

## Kelley Drye's D.C. Partners Favor Merger With Collier Shannon

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New York Law Journal  
02-21-2006

Partners in the Washington, D.C., office of New York's Kelley Drye & Warren voted Friday to merge with Collier Shannon Scott, an 80-lawyer Washington firm.

Collier Shannon partners also voted in favor of the deal, which still requires the approval of Kelley Drye's New York partners, who are set to vote this evening.

Kelley Drye Chairman John M. Callagy said Friday it was all but certain the New York office would vote in favor as well.

The addition of the Collier Shannon lawyers will give Kelley Drye, which has around 300 lawyers overall, a Washington office of almost 140.

Callagy described Collier Shannon as having a classic D.C. practice mix of litigation and regulatory work, especially in international trade, consumer protection law and antitrust. Collier Shannon also will contribute a lobbying practice to the firm.

Callagy said the Washington firm's practices were complementary to Kelley Drye's New York practices, particularly litigation.

"Their litigation practice is right now not as deep as ours," he said, "but they have a great client base."

He also described the move as a move to grow midsized Kelley Drye without participating in a much larger merger. He said some partners who left the firm recently had been pushing to start merger talks with firms with as many as 1,000 lawyers.

Kelley Drye recently lost four bankruptcy partners, including the practice head, to the New York office of Boston's Ropes & Gray.

Callagy said he felt maintaining a more modest size was critical to ensuring quality service for clients.

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