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## Kelley/Uustal to Get New \$10M High-Tech Law Office



Kelley/Uustal Trial Attorneys is moving into a \$10 million headquarters in downtown Fort Lauderdale, complete with a state-of-the-art mock courtroom.

The 17-lawyer firm, which focuses on personal injury, products liability and medical malpractice plaintiffs work, will move into its new space on Federal Highway near Northeast Fifth Street in December. The custom-built office, which the firm will lease, will replace the firm's office that has served as Kelley/Uustal's headquarters for nine years.

"We wanted a new building," said managing partner John Uustal. "We have a courtroom now as we do mock trials before all our trials, but this will be state-of-the-art. It will also be a much more pleasant client experience. We're excited at the idea of building something from scratch."

The building, which is being constructed by developer Charlie Ladd of Barron Real Estate, is part of the 500 Federal complex which includes a Fresh Market, a 250-space parking garage and three restaurants.

Construction is under way on the three-story building, and the law firm will claim 2½ floors, or about 14,500 square feet. The developer is hoping to attract a coffee shop or bakery on the ground floor, according to Uustal.

The office interior will feature an open design, with all lawyer offices uniform in size. Dotting the office will be impromptu meeting spaces and drop-down desks for attorneys and employees who spend significant time outside the office. The entire space will have secure Wi-Fi connectivity and offer video conferencing and live-streaming capabilities.

The cornerstone of the office will be the new courtroom, which will be used for jury focus groups, trial preparation, continuing legal education courses, conferences and trial skills classes. The law firm holds mock trials or focus groups for nearly every one of its cases, Uustal said.

"We're designing the space for the mind-set of future generations who don't necessarily work at a desk or even from a traditional office," said firm administrator Roland Ochoa. "We're working closely with our team of architects and land planners to create a very innovative space that maximizes how technology, interior planning and the practice of law can function together to create a holistic experience for our attorneys, staff and clients alike."

Kelley/Uustal also has offices in West Palm Beach and Marathon.