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## Firm stands test of time for 120 years

Aronberg, Goldgehn,  
Davis and Garmisa learns  
to adapt to new era

BY JOHN FLYNN ROONEY  
*Law Bulletin staff writer*

Attorney William J. Garmisa said some people refer to Aronberg, Goldgehn, Davis & Garmisa, a firm consisting of about 40 lawyers, as a dinosaur.

Aronberg, Goldgehn, Davis & Garmisa celebrates its 120th anniversary this year.

"For years, people have referred to us as a dinosaur because they didn't think a firm our size could remain viable for as long as it has," said Garmisa, who previously served as the firm's managing member.

A main reason for Aronberg, Goldgehn's success involves its ability to change with the times, Garmisa said. For example, the firm now recognizes the need for marketing.

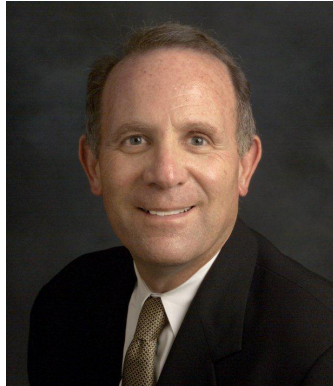
When he started as a lawyer at Aronberg, Goldgehn in 1970, the firm did not market itself, he said.

Lawyers now appear at speaking engagements and write articles in different law journals, Garmisa said.

In 1892, Aronberg, Goldgehn, began as a two-lawyer firm called Newman & Northrup.

Over the years, it used about 10 different names leading to the current name, said John M. Riccione, a current co-managing member.

The forerunners to the firm endured during World War I, the Depression and World War II.



**William J. Garmisa**

"We survived the Great Depression," Riccione said. "So, it was no surprise that we would survive and actually prosper during this last Great Recession."

Christopher J. Bannon, Aronberg, Goldgehn's other co-managing member, said the firm experienced steady growth for the past several years.

"Even during the years other firms were experiencing layoffs, we've been adding attorneys," Bannon said.

Aronberg, Goldgehn expects to add more lawyers and staff during the remainder of this year and in 2013, but does not project a target number, he said.

Riccione called Aronberg, Goldgehn a full-service business law firm that concentrates on corporate and transactional work for various industries, including banking, manufacturing, real estate development and insurance.

"We have attorneys who (spent) their entire careers here of 45 years, who began representing people decades ago and continue representing them or



**(From left to right) Christopher J. Bannon and John M. Riccione, co-managing members of Aronberg, Goldgehn, Davis & Garmisa, posed at the firm's offices. The firm is celebrating its 120th anniversary this year. Paul McGrath**

their companies," Bannon said. "The clients value the personal approach those attorneys have taken in helping to build those businesses."

Riccione said, "We take our clients problems very seriously, as if they're our own."

Aronberg, Goldgehn plans to host a reception in May for lawyers, staff members, along with friends of the firm, including many clients who remained with the firm for generations, Riccione said.

Its employees also remain involved in community service projects as part of the

anniversary celebration, Riccione said. Employees donate their time, talent and money to various organizations, he said.

They volunteer with organizations, including Women Employed, the Greater Chicago Food Depository and the National Immigrant Justice Center.

The firm also provides financial support to various organizations, including The Lilac Tree foundation and the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, Riccione said.