

W. Scott Lewis, J.D. named NCHERM Partner

The National Center for Higher Education Risk Management, headquartered in Malvern, PA, is pleased to announce its second staff expansion this spring.

Effective May 1, 2008, W. Scott Lewis, J.D. will join NCHERM full-time, as a Partner. Lewis was elevated to Partner in recognition of NCHERM's need to continue to provide excellent service to its rapidly growing client base. Previously, Lewis served the University of South Carolina as Assistant Vice Provost for Judicial Affairs and Academic Integrity. The NCHERM firm now has two full-time consultants and two affiliated consultants, and has plans to expand again soon with additional full-time consultants.

Brett A. Sokolow, J.D, NCHERM's President, stated "I started NCHERM in 2000 as a sole practitioner, and while I hoped we would prosper, I never expected the rocket ship ride that we have experienced over the last two years. Asked whether he thought the wave of school shootings was contributing to NCHERM's growth, Sokolow said, "No. We're not one of the million new companies that have suddenly gone into the business of selling text messaging systems. We're not advising our clients on crisis response. Our role will always be proactive, and aimed at prevention. We have always focused on campus violence, now everyone else is, too."

Sokolow went on to add, "We have been fortunate that our Behavioral Intervention and Threat Assessment Team model responded to a gap at a time when campuses realized the critical need for such a capacity. Over 300 campuses have attended our Institutes since last December. Scott was essential to the development of this model, and will be a key player as we help our clients to implement this model on the more than 50 campuses that are in the process of adopting it."

Sokolow continued, "We are called on for large scale investigations, like the Eastern Michigan University murder/suicide last year, but have not had the infrastructure to provide the breadth of staff such investigations require. As we increase capacity, we'll be able to do more for our clients, and we hope they'll entrust us with their toughest problems." Asked what he brings to the NCHERM roster, Scott Lewis said, "Brett and I have the same engaged, proactive mindset. We don't wait for problems to boil over. Our job is to look ahead and help our clients put structures in place now for the risk management issues of tomorrow." Lewis gave an example. "I get daily calls asking about best practices for campuses that are anticipating a large influx of returning veterans. True to the NCHERM method, we'll be creating a model for best practices that will help campuses proactively anticipate the needs and problems of returning veterans. We'll be addressing a series of articles, videoseminars, presentations and protocols to the higher education community, as well as expanding our consulting programs to include risk management topics related to veterans. Plus, Brett and I just have fun presenting together, no matter what the topic is. We have a passion for what we do."