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Duane Morris beefs up, adds 10 lawyers

With growth this year, office has 52 attorneys; 7 join litigation practice

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The Chicago office of Duane Morris LLP has brought on 10 new lawyers this year.

The firm's Chicago office initially opened in 1999 with 11 lawyers. It now has 52 attorneys.

A major reason for the jump is Duane Morris' success in gaining recognition as a Chicago brand, said David B. Yelin, the local managing partner.

"We had a lot of trouble with 'Duane who?'" he said. "Now that we have had an office here in Chicago for 15 years, we've gotten to be known as a firm that is here to stay."

Duane Morris, which is headquartered in Philadelphia, was founded in 1904. It now has 700 lawyers working in 20 U.S. offices and seven foreign locations, including London, Singapore and Hanoi, Vietnam.

The 10 lawyers hired here include seven additions to the firm's litigation practice group.

The new hires consist of six lateral partners, three associates and a special counsel.

"The model is to hire partners with good books of business and then hire associates to help get the work done," Yelin said.

Most of the Chicago office's hires this year had existing relationships with firm partners, Yelin said.

The latest Chicago office hire, partner Andrea M. Augustine, who focuses on intellectual property, joined the firm early last month.

She most recently worked here for a San Diego-based firm, AlbertDhand LLP.

Augustine said she wanted to work for a growing firm with a national IP practice.

"The name Duane Morris kept coming up," Augustine said.

Augustine's practice involves counseling for global patent and trademark portfolios and handling patent litigation, primarily involving electrical software and mechanical art.

Augustine said she brought 10 clients with her to Duane Morris. Though she declined to identify them by name, she said they are in the food manufacturing and pet care businesses.

She joins two other IP lawyers in the Chicago office. The



David B. Yelin

firmwide IP practice group has 85 lawyers.

Since coming to Duane Morris, Augustine has been meeting with a mentor, Rosanne Ciambrone, a bankruptcy and reorganization partner.

She became a lawyer in 1997, first working for Leydig, Voit & Mayer Ltd., then later moving to the firm now known as Drinker, Biddle & Reath LLP as well as Foley & Lardner LLP.

She graduated from the University of Illinois College of Law in 1997. A decade before, Augustine earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering



Andrea M. Augustine

from the University of Illinois.

Before attending law school, Augustine served as an electrical engineer in the Army Corps of Engineers. She also worked as a software engineer at Andersen Consulting and as a senior programmer at Reuters America.

The experience as an engineer "allows me to communicate (well) with the scientists and inventors at the various companies for whom I do work," Augustine said. "I think it also gives me the knowledge to service clients in a meaningful way. It's the ability to connect and understand what their needs are."

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Duane Morris LLP