Bartlit Beck Announces Election of Five New Partners

January 9, 2020, Chicago, IL: Bartlit Beck LLP today announced the election of five new partners effective January 1, 2020. Joining the partnership are Alex Groden, Nico Martinez, Taylor Meehan, Wesley Morrissette, and Nacho Sofo.

The new partners collectively have more than 163 days of trial experience, including witness preparation, direct and cross examination, and arguing important motions in court.

"Our new partners are exceptional lawyers and people, and we proudly welcome them to our partnership," said Jason Peltz, Managing Partner. "Their trial experience, talent, and commitment have greatly benefitted our clients and the firm."

The following lawyers were elected partner:



<u>Alex Groden</u> joined Bartlit Beck in 2015. Before joining the firm, Mr. Groden served as a clerk for the Honorable Merrick B. Garland, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Alex graduated magna cum laude from Harvard Law School, where he was a recipient of the Sears Prize and served on the Board of Student Advisers.

Mr. Groden has represented clients in several high-stakes trials. Mr. Groden currently represents United Technologies in a series of environmental tort actions alleging more than \$1 billion in property damage and personal injury claims. A weeklong evidentiary hearing in that case resulted in the denial of class

certification and exclusion of the Plaintiffs' damages expert. Mr. Groden also served as trial counsel for UroPep in a patent infringement case against Eli Lilly in which Bartlit Beck secured a \$20 million jury verdict for UroPep. Mr. Groden also serves on the board of the Children's Research Fund, which supports pediatric medical research and treatment at Lurie Children's Hospital.



<u>Nico Martinez</u> joined Bartlit Beck in 2016. Previously, Mr. Martinez clerked for the Honorable John T. Noonan Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, the Honorable Lucy H. Koh of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, and the Honorable Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar of the Supreme Court of California. Mr. Martinez graduated from Stanford Law School, where he was a senior editor of the Stanford Law Review.

Mr. Martinez has significant trial and appellate experience. In 2019 alone, he went to trial four times, cross-examining at least one witness at each trial. Mr. Martinez contributed to Bartlit Beck's major trial successes for

PricewaterhouseCoopers and UnitedHealthcare, as well as securing a complete defense verdict in an \$800 million breach of contract case brought against shareholders of a privately held oil and gas company. Mr. Martinez also maintains an active pro bono practice.

BartlitBeck LLP



<u>Taylor Meehan</u> joined Bartlit Beck in 2016. Before joining the firm, Ms. Meehan clerked for Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas of the U.S. Supreme Court and Judge William H. Pryor Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit. Ms. Meehan graduated with High Honors from the University of Chicago Law School, where she was Order of the Coif, a Kirkland & Ellis Scholar, Managing Editor of The University of Chicago Law Review, winner of the Hinton Moot Court Competition's Llewellyn Cup, selected for the Lynde and Harry Bradley Student Fellowship and the John M. Olin Program in Law and Economics, and a Tony Patiño Fellow.

Ms. Meehan has represented clients in the aerospace and other industries in all phases of litigation involving breach of contract, Lanham Act, and patent disputes. Her practice also includes pro bono and other matters involving constitutional issues. Ms. Meehan has briefed cases pending before the federal courts of appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court. In 2016, the en banc Eleventh Circuit appointed Ms. Meehan to brief and argue a federal habeas case as a court-appointed amicus curiae, and the en banc court ultimately adopted the position advanced by Ms. Meehan's brief and argument. In 2019, Ms. Meehan successfully petitioned the Seventh Circuit to halt the deposition of a high-ranking public official. Also in 2019, Ms. Meehan contributed to various certiorari-stage briefs and amicus curiae briefs filed in the U.S. Supreme Court, including the firm's successful Brief in Opposition in Eli Lilly v. Erfindergemeinschaft UroPep GbR, recently denied by the Supreme Court.



<u>Wesley Morrissette</u> joined Bartlit Beck in 2015. Before joining the firm, Mr. Morrissette served as a clerk for the Honorable Solomon Oliver Jr. of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio. Mr. Morrissette graduated cum laude from Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law, where he served as Editor in Chief of the Northwestern Journal of Law and Social Policy.

Mr. Morrissette has represented clients at trial and in all phases of litigation in various types of actions including breach of contract, fraud, trademark infringement, and employment discrimination. Mr. Morrissette served as trial counsel for a Fortune 100 company, securing a complete victory in a confidential,

multi-billion-dollar dispute. Mr. Morrissette also served as counsel for BankDirect Capital Finance, LLC in a breach of contract action in which he successfully argued a Seventh Circuit appeal that lifted a preliminary injunction and directly led to a favorable settlement.

BartlitBeck_{LLP}



<u>Nacho Sofo</u> joined Bartlit Beck in 2016. Before joining the firm, Mr. Sofo served as a clerk for the Honorable Michelle T. Friedland of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and for the Honorable John Z. Lee of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Mr. Sofo graduated with Honors from the University of Chicago Law School, where he was a Rubenstein Scholar and an editor of The University of Chicago Law Review.

Mr. Sofo represents clients in all phases of litigation in product liability suits alleging personal injuries, including serving as national counsel for Trinity Industries and Trinity Highway Products in litigation relating to Trinity's ET

Plus guardrail end terminal system. Mr. Sofo also represented former Illinois governor Bruce Rauner in an arbitration relating to his investment in a private equity fund. The case was tried to a final arbitral award, but the results are confidential.

About Bartlit Beck

Bartlit Beck has achieved an outstanding record of courtroom victories in complex litigation over the past 26 years. The firm is renowned for its trial expertise and focuses on trying and winning high-stakes cases all over the country, in federal and state courts and in arbitration. The firm's experience includes antitrust, class actions, commercial disputes, intellectual property, and product liability cases across many industries. Based in Chicago and Denver, Bartlit Beck has 86 lawyers, with 74 partners, and 12 associates.