

Kucker Marino Grows NYC Office, Adds Real Estate Litigators

By [Charlie Innis](#) · 2023-09-28 18:12:46 -0400 · [Listen to article](#)

[Kucker Marino Winiarsky & Bittens LLP](#) said it has brought on three new partners with commercial real estate litigation chops, along with additional hires, and expanded its office space in Manhattan.

Edmond O'Brien, James E. Schwartz and Joelle B. Taub — three litigators experienced with representing landlords in real estate- or tenant-related disputes — joined Kucker Marino this month as partners after stints at other New York City law firms, the firm said Thursday. All three of them previously worked at [Cyruli Shanks & Zizmor LLP](#).

Kucker Marino also hired several new associates and of counsel, and expanded its office space at 747 Third Ave. in Midtown by 4,500 square feet to accommodate the new hires, according to the announcement.

O'Brien and Taub said in an interview Thursday that what primarily attracted them to Kucker Marino was the people.

"Every single person that we met, we really, really liked, and we did our research on them," O'Brien said. "They do good work. They've got a great platform here."

He added that they wanted to move their practice away from a smaller firm, like Cyruli Shanks, to a firm with a bigger platform, like Kucker Marino, where they could expand their practice and collaborate with other attorneys.

"The quality of the people and the quality of the work that they do was certainly attractive to us, and it seemed like a good fit," Taub said.

Before their recent stint at Cyruli Shanks, O'Brien and Taub practiced for over two decades at the now-disbanded firm [Stempel Bennett Claman & Hochberg PC](#), O'Brien said.

After the senior litigation partner at Stempel Bennett died in early 2022, the two attorneys

moved their practice to Cyruli Shanks, where they worked with Schwartz, whom they had met previously and admired, he said.

"It's not really a coincidence that that's where we ended up," O'Brien said, of Cyruli Shanks. "We went there in no small part in order to work with Jamie again, and then I guess, about 18 months or so later, here we are."

O'Brien and Taub appear regularly in New York state court representing commercial building owners in disputes with tenants. Schwartz's clients in his litigation work include brokerage firms and institutional and private landlords, according to Kucker Marino's website.

Kucker Marino also announced Thursday that it hired two attorneys, Daniel Rice and Michael Bush, as of counsel. Rice focuses his practice on construction law litigation, while Bush's work concentrates on commercial foreclosure, representing plaintiffs and defendants in legal disputes. The three associates who joined the firm are Evelyn P. Flores, Jonathan W. Rich and Brian A. Campbell.

Jim Marino, a partner with Kucker Marino, praised the new hires in Thursday's announcement.

"For both our existing and prospective clients, this expansion underscores our dedication to delivering the highest quality legal services across both existing and even more diverse ranges of practice areas by a team that collectively possesses over a hundred years of expertise with a definitive record of success," Marino said in the statement.

--Editing by Haylee Pearl.

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