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## Mover of the Week

### Covin Brings Diverse Experience To Wick Phillips Bankruptcy Team

By Jacqueline Palank



It shouldn't come as a surprise that one of Jonathan Covin's favorite parts of being a bankruptcy attorney is the chance to dive into a different industry with each new case.

That's because Covin, who recently joined Wick Phillips Gould & Martin LLP's bankruptcy practice in Dallas as a partner, first tried his hand in a few other fields.

Covin's first job out of college was on Wall Street, marketing equity derivative products to Goldman Sachs' corporate clients. After a few years, he headed west to Stanford University's law school. While he wasn't yet sure he wanted to be a lawyer, he

knew he wanted a legal education.

Upon earning his degree in 1999, Covin seized an opportunity to ride the Internet wave, joining friends from his undergraduate days at a startup technology company.

Covin served as interim chief financial officer of that company, Endeca Technologies Inc., which continues to provide software that allows online visitors to more effectively search Web sites.

"It was a good experience and something that the time was right to try," he said.

But by 2001, Covin was ready to merge his previous work experience with his legal education.

"I came into the legal profession with a reasonable amount of business experience and I thought bankruptcy was a field where you could combine an interest in finance [and] an interest in other industries with a legal practice," he said.

Covin began his career as a restructuring attorney and corporate litigator at Carrington, Coleman, Sloman & Blumenthal in Dallas and was most recently at Shore Freeman Mills PC in Tyler, Texas.

At Wick Phillips, he'll continue working on Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases as well as general commercial litigation. He also expects to work on bankruptcy litigation, including lawsuits filed to undo certain transactions a company participated in before its bankruptcy filing.

It was one such lawsuit that Covin counts among his top assignments. Then at Carrington, Covin represented the official committee of unsecured creditors of VarTec Telecom Inc., which filed for bankruptcy in 2004 and was later sold.

The suit aimed to erase certain guarantees and asset pledges that the long-distance phone company's subsidiaries had issued in favor of its lender and to recover more than \$100 million in payments the lender received before the bankruptcy.

"That case presented a lot of analytically intellectually challenging issues," he said. "We were representing the plaintiff, trying to attack those and free up some value to be distributed to unsecured creditors."

Covin enjoyed making arguments to further his client's cause, and both sides ultimately settled. While Covin can't reveal the details of the confidential deal, he chalked it up as a job well done.

"We were pleased with the outcome and, I think, so was the client," he said.