

FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF COORDINATOR@FAMILYBUSINESSCENTER.COM

From the Columbus Business First:

<http://www.bizjournals.com/columbus/news/2017/05/05/oil-and-gas-upswing-leads-prominent-local-law-firm.html>

Oil and gas upswing leads prominent local law firm to open Belmont County office

🔑 SUBSCRIBER CONTENT:

May 5, 2017, 6:00am EDT

Dick Emens knows a thing or two about the oil and gas industry, having been involved in it far before development of the Utica shale led to a glut of lawyers seeking business in the field.

He has practiced law for more than five decades and in 2011 was called the “dean” of Ohio oil and gas law by the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

So it may seem odd that his Columbus law firm, Emens & Wolper, would expand into eastern Ohio at a time when energy development there has slowed.

Yet that’s what the firm is doing, adding Heidi Kemp to its practice and opening an office in Belmont County.

Why the expansion? Because, Emens said, the market is on the upswing.

“We represent thousands of landowners in getting oil and gas leases,” he said.

Federal data released last week prove him right: Ohio and Pennsylvania, which share shale formations, increased natural gas production more than any other states last year. So while national gas production fell for the first time since 2005, Ohio was an outlier.

The oil and gas business and connected industries, including law, have suffered since oil prices plummeted in 2015. But Emens sees reasons for optimism: Ohio is issuing more shale-drilling permits compared to last year, and new pipelines criss-crossing the state are in the works.

They include the Rover pipeline, which is under construction.

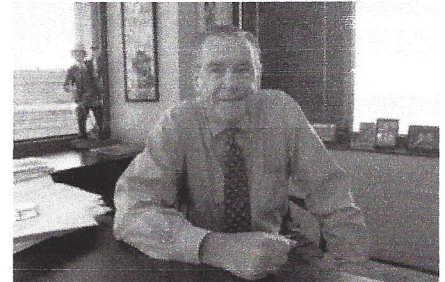
“A number of oil and gas companies are striking production because there’s not enough pipeline capacity,” Emens said. Once those pipelines are up and running, production should increase, he said.

Bigger factors have Emens hopeful, too. Oil prices that fell to around \$26 a barrel in early 2016 now hover around \$50. Natural gas, which is most sought-after in Ohio, is doing fine, too. Utica shale drillers are much more efficient now than in 2011 and can turn profits at those prices.

Many leasing contracts that companies signed with landowners give a five-year window for the companies to drill. The leases will expire if they haven’t started by the end of the term. For most drillers it makes more sense to start drilling rather than re-negotiate a contract with a landowner.

All of this explains why Kemp is joining the firm as an associate. Kemp grew up on a Belmont County dairy farm and used to clerk for Emens & Wolper before working in the Columbus office of the Dinsmore & Shohl law firm in Columbus.

She’ll move to the new Belmont County office by the end of the year.



JANET ADAMS
Dick Emens

5/5/2017

Emens & Wolper opening Belmont County office to represent landowners in oil and gas leasing - Columbus - Columbus Business First

"Oil and gas companies have enough money," Emens said. "They can hire enough people but the landowners are the ones who really need assistance."

Tom Knox

Reporter

Columbus Business First

