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## Caldwell Adds Proctor, Drops Newcombe to Name

By Robert Iafolla  
Daily Journal Staff Writer

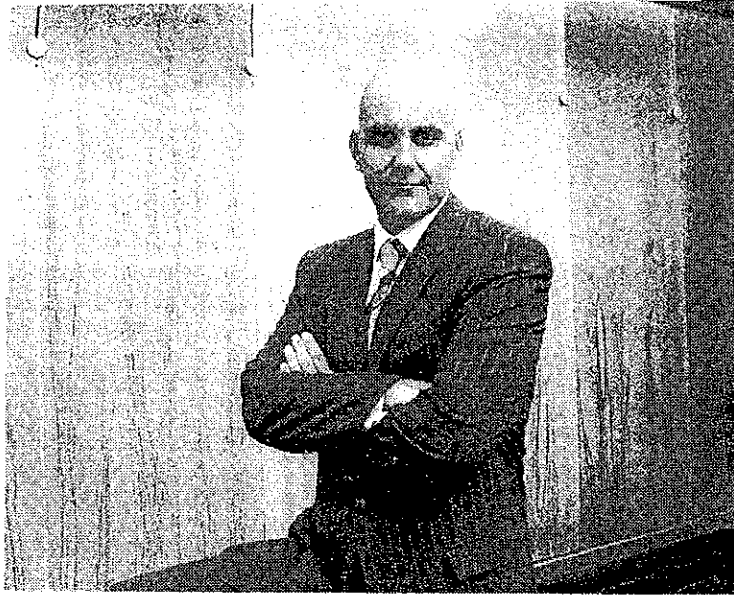
LOS ANGELES — Trial lawyer Michael J. Proctor received a nod of respect from his partners today with the elevation of his name to his firm's shingle.

The 15-attorney litigation boutique will now be known as Caldwell Leslie Proctor & Pettit. It was previously called Caldwell Leslie Newcombe & Pettit.

"My heroes in the criminal defense community are all people who have their names on their doors — people like John Kecker, Mike Lightfoot, Marc Harris, Jeff Rutherford," Proctor said. "So I feel a sense of gratitude and appreciation that my partners have decided to add my name to Caldwell Leslie's letterhead."

Partner Mary Newcombe's decision to leave the firm in order to spend more time with her children prompted the elevation of Proctor's name.

"Did my firm do everything it could to accommodate me? Yes," Newcombe said. "I worked part time, I worked from home. But the reality is that with litigation — especially when you're running cases — there still wasn't enough



Courtesy of Caldwell Leslie

"I have really big shoes to fill," Michael J. Proctor said. "It's one thing to have your name on the door, but it's also a lot of responsibility."

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Newcombe said she may practice law again one day, but "probably not litigation."

A quintet of colleagues from O'Donnell & Gordon, including Newcombe, Caldwell and Michael R. Leslie, formed the firm in 1988, after Pierce O'Donnell moved to Kaye Scholer and O'Donnell &

Gordon dissolved.

"Mary's departure from the firm is, frankly, a great loss on a personal level," name partner Christopher G. Caldwell said. "At the same time, when I look at the future of the firm, Mary's departure gives us an opportunity to recognize Michael's contributions."

Proctor joined the firm in 2002, after spending five years as a trial attorney with the Federal Public Defenders Office in Los Angeles. Earlier, the Yale Law School graduate practiced at Kecker & Van Nest in San Francisco.

In the last six white-collar criminal defense cases that Proctor has handled, five of them resulted in dropped charges, and the sixth ended with a misdemeanor disposition.

Caldwell said the partnership considered formally shortening the firm's name to just Caldwell Leslie, but that this would short-change Proctor and name partner David Pettit. In addition, Caldwell said they wanted to highlight Proctor's success in white-collar defense, which he called an important, growing practice area for the firm.

Of the name change, a flattered Proctor said, "It's almost embarrassing."

"As the days have gone by, though, I've realized that I have really big shoes to fill," he said. "It's one thing to say you have your name on the door, but it's also a lot of responsibility."