

Kline & Specter snags rainmaking plaintiffs lawyer from rival firm

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Plaintiffs personal injury lawyer Nadeem Bezar has left Kolsby Gordon Robin Shore & Bezar, where he was a name partner and third-generation leader, to join Kline & Specter.

Joining Bezar, one of the region's better known plaintiffs lawyers, in the move is associate Emily Marks.

According to Kline & Specter, Bezar has secured five verdicts of \$1 million or more and several settlements of that size or greater in more than 20 years of a practice that concentrates on medical malpractice, general personal injury, as well as cases involving child sexual abuse and human trafficking.

The additions of Bezar and Marks moves Kline & Specter to 37 lawyers, perhaps the most of any general plaintiffs personal injury firm.

Saltz Mongeluzzi Barrett & Bendesky (27 lawyers) and Anapol Weiss (23) are some of the city's other large plaintiffs firms.

More importantly, Bezar gives Kline & Specter another significant revenue generator.

Name partners Tom Kline and Shanin Specter started the firm 20 years ago by leaving the nest of their mentor, legendary trial lawyer Jim Beasley, and have been aggressive in recruiting lateral hires from other plaintiffs firms.

Together they built one of the pre-eminent plaintiffs firms in the region. Last year, the firm recorded the four largest verdicts in Philadelphia.

Born and raised in New York's Westchester County to Indian immigrant parents, Bezar first came to Philadelphia to attend Temple University's Beasley School of Law in 1988. After graduating three years later, he spent one year working at White & Williams before joining Kolsby Gordon.

That firm was founded by Herbert Kolsby in 1953 and then piloted by a second generation, former Philadelphia Bar Association Chancellor Allan H. Gordon. Bezar was part of a third generation of leaders, becoming a partner within 10 years and getting his name on the firm's doors soon after. With the departure of Bezar and Marks, Kolsby Gordon now has just six lawyers, two of which, Kolsby and Gordon, do not practice full time.

Bezar started his career handling primarily medical malpractice cases but now handles more general personal injury work. He was also instrumental in helping the South Asian Bar Association of Philadelphia secure Phila-

delphia as the next site for the National South Asian Bar Association (NSABA) convention. He served as NSABA's president in 2013-14.

Outside of work, he serves on the board of directors of the Juvenile Law Center and the Temple Law Alumni Association. Bezar is an adjunct professor at the Thomas R. Kline School of Law at Drexel University — which was renamed after Tom Kline last year due to his \$50 million gift.

Bezar has been recognized by the Philadelphia Business Journal's 40 Under 40 and Minority Business Leaders award programs.

Marks works with Bezar on personal injury cases as well as those involving sexual abuse and other injuries children suffer while in foster care and treatment settings. She was co-chair of the Philadelphia Bar Association's women in the profession committee and an elected member of its board of governors.