

Parsons Behle Adds Directors To Better Reflect Firm's Reach

By **Adrian Cruz**

Law360 (January 25, 2024, 4:53 PM EST) -- Citing its recent growth wave of the last few years, Parsons Behle & Latimer PC announced that its shareholders have approved the addition of two new members to the firm's board of directors, which now consists of seven attorneys.

Idaho Falls, Idaho-based Jon A. Stenquist and Missoula, Montana-based Liz M. Mellem were elected to Parsons Behle's board of directors, according to the firm's Tuesday announcement. Additionally, incumbent board members Shawn C. Ferrin, Richard J. Angell, Brook B. Bond, Bruce H. White and Juliette P. White were reelected by the firm's shareholders.

Ferrin, who serves as Parsons Behle's chief executive officer, told Law360 Pulse on Thursday that one of the main decisions to expand the board is to better reflect the diversity of locations that the firm now operates in. Having expanded to states such as Wyoming, Idaho and Montana over the last few years, he said the shareholders wanted more representation outside the firm's Salt Lake City base and easier access to leadership.

"As we have expanded throughout the Intermountain West over the last few years, the board thought it was appropriate to expand," Ferrin said. "We wanted to allow a broader group of leaders to provide input and perspective on the strategic and managerial decisions of the firm. As we've grown, we now have people in other states, and it's important that we get their perspective on things from the leadership side."

Succession planning is another aspect that Ferrin said was a strong motivator in the board's expansion.

"It's critical to bring people up in leadership roles to give them an understanding of how the firm and its operation works and that we're providing opportunities for succession planning at the leadership level," he said. "By adding two more people, we think we have better succession planning for our leadership."

Mellem, who previously served as managing shareholder of the Helena and Missoula, Montana, offices, has been with Parsons Behle for the entirety of her legal career, joining in 2010 after graduating from the University of Utah's S.J. Quinney College of Law. Her practice focuses on employment law and litigation, and Ferrin said she brings a human resources and employment-focused approach to leadership that the board of directors didn't have before.

"I have seen Parsons achieve many milestones in recent years," Mellem said in a statement Tuesday. "I am incredibly proud of the firm's advancement, and I am proud to now be a member of its board of directors. I look forward to working to help lead our firm to even greater accomplishments over the next few years."

Stenquist has been with Parsons Behle since 2017 and according to the firm, the graduate of Brigham Young University Law School focuses his work on commercial matters and real estate, including contracts, complex real estate transactions and dispute resolution.



Liz M. Mellem



Jon A. Stenquist

"Jon is a leader in the Idaho Falls community and very well-respected up there," Ferrin said. "We're very lucky that he decided to take the opportunity to serve on the board of directors."

Going forward, Ferrin said he expects Parsons Behle to continue on the same growth path it's been on over the last few years, focusing on the Intermountain West and finding both new locations and attorneys on a nationwide scale who have an interest in both living and working in the markets that the firm serves.

According to the firm's website, it currently has over 190 attorneys in 10 offices in the states of Utah, Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Wyoming.

--Editing by Janice Carter Brown.