

## Biran and Kelly take government, white-collar practice to Baker Donelson

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Just over a year after their firm was acquired by Rifkin Weiner Livingston LLC, Jonathan Biran and Ty Kelly have moved to a firm with an even larger platform to support their government enforcement and investigations practice.

Biran and Kelly are now a part of Baker Donelson's Government Enforcement and Investigations Group as shareholders and are bringing their clients in that practice area with them, the duo said Monday.

"We are really grateful for our opportunity to practice at Rifkin Weiner Livingston," Kelly said Monday. "But Jonathan and I wanted to focus on our government enforcement and investigations practice. Both of us started our career as federal prosecutors and were looking for a national platform to give us the resources and access to clients that gives rise to a more national white-collar practice."

While their tenure at RWL was short, Biran and Kelly said they have a lot of respect for the people at RWL.

"It was not an easy decision for us; we were at a great firm," Kelly said. "It was really about growing our practice."

Alan Rifkin, RWL's managing partner, said Biran and Kelly's specialized practice is a good match with their new firm.

"Ty and Jonathan are not only terrific lawyers but even better people. Baker Donelson's national footprint is a good fit for their specialized practice and we wish them only the best,"



Thomas H. Barnard, Ty Kelly, Joe D. Whitley, Alison Schurick and Jonathan Biran.

Rifkin said in an emailed statement Monday.

Associate Alison C. Schurick, who came to RWL with Biran and Kelly, has moved with them to Baker Donelson, the firm announced last week.

Biran and Kelly left the U.S. Attorney's Office in Baltimore in February 2013 to start their own firm, an uncommon move for federal prosecutors. They were busy right out of the gate, signing their first client just two days after opening the office. The duo's practice was acquired by RWL in January 2018.

Baker Donelson's Government Enforcement and Investigations Group defends businesses and executives in a range of domestic and international

investigations and prosecutions. The practice, led by Joe Whitley out of the firm's Washington office, has more than 30 lawyers, including about a dozen former U.S. or assistant U.S. attorneys, the firm said.

Biran knew people at Ober|Kaler before the firm's merger with Baker Donelson and was familiar with their efforts to expand the government enforcement practice.

"Baker Donelson has really made a concerted effort to grow their government enforcement practice nationwide, so the time was right," Biran said Monday about the move. "We're excited to work with people from other parts of this firm to collectively bring in the best cases."