

# Tyson & Mendes Adds Mercury Insurance Trial Atty In LA

By James Mills

Law360 (February 9, 2024, 2:41 PM EST) -- Insurance and civil litigation defense firm Tyson & Mendes LLP has expanded its California team, bringing in a former Mercury Insurance in-house counsel and trial attorney as a partner in its Los Angeles office.

Jack Liebhaber is a veteran trial attorney who spent the past decade at Mercury Insurance, and many years before that in private practice handling catastrophic personal injury, wrongful death and fraud defense. He is also experienced with automobile, motorcycle and pedestrian accident cases.

Tyson & Mendes announced the hiring of Liebhaber on Wednesday.

In a Thursday afternoon interview, Liebhaber told Law360 that while at Mercury, he had worked two years as co-counsel on a case with Kara Pape, a partner in Tyson & Mendes' Los Angeles office. So when he decided to get back into private practice, he naturally thought of Tyson & Mendes.

"I loved working with Kara. I loved working with the firm. So, when I knew I was going to make a move, I contacted Kara," Liebhaber recalled. "She contacted [firm managing partner] Bob Tyson. We had our conversation and started the interview process and, lo and behold, I am here."

Tyson speaks highly of Liebhaber.

"Jack brings extensive experience in the insurance defense industry and a background litigating against top firms and attorneys in Los Angeles, which together makes him a valuable addition to our team," Tyson said in a statement. "His familiarity with opposing counsel's trial strategies and his unique, in-house perspective will help Tyson & Mendes continue to deliver the very best for our clients."

Liebhaber said he was impressed that Tyson & Mendes is a growing firm, yet is still committed to helping young attorneys get the trial experience they need.

"I like the fact [Tyson & Mendes is] growing and how much business they are getting," Liebhaber said. "I also like the fact that when they try cases, they always have two attorneys trying the case. It's a good place for young attorneys to get trial experience."

He also likes that Tyson & Mendes gives him the support team he needs to handle a case properly.

"I like the way they handle files with a team approach. I'll have a team under me, which is how you need to work on these cases," he said. "These catastrophic injury cases, you need support. I'll have at least three to five attorneys under me, a paralegal and a secretary around to help handle these files properly."

Liebhaber grew up on Long Island in New York and earned his law degree at Pepperdine University School of Law. He joined the California state bar in 1984.



Jack Liebhaber

He has worked for many firms over the years including Spray Gould & Bowers LLP and Robinson Di Lando APLC.

For over 20 years, he ran his own firm, Liebhaber & Masserman LLP. Then in 2010, he **joined** Gray Duffy LLP, staying until 2014 when he moved to Bretoi Lutz & Steele LLP, where he served as in-house counsel to Mercury.

Liebhaber said he always wanted to be a litigator.

"I love trying cases," he said. "I've always been on the defense side and on our side, we counterpunch. I've always found that more comfortable to do."

He also enjoys teaching and is looking forward to helping young attorneys at Tyson & Mendes. Additionally, he is on the faculty for the Jack Daniels Trial School operated by the American Board of Trial Advocates, a prestigious, invitation-only trial organization of which he has been a member since 1998.

"I love trying cases and I love teaching young attorneys," he said. "Tyson & Mendes is a perfect place for me to do both."

Tyson & Mendes was founded in 2002 in San Diego and today has over 200 attorneys in 22 offices nationwide.

--Editing by Robert Rudinger.