

## NJ Immigration Boutique To Join Connell Foley

By **Clarice Silber**

Law360 (November 2, 2020, 6:45 PM EST) -- Connell Foley LLP will be adding the attorneys from business and immigration law boutique Dornbaum & Peregoy LLC to its New Jersey office, the firm announced Monday.

Connell Foley said it will add the boutique firm's four attorneys and its paraprofessional and administrative staff on Jan. 1 to establish a new corporate immigration practice within its labor and employment group.

Connell Foley Managing Partner Philip F. McGovern Jr. said in a statement the boutique firm would compliment that group's current offerings and bring resources to its other business clients.

"The synergies between our two firms mean we will be able to offer clients this crucial element to their business practice as they seek to employ highly qualified individuals in a wide range of industries," McGovern said in a statement.

The law firm's additions include Dornbaum & Peregoy partners Neil Dornbaum, who specializes in immigration and nationality matters with an emphasis on employment-based immigration, and Kathleen M. Peregoy, who also focuses on those issues along with international transfers.

Peregoy told Law360 the boutique firm "dovetails really well with Connell Foley because they have a lot of clients in those same sectors and areas and they are able to do everything to serve them but the immigration."

Peregoy, who said Connell Foley first approached her team in November 2019, said the pandemic brought Dornbaum & Peregoy even more requests for consultation and has led to more litigation, filings and new procedures to keep highly skilled workers in place.

"The big thing for us is with Covid we've been very busy because we represent international transfers of personnel and with the closure of U.S. offices in the United States and with U.S. companies overseas, we've had to spend a tremendous amount of time getting national interest waivers for very high level individuals," Dornbaum said.

Dornbaum and Peregoy will co-chair the firm's new corporate immigration practice. Also jumping ship to Connell Foley are associates Abigail J. Walsh and Lucia Smalikova.

Those attorneys are leaving behind a firm that advised corporate employers on employment-based immigration legal services, including immigrant visas, temporary visas and transfers of key personnel. The firm also provided companies with legal services connected to immigration matters concerning mergers and acquisitions and other corporate restructuring.

Connell Foley said the group from Dornbaum & Peregoy will allow it to boost its immigration services for clients in industries ranging from construction and biotechnology to chemicals and higher education.

Currently, the firm's labor and employment group has 11 attorneys on staff. The new attorneys will be based in Connell Foley's Roseland, New Jersey, office.

Connell Foley's Labor and Employment Group Chair Michael Shadiack said in a statement that adding the boutique firm's team would be a "boon" to its clients.

"We recognize the growing complexity of immigration law and the impact this has on businesses, and so we are thrilled that we can now provide this important resource for our clients," Shadiack said.

Connell Foley includes 150 attorneys across seven offices throughout the Mid-Atlantic region of the U.S. The firm works in practice areas including alternative dispute resolution, antitrust, aviation, bankruptcy, cannabis data privacy, health care and real estate, among others.

--Editing by Amy Rowe.