On a Sunday night in October 1891, Chicago police officer George Schlinger was killed by an assailant during an arrest at Randolph and Peoria streets.

Today, 123 years later, Schlinger’s name and badge are on display along a busy stretch of Michigan Avenue.

His story was the inspiration for one of the horse statues dotting the city as part of the Horses of Honor installation benefiting The Chicago Police Memorial Foundation, which helps families of officers killed or catastrophically injured on the job.

For one attorney at Latham & Watkins LLP, the painted pony has personal significance.

Associate Daniel J. Long is married to Schlinger’s great-great-granddaughter.

Long said his family members, led by his father-in-law, struck up an interest in their century-old roots in Chicago and researched Schlinger’s story.

“They’ve been pretty active over the years,” he said. An old family legend told that Schlinger was one of the officers killed in the 1886 Haymarket affair, where a labor rally descended into a deadly riot.

The family’s research showed he worked at that same police station on North Desplaines Street involved in the riot.

On Oct. 4, 1891, Schlinger and a partner were patrolling the neighborhood — long before that pocket of the Near West Side would become the trendy row of restaurants it is now.

Near Randolph and Peoria, a woman approached the two. The woman told them a man was trying to kill a woman in a nearby home.

The officers went to the house and tried to arrest the man, but he escaped through the window into the alley.

Schlinger confronted the assailant, who turned around and shot him with a pistol. He died later that week.

When Long’s father-in-law learned about the Horses of Honor project, which will auction off the statues to raise funds for the police foundation, he mentioned it as a possible opportunity for the law firm. Latham & Watkins embraced the idea.

“They were fully supportive and thought it was a great opportunity,” he said.

After sponsoring the horse, the firm provided the commissioned artist, Maja Bosen, with details of a relic Schlinger would have worn.

“We had provided the artist with an actual picture of the badge,” Long said. “That was the inspiration for the piece.”

The horse, outside the entrance to the Tribune Tower, is painted in a metallic finish to resemble a well-worn, tarnished 19th century police badge.

On the side of the horse, Bosen included Schlinger’s name and badge number.

Long is impressed with the public’s reception to the equine artwork on display.

“It looks amazing, and there was quite a buzz around it,” he said.

Bradley E. Kotler, managing partner of Latham & Watkins’ Chicago office, said the firm was proud to support one of its own and to be the only sponsoring law firm in the project.

“It is a great opportunity to support the arts in our community and our public safety professionals,” he said. “And the fact that a relative of one of our Chicago attorneys is honored by our statue makes it that much more meaningful.”

The horse dedicated to officer George Schlinger, sponsored by Latham & Watkins LLP, stands tall on Michigan Avenue.

Schlinger’s name and badge number is on the side of the horse.

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