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Mergers Trigger Moving Day for Two Manhattan Firms

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February 7, 2007

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By Sam Weisberg
[New York Law Journal](#)

Last week, **Sichenzia Ross Friedman Ference** relocated from 1065 Avenue of the Americas to 61 Broadway downtown, expanding by 11,250 square feet. The 10-year lease secures the entire 23,750 square-foot 32nd floor for the law firm, which is taking over the former offices of **Healy & Baillie**; the latter firm has merged with **Blank Rome** and now operates out of the Chrysler Building.

Sichenzia was paying mid-\$30s rent for its previous lease, which was nearing expiration. When it was told by the owners of 1065 Avenue of the Americas that it would have to pay market rates, around \$20 to \$30 higher, if it renewed, the firm decided on a \$40-per-square-foot arrangement at 61 Broadway.

The firm required a larger layout to accommodate its staff, which has grown to 25 attorneys and 13 support personnel. At 1065, the staff had so outgrown its quarters that its workstations were spread out to the hallways. At 61 Broadway, Sichenzia's attorneys work in windowed offices overlooking the Hudson; the space that the firm would have occupied at 1065 lacked windows. Sichenzia was also drawn to the new building's recently renovated wiring network and information technology room.

Richard Berney, a partner at **Cozen O' Connor**, represented Sichenzia. **David Lachtman**, a partner at **Platte, Klarsfeld, Levine & Lachtman**, represented the landlord, Broad Street Development.

Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard has vacated 11,000 square-feet at 460 Park Avenue for 17,300 square feet on the 16th floor at 900 Third Avenue. The 10-year lease secures office space for 14 attorneys and 10 professionals; several additional practitioners from the firm's Hackensack, N.J. headquarters migrate to New York on a regular basis. The firm expects the staff to grow considerably over the next few years, as it has already expanded since its merger with bankruptcy boutique **Angel & Frankel** last year.

The firm, which specializes in litigation, real estate, bankruptcy, and tax, trusts and estates, contains a total of 110 lawyers. It was attracted to the layout at 900 Third Avenue because the offices were once occupied by Lovells, an international firm that just moved to 590 Madison Avenue, and therefore compatible with its needs. Lovells left behind its filing cabinets and

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other utilities for Cole Schotz to use. Meanwhile, the space at 460 Park was subleased to public relations agency Stanton Crenshaw Communications, Inc.

Partners **Edward Schotz** and **Richard Abramson** represented their own firm in the transaction, while **Bernard Marasco** provided in-house counsel to Paramount Group, the building manager.

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