

## Legal roundup

South Florida Business Journal - by [Paul Brinkmann](#)

### Sarbanes-Oxley compliance deadline nears for small companies

The final shoe is about to drop on small public companies with outside auditors as time nears for compliance with Sarbanes-Oxley Act reporting requirements and assessment of costs.

Local accountants, such as Bob Bedwell, partner at **Berenfeld Spritzer Shechter & Sheer**, are helping some small public company clients prepare for compliance. The biggest controversy over the law was the cost – especially for small public companies with outside auditors.

“The **Securities and Exchange Commission** has deferred these rules until 2009,” he said. “These smaller companies will be audited for their controls for the first time. This is going to be a rude awakening for them. They should already be having these conversations.”

Bedwell recently helped a client in Stuart prepare. He said an investment firm in New York was talking to the company, and it wanted to see Sarbanes-Oxley compliance first.

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