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MoFo Prepares Future Attys With New AI Summer Program

By **Jake Maher**

Law360 (November 12, 2026, 1:54 PM EST) -- Morrison Foerster LLP is recruiting summer associates for next year to work with its artificial intelligence tech team, in a move the firm says is meant to start a pipeline of younger attorneys with AI skills.

Starting next summer, the firm intends for two first-year law students to spend their 1L summer collaborating with Morrison Foerster's innovation team to build AI-based workflows and tools designed closely with different practice groups to meet their specific needs.

Nicole Wanzer, director of attorney recruiting for Morrison Foerster, told Law360 Pulse that, at a time when recruiting pressures on law students are intensifying, the program offers a chance for applicants to stand out, as well as an important training experience.

"You're not only working at a firm that has AI as an industry focus, but you're also coming in to work at the innovation and technology team," Wanzer said.

Morrison Foerster is joining a number of other firms that are expanding their AI trainings for summer associates specifically, in addition to general firm attorneys.

Wanzer and Christine Young, director of innovation, said Morrison Foerster's new program gives students the chance to spend their 1L summer with the innovation team before returning to the regular summer associate program for their 2L summer.

Morrison Foerster's innovation team manages the technical aspects of the firm's applications, reviews AI adoption use and training and drives "practice transformation," Young said. Under that last set of responsibilities, team members are in charge of building custom AI-based tools for clients, as well as working closely with individual firm practice groups to analyze what their workflow looks like and where parts of it could be automated, Young said. The new summer associates will most likely contribute primarily to that branch of the team's work.

The ideal candidate is not necessarily one with exhaustive legal or technical experience, Young said.

"What I tend to look at is creativity and grit when it comes to using AI," she said.

She said that one person who is already on the innovation team, for example, has been "vibecoding" apps for her phone that had nothing to do with the law in her spare time.

"That's the kind of creativity that we're looking for, because while we'll need to figure out the law from the attorneys that are actually doing that work, there is a need to understand the boundaries of what's capable with AI," Young said.

Morrison Foerster's innovation team is split between New York, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco, and the new summer associates will ideally be based in one of those offices, Young said. The goal is for two students to fill the roles, but the number is not fixed and can be adjusted for demand, she added. The firm is taking applications for summer 2027 now.

The big picture goals for the innovation team, Young said, are to push each practice group closer to being AI-native and to take the lead on proprietary, in-house AI projects that set the firm apart from others.

"We are constantly thinking about how MoFo will continue to differentiate itself in the market" at a time when essentially all firms could have access to some form of generative AI tool, Young said.

For the students who will soon be working on the team, Morrison Foerster leaders said the goal is to train an upcoming generation of attorneys who are comfortable tinkering with AI in addition to having the foundational skills of lawyering. Young noted that the innovation team summer associates will work on some traditional 1L assignments and meet with firm partners to build connections for their 2L years.

Wanzer said the innovation program is meant to give a boost to the summer associates' careers in the short term.

"You may in fact become that much more attractive to our outside clients when they are working on teams, or you may be that much more attractive to a partner who's looking for someone with some type of subject matter expertise," Wanzer said.

And looking at the legal industry as a whole, Wanzer also said that the program is a chance for upcoming attorneys to have a say in the development of legal AI tools that are poised to reshape the career they're training for.

"Law students today are acutely aware that AI is reshaping their everyday life and by extension their legal services," Wanzer said. "[Young's] team is giving them a sandbox to help build solutions in a moment that is ever-changing."

--Editing by Nicole Bleier.

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