

Merger Mania: Law Firms Are On Track For A Record Year

By Aeбра Coe · July 6, 2022, 3:00 PM EDT

Law firm mergers and acquisitions have accelerated in 2022, with more deals announced during the first half of the year than during the same period in the industry's high-water mark of 2019.

As of July 1, Law360 Pulse tracked 52 law firm combination announcements involving at least one U.S.-based law firm. The number far exceeds first half combinations announced in 2020 and 2021, and even surpasses the first half of 2019 — a record year for law firm mergers — when there were 47 announced.

"In the more recent past, there was a pandemic that put logistical roadblocks to getting law firm mergers done. What we're seeing now is maybe a bit of an opening of the floodgates," said law firm merger and management consultant Lisa Smith of Fairfax Associates.

The Cities Firms Looked to for Acquisitions

In six cities, there were two or more combinations that involved a target law firm based in that city.

Boca Raton, Fla.

Johnson Ritchey & Feldman PA was acquired by Schwartz Sladkus Reich Greenberg Atlas LLP of New York on May 15

Bresky Law was acquired by Schwartz Sladkus Reich Greenberg Atlas LLP of New York on May 15

Denver

Signal Law LLC was acquired by Werge Law of Denver to become Werge Law Group on April 1

Cage Bucar Lewis was acquired by Lass Cooper Ramp LLC of Denver to become Cooper Ramp Cage Bucar Lewis on June 1

Houston

Thompson & Reiley PC was acquired by Blue Williams LLC of Metairie, Louisiana, on Jan. 1

Eastham Watson Dale & Forney LLP was acquired by Schouest Bamdas Soshea & BenMaier PLLC of Houston to become Schouest Bamdas Soshea BenMaier & Eastham PLLC on March 1

Lorance Thompson PC was acquired by Mayer LLP of Dallas on June 4

Memphis

Mink & Mink PLLC was acquired by Holcomb Dunbar Watts Best Masters & Goldman PA of Oxford, Mississippi, to become Holcomb Dunbar, Attorneys on Jan. 12

Bourland Heflin PLC was acquired by Evans Petree PC of Memphis on April 4

New York

SavicFoley PC was acquired by Reinhardt LLP of New York to become Reinhardt Savic Foley on Jan. 26

Robinson Brog Leinwand Greene Genovese & Gluck PC was acquired by Leech Tishman Fuscaldo & Lampl LLC of Pittsburgh on May 16

Katz & Matz PC was acquired by Romer Debbas LLP of New York on July 1

Washington D.C.

Robbins Russell Englert Orseck & Untereiner was acquired by Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP of New York on April 1

McGonigle PC was acquired by Seattle-based Davis Wright Tremaine LLP on July 1

Source: Law360 Pulse Analysis



Despite the uptick in frequency, the overall size of deals has actually declined a bit so far this year.

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