

[Sign In / Register](#)

Boston Business Journal - June 7, 2010
[/boston/stories/2010/06/07/newscolumn1.html?s=industry&b=1275883200%5E3451341](http://boston/stories/2010/06/07/newscolumn1.html?s=industry&b=1275883200%5E3451341)

Boston Business Journal

Friday, June 4, 2010

Attorneys leave Foley & Lardner to start boutique

Boston Business Journal - by [Lisa van der Pool](#)

There's a new law firm in town and it's called **Beck Reed Riden LLP**.

The startup firm was launched in late May by former **Foley & Lardner** LLP attorneys Russell Beck and Stephen Riden. They're joined by Stephen Reed, who was with Boston-based Shepherd Law Group, a Boston-based employment law boutique, previously.

Beck, who focuses his practice on business and intellectual property litigation, noted that one major reason for leaving large law firm life was because a large number of client conflicts were preventing his practice from growing.

Riden focuses his practice on business litigation, and Reed focuses on his practice on labor and employment matters.

"I think this was perfect timing (to start a new firm)," Beck said. "The economy is just starting to turn and people are looking for firms that are flexible."

Beck said his new firm offers the sophisticated level of service that large firms offer, but with flexible pricing that large firms often struggle with.

While Beck said he is extremely excited about nurturing his startup, he also admitted that it was a "bit daunting to leave a firm where I really loved the people. It was one of the hardest decisions of my life to leave that group of people."

So far the firm has just the three partners, but Beck noted that they're looking for support staff, including an associate.

The firm's website is www.beckreedriden.com.

Mintz tops in anti-harassment work

Boston-based **Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC** has been tapped by the American Bar Association to receive the Pro Bono Publico Award, the firm said last week.

The Boston-based law firm is being recognized for its pro bono work that led to the passing of a state law that allows victims of sexual assault, stalking and harassment to get protective services against the people who are stalking them.

According to the law firm, Mintz Levin's attorneys led the pro bono drafting of the law, which was signed in February by Massachusetts Gov. Deval Patrick.

The newly minted law filled a hole in legislation surrounding restraining orders. Before the law was signed, victims were only granted restraining orders if they knew their stalkers — the stalkers were family members or spouses.

Day Pitney adds real estate partner

Day Pitney's Boston office has hired William M. Pezzoni as a partner, the firm said.

Pezzoni, who comes from crosstown firm **Mirick & O'Connell**, is a real estate lawyer who focuses on land use, environmental law and commercial finance.

Pezzoni is the fifth new partner to join Day Pitney's Boston office in the past 12 months. The law firm has 375 attorneys, with more than 40 in Boston.

Nixon Peabody taps head litigator

Fred A. Kelly has been named as chairman of Boston-based **Nixon Peabody LLP**'s litigation department.

Nixon Peabody has more than 800 lawyers, including about 300 lawyers in the firm's litigation department.

Kelly is a trial lawyer who works with companies mainly in the pharmaceutical, medical device and biotechnology industries, according to the law firm.

A 25-year veteran of Nixon Peabody, Kelly has served in a variety of leadership roles over the years.

Legal hiring seen picking up in Q3

Law firms are expected to see particularly strong hiring activity during the third quarter of this year, according to a new survey by **Robert Half International**. A net 31 percent of attorneys interviewed expect to add staff in the third quarter as law firms that reduced their ranks during the downturn now focus on rebuilding, per the survey.

Lisa van der Pool covers legal services, advertising, small business, hospitality and retail. She can be reached at lvanderpool@bizjournals.com.

All contents of this site © American City Business Journals Inc. All rights reserved.