

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

TODAY**Previous****Next**

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Delgadillo Leaves Goodwin for Liner Grode

Move Comes Shortly After Goodwin Procter's Century City Team Moves Downtown

By Erica E. Phillips

LOS ANGELES - Former city attorney and 2010 state attorney general hopeful Rocky Delgadillo has left his stead as counsel at Goodwin Procter LLP to join Liner Grode Stein Yankelevitz Sunshine Regenstreif & Taylor LLP as a partner, bringing with him "an impressive stable of clients," according to a statement issued by the firm.

Delgadillo said he will help those clients, primarily startup companies and entrepreneurs, with "strategic planning on the front end.

"In order for California to grow economically," he said, "we're going to have to find those entrepreneurs that were Google 20 years ago or Intel 20 years ago. I think I run in those circles of people who are dreamers."

In an e-mailed statement, Liner Grode managing partner Stuart Liner said: "We are honored to add him to our roster of talented attorneys and believe our clients will greatly benefit from his no-nonsense approach and innovative vision."

Delgadillo's departure from Goodwin Procter, 12 weeks after the hushed closing of the firm's Century City office, could foreshadow big changes for its Southern California presence.

But Los Angeles office chairman Lewis G. Feldman said the reason for the move was practical. When Feldman and his real estate group joined Goodwin in 2006 from Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, opening the firm's first West Coast office, they simply transferred their lease in the MGM Grand building to Goodwin. Last year the lease in the notoriously expensive building was up, so the small group of Goodwin attorneys moved downtown.



Daily Journal
Rocky Delgadillo

"It's better economics to have everybody under one roof," Feldman said. "While it's a bit more of a burden to drive back and forth, so much work we're doing is here."

Pointing to LA Live Properties LLC, Los Angeles Unified School District Inc., Westfield Group, Bank of America Corp. and Wells Fargo & Co., Feldman noted, "We don't represent a lot of entrepreneurs."

"In many respects, that's why Rocky [Delgadillo] is moving on," he said. "He's going to Stuart Liner's firm, which I think is a great move for him."

Delgadillo held the office of Los Angeles city attorney for two terms, from 2001 to 2008. In 2010, Delgadillo lost a campaign for state attorney general.

"We were his first landing spot while he ran for office," Feldman said. "He was building his business. Now he is off and running and I'm really happy for him."

With the departure of Delgadillo, the Los Angeles and San Francisco offices of Goodwin Procter have lost a combined six partners to other firms since last summer. The downtown Los Angeles office now houses 25 attorneys at 601 S. Figueroa.

Previous **Next**