

Boutique Bartko Pavia Brings On Former Prosecutor In SF

By James Mills

Law360 (August 1, 2025, 4:35 PM EDT) -- Bartko Pavia LLP continues growing, bringing in a former attorney with the antitrust unit of the Colorado Attorney General's Office as a partner in the boutique's San Francisco office.

Ian Papendick joins Bartko Pavia's litigation group and antitrust practice team, the firm announced Thursday. He spent the past two years with the Colorado AG's office, where his efforts included working to prevent the merger of grocery chains Kroger and Albertsons.

In a Friday morning interview with Law360, Papendick described working for the Colorado attorney general as the "privilege of my career," but said that when his work on the Kroger-Albertsons merger ended, it was time for him to return to private practice.

"The opportunity at Bartko came up," Papendick said. "I've known the firm by reputation. I think it's the right fit and it seems the stars are aligning."

He said he admires the "sophistication" of the work Bartko Pavia does.

"I like the fact that the firm takes cases to trial and the high quality of the lawyers and the matters they work on," Papendick said. "Having been at BigLaw, in-house and in government, I'm really looking forward to a smaller firm, more nimble and more entrepreneurial, where I really feel like I can have an impact."

He said he expects to be working on many cases, on both the plaintiff side and the defense side.

"I am a complete antitrust lawyer. Every aspect of antitrust work — from counseling to defense-side work, internal investigations, government investigations, mergers, trials, cartel work," Papendick said. "What I bring to the table is my antitrust background and my experience on both the plaintiff and defense and enforcement sides. Also, my experience as a Colorado attorney general enforcer. There has been an incredible uptick of state AG interests and investigations and clients' needs for people who can engage credibly with state enforcers."

Patrick M. Ryan, Bartko Pavia's co-managing partner and chair of the litigation practice, welcomed Papendick's arrival in a statement.



Ian Papendick

"The Bartko team is experiencing tremendous growth in demand for antitrust litigation, both on the defense and plaintiff sides," Ryan said. "Ian is a standout addition to our litigation team. His experience is a major differentiator and will strengthen our ability to deliver sophisticated legal solutions while complementing our culture of collegiality."

As the child of parents who worked in the foreign service, Papendick grew up all over the world, he said, including Hong Kong, Manila, London and Washington, D.C.

He earned his bachelor's degree at Cornell University and his law degree at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, which is now known as UC Law.

Papendick worked five years as an associate with Dewey & LeBoeuf LLP, which shuttered in 2012. He then moved to Winston & Strawn LLP, becoming a partner in 2016.

In 2021, he went in-house, serving as senior counsel of litigation and competition at Instacart. Then in 2023, he joined the Colorado Attorney General's Office.

Papendick got his first taste of antitrust in his first year at Dewey & LeBoeuf and quickly knew he had found his niche.

"Antitrust cases can really impact people's lives. They're really interesting. There's an intellectual component to it that appeals to me," Papendick said. "What I really love about antitrust is learning the industry, working with experts, figuring out the facts, figuring out the market impacts and putting together a case. Every case is the opportunity to learn about a new industry or a new business."

Bartko Pavia was formed in March with the merger of San Francisco-based Bartko LLP and New York-based Pavia & Harcourt LLP. The firm now has about 40 attorneys in three offices.

--Editing by Marygrace Anderson.