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Zion & Zion, LeVine branching out with new offices



Mike Sunnucks Senior Reporter-Phoenix Business Journal Email | Twitter | Facebook

Two local advertising and public relations agencies are seeing expansion plans come to fruition and are moving into new locations amid hopes that businesses will be spending more for their services after the downturn.

Zion & Zion advertising, marketing and public relations agency is moving into new and larger studio space in Tempe and has picked up eight new clients during the first quarter.

Another local marketing agency, Steve LeVine Entertainment & Public Relations of Scottsdale, is opening a new office in Los Angeles this summer and adding sports, event and musical clients.

Those moves could indicate some positive marketplace still rebounding from the recession, which hit Phoenix particularly hard.

Zion & Zion CEO Aric Zion expects to move into the new 14,000-square-foot studio in



Jamie Morris LeVine

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July. He also anticipates billings to come in at \$35 million this year, up from \$33 million in 2012, \$30.5 million in 2011 and \$23.5 million in 2010.

Advertising and PR firms generally saw a big drop in business and tougher operating environment during the recession. National and international companies began to increase their ad and marketing spending last year, but local companies have been slower on the draw. Advertising executives are hoping to see some improvement this year in the local market.



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Zion has picked up DMB Associates' Eastmark development, the Farm at South Mountain restaurant, software company AFS Technologies, Santa Barbara Catering Co. and the new Palette restaurant at the Phoenix Art Museum as clients.

"We're seeing so much organic growth," Zion said.

Denise Resnik's DRA Communications in Phoenix also does work for Scottsdale-based DMB. The Eastmark development is a DMB real estate project at the former GM Proving Grounds in Mesa.

Jamie Morris LeVine, spokeswoman for LeVine Entertainment, is seeing a rebound in business spending on events and public relations, and clients are putting resources and money behind social media campaigns.

LeVine Entertainment has brought on Texas-based sports agency Select Sports Group, as well as some new musical acts, night clubs and charity events as clients.

LeVine also said the firm is seeing more work from existing clients such as Mark-Taylor Residential and the Arizona Rattlers arena football team.

The agency has looked to increase its footprint in the event and entertainment industries, said LeVine, a former Phoenix Suns executive.

Zion said clients increasingly are focused on digital marketing campaigns and research that outlines return on investment in their campaigns. He said his Tempe agency tries to appeal to clients by offering a full-service array of traditional, new media and research services.

"Everything is done in house," he said. "There is no outsourcing."

Zion has 30 employees and is hiring a new senior account executive and senior analyst and statistical modeler.

Zions' portfolio of clients also includes Discount Cab, the Fascinations lingerie stores, Goettl Air Conditioning and Dutch Brothers Coffee. He said 75 percent of the firm's work is based in Arizona.

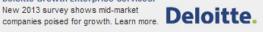
Zion is not the only advertising agency moving into new Tempe digs.

Advertising executive David Eichler is renaming his firm Decibel Blue Creative Marketing & PR and has moved from central Phoenix to the Papago Gateway building in Tempe.

Eichler and former business partner Sam Alpert split last year after running David & Sam PR for seven years. Eichler bought out Alpert's share of the company and merged it with Alchemy PR and Marketing.

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