

# Five bolt McMahon Berger for Lowenbaum Partnership

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Veteran employment law litigator Robert Stewart and four other attorneys are on board at the Lowenbaum Partnership after jumping ship from McMahon, Berger, Hanna, Linihan, Cody & McCarthy.

The lawyers switched firms last week, following a series of negotiations with senior attorneys at Clayton-based Lowenbaum Partnership within the last couple of months, said Timothy Elliott, managing partner at Lowenbaum. The other former McMahon Berger attorneys who made the switch are Stanley Schroeder, Burton Garland, Corey Franklin and Charles Morgan.

The move brings the number of attorneys at Lowenbaum Partnership to 19 and will enable the law firm to strengthen its labor litigation practice and create a new employee benefits practice, Elliott said. It's the first significant expansion in personnel that the firm has made in one step since R. Michael Lowenbaum,

Gerald Richardson and Elliott founded it in 1998.

The new hires came about four months after Lowenbaum Partnership lured Daniel Began, another former McMahon Berger attorney. Also a labor law specialist, Began had worked at the Town and Country-based firm for nearly 29 years before the move.

"We think this is an incredible opportunity for us to get this great legal talent," Lowenbaum said. "These are seasoned, quality lawyers who had a lot of loyalty to their firm, so that made it a challenge to get them."

Thomas McCarthy, managing partner at McMahon Berger, said the departure of Stewart and the other attorneys would not have any adverse effect on his firm or its business. McMahon Berger hired two new associates within the last two weeks and is looking to add a third, he said. McMahon Berger now has 23 attorneys.

The Lowenbaum Partnership's clients include Ameren Corp., the Saint Louis Zoo and St. John's Mercy Medical Center.

# CPI refinancing \$50 million debt

CPI Corp. has reached commitments with two banks to amend and restate its existing credit facility.

The commitments are to provide a three-year, \$25 million term loan to replace an existing \$18 million loan, and a \$25 million revolving line of credit. The commitments are subject to the comple

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The company reported its net sales for the eight-week period ended Jan. 7 were up about 1 percent over the comparable eight-week period of fiscal 2004. A 24 percent increase in the average sale

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