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Former L.A. city attorney joins Liner Grode

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Former Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo is joining Liner Grode Stein Yankelevitz Sunshine Regenstreif & Taylor after being of counsel in the Los Angeles office of Goodwin Procter for nearly two years.

Delgadillo joined Goodwin Procter in 2009 after leading the Los Angeles city attorney's office for eight years, the maximum under term limits.

He said he was lured by the innovative approach to billing that Liner Grode offers its clients.

"The Liner firm is much more of a strategic partner and willing to be innovative in the way it delivers services and charges for them, so that made it difficult to pass up an opportunity to go there," Delgadillo said during an interview. "I think of myself, and what I did as the city's chief legal counsel, as a strategist on the front end, and that's what the Liner firm prides itself on doing for clients — outlining a strategy up front."

Delgadillo, a former attorney at O'Melveny & Myers, was elected Los Angeles city attorney in 2001 and re-elected in 2005. During his tenure, he increased the number of gang injunctions but was criticized by some for encouraging settlement of cases and using outside lawyers to defend litigation against the city. He maintained that his strategies reduced the city's legal costs.

In 2010, Delgadillo ran an unsuccessful campaign for the Democratic nomination for California attorney general.

He joins Liner Grode as a partner, focusing on advising clients on government relations and big litigation matters, he said.

"We are thrilled to add him to our roster of talented attorneys and believe our clients will greatly benefit from his no-nonsense approach and innovative vision," said Stuart Liner, founder and managing partner at Los Angeles-based Liner Grode, in a prepared statement.

Goodwin Procter recently closed its office in Century City, Calif. The Boston-based firm opened that office in 2006 with the addition of real estate rainmaker Lewis Feldman, who had been heading the Century City office of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman. Pillsbury Winthrop closed that office soon afterward and consolidated its lawyers in downtown Los Angeles.

In 2007, Goodwin Procter added a downtown Los Angeles office. The firm now has 28 lawyers downtown with the addition of 14 attorneys from Century City, including Feldman.

"The decision to consolidate our two proximate locations in Los Angeles was driven by real estate issues and the expiration of our lease in Century City," said Feldman, who confirmed that the office closed on Dec. 13, 2010. "Our commitment to serving clients based in Southern California and across the state remains unchanged."

Goodwin Procter has additional California offices in San Francisco, Menlo Park and San Diego.

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