

Mayer Brown Moves NY Office To Avenue Of The Americas

By Zachary Zagger

Law360, New York (February 26, 2015, 7:03 PM ET) -- Moving just blocks across Manhattan, Mayer Brown LLP relocated its New York office on Monday into 1221 Avenue of the Americas marking the Chicago-founded global law firm's commitment to and growth in the New York market over the past three decades.

The new office, located in one of the three so-called XYZ buildings of the Rockefeller Complex expansion, was completely renovated from scratch with a focus on collaboration and efficiency to house Mayer Brown's approximately 225 New York-based attorneys in New York, as well as about a dozen others who spend significant time there. The New York office is the firm's second-largest in the U.S. and serves as a meeting grounds between Chicago and the firm's international locations.

"We wanted to move to a building in New York that is much more iconic and much more corporate in the branding that it projects," Richard Spehr, Mayer Brown's partner-in-charge of the New York office, told Law360 Thursday.

Spehr said that their old office had not been renovated since the 1980s and that in order to bring it up to date would have required them to basically vacate the space for a period of time, which was just not feasible. So the firm packed up and moved from the Broadway office just north of Times Square.

"We wanted to build our own customized space that is as good as anywhere else in New York. and to do so in a much more efficient way," Spehr said. "The problem with older space is that it is inefficient."

The new office is designed to maximize efficiency of space takes up four floors, down from 10 floors at the old building, and is about 20,000 square feet smaller, but will hold the same number of attorneys and staff without sacrificing on individual office space, he said.

It also features offices with clear glass fronts to promote collaboration and allow light into the center of the building. Each floor has several conference rooms equipped with cutting-edge conferencing technologies and the entire office fitted with a brand new telephone system.

"The fact of the move has created an extremely exciting atmosphere for our lawyers, our staff and ultimately our clients this space was designed to serve," Spehr said. "We were very careful in how we spent our money, but we did not skimp on the conference space."

The firm has a 15-year commercial lease in the new building.

The move comes as Mayer Brown posted nearly 13 percent partnership profit growth in 2014 — a bump that came amid expansion in both its overall headcount and equity partner tier — marking the second double-digit leap in as many years, according to financial statistics the firm released earlier this month.

Overall revenue clocked in at \$1.223 billion, 6.7 percent more than 2013's \$1.146 billion. Profits per equity partner were \$1.448 million, compared with \$1.284 million the year before. And revenue per lawyer was \$824,000, a 5.7 percent jump from \$780,000.

The rising profits per partner aren't due to cuts in the overall size of the firm: Mayer Brown's overall headcount rose about 1 percent to 1,486 lawyers, with equity partners increasing about 4 percent to 280.

--Additional reporting by Michael Lipkin. Editing by Patricia K. Cole.

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