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EXCLUSIVE: A large Chicago-area law firm is opening an office in Louisville

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FILE PHOTO

Kopka Pinkus Dolin PC, a Buffalo Grove, Ill.-based law firm, is opening an office in Meidinger Tower in Louisville.

The company recruited a Louisville attorney to lead the office.

Kopka Pinkus Dolin PC, a Buffalo Grove, Ill.-based law firm, is opening an office in Meidinger Tower in Louisville.

This is a regional law firm that specializes in defending corporations, municipalities and insurance companies in litigation. For example, the firm might typically be brought in to defend an insurance company in a personal injury case, Managing Partner [Robert Kopka](#) explained during a phone interview yesterday. The firm has seven offices in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Michigan.

[Rob Hickey](#), who has more than 28 years of litigation experience, most recently with Gwin Steinmetz & Baird, will lead the Louisville office as managing partner.

Kopka Pinkus Dolin opened an office in Lexington in December, with plans to eventually open the entire Kentucky market, Kopka said. As firm leaders were researching the market here at a recent conference, Kopka said, they kept hearing about Hickey. They decided to recruit him after learning about his experience, which included a lot of trucking industry clients. Kopka said he also was a match in terms of the company's culture.

"He is really the guy to open an office in Louisville," Kopka said. "He has a long history in the transportation community" with his legal practice.

The practice will start with two attorneys in Louisville, but it plans to grow from there, Hickey said. Kopka said the company could have as many as 10 attorneys in Louisville in the next two years. It already has 11 in Lexington and 87 firm-wide.

The practice is moving into a 4,400-square-foot suite on the first floor of Meidinger Tower, space that previously was occupied by Clay Daniel Walton & Adams PLC. As [we reported in May](#), that firm split, with half of it going to Old Louisville and the other half moving to the East End.

Kopka said the space was a perfect fit for the firm, especially considering that another practice had been there before. He estimated that the firm will invest less than \$30,000 to open the office here.

Casey Smallwood of NAI Fortis Group represented KPD in its Louisville office pursuit.

NAI Fortis Group, which offers property management, leasing and other commercial real estate services, manages Meidinger Tower. The 26-story office tower, at the corner of Fourth Street and Muhammad Ali Boulevard, is home to Louisville Business First, ComputerShare Ltd.'s Louisville operations, Mountjoy Chilton Medley LLP and other tenants.

"A win such as this further evidences Meidinger Tower's position in the marketplace, given its tremendous value, amenities and location," Mark Wardlaw, NAI Fortis senior vice president of brokerage, said in a email.

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