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## Shumaker Adds Litigator As Senior Atty In Sarasota, Fla.

By **Jack Rodgers**

Law360 (May 11, 2023, 11:37 AM EDT) -- Shumaker Loop & Kendrick LLP has hired a litigator in its Sarasota, Florida, office who will work for the firm as a senior attorney, according to a Wednesday news release.

Timothy J. Rudge joins Shumaker's litigation and disputes service line, and will focus on contract, partnership and business disputes. He'll also litigate real property disputes, construction defect claims and other litigation issues, the firm said.

Rudge earned his law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School and formerly practiced in Youngstown, Ohio, before moving to Florida, according to his firm profile.

In an interview with Law360 Pulse on Thursday, Rudge said he practiced in Ohio with Gervelis Law Firm for about nine years, working on personal injury disputes. Following that time, he moved to Florida in 2012 and focused on commercial litigation.

"Basically the whole time I was in Ohio, I did the personal injury practice, heavily litigation, tried cases, [and did] a tremendous amount of court time," he said.

In Sarasota, Rudge worked for France Litigation Group for a few years, and most recently worked on commercial issues with Berlin Patten Ebling PLLC, where he worked in the litigation department, he said.

"I do any general civil litigation, primarily business-type litigation, bridges in contracts, partnership disputes, real property disputes, some construction cases," he said.

Rudge said that in part, the move to Florida gave him a start in business and commercial litigation, saying his new surroundings also gave him the opportunity to reinvent himself and his practice.

"I thought, 'I'd rather work on the business litigation stuff than personal injury,' so I gave it a shot and took in some cases and found I actually liked it better," he said.

For Rudge, he said he most values being able to help his clients out of bad situations. His clients generally call "when they've had a bad day," Rudge said, and the ability to help them legally maneuver through those difficult times is what he values the most about his practice, he said.

"It's guiding them through a difficult time in their life with a strategy that makes some sense so that they can emerge on the other side of it, in OK shape to continue on," he said. "It's the satisfaction of working hand in hand with the clients to see what their goals are."

Rudge added that his work with personal injury clients was equally important, but those cases generally carried the same thread — an individual is hurt at work through no fault of their own and needed his help to continue. But commercial and business law gave him the ability to examine new issues with most disputes, he said.



Timothy J. Rudge

"It's rewarding because it feels really good to help, and you get them the damages that they deserve, but the nice thing about business law that makes it a little different is that it's unique and different every time," Rudge said.

Meghan Serrano, Shumaker's litigation and disputes regional service line leader, said in a statement that the firm is looking forward to Rudge's contributions to the practice.

"Timothy's addition brings new depth and strength to our litigation team, and he will be a valued resource to clients in a diverse range of industries," Serrano said.

--Editing by Daniel King.

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