

Office Snapshot: Gibson Dunn Gets 'Refresh' In Century City

By James Mills

Law360 (September 24, 2025, 10:08 AM EDT) -- After more than 40 years in its Century City home, Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP knew it was time to change the channel on an office that one leader said seemed pulled from an episode of the 1980s TV show "L.A. Law."

The firm found the station it was looking for just a half block away.

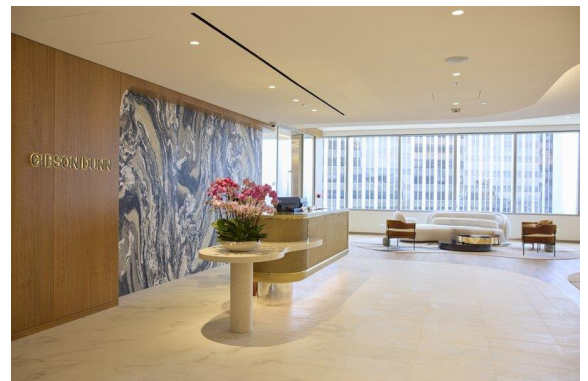
In early August, Gibson Dunn attorneys and staff in Century City moved from the famed Century Plaza Towers to the adjacent 2000 Avenue of the Stars building, giving the firm a larger, modernized space to accommodate more attorneys and events.

"The Century City office had sort of outgrown the '80s roots. It was in desperate need for a refresh in terms of decor," said office co-managing partner Kahn Scolnick, adding that the new office provides greater space for meetings and other events.

The office's other co-managing partner, Candice Choh, agreed it was "definitely time for a refresh."

"It had been some time since we updated our prior office space. We were very interested in expanding our footprint in Century City, picking up some additional square footage as well," Choh said. "It was the right time for us to upsize, but do it in a thoughtful way and do it in a way that also plans for the future."

Gibson Dunn, which was founded in Los Angeles in 1890, is one of a handful of BigLaw firms that have offices in both downtown Los Angeles and Century City. Gibson Dunn considers the two locations part of a single Los Angeles office and runs them jointly.



The lobby of Gibson Dunn's new office in Century City. (Courtesy of Gibson Dunn)



One of several conference rooms in Gibson Dunn's new Century City office. (Courtesy of Gibson Dunn)

The downtown Los Angeles office has about 267 attorneys and the Century City office has about 30 attorneys. New associates start downtown, but can apply to transfer to Century City after a few years.

Gibson Dunn was among the first downtown LA-based firms to open an office on the Westside, first in Beverly Hills in the 1960s and later in Century City during the late 1970s when it became a popular destination for law firms.

"It's important strategically for us in terms of Los Angeles to have a strong and visible presence on both sides of the city," Choh said. "In particular, it's important for us to be near our clients who are residents here on the Westside."

She added: "From a more personal perspective, Century City is important for the history of Los Angeles and the culture we have here and the closeness of the people here in the office. It's been a part of our Los Angeles story for a really long time. It's hard to imagine Gibson Dunn without a presence here in Century City."

The Leaders

Scolnick and Choh serve as the managing partners of the downtown LA and Century City offices. Scolnick is an appellate and litigation partner, and Choh is a mergers and acquisitions partner in the firm's transactional practice group.

While Scolnick spends the majority of his time in the downtown LA office and Choh spends most of her time in the Century City office, the two have equal power over both offices. They were named co-office managing partners in April 2023, although they previously worked on various projects together and played other administrative roles.

Their duties are equally divided; they collaborate regularly. They both have a say in any decisions being made.

"I think the only natural divide between us is Candice probably has more responsibility for Century City issues because that's her resident office," Scolnick said. "Often if things are going on in [downtown] LA, I might be the first one to hear about it because I'm based there. Other than that, we don't have a natural division of responsibilities. We both try to be involved in all of that."

After college, Scolnick, a suburban Detroit native, intended to settle in Chicago, but a winter trip to sunny, balmy Southern California caused him to change those plans, and he ended up going to the University of San Diego School of Law.

Drawn to the types of cases coming out of the Los Angeles area — and looking to join a robust appellate practice — Scolnick came aboard at Gibson Dunn in 2006.

A fan of the Encyclopedia Brown detective books when he was growing up, Scolnick said he still finds the problem-solving aspect of his work the most enjoyable part.

"Those of us who are turned on by this sort of [problem-solving] thinking and this sort of mindset in terms of diagnosing [problems] and being very specific about figuring out how to solve a problem for



Kahn Scolnick



Candice Choh

somebody — that, to me, is the highest calling in law," Scolnick added.

