

Brown Sims Names 1st New Leader In 25 Years

By Lynn LaRowe

Law360 (January 28, 2026, 11:51 AM EST) -- Insurance defense firm Brown Sims PC has elected a Houston-based shareholder to serve as the firm's president, its first change in the top leadership role in a quarter century.

Robert M. Browning told Law360 Pulse on Tuesday that his predecessor, Kenneth Engerrand, has mentored him since he joined the firm more than 20 years ago and is "probably the smartest lawyer I know."

"Part of the reason we've been able to grow to 70 lawyers is because of his steady leadership," Browning said. "He's unflappable and has been an amazing leader for our firm."

Browning, who was elected by a unanimous vote of the firm's shareholders to be the fourth president in the firm's roughly 57-year history, said he intends to carry forward Engerrand's legacy of solid leadership. Engerrand will continue his private practice at the firm along with his service as a University of Houston Law Center adjunct professor.



Robert M. Browning

Browning said he expects the attorney headcount at the firm to continue to rise to meet surging client demand.

"We are principally an insurance defense firm," Browning said, adding that Brown Sims is a "valuable partner" to companies across the country.

"We have expanded into commercial litigation as well, and we have a Defense Base Act and war hazards practice which is unique to some of the military conflicts that have happened since the second Gulf War," Browning said. "We have a large and growing group that handles those types of federal workers' compensation and then subrogated recovery files as well. I expect that group to double in size in the next five years at a minimum."

Browning said Engerrand "really paved the way on teaching folks not only in our firm, but at insurance companies, about how these claims are handled."

"He's really made an impact in the field," Browning said, noting that Engerrand has been teaching law for more than four decades and is a frequent lecturer and author on subjects such as maritime law.

Engerrand told Law360 Pulse in an interview Tuesday that the firm's other three offices — in New Orleans, Miami and Gulfport, Mississippi — all launched at the request of firm clients.

"We opened in New Orleans because we had a client that wanted us there," Engerrand said. "Same thing with Miami and with Gulfport."

Browning and Engerrand said a number of the firm's attorneys and professional staff have been at the firm for decades, noting that the firm's "contractual and financial structure" rewards longevity and hard work.

Engerrand said he expects the stability the firm has cultivated to continue under Browning.

"He understands the firm's economics, culture, people and what it takes to successfully manage the firm," Engerrand said. "He has the full package of what you look for in a leader."

Browning has practiced with Brown Sims for more than two decades, his LinkedIn profile shows. He earned his law degree from the University of Houston Law Center and holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia.

--Editing by Daniel King.