

## Legal Invasion

After a few years considering whether to set up an L.A. outpost, **Jenner & Block LLP** opened a downtown office two weeks ago and hired former **Kirkland & Ellis LLP** partners Rick Richmond and Brent Caslin. The Chicago firm is at least the ninth to open an office in Southern California since the economy weakened, including Milwaukee's **Gonzalez Saggio & Harlan LLP** and Philadelphia's **Blank Rome LLP**.

Susan Levy, Jenner & Block's managing partner, said the firm had been looking to open an office in Los Angeles for several years because its clients have connections here, especially in the entertainment industry.

"We represent a lot of creative content clients on the West Coast," Levy said.

Jenner & Block attorneys specialize in commercial litigation, financial and real estate transactions, and represent companies in the defense, aerospace and entertainment industries.



Levy

Levy said the firm is withstanding the sour economy because its attorneys are involved in clearing up the mess at financial firms, including Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc.

It's Jenner & Block's high-profile litigation matters that drew Richmond and Caslin to the firm.

"One of the primary attractions for me at this stage in my career is to have the opportunity to be able to work for a firm that has such a premiere reputation," said



Richmond

Richmond, who practiced at Kirkland & Ellis for 20 years.

Richmond, who will serve as managing partner of Jenner & Block's L.A. office, specializes in defending large companies in class actions. Caslin is a litigator who works in numerous areas, including intellectual property, semiconductor technology, and TV and media distribution contracts.

Staff reporter Alexa Hyland can be reached at [ahyland@labusinessjournal.com](mailto:ahyland@labusinessjournal.com) or at (323) 549-5225, ext. 235.