



KUTCHINS
ROBBINS &
DIAMOND,
LTD.

clientTALK

Summer 2008

Kutchins, Robbins & Diamond Merger with Wolf, Weis & Horowitz to Benefit Both Firms' Clients



*KRD Partners
Back row,
L-R: Chris
Cameron, Jon
Segal, and Allen
Kutchins. Front
row, L-R: David
Diamond and
Bruce Robbins.*

WELCOME to the summer issue of clientTALK. We hope you are enjoying the summer and have had a chance to spend time with family and friends outdoors.

As you know, we recently merged our firm with Wolf, Weis & Horowitz, LLC. The merger brings together our five partners with their three partners. What that adds up to is many, many years of tax, accounting and auditing experience which will benefit all of our clients. We are very excited about the merger and anticipate being able to broaden our spectrum of services, technology and manpower.

In this special issue of the newsletter we have presented a brief summary of each of our new staff members as well as comments from each of our three new partners. Certified public accountants Dave Wasielewski, Marc Fixler and Mitch Knopoff are as excited as we are about the joining of two well-respected accounting firms that maintain high standards and a high quality of tax, accounting, financial planning and consulting services. We will strive, as always, to be the best we can be.

Until next time,

Chris, Jon, Allen, David & Bruce

“We are excited to have the Wolf, Weis & Horowitz team join us,” says Allen Kutchins about the recent merger of the two firms. “The members of our combined staff are working to ensure a smooth transition—we appreciate their efforts.”

“The merger of KRD and Wolf, Weis & Horowitz will result in a better place to work and an even higher level of accounting, tax and financial services for our clients,” continues Allen. “We look forward to continued growth and having fun at what we do best.”

Wolf, Weis & Horowitz partner **Dave Wasielewski** agrees that the merger will benefit both firms.

“Our clients will have access to additional professional resources, mainly in the areas of financial planning and business consulting,” he says. “We plan to utilize the vast experience of KRD’s partners and their professional staff.”

Dave’s concentration is mainly on family businesses and nonprofits. He is a graduate of Northern Illinois University and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Illinois CPA Society. He is also the financial director for a professional organization.

Dave and his wife have been married for 34 years and have two grown children and two grandchildren.

Marc Fixler has been a partner at Wolf, Weis & Horowitz since 1991.

(Continued on page 4)



Wolf, Weis & Horowitz partners (L-R) Dave Wasielewski, Marc Fixler and Mitch Knopoff merged their firm with KRD as of July 1.

Meet our New Staff Members

Joann Bellos, Audit & Accounting

Joann has worked for the firm of Wolf, Weis & Horowitz for more than thirteen years. Her responsibilities include audits, reviews, compilations, quarterly payroll tax returns, monthly sales tax returns and tax preparation for both businesses and individuals.



She is also a certified QuickBooks® Pro Advisor and a certified MYOB consultant. Recently, she has focused on audits of nonprofit entities.

The merger will afford her the chance to work with many different types of industries. "It will be an adjustment for everyone," she acknowledges. "However, we all bring something different to the table in terms of experience and knowledge that will benefit us and the clients." ■

Mary Cercone, Administration

Mary worked at Wolf, Weis & Horowitz for fourteen years. At KRD, she will focus on administrative responsibilities and provide computer support.

In her position, Mary will work directly with firm administrator Sharon Bree and the partners in various administrative functions such as accounts payable, calendars & schedules, help desk and special projects. She will lead a research project on scanning and file structure to help KRD implement a paperless system. In addition, she will help in the file conversion process.



"I hope that we can take the best ideas from both our firms to better serve our clients," she says.

Mary graduated with honors from Oakton Community College, completing the optional honors curriculum. She earned an AAS in computer information systems.

Mary lives with her husband, Robert, and her youngest daughter, Megan, 15, along with their two dogs, Brutus and Honey. She has three children and two grandchildren. She enjoys spending time with her family, cooking, gardening, music and singing. On weekends, you can usually find her at a karaoke club with her husband and some of their friends. ■

Patricia Clark, Business Services

Patricia has spent the last fourteen years working in the accounting department at Wolf, Weis & Horowitz before joining the team at KRD. Her responsibilities include the preparation of monthly sales tax returns, compilations, and quarterly payroll taxes. She is currently learning the ins and outs of QuickBooks® accounting software so she can better assist clients.



"I'm always ready for a challenge," says Patricia, who spent 16 days in Australia this summer. She and her husband, Randy, visited their 21-year-old daughter, Andrea, who was studying in Australia. While they were there, the couple celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. Their son, Ryan, 25, lives in Illinois.

When she's not working, Patricia loves to read suspense novels and cook. "I do a lot of gourmet cooking, especially Italian dishes," she shares. ■

David Dell, CPA, Tax Department

A certified public accountant since 1976, David also has a law degree from the University of Illinois. He says that his legal background provides him with a deeper understanding of tax law and broadens his knowledge of trusts and estates.

David has worked at Wolf, Weis & Horowitz since 1985.

"I am looking forward to the merger and beginning a new chapter in my life. KRD has a larger client base than we had; therefore, I think there will be more opportunities for me to apply my estate and trust knowledge."



With his level of experience, David mainly reviews partnerships, corporate, individual and tax exempt federal and state tax returns. In addition, he provides tax planning, consulting and tax research services.

