



For more information, contact:
Steve Woods
Case Manager, Woods and Woods
E-mail: SWoods@WoodsLawyers.com
Phone: (812) 426-7200

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Woods and Woods Help to Preserve Historic Downtown

Local law firm's building to receive marker from the Indiana Historical Bureau

EVANSVILLE, Ind., Nov. 6, 2007—Housed in the former Vanderburgh County Jail and Sheriff's Residence, Evansville-based law firm Woods and Woods will host a public dedication ceremony presented by the Indiana Historical Bureau on Tuesday, Nov. 13.

The Bureau will be placing a permanent historical marker in front of the building to signify its importance in the community and to celebrate its architectural achievement. Historical markers commemorate significant individuals, places, and events, and they help communities throughout Indiana promote, preserve, and present their history for the education and enjoyment of residents and tourists of all ages.

"Through the years, the Old Jail has received minor repairs and updates, a few new coats of paint, and thousands of visitors, but it hasn't lost its intrigue," explains Mike Woods, lawyer and founder of Woods and Woods. "Preserving this history is important because it allows community members to reflect on the past—to learn from and appreciate those who came before us."

A Little Bit of History

Woods and Woods relocated in November 2004 to the building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places. An exquisite example of gothic revival architecture, the structure was built in 1890 and was welcomed with much acclaim and publicity. It was the first building of its kind in Evansville—not only was it visually striking, it also served as a functional place to house accused criminals.

The Old Jail, as well as the Old Courthouse situated across the street, were designed by European-trained architect Henry A. Wolters in the late 19th century. Inspired by European architecture, Wolters is said to have modeled the Old Jail after the Castle of Lichtenstein in Germany. Its fortress-like presence was meant to be foreboding and deter people from committing crimes.

– MORE –

The building was remodeled in 1937 and then abandoned by Vanderburgh County in 1969. The Conrad Baker Foundation, a historic preservation society, then began restoring the building to use for other purposes—such as office space—but they were careful to ensure that the building’s rich history would remain in tact.

The Old Jail, located at 208 NW Fourth Street in downtown Evansville, is owned by Vanderburgh County, but Woods and Woods won the right to lease the building from the Old Courthouse Foundation until 2067.

The new jail and sheriff’s residence just completed is one of the handsomest ornaments in an architectural way among the public buildings in this city.

—Excerpt from the *Evansville Journal*, Dec. 24, 1880

About Woods and Woods

Based in Evansville, Indiana, Woods and Woods is a family-operated law firm dedicated to representing the rights of individuals injured or disabled by the negligent conduct of others. Since its establishment in 1985, Woods and Woods lawyers and staff members have actively participated in the well-being of the community through involvement in youth sports, scouting, and by annually sponsoring the Safe and Sober Free Ride Home program. Visit www.WoodsLawyers.com to learn more.

About the Indiana Historical Bureau

For more than 90 years the Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the State of Indiana, has been marking Indiana history. Since 1947, the marker format has been the large roadside marker, which has the familiar dark blue background with gold lettering and the outline of the state of Indiana at the top. There are approximately 500 of these markers across the state. Visit www.IN.gov/history to learn more.

###