

Veteran Federal Prosecutor Joins McKool Smith In Dallas

By Lynn LaRowe

Law360 (August 27, 2025, 1:21 PM EDT) -- McKool Smith has deepened its civil litigation and white collar offerings with a principal in Dallas who recently served as deputy chief of the criminal division for the U.S. Attorney's Office in the Northern District of Texas.

Rachael Jones brings more than 20 years of experience as a prosecutor at the federal and state levels in the Lone Star State, the firm said Monday in a statement.

Jones told Law360 Pulse in an interview Wednesday that she really enjoyed her work as both a state and federal prosecutor and gained invaluable courtroom experience but was ready to explore a new opportunity.



Rachael Jones

"McKool has such a phenomenal reputation, and I've known several of the partners there from teaching trial advocacy skills with them at the National Institute of Trial Advocacy," Jones said. "This gives me an opportunity to continue to work with great people, and I am so excited about the work we're going to do."

Jones said she expects to handle litigation for both plaintiffs and defendants in criminal and civil matters.

"I plan on doing some white collar defense and I also hope to expand our qui tam practice as well," Jones said, referring to lawsuits involving so-called whistleblowers, noting that her experience handling criminal fraud cases lends itself well to that work.

Jones said that while a state prosecutor she appeared before a number of different judges and tried more than 80 cases before juries. She has handled capital murder, child sexual assault, child physical abuse and arson cases as well as matters touching on securities, healthcare and wire fraud in her 23-year career.

Jones said she has tried two death penalty cases in state court — achieving death sentences in both — and has been involved in investigating and prosecuting international drug trafficking, tax fraud and money laundering.

"You learn how to question all types of witnesses in the work that I have done," Jones said. "I also have learned how to deal with expert testimony and how to make that understandable for a jury."

Jones served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Northern District of Texas for nearly a decade and served as deputy chief of the criminal division in her final year there, the firm said. As deputy chief, Jones supervised federal prosecutors, helped manage the division's hiring and budget and maintained an active caseload of complex federal criminal matters, the firm said.

"Rachael is a seasoned trial lawyer with a stellar track record of success in the courtroom," David Sochia, McKool Smith's chair and managing principal, said in a statement. "She will be an asset to our clients across a broad range of complex commercial litigation and white collar disputes. We are very excited about her arrival."

Prior to her government service, Jones served for more than 12 years as an assistant district attorney in Dallas County, her LinkedIn profile shows. Jones' work at the Dallas County District Attorney's Office included training other prosecutors, launching community initiatives and serving in the child abuse division, the firm said. Jones began her legal career at the Bexar County District Attorney's Office in San Antonio, where she worked for nearly two years before joining the DA's office in Dallas, her LinkedIn profile shows.

Jones is certified in criminal law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. She earned her law degree from the Southern Methodist University Dedman School of Law and holds a bachelor's degree from Westminster College.

McKool Smith is a litigation and trial law firm with Texas locations in Austin, Dallas, Houston and Marshall. Beyond the Lone Star State, the firm has offices in Los Angeles, New York and Washington, D.C.

--Editing by Alyssa Miller.