

The background features the Bowles Rice logo, which consists of a stylized map of the United States. The map is composed of several overlapping shapes in shades of blue and yellow. The top right portion of the map is yellow, while the rest is in various shades of blue. The text 'Bowles Rice' is positioned in the upper right area of the map.

Bowles Rice

VIEWS & VISIONS

BOWLESRICE.COM

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Southwestern Pennsylvania: The Epicenter of Growth

From Our
Managing Partner



Marc Monteleone
Bowles Rice LLP

In 2010, our law firm began to explore the possibility of locating an office in Pennsylvania. Several of our attorneys were licensed in Pennsylvania, and we were already doing work for our clients that were either located in Pennsylvania or doing business there. As we studied the region, our decision of where to establish our office became very clear. We needed to open an office in Washington County. Washington County was and is the center of one of the most dynamic and evolving economies in the region, and we wanted to become a part of the local community and work with others to bring success and prosperity to this region.

Our vision was to establish and operate a full-service office that would be located in Southpointe. We opened our first office in February of 2012. It contained nine attorney offices, and our goal was to fill those offices up over the next several years. As it turned out, we filled those offices in just over a year. Then, in August of 2014, we moved to our current and larger location in Southpointe as part of the Main Street expansion project. I am pleased to report that our growth has continued, and we are thrilled with the opportunity to play a role in the future development of Washington County and the southwestern region of Pennsylvania.

Washington County continues to lead the Greater Pittsburgh Region in creating new economic growth, new job opportunities and regional expansion. Over the past few years, public and private partners announced \$727,609,978 in new business investment and an additional 1,438 created/retained jobs in Washington County. This tremendous growth in business investment and job creation was driven by numerous sectors of our economy – energy, commercial/retail development,

healthcare and infrastructure. As Ms. Vaughan points out in her article, at the 10th Annual Washington County event held in February of this year, the County Commissioners highlighted 69 new projects representing over \$679 million in capital investment for the County, which shows that the growth and prosperity are continuing to occur.

Our firm's foundation is in the Energy Sector, and that is what first brought us to Southpointe. Since we first opened our office, our energy practice has been very busy, and we continue to add to our energy team. As Mr. Kotula points out in his article, Pennsylvania is one of six states that supplies over half of the country's energy production, and Washington County is one of the leaders in natural gas production. The energy production from this region is prolific. In addition to the energy work, the region continues to re-invent itself and expand into new and exciting industries, including manufacturing, distilleries, retail, broadband and space exploration. Make sure you read about Astrobotic and what they are doing to revolutionize space travel, and take the time to visit the Moonshot Museum. All truly amazing things happening in this region.

Although it has only been 12 years, we at Bowles Rice have become a part of the community, and our team works hard every day to support the local community and region. As Mr. Griffith points out in his article, it is important for the local businesses to support their local community by giving and investing back in the community. We share his vision! We thank each of our authors for sharing their articles with you, and we hope that you find this edition of *Views & Visions* interesting and informative. **W**

Marc Monteleone is the Managing Partner of Bowles Rice. Elected in January of 2022, his responsibilities include leadership, management, and administration of the firm. His legal practice includes federal and state taxation, mergers and acquisitions, oil and gas law, construction law, commercial law, and real estate development. Monteleone, who authored West Virginia's design-build legislation, was appointed Chair of the West Virginia Design-Build Review Board – a position he held for nearly 20 years – by former Governor Cecil Underwood. He is also a Past President of the Independent Oil & Gas Association of West Virginia and currently serves as the Tax Committee Chair for the Gas & Oil Association of West Virginia.