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Kroll adds a third act to law career

Veteran trial lawyer joins Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard as partner

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More than five years after starting his own personal-injury law firm, Jeffrey J. Kroll has closed his office and joined Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard P.C. as a partner.

Kroll, 48, said he looks forward to spending more time in the courtroom and less time managing the day-to-day operations of a law firm.

"The one thing I did not realize in running a law firm was the different hats I had to wear," Kroll said. "You go from administrative, to trial lawyer, to making sure the copier has enough paper. I want to get back in the courtroom on a regular basis."

Kroll's first day at Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard is Monday.

His former law firm, the Law Offices of Jeffrey J. Kroll, is in the process of dissolving, he said. It employed three other attorneys and four support staff.

His decision was difficult to share with his employees, he said.

"They were very loyal to me, but there comes a point where I think change is good for everyone," Kroll said.

After graduating from DePaul

University College of Law in 1990, Kroll joined Clifford Law Offices. He became a partner in 2000 and left in 2007 to open his own firm.

When Kroll started out on his own, he believed he had started "Act 2 in a two-act play" of his career, he said.

"But the more I ran an office, the more I realized that I was missing out on something," Kroll said. "And I think that something is what I'm going to have at (Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard) — and that is a tremendous support staff, a number of highly-skilled lawyers and a mentor that I can continue to grow with."

And so began Act 3.

"I'm hoping Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard is my finale," he said. "I do not intend on this being a four-act play."

Since the death of Partner Michael P. Schostok last summer, the firm was looking for "a top, highly talented, experienced plaintiff lawyer," said Patrick A. Salvi, the firm's managing partner.

"I have known (Kroll) for as long as he's been in practice, and we've always gotten along very well personally and professionally," Salvi said. "And I've always thought that he was one of the most talented lawyers — with regard to trying cases as well as working up cases and developing business."

Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard, founded in 1982, will have 11 lawyers with the addition of Kroll. The firm expanded into



Jeffrey J. Kroll

Chicago from Waukegan in 2000.

"They're ascending. They're on their way up," Kroll said. "And I just hope I can add a little something to it."

Patrick A. Salvi II, a partner at the firm, said there's an excitement in the office about Kroll's arrival.

"It's going to be fun to work with him, get lunch with him, talk about cases — that sort of thing," the younger Salvi said.

Kroll's passion for the courtroom may stem from his competitive, sports-loving nature, he said.

"There's no competition like being in a courtroom in a trial," he said.

"You've got 12 sets of eyes that are watching you the entire time. I love it. I wouldn't rather be anywhere — other than with my family — than in a courtroom."