

Seeing Higher Demand, Lit Funder Launches DC Office With Alston Litigator

Jason Levine is joining Omni Bridgeway, a funder that has expanded its U.S. ranks by 20% since November 2021.

By Dan Packel
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What You Need to Know

- Jason Levine helped connect clients to outside finance during his time in private practice.
- He'll be working at home until Omni Bridgeway opens an office in Downtown D.C.
- The company has grown its ranks in the U.S. by 20% since November.

Global litigation funder Omni Bridgeway has opened up an office in Washington, D.C.—its fifth in the U.S.—led by trial attorney Jason Levine, who most recently was a partner at Alston & Bird.

Levine, who will serve as investment manager and legal counsel at Omni Bridgeway, is coming on board amid high demand in the U.S. for the funder's services, it said.

While Omni Bridgeway trades publicly on the Australian Stock Exchange, its current growth trajectory is sharpest in the U.S., where it has expanded its ranks by 20% since November, according to Jim Batson, a managing director and co-chief investment officer for the U.S.

"Now that the pandemic is entering a newer phase that allows business to return to normal, we're certainly seeing an ever-increasing demand," Batson said. "There are cases that had been on hold that are now starting to open up, and law firms and clients see litigation finance as a tool that can allow them to return to profitability more quickly."

Earlier in Levine's career, he was head of the D.C. trial practice at McDermott Will & Emery and a partner at Vinson & Elkins.

In these previous roles, Levine had the opportunity to work with clients who sought and received outside funding for

cases, but he couldn't comment on whether he'd specifically interacted with Omni Bridgeway.

"It gave me a window into it," he said in an interview. "I have some sense of how several of the companies operate, and I think it's what really piqued my interest in getting involved here in the first place."

Levine has won commercial, regulatory, class action and antitrust cases across all industry sectors, earning a cumulative \$3 billion for corporate plaintiffs, while avoiding over \$17 billion in potential liability for defendant clients.

He added that he expects the new role will combine some of the best elements of private practice with an energetic corporate environment.

Levine will initially work from home in the Washington, D.C., suburbs while making an effort to meet former colleagues and clients in person. Omni Bridgeway intends to seek office space in downtown D.C. once the threat of the pandemic continues to recede further.

"One of the things that attracts me to Omni Bridgeway is that it differs from its competitors in multiple ways. It's not a fly-in-fly-out operation. It has physical offices literally across the world," he said.

Omni Bridgeway recently bolstered its antitrust capabilities, adding associate investment manager and legal counsel Priyanka Timblo to its New York office. Timblo previously was an associate at Holwell Shuster & Goldberg, and she started her legal career at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison.



Courtesy photo

Jason Levine, with
Omni Bridgeway.