

Bartle, partner will join to form plaintiffs firm

Missouri state Sen. Matt Bartle, R-Lee's Summit, and law partner David Marcus are leaving the Berkowitz Oliver Williams Shaw & Eisenbrandt LLP corporate defense firm to open a diversified litigation practice Downtown on Aug. 1.

"Clearly, I would like to diversity our practice to include claims work, and some of that work is incompatible with what we do here," Marcus said.

Managing Partner David Oliver of Berkowitz Oliver called the parting "bittersweet," but he praised both lawyers and said their business plan will make the skills of "really good lawyers"



Bartle



Marcus

affordable to small businesses and individuals.

"They both have the type of temperament that I think they're ideally suited for this type of work," Oliver said.

Marcus & Bartle LLC will focus on contract and general corporate litigation as well as accounting malpractice defense work, Marcus said.

Bartle said that he's noticed a lack of lawyers in Kansas City handling claimants' cases against securities brokers and that he enjoys prosecuting such

suits on contingency.

"You're an entrepreneur in every case," he said.

Berkowitz Oliver's brokerage clients didn't want their attorneys also handling plaintiff cases, he said.

Marcus said technological advances have cut the startup costs of small-office law firms.

Marcus graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in Minneapolis in 1996 and joined Berkowitz Oliver in 1999 after about one year with Shook Hardy & Bacon LLP and about two years with Kansas City's Bryan Cave LLP office.

Bartle graduated from Northwestern University Law School in Chicago in 1990, joined Bryan Cave in 1991 and moved to Berkowitz Oliver in 1998. Bartle has served in the General Assembly since 1999.

Mark Kind