David has been married for forty years and has two grown children. To maintain their good health, he and his wife take long walks together. "I enjoy that," he says. ■

Meet our New Staff Members

Katie Dermer, Audit/Accounting

Katie graduated from DePaul University in Chicago in 1986 and has worked for Wolf, Weis & Horowitz since



that time. Her responsibilities include audits, reviews and compilations in a variety of industries as well as the preparation of tax returns for businesses and individuals.

She says the merger will provide her with an opportunity to learn new things and to get to know a whole new group of people. "I'm looking forward to working with the staff and partners here at KRD."

When she's not working, Katie enjoys reading and traveling. This summer, she and her husband have been kept busy attending their 10-year-old son's baseball games. "Alex has been playing on a traveling team and in a house league since April," she says, guessing that she's attended about 35 games." ■

Tracy Farenzena, Administration

At Wolf, Weis & Horowitz, where she worked for thirteen years, Tracy assisted in the tax department. She assembled tax returns and prepared client correspondence such as tax instruction letters. At KRD, she will assume some additional responsibilities. Tracy has a bachelor's degree in human service administration and also a certificate in income tax preparation.



"I'm looking forward to the challenges of learning new skills and getting additional experience," she says.

Besides her full-time job, Tracy is a certified crisis counselor. "I compassionately listen and help callers in their time of need," she explains. She also puts callers in touch with the appropriate agency that can provide them with additional services.

Tracy and her husband have been married for three years. They have two black cats. "We are not at all superstitious," she laughs. ■

Debra Hollander, Tax Department

Debra, who almost always has a smile on her face, started out at Wolf, Weis & Horowitz in 1985 as a



secretary in the tax department. She was ambitious and decided to get the necessary training to become a tax preparer. She mainly handles individual and gift tax returns as well as trusts.

"I enjoy the continuous challenges of the tax season," she comments.

After settling into the new offices in Schaumburg, Debra says she is slowly getting to know all the KRD staff. "This is a good opportunity for all of us," she adds.

She and her long-time partner, Mike, have three cats and a basset hound named Bogart. "He has big brown eyes just like his namesake," says Debra. Mike also owns a Sun Conure, a rare bird originally from Brazil. ■

Halina Wisniewski, Business Services

Whether it's bike riding on Chicago's lakefront or preparing a complex tax return, Halina is always up for a challenge. She views the recent merger as a "challenge and an opportunity to grow professionally."

Halina emigrated to the United States from Poland in 1981. She attended DePaul University and graduated in 1984 with a master's degree in accountancy. She earned her bachelor's degree in economics from the Academy of Economics in Krakow, Poland, where she was born.



She has ten years of public accounting experience and worked at Wolf, Weis & Horowitz for four years as a staff accountant. She offers a wide range of accounting and tax services to clients.

Halina, who met her American-born husband in Poland, says that coming to America was the best decision she ever made. They have college-age twins (a boy and a girl).

Halina enjoys skiing, and during the summer, she and her husband bike along Chicago's lakefront. ■

Merger (Continued from page 1.)

A graduate of Northwestern University, Marc has been a practicing CPA for the past forty years. What is the secret to his success?

"Personal contact with clients is uppermost," states Marc. He tells the story of how he once lost a very important client because he was too busy to meet with him.

"From then on, whenever a client asks to have a meeting with me, I ask where, when and what time," exclaims Marc. "If I don't show up on

time, their new accountant will!"

Marc works with a wide variety of business entities in different areas including the construction and home-building industries. He is a member of the AICPA and ICPAS.

Partner Mitch Knopoff has been a CPA for twenty-eight years and has worked at Wolf, Weis & Horowitz for twenty-four years. While his niche has mainly been family-owned businesses, he claims that he's a "jack of all trades" serving individual clients as well as many different kinds of

business entities.

He agrees with his partners that personal service is perhaps one of the most important qualities clients look for in an accountant.

"Focusing on the individual needs of each client and getting to know his/her own situation is essential in our business," he concludes.

Mitch is also a member of the AICPA and the ICPAS.

Please help us welcome our new team members. ■

Mark your calendar for 2008 events

Organization	Date	Event
La Rabida Children's Hospital	Sept. 19	Big Top Ball sponsored by the Friends of La Rabida—held at the Four Seasons Hotel
Children's Oncology Services, Inc.	Aug. 28	Swingin' for the Kids Golf Outing
	Sept. 11	Toque—An Evening with Chicago's Culinary Masters
	Oct. 6	Dinner Dance' honoring Allen & Genie Kutchins for 20 years of service—Chicago Hilton Hotel
American Dream Flite	Oct. 12	COSI team participates in the Chicago Marathon
	Nov. 5-9	Annual trip to Disney World, Sea World and Universal Studios for children with cancer.

Note: These are some of the charities that are supported by our firm. Please join us at one or more of these upcoming events. For specific information, please check our website (www.krdcpas.com) where you will find hyperlinks to each charity's website. For more information, feel free to contact the organization or venue directly.

ClientTALK is a publication of Kutchins, Robbins & Diamond, Ltd. The general information contained herein is for educational purposes and should not be acted upon without first obtaining professional advice. Copyright 2002. Kutchins, Robbins & Diamond, Ltd. ■ 1101 Perimeter Drive, Suite 760, Schaumburg, IL 60173; ■ Phone: 847.240.1040 Fax: 847.240.1055 Website: www.krdcpas.com. ■ Editor: *Carlene Sabath*

KUTCHINS, ROBBINS & DIAMOND, LTD.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
AND BUSINESS CONSULTANTS
1101 PERIMETER DRIVE, SUITE 760
SCHAUMBURG, ILLINOIS 60173