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Midday Business Report: Graves to join Bartle & Marcus firm

By DAN MARGOLIES
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Former U.S. Attorney Todd Graves has joined forces with Missouri Sen. Matt Bartle to form the law firm of **Graves Bartle & Marcus**.

Graves, 40, stepped down as U.S. Attorney on Friday after serving as the Western District's chief federal prosecutor since September 2001. Before that, he was the Platte County Prosecuting Attorney for seven years.

"This has been a lifelong dream of mine, to have my own law firm," Graves said.

Graves and Bartle have known each other since they were undergraduates at the University of Missouri-Columbia two decades ago. Both also worked at the **Bryan Cave** law firm, as did David L. Marcus, the third member of the legal triumvirate.

Graves said his practice would focus on regulatory compliance work, advising clients on corporate governance and the Sarbanes Oxley Act, as well as on white-collar criminal defense work.

Bartle, 41, a Lee's Summit Republican, hung out his shingle with colleague David Marcus last summer, when the two formed Bartle and Marcus. A large part of his practice has focused on arbitration matters before the **National Association of Securities Dealers**.

He's better known, though, as a politician, especially for his legislation attacking sexually oriented businesses and seeking to restrict cloning.

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STAR BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Delphi makes latest proposal to UAW on wages, benefit cuts

Delphi Corp. has delivered its latest proposal for cuts in wages and benefits to the **United Auto Workers**, which represents the majority of the auto-parts supplier's 34,000 hourly workers, the union said.

UAW spokesman Paul Krell today said the union had received the proposal, but he declined to comment on details.

Delphi spokesman Lindsey Williams would not confirm that a new proposal had been completed.

Under the latest offer, Delphi's hourly workers, who currently are paid \$27 an hour, would see their wages initially cut to \$22 an hour and then fall gradually to about \$16 an hour, sources familiar with the proposal told *The Detroit News*.

Delphi, which filed for bankruptcy protection in October, says its expensive U.S. labor agreements make it impossible to compete in a global economy. Delphi wants to cut its wage and benefit rates and has set a deadline of Thursday to reach an agreement with former parent **General Motors Corp.**, the UAW and other unions.

If no agreement is reached, Delphi could ask a bankruptcy judge to cancel its union contracts, an action that could lead to a devastating strike.

GM spokesman Jerry Dubrowski declined to comment.

Last week, in one of the largest buyout programs ever, more than 125,000 hourly GM and Delphi workers were offered up to \$140,000 to give up their jobs to help cut the companies' labor costs.

The UAW has threatened to strike if a judge approves Delphi's request to void its contracts. A strike would cripple the supplier as well as GM, its largest customer.

Ply Gem swings to fourth-quarter profit