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## Hangley Aronchick Picks Up Six From DLA Piper

**BY GINA PASSARELLA**

*Of the Legal Staff*

Hangley Aronchick Segal & Pudlin is picking up a group of six lawyers from DLA Piper's Philadelphia office, including the head of that office's litigation group, Ronald P. Schiller.

Beginning Monday, Schiller will be joined by DLA Piper counsel Daniel J. Layden and Nicole Rosenblum and associates Jennifer L. Corry, Jacqueline R. Dungee and Michael R. Carlson. The counsel will join as shareholders and the associates will maintain that title.

"I've had a great experience at DLA, and it is a marvelous firm with marvelous people," Schiller said in a statement. "But I think any litigator would find it difficult to turn down the opportunity to work with the trial and appellate stars at Hangley Aronchick, lawyers I've known and admired for years. It will also be exciting to move from the biggest firm in the world to one where I can be closely involved in the day-to-day business of helping build a terrific young firm into a national presence."

In an interview, Schiller said he has always been with either the largest firm in the world or a firm with the largest litigation presence in Philadelphia and this was an exciting change. He said he was with DLA Piper for 18 years, having helped open the Piper Marbury office in the city when he left Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis. He said he was excited to move to Hangley Aronchick, which he said he views as the pre-eminent firm for litigation work in the city.

Schiller said that, while moving to a more nimble firm with less procedure and administration was "sort of cool," he knew how to navigate the larger environment at DLA Piper very well having been there for so long. It was really the opportunity at Hangley Aronchick and the number of connections he had at the firm that resulted in the move.

Hangley Aronchick stressed in a press release that it was not interested in "growth

for growth's sake" and would look to maintain its culture and position in the litigation realm. The addition will bring the 50-lawyer firm to 56 attorneys when the group starts Monday.

Hangley Aronchick President David Pudlin said the firm's strategic plan calls for it to be open to strong opportunities, including its recent expansion into new practice areas related to environmental and family law. He said Schiller fit into that smart growth strategy.

Mark Aronchick, who practices in the area of complex commercial litigation, said he had known Schiller in a professional capacity for years. Both Aronchick and Schiller handle a lot of complex insurance litigation and Schiller's addition complements and adds to Hangley Aronchick's existing work in that area, Aronchick said. Schiller has been in both federal and state courts over the last few years representing a number of different insurance companies. He said his practice is largely insurance-based, representing insurers in coverage and bad faith disputes. He has also represented Motorola and other telecommunications companies for years.

Schiller said he has worked with members of the group that is moving with him for between five to 15 years, and they all work together on each case.

"It was natural that the two of us would start to talk when Ron came to the conclusion that he wanted to go to another place and it was natural that he would reach out and talk to us because Ron and his team are exactly the kind of lawyers we have here," Aronchick said.

Schiller's addition reaffirms the firm's goals of running the firm as a growing, emerging legal institution with old traditions of professionalism, quality and public service, Aronchick said.

The addition of these six attorneys comes a few months after Hangley Aronchick lost part of the eight-lawyer group that joined from Wolf Block in early 2008.

After nine months at Hangley Aronchick,

shareholders M. Norman Goldberger, Matthew A. White and Laura E. Krabill and associate Robyn D. Levitan left the firm for Ballard Spahr Andrews & Ingersoll. Hangley Aronchick maintained, however, the family and environmental law practices it added through the Wolf Block acquisition. That group consists of Kenneth J. Warren and Steven T. Miano on the environmental side and Cheryl L. Young and Helen E. Casale on the family law side.

The defection of Schiller and his group follows the departure from DLA Piper of intellectual property partner Thomas J. Durling this month for Flaster Greenberg and the February 2008 move of David Ansa and a group of attorneys to the firm Morison-Knox Holden & Prough.

When asked whether larger firms are faced with the difficulty in this market of losing partners to smaller firms, DLA Piper Philadelphia Office managing partner James Brogan said people have to join the firm to leave. He said the moves work both ways.

He said the office has been profitable since it opened in 1992 and he expects that to be the case this year as well.

Brogan said Schiller is a "marvelous" lawyer with many friends at the firm and he wishes him nothing but the best. He said it was a very amicable parting. Brogan said Schiller would continue to do the work he was doing for clients.

Pudlin wouldn't put a number on the group's book of business other than saying it was "substantial." Other than a piece of intellectual property litigation, Pudlin said he expects the group to bring all of its client work. •

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