

New York's Moritt Hock & Hamroff Opens in Fort Lauderdale With Focus on Midmarket Finance and Wealth

By Alexander Lugo

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What You Need to Know

- New York-based Moritt Hock & Hamroff announced its second Florida office.
- Following its entry into Naples in 2019, the firm is adding an office in Fort Lauderdale to focus on midmarket and wealth.
- The four attorneys joining the new office have broad litigation and wealth capabilities, particularly in real estate.

New York-based Moritt Hock & Hamroff announced the launch of its second Florida location in Fort Lauderdale as it follows client and market demands.

As money and business keeps flowing through South Florida from places such as New York, Moritt Hock saw an opportunity to expand into the bustling market. The mostly litigation-focused firm with roughly 85 attorneys is looking to service midmarket financial clients in the area in addition to expanding its trusts and estates practice.

“We were getting a lot of inquiries from our New York financial institutions about their expanding role in Southeast Florida and that they were underserved in the middle market space,” managing partner Marc Hamroff said.



Offices of Moritt Hock & Hamroff at 400 Garden City Plaza, Long Island.

“They felt like there was a lot of support at the smaller end of the spectrum and lots of the larger national firms showing up in the Miami market, but these were midsized businesses that were really looking for their partners that were of the same market presence.”

As for the trusts and estates focus, the firm has been eying the space for years, which has also grown in Florida and is set to keep expanding as the state increasingly becomes a haven of wealth.

The addition of Long Island firm Karol & Sosnik in 2019 gave Moritt Hock a presence in Naples and doubled its trusts and estates practice. Now, its Fort Lauderdale office further adds to that capability.

“We didn’t want to be just a trusts and estates firm in South Florida. It’s obviously a huge market for trusts and estates,” Hamroff said. “But it’s going to just be a part of what we’re doing there. And our goal was to focus on our core practice areas, which are litigation, real estate, corporate, dispute resolution and trusts and estates.”

The office’s four attorneys, joining from South Florida-based Ritter Chusid, include Gregory Ritter and Gary Rosner as partners, Evan Rosenberg as counsel, and Olivia Retenauer as an associate.

While Ritter has extensive experience in the trusts and estates practice, the other three

touch on a wide range of litigation, in both state and federal courts.

“Litigation is our largest practice area, but it is a really diversified practice,” Hamroff said.

On the real estate side, the firm is aiming to focus on commercial real estate lending, Hamroff said. Meanwhile, its national secured lending practice is also set to be a focus for growth in Florida.

And while Florida is currently booming, Hamroff stressed that the firm has experienced economic cycles in the past. As a way to mitigate any swings in the opposite direction, the firm has a bankruptcy and restructuring practice to keep it afloat, and he says it’s gotten very busy recently, a trend seen in a number of other firms.

“I wish them nothing but the best in their future endeavors,” said Mitchel Chusid, partner at Ritter’s former firm Ritter Chusid.