

Hahn Loeser opening Florida office

By RYAN CORNELL

Partners at Cleveland law firm Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP see more than sunshine, beautiful homes and beaches when they look at southwest Florida.

They see a rapidly growing business market in need of a strong intellectual property law firm and a large number of existing clients who want to remain close to their lawyers.

That's why Hahn Loeser will open a new office in Bonita Springs, near Naples, on Dec. 1, managing partner Stephen Knerly

said last week.

The five-attorney office will be the firm's first outside Ohio, said Hahn Loeser partner Jeffrey Folkman, who is moving to the Naples area from Cleveland to head the office.

Mr. Folkman said intellectual property and patent attorneys are scarce in southwest Florida, where he expects demand for their services from the state's expanding biomedical and information technology industries.

The firm also will focus on retirement and estate planning for new and existing clients in the

Naples area, which is a hot spot for wealthy retirees and business owners from Northeast Ohio, Mr. Folkman said.

Hahn Loeser has seen modest growth in its Ohio offices, especially in Columbus.

The Columbus office has grown from a startup in 1989 to 14 attorneys today. It will move next April from its current 9,300-square-foot office at 21 E. State St. to a 19,000-square-foot office just down the road, Mr. Knerly said.

"We've literally run out of space," he said in explaining the move.

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