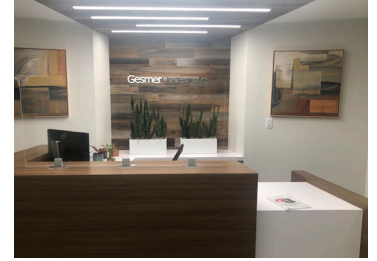


Gesmer Updegrove LLP loves a good challenge. And 2020 sure did deliver. During a year that will be remembered for a global pandemic, racial strife and political division, our lawyers, paralegals, clerks and staff joined the rest of America in searching for some inner strength and persevering in spite of great adversity. Over time, narratives of isolation and hardship slowly evolved into stories of creativity, courage and achievement. It happened across the country. And it happened here.

For us, though, the year began on a distinctly different note. The firm expanded its downtown Boston footprint at 40 Broad Street by more than 25% in January, and began a \$1 million build-out and renovation of our space. It was more than a face lift. The firm has always been closely tied to New England's tech community, so we jumped at the opportunity to adopt cutting edge videoconferencing and computer technologies to facilitate interactions with our West Coast colleagues, make communications with our clients frictionless, and anticipate changes in the way we will be practicing law in the future. Indeed, we were getting ready for depositions via Zoom before most of the country had heard of the coronavirus.



Our other "renovation" took place in cyberspace. As part of a renewed branding effort, the firm has rolled out a new website that acknowledges the dramatic expansion of the firm's litigation and IP departments in the decade since our previous website went live, and it more fully addresses the increased reach of our corporate department. Using the tagline "Go with Gesmer," the new site focuses on the firm's bold, ambitious, business-oriented approach to serving our clients. It includes a client portal to simplify account management, and it highlights the culture, attitude and drive that have set Gesmer Updegrove apart in a crowded field for more than 30 years. We encourage you to visit the site at [Gesmer.com](https://www.gesmer.com).

2020 also saw the elevation of two experienced attorneys to the role of partner at Gesmer Updegrove: **Michael Brier** in the litigation department, and **Shannon Nolley** in the intellectual property department. While they are new partners, they are veteran members of the GU team, and both of them are anxious to take on new and expanded responsibilities at the firm as they grow their practices even further.



Like so many businesses, the coronavirus forced our firm to find creative ways to serve our clients once we were driven out of our offices. Most of our lawyers have been working remotely since mid-March, but our IT department has given us the infrastructure necessary to accomplish from home what our attorneys would normally be doing from the office.



For example, this past year our corporate department advised client Curaleaf in an acquisition that resulted in its becoming the largest cannabis company in the world. Our IP department continues to actively service our clients' growing needs in prosecution and contested matters associated with patents, trademarks, and copyrights.

And the successes don't stop at 2020, with our litigation department securing a multi-million dollar products liability settlement involving a manufacturer in the vaping space just last week.

Gesmer Updegrove is tremendously proud of how well we have served, protected and informed our clients this past year. We look forward to doing the same in the coming year as well!

Go with Gesmer