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Local law firm celebrates its 30th anniversary

By DOUG SHERWIN, The Daily Transcript

Law firms have come and gone while countless others have changed their name and focus during the past three decades in San Diego.

Through it all, **Solomon Ward Seidenwurm & Smith, LLP** has kept its roots. The local firm is celebrating its 30th anniversary this summer.

Founded in 1977, Solomon Ward offers a comprehensive mix of transactional and litigation services. While the local legal landscape has changed dramatically during the past three decades, Solomon Ward has eschewed the temptation to acquire smaller firms or join a national powerhouse.

“It is important for us to maintain our firm’s identity,” said firm co-founder Herbert Solomon. “While other firms have chosen to merge creating larger firms, we have chosen to stay small and in turn stay connected to our clients and the community.”

Solomon Ward also is an anomaly among its legal colleagues considering two of its founders, Solomon and Richard Seidenwurm, are still practicing at the firm.

The firm features 28 attorneys and 30 non-attorney staff members. It doesn’t rank among the top 20 largest law firms in San Diego, but that’s just fine with its founders.

“Staying small allows us to better serve our clients and control the fate of our firm,” Seidenwurm said. “A smaller firm has also allowed us to create a collegiate atmosphere between our employees, which has been a great benefit.”

The firm approaches the business of law differently from other law firms, utilizing a democratic way of decision making and implementing an objective form of profit sharing.

“Compensation is based on a formula that has no subjective components,” said Paul Metsch, the firm’s managing partner. “You choose to earn what you earn. Partners have no minimum billing requirements, affording them the luxury of taking time off when needed.”

Solomon Ward’s transactional and litigation services range from business and corporate law, real estate and construction law, employment law, international law, taxation, trust and estates, bankruptcy and insolvency to most types of business litigation and even personal injury.

Clients of Solomon Ward include Fortune 500 companies, commercial and investment banks, large real estate and property management companies, large and emerging high-technology corporations and individual entrepreneurs.

Some of the firm’s clients, including ConAm Properties and American Assets, have been with Solomon Ward for its entire 30-year history. Other current clients include Hansen Beverage, Kontron, DPR Construction, Helix Electric and Barbeques Galore.