

Ex-Baker Botts Tax Atty Returns To Morgan Lewis In San Fran

By Parker Quinlan

Law360 (February 5, 2024, 4:20 PM EST) -- Morgan Lewis on Monday announced the return of a state and local tax expert as a partner who will be based out of the firm's San Francisco office.

William Gorrod, who was most recently a tax partner at Baker Botts LLP, returns to Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP after over seven years to focus on SALT-related matters. Gorrod's practice areas include tax planning, compliance and corporate transactions for a range of industries including technology, financial services, energy, media and pharmaceutical companies, according to a press release from Morgan Lewis.



Will Gorrod

Gorrod told Law360 on Monday he is excited to round out a national team of state and local tax experts by working with colleagues in states like New York and Massachusetts.

"With state and local tax we get essentially 50 different states, so across different types of tax types and jurisdictions there's always things changing," Gorrod said. "We've got all these different tax types with different rules and all these different jurisdictions. It's certainly the complexity our clients have to deal with across multiple states."

Gorrod said his clients run the gambit of different industries but that Morgan Lewis is able to better provide clients with a wide array of practice areas like a national labor and employment practice to better serve clients' complex needs.

"One of the major benefits is that we have more practice offerings and more service offerings," Gorrod said. "We have a lot more, with more attorneys and more offices, and we have a larger breadth of offerings with whatever clients need."

Gorrod will advise clients on matters related to state and local income and franchise taxes, gross receipt taxes, sales and use taxes, payroll taxes, real estate transfer taxes and property taxes, Morgan Lewis said in a statement.

Bart Bassett, the leader of the firm's global tax practice, said in the statement that Gorrod's reputation as a leader in SALT-related issues will serve the clients both in California and nationally.

"Will has a strong reputation in California, and together with our nationwide team will provide a powerful level of multistate SALT representation for our client base," Bassett said. "Many of us have

known Will for decades and can directly speak to both his ability to skillfully spearhead tax-related transactional, planning, and controversy matters and his thoughtful and dedicated focus on client service."

Previously, Gorrod specialized in state and federal tax issues in the technology space at Baker Botts. He joined that firm in February 2020 as part of a series of departures from the tax practice at Morrison & Foerster LLP that year.

Gorrod earned his law degree from Cardozo School of Law in 2006 and a master of laws from New York University School of Law, specializing in tax law. He also has a master's degree from North Carolina Central University and an undergraduate degree from North Carolina State University, according to his Morgan Lewis profile.

--Editing by Bruce Goldman.