Antitrust Experts Join Bona Law As Dallas, NY Partners

By **Christopher Cole**

Law360 (April 6, 2021, 5:33 PM EDT) -- Bona Law PC has added two antitrust
veterans to its Dallas and New York offices, who together bring more than a half-
century of experience, the firm said Tuesday.

Pat Pascarella, a former lawyer in the U.S. Department of Justice's Antitrust Division
who also served as AT&T's chief in-house antitrust counsel for 12 years, will head
the antitrust boutique's new office in Dallas — the San Diego-based firm's fifth U.S.
location. He was previously a partner with Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP.

Jim Lerner, a global antitrust attorney who has represented clients before
competition enforcers in numerous high-profile U.S. and international criminal and
civil cartel probes, will leave Winston & Strawn to join Bona Law's New York office.

"Jim Lerner and Pat Pascarella are antitrust heavy hitters with experience that
speaks volumes of their depth of knowledge and skill," Bona Law CEO Jarod Bona
said in a statement. "They will each be unique assets to our clients, and we are
thrilled that they have decided to join our team."

Pascarella told Law360 in an email Tuesday that he believes the antitrust boutique
is forward-looking.

Pat Pascarella

Jim Lerner

"Having been a customer for legal services for over a decade, I see boutiques,
particularly in areas like antitrust, as a wave of the future," Pascarella said. "At Bona
Law I am just a short stroll down a virtual hallway to a dozen experienced antitrust attorneys with
credentials including ex-DG Comp, PHD in economics, ABA leadership, and now with Jim joining, big law
cartel experience."

Pascarella has represented clients facing investigations, enforcement and litigation in the U.S., Mexico,
Columbia and Europe.

The new Dallas partner said he plans to get to know all of Bona's attorneys in order to match their
specific skills with client needs.

"First, with now three ex-in-house Fortune 100 antitrust attorneys, I want us to take a hard look at how

best to deliver exactly what clients will need and expect from a firm in 2021 and beyond," Pascarella said.

Pascarella has represented clients in landmark cases, including Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly, Pacific Bell v. linkLine and United States v. Microsoft. He has defended some of the largest mergers ever consummated in the U.S., the firm noted.

He has represented a diverse group of clients in industries such as telecom, cybersecurity, manufacturing, media and content, pharmaceuticals, e-commerce, online platforms, sports, weapon systems and ice cream.

Lerner has represented clients in probes that involved auto parts, carbon fiber, cathode ray tubes, computer components, food flavor enhancers, impact modifiers and processing aids, lysine and vitamins. He has also defended numerous clients in major multidistrict antitrust class actions.

"At a time when many industries — the legal profession included — are examining how and whether the traditional way of doing business is going to work going forward, I was looking to make a move to a firm that was already focused on the future," Lerner told Law360 in an email Tuesday.

"I'm pleased to be joining a firm that has such a focus — not only on continuously improving its expertise in the practice of antitrust law, but on always finding the best and most efficient ways to meet client needs," he said.

The firm noted that Lerner has substantial experience defending mergers and acquisitions before the Federal Trade Commission and the DOJ for clients across diverse industries including broadcasting, building and construction services, consumer and industrial electronics, cosmetics, financial services, oilfield services, online services, steel and telecom.

He has also worked with clients on virtually all aspects of antitrust and competition risk management, Bona said.

--Editing by Regan Estes.