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Vartabedian Hester Expands New White Collar, Investigations Team With Former Federal Prosecutor

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What You Need to Know

- Vartabedian Hester & Haynes expanded its new white collar and investigation practice with a former civil prosecutor.
- Richard Guiltinan, who joined as a partner on Monday, came from the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas.
- He worked on False Claims Act and health care fraud investigations, along with investigations on tariffs and trade obligations.

Richard Roper, partner with Vartabedian Hester & Haynes in Fort Worth, TX. Courtesy photo

Fort Worth-founded midsize trial firm Vartabedian Hester & Haynes, which launched a white collar and investigations practice in July with the hiring of former U.S. Attorney Richard Roper, has added a longtime civil prosecutor for the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Texas as the firm focuses on expanding the team.

Richard Guiltinan joined the firm on Monday as a partner in Dallas, after eight-and-a-half years at the U.S. Attorney's office, where he prosecuted False Claims Act and health care fraud investigations. He led a number of successful lawsuits for the government, including against a pharmacy management company and its executives, a pain management clinic and a clinical lab, and also focused on investigations on tariffs and trade obligations.

During his tenure, he served for three years as the civil health care fraud coordinator for the Northern District.

Conrad Hester, managing partner of Vartabedian Hester, said the firm is building strategic growth areas, such as white collar and investigations.

"We want to become a premier litigation boutique in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. We can't do that with just the existing practice groups. We brought over a corporate restructuring group. We are going to add practice groups that are going to be collaborative, so to not create a conflicts morass," he said.

Since the firm was founded by 10 energy litigators who left Alston & Bird in January 2024, it expanded the next month with an office in Dallas, led by two former Holland & Knight partners. In early 2025, it added a team of seven commercial bankruptcy and restructuring attorneys from Fort Worth bankruptcy boutique Forshey Prostok, including co-founders Jeff Prostok and Robert Forshey.

Hester said Guiltinan is an "incredibly enticing hire" for the firm, because of his deep government experience in health care matters, as well as tariffs.

Guiltinan said he enjoyed working for the U.S. Attorney's office, but decided that as his family grew to three children, he needed to move to private practice. He chose Vartabedian Hester, because of the firm's commitment to growth in Texas, and the opportunity to work with Roper.

Roper joined the firm from Holland & Knight, where he was a partner in Dallas.

Prior to his government service, Guiltinan was an associate for six years at Haynes and Boone, where he defended clients in governmental investigations involving fraud, antitrust claims and securities litigation. However, he said, he chose to move to a trial boutique instead of returning to

Big Law for the opportunity to "join a growing firm on the ground floor" with fewer potential conflicts issues.

Hester said the firm continues to consider adding other practice groups that make sense for clients, and natural growth areas include labor and employment and securities litigation.

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