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Archer Expands Into Houston With China Practice Group

By [Nick Muscavage](#) | May 2, 2022, 3:45 PM EDT · [Listen to article](#)
[Archer & Greiner PC](#), based in Voorhees, New Jersey, announced Monday it has launched a China practice group out of a new office in Houston, Texas, and brought on three new partners to work on matters related to the Asian country.

The new group is co-chaired by Archer partner Stephen M. Packman and one of the firm's new Houston-based partners, Jiangang (James) Ou. In addition to Ou, Archer also added attorneys Ying Chen and Brian M. Gargano as partners to the China practice group in Houston.

All three partners joined Archer from Houston-based BOGC Legal PLLC.

The practice group was formed to assist clients doing business with or in China. The new 500-square-foot office that houses the group is located at 3040 Post Oak Blvd. in Houston. It is the firm's ninth office and the first one located in the western portion of the U.S.

According to Packman, Archer has developed long-standing working relationships with Asian professionals and clients, and views the launch of the China group as a natural "next step" in the process of growing its cross-border practice.

"The China practice group was formed to assist existing and future clients resolve their legal issues [in the U.S.] and in China," Packman told Law360 Pulse on Monday. "The addition of our Houston attorneys, with extensive backgrounds in China, allows us to provide legal services which were not previously feasible for us. The goal is to be a 'go to' firm in the middle market for clients with issues



Steve Packman



Jiangang (James) Ou



Ying Chen

touching on China."

Clients of Archer's newly formed China practice group span multiple industries, according to the firm, including alternative energy, petroleum, pharmaceutical, life sciences, manufacturing, retail, consumer goods, transportation, financial, real estate and agriculture.

Packman, who is based in Philadelphia, has more than three decades of experience, and has worked with clients based in both China and the U.S., including Chinese companies, liquidators, creditors and other parties in various litigation and insolvency proceedings. He focuses his practice on business law, and also serves as chair of Archer's bankruptcy, restructuring and insolvency litigation group and the international law group



Brian Gargano

He also represented Chinese solar panel companies in what may have been a first-of-its-kind [bankruptcy proceeding](#) in the U.S.

He said he believes China will be a growing area of practice for the firm "as the world's economies become more intertwined."

Some areas of growth related to China he said he has seen include foreign investment, asset acquisitions, energy, intellectual property and litigation, and arbitration, including international arbitral award enforcement.

As a result of these trends, expansion "is a goal for the Houston office," Packman said.

"We see many potential areas for expansion, including insolvency, litigation, corporate, intellectual property, petroleum and alternative energy," he explained.

Chris Gibson, president of the firm, said the Houston office and the China group's launch were both strategic moves.

"With increasing globalization of markets, we have learned that clients need attorneys with hands-on experience in China and who have a deep understanding of how to do business in China, the second largest economy of the world," he said in a statement announcing the group's launch. "In addition, Texas is perhaps the fastest growing economic and legal market in the United States, particularly in areas such as energy law, which is one of Archer's primary

practice groups."

Ou, Chen and Gargano all have experience in complex, cross-border commercial litigation and arbitration, handling bankruptcy and intellectual property matters as well as the enforcement of foreign country judgments and arbitral awards.

They have also provided business counseling, and worked on mergers and acquisitions with the U.S. and China, and all have current clients in the U.S. or who conduct business with or in China.

Ou and Chen are native Mandarin speakers, and have more than two decades of combined experience practicing law in China and the U.S.

"We're excited to join a dynamic firm like Archer," Ou said in a statement. "Archer's platform will afford our clients all the benefits of a full-service law firm with a well-established presence in multiple jurisdictions, including New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware, where many of our China-based clients conduct business."

In addition to the new Houston office, Archer has more than 170 attorneys practicing across eight offices throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, including Voorhees, Hackensack, Princeton and Red Bank in New Jersey; Philadelphia and Harrisburg in Pennsylvania; Wilmington, Delaware; and New York, New York.

--Additional reporting by David [McAfee](#). Editing by Lakshna Mehta.

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Nick Muscavage

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