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## **Shane Jones Brings Experience, Southern Illinois Presence to Kriha Boucek**

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Kriha Boucek is thrilled to announce the addition of D. Shane Jones as a Partner in the firm. He will be the managing partner of the new Kriha Boucek office located in Edwardsville, Illinois. The addition of Shane continues a growth streak for the firm, which has tripled in size from three to nine attorneys across two offices after opening in May 2018.

“We are humbled and excited that Shane has decided to join forces with us,” said Darcy Kriha, founding partner of Kriha Boucek. “Shane brings more than two decades of education law experience to our lineup which will benefit our clients statewide. He is committed to our firm’s mission of representing boards of education as a servant leader. Shane is well known and respected for his labor and employment and general education law expertise, and he supports clients with skill, insight and practicality -- all with a great sense of humor and compassion.”

Shane joins Kriha Boucek with extensive experience in school law across Southern Illinois and Missouri. He is laser-focused on helping clients achieve practical and common-sense solutions to legal issues and using the power of the law and a pragmatic approach to help them fulfill their mission and purpose. In addition to his experience as an education law generalist, Shane has assisted employers with every aspect of labor and employment law: from wage and hour compliance to employee investigations; from ADA and FMLA issues to teacher discipline and dismissals. He brings a particular strength and emphasis in public labor relations and collective bargaining.

“Shane is a class act and one of the most kind and generous people you will ever meet,” reflected Sara Boucek, “not to mention one of the finest attorneys I know. Shane will be a fantastic asset to school district clients as we all work to navigate the many complex issues in the post COVID-19 world, and beyond. These times are difficult, and it was important that we continue to build our team with outstanding people in diverse locations in order to serve the state from North to South and East to West.”

“I’ve known and respected Shane since I was in law school,” Stephanie Jones added. “He approaches his legal practice with empathy, dedication, and good humor. He is a master at the bargaining table. Shane is dynamic and effective especially in difficult situations. He helps craft thoughtful proposals, presents them persuasively, and he understands that the two sides have to be able to work together -- and get along together -- after the negotiations are complete.”

Kriha Boucek’s addition of Shane and a Southern Illinois office demonstrates the firm’s commitment to provide the very best legal services at a reasonable price to school districts throughout Illinois. “A strong downstate partner - and a better ability for our firm to provide quality services across the entire state - have been priorities of our firm since it opened in May 2018,” Sara explained. “The addition of Shane and our Edwardsville office enhances our ability to do that. We could not be prouder that Shane is joining our firm right now.”