

Contact: Debra Shniderson
Director, Recruiting & Marketing
Beck, Redden & Secrest L.L.P.
1221 McKinney, Ste. 4500
Houston, Texas 77010
Phone: 713.951.6230
Fax: 713.951.3720
dshniderson@brsfirm.com



PRESS RELEASE

Eric J.R. Nichols to Rejoin Beck, Redden & Secrest, L.L.P. and to Open Austin Office

Houston, Texas - December 6, 2010

Beck, Redden & Secrest, L.L.P. is pleased to announce that Eric J.R. Nichols will be rejoining Beck, Redden & Secrest, L.L.P. in January 2011 and opening an Austin office for the firm early next year.

Most recently, Mr. Nichols has served for four years as the Deputy Attorney General for Criminal Justice in the office of Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott.

As Deputy Attorney General for Criminal Justice, Mr. Nichols has worked with the Attorney General's prosecutors, peace officers, and investigators in the investigation and prosecution of criminal matters, including prosecutions in the areas of white-collar crime, cyber crimes, Medicaid fraud, violent crime, and crimes against children. While overseeing the Attorney General's Criminal Justice Divisions, which include over 500 Office of Attorney General employees, he remained actively engaged in trial and appellate practice.

- more -

Mr. Nichols has in recent months completed seven cases as lead prosecutor for the State, including five jury trials, in which men have been convicted of the sexual assault of children at the Yearning for Zion Ranch in Schleicher County, Texas.

Mr. Nichols joined BRS in 1994, and left as a partner in 2007 to join the Texas Attorney General's Office. Before joining BRS in 1994, he prosecuted white-collar criminals for the federal government, including in fraud cases relating to health care, banking, investments, customs enforcement, bankruptcy, tax matters, and government procurement. Before that he served as a law clerk to U.S. District Court Judge David Hittner.

Mr. Nichols is an honors graduate of the University of Texas School of Law, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the *Texas Law Review*. He holds a B.A. degree, with distinction, from the University of Virginia.

Mr. Nichols has been selected by his peers, as published in *Texas Monthly* and *Law & Politics*, as a "Texas Super Lawyer," from the time the annual survey began in 2003 through 2010. He has been included in annual rosters for the national publication *The Best Lawyers in America*. He was profiled in 2001 by the *Texas Lawyer* as one of "40 Under 40" judges, lawyers, and law professors "across the state whose accomplishments distinguish them among their peers." His work on behalf of clients in private practice has been profiled in the *National Law Journal*.

Mr. Nichols has authored several publications on trial practice and procedure for legal journals and law reviews, and actively writes and lectures for various continuing legal education programs throughout the United States. For several years he has co-written the chapter on jury selection for the Thomson Reuters (formerly West Publishing) treatise *Business and Commercial Litigation in Federal Courts*, which is now in its second edition.

Once he rejoins BRS, Mr. Nichols will practice in the areas of civil and criminal litigation, including by resuming his representation of companies and persons in business and commercial litigation and his representation of companies and persons in the context of white-collar criminal investigations and proceedings.

This will be the first expansion for BRS outside of Houston, where the firm has grown from an initial lawyer staffing of five in 1972 to approximately 40 lawyers currently with the firm.

“We are delighted that Eric will be rejoining us after his years of public service. He is a terrific lawyer and we look forward to him opening our new office,” said David J. Beck, founding partner.

Beck, Redden & Secrest L.L.P. is a litigation firm that handles a wide range of disputes including commercial, oil and gas, product liability, antitrust, securities, environmental, insurance coverage, legal and accounting malpractice, and patent and other intellectual property cases.

For additional information, contact Debra Shniderson, Director of Recruiting & Marketing at dshniderson@brsfirm.com or 713-951-6230.