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## BUSINESS BEAT: Huntington law firm to integrate into Charleston law firm

By FRED PACE [fpac@hdmediallc.com](mailto:fpac@hdmediallc.com)

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Basile



Sellards

HUNTINGTON — Huntington law firm Bailes, Craig & Sellards PLLC will integrate with Charleston law firm Spilman Thomas & Battle PLLC by Jan. 1, 2024, it was announced Monday at the West Virginia Economic Development Council’s annual fall conference in Huntington.

“Bailes, Craig & Sellards has been around over 30 years serving clients in the Tri-State,” said Robert Sellards, a member of the firm. “We are a small law firm with a proud history of success and our leadership team decided to take this opportunity to integrate with Spillman, Thomas & Battle, which has a rich history of more than 150 years.”

Bailes, Craig & Sellards, at 401 10th St., Suite 500, in the St. James Building in downtown Huntington, specializes in business law, health care, labor and employment litigation, civil defense litigation, creditors’ rights and wills and trusts.

“We are boutique law firm using a client-based service model,” Sellards said. “Our practice aligns perfectly with Spilman Thomas & Battle and everything just fit. They have embraced us and we are thrilled to join them.”

Sellards said the Huntington office will be fully integrated into Spilman Thomas & Battle’s system by the end of the year.

“We will take on their name and become their ninth location,” he said.

Spilman, Thomas & Battle is a super-regional law firm serving local, national and international businesses. The firm currently has eight offices in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina and Florida. It has lawyers admitted to practice throughout the country.

“We take a very analytical approach to growth,” said Michael Basile, managing member of Spilman, Thomas & Battle. “My background and practice center upon economic development. And we tend to analyze opportunities as site location consultants approach their trade.”

Basile says the firm focuses on client and practice symmetry and the “crane index,” which includes community vibrancy, leadership, economic diversity and future prospects when evaluating growth opportunities.

“Over the last two decades, we’ve focused and executed upon opportunities throughout northern West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, and, most recently, Jacksonville, Florida,” he said. “When we turned toward evaluating our next site location, Huntington hit the center of our radar screen with three core drivers: growing community vibrancy and vision being driven by business, municipal, county and Marshall University leadership pulling as one; long standing relationships with, and respect for, the tremendous talent at Bailes, Craig & Sellards; and perceived client, practice, and attorney synergies and dynamism between our firms. And we thought it was appropriate to announce our impending union at the dynamic West Virginia Economic Development Council fall conference on Monday here in Huntington, as hosted by HADCO’s leader and my long-time friend David Lieving. I couldn’t be more excited about our collective future here.”

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Fred Pace is the regional business reporter for HD Media. Send your business news and photos to [fp@hdmediallc.com](mailto:fp@hdmediallc.com). You can also call 304-526-2729. Follow him at [Facebook.com/FredPaceHD](https://www.facebook.com/FredPaceHD) and via Twitter [@FredPaceHD](https://twitter.com/FredPaceHD).



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