

# TEXAS LAWYER

[Topics](#) [Surveys & Rankings](#) [Cases](#) [All Sections](#)

COMMENTARY



## How Law Firms Are Reopening: Part III

The COVID pandemic led to many new opportunities and ways of doing things, says Rogge Dunn

July 16, 2021 at 06:03 PM

[Kenneth Artz](#)

COVID-19

6 minute read

---

### What You Need to Know

- Rogge Dunn, the founding partner of the Rogge Dunn Group, talks about how his firm came through the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - During the pandemic, Dunn built his own Zoom Room!
  - Dunn says his firm is still practicing the same COVID-safe protocols that they did during COVID, and hasn't gotten a cold since.
-



Rogge Dunn[Courtesy Photo.]

The arrival of summer seems to have brought a sense of hope and renewal for those in the legal industry as many judges, attorneys, and legal staff are slowly returning to their offices and courtrooms after spending the past 15 months or more working remotely and conducting too-many-to-count Zoom meetings.

So far, the Texas Supreme Court has begun meeting face to face again in the court's building in downtown Austin, according to a [recent story](#) by [Angela Morris](#). Meanwhile, associates are joining partners in the office, and in some cases, firms are having live summer associate programs again, according to another [recent story](#) by [Brenda Sapino Jeffreys](#).

As part of this ongoing series for Texas Takeaways on how to effectively get back to the office, Texas Lawyer spoke recently with [Rogge Dunn](#), the founding partner of the [Rogge Dunn Group PC](#) and a board certified attorney in civil trial, labor and employment law, about what his firm is doing to make sure everyone's return is smooth.

### **How Rogge Dunn Group PC Handled the Pandemic**

The COVID pandemic led to many new opportunities and ways of doing things, says Dunn.

"We were closed for awhile, and I got COVID. Then we reopened virtually and let people decide if they wanted to work virtually or in person," said Dunn.

"We did a massive COVID deep clean, we had several of the hand sanitizer stations, we had blue tape to ensure social distancing around the reception area and other desks, we had signage everywhere, we took people's temperature at the reception area, and we still have the receptionist going around every three hours sanitizing all of the door handles and the area by the coffee machine and the refrigerator," he said.

"We're still doing all that and I kind of feel like we're not getting sick as often," explained Dunn, "so COVID aside, we're still going to continue using hand sanitizers, and have the receptionist clean high-traffic door handles and areas—that just seems to work very, very well to keep people healthy, so they don't miss time from work."

In the beginning, when the firm's 22 employees had the option to work remotely or on site, the number of attorneys in the office would vary from week to week, but according to Dunn, about 80% of the people have ended up coming in.

"We have a high-intensity litigation practice, and for our practice, we generally found that the interactions were more efficient when they were in person. But then again, some people would come in for two or three days a week, so that 80% would include some people that didn't come in every day but came in on a regular basis," he said.

## The Zoom Room

Rogge Dunn Group's HD Zoom studio. Courtesy photo

Something else Dunn did during the pandemic was create a "Zoom Room" with an HD quality broadcast studio. (To read more about the Rogge Dunn Group's Zoom Room, please see this [recent story](#) by [Brenda Sapino Jeffreys](#).)

"We use the same microphones that radio shock jock Howard Stern uses and have three HD cameras," Dunn said.

The project came about after the firm's attorneys decided that if they were going to have meeting with clients during the pandemic, instead of using their office, they could go to the Zoom Room where there was sound baffling and studio-quality lighting, said Dunn.

"The client now has the ability to come in for a deposition and socially distance, because we have a whole room dedicated to it, as opposed to bringing in a witness for a deposition and they're sitting next to an attorney working off one laptop or whatever," Dunn explained.

In addition to a state-of-the-art studio, Dunn's firm also has a spacious board room that is 50-feet long and at least 20 feet wide.

"This enables us to have people come on site more easily than other firms that are working in close quarters," he said.

“Even though mask restrictions and social distancing rules are being relaxed, I still use the Zoom Room a lot,” Dunn said. “There are still court hearings by Zoom, some clients want to meet by Zoom, and there are lawsuits around the country—we currently have lawsuits pending in seven states. I don’t think it will ever go away—I think having a dedicated broadcast studio Zoom Room is going to be with us through the rest of my practicing days because we have some clients that say, ‘Rogge, I like you, but I don’t like traveling to Dallas.’”

“Sure, it’s better to be there in person, but if the audio and video quality is so good now that you don’t lose a lot and the clients prefer to save the travel time, travel costs, and the lodging expenses, why not use it if the court permits?”

What the Zoom Room does—because the audio and visual quality is so strong—is make it less of a downside to do a Zoom call, said Dunn.

“In other words, if your client calls you, and there’s all this nonsense in the background, then I think you lose something,” he explained. “But with a Zoom Room with dedicated audio and video, we’ve found that our Zoom calls are more professional, they’re more productive, and they’re better received by the clients.”

### **Concerns About Returning to the Office**

“When I came down with COVID, we evacuated the office and had a deep cleaning performed,” Dunn said. “The office was empty for about a week, and then around mid-May we required everyone to come back into the office. Once the vaccines became readily available, we said we expect people to come in.”

