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Vander Weele Named Office Managing Partner of Firm's Kansas City Office

Spencer Fane LLP is pleased to announce [Julia M. Vander Weele](#) has been named office managing partner for the firm's Kansas City office. Her duties become effective Jan. 1, 2021.

Spencer Fane Chair [Patrick J. Whalen](#) previously doubled as the Kansas City office managing partner of the firm's largest office.

"As a firm, we will benefit from Julia's track record as a tireless, thoughtful, and astute leader, including her ongoing service on the Executive Committee." Whalen said, "In her new role, Julia will leverage her penchant for collaboration and team-building to advance the Kansas City office's efforts with respect to operational performance, client service, and talent development and retention."

With Spencer Fane since 2002, Vander Weele's practice focuses on employer health and welfare plans and retirement plans. She helps employers and other benefit plan sponsors comply with a broad range of legal requirements, including tax code and labor laws, allowing them to recruit and retain talented employees with competitive tax-favored benefit packages while shielding their directors and officers from personal liability. In addition to her legal work, Vander Weele continues to serve on the Executive Committee at Spencer Fane.

"Our firm maintained a position of strength in 2020 despite the unique challenges and continued to move forward with an established business plan that makes Spencer Fane a leader in the legal industry," Vander Weele said. "We have achieved a distinguished track record of sustainable growth through a focus on client-centered services and creating and maintaining a substantial presence in the markets where those clients do business. I look forward to supporting the firm's vision

in this new leadership role.”

Vander Weele joins Cheryl Burtzel in Austin and [Amy Mistler](#) in St. Louis as the third office managing partner promotion for the firm in the past year.