

Levenfeld Scores Coleman Bankruptcy Lawyer

By Amanda Bransford

Law360, New York (December 05, 2011, 5:06 PM ET) -- Chicago-based Levenfeld Pearlstein LLC has added a new partner for its restructuring and insolvency group from the Coleman Law Firm, Levenfeld announced Friday.

Steve Jakubowski, a 25-year veteran of bankruptcy law, comes to Levenfeld after 14 years at Coleman.

Jakubowski said he was attracted by Levenfeld's excellent bankruptcy and restructuring attorneys, as well as the advantages of having a full-service firm behind him.

"I know that with the support of the firm's core corporate, litigation and real estate practice areas, our bankruptcy and restructuring group can provide quality, cost-effective and complete representation to debtors, committees and prospective litigants," he said.

The firm's emphasis on superior client service, unique among midsize and large firms, was another selling point, he said.

Jakubowski focuses his work on complex Chapter 11 cases, along with other reorganization matters and related litigation, and also works on commercial litigation involving bankrupt companies.

Carter Hawley Hale Stores Inc. employed him during its high-profile bankruptcy, as did subprime auto lender Reliance Acceptance Group in its post-bankruptcy litigation with Cole Taylor Bank.

He also lists as career accomplishments helping save BioSafe Medical Technologies and its revolutionary wound care technology, representing accident victims in GM's bankruptcy, and handling complex Chapter 11 filings at Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP, where he worked from 1989 to 1992.

A passion for bankruptcy matters extends beyond Jakubowski's work as a lawyer — he also blogs about the subject. He started the Bankruptcy Litigation Blog in 2005, which he says was the first blog about bankruptcy and has received over 650,000 page views since its creation.

Jakubowski, a long-time Chicago resident who received his law degree from the University of Chicago, worked early in his career as an officer for companies while they went through restructuring. He was chief operating officer of a restaurant company in 1995, and chairman and chief executive officer of a snack manufacturer in 1996. Both companies exited bankruptcy successfully reorganized.

"Turning around companies that were declared dead when I came in to run them" has been a career highlight, he said.

Aside from his extensive bankruptcy work, Jakubowski has done a good deal of work in the field of renewable energy, as well.

The restructuring and insolvency law service group he joins at Levenfeld Pearlstein works on bankruptcy cases, crisis management, out-of-court settlements and receiverships. Attorneys work throughout the U.S., as well as internationally.

The firm has been recognized by the National Law Journal as one of the nation's most innovative midsize firms.

--Editing by Chris Giganti.