



2008 The Year That Was

Firm Grows

Eastman & Smith expanded its operations with a new office in Novi, Michigan. This office is in addition to our offices in Findlay and Columbus. Our Findlay and Columbus offices expanded as well with the additions of associates Patrick A. Sadowski in Findlay and Holly Papalia in Columbus.


Fourteen attorneys united their legal skills and work experience to form the Construction Law Practice Group. It comprises a diverse group of attorneys who represent clients with construction-related matters. The Practice Group brings together attorneys from all of our major practice sections to provide our clients with the multi-faceted representation.

Client Representation

The Firm assisted its clients in a number of ways. For example, Stu Goldberg and Jeffrey M. Stopar, members of the Firm, successfully represented an insurance company in an appellate case. The Court upheld the lower court's ruling that the insurance company did not have to pay for damages because the incident occurred as the result of an intentional and criminal act of one of the insureds.

Firm member James W. Millon completed a seven figure stock purchase agreement and commercial leasing transaction between two privately owned manufacturing companies.

Gene R. Abercrombie and David W. Nunn, both members of the Firm, assisted the Black Swamp Conservancy in establishing a conservation easement at Pearson Park.



Steven D. Reinbolt, a member of the Firm, worked with POET Energy LLC to complete negotiations of POET's real estate tax abatement agreements with the local governments. POET has ethanol production facilities in Leipsic, Fostoria and Marion, Ohio.

Firm members James W. Millon and Steven D. Reinbolt represented Toledo Orthopaedic Surgeons and its leasing entity TOSMOB in the execution of a ground lease agreement with Reynolds Road Fitness Center and bond financing for a new medical facility.

David W. Nunn and Joseph A. Gregg assisted a Fortune 50 company which was involved in a dispute over the allocation of responsibility for environmental cleanup costs between two former plants in a Midwestern city. The matter was resolved through arbitration.

Community Involvement

Eastman & Smith, continued its support of the community. Contributions were made by its employees to groups such as United Way, March of Dimes, American Heart Association and the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Employees also purchased shoes to be donated to students at Sherman Elementary School. This is part of a national program called Shoes That Fit. The Women of Eastman & Smith, a group of approximately 25 attorneys, have established Toledo's first chapter of this organization.

Eastman & Smith made a financial contribution to Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (ABLE) and Legal Aid of Western Ohio (LAWO) building project. ABLE/LAWO are non-profit organizations addressing the legal needs of Western Ohio residents with low incomes.

The Firm worked in conjunction with Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio on a special pro bono program for guardians of nursing home residents who lack adequate family support. The Firm's attorneys represented the volunteer guardians, as well as establish and maintain the guardianships with the probate court.


In addition to these endeavors, the Firm has hosted events for the Toledo Board of Realtors and Toledo Area Chamber of Commerce. A number of the Firm's labor and employment attorneys were frequent speakers at the Toledo Employers' Association.

Specific attorneys have contributed to the community as well. Member Bruce Lazar, was a speaker at Northwest Ohio CPE Day . He spoke on entity selection in Ohio, comparing tax advantages, disadvantages and consequences among business entities used in business.

Thomas J. Gibney, member, and Janet E. Hales, of counsel, are co-chairs of the Toledo Bar Association's Pro Bono Advisory Board. Local attorneys provide free legal services through the Bar's pro bono program. Eastman & Smith made a financial contribution to this program as well.

Disclaimer

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Associate Laurie A. Watson published an article in the *Toledo Free Press* entitled “The Importance of Good Estate Planning” (*Toledo Free Press*, February 10, 2008).

Denise A. Mueller, an associate of the Firm, is president of the Toledo Women’s Bar Association for 2008-2009.

Recognition

Several attorneys were recognized for their contributions to the community and the profession. Ms. Mueller received a 20 under 40 award this year for her involvement in the community. Ms. Mueller is vice president of the Parkinson Foundation of Northwest Ohio, is a former Ohio Women’s Bar Association trustee (2005-2008) and served as chairperson of the Toledo Bar Association’s Municipal Courts Committee.

Member Lane D. Williamson was recognized in March for his leadership of the Wood County Economic Development Commission. Mr. Williamson was president of the organization when significant projects occurred such as the Bass Pro Outdoor World store, the Federal Express relocation and expansion and the relocation of the Owens-Illinois world headquarters.

Eight Eastman & Smith attorneys were recognized by *Law & Politics* as 2008 Ohio Super Lawyers. Attorneys so recognized were either nominated by other attorneys or identified by *Law & Politics* through articles, databases and meetings with law firms. Receiving the honor were Morton Bobowick, Peter R. Casey III, Robert J. Gilmer Jr., Joseph A. Gregg, Gary M. Harden, Patrick J. Johnson, James F. Nooney and Richard T. Sargeant. All are members of the Firm. *Law & Politics* named six attorneys as rising stars. These attorneys were Heidi N. Eischen, Matthew D. Harper, Fadi V. Nahhas and Michael W. Regnier (members) as well as associates Maria Limbert Markakis and Connie S. Swemba.

Rene L. Rimelspach, an associate, was accepted as a fellow of the Ohio State Bar Foundation’s 2008 class. Members of the class learned about the Foundation and undertake a class project. Past projects have included the development of tools to assist self-represented parties and the production of a CD educating Somali refugees on the American legal system.

Since 1844, Eastman & Smith has committed itself to client and community service. We look forward to continuing this service in 2009 and beyond.

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