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Wick Phillips Adds H&B Energy, Contracts Atty

By **Mike Cherney**

Law360, New York (February 17, 2011) -- Wick Phillips Gould & Martin LLP is bolstering its new Fort Worth, Texas, office with partner David Drez, a commercial litigator who joins the firm from Haynes and Boone LLP and has experience in contract, energy and financial disputes.

The firm announced Drez's arrival on Wednesday. It is his second job since the end of his federal clerkship in 1999, and deciding to leave Haynes and Boone was a tough decision, Drez told Law360 Thursday.

Still, he said he was attracted to Wick Phillips by the caliber of its trial attorneys and the opportunity to build something new in Fort Worth, where Drez was based with his previous firm. Wick Phillips has had a satellite office in the city for a few years but expanded it to a full-service office in June 2010.

"I'm the biggest fan there is of Fort Worth, and the opportunity to build something for this town was a very unique opportunity for me," Drez said. "It's a great place to practice law and a great place to do business, and we're blessed with a lot of good, local clients."

Drez represents clients in a variety of industries, including oil and gas, electric utility, real estate, banking and finance, and construction. He has litigated cases involving bankruptcy, contract disputes and damage claims, according to the firm.

"We are delighted that David has decided to join the firm, and he will be a key senior member of our litigation practice," K. Todd Phillips, a founding partner of the firm, said in a statement.

"He is a respected and highly regarded trial lawyer that is a strong addition to the Wick Phillips team. Our Fort Worth practice is growing rapidly, and adding David to the team further demonstrates our commitment to serving the Tarrant County business community."

Recently, Drez secured a \$12.5 million jury verdict on behalf of client Kevin M. Ehringer Enterprises Inc. against McData Services Corp. Ehringer purchased two lines of fiber-optic technology from McData and accused the defendant of fraud and breach of contract by not assisting in subsequent sales and marketing. The case is currently on appeal.

Drez said he is the third lawyer in the Fort Worth office, plus a paralegal. He said the firm, which has its main and only other office in Dallas, hopes to expand the Fort Worth location as needed.

“We just want to continue the firm's legacy of good service and try to show the Fort Worth business community what our partners in Dallas have shown that community,” Drez said.

Drez received his law degree from Southern Methodist University and his bachelor's degree from Tulane University. He is admitted in the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, all U.S. district courts in Texas and the Western District of Louisiana, according to the firm.

--Editing by Andrew Park.

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