

MICHIGAN LAWYERS WEEKLY

Legal roundup: Honigman features artwork of Cranbrook grads

Warner Norcross moves in Holland

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Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn LLP in downtown Detroit is showing off 70 pieces of art thanks to a new partnership with Cranbrook Academy of Art.

The gallery is located on the 23rd floor of the downtown office, and features work from 22 artists who are all Cranbrook graduates.



"We're thrilled with the outcome," said Honigman's Chief Community Officer Fritz Morsches. "It's a great benefit to the artists and to Cranbrook. It provides awareness and a presence for the artists, all of whom are interested in showing off their work to the Honigman attorneys and staff. It's a remarkable working environment for the Honigman people too, it's so interesting and promotes good conversation."

The art pieces include paintings, prints, photographs and sculptures. All of the artwork is for sale, and a portion of the sale price will be donated to Cranbrook.

Morsches said the idea of the gallery was introduced several years ago, but had to be put on hold due to ongoing renovations at the office.

With the reopening of the firm's 23rd floor, which houses the litigation department, the timing was appropriate for the gallery idea to be implemented.

"All of the walls were completely free, just blank off-white walls, and we felt the time was perfect to reinvigorate the idea we had several years ago," Morsches said.

For now, the gallery is open only to Honigman employees, but Morsches said future versions of the gallery could have more exposure and accessibility. Following the start of the new year, Honigman is planning to feature a fully new slate of pieces from Cranbrook.

"Without any of the artwork, it's a rather sterile environment with nothing on the walls. At this point, the environment is livened with bright colors and interesting shapes and just a variety of media with the photos, prints and large paintings. There's some sculptural pieces as well, it's so attractive aesthetically that it adds a lot of energy to the office," Morsches said.

Warner Norcross moves in Holland

Warner Norcross & Judd LLP announced Sept. 26 that its Holland office has moved locations within the city's central commercial district.

The firm moved on Sept. 22 to create a more efficient workspace.

"Our former office was next door, and it was dated. It was also a very traditional layout in the sense that it wasn't reflective of collaboration," said Jennifer L. Remondino, executive partner of the Holland location.

"What we wanted to do is create a workspace where we could host large meetings, where we could sit together and work in common spaces and where we would have a lot of glass to allow for more natural light and brightness."

Warner Norcross has eight locations across Michigan. The new address of the Holland branch is 99 E. Eighth St., Suite 200, and is now the office for three attorneys, two paralegals and three staff members.

The new digs feature nine offices, three conference rooms and a more open, collaborative work area.



“Our current space is primarily glass,” Remondino said. “We have three conference rooms, two of which have a moving glass partition door so we can host conferences that could host 25 people around a table for meetings. That allows us to be much more flexible, where we were having to turn away opportunities or other things because our previous space was a 12-seater, so it’s just more of a flexible workspace to allow for large meetings in group settings.”

Although the new location is smaller by square footage, it operates more efficiently.

“What we’ve done is create a diagonal design, so it’s interesting in that it connects conference rooms to the lobby. It’s a smaller footprint than we had, but it’s very operational for us,” Remondino said. “The days where we all sit in our big offices and don’t communicate are probably over, so we just wanted to make a much younger, adaptable workspace for us.”

Remondino added that remaining in the heart of Holland was important to the firm.

“There’s not a lot of office space in downtown Holland right now, so this was a unique opportunity for us to do a new build-out, which was important to us so we could do exactly what we wanted and also have a completely new space,” Remondino said.

If you would like to comment on this story, email Thomas Franz at tfranz@mi.lawyersweekly.com.

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ABOUT THOMAS FRANZ



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P.O. Box 70388

Rochester, MI 48307

(800) 678-5297 fax: (248) 865-3117

