

Global 20: Squire Patton Boggs

By **Darcy Reddan**

Law360 (July 17, 2018, 5:24 PM EDT) -- Squire Patton Boggs LLP has maintained a cohesive team of attorneys in offices across the globe who guide billions of dollars in government infrastructure financing for projects like Dubai's Route 2020 along with high-value initial public offerings, once again earning a spot on Law360's Global 20 list.

Consistently one of the premier global firms handling cross border disputes and transactions, Squire Patton Boggs has been named to the Global 20 each year since the two predecessor firms — Patton Boggs LLP and Squire Sanders LLP — merged in 2014.

The firm has 1,608 attorneys in 47 offices — 29 of which are outside the U.S. The firm's strength lies in its global reach, expertise and connections, with the majority of its staff — 920 attorneys — working in offices that are outside of the U.S.

"One of the hallmarks of our firm is that we started investing a long time ago, more than 25 years ago, in our international platform and find ourselves with connections, in so many different ways, to the global economy," said Fredrick Nance, Squire Patton Boggs' global managing partner for its U.S. limited liability partnership.

In the past year, the firm called upon its offices in Singapore, Abu Dhabi, Cleveland, and Columbus, Ohio, to guide large-scale IPOs in India.

In December 2017, Squire Patton Boggs guided SBI Life Insurance Co.'s \$1.3 billion IPO as well as the \$1.4 billion offering of The New India Assurance Co. Ltd., India's only direct insurer with an international "A" rating and the country's third-largest equity offering in 2017, according to the firm.

Nance also said that the firm's work over the last year on various disputes and transactions — such as multinational deals and adversarial matters — that involved at least half a dozen of the firm's offices exemplifies its collaborative spirit.



Squire Patton Boggs

U.S. headcount: 688
Global headcount: 1,608
Total offices: 47

Offices by Region:
North America: 19
Europe: 15
Middle East: 4
Asia-Pacific: 9

Squire Patton Boggs secured \$2.5 billion in infrastructure financing for the government of Dubai. Seven of the firm's offices had a hand in securing funding for the country's Route 2020 project, a 15-kilometer extension of the Dubai Metro's Red Line, which is one of the largest infrastructure financings in the Middle East.

"What's very important to our culture is the collaborative attitude," Squire Patton Boggs' global chairman and CEO, Mark J. Ruehlmann, told Law360. "We try to get the best players involved in the project, irrespective of location, and we don't get hung up on issues about credit. Some firms have a handicap in getting the best players involved in projects like [the Route 2020 project] because there are credit systems that create a disincentive for team play."

Nance also said the firm's internal credit system is one of the driving factors in the collaborative effort that makes Squire Patton Boggs one of the most responsive global firms.

"All of our partners have the same economic incentive to make every matter the firm works on successful," Nance said.

More than half a dozen offices contributed to the firm's successful representation of the Slovak Republic at the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes in August 2017, ending a three-year dispute with investors in the U.S. and Canada.

In that dispute, *EuroGas Inc. v. The Slovak Republic*, the court ruled that it lacked jurisdiction over EuroGas and Belmont Resources Inc.'s claims that the country had wrongly terminated their rights to one of the world's largest talc mines.

But that was not the only international dispute the firm handled in the past year. Squire Patton Boggs also represented the Palestinian Authority in a case before the Second Circuit — *Waldman v. PLO*.

In that case, the appeals court overturned a \$655 million judgment against the Palestinian Authority and Palestinian Liberation Organization over claims they encouraged violence against Americans, finding that jurisdiction was not available under the U.S. Supreme Court's 2014 *Daimler* standard. The *Daimler* ruling states that a defendant is subject to general jurisdiction only in two locations: the state of incorporation and the state where the defendant has its principal place of business.

One of the firm's largest ongoing undertakings has been advising companies such as Unisys Corp., Integreon Inc. and Bemis Company Inc., among others, on compliance with the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation, which became enforceable on May 25.

Passed by member states, the GDPR serves the purpose of harmonizing data privacy laws in the EU and mandates strict requirements on anyone "collecting" or "processing" "personal data" on "data subjects" residing in the EU.

The firm enlisted U.S. offices in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Palo Alto and Washington, U.K. offices in London, Birmingham and Leeds, as well as others in Brussels, Paris, Frankfurt, Berlin, Prague, Warsaw and Hong Kong in assisting companies that are involved in multiple jurisdictions that must be wary of the new regulations.

"Not everyone realized the full significance and challenge of becoming compliant, and we, in addition to

acquiring new talent over the course of the past year to help lead that [data privacy & cybersecurity] practice, have colleagues who are working on it literally around the world in an intensive effort to help all our clients, to the maximum extent possible, become fully compliant,” Nance said.

From April 2017 to March 2018, the firm made about 50 senior hires, with its most notable additions in its corporate, litigation, financial services and public policy practices.

Squire Patton Boggs also opened an office in Atlanta with a three-partner team that joined from Dentons and now features nine attorneys with further growth expected over the next few months. The office handles litigation as well as transactional and cybersecurity matters.

As it continues to expand its ranks and grow its global practice, Squire Patton Boggs continues to find a way to give clients the resources necessary to handle complex, cross-border matters.

“The sun never sets on our global firm,” Ruehlmann said.

--Editing by Alyssa Miller and Jeremy Barker.