, a graduate of Yale Law School, was appointed solicitor general in 2015. Before that, she had spent more than a decade supervising all of the Vermont Attorney General Office's appellate litigation. This led to two appearances before the U.S. Supreme Court and more than 40 before the Vermont Supreme Court, Stris & Maher said.

Donofrio, a New York University School of Law graduate, spent four years as the first general counsel of a regulatory body meant to reduce



Bridget Asay



Michael Donofrio

the cost of health care in the state. The Green Mountain Care Board had been formed as part of a 2011 health care reform law. Before that, he taught at Brooklyn Law School and worked on complex civil and white-collar litigation at Holland & Knight LLP and what's now Wachtel Missry LLP.

BCBS of North Carolina Atty Rejoins Kilpatrick Townsend

Chad Hansen is leaving his role as in-house counsel at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina to rejoin Kilpatrick Townsend in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, focusing on litigation and health care.

As a partner in the complex commercial litigation team, Hansen will work on cases involving health care, ERISA, class actions, product liability, trade secrets and intellectual property, among other areas. His work at Blue Cross included advising the network management and provider credentialing teams, regulatory compliance, contracting and dispute avoidance and resolution, the firm said.

Hansen had joined Kilpatrick Townsend in 2005, making partner in 2013. He left in May 2016.

"I am delighted and honored to be rejoining Kilpatrick Townsend," Hansen said in a statement. "Having previously worked at Kilpatrick Townsend, I know that I am joining a fantastic group of attorneys and a firm that serves an impressive and expanding client base and that is committed to collaboration, innovation, and excellent client service. This is a tremendous opportunity and I look forward to once again being a resource to the firm and our clients."

He earned his law degree at University of North Carolina School of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of Alaska, Anchorage.

Maxor Nabs New General Counsel From Prime

Maxor has named Leah Bailey as its new general counsel, handling corporate legal work throughout the company.

Bailey is joining the pharmacy services platform from Prime Therapeutics, where since 2008 she's been advising the pharmacy benefit management, specialty pharmacy and mail order pharmacy businesses on regulatory and contractual issues, Maxor said. Before turning to health care, she worked as in-house counsel at American Financial Printing Inc.

She earned her law degree from the University of Minnesota Law School and a Bachelor of Arts from SUNY Buffalo. Before going to law school, she worked as a case manager for homeless domestic violence victims and their children.

"Leah's background and knowledge in the pharmacy industry is very complementary to Maxor's principal business units," CEO Mike Ellis said in a statement. "Leah will be a valuable addition to our leadership team and we look forward to working closely with her to grow our reach within the industry."

Hinckley Allen Gets Health Care Partner In Conn.

Robert J. Anthony is leaving his position as the head of Brown Rudnick's health care group to become a health care partner at Hinckley Allen in Hartford, Connecticut.

For more than 20 years, Anthony has represented hospitals, health systems and other providers and non-profit health care organizations on a wide array of health care matters. He advises on regulatory

work, strategic planning, compliance, health information and technology, managed care contracting, reimbursement, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and other issues, Hinckley Allen said.

“Bob has a well-earned reputation for excellent judgment with complex matters in today’s highly-regulated and ever-shifting health care landscape,” managing partner David J. Rubin said in a statement. “Having counseled clients in Connecticut and Massachusetts, Bob will add great value for the clients we serve locally and across the Northeast. We’re delighted to welcome Bob to the Firm.”

Anthony earned his law degree at the University of Connecticut School of Law, a Masters of Public Health in hospital administration from Yale University and a Bachelor of Arts from Boston College.

Cozen O’Connor Adds Health Care Lobbyist

Allison Wils has joined Cozen O’Connor in Washington D.C., serving as both counsel and a lobbyist for various federal and state health care matters. Her expertise includes telemedicine, benefits and health policy reform.

Wils is coming from The ERISA Industry Committee, where she served as executive director of state programs and senior director of health policy. There, she created two nationwide initiatives for state laws and regulations involving employee benefits. Those included telemedicine, biologics and biosimilars and leave matters, the firm said.

Before ERIC, she focused on insurance exchanges and other health policy reform and implementation at the National Academy for State Health Policy. She also worked on operations and policy at Oregon’s health insurance exchange and with state regulatory boards for Oregon’s Department of Justice.

"I am thrilled to join Cozen O'Connor Public Strategies and believe my health care experience will further bolster the firm's high-quality, effective advocacy in this space," Wils said in a statement. "There is great opportunity to affect health care policy in numerous dimensions of government, and I could not be more excited to continue my career learning from this established team with an expansive reach in Washington, D.C. and around the country."

Wils earned her law degree and a Bachelor of Arts from Willamette University, where during law school she created a health law and policy program and earned the first certificate in law and government with an emphasis in health law and policy.

--Editing by Orlando Lorenzo.