

Balke Brown boosts broker ranks with new hires

Commercial real estate firm Balke Brown Associates is expanding its brokerage services group.

In the past year, Balke Brown has boosted its brokerage ranks from three to seven and is seeking to add a junior level associate and a senior level investment sales broker in the coming months, said Mike Donovan, principal of Balke Brown and manager of the firm's brokerage services group.

In the past month, Balke Brown hired Hany Abounader, formerly with Sansone Group, and Matt Hrubes, formerly with Duke Realty. Steve Stradal, formerly with Wm. Boudoures Co., and Kevin McLaughlin, formerly with CB Richard Ellis, both joined the firm last year.

Donovan said the weakened economy has helped the firm's recruitment efforts since few commercial brokerage firms are hiring. "We normally wouldn't be able to hire all of these people with the level of experience they have," he said.

Balke Brown, the 16th largest commercial real estate broker based in St. Louis and the 9th largest commercial developer, specializes in office and industrial properties. The firm's principals include Donovan, Steve Brown, Don Land and Jim Tainter. Balke Brown has 45 employees and is based at the Highlands office and retail development at Hampton and Highway 40 in St. Louis.

— Lisa R. Brown