

CONTACT: Alethia Anderson
EMAIL: alethia.anderson@smithgroup.com
PHONE: 612.656.3966

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SmithGroup-designed Bowman and Brooke Headquarters **First** Certified LEED-Commercial Interiors Law Office in Minnesota

Minneapolis, MN, January 25, 2008 – Bowman and Brooke’s headquarters in Minneapolis, MN has received a LEED – Commercial Interiors certification rating from the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). This is the first law firm workplace outside of California, and the second nation-wide, to meet the strict environmental criteria set by the USGBC’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green commercial interiors rating system. The **SmithGroup**-designed headquarters is located in downtown Minneapolis’s Fifth Street Towers, at 150 South Fifth Street.

“The energy-saving design reinforces the forward-thinking and people-focused culture at Bowman and Brooke. The firm sought to extend their role as stewards of the environment by pursuing the LEED-CI certification,” said Rebecca Nolan, Assoc. AIA, IIDA, LEED AP and Principal-in-Charge for the design of the new headquarters.

At 60,000 gross square feet, the new workplace for the nationally renowned litigation firm expands three stories and utilizes a three-story central stair as an iconic and commanding organizing element for the space. According to Nolan, the design reflects the firm’s image as cutting-edge litigators and creative legal thinkers through its modulation of space and use of innovative materials. The functional needs of the firm are supported with dedicated areas for trial preparation, research, and rapid updating and access to records.

The space makes optimum use of natural lighting, minimizing dependence on artificial lighting. Natural light penetrates the interior of the office in a business practice that traditionally incorporates offices along the entire exterior perimeter. The floor plan provides corridors with exterior views, and the use of interior glazing transfers natural light to interior work zones.



Exterior views, light transfer and sustainably harvested wood veneers brighten the entry of the Bowman and Brooke LLP headquarters.

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Other sustainable design strategies employed include the use of recycled materials throughout the space, low VOC adhesives and sealants, and low formaldehyde wood products.

LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) <http://www.usgbc.org/> is the nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. The USGBC measures building performance in five areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality. LEED for Commercial Interiors is the green benchmark for the tenant improvement market. It is the recognized system for certifying high-performance green interiors that are healthy, productive places to work; are less costly to operate and maintain; and have a reduced environmental footprint. LEED-CI gives the power to make sustainable choices to tenants and designers, who do not always have control over whole building operations.



The central stair, with recycled steel and glass surround, transfers light vertically through the 3-level office.

Bowman and Brooke LLP (www.bowmanandbrooke.com) is a nationally renowned litigation firm, representing clients, and trying cases in all 50 states. The firm routinely defends high profile cases for some of the world's largest corporations, in products liability, toxic tort, commercial and other high stakes cases. Bowman and Brooke has nearly 120 lawyers and offices in Minneapolis, San Jose, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Detroit and Richmond.

SmithGroup, Inc. (www.smithgroup.com) ranks as the nation's 6th largest architecture and engineering firm (*Building Design & Construction*, July 2007) and employs 800. The firm is composed of client industry-focused practices serving the healthcare, learning, workplace and science & technology markets. SmithGroup has offices Ann Arbor, MI, Chicago, IL, Detroit, MI; Los Angeles, CA; Madison, WI; Minneapolis, MN; Phoenix, AZ; Raleigh-Durham, NC; San Francisco, CA; and Washington, D.C. Established in 1853, **SmithGroup** is the longest continually operating architecture and engineering firm in the U.S.

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