

# Ballard Spahr Merges with 170-Lawyer Firm

By Leslie Pappas

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Philadelphia-based law firm Ballard Spahr has completed a merger that will bring 170 attorneys in Minnesota, Colorado, and South Dakota into its fold.

The firm announced Tuesday it had combined with Lindquist & Vennum, a Minneapolis law firm known for middle-market deal making.

Ballard Spahr will keep its name intact and expand its reach into the Midwest, taking on new offices in Minneapolis and Sioux Falls, S.D., and adding to its Denver office. The lawyers joining Ballard Spahr are known primarily for their work in finance, mergers and acquisitions, and private equity.

The firm began the integration process last quarter and things have been going “smoothly,” Ballard Spahr chair Mark Stewart told Big Law Business in a phone call Jan. 2. The firms have already started working together on some matters, he said.

Stewart said he expects the firm might also see some “unexpected benefits” from the merger in the same way it is benefiting from the acquisition of the First Amendment Group attorneys from Levine Sullivan Koch & Schulz, whose expertise can be applied “across the board” for the firm’s corporate clients.

Altogether, the firm will staff 650 lawyers in 15 offices across the United States.

“The combined firm is higher profile than the firms were separately, and will have a larger profit pool to spend in a competitive market for talent,” said Kent Zimmerman, a law firm consultant.

The firms first announced their planned merger in September.