

LOS ANGELES

Daily Journal

www.dailyjournal.com

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2015

LAW FIRM BUSINESS

Cincinnati-based Dinsmore enters California market

San Diego boutique Leventhal Law is merging with 108-year-old firm

By **Steven Crighton**
Daily Journal Staff Writer

San Diego based litigation boutique Leventhal Law announced this week that it has merged with the largest law firm in Cincinnati.

The firm's West Broadway Street office will now serve as the West Coast arm of 108-year-old Dinsmore & Shohl LLP. The acquisition of the boutique's two partners and two associates brings Dinsmore to a total of 625 attorneys in 21 offices across eight states.

"From a day-to-day standpoint, we're going to have a larger bench to choose from, and we'll be able to answer questions from our clients in a more responsive way," said Leventhal's managing partner Joseph Leventhal. "We'll have access to resources we previously would have had to look outside our firm for."

Prior to starting the firm, Leventhal was a White House attorney who served as deputy assistant to Vice President Dick Cheney, a role in which he was largely responsible for coordinating with other senior staff to pool information for the vice president. Specializing in employment and real estate law, intellectual property, anti-trust and consumer protection, and white collar criminal defense, Leventhal's list of past clientele includes eBay Inc., GoWireless and Cooper Tire & Rubber Company.

Leventhal said he was put in touch with the Cincinnati firm through a friend at Dinsmore who works out of its Columbus office.

Dinsmore managing partner George H. Vincent said Leventhal came highly recommended from several people familiar with him in the firm. He said the expansion into San Diego was less about the locale and more about seizing an opportunity to acquire quality talent in unexplored territory.

"It was more about him than the location," Vincent said. "Getting someone of Joe's quality was a big opportunity."

Vincent said he is interested in expanding the San Diego office, which will continue to focus exclusively on litigation.

The merger is Dinsmore's third of the year, after previously merging with Detroit-based Gifford Krass Sprinkle Anderson & Citkowski PC in September and West Virginia-based Huddleston Bolen LLP in February, adding 17 and 40 attorneys, respectively.

Vincent said the latest batch of mergers is a product of solid networking and a bit of good fortune, rather than any concerted effort by the firm to expand.

"We've been lucky. All the deals we've done are with people we knew or have a relationship with," Vincent said. "It made for pretty easy conversation. They saw the world the same way we did, we liked each other, and now we're lucky to be able to grow in a number of markets." In addition to its San Diego and Cincinnati locations, the firm has offices in Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia, as well as Washington, D.C.



George H. Vincent, *Managing Partner & Chairman, Dinsmore*



Joe Leventhal, *Founding Partner, Leventhal Law*

steven_crighton@dailyjournal.com