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Buchalter names new shareholder

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By Kevin Lee

It's a sweet homecoming of sorts for one of Buchalter Nemer's recently named shareholders.

Anthony R. Callobre returns to the firm's Los Angeles headquarters 25 years after being hired fresh out of Boston University Law School.

"What's been particularly nice about it is that this is as much of a social as it is professional opportunity for me," he said. "These are folks who came to my wedding in Hawaii in 1988, and I've stayed in touch with them, seen their families grow and they've seen my kids grow up."

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Callobre previously worked as a partner at the Los Angeles office of Bingham McCutchen, where he co-led the banking and leveraged finance practice group. Joining Callobre from Bingham to Buchalter are San Francisco-based shareholder John Connolly and Los Angeles-based associate Shadi Enos.

Callobre, who specializes in commercial lending and corporate finance, is working to bolster Buchalter's business clientele in both middle and larger markets. He will split his time between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

"This is a traditional banking powerhouse," he said. "So it's nice for me as a banking lawyer to come back to a firm that appreciates the banking business and wants to be in this space."

Bingham said it has no plans to replace Callobre.

Buchalter was seeking to expand its financial institutions practice, according to John Jameson, president of The Jameson Group, a partner recruiting firm based in Beverly Hills that helped organize the move.

"Joining Buchalter was a hole-in-one for Tony and his group," Jameson said. "I know that the partners in the financial institutions group are particularly close. And then the firm management at Buchalter has been extraordinary and has led the firm to thrive and excel even in the last several years in this challenging economy."

Buchalter also hired two shareholders for its health care practice group. Mitchell Olejko, who will work out of the firm's San Francisco office, represents health care companies and facilities with legal issues such as program development, ongoing operations, licensing and transactions. Olejko was previously a partner at Ropes & Gray LLP.

Julie Simer, who will work out of the firm's Orange County office, assists hospitals and health systems with developing corporate policies and auditing business practices for compliance.