

Brilliant Cleaning Adds 19 Commercial Clients

Expands electrostatic spray disinfecting.

In 2020, Brilliant Cleaning Service was buoyed by its commercial division, which saw its client base nearly double to 37 customers, up from 19, says Theresa Viviano, owner and general manager.

Commercial work drove a 24% increase in business for Brilliant, Viviano says. The Boardman company broadened its services with two large property management groups, as well as an early childhood learning center.

Brilliant also expanded its electrostatic spray disinfecting services, offering reduced rates to existing clients that offer essential services in areas such as health care, housing, education and finance.

"It was the dedication of our employees and the support of our clients that allowed us to recover quickly after the COVID shutdown," Viviano says. "This positioned us for continued

growth in 2021. I could not be more grateful to our staff and community."

Though stay-at-home orders suspended residential work in March and April, forcing Brilliant to furlough 30% of its staff, nearly all workers have since returned.

Residential work has rebounded and is increasing weekly, according to Viviano.

To keep workers and clients safe during the pandemic, Brilliant follows recommended health guidelines, has invested in personal protective equipment and transitioned to using disinfectants recommended by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. All employees must comply with OSHA standards.

The company paid higher wages to its 29 employees in 2020, added paid time off, as well as mid-year and holiday bonuses, Viviano says.

This year the company will relocate to a larger building on Market Street, thereby increasing space for supplies, meetings and training.

Practicing Law 'Changed Forever' at Brouse Firm

In April 2020, Matthew Vansuch, a partner at Brouse McDowell, was the first attorney to argue before the Ohio Supreme Court via Zoom. The 100-year-old business law firm expects courts to continue to use virtual technologies, even after the pandemic has subsided, says Daniel Glessner, managing partner.

"How we practice law has changed forever, particularly for our litigators," Glessner says. "Brouse continues to invest in its technology and cybersecurity to give our attorneys and staff the ability to work and to be accessible anywhere in a secure environment."

Brouse maintained operations and staff throughout the pandemic, using technology to offer legal services and counsel, and extending its events and offerings to new audiences during the stay-at-home order, Glessner says. The firm employs 142 attorneys and staff across offices in Akron, Cleveland, Toledo, Youngstown and Naples, Fla.

The firm provided regular alerts and video briefings on the Paycheck

Protection Program, the Main Street Lending program, the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and other programs.

"Everyone worked hard to support our clients and to help them through these difficult times," Glessner says.

In 2020, Brouse McDowell added two to its firm. Vito Abruzzino, Columbiana County prosecutor and the director of the Eastern Ohio Military Affairs Commission, joined the firm's trusts and estates practice group.

Also joining the firm is Catherine Stone, who brings more than 16 years of experience in counseling clients on estate plans, mergers and acquisitions and general corporate law.

"We will continue to grow strategically where it makes sense for our firm and our clients," Glessner says.

A community service committee coordinates the firm's volunteer efforts. These include the Keep Akron Beautiful project, a Greater Cleveland Food Bank volunteer day, and United Way fundraising campaigns.

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