

## *Winston & Strawn Confirms Layoffs with Creation of Virtual Resource Center*

Winston & Strawn Layoffs: Firm Confirms Staff Reduction with Virtual Resource Center

BigLaw firm Winston & Strawn confirms layoffs, but does not specify whether lawyers were affected

New virtual resource center aims to deliver professional support services to lawyers and clients around the clock

The layoffs were reportedly a result of the "fundamental shift" in the legal industry and the implementation of a virtual professional services model

BigLaw firm Winston & Strawn has confirmed staff layoffs in connection with the formation of a new virtual resource center. The Winston Resource Center, created "in response to a fundamental shift across the legal industry in how clients and lawyers interact," will deliver professional support services to lawyers and clients around the clock.

Winston & Strawn did not specify how many staff members were affected or whether associates were also laid off, but Above the Law reports that a "hefty chunk" of associates were let go and nearly all secretarial positions were eliminated.

According to the statement obtained by Above the Law, the new virtual professional services model led to "elimination of certain roles." The statement said that some affected employees will be transitioned to "newly created roles" at the firm, and some will be offered early retirement.

Winston & Strawn's full statement to Above the Law reads: "In response to a fundamental shift across the legal industry in how clients and lawyers interact, Winston & Strawn is forming the

Winston Resource Center, a virtual, cross-functional group that will provide 24/7 professional support services for attorneys and clients. This innovative restructuring addresses evolving work practices while improving operating efficiencies. As this model includes an elimination of certain roles, Winston will assist our valued, dedicated and appreciated employees either by transitioning them into newly created roles at the firm, offering early retirement opportunities or providing career counseling."

The legal industry is undergoing a significant shift as more clients turn to virtual platforms and technology to access legal services. This has resulted in an increased demand for virtual professional support services, and law firms are having to adapt to this new reality by implementing virtual models and restructuring their operations.

The creation of the Winston Resource Center is a clear indication that Winston & Strawn is taking steps to stay ahead of this trend and meet the changing needs of its clients. However, it also highlights the challenges that come with this transition and the impact it can have on the firm's staff.

The firm's decision to assist affected employees by transitioning them into newly created roles, offering early retirement opportunities, or providing career counseling shows that they are taking steps to minimize the impact on their workforce. However, it remains to be seen how many employees will be affected and whether the firm's new virtual model will successfully meet its clients' demands.

In conclusion, the confirmation of staff layoffs by Winston & Strawn highlights the challenges facing the legal industry as it adapts to the new virtual reality. The creation of the Winston Resource Center clearly indicates that the firm is taking steps to meet the changing needs of its clients, but it also highlights the potential impact

on its workforce. The firm's decision to assist affected employees shows that they are taking steps to minimize the impact, but it remains to be seen how many employees will be affected and whether the new virtual model will be successful.