

## White & Case Adds 3-Partner Team from Weil to Build Litigation 'Powerhouse'

By Patrick Smith

March 03, 2025

**W**hite & Case has a new global litigation co-chair, courtesy of Weil, Gotshal & Manges. Jonathan Polkes, management committee member and co-chair of Weil's global litigation practice, has joined White & Case, along with partners Stacy Nettleton and Adam Banks. The trio will be based in New York.

Law.com first reported the moves last month, along with other departures from Weil.

Polkes had been at Weil for 20 years. In an interview, he was complimentary of his former firm and said it was a "tough" decision to leave. But he said the corporate client base of White & Case and its larger geographic footprint were more appropriate for him and his team at this point.

"It's a dream for a litigator in terms of the platform," Polkes said in an interview. "An international, high-revenue, high-quality firm with deep corporate relationships. If I were



(l-r) Jonathan Polkes, Stacy Nettleton, and Adam Banks, with White & Case.

Courtesy photo

to develop a platform for my team, it would be this."

White & Case chair Heather McDevitt said the firm was excited to onboard the trio, as the firm's growth course includes bulking in the U.S., especially in litigation.

"Our strategic ambitions for U.S. growth are grounded in adding exceptional talent that will flourish on our platform and this group is a natural fit, given they have worked

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on many of the most high-stakes matters in recent years,” McDevitt said in a statement. “Their addition adds strength on strength to our disputes capabilities and further positions White & Case as a powerhouse, with elite litigators representing top market participants on their most challenging matters.”

A former federal prosecutor in the Eastern District of New York, Polkes is a known commodity in the market. He was a litigator of the year in 2021.

Nettleton, a securities, derivative and M&A litigator, works on complex, “bet the company” disputes in federal, state and appellate court, the firm said.

Banks is a civil litigator and appellate specialist, the firm said. He clerked for Judge

Marsha Berzon of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

“Jonathan and his team are elite litigators, revered in the market for their strong track record at trial and many successful outcomes for their clients,” Glenn Kurtz, co-head of White & Case’s global litigation practice, said in a statement.

Polkes said he and his team are hitting the ground running, thanks in part to a marketing plan designed for each attorney upon their arrival

“It is a sacred trust when lateral partners join our firm,” McDevitt said. “They are coming here because they seek opportunity, and we think it is an important obligation to make sure we have invested in them.”