James A. Kaffenbarger, Jr. – Bio for FBST

I was born and raised in Springfield, Ohio. I received a B.A. in Economics and History from Miami University in 1991. From there I went straight to law school at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. I received my J.D. in 1994, took and passed the Ohio Bar and began working for a small law firm in Cleveland.

Around this time, I met my future wife, Kimberly, while she was in Medical School at Case Western Reserve. Once she finished medical school, she went to Johns Hopkins Bayview in Baltimore, MD to complete her internship and residency. After about six months, I moved to Baltimore as well.

I took and passed the Maryland Bar and began working for a medium-sized law firm specializing in insurance defense litigation. I enjoyed the work and began to rise through the law firm's ranks to a Senior Associate position. Kim and I married, and she completed her residency, did a chief residency year and began working on a fellowship in geriatrics.

We both wanted kids but had not really considered when or where. It became clear that the "when" would be soon and that the "where" would not be in downtown Baltimore where we lived. We looked at her hometown (Elmira, NY) and mine. She had much better opportunities in Elmira where her father, Al Preucil, practiced for thirty years before retiring.

I was interviewing with local Elmira law firms when I received an interesting offer from an investment management firm to change careers. I took a chance and joined the firm (Although for purposes of full disclosure, I did get admitted to the NY Bar in case this did not work out).

My wife and I have loved the past twenty-one years in Elmira. We have raised two wonderful kids here – Jack is a Senior at Hamilton College majoring in Computer Science, and Lucy is a Sophomore at the University of Michigan and planning to go to medical school after her undergraduate work.

Six and a half years ago, two partners and I started our own personal financial firm, BCK Partners, Inc. We have loved the opportunity to build a firm from scratch that has the dedication and focus that our clients deserve. Since inception, we have added four people to our team and look to keep growing in the future.

Now that we are empty nesters, my wife and I are enjoying more time to travel and hike, ski, golf and enjoy good food and wine with family and friends.