

## Barclay Damon Keeps Growing With Conn. Litigation Partner

By Jack Karp

*Law360 (September 23, 2022, 2:16 PM EDT)* -- Barclay Damon LLP is continuing its hiring run in the Northeast, bringing on board commercial litigation attorney Brian Rich as a partner in its New Haven, Connecticut, office, Rich confirmed to Law360 on Friday.

Rich, who said he primarily represents banks and financial institutions in residential and commercial foreclosure and lender liability work, moves to the firm just as its major offices have increased their headcount by 25% this year, according to Lizz Acee, managing director of the firm's Boston, New Haven and New York City offices.

Barclay Damon's larger size is the main reason Rich joined the firm's commercial litigation and restructuring, bankruptcy and creditors' rights practices, he said in an interview.

"Barclay Damon provides a bigger platform for me with enhanced institutional support and infrastructure to allow me to do what I love to do," explained Rich, who officially started Sept. 1.

Barclay Damon also offers Rich a greater geographic scope than his previous firm — Halloran & Sage LLP, where he was a partner and spent two decades — particularly in New York and Massachusetts, states in which he was recently admitted, Rich added.

"There's more attorneys here in the financial services realm, more opportunities for me to service my clients here in more areas and more deeply than I would traditionally have," he said.

In recent years, Barclay Damon has focused on growing the services it provides to clients in the banking industry, according to Connie Cahill, the firm's managing partner.

"We now represent some of the world's largest banks as well as other financial institutions and credit unions in a wide range of matters. Brian's passion for the litigation work he does on behalf of banks and financial institutions will undoubtedly attract new clients and bolster our strong relationships with existing clients," Cahill said in a statement Friday.

While at Halloran & Sage, Rich represented student athletes in their challenge to the University of Hartford's planned move from Division I to Division III.

He has also secured summary judgment wins for a bank in the foreclosure of a \$3 million commercial



Brian Rich

mortgage note before the Connecticut Appellate Court and in a case involving allegations that JPMorgan Chase Bank violated the Connecticut Unfair Trade Practices Act, according to his firm bio.

"Our firm is known for having particularly skilled litigators, and Brian's experience is commensurate not only with the needs and expectations of the firm's clients but also with the firm's strategic growth plan," Brian Whiteley, Barclay Damon's commercial litigation practice group leader, said in the firm's Thursday announcement of the hire.

Barclay Damon has been on a hiring tear of late. The firm recently added partner Joe Porcello and of counsel Bill Holzhauer to its Syracuse, New York, office; partner Andy Oppenheimer to its Buffalo, New York, office; and partner Michael Lane to its New York City office, all since the beginning of the year.

"This is part of our continued, strategic effort to expand the services we offer clients both across our platform and on a national scale. We're thrilled to add Brian to the firm," Acee said in the firm's announcement.

That growth will allow Rich to serve his clients in "a bigger and deeper way" in more jurisdictions throughout the Northeast, which he wasn't able to fully do before his move, he told Law360.

"I love what I do. I want to continue to do everything I've done, but I really want to build and expand upon that substantively and geographically."

--Additional reporting by Sameer Rao, Adrian Cruz, Christine DeRosa and David Hansen. Editing by Patrick Reagan.