

Bond Case Briefs

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Eckert Seamans Hires Municipal Bond Pros From Dissolving Rhoads & Sinon.

Rhoads & Sinon's public finance group has found a new home one floor down.

The public finance group at rapidly-disintegrating Rhoads & Sinon has found a landing place in the Harrisburg office of Eckert Seamans Cherin & Mellott.

The four partners, an associate and two administrative assistants are set to join Pittsburgh-based Eckert Seamans on Jan. 8, the firm announced Wednesday.

Rhoads & Sinon's office was one floor above Eckert Seamans' office in the M&T Bank Building in Harrisburg, and the two firms' municipal finance practices have worked together often over the years, said Harold Balk, Eckert Seamans' chief development officer. With Rhoads & Sinon in the process of dissolving, Eckert Seamans saw an opportunity for them to combine.

"We've been interested in that group for quite some time," Balk said. "They bring different relationships to the firm, and they bring a local presence that adds to what we already have in Harrisburg."

The partners are Jens Damgaard, Jonathan Cox, Benjamin Ried and David Twaddell. Damgaard and Ried work with school districts and municipalities on tax-free bonds and other financing arrangements. Cox and Twaddell both serve as bond counsel and bank counsel for clients including school districts, hospitals and nonprofit entities.

The group ranks among the top municipal finance practices in Harrisburg, Balk said, and the new lawyers are expected to bring all of their clients with them.

"There were very few deals that Rhoads & Sinon wasn't involved in," he said.

Balk said the new lawyers will also be complementary to the employment practice in the Harrisburg office, which has more than 30 lawyers, as well as the office's work with public sector clients. As a whole, Eckert Seamans has more than 355 lawyers in 15 offices.

Others from Rhoads & Sinon have landed at Barley Snyder, where a group of 10 lawyers is starting a Harrisburg office for that firm in Rhoads & Sinon's former office space, and Stevens & Lee, which hired the firm's three-lawyer banking practice.

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