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## Skadden rainmaker to lead LA office

**By Casey Sullivan**  
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LOS ANGELES — Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates has tapped mergers and acquisitions rainmaker Brian J. McCarthy to lead its Los Angeles office, the firm announced Thursday.



**McCarthy**

McCarthy will succeed Rand S. April, who served as the region's managing partner for 18 years. By most accounts, April built the office into the 125-lawyer powerhouse it is today, which brings in a wealth of top tier corporate, mergers and acquisitions, real estate and white-collar work. Now, McCarthy, 58, who has played a crucial role in generating much of that business, will be tasked with administrative duties

and the responsibility of continuing the firm's growth to maintain what has become a brand name in Southern California — a rare feat for an out-of-state firm.

McCarthy insisted his mergers and acquisitions practice would not be affected by the move, saying he would continue to meet with clients on a regular basis and spread his work between his colleague partners, who include David Eisman, Rick Madden and Jeffrey Cohen. "We have a tendency to work on things together so we'll keep doing that and we'll juggle accordingly," McCarthy said, adding he had already performed a number of administrative tasks, including his participation on the firm's compensation committee and client development committee. April said he'll help McCarthy transition into his managerial role over the next six months.

In terms of goals, McCarthy said he would implement much of the same initiatives April endorsed during his tenure. Those, he said, include continuing to invest time and resources in pro bono projects, which he said has made Skadden integral in the Los Angeles community. The firm was recognized last year by the California Bar for providing more than 16,300 hours — an average of more than 100 hours per attorney — to a variety of pro bono matters.

"While we had some clients in the area when we initially opened an office here, we had limited exposure in many ways," McCarthy said. "People knew our name, but didn't know what we brought to bear.

Our involvement in the community has shown that. It's a continuation of doing good work so more people get to recognize Skadden."

McCarthy said he plans to grow the office through lateral hires, and pointed to practice areas in both litigation and corporate. Most recruiters say they feel the firm has blazed a stellar trail in Los Angeles, earning itself a name for landing top tier corporate work; but some said they see opportunities for improvement.

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— Brian J. McCarthy

"They've done a great job as far as white collar, real estate and corporate markets, but what they really need to do is focus on intellectual property," said Los Angeles recruiter Sabina Lippman of Lippman Jungers LLC. "Based on Skadden's profile, they could be stronger. It's not at the same level as their other practices."

McCarthy acknowledged intellectual property is an area the firm is looking to bolster.

"To date we've grown intellectual property out of Palo Alto, but there's increasingly more activity down here, so it's something that we're looking at," McCarthy said.