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## AT YEAR'S END, BUSINESS BOUTIQUE TYRE KAMINS CLOSES

By Rebecca U. Cho

Daily Journal Staff Writer

LOS ANGELES – Century City business boutique Tyre Kamins Katz & Granoff has closed shop, with the bulk of its attorneys ringing in the new year by joining down-the-street neighbor Silver & Freedman.

The firm closed its doors last Monday after five decades in operation.

Eight of the 14 Tyre Kamins attorneys, including firm co-managing partners Darin Margules and William W. Holcomb, joined Silver & Freedman, located two miles away on Century Park East. The attorneys bring Silver & Freedman's number of lawyers to 40 and add experience in intellectual property, business, tax and estate planning.

Margules said no single event led to the firm's closing, but he acknowledged that the firm struggled after some of its senior partners became ill or died. Tax partner and firm fixture Jeanine Jacobs Goldberg died in 2006 of heart failure at 66.

"It was a gradual thing; it was difficult to go through," Margules said of the decision to shut down. "But everyone was very amicable and recognized that the firm had run its course and it was time to make a change."

The remaining six attorneys opted to start their own firm, move to other firms or stop practicing law, Margules said.

Silver & Freedman managing partner Beth A. Schroeder said the joining of the Tyre Kamins attorneys brings together the two firms' focuses on serving middle-market clients in Southern California. Schroeder said her firm continues to resist advances from big firms to merge in order to better serve clients.

"I really think firms our size are poised to provide the level of service to middle-market that get tired of big-firm rates and structuring," she said.

Schroeder also noted that many small firms are working to address the issue of more partners approaching retirement age.

"A lot of it is about being creative in dealing with the attorneys – coming up with creative compensation, flexible billing," she said. "Quite frankly, it's easier to do that in a bigger group."

Margules said firm attorneys wanted to expand their practices. He said Tyre Kamins attorneys brought in a strong intellectual–property practice while gaining Silver & Freedman's labor and employment and family law expertise.

"It was less to do with the current situation at Tyre being bad than the future combination being very good," Margules said. "It was not a typical situation of a law firm going down in flames."

Recruiter Alan Miles of legal search firm Alan Miles & Associates said he suspects that Tyre Kamins, like many small firms, was facing increasing competition from big firms for young talent. Miles was not involved in the move.

"The younger partners decided to check out their options and see what they could do as a group," Miles said. "Because of the stiff competition for associates with the bigger firms and elements of that nature, it made it very difficult for the firm to proceed on."

Miles said the eight attorneys made a smart move in joining a firm with a similar, small–firm culture rather than a bigger firm.

Tyre Kamins brings in consumer–electronics clients Initial Technology Inc. in La Verne, Syntax–Brilliant, which makes brands Olevia and Vivitar and is based in Arizona, and Colorado–based Nexgen.

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