

FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF
DAVID.WEISSMAN@MYPRBULLDOG.COM

From the Phoenix Business Journal:

[https://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/news/2024/01/09/fennemore-combines-with-seattle-law-firm.html?](https://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/news/2024/01/09/fennemore-combines-with-seattle-law-firm.html?cx_testId=40&cx_testVariant=cx_9&cx_artPos=5#cxrecs_s)

[cx_testId=40&cx_testVariant=cx_9&cx_artPos=5#cxrecs_s](https://www.bizjournals.com/phoenix/news/2024/01/09/fennemore-combines-with-seattle-law-firm.html?cx_testId=40&cx_testVariant=cx_9&cx_artPos=5#cxrecs_s)

SUBSCRIBER CONTENT:

Professional Services

Fennemore continues expansion rollout, combines with Seattle firm




Image: Getty Images

Phoenix law firm Fennemore has expanded yet again with an acquisition of a smaller Seattle firm.

GETTY IMAGES



By [Paul Thompson](#) – Managing Editor, Phoenix Business Journal
Jan 9, 2024 **Updated** Feb 20, 2024 4:27pm MST

 Listen to this article 4 min



Phoenix-based law firm Fennemore is growing again, this time in the Pacific Northwest.

The firm, founded in Arizona in 1885, announced on Jan. 9 a "strategic combination" with Seattle-based boutique litigation firm Savitt Bruce & Willey. The combination, set to take effect Feb. 1, is the latest expansion for the firm that's in the midst of a years-long growth spurt focused on the West Coast.

Savitt will add 12 attorneys and five staff members for Fennemore, according to a company representative. Fennemore now has 17 offices across Washington, California, Colorado, Nevada and Arizona. It will have around 265 attorneys once the Savitt combination takes effect, according to James Goodnow, CEO and managing partner of Fennemore, who suggested that further M&A activity is on the horizon.

"I would predict by the end of the first quarter we will be larger than that," Goodnow said. "It's fair to say that you will likely hear more from us soon. Not specific to Washington, but our overall growth plans in the western United States."

Goodnow mentioned Portland, Oregon, as a potential target market, while noting that the firm will likely continue growing in California. Fennemore now has nine offices in the Golden State, and still has pent-up demand.

"It's exceeded our wildest expectations," Goodnow said.

Fennemore in June 2022 [acquired Bay Area law firm Wendel Rosen LLP](#), which brought 56 attorneys and 45 legal professionals under the Fennemore umbrella. At the time, it marked the Phoenix firm's third California acquisition since 2020.

For more Valley legal news, sign up for one of Phoenix Business Journal's [free daily newsletters](#).

Savitt stood out as a target firm because of its practice area, cultural and economic compatibility, Goodnow said. He also praised Savitt's impressive litigation track record, along with its diversity of litigation expertise.

"I can't overemphasize how impressed I am with all of these lawyers," Goodnow said.



James Goodnow is the CEO at Fennemore.

JIM POULIN | PHOENIX BUSINESS JOURNAL

Seattle was a natural expansion fit for Fennemore due to its high standing as a tech and industry epicenter.

"We really had Seattle in our crosshairs," Goodnow said.

Phoenix a growth market for national firms

Fennemore's latest expansion occurs as Phoenix is increasingly seen as a growth market for national law firms. Missouri-based Husch Blackwell LLP [recently lured five new](#)

attorneys to its local office, while Philadelphia-based Ballard Spahr LLP elevated a pair of Phoenix-based attorneys into its national practice framework.

Meanwhile, the dissolution of Jennings, Strouss & Salmon in August after more than 80 years of operation opened up additional growth opportunities for other firms. Gallagher & Kennedy welcomed six former Jennings attorneys in the wake of the news, while Quarles & Brady LLP added four new attorneys from Jennings after it closed. A pair of former high-profile Jennings attorneys also landed at Radix Law.

At last check, Fennemore was the No. 3 largest law firm in the Phoenix area with 93 Arizona-based attorneys, according to Phoenix Business Journal data. Goodnow acknowledged that "competition has intensified over time in Phoenix."

"When you have growth in terms of population, that brings new growth, new industry," he said. "It certainly is a great place for firms to call home and have a presence."

Still, Goodnow said Fennemore has something none of the national firms do, in its ties to Arizona.

"I think we have an advantage, since we've been here since 1885," he said.