

# ConnecticutLawTribune

## There's a New Law Firm in Town, Run by Familiar Faces

By Emily Cousins

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**T**hree attorneys left their longtime firm Silver Golub & Teitell to create their own boutique operation, taking on substantive cases involving people who have endured tragic events.

After around 25 years at Silver Golub, Paul Slager and his colleagues who were at the firm for 6 years, Joaquin Madry and Nicole Coates, decided it was time to begin their own practice, which they named Slager Madry on East Main Street in Stamford, Connecticut.

"We have very warm feelings about Silver Golub & Teitell," Slager said. "But the three of us are very close friends and colleagues, and we felt like it would be exciting to do this. We have a common vision ... and we feel like we can help people in this new environment in new ways."

The newly minted partners at Slager Madry said their time at Silver Golub taught them to "honor the clients" and practice law with integrity. "We wish our former colleagues well and thank them for our experiences there," Slager said.

Angelo Ziotas, a senior partner at Silver Golub, said, "Paul was a valued member of the firm for more than 20 years. We wish him and his colleagues well."

Their new practice will have parallels to their work at Silver Golub, but in terms of caseload,



Courtesy photos

**(l-r) Paul Slager, Nicole Coates and Joaquin Madry recently left Silver Golub & Teitell to create their own firm, Slager Madry. The trio said they plan to focus on representing individuals who have experienced "catastrophic events."**

the attorneys said they want to make space for more significant and challenging litigation.

"We're going to focus on litigating catastrophic events," Slager said. "That starts with medical negligence cases, which really we all have a deep experience and expertise handling, but it extends far beyond that. One of the unusual practice areas we do a lot of cases in are sexual abuse and victims of crimes in civil cases, but we han-

de a number of trucking collision cases, some of our most significant cases involving trucking collisions being right here on the I-95 corridor.”

In general, the facts of the cases may be diverse, but at the core, the firm is representing those with profound injuries, Slager said.

“Anytime something terrible happens as a result of someone being careless, we handle those types of cases,” Slager said. “Oftentimes they involve very unusual fact patterns that don’t fit neatly in one category.”

Slager said he and his partners worked on many of the same cases in the past, and their practices styles melded well.

“Each of us complements each other in different ways,” Slager said. “This is a great example of the parts being great as a whole. We spend a lot of time collaborating and talking about our theories of cases and whether these cases involve a situation where we can really help someone, and we often have very different opinions about that. But we always find that through that collaborative process, we reach common ground. It allows us to sharpen our caseload, but also allows us to have a very cohesive, effective approach in each of the individual cases.”

In addition, Madry said all of the cases their firm pursues are contingency fee cases, so it is especially pivotal they understand the facts inside and out before representing a client, and can have frank discussions about how to move forward.

The trio’s “synergy” is what allows them to “go through the cases, understand the facts, analyze the law and decide as a whole, as a firm whether or not we’re going to bring the case, because many times that’s a huge investment, one that can last several years,” Madry said.

While the partners have much in common, Coates said when she looks at potential cases,

she has a different outlook she brings to the table.

“As a woman, I look at all of our cases through a different lens that can bring a different perspective to our cases,” Coates said. “I’m fortunate that I’m working with two partners who are really receptive and open to hearing a different view.”

As the attorneys achieve results for their clients, Slager said they want to be known for “practicing in the most upright, ethical and sophisticated way we can.”

“We find that when we handle cases in that way, we have relationships with people that last,” Slager said. “When you do that, we think that naturally grows your practice. That’s been all of our experience in the past, and that’s how we plan to do it moving forward.”

The current plan is to keep the firm on the smaller side, Slager said, and to grow organically as they discover their new needs.

“This allows us to be very efficient in both our internal processes, but also in the way we handle cases,” Slager said. “We feel that we can be very efficient in terms of communicating with each other and advancing our cases in the manner that we want to advance them. Some of that remains to be seen. None of us have worked in a small firm environment before.”

Even without the background of a small firm, Slager said they all have aided in the management of a firm in the past.

“There’s no question that we all consider ourselves to be very good at practicing law, and we’re going to need to learn some of the administrative aspects of running a law firm,” Slager said. “We’re starting to navigate those things already. The question of exactly how we do it probably is an answer yet to be written, but we feel very confident that we can do it.”