



## **MEDIA BULLETIN**

*For Immediate Release*

### **North Texas-Based Messer Fort & McDonald (formerly Messer, Rockefeller & Fort) Announces Merger with Austin-Based Akers & Akers**

*--Merger Expands Service to Municipalities throughout Texas*

*(Frisco, Texas, June 6, 2019)*...The partners of North Texas-based Messer, Fort & McDonald, PLLC (formerly Messer, Rockefeller & Fort) have announced their firm merged with Austin-based Akers & Akers, L.L.P. The announcement was made during the *Local Government 101 Conference* hosted for municipalities by Messer, Fort & McDonald at the Ennis Conference Center on May 17.

Both Akers & Akers and Messer, Fort & McDonald specialize in local government and have a long record of serving municipalities throughout Texas. Under the leadership of partners Andy Messer, Julie Fort and Brenda McDonald, a team of over a dozen attorneys, paralegals and support staff now offers over 350 years of combined experience with expertise in all legal matters related to the delivery of governmental services.

"Since its founding in 2007, Akers & Akers has upheld the same high standards that our firm has of valuing people, integrity and results," said Andy Messer, who has over 28 years of municipal legal experience. "We're excited about our new partnership and location in Austin, both of which expand our resources to serve municipalities throughout Texas."

Akers & Akers was founded by Monte Akers and Patty Akers. Monte Akers became well known throughout the state while serving as Director of Legal Services of the Texas Municipal League for 11 years. Prior to TML, Akers was a senior attorney with a private firm specializing in municipal utility districts, and an attorney for the Dow Chemical Company.

"Merging with Messer, Fort & McDonald is a natural next step in my career and the career of each professional in our firm, including my partner and wife, Patty," said Akers. "Their commitment to clients and colleagues alike is a good fit, and a great foundation, for a bright future together."

The Messer, Fort & McDonald municipal legal team brings breadth and depth of knowledge on the significant legal issues facing local governments today.

“Local City officials and staff face a long list of challenges today,” said Julie Fort, who has represented municipalities and economic development corporations for over 22 years. “We’re dedicated to ensuring the expertise and passion to provide a positive outcome, whether we are serving as general counsel or special counsel.”

With a determination to help local government resolve difficult issues and litigate a wide range of matters when necessary, Messer, Fort & McDonald has established a strong record of results, which includes successful appeals to the Texas and U.S. Supreme Courts. All partners generously share their experience as published authors and instructors.

In addition to a Frisco office serving North Texas, and the new Austin office serving Central Texas, Messer, Fort & McDonald maintains an Abilene office serving West Texas.

“By joining forces with Akers & Akers, our representation now spans the state of Texas,” said Brenda McDonald, whose extensive expertise includes land use and development. “But our mission to build long-term relationships by delivering first-class service to every client, in every city, remains the same.”

To learn more, visit [www.txmunicipallaw.com](http://www.txmunicipallaw.com) for details on the firm’s attorneys, practice areas, publications and significant cases. You may also contact the firm toll-free at 855-668-6400.

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