

Workplace Design for Law Firms

Typically slow to embrace change, law firms have been making huge strides when it comes to updating their physical space and embracing trends. Creating an engaging workplace requires designing around four themes: flexibility, activity-based areas, hospitality, and well-being. With attraction and retention more competitive than ever before, these themes matter. The more agile, accommodating, engaging, and supportive the work environment, the better the work.

Flexibility: One-size fits all does not apply to space plans. With every law firm needing a custom solution, one universal need is flexibility. A variety of easy to modify settings and adaptable pieces support the different ways people learn, work, and more. As law firms continue to lease smaller spaces but grow their headcount, it becomes increasingly necessary to plan in reconfigurable spaces with modular walls and furniture. One day the need maybe for more office space for associates and partners, but the next could be for collaborative meeting spaces.

Activity-Based Areas: The most engaging spaces optimize the needs of the individuals and teams alike. Dedicated spaces

for focused work intermix with areas that facilitate conversation, collaboration, and social activity. In an effort to appeal to the new generation of lawyers, law firms are moving towards a more flexible, activity-based work environment that allows their lawyers the flexibility to choose the kind of work space best suited to their task. Collaboration spaces are positioned in the most desirable areas i.e. the top floor, next to a roof deck, in the corners, etc.

Hospitality: A more connected workplace puts people at the center of their life-work experience. Welcoming spaces, like a good hotel or coffee shop, hinge on ambiance and social experience – important components of work. Amenities such as coffee bar with barista, or on-site daycare are being incorporated into designs as another attraction/retention tool. In order to get the most out of their space, associations are taking advantage of event rentals as another source of revenue. With events in mind, firms are taking more care in the finishes they select, as well as incorporating highly desirable spaces such as roof decks, balconies, views, etc.

Well-Being: Attention to the individual experience makes for better work, and healthier lifestyles. People want to be

in places that make them feel good: near natural light, with access to fresh-air, and surround by products with adaptable ergonomic support. Law firms have embraced height-adjustable desks, full height windows, glass front offices, and ergonomic tools to support their team members.

GET TO KNOW MOI: MOI is a leading commercial interior solutions provider that has worked with legal clients such as Carlton Fields, Willcox & Savage, Nixon Peabody, Patton Boggs, Mannatt Phelps, and Norton Rose Fullbright. We specialize in creating personalized design solutions to bring out an environment that enhances performance while staying true to the law firm's culture. We understand the many emerging trends within the legal sector today and are well versed to accommodate these desires. Our team embraces these projects from the beginning until well beyond completion.