Choh, who is originally from Chicago, worked in finance in Los Angeles after college, and later attended the University of Southern California's Gould School of Law. She joined Gibson Dunn in 2002 immediately after law school.

Being an M&A lawyer was "a way for me to blend my finance and business background with a legal career," Choh said. She was attracted to Gibson Dunn by its large global presence and history of handling sophisticated deals.

"I found that Gibson was the place I liked the people the best and I felt the most at home," Choh said. "I think that's very much the reason I've stayed here for so long. I still find the work interesting. One of the things I love about this job, just from a career practice perspective, you're constantly learning."

The Location

The 2000 Avenue of the Stars building where Gibson Dunn's new Century City office is located was constructed in 2007 to replace the aging ABC Entertainment Center built on that spot in the early 1970s. The building has two 12-story office towers interconnected on the top and lower floors.

The building and the adjacent twin, triangular-shaped Century Plaza Towers, where Gibson Dunn was previously housed, have joined together to form a 14-acre superblock known as Century Park. The four-acre shared area between the buildings includes cafés with outdoor dining, small shops, a grassy park area with plenty of seating and a bocce ball court. There's even a fitness club open only to active employees of any of the tenants of the three buildings in Century Park.

The 2000 Avenue of the Stars building is directly across the street from the historically designated Fairmont Century Plaza hotel and a block away from the upscale Westfield Century City shopping mall. When the Century City Metro station opens in 2026, it will be on the northeast corner of Constellation Boulevard and Avenue of the Stars, directly across the street from the 2000 Avenue of the Stars building.



The coffee bar/snack bar area. (Courtesy of Gibson Dunn)

Gibson Dunn is on the top floor of the building, occupying about 39,500 square feet, almost a 50% increase of square footage over the previous location. The office has a sleek, contemporary design with lots of glass for a bright, open feeling, plus a mix of wood along with gold and red colors to give it a warm feeling.

"We have had a lot of people say that it feels more like a really nice luxury hotel than a law firm, which is kind of the vibe we were going for," Choh said.

Attorneys based in Century City have their own individual offices, but there are also hoteling spaces for attorneys who are working out of the office for short periods.

The office has increased conference room space, something that was lacking in the previous location. It also has a catering kitchen area as well as a work café for people to have a meal or a snack while

continuing their work.

"We have this large work café, which is something new for us that we didn't have in our prior office," Choh explained. "It's a big collaborative working space. There are different kinds of booths, different seating options, work benches, things like that; good for people coming in for just a couple of hours or for people to meet with colleagues to discuss things."

Likewise, the office has several telephone rooms for people to make private telephone calls, as well as an arcade room with Pac-Man and other video games.

The team

30 total lawyers
19 partners
2 of counsel
9 associates
17 staff
47 total in office

The Work

Choh and Scolnick list the major practice groups in the Century City office as mergers and acquisitions, private equity, real estate, and entertainment, explaining it has been a conscious choice to place those practices there since so many clients of those practices are based on the Westside of Los Angeles.

"It's always been important to service both sides of town," Choh said. "Downtown has always been closer to the courthouses. In terms of our Westside presence, our Century City office is more heavily weighted to our private equity and real estate practices and also the entertainment practice."

She explained that with many investment banks and private equity firms on the Westside and many entertainment and media companies based on the Westside, it makes sense to have those practices in Century City.

Scolnick noted that there's "a lot of specific history in that office with certain partners who are headquartered there who have developed practices that are important to our Los Angeles office and our firm in general with respect to real estate and entertainment law."

"There is that feeling this is the hub of those specific practices," he added.

Comings and Goings

Gibson Dunn did not indicate any attorneys have joined the Century City office in the past year.



The 2000 Avenue of the Stars building with the Century Plaza Towers, the previous home of Gibson Dunn's Century City office, in the background. (Courtesy of Gibson Dunn)

However, now that the office is in a larger space — which can accommodate about 60 attorneys — the firm is expecting increased attention on the new digs.

"We've already started to upsize our staff," Choh said. "We are anticipating, especially with our beautiful new conference space, that we're going to have increased demand for larger-scale meetings and things like that in this office."

Further, Gibson Dunn has already received requests from attorneys looking to move from the downtown LA office to Century City, Choh noted.

"We are figuring out what is the right way to handle that," she said. "We're always looking for opportunities to grow not just internally, but externally as well. We want to preserve the space to do that here on the Westside."

--Editing by Robert Rudinger.