

New crew

by Kimberly Ghorm

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Several firms make a splashy entrance this quarter in the bankruptcy league tables with assignments on high-volume cases. German law firm [Epping Hermann Fischer Patentanwalts-gesellschaft mbH](#), for example, makes its debut as special counsel for foreign intellectual property matters in the filing of electronics manufacturer [Trident Microsystems Inc.](#) (\$310 million in assets).

Also in a special counsel role, [Genova Burns Giantomasi & Webster](#) of Newark, N.J., was retained on the second filing of restaurant chain owner [Buffets Inc.](#) (\$100 million). While [Freeh Sporkin & Sullivan LLP](#) has been retained as investigative counsel to the trustee of brokerage firm [MF Global Holdings Ltd.](#) (\$41 billion), [HelixIP LLP](#) is special counsel to [Nevada Cancer Institute](#) (\$173.6 million).

Having opened its doors last summer, Chicago law firm [Goldstein & McClintock LLLP](#) makes its debut in the league tables as well as on the bankruptcy scene. The founders of the firm, who were previously partners at [K&L Gates LLP](#), formed it with the intent of building the most exclusive restructuring boutique in the nation and to free themselves from large-firm conflicts.

Although they started the firm last August, it has already grown to 15 professionals and four offices, including Atlanta and New York. Founding partner [Harley Goldstein](#) says, "Our professionals hail from a variety of credentialed, white-shoe backgrounds, including a former U.S. bankruptcy judge and a tenured professor at Northwestern Law School, and have previously held positions at some of the most respected firms in the world, including, among others, [Weil, Gotshal & Manges \[LLP\]](#); [Kirkland & Ellis \[LLP\]](#); [Jones Day](#); [Sidley Austin \[LLP\]](#); and [Alston & Bird \[LLP\]](#)."

Goldstein attributes the firm's increasing caseload, which includes hotel operator [Hans Hotel Management Inc.](#) and direct marketer [Qualteq Inc.](#), mostly to referrals. "Our work [comprises] a robust mix of representing debtors, creditors and other constituencies," Goldstein says. "Much of our 'meat and potatoes' has been representing middle-market debtors both in workouts of their financial issues and in bankruptcy itself. The industries our attorneys are most active in change cyclically with the economy."

In less than a year, Goldstein & McClintock has established a great reputation and intends to continue to expand its practice, he says. "We continue to explore other geographic markets [that would] establish an appropriate breadth for our national restructuring platform," Goldstein says.

A series of public relations firms, meanwhile, make their debuts in the noninvestment banking category. Charter bus service provider [Coach Am Group Holdings Corp.](#) (\$274 million) retained [Perry Street Communications](#), while [Westgate Communications Inc.](#) represents household cleaning products maker [Fuller Brush Co.](#) In addition, [Stanton Public Relations & Marketing](#) advises [Pemco World Air Services Inc.](#) (\$50 million), a provider of aircraft maintenance services.

Aviation consulting firm [AvAirPros](#) also added bankruptcy work, advising airline owner [AMR Corp.](#) (\$24.9 billion).

In the investment banking category, [Quarton Partners LLC](#) enters the table as the mergers and acquisitions adviser to solar products maker [Energy Conversion Devices Inc.](#) (\$986.3 million). [Harpeth Capital LLC](#) and [MNP Corporate Finance Inc.](#) debut with similar engagements, respectively, for ice cream producer [Dippin' Dots Inc.](#) (\$20.2 million) and dry mustard miller [Mustard Capital Inc.](#)

Finally, crisis management firm [Zygote Associates LLC](#) provided the chief restructuring officer to women's fashion designer [Connaught Group Ltd.](#) (\$38.5 million), and a [McTevia & Associates](#) professional fills the same role for automaker [Saab Cars North America Inc.](#)

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