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## Verrill Appoints New Westport, Conn. Office Partner In Charge

By **Clarice Silber**

Law360 (April 14, 2022, 4:12 PM EDT) -- Verrill Dana LLP, a full-service law firm with offices across the Northeast, has tapped taxation and business law attorney Cheryl Johnson to become its new partner in charge of its Westport, Connecticut, office.

Verrill Dana said that Johnson will take on the role after firm partner Barbara Young, who led the Westport office for seven years. Johnson also serves as a member of the firm's compensation and governance committees.

Johnson told Law360 Pulse on Thursday that Verrill Dana partners in charge work with the attorneys in their branch to "make sure that the policies, procedures, strategic plan, the hiring needs are addressed in a coordinated way at the local office."



Cheryl Johnson

"Part of the firm's overall interest now and part of our strategic plan is to attract really excited, qualified, dynamic attorneys, and that's part of what my job as partner in charge will be doing is to be on the lookout for people who are interested in working at Verrill," she added.

Johnson has worked for Verrill Dana over the last seven years, focusing her practice on taxation, entity structuring and operations, business planning, and specialized securities law matters. She also has a broad practice advising investment funds and their advisors, along with opportunity zone funds.

According to her firm profile, Johnson also advises outside clients, outside counsel and key client business advisers on "when to go forward with business dealings and when to walk away."

Johnson previously served as a principal for Connecticut firm Levett Rockwood PC for more than 20 years, and as an associate for Shereff Friedman Hoffman & Goodman LLP over more than years. Johnson, who graduated from the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School, began her professional career as an associate for Debevoise & Plimpton LLP.

In 2015, the firm expanded into the tri-state area when it combined with Levett Rockwood.

Johnson said she believes the ability to work remotely has increased the interest level, depth and attractiveness of various practices among firms throughout the industry.

"And it's something that all firms are looking at very carefully and dealing with on how the industry and how the attorneys are factoring in that remote capability or virtual capability into their practices, and where they are practicing from, and who they are practicing with," she said.

"What I think everybody realized is anybody can work remotely — our legal assistants could work remotely, litigators could work remotely, albeit that was very different, but I think what surprised all of us, is how efficiently work can get done. And obviously that's a testament to technology," Johnson added.

--Editing by Adam LoBelia.

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