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Congratulations on 125 years for Briggs and Morgan

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Back in 1882, Chester Taylor was president, boxer John L. Sullivan became the first heavyweight boxing champ, and Franklin Roosevelt was born. This was also the year of origin for a law firm that would become Briggs and Morgan. I recently had the pleasure of meeting with Briggs' President, Alan Maclin, and long-time partner in their St. Paul office, Mike Galvin, to discuss some of the firm's long history and the significance of reaching its 125th anniversary.

Briggs and Morgan's first predecessor, the Hudson, Wisconsin firm of Clapp & Macartney, moved to St. Paul in 1900. It later became the Briggs half of today's firm, providing representation to lumber companies across the growing Midwest, including the giant Weyerhaeuser Timber Company. The Morgan half evolved from the St. Paul firm of Davis, Kellogg and Severance. This firm formed in 1888 and represented primarily iron ore industry clients, including U.S. Steel Corporation. In 1960, the two firms merged to create Briggs and Morgan. The Minneapolis branch of the firm first opened in 1979, and they have maintained offices in both cities since then.

Mike Galvin joined the Briggs firm in 1957. He has worked there ever since. When I asked Mike how many pre-merger attorneys were still working there, he informed that, of the 16 attorneys at the time of the merger, five of them still practice or act as "of counsel." When he first came to Briggs, Mike said that he remembers being excited because the starting salary for a new associate had just gone up from \$300 to \$400 per month, which was more than enough to cover his \$75 monthly rent. He commented that the biggest change in practicing over the years has been the move toward specialization and practice groups, saying, "We used to simply represent clients and their needs, whatever they may be. Now we market areas of practice."

Alan Maclin joined Briggs and Morgan in 1980, and was elected president of the firm in January 2007. He remem-

bered that when he first joined Briggs, the entire firm, both St. Paul and Minneapolis offices, would meet at the Minnesota Club for an early breakfast each Monday to discuss ongoing cases and developments. "This developed a closeness in the firm and allowed attorneys to get to know each other," said Alan. Although such breakfasts no longer occur, but that efforts to maintain closeness come through section meetings and management updates. As the firm's president, Alan hopes to preserve the best parts of Briggs' culture and tradition, to work on the development of its corporate practice areas and to maintain the firm's practice of charitable giving and pro bono work in the community.

Both Mike Galvin and Alan Maclin commented on the presence of Briggs and Morgan in St. Paul and Ramsey County. While most of the firm's 160 attorneys now practice out of the Minneapolis location, there are no plans to eliminate the firm's St. Paul office. Mike added, "I will turn 80 years old when the firm's lease in the First National Bank Building expires, but my father worked to the age of 91, so we'll need an extension at least until then!"

Congratulations to the firm for this significant and rare milestone. Briggs and Morgan plans to celebrate its anniversary with several events through the course of the year.

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