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Former prosecutors change career tracks

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David A. Glockner embarked on a career change this month when he ended his 24-year tenure at the U.S. attorney's office in Chicago and headed to a digital risk management and investigations firm.

Stroz, Friedberg LLC hired Glockner and Joseph M. Alesia, also a former assistant U.S. attorney, to serve as managing directors at the company's new Chicago office at 150 N. Wacker Dr.

The New York-based consulting and technology firm, which employs about 275 people, often hires former prosecutors and attorneys to act as consultants as it works with businesses and law firms to prevent and investigate cyber crimes, fraud and digital data breaches.

"The U.S. attorney's office is a terrific place that does really meaningful work, but it's also a tiny slice of what happens in the legal market and commercial world," Glockner said. "I want to be able to contribute in a different and broader way in helping solve problems that the business community faces."

Eric Friedberg, co-president of Stroz and also a former assistant U.S. attorney in New York, Friedberg said he expects the Chicago office to grow from 15 employees to about 50 in the next two or three years under Glockner and Alesia's leadership.

"It's a new category, and it's very cross-disciplinary," Friedberg said, describing the

firm's focus on digital risk management. "That's why we like to attract former cyber prosecutors, like David Glockner, because he comes ready. These former cyber prosecutors come fully equipped in the technology, law and investigation side."

Glockner left his post at the U.S. attorney's office on July 3. Since 2000, he served as the office's chief of the Criminal Division, where he developed expertise in computer and intellectual property crimes.

He said he hopes to offer more comprehensive assistance for cyber crime victims than he could as a prosecutor.

"As a prosecutor, one of the frustrations I had is that we were always coming in, just by nature, very late in the game," he said. "What I hope to have the opportunity to do with Stroz, is to help avoid some of the bad things from happening in the first place."

Alesia most recently served as senior counsel of ethics and compliance at Baxter International Inc. Prior to Baxter, he served as deputy supervisor in the U.S. attorney's office and helped investigate narcotics and gangs.

"I bring a unique perspective," Alesia said. "As a former prosecutor, and after working in-house at Baxter, I can appreciate and understand these (client) companies and talk to them intelligently about how we can serve them, and hopefully be a trusted adviser."

Stroz, Friedberg often provides digital risk manage-



David A. Glockner



Eric Friedberg

ment services for three main groups — in-house counsel, law firms and high-level executives at major companies after a significant data breach or cyber attack, said Erin Nealy Cox, executive managing director of Stroz, Friedberg who oversees the Chicago, Dallas and Minneapolis offices.

Neal H. Levin, head of the fraud team at Freeborn & Peters LLP, said Stroz, Friedberg enters a crowded field, but offers a service that remains increasingly vital. Levin does not currently work with the company.

"More lawyers are learning the need to have these types of support services now with technology getting more and more complex, cyber criminals finding new ways to breach networks and systems and new e-discovery rules," Levin said. "I think it's becoming increasingly

important."

Levin, whose team at Freeborn & Peters investigates, prosecutes and recovers from fraud cases, said more law firms, including Freeborn & Peters, already offer the services that Stroz, Friedberg describes within their own firms.

"It's a tough time to be entering the Chicago marketplace, unless they focus very heavily on the small and midsize firms" that do not have extensive in-house support services, Levin said.

Friedberg said he expects to grow the firm's forensic accounting and traditional investigative practice in its Chicago office.

"It's been about two years trying to establish an office there," Friedberg said. "It's not easy to find people at that caliber, and we were lucky to find two at once."