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Another Latham lawyer moves to Armbruster Goldsmith & Delvac

A third of the land-use boutique's lawyers come from the far larger law firm

By Ryne Hodkowski
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Former Latham & Watkins LLP partners now constitute a third of the attorneys at Los Angeles-based Armbruster Goldsmith & Delvac LLP.

The nine-attorney land use boutique added Damon P. Mamalakis, who joins former Latham attorneys David A. Goldberg and William F. Delvac.

"Damon is a top-notch land use and environmental litigator, and that's a field that is growing particularly fast," said Dale Goldsmith, managing partner. "You can never have too many excellent lawyers."

Goldsmith said the firm was extremely busy last year, its three "crown jewels" being the downtown Los Angeles football stadium project, the USC "master plan" of development and the Century Plaza Hotel renovation and expansion project.

In addition to land use work, Goldsmith said Mamalakis will help contribute to the firm's litigation practice.

"Now we can provide clients with a full service of needs," he said. "We can go out and defend the hard-fought entitlements that we won."

Development projects Mamalakis has worked on include the renova-



MAMALAKIS

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tion of the Hollywood Bowl, World Oil's Bakersfield Commons development and a Southern California Edison "peaker" power plant near Mandalay Beach in Oxnard.

"It's a tremendous opportunity to take something on the land use side from the cradle to the grave," Mamalakis said of the position he started last month at Armbruster Goldsmith & Delvac. "I can start with a project at the conceptual phase, take it through entitlements

and then defend those entitlements."

Goldsmith said the firm is entirely comprised of "big-firm refugees." Everyone at the firm, he said, wanted to operate in a more entrepreneurial, less rigid environment.

"We feel that we can provide a better service to our clients [at a small firm]," Goldsmith said. "At the end of the day, this is a service industry, and our clients appreciate it."

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