

Manatt Adds Health Care Partner From McDermott in Chicago

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BY ANDREW MALONEY

What You Need to Know

- Manatt, Phelps & Phillips has added a health care and civil litigation partner in Chicago from McDermott Will & Emery.
- Megan Thibert-Ind joined Manatt this week as the firm looks to build on other recent additions in the Windy City.
- Healthcare has remained busy during the pandemic, and the firm pointed to a roster of clients in Chicago and a well of talent as reasons for expansion there.

Manatt, Phelps & Phillips has again boosted its bench in Chicago, announcing this week the hire of health care and civil litigation partner Megan Thibert-Ind from McDermott Will & Emery.



Donna L. Wilson, left, CEO and managing partner and Megan Thibert-Ind, right, partner of Manatt, Phelps & Phillips.

Thibert-Ind is the third partner to join the firm's Windy City office since August, coming on the heels of antitrust and litigation partner Stephen D. Libowsky last week and financial services partner and former CFPB regu-

lator Bryan A. Schneider in August.

When it comes to the business of Big Law, Chicago contains multitudes. Several firms flocked here last year in spite of the pandemic, and in spite of its reputation as a

somewhat insular and difficult market to crack. Some metrics suggest the talent war may not be as intense here as in other markets, but that doesn't mean it lacks talent.

The industry-focused Manatt wants to continue adding depth in Chicago in particular, pointing to a roster of clients who make their home in the city as well as an enticing pool of talent.

"One is obviously the client base, and we have clients in our core industry sectors in Chicago and the Midwest," Manatt CEO and managing partner Donna Wilson said in an interview this week, noting the firm's focus on digital technology, entertainment and media, and real estate, energy and environment.

"And two, there's terrific talent there. Talent—that's what law firms and consulting firms run on. That's our product, our IP."

Wilson also noted that, as the COVID-19 pandemic creeps toward the two-year mark, the health care sector in particular is "incredibly busy," and the firm's use of consultants along with lawyers helps it focus not only on the business of health care, but amplifying health equity and supporting providers through the "strains and stresses" of the last 18-plus months.

Thibert-Ind has represented multiple kinds of health care stakeholders, the firm noted, including hospital systems, academic medical centers, urgent care facilities, pharmacies and life sciences companies. She's counseled companies on investments and acquisitions in health care, advocated for hospitals and other providers in litigation and shareholder disputes, and advised life sciences companies on liability issues, among other things.

A spokesperson for McDermott said in a statement Wednesday that the firm thanks Thibert-Ind for her contributions, and looks "forward to continued friendship and collaboration."

In a statement, Thibert-Ind said she was excited to tap into the firm's national "trial-ready" litigation platform and approach to client work "from a legal, consulting and policy" perspective.

"I look forward to continuing to grow my practice by collaborating with my new colleagues who hail from all corners of the health care and life sciences sectors," she said.

The firm noted that in addition to lawyers, it has added business consulting professionals across offices as well, pointing to recent arrivals from the New York health department and the former CEO of Harlem Hospital, among others.