

# Akerman Adds Partner Ryan Beard in Austin

Akerman LLP announced its expansion in Texas with the addition of Ryan Beard, a first-chair patent litigator.

In a release, the firm said Beard practices intellectual property law and has experience in the areas of medical devices, mechanical devices, automotive products, computer equipment, other technology related to the internet and data, and copyrights and trademarks.

Since 2016, Akerman's headcount has more than doubled in Texas to 66 lawyers and business professionals in Austin, Dallas, Houston, and San Antonio. Recent additions in Texas include real estate partners Mark McElree and Kacy Whitehead, and insurance litigation partner Elliot Strader in Dallas. In Houston, a four-member team led by partners David Clark and Kristen McDonald joined Akerman to enhance the capabilities of the national Litigation Practice Group in the area of insurance litigation.