

Reaching new heights

Saul Ewing's new Chicago office managing partner knows the terrain

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[E. Jason Tremblay](#) has climbed almost every rung at [Saul Ewing's](#) Chicago office.

He started at the firm more than 25 years ago as a summer associate and was later hired as an associate. Eventually, he was named partner. Then on March 3, the firm appointed Tremblay as its Chicago office managing partner. Tremblay said he's ready to take on more responsibility because his experience has primed him for new roles.

"The last 26 years [of] my experience has really empowered me to grow through the firm and become a leader in the labor employment group and now [as] office manager," he said. "I want to continue to help empower everyone to do and be the best they can be."

He added: "I was privileged to be considered with this opportunity."

As vice chair of Saul Ewing's labor and employment group, Tremblay advises companies in negotiations and litigation of wage-and-hour matters, restrictive covenant issues and statutory claims at the federal, state and local levels. He believes all the firm's practice groups — which range from energy, health care and education to sports and entertainment, among others — collaborate well.

Collaboration work is [one] of the tenants of this firm," he said. "It's one of the reasons why I've been here for 26 years. Having a strong Chicago presence ... and work collaboratively with [the] national footprint we have is a real key metric."

In his daily practice, Tremblay said the pace of changes in the labor law market has forced his firm's attorneys and their clients to stay on their toes. He noted that typically most Illinois labor and employment laws go into effect Jan. 1 of each year, but now that is changing and causing Saul Ewing to get information to the market faster.

“It’s not even just really relegated to January. They’re being passed all the time,” Tremblay said. “It’s not an easy task, but I find that it has us trying to be as proactive as we can. We do to the best of our ability to try to keep our clients informed through alerts and webinars. We write [about them] on our blog, which keeps our clients advised. We speak and present just try to and keep up to speed. It is not easy.”

Tremblay said he’s well-positioned and excited to grow Saul Ewing. He understands he’ll have to navigate some unique circumstances as new firms enter the Chicago market and local attorneys break away from established firms to launch their own outlets.

“There is a lot of merger and acquisition movement. Just pick up any newspaper [at] anytime there’s another firm merging or another lateral group moving,” he said. “I think our firm is good and always looking to expand if it makes sense.”

Tremblay, who has only been on the job for a short period of time, is still developing his long-term goal list. But continuing to expand Saul Ewing’s profile and “exposure” in Chicago is paramount.

“[Continuing] to solidify relationships with community, business organizations, etc. That’s an important part of being a law firm, being an attorney,” he said. “I think that all our attorneys can make a difference in a lot of different ways.

“The real reason I think people stay where they are is because of the people. If you don’t like who you’re working with you’re not going to stay long. I don’t care how great the work is. It’s a testament to our firm [to] how long many of our employees in the Chicago offices have been with us. I want that to continue.”

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