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Thompson Hine Opens Minneapolis Office With Robins Kaplan IP, Tech Litigation Team

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What You Need to Know

- Am Law 200 firm Thompson Hine has opened an office in Minneapolis.
- The firm added three intellectual property and technology litigation partners from Robins Kaplan for the launch.
- Managing partner Tony White said a Minneapolis office makes a lot of sense for the Midwest-oriented firm that also has offices in major markets such as New York, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C.

Thompson Hine has opened an office in Minneapolis, a market that is a strategic fit for the Midwest-oriented Am Law 200 firm, with a team of litigators from Robins Kaplan who handle intellectual property and technology litigation.

The Minneapolis launch comes on the heels of the firm's move into the Los Angeles market in June 2024, hiring 11 lawyers from Southern California litigation firm Conkle, Kremer & Engel.

The Minneapolis office is led by Christopher Larus, who chairs the firm's intellectual



Courtesy photos

(l-r) Christopher Larus, William Manske, and Rajin Olson, partners with Thompson Hine in Minneapolis.

property and technology litigation practice. While at Robins Kaplan, Larus was national trial chair and the leader of its intellectual property litigation group.

The team also includes partners William Manske and Rajin Singh Olson. The litigators handle patent, trademark, copyright and licensing matters for clients in a range of industries including computer infrastructure, software, telecommunications, medical devices, agribusiness, food and beverage, manufacturing and financial services.

The office opened on March 11, but the firm announced it on Wednesday.

Thompson Hine managing partner Tony White said the firm has been eyeing Minneapolis for a couple years, because it is well-positioned with the firm's strategy, but the opportunity to hire the Robins Kaplan team "sealed the deal."

The firm, founded in Cleveland, has offices in major markets such as New York and Los Angeles, and others that fit well with its strategy including Atlanta and Washington, D.C., but more than half of its offices are in the Midwest because the region has a lot of "good quality lawyers" and billing rates can be two-thirds of the national rate.

"If you are a unique national Midwest-rooted law firm, Minneapolis is a market that makes a lot of sense," he said, citing the market's rate structure, manufacturing base and innovation hub. However, he said the deal came together because of the lawyers, who are "exceptional trial lawyers."

White said the firm will grow the office by hiring more lawyers in the IP and technology area, but he also sees potential to establish

construction law and investment management practices in Minneapolis.

Larus said they joined Thompson Hine because of the firm's commitment to excellence, strong client service orientation and innovative culture.

He said much of their work is in the software area, and the firm's full-service platform provides the opportunity to provide clients with more services. The group's clients include Sagitec Solutions, he said.

Manske said Thompson Hine is a good fit for their practice, because of the combination of an "innovative and growing national platform that still has kind of a Midwest ethos and culture, and the ability to practice at a high level and in technology and disputes."

The new Thompson Hine partners have worked on litigation in technology including mobile communications, semiconductors, IT network management, video streaming, speech coding, and chemical processes.

A spokesperson for Robins Kaplan did not immediately respond to a request for a comment on the departures.