

Legal roundup: Howard & Howard marks 150 years with charitable giving

Collins Einhorn names co-managing shareholders

By: Thomas Franz in News Stories February 13, 2019

To celebrate its 150th anniversary, Royal Oak-based Howard & Howard has started a “12 Months of Giving” program to donate to nonprofits in the communities where the firm has offices.

The firm kicked off its program by donating to the Jamie Daniels Foundation, which was started by Detroit Red Wings broadcaster Ken Daniels to help fight opioid addiction in collaboration with the Children’s Hospital of Michigan Foundation.



Wittebort

“It’s something that’s a twist on turning 150,” said firm reinvestment fund chairman Timothy M. Wittebort. “We thought it would be a better use of the funds to help our community as opposed to having a celebration and throw a party for our employees.”

Howard & Howard developed a community reinvestment fund 25 years ago to which attorneys and staff can elect to donate a percentage of their salary. Wittebort said the program has received an average of 1 percent per employee, and that has totaled \$5 million over the course of its history.

“Every year we use those funds to select and contribute to various charities located within the communities we work,” Wittebort said. “We’ve always been very supportive of the communities because they support us.”

This year, the firm is putting a twist on its typical approach. Each month, the firm will focus on one charity to which it will donate a minimum of \$12,500. Following the success of the Jamie Daniels Foundation initiative, Howard & Howard is working with Michigan Warriors, a hockey organization for veterans.

“Not only does this group help veterans physically but it provides an opportunity for veterans to get together and play a sport they love,” Wittebort said. “The funds will be used for buying equipment and ice time. Ice time is very expensive, so hopefully we’ll be able to provide them some funding that will carry them for the next couple of years.”

Wittebort added that firm employees will also participate in activities with charitable organizations to go beyond the financial donations.

“It’s easy to write a check, but to actually participate in some of these events is very beneficial,” Wittebort said. “We started in the back of a blacksmith facility in Kalamazoo, and our founders were always very charitable and very active in the community, and it’s carried forward.”

Collins Einhorn names new managing shareholders

Collins Einhorn Farrell PC has announced that starting May 1, Daniel E. Collins and Theresa M. Asoklis will become the firm’s co-managing shareholders.

Asoklis and Collins will replace Neil W. MacCallum and Michael J. Sullivan, who spent 10 years as leaders and will remain with the Southfield firm.

“We’re going to strive to continue what’s already been started by our predecessors,” Asoklis said. “During the last 10 years, we’ve grown substantially from an office of maybe 20-something attorneys to almost 60.”

Asoklis is one of the leaders of the firm’s professional liability practice group. Collins is the son of firm founder Mort Collins, and helps lead the firm’s asbestos and toxic tort practice. He and Asoklis will be the firm’s third generation