

## LAW from 12A

area where this is happening is in the technology area around TechStars.”

Law firms, accounting firms, professional investors and many others collaborate to provide bedrock for entrepreneurs to grow their ideas faster through TechStars, Weakley said.

“TechStars is a true platform where law firms can do something other than give money for a banner or hold a seminar to sell services,” he said.

TechStars provides seed funding from more than 75 top venture capital firms and angel investors who are vested in the success of program startups. Recipients also receive intense mentorship from hundreds of the best entrepreneurs in the world, including legal firms such as Bryan Cave, and the chance to pitch to angel investors and venture capitalists at the end of the program.

TechStars companies each receive \$118,000 — \$18,000 in seed funding and an optional \$100,000 convertible-debt note. They average more than \$1.6 million in outside venture capital raised after leaving the TechStars program.

The law firms get an opportunity to support the community by mentoring its top young talent — and then if a successful TechStars company's leaders need legal aid later and remember that great mentor they had from Bryan Cave, well, it's a win-win.

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**Mark W. Weakley**

PARTNER,  
BRYAN CAVE HRO LLP

beyond providing sponsorship dollars,” Weakley said. “We are moving away from sponsoring events to becoming involved in leadership positions.”

The Boulder office of Holland & Hart LLP is in a growth mode and recently hired 10 new attorneys in its Boulder office, said Christopher A. Gunlikson, managing partner in the Boulder office. The firm is seeing significant growth in all of its practice groups.

“IP is a huge growth area, specifically within the Boulder area,” Gunlikson said. The firm recently completed an expansion of its downtown Boulder office.

Partnerships with industry initiatives are done by individual attor-

neys on a case-by-case basis than as a corporate initiative, said Gunlikson, adding that “some are tailored toward individual practice areas.”

Holland and Hart is a large Colorado firm with a strong Boulder market.

“We are not targeting one type of litigation,” he said. “Many of our attorneys do mentoring on an individual basis. We participate in panels and business organizations within the Boulder Chamber and networking events through the (Boulder County Business Report). We teach courses at CU and participate in panels there. That's our outreach.”

Holland & Hart opened its Boulder offices in 1993 as the Boulder County business community rapidly expanded. Since its inception in 1947, it has grown into a full-service law firm of more than 440 lawyers in 15 offices across the Rocky Mountain West and in Washington, D.C. The company also delivers integrated legal solutions to regional, national and international clients of all sizes.

Holland & Hart also has an internationally recognized mining practice, an intellectual property group responsible for trademark registrations and patent portfolios in more than 170 countries. One of the firm's Boulder-based attorneys, Michael Drapkin, was one of three Colorado lawyers who were instrumental in bringing a U.S. Patent and Trademark regional satellite office to Denver.

## Intellectual-property law practice to open office in Broomfield

BY BETH POTTER

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**BROOMFIELD** — The Sheridan Ross PC law firm announced that it will open an office in May in the Interlocken business park in Broomfield.

The new office will have six attorneys and focus on helping existing clients in the Broomfield-Boulder region, according to a press statement from the firm. The new office will be at 390 Interlocken Crescent, Suite 890, in Broomfield.

Denver-based Sheridan Ross focuses on intellectual-property law with 41 attorneys and five patent agents. It has grown from a base of 28 attorneys working in the office 18 months ago. Six of the existing attorneys in Denver will move to the new office.

“This is an important geographic corridor for us, and it is home to some of the most dynamic companies and people in Colorado,” said Bruce Kugler, Sheridan Ross' president. “We're excited at the opportunity to bring our expertise to the market and to be a part of that future growth as well.”

The new office will be Sheridan Ross' third. The firm opened an office in Colorado Springs in 2011. The firm was founded in Denver in 1954.