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New Regs Breed Business For Local Attorneys

by Claude Solnik

EAST MEADOW - New and changing regulations affecting compliance in the healthcare, financial and other arenas are spawning new and growing law practices at firms.

Great Neck-based Garfunkel, Wild & Travis launched a specialty practice dedicated to Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, or HIPAA, compliance, and Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, Uniondale, continues to field work generated by the regulation at its own HIPAA group.

"It's very busy," said Jeffrey Wurst, a partner at Ruskin Moscou, of his firm's HIPAA practice. "And it continues to be a growing [area] in our firm."

Meanwhile, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 has increased the focus on corporate accountability and led law firms to target corporate governance.

Ruskin Moscou launched a corporate governance group staffed with attorneys in its corporate, white-collar crime and litigation groups.

"As Sarbanes-Oxley was coming down the road in legislation - before it was enacted - we recognized there was a need," said Wurst.

Other firms, too, said they're eyeing Sarbanes-Oxley and Securities and Exchange Commission compliance as promising new practice areas.

"It seems a natural outgrowth of a lot of our corporate work, and a number of our corporate clients have those needs," said Marc Hamroff, managing partner at Garden City-based Moritt Hock Hamroff & Horowitz, which hopes to expand into SEC compliance work.