

## Vorys Partner Quoted in *Columbus Business First* Story Titled "Ohio Banks Primed for M&A Revival?"

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Jeff Smith, a partner in the Vorys Columbus office and a member of the corporate group, was quoted in a *Columbus Business First* story on the possibility of increased bank M&A activity in Ohio in 2014.

The story states:

*"It's much the same script about conditions for Ohio banks – tight margins, a plodding economy and regulatory jitters are making consolidation attractive, particularly for lenders with under \$10 billion in assets. But the prospects for deal making may be rising as recession-battered fundamentals improve and buyers' and sellers' expectations align, said Jeff Smith, a partner in the corporate practice group at Vorys Sater Seymour and Pease LLP in Columbus.*

*'There's a greater confidence on the part of buyers and the fundamentals of potential targets,' he said. '(Recent) deals were sometimes below book.'*

*As ripples of the financial crisis fade and losses are accounted for, he said, deals are nearing the range of two times book value – still a far cry from inflated pre-recession metrics."*

To read the entire story, visit the *Columbus Business First* [website](#). (Subscription may be required).