

TEXAS LAWYER

Texas Firm Kane Russell Adds Austin Office, Bankruptcy and Restructuring Team

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What You Need to Know

- Midsize Texas firm Kane Russell Coleman Logan has opened an office in Austin.
- The firm brought on six bankruptcy, restructuring and litigation lawyers to launch the firm's third office.
- The firm plans to expand the office and aims to add some transactional lawyers soon.

Midsize Texas firm Kane Russell Coleman Logan, with offices in Dallas and Houston, opened an office in Austin on Monday with six lawyers, including four who join as directors, with the initial focus on bankruptcy, restructuring and litigation.

Kane Russell founding director Joe Coleman said Austin has been in the firm's strategic plan for a while, because the firm was missing an office in central Texas. The firm moved forward with the office because of the opportunity to pick up a quality team of lawyers.

Holland & Knight partners Mark Taylor, Morris Weiss and William "Trip" Nix joined Kane Russell as directors. Jason Binford, who practiced at Kane Russell earlier in his career,

returned to the firm as a director, coming from Ross, Smith & Binford, where he was a shareholder. Casey Roy, who had been counsel at Ross Smith, joined Kane Russell as a senior attorney, while Ross Smith associate Abby Rogers joined as an associate.



Courtesy photo

Mark Taylor, a newly arrived director at Kane Russell Coleman Logan

Coleman said Austin has a growing base of companies, and the firm's goal is to build out the new office with other practices.

Ray Kane, another founding director, said that for the last 15 years about half of the firm's real estate transactions have been centered in central Texas, which is another significant reason why the firm put Austin at the top of its priority list. But more generally, he said, from a client development and marketing standpoint, an Austin office is critical for the firm.

"It's not the easiest market to enter, but with Mark and his team, it's perfect timing for us," Kane said.

Taylor said he has worked for years with Weiss and Nix, and they were looking for a firm where they would encounter fewer client conflict issues, and gain more rate flexibility than at Am Law 100 firm Holland & Knight. They ended up at Holland & Knight in 2023 when it acquired their previous firm, Nashville-based Waller Lansden Dortch & Davis.

Taylor called Holland & Knight a "great firm" but said the client conflict issue was a challenge.

According to Taylor, his group's clients include Regent Bank, Texas Capital Bank, TransPecos Banks, Crestmoor Capital Partners, Downstream Investments, Castle Hill Partners and GemCap Solutions.

Asked to comment on the departures, a spokesperson for Holland & Knight provided this comment: "We thank our former colleagues for their contributions and wish them well in their new endeavor."

Frances Smith, managing shareholder at Ross Smith, said she had no comment on the departures from her firm.

Kane said several additional hires are "in the works" as the firm expands practice offerings in Austin on the transactional side.

Coleman, chair of the firm's involency, bankruptcy and creditor rights section, said demand has been high in that area. And Kane said real estate transactions, corporate work and commercial litigation are "as good as it gets for us right now."

Kane Russell, now with 85 lawyers, is transitioning to second-generation leadership, and Kane is serving a final year as chair before the firm moves in 2026 to a board of practice leaders, with none of them legacy founders of the firm. The firm has hired professionals for its C-suite team in recent years.

Kane said that when they founded the firm 33 years ago, the goal was creating a Texas firm with offices in all of the major markets. "Flash forward," he said, the firm is now in Austin in Frost Bank Tower.

"The really slick thing is we are executing a plan we formulated 33 years ago, with a new generation of lawyers. Our young leaders are now executing the plan for Austin. It's exciting for us," he said.