

Law From Home: Snapshots Of Attys' COVID-19 Office Setups

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Law360 (April 24, 2020, 7:33 PM EDT) -- In a shed, on a boat, at the kitchen table, with children and pets in tow. What it looks like to practice law during the coronavirus pandemic and the resulting stay-at-home push is vastly different from what it looked like just two months ago.



Harsh Arora, a partner in [Kelley Kronenberg's](#) Fort Lauderdale office, is able to keep an eye on his children — Shaan, 8, Sofia, 5, and Sonia, 2 — while he practices law, since his home office is next to the children's play area.

Attorneys have had to get creative when it comes to setting up their workspaces at home so that they can continue to focus on tackling complex legal issues while also juggling other responsibilities, such as home-schooling their children or caring for elderly parents.

Many have gone the extra mile to find a quiet spot in homes that are currently filled with babies crying, children playing and dogs barking.

[Goldberg Kohn](#) partner Meredith Kirshenbaum says that in the mornings, she responds to work emails from her son's bedroom as she helps him with his schooling.

By afternoon, when school lets out, she said she often escapes to the car to find a quiet space to continue working.

"When things get particularly noisy at home, which is often, I take calls in the car where I am guaranteed there will not be any unwanted conference call visitors," Kirshenbaum said.

Bay Area immigration attorney Nadia Yakoob has set up her home office in a small, 8-by-8 shed next to her house so that she can find some quiet in the midst of caring for and helping to home-school her children, ages 2 and 8.

"Fortunately, it has electricity running to it, and I boosted Wi-Fi coverage to reach it so I could do daily Zoom calls with my team," said Yakoob, who manages a boutique law firm. "The kids visit me when I am working, but having a space outside of my home — even if it's just 10 to 15 feet away — is really helpful."

[Reavis Page Jump LLP](#) partner Deena Merlen has set up an office in her husband's recording studio, which is soundproof. Her spouse, Joe Bell, is a professional musician.

The setup is key in Merlen's household, which is currently filled up with her husband, 11- and 18-year-old children, her 89-year-old mother and two family pets.

Other lawyers have moved their practices outdoors to accommodate full houses and simply for the pleasure of spending time outside while at work.

[Becker & Poliakoff PA](#) shareholder Jay Roberts set up his temporary office on his porch, which has a view overlooking the Gulf of Mexico in Florida. His fiancée, [Nelson Mullins](#) attorney Lacey Corona, has a desk set up inside the couple's home.

Another Florida attorney, [Trenam Law](#) shareholder Gregory-Scott Haney, is surrounded by blue water as he stays busy closing real estate transactions and reviewing commercial leases from a deck overlooking one of the inlets of Tampa Bay.

Across the sea, Andrew Martin, managing partner of [Richards Kibbe & Orbe LLP's London](#) office, has set up his new home office in the captain's quarters of his 125-foot barge, which is moored at Blackwall Basin in Canary Wharf, London.

Martin has lived in the barge since 2018 and says his commute now consists of seven stairs from the main cabin up to the office.

Many attorneys' home offices are located in a much more mundane space than a barge: the kitchen table.

[Best Best & Krieger LLP](#) partner Alisha Winterswyk says that being at her kitchen table allows her to work while keeping an eye on her 5-year-old and her baby.

"I have a home office but am unable to work in it because of all there is to juggle," Winterswyk said. "I have to be able to see the kids while I'm working, so I'm sacrificing ergonomics for safety."

[Baker Botts LLP](#) partner Heather Souder Choi spends her day working and learning alongside her two children, ages 6 and 3, at her family's table.

"I spent an hour cleaning up my basement and setting up a mini office that I never use," Choi said. "I spend most of the day at the dining room table where I can work and supervise Zoom elementary school at the same time."