

STRICTLY BUSINESS

# Mergers, acquisitions firm launches with an office in Walla Walla

Metis will serve the growing hospitality, wine and other beverage industries.

Vicki Hillhouse Feb 13, 2018



You're familiar already with the work of Pacific Northwest mergers and acquisitions advisory firm **Metis**.

It's the company that quietly launched a year ago out of **Exvere** and has closed transactions from **Walla Walla Vintners** and **Tamarack Cellars** to the recent acquisition of Walla Walla's **Red Lion Inn & Suites** by Seattle's **Columbia Hospitality**.

Now **Metis** has been launched publicly and officially to serve the growing hospitality, wine and other beverage industries.

Walla Wallan **Erik McLaughlin** leads as managing partner. He has built a team: **Andy Steinman**, managing director; **Philippe Michel**, associate; and **Jessica Leung**, analyst.

Offices are established in Walla Walla at 14 E. Main St. as well as Seattle and the Willamette Valley.

As capital transactions in wine, beverage alcohol and hospitality is anticipated at a brisk pace into the future, **Metis** was created from **Exvere** to focus on these areas of concentration.

The operation's strategic assessments have an eye on options for liquidity, exit and growth initiatives such as mergers, acquisitions, recapitalizations and management buyouts.

“After advising restaurants, wineries and other hospitality businesses on capital transactions for more than 25 years, we launched **Metis** to create a singular company that is devoted to this expanding segment of the economy,” **Exvere** and **Metis** Chairman **Michael Brustkern** said in a prepared statement. “Erik McLaughlin has built a strong, deeply experienced team that will serve business owners located in the Pacific Northwest, as well as leverage our extensive global relationships to advise on outside investment in this fast-growing region.”

**Metis** is named after the Greek goddess of prudence and wise counsel.

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#### **Vicki Hillhouse**

*Vicki covers business and economic development, including tourism, the Port of Walla Walla and the Strictly Business column, as well as features. She has been reporting for the Union-Bulletin since late 2001.*

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