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Twins reunite as boutique firm adds tax practice

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Harris, Winick LLP is adding a familiar name to its lineup.
Not to mention a familiar face.

Attorneys [Robert A. Bedore](#) and [Kenneth L. Harris](#) are bringing their tax controversy and tax planning practices to the boutique commercial law firm, where Harris joins his identical twin.

[Robert J. Harris](#) and [Jeffrey H. Winick](#) co-founded the firm — which will now be known as Harris, Winick, Harris LLP — in 2010.

Bedore and Kenneth Harris come to the firm from Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg LLP. Bedore started there in 1990, Harris in 2000. Their move was finalized Wednesday.

With the addition of two new partners, the firm now has seven partners, one associate and one of counsel.

"My brother and I are very close, and we both truly have had, since law school, a lifelong dream of practicing together," Kenneth Harris said. "This became the right moment for combining our practices."

Prior to the addition, the firm focused on complex commercial litigation along with construction and real estate litigation, representing both plaintiffs and defendants. The firm also did transactional work in construction law.

The addition of Bedore and Harris creates the firm's new tax practice. Harris was the chair of that practice area at Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg. He worked closely with Bedore, who works strictly in litigation, representing clients throughout the auditing process.

"My focus is the representation of large corporate business taxpayers as well as wealthy individuals and their closely held businesses with respect to representing them as they are being examined by agents of the IRS," said Bedore, who worked for the IRS in Chicago as a senior trial attorney from 1987 to 1990.

In addition to working on tax controversy, Harris does transactional work in tax planning as well as tax consulting.

The pair expects their rates to decrease due to the lower overhead at the boutique firm. They also expect to continue working with clients they had while at Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg.

"I think it's a real coup for us," Winick said.

The move from Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg was amicable, Bedore and Harris said.

"I am so grateful for the opportunity Neal, Gerber gave me to practice and develop into the tax-controversy attorney that I am," Bedore said. "I very much enjoyed my time at Neal, Gerber, but when you open a new chapter in your life, it's a thrilling opportunity."

Neal, Gerber & Eisenberg managing partner [Jerry H. Biederman](#) agreed that there were no hard feelings over the separation.

"We're very sorry to see them go," Biederman said. "I certainly wish them the best and hope they have great success with the continuation of their careers."

The twin brothers first dreamed of working together during their days at Hamilton College in New York. From there, Robert went to Yale Law School and then Sidley, Austin LLP; Kenneth went to the University of Chicago Law School and then Jenner & Block LLP.

"We've been on different but related paths since 1985," Robert Harris said. "In our 30th year of practice, we finally figured out how to practice together."



Robert A. Bedore



Kenneth L. Harris



Robert J. Harris



Jeffrey H. Winick