

Windham, Tarpley to merge accounting firms

Windham Brannon P.C. and Tarpley & Underwood LLC have agreed to combine, creating one of the 10 largest accounting firms in Atlanta.

The merger is effective immediately and the new firm will be called Windham Brannon. Financial terms of the transaction were not disclosed. Windham's CEO and managing partner, Charles McGimsey, will head the new firm, although a new managing partner is expected to be named in the next few months, he said.

Windham ranks as Atlanta's 12th-largest accounting firm with 78 Atlanta professionals and 43 certified public accountants on staff, according to Atlanta Business Chronicle's 2010-2011 Book of Lists. After the merger, Windham will employ a total of 66 CPAs and 120 professionals, which would rank No. 9 on the Book of Lists. The new firm will employ 148 total staff members.

"We looked at [a merger] as a way to broaden our depth and breadth of resources to serve clients better, to create a much more comprehensive firm," said

Jim Underwood, CEO of Tarpley.

The newly merged firm will look to consolidate office space in one location after this year's tax season, Underwood said. In the interim, each firm will remain in its current offices: Windham at The Peachtree in Midtown, and Tarpley at Three Ravinia. A decision on new office space has not been made.

There are no plans to open offices in other cities, McGimsey said.

"We feel like we have such a small

market share, even in Atlanta," he said. "There is so much business opportunity right here in our backyard."

The two firms began talking last year about a combination. The firms are a good fit because each brings expertise in a specific practice area that the other firm doesn't have, Underwood said. Windham Brannon has a strong practice in auditing, while Tarpley is strong in the areas of international corporate taxation and advising large medical practices. Neither firm identified their corporate clients.

The largest practice area for both firms is advising high-net-worth individuals and families and estate planning.

The two accounting firms will also combine the investment advisory subsidiaries that each firm owns — Windham Brannon Financial Group Inc. and Tarpley & Underwood Financial Advisors LLC.

E-PARKING. An Atlanta electronic-payments company has teamed up with a Silicon Valley-backed smart-phone app developer to help urban drivers find a better parking spot.

Parkmobile USA Inc. of Atlanta said that San Francisco-based **Streetline Inc.** has agreed to use its pay-by-phone technology as part of its Parker for iPhone app. Parker for iPhone provides drivers with real-time information about the availability of on-street parking. Streetline has teamed with city transportation depart-

ments in Los Angeles, New York and other cities to install wireless sensors on city streets to feed the real-time data to its iPhone app.

Parkmobile USA's technology allows drivers to make a mobile payment for their parking space using a smart phone. Its electronic-payment product is used in more than 100 cities worldwide.

Terms of the agreement between Parkmobile USA and Streetline were not disclosed.

Investors in Parkmobile USA include **BCD Holdings NV** of the Netherlands and **Fontinalis Partners LLC** of Detroit. Streetline has received venture capital funding from Sutter Hill Ventures of Palo Alto, Calif.

THOMAS POSTS BOND. A federal judge stayed her contempt order against Newnan developer Stan Thomas after he posted \$100,000 bond to pursue an appeal.

U.S. District Court Judge Shira Scheindlin of New York in October issued a \$3.5 million judgment against Thomas in a lawsuit involving the Railyards development in Sacramento, Calif. Scheindlin said Thomas violated that judgment after he transferred a \$6.5 million note to an unrelated lender. As part of her contempt order, Scheindlin said she would jail Thomas unless he transferred \$6.1 million to the opposing party in the Railyards lawsuit.

On Jan. 5, Thomas posted a super-seedeas bond of \$100,000 while he appeals the contempt order to the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Scheindlin approved a stay of her order after Thomas posted bond.

M&A ATTORNEYS CITED. Six Atlanta attorneys who advise companies on deal-making were named to the 2011 edition of Who's Who of Mergers & Acquisition Lawyers.

Making the cut were Bill Baxley and Mike Egan of **King & Spalding LLP**; Michael Hollingsworth of **Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP**; Walter Jospin of **Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP**; Steve Fox of **Rogers & Hardin LLP**; and Mark Kaufman of **Sutherland Asbill & Brennan LLP**.

The list, published by London-based **Law Business Research Ltd.**, is made up of 614 M&A lawyers worldwide; the attorneys are nominated by other lawyers and by clients.



FINANCIAL PAGE
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HAWKS EVENTS

Fri	Jan 21	vs. New Orleans Hornets	7:30pm
Fri	Jan 28	vs. New York Knicks	7:30pm
Sat	Feb 12	vs. Charlotte Bobcats	7:00pm
Wed	Mar 2	vs. Chicago Bulls	7:00pm
Fri	Mar 4	vs. Oklahoma City Thunder	7:30pm

THRASHERS EVENTS

Thu	Jan 20	vs. Tampa Bay Lightning	7:00pm
Wed	Jan 26	vs. Washington Capitals	7:00pm
Thu	Feb 3	vs. Calgary Flames	7:00pm
Frid	Feb 11	vs. New York Rangers	7:30pm
Sun	Feb 13	vs. Carolina Hurricanes	5:00pm

PHILIPS ARENA EVENTS

Sun	January 23	Linkin Park, 7:00pm
Feb	17-21	Ringling Bros & Barnum & Bailey Circus, (multiple shows)
Mon	April 4	WWE Monday Night Raw, 8:15pm



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