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Immigration law firm grows

By Rob Robertson

Contact

August 4, 2006

Siskind Susser Immigration Lawyers has merged with the New York-based Eric Bland Law Firm, creating Siskind Susser Bland P.C.

Following the merger, Memphis-based Siskind Susser, already one of the largest immigration law firms in North America, is poised to become one of the nation's premier law firms for clients in the arts, sports and fashion industries.

"Eric's firm is one of top immigration firms in the country for the entertainment and fashion industries," said Greg Siskind, partner. "We've been doing a lot of that kind of work recently ourselves, so expanding with his firm made sense."

The work includes handling non-immigrant and immigrant visas, citizenship proceedings, visa processing at U.S. embassies abroad and other compliance issues.

The combined firm will have 18 attorneys and about 30 employees overall, with offices in Memphis, Atlanta, Nashville, and now New York.

Some of Siskind Susser's entertainment industry clients have included Cirque de Soleil, the British Broadcasting Corp and production companies behind Broadway shows such as "Hairspray" and "Wicked."

In New York, Bland has represented some of the world's best known recording studios and studio design firms.

Bland has also collectively represented a number of top modeling agencies and processed visa applications for several of the world's most famous international models, including Helena Christensen, Petra Nemcova, Naomi Campbell and Kate Moss, among others.

"This merger allows our firm to join some of the top firms in the fashion and entertainment industry as far as immigration is concerned," said firm partner David Jones. "It's an opportunity to broaden the services we offer and become a leader in a very interesting practice area."

Bland said the combination of the two firms will improve service for both firms' clients.

"We want to keep a boutique feel and are committed to client service and relationships even as we grow," Bland said. "The expansion will allow us to implement new technology, increase the depth of our knowledge in several key areas and more effectively serve our clients nationally and internationally."

Having a larger New York office will also strengthen the national identity of the firm Siskind said.

"As we're doing more global work, it is important to have an expanded office in New York City, the financial capital of the country," he said.

Still, Siskind said much of the immigration work that's currently being done in New York will likely be moved to Memphis because it's cheaper to do it here.

That does not mean, however, that Memphians might be catching glimpses of Shalom Harlow or Naomi Campbell at the Rendezvous anytime soon.

"The models themselves won't be coming around Memphis," Siskind said. "But we do plan on expanding our staff and will be looking for attorneys with arts and entertainment experience."

Through its participation in Visalaw International, a global immigration lawyers' alliance, Siskind Susser Bland also maintains affiliate offices in twelve countries.

-- Rob Robertson: 529-5888

Siskind Susser Bland P.C.

Immigration law firm with offices in Memphis, Nashville, Atlanta and New York

Managing Partner: Lynn Susser

Headquarters: 5400 Poplar

Attorneys: 18

Phone: (901) 682-6455

Web site: visalaw.com

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