Major U.S. Law Firm Merger Creates $1 Billion Legal Powerhouse

Cincinnati-founded Taft, Stettinius & Hollister is set to merge with **Atlanta-based Morris Manning & Martin**, creating a combined firm boasting **over 1,200 lawyers across 25 offices** and projected revenues exceeding **$1 billion** Reuters.

Merger Dynamics & Strategic Intent

Scheduled to take effect on **December 31**, the merger marks Taft's **ninth consolidation in under 20 years**, continuing its aggressive expansion strategy X (formerly Twitter)+15Reuters+15AJC+15. Taft's chairman and managing partner, **Robert Hicks**, highlighted the firm's ambition to become a **national middle-market super-firm**, noting that the middle market represents **80%–90% of the U.S. economy**

Resilience Amid Departures

Despite Morris Manning experiencing significant personnel attrition earlier this year—including **20% of its partners joining Reed Smith** and **12 IP attorneys moving to another firm**—its leadership emphasized that this merger is **strategic, not reactive** Reuters+2AJC+2. Both firms' partners unanimously approved the deal, underscoring the strength of the partnership.

Continued Consolidation in Legal Sector

This merger is one among several high-profile law firm consolidations in 2025. For instance, **McDermott Will & Emery** merged with **Schulte Roth & Zabel** in August to form a 1,750-lawyer firm, while **Herbert Smith Freehills** combined with **Kramer Levin**, and **Shearman & Sterling** joined forces with **Allen & Overy** in prior months.