

PUGET SOUND BUSINESS JOURNAL

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

Law firm Arnold & Porter to expand with move to Seattle's One Union Square

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Washington, D.C.-based law firm Arnold & Porter has more than doubled its downtown Seattle office space less than a year after establishing its Seattle branch.

The law firm has leased the top two floors of the 36-story One Union Square tower at 600 University St., Seattle office lead Pallavi Mehta Wahi confirmed to the Business Journal on Friday.

The company plans to move to the 39,000-square-foot space by the end of the year, Mehta Wahi said.

The new lease at One Union Square is for more space than Arnold & Porter's existing lease at U.S. Bank Center. The firm established its first Seattle office with a 15,000-square-foot lease at U.S. Bank Center. That lease has since expanded to 25,000 square feet.

Mehta Wahi said she could not comment on why the firm decided to move to One Union Square rather than expand its existing lease at U.S. Bank Center.

Mehta Wahi told the Business Journal that business has grown even faster than expected since the firm's debut in Seattle last year. As headcount grows, expanding office space in downtown Seattle remains a top priority, she said.

"We are Seattle residents, and we are business owners in the city, and we really want to support the growth, resurgence and invigoration of the downtown corridor," Mehta Wahi said. "We want to be where our clients are."



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The lease at One Union Square provided the option of adding further space in the future and offered an attractive location and amenities, she said.

Mick Newell and Tim Holt of Washington Holdings, the tower's owner, represented One Union Square in the lease deal.

Arnold & Porter's Seattle office at U.S. Bank Center launched with 25 employees last September. It currently has 41 attorneys and staff.

Mehta Wahi said the firm is continuing to hire and is on track to reach the company's goal of having 60 lawyers at its Seattle office by the end of 2027.

The Seattle office has seen "across-the-board" growth in business opportunities in tech, life sciences, healthcare, manufacturing, real estate and more, Mehta Wahi said. "We are very bullish on Seattle, and on the opportunities for our clients' growth and our growth."

In addition to her role as the Seattle office lead, Mehta Wahi is also the firm's chair of western U.S. strategic growth. She previously served for more than 10 years as managing partner for K&L Gates' Seattle office.

Arnold & Porter is the 49th-largest law firm in the U.S., according to Business Journal research. The company operates 16 offices globally and has more than 1,000 attorneys worldwide.