



David Lowe, Rudy Exelrod Zieff & Lowe partner
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SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco-based employee rights firm Rudy, Exelrod, Zieff & Lowe is bringing up a new generation of leaders, installing a new managing partner and welcoming its first new partners in seven years. Employment litigation attorney John Mullan, who has been with the firm since graduating from law school in 2002, was promoted to partner on Jan. 1. Chaya Mandelbaum, formerly senior litigation counsel at Sanford Heisler, will join the firm as partner next week—joining firm founder Mark Rudy and name partners Alan Exelrod, Steven Zieff and David Lowe.

"We're excited for the opportunity to have such talented people on the team who are capable of living up the reputation that Steve, Alan and Mark built," said Lowe, a 17-year veteran with the firm who was recently named managing partner. Lowe added: "We're at a significant inflection point."

For now, the changing of the guard may not mean much in terms of internal operations. Exelrod, Rudy and Zieff will continue to practice: Exelrod is in the throes of the gender discrimination case against venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers; Zieff is currently investigating a wage-and-hour class action that the firm plans to file in the coming weeks, according to Lowe; and Rudy serves as mediator for matters involving wrongful termination and employment discrimination.

"They're busy, but they're looking to the future to make sure the firm is in stable footings," said Lowe. The firm doesn't plan on changing its name until "somewhere down the line," he added.

In addition to focusing on wage-and-hour class actions, the team wants to expand its work on whistleblower claims, cross-border and international cases as well as cases involving the misclassification of independent contractors. In order to meet the increasing demands of litigating large cases, such as processing thousands of pages of document review, the boutique is working with other plaintiffs law firms, such as Sanford Heisler and Lewis, Feinberg, Lee, Renaker & Jackson, to "share the risk, cost and reward," according to Lowe. The firm plans to hire one or two associates in the coming months, he said.

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