Our History

Goldberg Kohn was founded in 1976 by four lawyers who came from a well-known, mid-sized Chicago law firm with the express goal of creating a firm that would provide legal services on par with the largest and most respected firms. The founders aimed to create a working environment based on mutual respect, support and trust, and which was completely devoid of internal competition and personal empire building. The theory was that by focusing their energy on providing the best possible legal services, rather than on internal politics, the firm would attract and retain superb lawyers who truly enjoy the practice of law as well as provide a welcome change for clients weary of the infighting that is characteristic of so many other law firms; politics that add unnecessary cost and inefficiencies to the handling of legal matters.

Today, 50 years later, those ideals are firmly intact and remain the greatest source of Goldberg Kohn's success.

During the early years, the firm grew primarily by recruiting lawyers from large, well-established firms to join a noble, if risky, experiment. Soon, the firm achieved name recognition at the top law schools in the nation and attracted outstanding graduates who have gone on to become Goldberg Kohn's first generation of attorneys nurtured from summer associate to principal. Today, our growth comes less from law school recruiting and more from talented lawyers who began their careers at top-tier firms and are looking for something different. They find it here: a supportive, collegial home where they can practice law at the highest level for the rest of their professional lives.

In turn, Goldberg Kohn has grown an institutional client base worthy of the largest, most elite law firms, while also preserving the same idealistic and collegial atmosphere that is the hallmark of the firm.

Goldberg Kohn

About Us

Continuing a Legacy of Success

Every day, we earn and reaffirm our reputation for skill and integrity by competing with the largest and best-known firms in courtrooms and conference rooms around the world. We don't take our top legal talent, first class clients, and outstanding results for granted. We constantly look ahead to the next challenge, to finding opportunities for our current clients, and developing new relationships. Goldberg Kohn is proud to be associated with some of the most respected organizations in the legal industry, such as the Secured Finance Network, Turnaround Management Association, Association for Corporate Growth, American Bankruptcy Institute and the Litigation Counsel of America. In addition, the firm has been ranked by Chambers and Best Lawyers for more than two decades, and recognized by leading legal publications, including the *American Lawye*r and *M&A Advisor*. We counsel clients ranging from private to Fortune 50 companies and have built a reputation for great work, for being great to work with, and great to work for.

Delivering Resources of the Entire Firm for Each Client

It's no secret what clients want. We ask them. They assume that lawyers will know the law. They want lawyers to answer their calls, listen actively, and find ways to add value to their business. They want advisers they can trust who understand their business goals and challenges, and who can help shape solutions that really work. Those are the standards they're held to, so why shouldn't they expect it of their lawyers? At Goldberg Kohn, we've built our firm culture around satisfying the highest standards: yours. It is often said that clients hire lawyers not law firms, but clients should have the benefits of the firm's best resources, unhindered by internal politics or economics. At Goldberg Kohn, we have a big investment in each other and have built a firm based on the values of mutual trust, support and respect, both for our clients and each other. We are focused on collaborating as a team to deliver our clients the best possible results. Unlike most other firms, our culture and compensation system de-emphasizes competition among attorneys for client billing credit, which enables us to focus our ambitions solely on serving client needs. In order to maintain focus on client objectives, we typically staff leaner than large law firms, with the relationship partner involved in all critical aspects of the matter. When the lead attorney pays attention to all material aspects of a matter, the big picture understanding is often a significant advantage (both in substance and cost-effectiveness) in negotiating against firms where responsibility for important details is delegated to specialists without perspective on the significance of "their" issues to the overall transaction.

Goldberg Kohn

Serving Clients Across the United States and the World

How does Goldberg Kohn serve its clients from one office in Chicago? The various client businesses take the firm's attorneys all over the country and around the world. Goldberg Kohn has positioned itself to assist clients efficiently wherever they need help-not by raising rates to subsidize branch offices in expensive markets, but by going where the matters are and by working with a network of local counsel through its Meritas affiliates. The firm's litigators have handled cases on-site with local counsel in numerous state courts, and the firm's transactional lawyers regularly handle national and international matters at Midwestern rates. Goldberg Kohn is proud to be the Chicago member of Meritas, a long-standing business alliance of nearly 200 carefully selected independent commercial law firms located around the world. Meritas members are locally based firms who know the local courts and customs and are experienced in cross-border and cross-cultural disputes and transactions. Meritas firms treat every referral as though it came from their best client. Like Goldberg Kohn, they are community leaders with outstanding reputations and connections in their markets. Learn more at www.Meritas.org.