

## New Winston & Strawn chair eyes expansion, both domestic and abroad

BY BRANDON DUPRÉ

Winston & Strawn will have a new chief for the first time in more than 17 years.

Veteran litigator and Chicago native Steve D'Amore begins his first day as chairman of the law firm today, ushering in new leadership with plans for expansion both domestically and in Europe, where the firm has two offices, one in Paris and London.

"I have a strong will that we do more internationally, both in terms of mindset about the way the firm operates and growth outside of the United States," D'Amore told Crain's in an exclusive interview. He also stressed Chicago has a place in his plan: "We are so proud to be a major employer in this great city, and we are betting big on Chicago."

The Chicago-based firm joined the Florida rush in 2022, opening a Miami office that focuses on crypto and other digital assets, among other practice areas. While D'Amore didn't share any immediate plans about opening new offices, he said he wants to expand upon the firm's strengths, which are in big-ticket litigation and transaction law.

D'Amore, 54, leaning on the firm's

litigation expertise, identified a push into more regulatory practices in the nation's capital as one area for potential growth. "I would like to do more contentious regulatory and disputes-oriented work," he said, combining the firm's various litigation practices and governmental contract work.

The firm also has plans to grow in the area of infrastructure and energy, which has only become more important following the Inflation Reduction Act, says D'Amore, "turbocharging" those practice areas.

D'Amore has spent his entire career at the firm he will now helm. He began at Winston & Strawn in 1993 as a second-year law student and has led the litigation department going on 10 years.

He said the firm's leadership structure will look a little different during his tenure. D'Amore will head a chair group that will include four partners who will help manage different areas of the firm.

D'Amore replaces Tom Fitzgerald, who oversaw the firm for 17 years as it made huge strides in its corporate transactional capabilities, which now are only rivaled by the firm's litigation practice. Under Fitzgerald,



Credit: Alexander Gouletas, Organic Headshots  
**Steve D'Amore**

the firm doubled its revenue to more than \$1 billion annually and expanded its domestic and global footprint.

Winston & Strawn is the city's fifth-largest law firm by local lawyers with 250 attorneys here, according to Crain's research. The firm has about 900 attorneys in the U.S. and last year reported more than \$1.1 billion in revenue.

The firm will move into a new building at 300 N. LaSalle St. next year, shedding roughly 100,000 square feet of space as it moves out of its longtime office at 35 W. Wacker Drive.