

## Miles & Stockbridge Adds DC White Collar Boutique Founders

By Jack Rodgers

*Law360 (January 19, 2024, 2:28 PM EST)* -- Miles & Stockbridge PC has added two veteran white collar attorneys who founded a Washington-area litigation boutique to its white collar team, the firm announced Thursday.

Warren T. Allen II and Ray D. McKenzie join Miles Stockbridge as principals from WTAll PLLC, a white collar litigation boutique they founded in 2019. The firm's website states that it has closed and hasn't provided legal services since Monday.

"We are grateful to have the opportunity to serve our clients since WTAll's launch in 2019, and we are thankful for all the referrals we have received over the past several years," the website states. "We look forward to helping clients address their legal needs at Miles & Stockbridge."

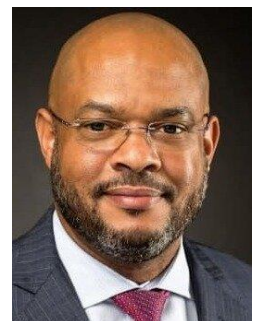
WTAll focused on white collar litigation, where Allen and McKenzie represented companies and individuals in internal investigations, government enforcement matters, compliance and corporate governance issues, Miles & Stockbridge said in a news release. The two met while overlapping at Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom LLP, the news release said.

At Miles & Stockbridge, Allen and McKenzie will focus on Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, False Claims Act and other forms of litigation. That includes helping clients with their internal investigations, corporate compliance matters and other legal issues.

Allen and McKenzie join Miles & Stockbridge's white collar, fraud and government investigations practice group. Nancy Greene, the firm's chair, said the firm was thrilled that the two men were joining.

"They have developed a robust white collar practice, deep and important client relationships and a reputation as leaders and mentors in the DEI community as fellows in the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity," Greene said in a statement, referring to diversity, equity and inclusion. "They are joining us at an exciting time for the firm as we continue our strategic market growth, add innovative legal operations and wrap up a strong financial performance in 2023."

McKenzie, a University of Virginia School of Law graduate, joined Skadden in 2009 after earning his degree, according to his LinkedIn profile. He left that firm for the Justice Department, where he spent



Warren T. Allen II



Ray D. McKenzie

four years as an assistant U.S. attorney for Maryland — prosecuting white collar crimes like bank and wire fraud, as well as violent and drug crimes, Miles & Stockbridge said.

Allen and McKenzie sent a joint email to Law360 Pulse on Friday. In it, Allen said his grandfather and father both owned small businesses, so he'd always been interested in following in their footsteps. He started thinking about the idea when he was a first-year associate. Getting McKenzie to leave the Justice Department to join him took some convincing, Allen said.

"He was initially reluctant to join because he loved his time in public service and the courtroom, but I ultimately convinced him to give it a shot," he said. "I remember I was standing in the kitchen and literally jumped for joy when he called to tell me he would co-found WTAII with me."

McKenzie said he went into business with Allen because he valued their friendship.

"Warren is an excellent attorney, but more than that, he's an authentic, thoughtful person," McKenzie said in an email. "We don't always view issues from the same perspective and often have healthy, respectful exchanges about different ways of perceiving an issue and developing potential responses to them."

Allen, a Georgetown University Law Center graduate, joined Skadden in 2007 and spent 12 years with the firm, according to his LinkedIn profile. In the Miles & Stockbridge statement, Allen said the midsized firm had "the sophisticated and innovative capabilities and support" one would expect from a larger firm — making it easy for the team to want to move their practice.

"I am very happy to have had the chance to build a practice from the ground up, but we repeatedly had to turn away some of the more complex work we had performed earlier in our careers because we lacked specialized expertise, bandwidth or both," Allen said in the email.

Allen was invited by a friend at the firm to meet some other attorneys, and he was "struck by the degree to which the firm" put relationships and collegiality first, he said.

"It was a really difficult decision, but after months of discussions, I was confident moving our practice to Miles & Stockbridge would address our challenges without forcing us to give up our commitment to putting relationships first," Allen said.

McKenzie agreed that joining Miles & Stockbridge would give the two more opportunities to do legal work, and not deal with other aspects of running a boutique firm, which "requires wearing many different hats that have very little to do with legal practice and advising clients."

"Joining Miles & Stockbridge allows us to continue providing excellent service to clients while offering additional areas of expertise," McKenzie said in the email. "Plus there's a great infrastructure already in place that allows us to focus exclusively on client needs, providing them legal advice and advocating on their behalf."

Raymond F. Monroe, who co-leads the firm's government contracts and white collar practice group, said in the statement that the team added to the firm's experience in conducting internal investigations. He added that McKenzie and Allen had focused on sectors like health care and financial services, where the Miles & Stockbridge team was already focused.

"Ray and Warren have much to offer as highly regarded lawyers, business owners and members of the D.C. community. I look forward to them continuing to be mentors and role models to others as we continue to grow our practice, our D.C. office and our firm," Monroe said.

--Editing by Karin Roberts.

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