

Business & Law

Newark's Gibbons Opens Office in Wilmington, Del.

By Maria Vogel-Short

The Gibbons firm announced Tuesday the opening of an office in Wilmington, Del., in an effort to serve an existing clientele there and to expand its regional presence.

Managing director Patrick Dunican Jr. says the firm has 30 cases, many in product liability, pending in Delaware and decided to set up a full-fledged office there.

Based in Newark, the firm has offices in Philadelphia, Trenton, New York and now Wilmington.

Aside from product liability, the new office will focus on business and commercial litigation, financial restructuring and creditors' rights and eventually will become a full-service office, Dunican says.

The office, at 1000 N. West Street,

will be managed by William R. Firth III, of Gibbons' Philadelphia office. Firth earned his J.D. from Villanova University School of Law in 2001 and before joining Gibbons was with Pepper Hamilton in Philadelphia and Wilmington.

He concentrates his practice in business and commercial litigation, and bankruptcy and financial restructurings but has also practiced in civil RICO, business torts, professional malpractice, breach of contract, international litigation and transactional areas of law.

Firth says he hopes to open up a multidiscipline practice similar to other Gibbons offices and will explore hiring laterals with books of business as well as merger opportunities. "I think this is a great opportunity to grow," says Firth. "I'm hoping this office will become as



EXPANSION-MINDED: William Firth III, managing partner of the Delaware office, calls it 'a great opportunity to grow.'

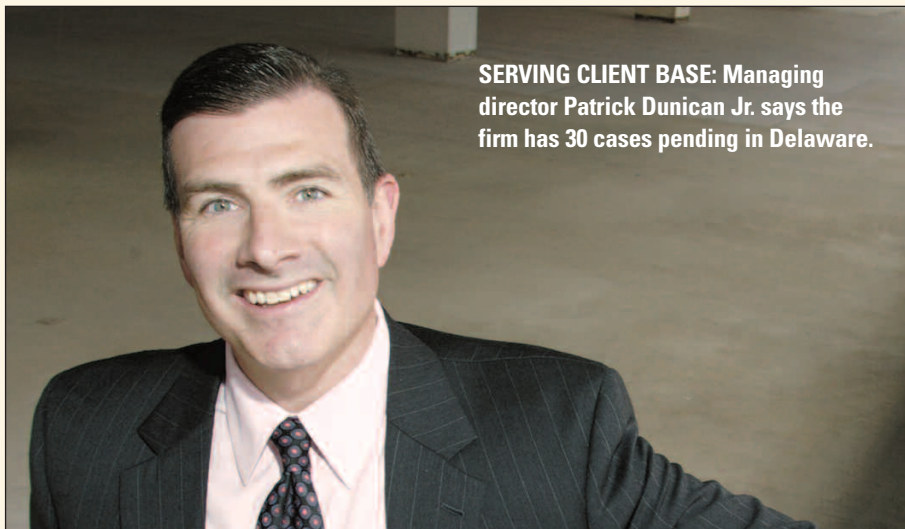
large and successful as the other offices."

Dunican says he started up the New York office. "Gibbons sent a lawyer named Dunican to New York and I came back to Newark four years later. I had 32 lawyers when I left," he says.

The Philadelphia office started small but had a growth spurt two years ago when it merged with Hecker Brown, Sherry & Johnson, a 25-lawyer boutique firm that specialized in insurance, civil, business and commercial litigation.

In Wilmington, "the boots are on the ground, and no one's there yet, but we're going to build it from the ground up," he says.

The 220-lawyer firm ranked 199 in *The American Lawyer's* survey of the 200 top-grossing firms in the United States, with revenues of \$96.5 million and net profits of \$25.5 million. It also ranked third in the *Law Journal's* survey of the 20 top-grossing firms in New Jersey. ■



SERVING CLIENT BASE: Managing director Patrick Dunican Jr. says the firm has 30 cases pending in Delaware.