Dinsmore & Shohl renovates offices in PNC Tower

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One of Louisville's largest law firms underwent office renovations during the pandemic.

But the renovations to Dinsmore & Shohl LLP's office space weren't spurred by the onset of Covid-19, but rather the modernization of the industry.

"Nowadays, believe it or not, you don't need a lot of space for books," said Kenyon Meyer, managing partner of the firm, in an interview with Business First. "And for big, large places to store stuff - like documents. A lot of things that law firms needed a lot of space for in the past no longer exist."

Dinsmore takes up about two and half floors of PNC Tower, 101 S. Fifth St. The firm's footprint has been slightly downsized from the three floors it took up prior to the renovations. It has been in the location since <u>it merged with</u> *Woodward Hobson & Fulton LLP* in 2009.

Locally, Dinsmore employs about 70 lawyers and has about 125 employees in total. The decision of whether to renovate or move after a lease ended came at a time when discussions over Downtown and office spaces were timely with the rise of remote and hybrid work.

"During the early stages of the pandemic and, at times, when some would question whether it was wise to stay Downtown ... we evaluated all of our options, looked at a bunch of different opportunities to leave Downtown and leave [PNC Tower] and decided we wanted to be here," Meyer said. "We wanted to be Downtown. We are committed to Downtown."

Meyer asked, "If the major law firms weren't committed to Downtown, who would be?"

"One of our core duties as lawyers is to make our community a better place, but in order for this community to thrive, you have to have a vibrant Downtown," he said.

The key renovations included turning libraries into more conference, meeting and training rooms. The work was focused on "client-facing areas," Meyer said. The employee areas include more collaborative spaces.

We have reached out for more information about the cost of the renovations. This story may be updated. You can see photos of the office in the gallery above.

"I think it's part of the culture," Meyer said regarding the collaborative spaces. "The importance of it was reinforced during the pandemic, but in order to train lawyers, in order to provide the best legal service you can to your clients, you have to collaborate with your colleagues."

Beyond renovations, Meyer said the firm is still focused on excellent client service and continuing to be involved in the community, such as offering pro-bono legal services. The firm is focused on lateral, organic growth, as opposed to charting target numbers of adding lawyers or clients, Meyer said.

"My growth strategy is to be prepared to seize opportunities," Meyer said. "The practice of law ... this is a job where you don't know what's going to happen when you wake up every single day. Cases settle, new case arise. Clients sell their businesses, new clients hire us, and we've got to be flexible and prepared to serve our clients and do what we need to do to be excellent stewards of our client's trust.

"We don't have a numbers quota. We look for people who we want to practice with, who want to practice with us, who we will enjoy working with and spending time with, who are committed to their clients and it's worked wonderfully well for the firm."

Including Louisville, Dismore & Shohl has offices in 29 cities across the U.S. and more than 725 attorneys nationwide. Its headquarters is in Cincinnati.

Early this year, Business First wrote about <u>the importance of Downtown and its office market to the economy of</u> <u>Greater Louisville</u>.

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