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Aronberg Goldgehn Adds 3 To Bolster Chicago IP Practice

By **Lauraann Wood**

Law360 (May 7, 2019, 4:26 PM EDT) -- Aronberg Goldgehn has beefed up its intellectual property practice by adding three attorneys, including the founding father-son duo from Niro Law Group, to its Chicago office roster, the firm has announced.

William Niro and his son Christopher Niro joined Aronberg Goldgehn Davis & Garmisa as members of the firm's IP team, and attorney Kristina Diesner came on board as an associate at the firm, according to a release announcing their move. The three will help expand the firm's ability to assist clients in their patent, trademark, copyright and trade secret matters, the announcement said. They started at Aronberg Goldgehn in April after leaving Johnson & Bell Ltd.

Christopher Niro told Law360 on Friday that he and his father are excited to work with Aronberg Goldgehn because the firm was able to provide resources they did not have alone but have sought for their growing client base.

"We are extremely happy to supplement Aronberg's intellectual property practice and join forces with them," he said.

William and Christopher Niro founded Niro Law Group in 2016 after their firm Niro Haller & Niro closed shop. They practiced there for two years before joining Johnson & Bell.

William Niro, a 1974 DePaul University College of Law graduate, has 40 years of experience representing clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to startups as they pursue patent, trademark and copyright protection. However, the senior Niro told Law360 that he also represents individuals, including a mother who is looking to copyright her 7-year-old daughter's book.

Christopher Niro, who graduated from DePaul Law in 2009, touts just as diverse a client base but focuses his practice on IP litigation, prosecution and other business affairs such as brand management and portfolio development. He also advises clients with respect to patents, trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets.

Diesner, a 2018 DePaul Law graduate who also previously worked at Niro Law, counsels individuals and companies looking to protect and enforce their trademarks, copyrights and trade secrets. She also has experience working within the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and monitors numerous trademarks and performs trademark clearance searches for clients to recommend the strongest marks for them.

William Niro told Law360 that intellectual property is an area of law that features a little bit of everything he enjoys, since he has a science background and an engineering degree.



William Niro



Christopher Niro

"There is a fair amount of science involved, but there is also a tremendous amount of business that goes along with trademarks brand identity and development of intellectual property as a foundation of growth," he said.

Christopher Niro said he was attracted to law practice because he enjoys helping people solve their problems and achieve their goals. He told Law360 he got interested in IP work because it exposed him to an area of law that would allow him to "help foster creativity and invention, and help individuals and businesses grow their visions for the future, whether it be products or methods or processes or brand identities."

Both Christopher and William Niro told Law360 that they've stayed in the practice because the work is always different from day to day.

"I'm currently negotiating a settlement agreement with a Chinese manufacturer of goods," Christopher Niro said. "Tomorrow ... I will probably be analyzing lyrics in a copyright infringement case to see if they're substantially similar. No day is the same, so you don't get any monotony or burnout because our clients are great individuals and companies that are a lot of fun to work with."

And Chicago is very appealing for their practice because it is a "very, very big small city," Christopher Niro said. It has the industry and population to support every practical area of law, but the type of close-knit bar that allows industry peers to encounter one another frequently and "treat each other with a lot of respect and dignity knowing we will be on the other side of a case ... or sometimes on the same side of the table in the near future," he said.

Chicago is also a city of broad shoulders with "very unique and talented people that make it really an enjoyable place to practice," William Niro told Law360.

"There's creative people, [and] there's corporations that are trying out new and better products," he said. "It's just a phenomenal economic engine here, and I think it goes unrecognized."

--Editing by Abbie Sarfo.

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