

BigLaw IP Experts Head For Hoffmann & Baron In DC

By [Tracey Read](#) · [Listen to article](#)

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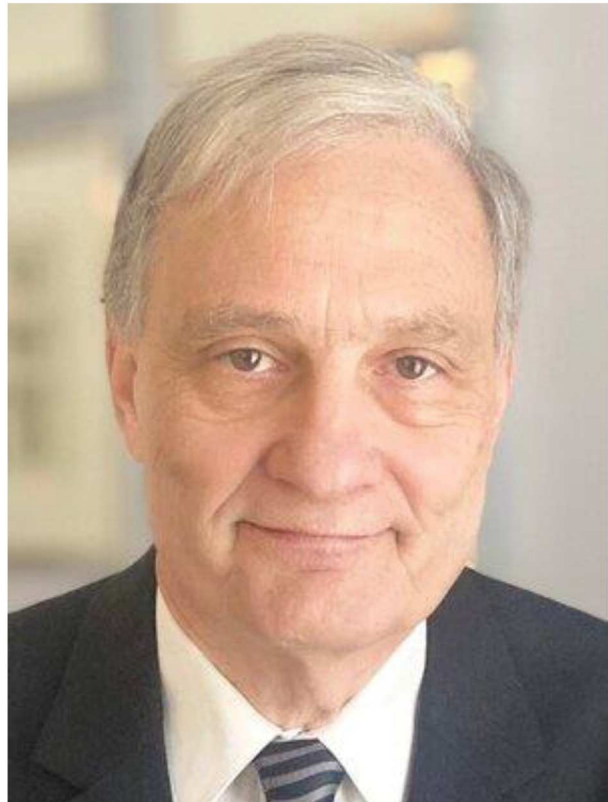
New York-based boutique firm [Hoffmann & Baron LLP](#) has hired its second intellectual property expert with extensive scientific qualifications away from BigLaw for its new office in Washington, D.C.

Curtis R. Altmann, former senior associate at [Arnold & Porter](#), is joining former [Perkins Coie LLP](#) senior counsel Joseph W. Ricigliano as the only two partners in the D.C. office. Managing Partner Daniel Scola said he wanted Altmann and Ricigliano to come work for him so badly that he opened the D.C. office just for them in June 2021.

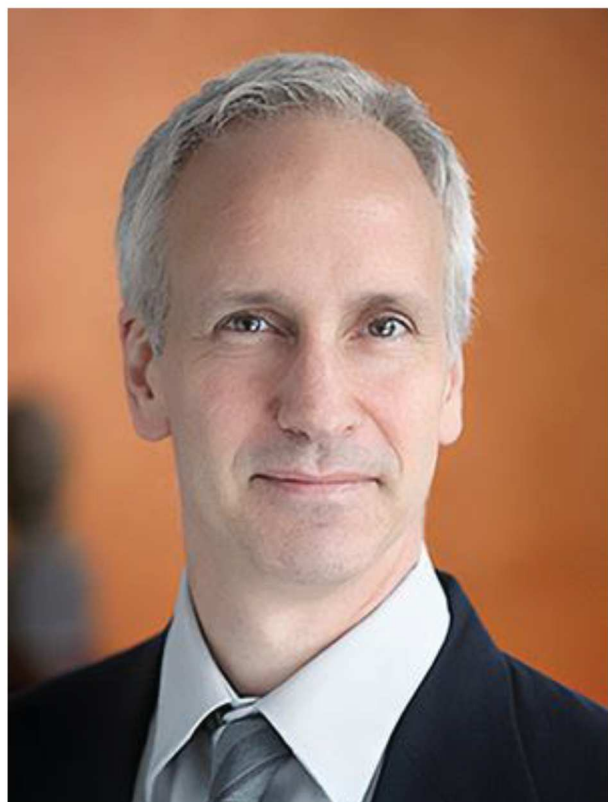
"We were looking for people who not only had incredible pedigree backgrounds, but had a high [emotional quotient]," Scola told Law360 Pulse. "These guys pass the test pretty well on that. They have the pedigree, they're easy to get along with, and they have skill sets that are just tremendous. They're so unique. They both live in Virginia, so we opened up a D.C. office and right now, they're the only two people down there."

Altmann joined Hoffmann & Baron in May. He graduated from American University Washington College of Law and has a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from the University of Pennsylvania. He has extensive patent law experience and a deep technical background, the firm said.

Altmann told Law360 he left BigLaw because he wanted to go out on his own and develop



Joseph W. Ricigliano



Curtis R. Altmann

his own business and reputation.

"Ultimately my goal is to grow a very large book of business if I can possibly do it," he said. "I'm particularly excited to expand the colleague base. I think we will really benefit from having people with deep mechanical engineering and other engineering skills."

Ricigliano, who joined the firm in June 2021, said he wanted to have more freedom in selecting work than he could get at a big firm.

"One of the problems is it's always hard to develop business, and the conflicts are brutal," he told Law360. "You are excluded. So often I had people want to send work to me, and I couldn't do it because it conflicted, conflicted, conflicted. That was one of the big reasons."

He added that the opportunity to become a partner and have more say in decisions was also irresistible.

"Right now, it's very successful," Ricigliano said. "We're getting a good chunk of work, and we're looking to staff it with more good people. We're looking to hire more people and build out the current D.C. office. Companies, like George Mason University, are just exploding in this area. We're putting a huge amount of money into research, and I really like to work with that community."

Ricigliano said his favorite thing about his practice is doing "invention harvesting": literally sitting down with scientists and their companies and working through what they think they have and finding out what they really have that is both patentable and potentially lucrative.

"Academic scientists sometimes don't understand that what they have is patentable," he added. "I love having those conversations."

Altmann has a doctorate in molecular and cell biology from the University of California, Berkeley. He is a former assistant professor at Florida State University College of Medicine, with emphasis on genomics and bioinformatics, eye development, vertebrate embryology, molecular biology, biochemistry, nanotechnology and plant genomics.

Ricigliano graduated from American University Washington College of Law. He also holds a doctorate in biochemistry and biophysics from the University of Pennsylvania and has a

bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Rutgers, according to his [LinkedIn](#) profile.

Ricigliano is admitted to practice in D.C., Virginia and the [U.S. Patent and Trademark Office](#). His practice is focused on worldwide patent prosecution, opinions and portfolio counseling in the biotechnology, pharmaceutical, material sciences, agriculture and medical device industries, the firm said.

Ricigliano has also been at [Proskauer Rose LLP](#) and at Arnold & Porter, which is where he met Altmann about 12 years ago.

Altmann has also been a science adviser at [Goodwin Procter LLP](#).

Hoffmann & Baron practices in all areas of intellectual property and also has offices in New York and New Jersey.

Correction: An earlier version of the story misstated Altmann's title while at Arnold & Porter. The error has been corrected.

--Editing by Brian Baresch.

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