

Starters

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As Seen in July 2011
TwinCities
BUSINESS



A Bird's-Eye View of the Ballpark

Who says the best seats are *in* the stadium?

One day, your office overlooks a parking lot, the next, a Major League Baseball stadium—or so it goes for lucky Minneapolis businesses.

When Target Field was built a stone's throw from his law firm, Bill Hart, a partner at Meagher and Geer, jockeyed for the corner office on the 44th floor of 33 South Sixth. He furnished it with restored seats from the old Met Stadium—signed by Harmon Killebrew and Tony Oliva—bobbleheads, autographed photos, even “a little feast of fake food” with replicas of hotdogs, popcorn boxes, and Coke cups. Whenever the sound of fireworks signals a homerun, Hart swivels in his chair to watch the batter rounding the bases, and has binoculars on hand for a closer look.

Hart has visited many downtown offices and says, “by the greatest of good fortunes, you can see [Target Field] from ours best. Everybody's clients want to come see the view,” he laughs. “I get interrupted at least a couple times a month.”

A player in the legal push to keep the Twins in town a decade ago, when Carl Pohlad considered selling to the league, Hart now has an unobstructed view of the team he worked to preserve.

“To end up with a catbird seat is pretty rich,” he says. “It's a lucky coincidence, but a welcome one.” —*Jake Anderson*



In addition to Bill Hart's “skybox” at Meagher and Geer, the firm has a luxury box behind home plate for entertaining clients. Hart can spot its occupants from his window.

Who Else Has Skybox Offices?

Dorsey & Whitney, LLP **50 South Sixth**

Attorney and Partner Skip Durocher has a straight shot down the first-base line from his 24th-floor corner office, and a telescope at his window is trained on home plate. He auctioned off a chance to watch the season's opening pitch from his enviable vantage point, and raised “a nice sum of money” for the United Way.

Bassford Remele **33 South Sixth**

“We actually host tailgating luncheons for our clients” in the law firm's 38th-floor offices, Bassford's Janet Nelson says. Employees don Twins apparel, decorate the office, and serve Murray's steak sandwiches and other ballpark fare—and, of course, we have peanuts and Cracker Jack.”

Olson, Ford Center, **420 North Fifth**

The brand agency takes over the top four floors of the Ford Center this fall. Chief Brand Officer Tom Fugleberg says the firm will create “an awesome rooftop deck and infuse the baseball experience” at its new digs. “Did it play a role in our choosing the spot? Absolutely.”

Winthrop & Weinstein, **Capella Tower,** **225 South Sixth**

The law firm, which occupies floors from 33rd to 37th, has views of the stadium from individual attorneys' offices, and “visitors who come into our lobby get a great view of Target Field,” Deb Cochran says. “There's a peek-a-boo view of first base, so we're always looking for Joe [Mauer].”

Evans Larson **Communications** **411 North Washington**

Susan Evans says you don't have to work at the top of a skyscraper to enjoy proximity to Target Field. Even from her second-floor office in the North Loop, she can check the score: “The big screen faces our offices, we hear the crowd, hear the fireworks—it's so much fun!”

—J. A.

