



**Abrams Fensterman  
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# Abrams Fensterman Expands Into Albany With New Office

*By Adrian Cruz | September 21, 2021, 1:45 PM EDT*

New York firm Abrams Fensterman opened its sixth office earlier this week when it expanded to the state's capital, the firm announced.

Abrams Fensterman Fensterman Eisman Formato Ferrara Wolf & Carone LLP's Albany office is helmed by health care partners Michael Bass and Richard Thomas, who joined the firm earlier this summer after a stint with the New York State Department of Health. Bass and Thomas told Law360 on Tuesday that they chose to join the firm because of the quality of its attorneys and the desire for a new challenge in their careers.

"It made sense to open an office here in the Albany area with individuals that have the background Richard and I do," Bass said. "I can say that for me, it was an honor to work at the Department of Health hand in hand with Dr. (Howard) Zucker throughout most of the pandemic, but I'm always looking to grow as an attorney and this wasn't an opportunity I could pass up."



Michael Bass



Richard Thomas



While at the moment, the two health care partners are the entirety of the Albany operation, Bass said Abrams Fensterman has plans in the near future to grow the office, which will mainly be focused on health care and government relations to start.

"It's tough to put a number on it, but we definitely are looking to grow to some extent," he said. "We're looking for a very high caliber of attorney in order to forward this office, particularly given the Abrams Fensterman reputation. When you have a statewide firm like this one, we're very particular about who we bring in, but if the right folks are available we are looking to expand considerably."

Bass, a graduate of Syracuse University College of Law, and Thomas, who graduated from Pace University School of Law, focus their practices on working with nursing homes, adult care facilities and health care professionals. Bass also noted that the growing cannabis industry is something that they've been working more on.

"With the addition of the Albany office, Abrams Fensterman expands its wealth of knowledge and expertise in health law," health practice director Patrick Formato said in a statement. "Michael Bass and Richard Thomas bring extensive knowledge and experience to our team through their impressive careers with the DOH and will offer our clients valuable advice and insight."

During his time with the Department of Health, which lasted over a decade, Bass served as acting general counsel and head of its division of legal affairs, overseeing over 100 attorneys in a variety of areas. Thomas was deputy director of the program counsel bureau, working on matters such as emergency medical services, environmental and clinical labs, radiologic technologists, home care and environmental health.

Along with its Albany location, Abrams Fensterman also has offices in Long Island, Manhattan, Brooklyn, White Plains and Rochester and over 115 attorneys, according to the firm.