

# Cope & Olson, PLC: Law firm gives personal touch

BY LAUREN WICKS



Johnny Cope and Dave Olson

PHILLIP HINES

**W**hen you call the law offices of Cope & Olson, P.L.C., you are going to talk to a real person.

You do not have to deal with a laundry list of extensions and inbox destinations. You will not have to wait for a day to find out where your legal representative is. You make one phone call and you will get what you need.

That personal touch is what the lawyers at Cope & Olson say separates them from their competitors in the field.

"We're one of the few firms that you can call and get a real person to answer the phone," says David Olson, attorney at law for the firm. "We're very accessible to our clients. We like to get to work and get things done."

The firm's history in Newport News goes back more than four decades.

In 1966, the Morrison & Stephenson firm was established. Eighteen years later, in 1984, Johnny Cope came on board, with Olson—a

former Commonwealth's Attorney—coming in 1992.

Stephen Hudgins and Elmo Stephenson have since joined the firm, and now the four men are legal leaders in the Newport News community.

They tackle a broad range of issues from criminal defense and personal injury to corporate work and domestic relations.

Each of the lawyers has his own specialty and niche in the office. For example, Olson's background as a Commonwealth Attorney makes criminal defense his area of expertise.

"Obviously, that's mostly all I do," he says.

While Olson sticks to criminal law, Cope has made a name for the firm's work with "some of the heaviest hitters" in construction.

In fact, Olson says the law firm has "increased dramatically" because of all

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the legal needs of construction firms coming to develop Newport News.

"We're all very busy," Olson says. "Everybody's in court every day. It's very rare for us not to go to court in the morning."

He says that the firm has approximately 125 cases going at any one time. And with such a heavy caseload, the work to keep clients in touch becomes that much more important, he adds.

"That's the number one thing we try to do, to be accessible to everybody," Olson says. "We start early, and we're able to be contacted by our clients on a very regular basis. If we are in court or out, we can give people some idea of when they can expect a call back. That's what makes us different." ◀

### TO THE Point

#### Cope & Olson, P.L.C.

**Address:** 11836 Canon Blvd., Suite 100, Newport News, VA 23606

**Phone:** 757-596-0316

**Contacts:** David Olson, Johnny Cope

**Business:** Legal services

INSURING SUCCESS, continued from page 23

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BESIDE THE POINT, continued from page 24

women, all highly educated and accomplished. Retirees, military and college students comprise most of the rest of the candidate base.

Crews and Eby report that their candidates include administrative assistants, engineers, attorneys and marketing executives, but indicate there is a broad spectrum of positions they are able to staff, including administrative, legal, accounting/finance, communications, human

resources, insurance, sales and technical software candidates. Additionally, they perform a number of services for the client, including advertising the position, reading resumes and matching skills with requirements, conducting initial screenings, scheduling interviews, doing reference checks and doing the hiring-paperwork and ongoing payroll processing.

"We do a lot of networking," says Eby. And, it obviously works. ◀

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