

Business

B Section
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COLEMAN, STEVENSON & MONTEL LAW FIRM OFFERS

Diversity, excellence, experience

BY BRANDON A. PERRY

Despite the current recession, Coleman, Stevenson & Montel, LLP has emerged as a modern success story.

The relatively new minority-owned law firm continues to experience growth, and has become a key component of the Indiana legal community.

An important element of the firm's success has been the experience and variety of services offered by its three partners and four associate attorneys.

"Three of our attorneys come from large firms. So we have large firm talent, but not at the large firm prices," said Gerald Coleman, one of the partners (senior staff) of Coleman, Stevenson & Montel.

"In addition, our clients are not simply loaded off to an associate attorney. Our partners oversee and engage in the client's matter throughout the relationship."

In the last four years Coleman, Stevenson & Montel has worked on multi-million dollar projects related to the construction of Lucas Oil Stadium, the expansion of the Indiana Convention Center, a new terminal for the Indianapolis International Airport and infrastructure improvements by the Indiana Department of Transportation.

When one reviews the accomplishments of attorneys at Coleman, Stevenson & Montel it is easy to see why the firm is in a good position to handle complex cases related to state government and corporations.

Coleman is a former commissioner of the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles and Deputy Secretary of the Indiana Department of Health. He has also worked for the prominent Lee Miller law firm.

Howard Stevenson, another partner, has represented clients such as the Indiana Department of Transportation, Vectren Energy, the Indiana Stadium and Convention Building Authority and prominent music artists such as members of the gospel group Commissioned. Stevenson has also previously served as a judicial law clerk on the Indiana Supreme Court.

Partner Joe Montel, who joined the firm last year, brought a wealth of experience in the areas of corporate, banking and real estate law.

Attorney Greg Taylor is an Indiana State Senator, and attorney Rick Nover has a background in government relations and real estate law.

With their collective experience, the team members of Coleman, Stevenson & Montel are able to handle cases in the areas of business and banking, civil litigation, equity financing, entertainment, mergers and acquisitions, medical malpractice, employment and immigration.

The firm's staff itself, however, is as diverse as its services.

Coleman and Stevenson, for example, are African-American, while Montel is white and attorney Kiamsha Sylvia-Colom is Hispanic.

This diversity places the firm in a unique position to help minority and women owned enterprises obtain their certification with the state and city.

Another strength of Coleman, Stevenson & Montel is its work environment, which has had a positive impact on both employees and clients.

"We are definitely more like family than your traditional law firm," said attorney Cassandra Bentley. "Doing high quality work for our clients is definitely the first priority, but in the process we can also laugh and enjoy our time together."

The friendly atmosphere at the firm's office allows each attorney to feel that

they are appreciated and encouraged, which in turn makes clients more comfortable to share details about their lives and businesses that could make the difference in winning cases.

On both a professional and personal level, attorneys with Coleman, Stevenson & Montel have also taken time to help families and business owners who have been hit hard by the recession.

"The current economic problems have had a comprehensive effect on some of our clients," Stevenson said. "With this in mind, our firm has taken a concerted effort to do our part to alleviate the problem."

The firm has co-sponsored a job fair with the Indianapolis Bar Association to assist minority law students and others pursuing jobs with law firms, made financial contributions and presentations to youth programs and provided pro bono (free) legal services to families who have experienced legal problems that have caused economic related challenges such as collection cases and foreclosures.

Overall, it is the attorneys' individual dedication to excellence and love for their work that has already made Coleman, Stevenson & Montel one of the city's most requested law firms.

"I enjoy when I am able to utilize my legal skills to resolve a client's particular problem, which may have not been resolved otherwise," said Stevenson. "My partners and I are humbled everyday when we realize the great opportunity of service we have been afforded by having our own law firm."

For more information about Coleman, Stevenson & Montel call (317) 875-0400 or visit www.csmlegal.com.



Gerald Coleman



Howard Stevenson



Joe Montel

SURVEY REVEALS HARDEST JOBS TO FILL

Engineers, Nurses and Skilled/Manual trades are among the nation's most challenging positions to fill, according to survey findings released today by Manpower Inc.

"In the four years we have performed this research, the same positions appear on the list again and again," said Jonas Prising, President of the Americas. "Despite the current economic instability and high unemployment, there are still skills that the U.S. workforce seems to lack. The 10 Hardest Jobs to Fill, as reported by U.S. employers for 2009, are:

- Engineers, Nurses, Skilled/Manual Trades, Teachers, Sales Representatives, Technicians, Drivers, IT Staff, Laborers and Machinist/Machine Operators.

Each of the 10 job categories on the 2009 list has appeared on the Hardest Jobs to Fill list in the past.

"The U.S. findings are part of a Manpower global study that surveyed more than 39,000 employers across 33 countries and territories in January 2009. Positions in the skilled trades, sales, technical work and engineering remain the most difficult for employers to fill globally. Manpower surveyed more than 2,000 U.S. employers in the fourth annual survey to determine which positions employers are having difficulty filling this year."