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# Gibson Dunn Hires Paul Weiss Products Liability Lead in 3-Partner Move

By Dan Roe
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**What You Need to Know**

- Gibson Dunn hired a three-partner mass torts and products liability team from Paul Weiss.
- Partner Kimberly Branscome now co-chairs the mass torts and products liability practice at Gibson Dunn from Los Angeles.
- Branscome's first-chair trial experience complements Gibson Dunn's existing mass torts work in legal and appellate strategy, partner Theodore Boutrous Jr. said.



Courtesy photos

**L-R: Kimberly Branscome, Yahonnes Cleary and Jonathan Tam of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher.**

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher on Friday announced the hiring of a three-partner mass torts and products liability team from Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison as the firm looks to take a leading role in major products liability cases.

Leading the group is former Paul Weiss mass torts and products liability practice head Kimberly Branscome, who joined the firm's Century City office as co-chair of Gibson Dunn's practice group alongside partner Jonathan Tam. Meanwhile, partner Yahonnes Cleary has joined Gibson Dunn's New York office.

Litigation partner Theodore Boutrous Jr. said Gibson Dunn had observed Branscome's trial work capabilities and saw an opportunity to complement the firm's existing work in mass torts.

"We've had an active practice and have played a significant role in these cases, particularly around legal and appellate strategy, and Kim brings complementary first-chair trial experience," Boutrous said. "I called Kim up and said: 'Would you consider talking with us?'"

Branscome, who described her practice as that of a first-chair trial lawyer in cases across

industries and jurisdictions, said she had gotten to know Boutrous and practice co-chair Lauren Goldman through her work on large-scale litigations in which Gibson Dunn was also representing clients.

"Them reaching out to me about strengthening an already strong platform and having overlapping practices—that for me was really attractive," Branscome said.

Mass tort cases are consolidating into very high-value litigation, said Goldman, prompting clients to look for "exceptionally strong, experienced trial teams."

"Clients need lawyers who can set strategy, drive critical issues and ultimately persuade the jury," Goldman said. "We've worked with Kim and we know that she and her team bring that combination."

Of her clients from Paul Weiss, Branscome said they will continue to make their own decisions about representation but added that her clientele's familiarity with Gibson Dunn means that many already have "extreme confidence" in the firm.

The addition of Branscome's group is the latest in a series of high-profile litigation hires for Gibson Dunn, starting with the 2024 addition of litigation practice group co-chair Barry Berke in a five-partner move from Kramer Levin.

This April, the firm hired a four-partner appellate team from Sullivan & Cromwell led by appellate and constitutional law practice group co-chair Jeff Wall, and in July added a six-partner Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz litigation group led by litigation practice co-chair William Savitt.

For Paul Weiss, the departures are the latest litigation exits that have followed the firm's 2025 deal with the Trump administration and its February leadership transition, which saw M&A partner Scott Barshay take the helm after longtime chairman Brad Karp's emails with Jeffrey Epstein were publicized.

However, Branscome lauded her former firm's partners and said her move had "everything to do with my specific practice and the strength that Gibson has as a firm."

A Paul Weiss representative said the firm thanked the group for their contributions and wished them well in their future endeavors.

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