

INSIDER NEWSMAKERS

Lawyer helps develop Royal Oak



**Name:** Kevin Kalczynski

**Age:** 33

**Title:** Partner at the Barris, Sott, Denn & Driker law firm in Detroit.

**Background:** Kalczynski is the oldest of five children and lives in Royal Oak. He was just elected chairman of the Royal Oak Downtown Development Authority, which aims to support and attract investors in Royal Oak's central business district.

Kevin Kalczynski

**What is your best advice for getting ahead?**

"You have to work hard and be persistent. My parents taught me that; they are examples, mentors and inspirations. My dad teaches at Birmingham

Brother Rice High School and coaches football and baseball. He's the hardest-working person I know."

**What do you like best about your work as a lawyer and with the board?**

"As a lawyer, I love the intellectual challenge of the job. There are always new issues you have to think about and research. I just finished a yearlong construction arbitration with 70 hearings and 10,000 exhibits, and I think we'll have a good outcome for our client.

"On the board, I like to hear the different viewpoints of the different interests on every business matter. You have to find the middle ground where everyone can be happy. It's very satisfying when you can accomplish that."

**What can improve the business climate in Michigan?**

"I believe part of it is a perception perpetuated by the media that things are all negative. But I've seen the impact of a bad economy and I know you can't overcome it with just a positive outlook. ... I think I'd like to see some certainty with the state's budget. We don't have the plan yet that everyone's got to sign off on to move forward. Investors are averse to uncertainty; businesspeople need to know what rules they'll be playing under."

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FUEL | Automakers to meet up with Bush

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tion."

People familiar with the visit said each automaker will bring one model to the White House grounds to highlight renewable technology, such as vehicles capable of

delays surrounding it, became a political issue in Michigan's gubernatorial and U.S. Senate races, as Michigan Democrats accused the administration of shunning the U.S. auto industry and ignoring its problems.

When the meeting between Bush and the heads of GM, and the Chrysler Group

as unreachable.

There are a few other areas on which Detroit auto executives and Bush don't agree.

Automakers told the administration in December that it should triple the amount of money devoted to battery research, up to \$100 million a year, and give incentives for

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