

Dennis Curtin now a partner at Whiteman Osterman and Hanna

PLATTSBURGH — Local attorney Dennis Curtin has been named a partner of Albany-based Whiteman Osterman and Hanna, and will provide the firm a full-time presence in Plattsburgh.

He started his new job Sept. 6. His office is in the Gateway at Plattsburgh building on Durkee Street.

"I'm excited. I've worked with this firm since the 1980s," he said. Their first work together was on a Pyramid Mall project in Buffalo. Curtin handled the real-estate part, while Whiteman Osterman and Hanna handled environmental issues.

In the 1990s, Curtin was working on the Falcon Seaboard project and had the firm do its environmental permits.

Curtin said Whiteman Osterman and Hanna is the largest firm in Albany, with about 80 lawyers. He said it's a full-service law firm.

"We can provide all our service in the North Country using the attorneys we have in Albany," he said.

That includes attorneys who have done extensive environmental work with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

One of the firm's founding partners, Melvin Osterman, helped the firm establish a specialty in school law. Curtin also has extensive expertise in that area, having represented numerous school districts in all aspects of school law.

Philip Gitlen, one of the firm's two co-managing partners, said the firm opened its Plattsburgh office two years ago. That was largely as it served as legal counsel for Plattsburgh Airbase Redevelopment Corps. efforts to redevelop the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base, and was only staffed part-time.

He said they were pleased when Curtin expressed interest in joining the firm.

"Dennis has a long history in the Plattsburgh area and the North Country," Gitlen said. "It's a very exciting opportunity for us to offer our services in Plattsburgh and also for Dennis to use his contacts."

The move fits in well with the firm's plans to expand north and south of Albany, he said. Curtin graduated cum laude from Union College with a Bachelor of Science Degree, magna cum laude from New England School of Law in Boston with a juris doctor degree and from Georgetown University Law Center with a masters of law in taxation.

Curtin was at Fitzpatrick, Trombley, Owens and Lahtinen when it merged with Stafford, Purcell and Edwards in 1990. In that merger, Curtin became a founding partner of Stafford, Owens, Curtin and Trombley.

He remained with that firm until he took a position with Octapharma. Plasma Inc. in Dec. 2008.

That company has about 1,600 employees and operates 45 blood plasma collection centers in the United States. Curtin negotiated contracts for development of 34 U.S. Food and Drug Administration-licensed plasma collection centers across the United States.

He also negotiated global supply chain contracts for supplies, medical testing and automation services.

Curtin has represented shopping-mall developers in State Environmental Quality Review proceedings and land-use permitting. He has helped clients with site acquisition and cell-phone facilities in the Adirondack Park.

Curtin helped negotiate a peaceful resolution to the armed standoff between the Ganienkah Mohawk Nation and federal and state law-enforcement authorities in 1990.

He is a member of the Adirondack Area Network, a 501c3 not-for-profit created to provide Internet, videoconferencing, distance learning and telemedicine services to hospitals, educational institutions and others. Curtin has also previously been listed in Best Lawyers in America.

Much of Whiteman Osterman and Hanna's practice focuses on matters that involve pri-

vate entities regulated or otherwise affected by public policy or public bodies. Since it was founded in 1975, it has grown from four lawyers to 80.

Its members have served as counsel or assistant counsel to four governors of New York.

Whiteman Osterman and Hanna prides it self on being able to handle large, complex matters with individual attention.

For more information, visit www.woh.com.

Email Dan Heath at:

dheath@pressrepublican.com