

Delaware Law Weekly

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Cole Schotz Gains Two Attorneys, New Space

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The Wilmington office of Cole Schotz Meisel Forman & Leonard added an experienced bankruptcy practitioner from Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom last month and moved into its new space at 500 Delaware Ave.

Marion Quirk joined her new firm May 1. Also, Sanjay Bhatnagar, an associate with an advanced degree in taxation formerly with Young Conaway Stargatt & Taylor, joined effective June 1.

"Cole Schotz handles a lot of corporate restructuring and large Chapter 11 debtor cases. It is a perfect fit for my practice," Quirk said.

Having known Cole Schotz attorneys for some time, Quirk said she was attracted by the depth of the firmwide bankruptcy and corporate restructuring department.

The department, now with almost 30 attorneys, represents debtors, creditors' committees, secured parties, venture capitalists, equity holders, trustees, receivers and parties with substantial interests in insolvency proceedings throughout the United States.

The firm has offices in Wilmington, New York, Hackensack, N.J., and Baltimore.

"It's a good group for corporate restructuring, to handle larger representations," Quirk said.

Norman J. Pernick, who heads the Wilmington office, said the process with Quirk took two or three months.

"Neither one of us were in a rush," he said. "We both wanted to make sure the practices fit and the personalities fit. We view everybody we bring in here as long term."

Cases Quirk has worked on include Goody's Family Clothing Inc., a retailer; ICG Communications Inc., a telecommunications provider; and Safety-Kleen Inc., an industrial waste services provider. All these cases have closed.

"I now continue to integrate my practice and develop the relationships that I had and the contacts that I had," Quirk said.

Pernick said the hire was a blend of opportunistic and deliberate.

"We came over with a core group. We felt we wanted to add people in a couple discrete areas," he said. "One was somebody with Marion [Quirk's] level of experience, professional contacts and contacts in the community. We were out looking for a pretty specific profile: one at Marion's level, and one a little more junior."

The Delaware office opened in March 2008 and is now up to seven attorneys. All but one are in the bankruptcy and corporate restructuring department.

The exception is a Michael F. Bonkowski, a complex corporate and business litigator. Pernick said this is another area in which he may seek to grow the office, as well as real estate and trusts and estates.

At 8,300 square feet, the new office space on the 14th floor of 500 Delaware Ave. has room for about 12 attorneys.

Pernick said the space was built to the firm's specifications.

"We really wanted to send a message that the firm is committed to this office and that this office is going to be here a long time."