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Former U.S. Attorneys team up in small, local litigation firm

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Former Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Jacobs is back with his buddies.

The former chair of **DLA Piper**'s Sacramento litigation group joined two former U.S. Attorneys — Charles Stevens and George O'Connell — on Nov. 18 as a partner in a local firm now called Stevens, O'Connell & Jacobs LLP.

"The configuration finally worked," Jacobs said this week. "I've known these guys and wanted to work with them for a long time."

Two DLA Piper associates, Alex Medina and Dan Croxall, are joining Jacobs in the new firm, along with a significant chunk of business.

Jacobs was the litigation section at DLA Piper, having built a strong practice of defending businesses and individuals accused of white collar crime or facing enforcement action. He left the No. 2 position in the U.S. Attorney's Office in Sacramento eight years ago to join **Downey Brand LLP** and moved over to DLA Piper 3½ years ago.

"We go way back," Stevens said. "When I was the U.S. Attorney, he was one of the ace prosecutors."

The firm was founded by Stevens and O'Connell in 1997 with the belief that a small firm with the right combination of lawyers could compete with national firms for high-stakes corporate matters and offer clients more cost-effective representation. The firm specializes in complex civil litigation and governmental investigations. It now has 11 lawyers and 11 staff.

The switch leaves DLA Piper without a litigation department.

"The firm needs litigation support in this market," DLA Piper partner Gilles Attia said. "The next step for us is to recruit another partner to run a litigation department — and then other lawyers to work in it."