

Sorkin-Founded Boutique Merges With Mintz & Gold

Christine Simmons, New York Law Journal

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Ira Lee Sorkin

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Prominent white collar defense attorney Ira Lee "Ike" Sorkin and his legal partner, Amit Sondhi, have merged their practice into 30-attorney Mintz & Gold, after a two-month stint operating their own boutique.

Sorkin, 72, and Sondhi, 31, left 300-attorney Lowenstein Sandler in late August and formed Sorkin & Sondhi, a white-collar defense and regulatory firm.

Sorkin, who represented convicted Ponzi schemer Bernard Madoff and the so-called "Wolf of Wall Street" brokerage firm Stratton Oakmont, said he left Lowenstein after five years to avoid conflicts and to work in a

smaller firm with more freedom in billing structure and rates. Sorkin said the departure from Lowenstein was amicable.

But Sorkin said he and Sondhi were receiving work in areas such as real estate, trusts and estates and general corporate work in which they lacked expertise. "Rather than refer them out, why not go to a law firm that does that [work]?" Sorkin said in an interview.

The pair joined Mintz & Gold as partners on Monday.

Sorkin described Mintz & Gold as a small but full-sized firm and a place where he knows the partners well. He said he previously worked with about seven

lawyers there, including founders Steven Mintz and Steven Gold, at the mid-sized firm of Squadron, Ellenoff, Plesent, Sheinfeld & Sorkin in late 1980s and early 1990s.

Mintz & Gold was founded in 1993. Sorkin left the Squadron firm in early 2002 as it prepared to merge with Hogan & Hartson, which is now Hogan Lovells.

Sorkin said he plans to continue practicing full time at Mintz & Gold. "This is it. I've come full circle. I've book-ended my career with people I'm very fond of," he said.