

## FIRM NEWS

*by David L. Herzer*

### **Combination with Buckingham, Lucal & McGookey**

It is a great pleasure to announce that the law firm of Wickens, Herzer, Panza, Cook & Batista Co. has combined with the law firm of Buckingham, Lucal & McGookey, effective January 1, 2007.

Both groups of attorneys have long been familiar with the other, having sat across the table from each other on many occasions in the service of a variety of clients. It was in that quasi-adversarial role that both firms developed a strong and mutual respect for the legal expertise and professional integrity of each other. In addition to legal skills, the partners in each of the firms felt that there was also a superb meshing of personalities of the respective lawyers that would prove to be a major plus factor.

Following are the six attorneys of the Sandusky office who may be new to our Avon-based clients.

**Daniel L. McGookey** (admitted to the Ohio bar in 1979) has added his long-standing expertise as a business and commercial lawyer to our Business Organizations and Tax Department.

**John D. Frankel** (admitted to the Ohio bar in 1975) is also adding the same to our Business Organizations and Tax Department.

**Duffield E. Milkie** (admitted to the Ohio bar in 1991) has joined the Litigation Department where "Duff" will lend his years of practice as a commercial litigator to that Department.

**Paul M. Koch** (admitted to the Ohio bar in 2005) is a highly-regarded associate who will also join the Litigation Department.

**John R. Ball** (admitted to the Ohio bar in 1990) will add his expertise as an probate and estate planning lawyer to the Firm's Probate and Estate Planning Department.

Lastly, **Dean S. Lucal** (admitted to the Ohio bar in 1962) will also join the Probate and Estate Planning Department in an "Of-Counsel" capacity, thus lending his four plus decades of practice in the probate and estate planning areas to that

Department.

The new Firm will continue to maintain the two offices in Sandusky and Avon under the name of Wickens, Herzer, Panza, Cook & Batista Co. The Sandusky office will be fully integrated with the Avon office through the use of our highly advanced technological infrastructure. This will add a distinct economy of scale to the Firm's practice and will provide more value-added capability to our clients. Two of the Avon-based practice areas, our outstanding Pension and Labor Law practices, will be fully available to our Sandusky-based clients.

These are just a few examples of the enhanced and cost efficient benefits that will accrue to our expanded client base. After all, it is the clients of the two historic firms that allowed us to grow and expand as professionals. That long standing loyalty will not be forgotten and will be reciprocated as we continue to bring our clients the finest legal services available in a courteous, timely and reasonably priced manner.

All of the attorneys and staff at Wickens, Herzer, Panza, Cook & Batista Co. wish you a most Happy New Year. Thank you once again for your continued support and providing us with the opportunity to serve you.

### **Wickens, Herzer, Panza, Cook & Batista Adds A New Shareholder**

Wickens, Herzer, Panza, Cook & Batista Co. is pleased to announce that Todd Schrader has recently been elected as a shareholder and partner of the Firm, effective January 1, 2007. Todd joined the Firm in 2002 and practices in the Business Organizations & Tax and Real Estate Department.



Todd earned his Juris Doctor degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law where he was a member of the National Order of Barristers, Moot Court, and Board of Governors (Chairman). He holds a bachelor's degree in philosophy and public

policy from Case Western Reserve University (Magna Cum Laude). He is also licensed with the Ohio Department of Insurance.

Todd is an active member with the Lorain County Bar Association and the North Coast Builders Industry Association (Secretary, Board of Directors, Ambassadors Committee Chair, Membership Committee and Build PAC), and the Smart Growth Education Foundation (Board of Trustees).

Todd and his family reside in North Royalton.

**Wickens, Herzer, Panza,  
Cook & Batista Co. is pleased to  
announce that Paul R. Phillips and  
Thomas E. Stuckart III  
have joined the Firm**

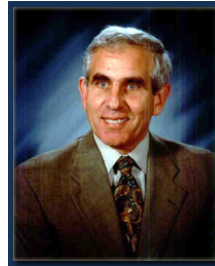


Mr. Phillips was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1989. He is a graduate of The State University of New York at Buffalo (B.A., 1985) and The University of Akron School of Law (J.D., 1989). He is a member of the Lorain County and Ohio State Bar Associations. He has joined the Litigation Department.



Mr. Stuckart was admitted to the Ohio bar in 2005. He is a graduate of Charleston Southern University (B.S., 2001) and Cleveland-Marshall College of Law (J.D., 2005). He is a member of the Lorain County and Ohio State Bar Associations. He has joined the Probate and Estate Planning Department.

**Tom Pillari Honored as One of the Best**



Our own Tom Pillari has again been honored by the prestigious Ohio Super Lawyers magazine. For the fourth time, Tom made the list of top 500 attorneys practicing in the state of Ohio. In coming to its decision, the magazine took special notice of the fact that Tom is a Fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Council and is certified by the Ohio Supreme Court as a Specialist in Estate Planning, Probate and Trust practice. Congratulations Top-Attorney Pillari.

**Avon Office Fax Number Update**

**Effective immediately, the Avon Office fax number has been changed to 440-930-8098. Please update your records accordingly.**

**Sandusky Office**

**Our Sandusky Office is located at 414 Wayne Street, Sandusky, Ohio 44870-2709; phone: 419-627-3100, fax: 419-627-3101.**