

## **Robinson & Cole Announces Hartford Office Relocation**

By **Adrian Cruz**

*Law360 (July 21, 2022, 4:56 PM EDT)* -- Robinson & Cole LLP announced Wednesday that it would open a new office in its largest office in, Hartford, Connecticut, next fall, relocating to a smaller space the firm says is more focused on innovation and collaboration than the traditional office model.

Robinson & Cole's new office, located on the top five floors of the Hartford Steam Boiler building at 1 State St., is a 75,000-square-foot space that's almost 40% smaller than the firm's current office at 280 Trumbull St, which is 120,000 square feet.

Managing partner Rhonda Tobin told Law360 on Thursday that Robinson & Cole was looking to deviate from the old-school office design, and that while attorneys would still have individual offices, the firm was trying to encourage them to spend more time interacting with each other.

"With our lease coming up, we had an opportunity to either renovate the current space or move elsewhere and really start from scratch to design what we want the law firm to look like over the next 15 years," Tobin said. "We spent a lot of time talking to realtors and architects and we really wanted a much more innovative space and to get away from the traditional law firm floor plan that's just rows of offices on the outside and dead space on the inside."

The Hartford office, which is expected to open in September 2023, has a number of features that reflect the changing employee environments following the COVID-19 pandemic, such as smaller offices, more collaborative space and amenities such as a full-service cafeteria, an upscale restaurant, an on-site fitness center, on-site day care and more parking.

Tobin said the firm's goal was to have the new office be a place that people want to spend time in, giving them an experience that they can't have working remotely.

"It wasn't so much about the hybrid workplace and shrinking our workplace because people weren't coming in," she said. "This is really a commitment to investing in our space so that people are excited about coming in."

Tobin added that she also hopes that once the Hartford office is completed, Robinson & Cole can use it as a model for how the firm wants to shape its other offices as they reach a decision point with their leases.

"We're happy we can give people flexibility to spend some time at home, but our goal is to use the

Hartford space as an example of how to make a space that's conducive to connection, that incentivizes teams to work together in the same space," she said. "I think it's revolutionizing what a law office looks like and I think people will be excited to be part of it."

Robinson & Cole has been in Hartford for over 175 years and the firm currently has 221 employees, including 112 attorneys in the office, which is the largest of its 10 locations throughout the Northeast, mid-Atlantic, Florida and California.

--Editing by Karin Roberts.

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