Akerman Builds the Stack: First Am Law 100 Firm to Operationalize Connection

A Message from Akerman's Chairman and CEO

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Other firms are forcing lawyers back into offices to simulate culture.

That's not culture; that's a compliance program.

At Akerman, we don't mandate culture. We build it.

In a feature from *The American Lawyer* titled "The Short List of Am Law 200 Firms Embracing Remote Lawyers Gets a Little Longer," Akerman is recognized as the first Am Law 100 firm to create a Director of Connections—a role we didn't inherit, but engineered.

"At Akerman, we don't just accommodate flexibility—we operationalize connection."

Scott Meyers, Chairman and CEO

This isn't HR. This isn't a gesture.

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This is a systems decision.

Melody Burton, a global talent strategist and leadership architect, is now charged with embedding connection, cohesion, and clarity across every layer of the firm—across geographies, teams, and working models. The role is live. The function is operational.

We solved the last-mile problem:

- → Culture that works without geography.
- → Connection that doesn't require physical presence.
- → Collaboration that doesn't demand badge swipes.

Other firms are still playing office Tetris. We wrote the cultural stack and hit go.

This is not performative. This is not temporary. This is how we win.

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