

# Lieff Partner Leaving for Plaintiffs Boutique

*Patience Haggin, The Recorder*

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Kristen Sagafi, Tycko & Zavareei

SAN FRANCISCO — Kristen Law Sagafi joined class action and whistleblower law firm Tycko & Zavareei as a partner on Tuesday. She was previously a partner in Lieff Cabraser Heimann & Bernstein's San Francisco office, where she has spent her entire 13-year career.

Sagafi, who represents plaintiffs in consumer fraud and defective products cases, will open a West Coast office for the 10-lawyer Washington, D.C.-based firm. Hassan Zavareei, one of the firm's founding partners and an old friend of Sagafi's, emailed her a few months ago asking if she knew anyone who'd be interested in opening the new office in San Francisco.

"I wasn't actively looking to make a move," said Sagafi, who was then Lieff Cabraser's hiring partner. Yet she was attracted to the opportunity to take on a more senior leadership role than she thought would be in the cards at Lieff. "Lieff Cabraser's leadership is both young and

excellent. It's a very well-established executive team. And the leaders of that executive management team are young, and they're not going anywhere."

She described her departure as "the most amicable split possible from Lieff Cabraser," and said many Lieff partners had similar moves. In 2013 her husband, Jahan Sagafi, [left Lieff to open](#) a San Francisco office for New York-based plaintiffs employment firm Outten & Golden.

Sagafi plans to grow the new office slowly over the next several years, she said. She is currently recruiting for a paralegal and an associate with two to three years of experience.

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