

Hodgson Russ Names New State & Local Tax Leader

By **Adrian Cruz**

Law360 (January 13, 2025, 3:44 PM EST) -- Hodgson Russ LLP announced that a longtime partner and the leader of its state and local tax law practice has stepped down from the role after 25 years, with an experienced attorney who's spent his entire career at the New York-based firm set to take over.

Andrew Wright, who's been with Hodgson Russ' Buffalo, New York, office for the last 14 years, has taken over from Christopher Doyle as head of the firm's SALT practice after a quarter-century in the role, the firm announced Thursday.

A graduate of Syracuse University College of Law, Wright focuses his practice on state tax residency, with Hodgson Russ adding that he works with both clients moving out of New York seeking to ensure compliance with state taxing authorities along with clients facing residency audits. As SALT practice head, the firm said he will be leading a team of 20 attorneys plus associated audit professionals and other legal staffers.

Hodgson Russ said that along with its home state of New York, the firm's SALT practice also works with clients in states such as California, Connecticut, Florida, Massachusetts and New Jersey. One notable matter the team has worked on was 2014's **landmark residency case** *Gaied v. New York State Tax Appeals Tribunal*, which rejected a residency test used by the state's taxing authority that focused on time spent in the state, allowing a New Jersey man to escape more than \$250,000 in New York state and city taxes.

"Andrew was the logical choice to serve as the next leader of the firm's SALT Practice," managing partner Benjamin Zuffranieri Jr. said in a statement. "He is an incredibly talented, thoughtful and respected partner who will help continue growth of the SALT practice, while upholding its esteemed reputation and legacy that Chris and many others have built. Andrew's appointment will also help Hodgson Russ move forward with the firm's strategic growth plan."

Other recent moves by Hodgson Russ include the addition of bankruptcy partner **Travis Powers** in Buffalo who joined in November and real estate partner **Patrick Fitzgerald**, who joined the Buffalo office in May.

Hodgson Russ has over 200 attorneys located across its offices in Buffalo, Rochester, Albany, New York City, Toronto and Palm Beach, Florida.

Wright wasn't immediately available for comment Monday.

--Editing by Emma Brauer.



Andrew W. Wright