

Connell Foley Balances a Proud Past with a Bright Future



Philip F. McGovern Jr., managing partner at Connell Foley.
PHOTO BY ANDREW MILLER/NJBIZ

Connell Foley LLP

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No. of Employees: 250

Key Executive:

Philip F. McGovern, Jr., Managing Partner

Product/Service: General Practice Law Firm

Year Founded: 1938

A “people-first” approach defines Connell Foley, a full-service law firm with seven offices across the mid-Atlantic region. The firm takes pride in its devoted attorneys, personalized service, and attractive, competitive rates for the level of expertise it offers clients.

“We’ve been in existence for 79 years; we’re one of the oldest firms in the state,” says Philip F. McGovern, Jr., managing partner, who’s been with the firm for 32 years. “We have a reputation on the street as being highly skilled, highly ethical, and well-regarded attorneys across the board. We really cherish our reputation in the industry. It’s one of our hallmarks.”

Connell Foley, which excels in the fields of litigation, real estate, corporate, environmental, trusts and estates, and ADR, has distinguished itself as a dynamic, independent leader in the legal industry. And, in an unwavering commitment to preserving its tradition while looking forward, the firm made a big decision to relocate its headquarters after 30 years.

In June, Connell Foley moved into a 75,000-square-foot space on two floors of a premier suburban office building in Roseland, less than a mile away from its previous office. The new headquarters will serve as a platform for further growth with forward-thinking amenities designed to support operations and personnel.

McGovern, Jr. says attorneys need to be well-equipped with technology to help clients keep ahead of issues and ensure cybersecurity in today’s virtual world. State-of-the-art video conference rooms, enhanced

data capabilities, sophisticated communications systems, and collaborative spaces in the new office allow for more efficient and expedient client services.

“We have designed a space that is not typical of the historical Connell Foley look and feel; it’s a modern look,” he explains, noting that the firm considered future generations when deciding to move on from its usual mahogany desk and leather chairs setup. “We’ve been here almost 80 years, and hope for another 80 to come.”

One of the ways Connell Foley ensures that longevity is to hire individuals who’ve done more than study law. The firm seeks driven self-starters with a sense of community. McGovern Jr. says the law firm focuses heavily on cultivating its balanced firm culture, which includes volunteer work.

“We’re a firm that is very focused on family life,” he says. “We encourage our attorneys to get to their kid’s baseball games and softball games and dance recitals and whatever familial issues are out there to attend. It’s a balance. You have your obligations to your family and the firm.”

That balance is certainly appreciated and, therefore, respected. Many of the attorneys have spent their entire careers at the firm and will likely be around as Connell Foley continues to expand throughout the tri-state area.

“It’s a great place to be,” he says. “It’s a firm where we like each other; we like being with each other—and our clients really like us, not just as lawyers, but they really like us as people.”

