



Carlton Proctor: 13 Pensacola lawyers in 'Legal Elite'



Written by

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Pensacola lawyers among the state's best; Habitat's new home sales a sign of the times; and new library on track for August 2012 grand opening.

Pensacola's "elite" 13

Thirteen attorneys from the Pensacola area made Florida Trend's eighth annual list of the state's "Legal Elite."

Florida Trend, a state business magazine, compiled the prestigious list of 1,352 attorneys — 2 percent of the more than 66,000 active Florida Bar members — on the recommendation of Bar members.

Bar members were asked in October to name attorneys whom they hold in the highest regard or would recommend to others. Each voter also was asked to name three "Up and Coming" attorneys.

Of the half dozen Pensacola firms making the list, Clark Partington Hart had the most attorneys with six. They were: Kenneth B.

Bell, appellate practice; William Bond Jr., commercial litigation; Scott M. Campbell, real estate transactions; Christopher W. Hart, real estate transactions; Bruce D. Partington, construction; and Scott A. Remington, commercial litigation.

Two attorneys from Levin Papantonio were on the list: Kristian Kraszewski, business law, and Timothy M. O'Brien, civil trial. A pair of attorneys from Carver Darden also were named: Brian W. Hoffman, commercial litigation, and Linda A. Hoffman, banking and financial.

Also on the list are Robert G. Kerrigan, Kerrigan Estess, civil trial; Alan B. Bookman, Emmanuel Sheppard & Condon, commercial litigation; and Edward P. Fleming, McDonald Fleming Moorhead.

Hoffman and Kraszewski also were named as among the "Up and Coming" lawyers in the state.

Habitat biggest builder in May

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New homebuilders in the Pensacola area continue to struggle in the face of a weak housing market. Just how weak is reflected in the latest sales numbers for May.

At the top of the sales list is the nonprofit, low-cost builder Habitat for Humanity, which outsold both Adams Homes and D.R. Horton, two of the biggest builders in Northwest Florida.

Habitat posted \$1.7 million in sales — a 15.2 percent market share — compared to Adams' \$1.55 million and Horton's \$1.1 million, according to figures compiled by the research firm Metro Market Trends.

Proving its May numbers were no fluke, Habitat posted the third highest dollar volume of new home sales — \$4.1 million — among all Pensacola area builders for the first five months of this year.

Another telling statistic: Of the more than 50 active homebuilders in the Pensacola metro area, only 18 sold at least one home in May, typically the peak month for sales.

Library due date mid-August

Mid-August of 2012 is the target opening date for the new \$8 million Pensacola Public Library, said library Director Gene Fisher.

Demolition of the old city fire station next to the library is complete, and the steel superstructure for a 16,000-square-foot addition is being erected.

Construction on the new building is

expected to wrap up in early January 2012. Once that is completed, the existing, 27,500-square-foot library at 200 W. Gregory St., will close and undergo renovations.

The two buildings will total 44,000 square feet and be joined by a central, two-story atrium and glassed-in lobby area.

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