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## McKool Smith, Hennigan Dorman to Merge Effective Sept. 12

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By *Sophia Pearson*

(Updates with details on law firm mergers in fourth paragraph.)

Sept. 1 (Bloomberg) -- Litigation law firms Hennigan Dorman LLP and McKool Smith PC said they will merge Sept. 12 to create a firm with 168 lawyers in seven offices nationwide.

The new firm will be known as McKool Smith and will operate in California as McKool Smith Hennigan, the firms said yesterday in a statement. The deal helps McKool to expand its roster of lawyers and strengthen its national footprint, co-founder Mike McKool said yesterday in the statement.

"This is a very exciting moment for both firms," said McKool, who is also chairman. "Hennigan Dorman has a fantastic reputation and a track record of success in complex litigation."

The merger is the sixth announced in less than a month and continues a trend toward smaller deals, according to industry consultant Altman Weil Inc.

Counting today's announcement, 39 firms have announced merger plans so far this year compared with 22 firms at this time last year, according to Altman Weil's MergerLine. Altman said in July that a majority of the deals involved acquisition of firms with 20 or fewer lawyers.

Hennigan Dorman, based in Los Angeles, represented Orange County, California, in lawsuits against more than a dozen securities firms in the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history. Dallas-based McKool, a prominent patent litigation firm, secured more than \$1 billion in courtroom verdicts, judgments and settlements during the first six months of this year, according to the statement.

--Editors: Glenn Holdcraft, Mary Romano

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