

U.S. Supreme Court Bar Turnover Creates Seller's Market for Appellate Lawyers

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Sutton and sole Washington, D.C., practitioner Thomas Goldstein were mentioned as models by Roy Englert Jr., one of the Mayer Brown defectors who opened up shop on Washington's K Street May 1 under the new banner of Robbins, Russell, Englert, Orseck & Untereiner.

Sutton and Goldstein both gained reputations for building a Supreme Court practice by scanning lower court decisions and seeking out potential clients, rather than waiting for the phone to ring.

"We've been impressed with the entrepreneurial efforts of some young people with hustle," says Englert.

Within a five-member firm, Englert thinks it will be easier to match that hustle than at Mayer Brown, which practically created the Supreme Court specialty decades ago.

"There are many opportunities to argue at Mayer Brown, and they have a huge and very successful appellate practice," says Englert. "I mean that; I'm not just saying it to be nice. But we have an opportunity to try an alternative to the big-firm approach. There will be more matters available to compete for than there were a few months ago, and we want to get those cases with some hustle."

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