

## Liner Picks Up 2 Bankruptcy Pros From Steptoe & Johnson

By **Cara Salvatore**

*Law360, New York (November 18, 2014, 5:46 PM EST)* -- Liner LLP has hired two bankruptcy experts away from Steptoe & Johnson LLP, one of whom will be Liner's new business solutions and financial restructuring group chair in Los Angeles, the firm said on Tuesday.

Robbin Itkin and Kelly Frazier were with Steptoe for seven years, and before that they practiced together at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, they said by phone on Tuesday. Itkin, former head of Steptoe's business and financial restructuring group, will head the equivalent group at Liner. Frazier joins as of counsel.

"This is a very entrepreneurial firm with entrepreneurial clients; it has a large breadth of entertainment, corporate, real estate litigation work, plus other areas," Itkin said on Tuesday. "And so it was a real opportunity to be in an entrepreneurial environment and do what we do, and also get more involved in areas of the practice that we enjoy, like entertainment and real estate, among others," she said.

Steptoe was "a very good firm," Itkin said. "It's just, unfortunately, the platform wasn't best suited for what we're trying to do from a restructuring and out-of-court workout perspective."

Itkin and Frazier have worked in a vast number of areas, including energy, hospitality, telecom, transportation, electronics and health care, Liner said.

Itkin has worked extensively in real estate restructuring and insolvency issues representing debtors, trustees, third-party purchasers, and creditors', equity and bondholders' committees.

Her experience includes matters in a broad array of restructuring and bankruptcy issues. She represented the ad hoc season ticket holders' committee in the bankruptcy of the Los Angeles Dodgers. A Delaware bankruptcy judge gave his blessing to the team's reorganization plan and the \$2 billion sale of the storied baseball franchise in April 2012, despite an eleventh-hour barrage of objections from Major League Baseball.

The plan repaid in full creditors owed more than \$700 million with proceeds from the record-setting sale of the team to an investment group led by former basketball star Magic Johnson and backed by Guggenheim Partners LLC. The Dodgers had been mired in Chapter 11 since June 2011, when MLB Commissioner Bud Selig blocked a proposed 17-year, \$3 billion television deal with Fox Sports, which left the team unable to make payroll.

Itkin joined Steptoe's bankruptcy practice in Century City in the summer of 2007 from her former home at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, at the same time Steptoe was launching a 22-partner subprime lending litigation and restructuring practice group on the West Coast.

Itkin earned her law degree from USC Gould School of Law and her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Frazier earned her law degree from University of Virginia School of Law and her bachelor's degree from the College of William and Mary.

--Additional reporting by Lance Duroi and Evan Weinberger. Editing by Stephen Berg.

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