

As former Yoss partners move on, other law firms are expanding

BY PAUL BRINKMANN

The ever-changing South Florida legal community is seeing former Yoss LLP attorneys joining new firms and a growing firm, Lydecker Diaz, expanding to new office space.

On April 11, Chicago-based Hinshaw & Culbertson announced that eight former Yoss attorneys would be joining its offices in Miami and Fort Lauderdale.

The next day, Lydecker Diaz announced it had signed a new lease for expanded space at 1221 Brickell Ave. to accommodate its recent growth to more than 60 attorneys in Miami.

The demise of full-service business firm Yoss, which became official in early March, meant more than 100 attorneys would be finding new homes. It once had more than 250 attorneys and was the fifth-largest firm in South Florida.

Hinshaw & Culbertson is growing as a direct result of Yoss' collapse. So is Fort Lauderdale-based Kopelowitz Ostrow, which gained 11 attorneys from Yoss, including partner Jan Douglas Atlas.

Former Yoss partners Neil Rollnick and Charles Tatelbaum went to Hinshaw & Culbertson, taking attorneys Mitchell Bloomberg, Steven Cronig, Fernando Garcia, Elizabeth Baker, Douglas Wayne Swalina and Jesse Michael Keenan with them.



Tatelbaum

Hinshaw & Culbertson Chairman Donald L. Mrozek said the former Yoss attorneys will strengthen his firm's capabilities and reach in Florida, where it now has about 85 lawyers in four offices. Hinshaw & Culbertson has about 500 attorneys nationwide.

Former Yoss partner Alan Perlman joined Roetzel & Andress.



Rollnick



Diaz

Diaz, the firm's senior partner, said in a news release that the new office in Miami's financial district dovetails

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with helping companies from South Florida, Latin America and Europe looking to expand their presence in Miami.



Blacklock

In Palm Beach County, Fox Rothschild LLP, another firm with a growing local presence, announced April 12 that attorney Peter Blacklock has joined as a partner in real estate and intellectual property. Blacklock formerly worked at IBM and as counsel for Nextel Communications.

Fox Rothschild hired several attorneys from Ruden McClosky last year, and now has 19 attorneys in West Palm Beach.