

## Tyson & Mendes Adds New Health Care Group Head, 2 Attys

By **Emma Cueto**

Law360 (July 22, 2021, 4:14 PM EDT) -- Insurance-focused litigation firm Tyson & Mendes LLP has appointed a recent recruit based in California as the new head of its health care group, and expanded the group with two Washington state partners.

In an announcement Tuesday, the firm said litigator Margaret "Peggy" Holm, who **joined the firm** as a partner from Clyde & Co. in April, has been named the new head of its health care practice.

The group has also added two partners focused on medical malpractice defense, Jennifer Merringer Veal and Bertha Beranko Fitzer, who were previously with the now-defunct Fitzer Fitzer Veal McAmis PS in Tacoma, Washington.



Peggy Holm

"This is a dynamic and fast-growing field of law because health care is one of the largest and most heavily regulated industries in the U.S.," Managing Partner Robert Tyson said in a statement. "Our robust bench of health care attorneys provides our clients with the legal counsel required to defend against fraud claims and civil lawsuits, and we are thrilled to add this immensely talented group of health care-focused lawyers to our practice."

Holm, who joined the firm alongside fellow Clyde & Co. partner Sheryl Rosenberg, focuses her practice on representation of health care entities and insurers both at trial and on appeal, according to her firm biography, which also indicates she has a 95% success rate in jury verdict cases.

In the Tuesday announcement, the firm described her as "one of the nation's leading trial and appellate litigators for large healthcare entities in complex civil disputes."

"We are honored to have such a well-renowned leader and widely respected legal professional as Peggy join our firm and serve as chair of our Healthcare Practice Group," Tyson's statement added. "Her extensive experience in both the courtroom and the boardroom presents opportunities for Tyson & Mendes, particularly in connection with representation of large health care entities."

Holm is a graduate of Santa Clara University School of Law and is based in the firm's Orange County office.

According to the announcement, Veal and Fitzer, meanwhile, both specialize in medical malpractice defense. Fitzer focuses on catastrophic injury and complex appeals, and Veal has experience in cases involving orthopedic injuries, alleged medication errors, and surgical infection, the announcement said.

Their prior firm was founded by Fitzer and her husband, Steven Fitzer, in 2013, according to its former website. Veal joined in 2015 and became an equity partner in 2017, the site said. The firm specialized in medical malpractice, professional liability, complex litigation and appeals.

Steven Fitzer died in 2019 at age 68.

Veal is a graduate of University of Nebraska School of Law and Fitzer is a graduate of the University

of Washington School of Law. Both are joining the firm's Seattle office.

Tyson Mendes is a national litigation firm with 14 offices and which recently passed the 200-attorney mark. It also recently **launched a subsidiary** to focus on defending corporations against "nuclear verdicts," which refers to jury awards surpassing \$10 million.

--Editing by Amy Rowe.