

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **RSHC STRENGTHENS PRODUCT LIABILITY, MASS TORT & ENVIRONMENTAL CLIENT TEAMS WITH NEW CHICAGO PARTNER MATT ALVA**

CHICAGO — Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP (RSHC) today announced that Matt Alva has joined the firm as partner in the Chicago office. Alva focuses his practice on product liability and environmental matters, class actions, and mass torts. He also defends businesses in other complex commercial litigation and high-stakes disputes.

Product liability, mass tort, and environmental litigation is an area of strategic focus for RSHC. With extensive experience serving as national coordinating and trial counsel in large-scale multi-jurisdiction litigation, Alva has a reputation for capably managing the strategy on these complex cases nationwide.

“We are thrilled to welcome Matt to the firm,” said Managing Partner Patricia Brown Holmes. “He is known as a formidable litigator and a skillful negotiator who keeps his clients’ business objectives front and center. Matt is a great addition to the team.”

RSHC’s lawyers have decades of experience successfully defending clients against extraordinarily challenging suits in state and federal courts across the country, including individual, mass tort/serial, consolidations, class, and multi-jurisdictional cases in every state and across the federal court system.

“Matt is a top talent in the next generation,” said RSHC Partner Brian Watson. “That plus his courtroom experience, shared values, and earned trust of clients in high-stakes litigation make him an excellent addition to our client-focused teams.”

Raymond Rushing, Corporate Counsel—Global Litigation at Cummins Inc. and RSHC alum, praised the firm’s decision to bring Alva on board. “In addition to being whip smart, Matt is a collaborative colleague who is always willing to roll up his sleeves and go the extra mile to meet his clients’ needs. He is a great fit for RSHC’s collegial and client-centered culture.”

A first-generation college graduate who grew up in a military family, and a former middle and high school history teacher, Alva calls on the unique perspectives and skills gained from these

experiences to foster his rich client relationships. He has also dedicated significant time to advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal profession. Alva serves on RSHC's Recruiting and Attorney Development Committee, and was co-chair of the diversity committee and a member of the recruiting committee at his prior firm.

Outside of the office, Alva is active in his local community, most recently as the current president of the Ravinia Parent-Teacher Organization and as a Pinto and Mustang softball coach through the Deerfield Youth Baseball and Softball Association. He holds a J.D. from Chicago-Kent College of Law, which awarded him the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award in 2019, and a B.A. from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Also joining RSHC's Chicago office is associate Kennedy A. Harris. Kennedy brings broad experience in commercial litigation to her new role, along with a commitment to fostering diversity, equity, and inclusion in the legal industry. At her prior firm, she served as a member of both the recruiting and diversity committees.

### **About Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP (RSHC)**

Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila LLP (RSHC) is a service-oriented and technologically sophisticated mid-sized, full-service national law firm of litigators, trial lawyers, and transactional attorneys. Clients are the center of our mission. We align our interests with theirs and put the emphasis on efficiency and results. We care about our clients and each other, so we live our shared beliefs: driving innovation in the business of law, promoting diversity and inclusion, and serving our communities. Learn more at [rshc-law.com](http://rshc-law.com)

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