



How to Change Law Firms at 60, The Recorder

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Last year I turned 60, and left the fine law firm that had been my home for 33 years, joining another fine firm in July. Leaving a job after a long career is like a divorce—the less acrimony, the better. There are more than enough stresses in leaping to a new career without turning to the Dark Side. Why would your clients and new colleagues want to work with someone whose defining personality trait is bitterness?

There are ethical obligations to consider—to your clients, your current firm and your next firm—as well as the practicalities of making a move. Being a novice at transitions, I found some aspects of mine surprising, even after buying and reading the ABA's book on partner departures. Here are some steps to consider...