

More US staff join RMJM legal action

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RMJM chairman added to list of defendants

More former RMJM employees have joined the legal action being taken against the firm over allegations it broke US employment laws.

Among the 11 names that have been added to the class action claim, which was first filed last November by ex-human resources manager Dana Byrne, are marketing principal Gale LaCava, who left last August, design principal Roger Klein, who quit last March, and principal Sean Roche who left a month earlier.

The 143-page document filed at a New York court last week says that in each case the employees were “not paid any compensation, benefits, accrued paid vacation and wage supplements for certain portions of [their] employment”.

It also accuses RMJM of “filing fraudulent information returns” which increased the tax liability of each claimant.

The revised document has also added RMJM chairman Fraser Morrison to the list of defendants which includes his chief executive son Peter, commercial director Declan Thompson and Morrison’s brother in law Richard Bailes who was in charge of the architect’s New York office for part of last year.

A further five causes of action have been added to the original – taking the total up to 15 – including one for so-called Unjust Enrichment. The document adds: “Plaintiffs were not compensated or provided other consideration in accordance with the agreed upon terms...as such, defendants’ retention of the benefit of plaintiffs’ agreement to work and continued work for defendants was and is unjust.”

A court hearing in New York to decide a timetable for the case, which lawyers acting for the claimants want heard by a jury, is due to be held at the end of this month.

RMJM declined to comment.