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## **Shernoff Opens Two More Southland Offices**

LOS ANGELES - William Shernoff's desk has yet to arrive, and art works lean against the walls of his office waiting to be hung. But the new Beverly Hills office of Shernoff, Bidart & Darras is "open for business."

The office is one of two that Shernoff Bidart recently opened. The other is in Ontario.

Shernoff Bidart's main office remains in Claremont. The firm, known for insurance bad-faith litigation, also has offices in Palm Desert and Laguna Beach.

"It's about time I moved to the big city," said Shernoff, who oversees the Beverly Hills office.

"People have asked me to open an L.A. office for years, but I resisted," he said.

Shernoff pioneered insurance bad-faith litigation with the landmark California Supreme Court ruling in Egan vs. Mutual Insurance Company of Omaha.

The Beverly Hills office is also part of the firm's effort to expand its practice further in the areas of insurance class actions and commercial bad-faith litigation.

Shernoff will make himself available to other law firms for consultation, evaluation and trial of commercial insurance bad-faith cases.

"I have worked with other law firms on complex, commercial insurance cases and found the working relationship to be mutually rewarding," he said.

"Being in L.A. will help these efforts because this is where the large law firms are located," Shernoff said.

Fifty miles east of Shernoff Bidart's Beverly Hills office, the firm's disability practice has set up shop in an office complex overlooking the Ontario Airport.

"In Claremont, we were in two buildings, but now all of my people are under one roof," said name partner Frank Darras, who oversees the disability practice.

Darras said the Ontario office also provides the firm's 32-person disability practice room to expand and more storage space.

"There is plenty of storage space to accommodate a thousand new cases a month," he said.

Name partner Michael Bidart also stressed that the new offices free space for the firm to grow.

"This really doesn't change our operation at all," said Bidart, who remains in Claremont with 30 firm personnel.

The partners stressed that they will stay in touch with weekly meetings.

"Each office is equipped with videoconferencing, so I can see Bill as big as life," Darras said.