



Gray Reed Hires 5-Member Litigation Team In Houston

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A [Beirne Maynard & Parsons LLP](#) litigator who handles primarily energy and insurance work joined the Houston office of [Gray Reed & McGraw PC](#) on Friday, bringing with him four associates.

Darin Brooks, who had worked with Beirne Maynard for more than 12 years, brought with him clients including [ConocoPhillips](#), [Phillips 66 Co.](#) and [American International Group Inc.](#)



Darin Brooks

Brooks said in an interview with Law360 he had more in common with Gray Reed's partners when it came to a vision for the future about how to practice law, develop business and go about that in a like-minded manner.

"It's kind of a bet-on-yourself kind of place here, and I wanted to bet on myself," Brooks said.

Brooks said he has no criticisms of Beirne Maynard and counts dear friends and mentors among the firm's partners. He said Gray Reed, which shares an elevator bank with Beirne Maynard in the same Houston office building, had the same regional presence and Texas flavor, with a bigger platform and a group of "second-generation" lawyers around his age who shared his thoughts about law firms.

"They're in the midst of trying to become a second-generation firm, and some of the things that worked in the past at the firm aren't going to work in the future," Brooks said of Beirne Maynard. "They're working their way through those things. The vision, the energy and the like-mindedness that a place like Gray Reed has — they're still working on that there."

There's a lot of older folks."

Brooks said his clients have been "very, very positive" and that every single client sent at least part of their business with him to the new firm. Nearly his entire practice is devoted to commercial litigation, with a little more than half related to energy litigation, including breach of contract suits, royalty disputes and landowner disputes in the Eagle Ford Shale, he said. Most of the rest of his practice revolves around insurance coverage and related litigation.

"We are very pleased to have a widely respected attorney of Darin's consummate skill and leadership join our firm," Gray Reed President J. Cary Gray said in a statement. "The timing is ideal as our litigation practice has seen a significant increase in demand that Darin and these four capable associates will surely help to fill."

Joining Brooks in the move is senior associate John G. George, Jr., who represents clients in commercial litigation, business torts, real estate, creditor collection and third-party subpoenas, with a focus on energy litigation.

Midlevel associates joining the firm include Meagan W. Glover, who focuses her practice on state and federal civil matters, including commercial litigation, insurance, banking and financial services and appellate work; Kent L. Harkness, who assists clients with commercial litigation in state and federal courts, primarily in the energy, banking, construction and real estate industries; and Brian E. Waters, whose practice consists of a wide variety of commercial litigation matters, including a focus on creditor collection, insurance and energy litigation.

Brooks has a bachelor's degree in history from Baylor University and earned J.D. from Baylor University School of Law in 1996. After law school, he clerked for then-First Court of Appeals Judge Adele Hughes and joined then-[Phillips Akers Womac PC](#) doing insurance appellate work.

Afterwards, he moved to then-McFall Sherwood & Sheehy, now [McFall Breitbeil & Eidman PC](#), and moved with a splinter group split off to join Glidden Partners LLP, which later became McFall Glidden Sherwood & Breitbeil, before joining Beirne Maynard in 2002.

--Editing by Christine Chun.