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## BMD beefs up its attorney force with 7 new hires

**SHERRY KARABIN**  
Legal News Reporter

Founded in 2000 by three entrepreneurial and business-minded attorneys to provide a legal platform for companies and entrepreneurs in a wide variety of industries, Brennan Manna Diamond (BMD) has been in growth mode ever since.

The firm, which began in Akron with just seven attorneys, now has three Ohio and two Florida offices as well as an international location in Shanghai, China through a joint venture with the law firm Jade & Fountain.

BMD recently added seven more lawyers, six who are located in the Akron office.

Former Day Ketterer attorneys Blake Gerney, Hamilton DeSaussure Jr. and Stephen Matasich; former Buckingham, Doolittle & Burroughs attorneys David Hrina, Matthew Duncan and Paul Filon and former Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart attorney Russell Rendall all started at Brennan Manna Diamond the week of Sept. 30.

Firm leaders said the new hires were brought in to expand several practice areas, including intellectual property.

“Many of our clients have been



**Matthew Heinle**

asking for additional resources in the area of IP,” said Brennan Manna Diamond Chairman Anthony Manna. “I am also chairman of the private investment and equity firm Signet, where issues such as intellectual property, trademark and copyright claims often come up. Signet will be utilizing these legal services from BMD, especially as our investments in IP continue to grow.”

BMD partner Duncan, BMD member Hrina and associate



**Anthony Manna**

Filon are focusing on intellectual property services, specifically patent cases, while BMD partners DeSaussure and Matasich, BMD member Gerney and associate Rendall were brought in to bolster the firm’s corporate, real estate and commercial litigation practices.

Rendall is the only one of the seven lawyers who is located in the Cleveland office.

While the goal of bringing in new lawyers has been on the agenda for some time, Brennan

Manna Diamond President Matthew Heinle said the firm wasn’t necessarily planning on adding seven attorneys simultaneously.

“However when Day Ketterer announced it was liquidating the firm, we were able to acquire some very seasoned attorneys and we did not want to let the opportunity pass us by,” said Heinle. “Other opportunities presented at the same time and we decided to move forward with those as well.”

And clients seem to benefit from the acquisition.

“The addition of our newest team members is extremely beneficial for our clients,” BMD Chief Executive Officer Jack Diamond said in a press release. “BMD offers our team members a sophisticated entrepreneurial platform built over time and run by great people.”

With the new hires, Brennan Manna Diamond now has over 70 lawyers.

“We offer our clients and business partners access to new opportunities and services that most firms do not know how to provide,” said Heinle. “We plan to continue to grow, adding more attorneys and expanding our geographical footprint as we seek to provide excellent client service.”