Firms merge nears to create IP "superboutique"

By Alexandra Schwappach Special to the Daily Journal

Intellectual property law firms Novak Duvall & Quigley LLP and Raymonde, Nance & Associates LLP are nearing final discussions to merge. If the firms decide to merge, it will create a national IP firm.

The merger, which would create a single intellectual property boutique firm in the nation, is expected to include discussions on firm culture, board structure, marketing, and other issues. The firms are not expected to merge until early 2014.

A bill to curb alleged abuses of the Americans with Disabilities Act was signed by Gov. Jerry Brown on Wednesday, SB 1186, authored by Sen. President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, prevents attorneys from sending lengthy letters to clients asking them to pay fees. The law also requires attorneys who send such letters to provide a statement of fees and expenses.

A Los Angeles criminal defense attorney who has been disbarred for his "ineptitude" was not "bliss" in this case, according to the opinion. The court found that the respondent's "disability is not 'bliss' in this case."