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Law firm moves from one Wacker Drive office tower to another

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<http://www.chicagobusiness.com/realestate/20170724/CRED03/170729938/chicago-law-firm-honigman-miller-schwartz-cohn-moves-offices-on>

A Detroit law firm is moving its Chicago office to a Wacker Drive office tower, a deal that will allow it eventually to nearly double its roster of lawyers here.

Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn has leased the entire 31st floor at 155 N. Wacker Drive, where it plans to move from 1 S. Wacker at the end of the year. The new lease covers 28,077 square feet, slightly more than the 27,378 square feet Honigman currently occupies, but the layout at 155 N. Wacker is so much more efficient that the firm will be able to pack in twice as many lawyers than it can in its existing space, said Jason M. Rosenthal, Honigman's Chicago office managing partner.

It's "great space that will accommodate our ongoing and future growth," he said.

Honigman entered the Chicago market in 2015, when it absorbed Chicago litigation law firm Schopf & Weiss, which employed 14 lawyers at 1 S. Wacker. The firm employs 25 lawyers today.

Honigman has no immediate plan to hire more lawyers but expects its growth to continue, Rosenthal said. Over the last couple years, it has expanded its private-equity, tax, life sciences and litigation practices in Chicago.

The deal underscores the continued push by law firms to pack more bodies into less office space. Many firms have been able to save on rent by shrinking their lawyers' offices, law libraries and storage space.

Developed and owned by Chicago-based John Buck, 155 N. Wacker is 97.7 percent leased, according to real estate information provider CoStar Group. The 1.15-million-square-foot tower opened in 2009.

The building's second-largest tenant, law firm Skadden Arps Slate Meagher & Flom, leases the 31st floor under a deal that expires in 2024. Honigman is subleasing the space from Skadden.

A team led by Nancy Pacher of CBRE represented Honigman in the transaction.