

ANH LE

ANH LE, CPA

In 1983, at the tender age of 25, Anh Le had a life-altering decision to make: Risk his life and escape Communist-led Vietnam or stay in the country and suffer the reality of a bleak future?

His decision: Risk everything and escape.

Le paid a fisherman to take him out of the country. On a warm, dark evening, he boarded the boat that he hoped would take him to freedom. When military guards came to check the boat, Le hid, knowing they had orders to shoot anyone trying to leave the country.

Today, now a proud United States citizen, Le is the owner of Anh Le, CPA, an accounting, tax and wealth management firm he began 10 years ago. The company has five Southern Illinois offices and will soon be opening a location on the Missouri side.

"I love working and helping small and midsized businesses grow their companies," Le said. "These owners wear all of the hats in their businesses. They want to focus on what they do best. There are 74,000 pages of tax code. How can a business owner understand all of that and still focus on what they do best? Our job is to help these owners focus on their businesses so they can grow their businesses."

Le has particularly flourished helping bilingual customers. Over 20% of his customers are bilingual, mainly Spanish- and Vietnamese-speaking. Anh Le, CPA, has a full staff of bilingual professionals with advanced



degrees to serve the growing diversified population in the bistate area.

Le has no regrets about risking his life 34 years ago to escape Vietnam and come to America. He's thrived here, and he's working to help other businesses become successful as well.

"I make sure I give back to the community whenever I can," said Le, who can be found on Veterans Day hanging American flags around Fairview Heights and provides pro bono tax services to seniors who cannot afford them. "I will always show my love for this country. When I came here, people embraced me. I'm forever thankful for that."

Alan Meyer

1st MidAmerica Credit Union



Alan Meyer is the president and CEO of 1st MidAmerica Credit Union. Since 1934, 1st MidAmerica Credit Union has expanded from a desk drawer to serving members

across 22 counties in Illinois and Missouri. The organization, once known as Olin Employees Credit Union, at one time had \$15 million in assets and served 7,751 employees. 1st MidAmerica has since grown to \$649 million in assets with more than 59,000 members.

Kevin Richter

Mathis, Marifian & Richter (MMR)



Kevin J. Richter is a shareholder at Mathis, Marifian & Richter (MMR) who focuses his practice on business law, taxation law, estate planning, employee benefits law, employment law

and real estate law.

Richter has more than 30 years of experience representing business owners, corporations and individuals in matters involving business sales and acquisitions, retirement plan benefits, disability, ERISA litigation, contract law, tax representation, and all phases of estate planning. He has worked with a variety of clients, including manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors, physician groups, clinics, physician specialty practices, service entities, law firms, school districts and governmental entities. He has also represented international, national, regional and local businesses.

Kevin Vick

Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale



Kevin Vick is known for his ability to make deals happen and accomplish client goals. With a focus on providing excellent service with ethical integrity, Vick, an officer at

Greensfelder, Hemker & Gale, uses a practical, commonsense approach to help clients navigate the increasingly complicated areas of real estate development, business operations and financing.

Vick represents clients across the country in the acquisition, development, construction, financing, leasing and sale of real estate. He also assists banks in documenting loans for real estate developments and other credit facilities, including an active local counsel practice for lenders seeking legal opinions in connection with loans secured by Illinois and Missouri real estate.

He is currently a board member of the Greater Belleville Chamber of Commerce.

Augie Wuellner

Alton Securities & Asset Advisors



Augie Wuellner is a financial adviser at Alton Securities & Asset Advisors. He received his finance degree from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville.

After a 35-year career as a construction executive at J.J. Wuellner Construction, he decided to change his career to pursue his lifelong interest in the investment world, becoming a financial adviser. In Wuellner's free time he is involved with community organizations such as the Alton-Godfrey Rotary and the RiverBend Growth Association.



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