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Longtime Colorado lobbyist-lawyers join forces to create government law practice

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Two longtime Colorado lobbyist-lawyers have joined forces to create law firm Recht Kornfeld's new Regulatory and Government practice group.

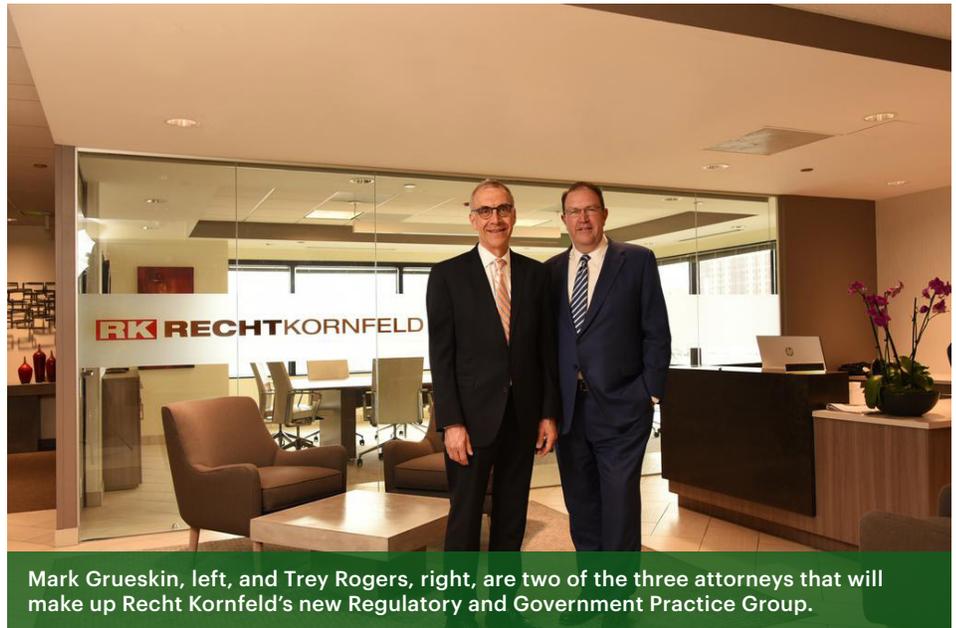
Trey Rogers, who served as the former legal counsel for former governor Bill Ritter, has left his position as a partner at law firm Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie in Denver to join Mark Grueskin, a shareholder and longtime Colorado lobbyist at Recht Kornfeld.

"It's really the opportunity to work with Mark," Rogers said when asked about his decision to leave. "After being on the same side and on opposite sides, you know, from different firms having to compete against each other, I think we both just decided that we like working together better than against each other."

Both are also registered lobbyists. Rogers' current lobbyist clients include United Airlines, Computing Technology Industry Association and Colorado Natural Gas and Grueskin's current lobbyist clients include the Colorado Gaming Association and the Rocky Mountain Wolf Action Fund, according to the Colorado Secretary of State's website.

Dieter Raemdonck also joins Rogers from Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie as an associate at Recht Kornfeld. Rogers, Grueskin and Raemdonck will all work for Recht Kornfeld's new Regulatory and Government practice group. The three attorneys will have other attorneys available to assist them in their firm's new practice.

"I was attracted to this law firm, because



Mark Grueskin, left, and Trey Rogers, right, are two of the three attorneys that will make up Recht Kornfeld's new Regulatory and Government Practice Group.

criminal defense lawyers are used to going to war over constitutional issues all the time and there's also an extremely strong civil and appellate element under this law firm," Grueskin said.

After graduating from University of Colorado Boulder, Rogers started his own political fundraising consulting firm. He went to George Washington University's night law school in Washington, D.C., in order to obtain his law degree and then returned back to Colorado. Grueskin was co-counsel on one of Rogers' early cases in which a client wanted to enhance regulation in Colorado for hog farming.

"In that matter, I saw how my kind of love of the law and my passion for politics and public policy could come together," Rogers said. "The other reason that it was really formative for me was I got to work with the best lawyers in town."

Since then, Rogers and Grueskin have been involved with some of the most notable political battles in Colorado including redistricting and separate efforts to stop the tax subsidization of the Gaylord Rockies.

"We've worked together on many cases over a lot of years, but we have also been on opposite sides," Rogers said.

Grueskin said 20 or 30 years ago, the idea of running a practice solely focused on government and regulatory issues would have seemed outlandish. But he said businesses have increasingly expressed an interest in retaining lawyers specializing in public policy and government affairs work.

"This practice is just going to continue to grow," Grueskin said.