

Norwalk law firm expands



Photo by Chris Bosak

Attorneys Kenneth M. Gruder and Michael L. Goldman in the lobby of their building at 200 Connecticut Avenue in Norwalk.

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By CHRIS BOSAK

NORWALK -- In 1995, Michael L. Goldman and Kenneth M. Gruder founded their own law firm in Norwalk, a central location between Greenwich and Bridgeport. Now, 17 years later, Norwalk remains the firm's hub, but Goldman, Gruder and Woods also has offices in Greenwich and Trumbull. It also now has 13 lawyers and 30 full-time employees.

For this firm, it's always been about personalized service and making the process as easy as possible for its clients. The satellite offices are another way to provide convenience to the firm's clients in those areas.

"We started the firm when lawyers first began using cell phones and email to keep in touch with clients. We respond quickly and utilize technology to help clients," Goldman told The Hour. "We earned a reputation very quickly because Norwalk had a few law firms that had become set in their ways.

"A trend I'm seeing even today is large law firms being available only for people with exceedingly large budgets," he added. "Regular small businesses will not be able to use the mega-firms. A firm like us, with one lawyer working closely with each client, is much better for the budgets of small businesses."

Goldman, the managing principal of the firm, specializes in the sales of businesses and real estate. He also represents clients in areas such as forming entities, business dispute resolution, and asset-based lending. Gruder specializes in real estate transactions and loss mitigation in areas such as foreclosure and short sales.

"We always wanted to work together," Goldman said of Gruder. "I hired Ken at a previous law firm. We're wired the same way to work hard and keep clients happy."

"Everyone here are people I want to practice law with," he added.

Goldman said the firm took a big step forward when Mathew B. Woods came aboard in 1996. Woods allowed the firm to get into the arena of litigation. The firm now features lawyers who specialize in several areas of general law and litigation.

"We started as a real estate and business transaction firm. From there we moved on to add litigation to support that type of work," Goldman said. "Now we pretty much run the gamut. Unfortunately, the way our society is going, you will see more and more litigation, so we will keep building on that."

Even as it expands geographically and adds to its employee base, the firm's base remains grounded in Norwalk.

"It (200 Connecticut Avenue) is a fantastic building and clients can get to us easily. There aren't a lot of lawyers in West Norwalk so it's nice to be the West Norwalk lawyers. Norwalk is a central pulse and that's not going to change."