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LUNN JOINING TREVETT CRISTO

By Elizabeth Stull, Daily Record Reporter
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Less than a year after returning to private practice, former Appellate Division, Fourth Department Justice Robert J. Lunn is being snatched up by the Rochester law firm of Trevett Cristo Salzer & Andolina PC.

He plans to join the firm Jan. 1, 2010.

Firm president Louis Cristo said he first approached Lunn about becoming a partner six months ago.

“He lends a unique perspective, not only because of his experiences as an active practitioner, but also a well-respected jurist,” Cristo said Monday.

Lunn served for 14 years as a state Supreme Court Justice and was appointed to the appellate division in 2005.

After losing his bid for re-election in 2008, Lunn stepped in to help Jonathan C. Trotto, whose father, solo practitioner Christopher D. Trotto, died unexpectedly in September 2008.

“He’s been an excellent mentor,” Jonathan Trotto, of The Lunn Trotto Law Firm, said Monday. “He’s really helped keep my father’s practice going and given me the advice and the mentoring that I’ve needed to succeed.”

Trotto, who was sworn in to the bar in June said he will be sole proprietor of The Trotto Law Firm. He has a general practice focusing on matrimonial, family law and trusts and estates.

He and Lunn moved into a suite in the building where Trotto’s father had practiced, at 1100 Long Pond Road in Greece.

As a partner with Trevett Cristo, Lunn primarily will work in the firm’s Downtown Rochester office at 2 State St., in the Crossroads Building. He also will spend one or two days a week at the Greece office.

The former judge said he has been very busy since he left the bench, primarily with litigation and matrimonial work. Trevett Cristo will be a good fit and lend support to his practice, Lunn said, adding that, as a judge, he had admired the firm's work in the courts.

"They're an excellent law firm. They're always very well-prepared," Lunn said.

Trevett Cristo is an 80-year-old general practice firm that focuses on trial work. It has 40 employees with 21 attorneys and 14 partners, including Lunn, Cristo said.

The firm maintains small satellite offices in the Town of Ontario, Irondequoit and Watkins Glen.

While Lunn has an active general practice, "it's hoped that he'll develop an arbitration/mediation practice as well, sitting as a mediator and an arbitrator because of his reputation with the trial bar as a very even-handed judge," Cristo said.

Although former partners in Trevett Cristo have gone on to join the bench — including Seventh District Administrative Judge Thomas Van Strydonck — Lunn is the first former judge to join the firm, Cristo said.

Lunn, who writes a regular opinion column for The Daily Record, began his legal career as a prosecutor in Monroe County in 1976 and was engaged in private practice from 1978 through 1994, when he was first elected to the state Supreme Court.

He graduated from the University of Rochester and Cornell Law School.

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