

## Tyson & Mendes Opens Fresno Office With 4 Partners

By **Emma Cueto**

Law360 (September 15, 2022, 4:24 PM EDT) -- Insurance defense firm Tyson & Mendes LLP has opened a Fresno, California, office with a group of former Ericksen Arbuthnot attorneys and staff, including four partners, growing its geographic footprint to 17 offices.

In an announcement Monday, Tyson & Mendes touted the new additions, which comprise all the attorneys in Ericksen Arbuthnot's Fresno office, as furthering its ability to serve clients in California.

The new partners are David Frankenberger, who will head the office, Michael Lehman, Brett Runyon and Carol Ann Seita. The firm also added senior counsel Sara Woods, associate Daniel R. Cisneros and several staff members.

"The opening of this office in Fresno marks an important milestone in Tyson & Mendes' growth and underscores our commitment to serving clients across California," strategic managing partner Robert Tyson said in a statement. "Dave and his team bring an impressive track record of exceptional results to the firm, having tried to verdict more than 75 cases collectively, and will bring our unique brand of insurance defense to our clients in Central California."

Frankenberger joins the firm after 20 years at Ericksen Arbuthnot. He told Law360 that he was attracted to Tyson & Mendes after meeting Tyson, who he said has a similar approach to marketing and handling cases.

"Bob and I have an approach where you'll see a client any time, anywhere," he said. "If that involves flying around the country to see a client, take a lunch, take a dinner, take an opportunity to speak somewhere or attend a conference, I hardly ever say no. ... Bob is along the same lines. He's very into personal marketing."

In addition, Frankenberger said, he appreciated Tyson's approach to handling cases, noting that Tyson literally wrote the book on nuclear verdicts, where juries deliver punishingly high damages awards. The issue is something that Frankenberger's clients are increasingly concerned about.

The plan is for the office to grow carefully, Frankenberger said, but the group is first focused on ensuring a smooth transition for clients before it turns to recruiting. He does, however, think the firm has a great deal to offer Fresno attorneys, including its willingness to hire remote or hybrid attorneys.

--Editing by Orlando Lorenzo.



David Frankenberger



Michael Lehman



Brett Runyon



Carol Ann Seita