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Duane Morris Will Shrink Office Footprint By 20% In 5 Years



By **Kevin Penton** | Apr 14, 2022, 3:58 PM EDT · [Listen to article](#)



Duane Morris LLP plans to cut its office space by about a fifth over the next five years, as leases in various major markets expire and partners agree to having smaller offices, according to the firm.

Duane Morris expects to reduce its office space to about 500 square feet per lawyer by 2027, down from the current average of 635 square feet, the firm confirmed to Law360 on Thursday, following an earlier report in Bloomberg.

The firm plans to realize the downsizing in part through the renegotiation of leases as they expire in larger markets such as New York City, Philadelphia and San Francisco, according to Duane Morris. About three-quarters of the leases are set to expire within the next five years.

Inside the offices, employees are increasingly using "hot desks," which are not permanently assigned to them, while partners are seeing their office sizes shrink, according to the firm. Duane Morris has already reduced its footprint by nearly half in Wilmington, Delaware, and nearly a quarter in Boston.

Duane Morris has not issued a broad mandate for employees to be in the office. Rather, practice groups and individual teams are developing schedules that best address their clients' needs, according to the firm.

The expected downsizing at Duane Morris comes as many firms rethink how they want to configure their offices in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Attorneys who say they want to pop into the office no more than three days a week can expect to be asked to reserve a desk on an app, while workspaces with windows may be used as an enticement to get lawyers through the door, Kristin Cerutti, design leader for interior design firm Nelson Worldwide, recently told Law360.

Law firms are also increasingly looking beyond their direct competitors and inquiring how companies in other industries, such as technology, are planning to use their office space, Cerutti said.

--Editing by Rich Mills.



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