



Schwartz Sladkus Adds 6 Attys From Dissolved NY Boutique

By Daniel Connolly

New York-based Schwartz Sladkus Reich Greenberg Atlas LLP announced Monday that it had recruited six attorneys from the recently dissolved real estate-focused boutique Ganfer Shore Leeds & Zauderer LLP, including the shuttered firm's co-founder Steven J Shore.

Five of the six lawyers work primarily in real estate litigation or transactions, according to SSRGA founding partner Steven Sladkus, while the sixth works mainly on employment matters.

"I think they bring fantastic skill sets in whichever areas they practice," Sladkus said. "They are very like-minded to us, providing clients with superior work product. And they're good people."

The group includes two attorneys – Shore and Margery N. Weinstein – who come on board as partners. Matthew N. Tobias joins as special counsel, employment law specialist Robert I. Gosseen joins as senior counsel, William A. Jaskola joins as a senior associate and Stephanie King joins as an associate.

SSRGA, which offers services in areas including real estate, health care, family

law and more, is one of several law firms to hire attorneys from Ganfer Shore, whose leaders **announced in July** that the firm was splitting apart after more than 43 years.

At the time, co-founding partner Steven Shore told Law360 that the retirement of founding partner Steven Ganfer and the pending end of the lease on its New York office both contributed to what he and others described as an amicable dissolution of the firm.

Shore told Law360 Monday that Ganfer moved to Florida but hasn't yet fully retired.

The move of the six lawyers from Ganfer Shore to SSRGA came about due in part to the friendship between Shore and Sladkus, the two men said.

The two met years ago when they were opposing one another in a contentious real estate dispute.

"By the way, do note that I won the litigation!" Shore quipped Monday on a call with a Law360 reporter and Sladkus.

"Oh, brother. It was settled!" Sladkus responded. Both laughed.

After the matter ended, they became friends and went to lunch periodically. At one of those lunches, Shore told Sladkus that Ganfer Shore was about to end.

"And he said, 'Well, why don't you come here?'" Shore recalled

By Sept. 1, the group of six Ganfer Shore attorneys were working with SSRGA.

Shore said the new firm's leaders have gone out of their way to make him comfortable. He said the practices are similar, except that SSRGA has some additional service areas that his prior firm did not.

For instance, he pointed to a client that's currently involved in a landlord-tenant proceeding. Rather than farm out that issue to another firm, Shore said he can now find someone in-house to handle it.

"So I am enjoying the fact that there's all sorts of business that previously we wouldn't have been able to handle that somebody who's competent can handle. So to me, that's great," he said.

The addition of the six Ganfer Shore attorneys – plus the recruitment of additional lawyers in recent months – brings the total attorney count at SSRGA from 52 to 74 within the past year, the firm said.

"It's come about from the need for more capable attorneys to handle our workload," Sladkus said. "An increased number of clients who we are servicing. And also, our firm has made a name for itself as not only a top firm in what it does, but it's also a great place to work and has become very attractive to attorneys."

SSRGA has expanded its main office in New York and has also recently opened offices on Long Island and in South Florida, Sladkus said.

Other attorneys from Ganfer Shore have joined other firms.

For instance, five real estate attorneys **joined Moritt Hock & Hamroff LLP's** New York City office.

Several other attorneys joined Dorf & Nelson LLP, which was renamed Dorf Nelson & Zauderer LLP.