“I think our biggest concern was everyone’s health, safety, and well-being,” he said, “but before bringing everyone back, we made sure things were safe and vaccines were available, then we could focus on everyone doing a quality job at an intense litigation practice.”

“We’re still practicing the same COVID-safe protocols that we did during COVID. ... I haven’t gotten a cold since COVID—it’s crazy, but I think the reason is we still wear a mask when we travel—I think most everyone in the firm has been vaccinated. We also still give the option for people to wear masks in the office.”

---

## **You Might Like**

July 16, 2021

### **President Biden's Executive Order on Competition: A Q&A with Locke Lord's Brad Weber**

By [Kenneth Artz](#)

Law.com

## Bench Report

Jacqueline Thomsen is your guide to what's happening with judges across the country, from the opinions they're writing to the rules they're facing, and the scrutiny they may (or may not) be under. Tune in for the latest on judicial trends, including who might be next to sit on the bench and what's in store for the future of the judiciary.



Jacqueline Thomsen

🕒 1 minute read

July 14, 2021

## Reaching Hispanic Clients: Why Digital-Forward Is the Smart Strategy for Firms

By Natalie Fragkouli and Liel Levy

🕒 1 minute read

American Lawyer

### The Law Firm Disrupted

Dan Packel surveys the new competitive pressures on law firms and how their managers are coping, plus insights on the tactics and tech employed by would-be disruptors.



Dan Packel

July 14, 2021

## What Causes Buildings to Collapse?

By Patrick Daniel

🕒 1 minute read

July 15, 2021

## Spread of Partner Pay Widens in Parts of Big Law

By [Andrew Maloney](#)

🕒 1 minute read

---

TRENDING LAW FIRMS THIS  
WEEK

[On My Radar](#) [All Law.com](#)

1. **Greenberg Traurig**  
16 new blips
2.  **Littler Mendelson**  
5 new blips
3.  **McGuireWoods**  
5 new blips
4.  **Morgan & Morgan**  
5 new blips
5.  **Davis Polk & Wardwell**  
4 new blips

[Open Law.com Radar](#)

---

TRENDING STORIES

**'Our Profession Cannot Long Endure a Remote Work Model,' Morgan Stanley CLO Tells Law Firms**

[CORPORATE COUNSEL](#)

**Inflexible Law Firms Should Brace for an Associate Exodus This Fall, Recruiters Say**

[THE AMERICAN LAWYER](#)

**As Plea Talks Stall, Lawyers Accused of Throwing Molotov Cocktail Get March 2022 Trial Date**

[NEW YORK LAW JOURNAL](#)

**Associates in These Practices Are Most Likely to Make a Move in 2021**

[THE AMERICAN LAWYER](#)

**Privately Issued Student Loans May Be Discharged in Bankruptcy, 2nd Circuit Rules**

---

**LAW.COM | PRO**

**What Your Highly Compensated Business Professionals Really Think About How You Treat Them**

**Does the Equity in Your Firm's DE&I Initiatives Focus Enough on Equity Partnership?**

**Law Firm Leadership Amid an Epic Battle For Talent**



## Mentioned in a Law.com story?

License our industry-leading legal content to extend your thought leadership and build your brand.

[LEARN MORE](#)

### FEATURED FIRMS

**Law Offices of Gary Martin  
Hays & Associates P.C.**  
(470) 294-1674

**Law Offices of Mark E.  
Salomone**  
(857) 444-6468

**Smith & Hassler**  
(713) 739-1250

---

## More From ALM

[CLE Center](#)



### [Premium Subscription](#)

With this subscription you will receive unlimited access to high quality, online, on-demand

### [Team Accounts](#)

Our Team Account subscription service is for legal teams of four or more attorneys. Each attorney

### [Bundle Subscriptions](#)

Gain access to some of the most knowledgeable and experienced attorneys with our 2 bundle

premium content from well-respected faculty in the legal industry. This is perfect for attorneys licensed in multiple jurisdictions or for attorneys that have fulfilled their CLE requirement but need to access resourceful information for their practice areas.

[View Now](#)

is granted unlimited access to high quality, on-demand premium content from well-respected faculty in the legal industry along with administrative access to easily manage CLE for the entire team.

[View Now](#)

options! Our Compliance bundles are curated by CLE Counselors and include current legal topics and challenges within the industry. Our second option allows you to build your bundle and strategically select the content that pertains to your needs. Both options are priced the same.

[View Now](#)

[Go to CLE Center](#)

## Sign Up Today and Never Miss Another Story

As a part of your digital membership, you can sign up for an unlimited number of a wide range of complimentary newsletters. Visit your My Account page to make your selections. Get the timely legal news and critical analysis you cannot afford to miss. Tailored just for you. In your inbox. Every day.

[Subscribe to ALM Legal Publications Newsletters](#) 



[About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Advertise With Us](#) | [Customer Service](#) | [Terms of Service](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)

Copyright © 2021 ALM Media Properties, LLC. All Rights Reserved