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Shumaker's Tampa Office Grows With 3 New Attys

By **Madison Arnold**

Law360 (October 11, 2022, 4:22 PM EDT) -- Shumaker Loop & Kendrick LLP added three new attorneys to its Tampa office, just weeks after the firm announced it would double down on its presence in the city by extending its lease by 12 years.

The firm announced the addition of senior attorney Vonya Z. Lance to its health strategies services line from Barnett Kirkwood Koche Long & Foster on Thursday. She is joined in the office by new associates Jillian Askren in the litigation and disputes service line and Michelina D. Carbone in the real estate and development service line.

"The complexity and diversity of the available work [at Shumaker] will ensure my career growth and the growth of my knowledge in my profession. Not to mention, it's never boring around here," Lance said in an interview with Law360 Pulse on Tuesday. "I also liked that the firm is very involved in every city in which it has an office, but particularly obviously [in] Tampa, which will allow me to grow as a member of the community in addition to advancing my career."

Lance's work is focused on tax and estate planning and estate and trust administration, charitable planning, nonprofit organizations, and estate and trust litigation, Shumaker said. In her previous role, she helped charitable organizations with transactions, compliance, self-dealing compliance, taxation, organizational documentation and other matters.

Lance went to law school with a plan to become a litigator. However, she decided that as a single mom with a toddler in tow, she wasn't able to make the commitment to litigation because of the extracurriculars and studying that is required while in law school.

Instead, she took a tax class as an elective and solidified her path as an attorney. In recent years, Lance has taken a particular interest in self-dealing compliance for private foundations and charitable trusts.

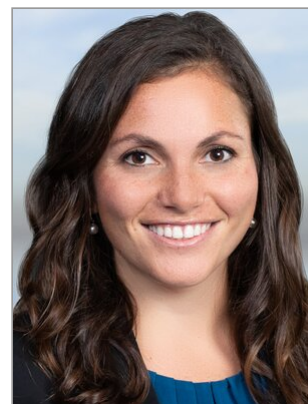
"I was never focused on the charitable side of tax planning until the last few years, and it is very rewarding," Lance said. "I've represented public charities as well, which don't have to deal with the self-dealing rules under the Internal Revenue Code, but they face their own challenges and things pop up all the time where they just need immediate random advice."

Lance graduated from the Florida State University College of Law and earned a master of laws in taxation from the University of Florida Levin College of Law. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science.

Askren joined Shumaker from Greenberg Traurig LLP, according to her LinkedIn profile. She represents clients in individual, class action and government enforcement matters as well as commercial business disputes.



Jillian Askren



Michelina D. Carbone



Vonya Z. Lance

She has knowledge of all forms of dispute resolution, including negotiation, mediation and arbitration. She has handled everything from conducting discovery, researching and drafting motions, preparing witness depositions and expert witnesses and other aspects of getting complex cases ready for trial.

Askren is a graduate of William & Mary Law School and earned a bachelor's degree in political science and economics from the University of Central Florida.

"We are pleased to welcome Jill to Shumaker. Her depth of knowledge and experience will serve to be a tremendous asset to the firm and our clients," said Michele Leo Hintson, partner and litigation and disputes regional service line leader, in a statement.

Carbone joined Shumaker from Blalock Walters PA, according to her LinkedIn profile. She helps clients with commercial and residential real estate transactions and commercial leases, use agreements and financing matters.

Her experience includes preparing contracts and resolving title and closing matters.

Among Carbone's clients are developers, home builders, lenders, borrowers and investors involved in residential developments, apartment complexes, retail facilities, industrial projects and mixed-use projects. She helps them through the acquisition, disposition, development, leasing and financing processes.

She is a graduate of the Stetson University College of Law and holds a master's in business administration from the same university. Her bachelor's degree of business administration in marketing comes from Baylor University, according to her LinkedIn.

"Michelina's arrival will strengthen our already robust real estate practice," said Sam Queirolo, partner and real estate and development regional service line leader, in a statement. "We are proud to have her join our team."

Shumaker announced in August that it would remain in its longtime home in Tampa's Bank of America Building, making the 60,730-square-foot office its home until 2037. The firm said it chose to stay because it believes it can grow in the community while remaining in the space.

"You want a firm that you can grow with that is growing and that will help you grow," Lance said. "They're constantly hiring new and innovative people. All of the different areas that we cover are impressive. There's just nothing bad about Shumaker right now. They have definitely stepped up to the plate. They have become a force in Tampa."

--Additional reporting by Adrian Cruz. Editing by Marygrace Anderson.