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## **PAPER PUSHERS PUSH TOWARD GREATER RECYCLING EFFORT**

### **Law Firm Answers the Call to ‘Go Green,’ Earns Recognition from ABA**

NEWPORT BEACH, Calif. — It’s no secret that law firms use prodigious amounts of paper, a factor in the creation in 2007 of a voluntary pilot conservation program by the American Bar Assn. in cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: the “Law Office Climate Challenge.” And Newport Beach-based Newmeyer & Dillion LLP is the first Orange County firm to earn recognition as a program partner, pledging to undertake office “best practices.”

According to the Bar Assn.’s website, one large Washington, D.C. law firm buys about 100,000 sheets of copying and printing paper per attorney per year, amounting to a half-ton of paper per year that in turn generates approximately 11 tons of carbon dioxide through its life cycle.

Since it has been advising homebuilding clients on adopting green-building, the firm decided to “practice what it preaches” by implementing a “green office” campaign. The effort has already achieved the goal of 90% of paper purchases having at least 30% post consumer-recycled content.

“Several of us in the firm realized it was time for us to be more conscientious about recycling and saving energy,” said partner Mark Himmelstein. A 20-member Green Committee comprised of lawyers and staff from all areas of the firm was established to explore ways to achieve that goal.

While there were no local programs to provide guidance, the firm discovered the ABA’s 2-year pilot program to encourage conservation and decided to sign on.

The voluntary effort established in March 2007 sets specific targets in three areas: Best Practices for Office Paper Management and EPA WasteWise Program; EPA Green Power Partnership Program; and EPA ENERGY STAR Program.

The Green Committee, which initially focused on the paper management issue, meets monthly to review progress toward their various goals, including setting up additional recycling stations for paper, cans and bottles, and working with building management on issues of energy efficiency, such as lighting, heating and air conditioning. Other projects range from participation in local coastal clean-up days to gathering tips and promoting the adoption of “green” practices by employees in their personal lives.

Noted Himmelstein, “We are gratified by the interest and enthusiasm our employees have exhibited in tackling this project and are also proud to be making the effort to conserve.”

The firm was recently recognized by OC Metro Business magazine among the 23 “Green Teams,” Orange County companies who are “making less waste, with real haste.”

Now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year and with a second office in Walnut Creek, Newmeyer & Dillion LLP employs more than 50 lawyers providing litigation and transactional services in a wide range of business, real estate and financial services matters. For additional information, contact Mark Himmelstein at (949) 854-7000, or visit [www.ndlf.com](http://www.ndlf.com).

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