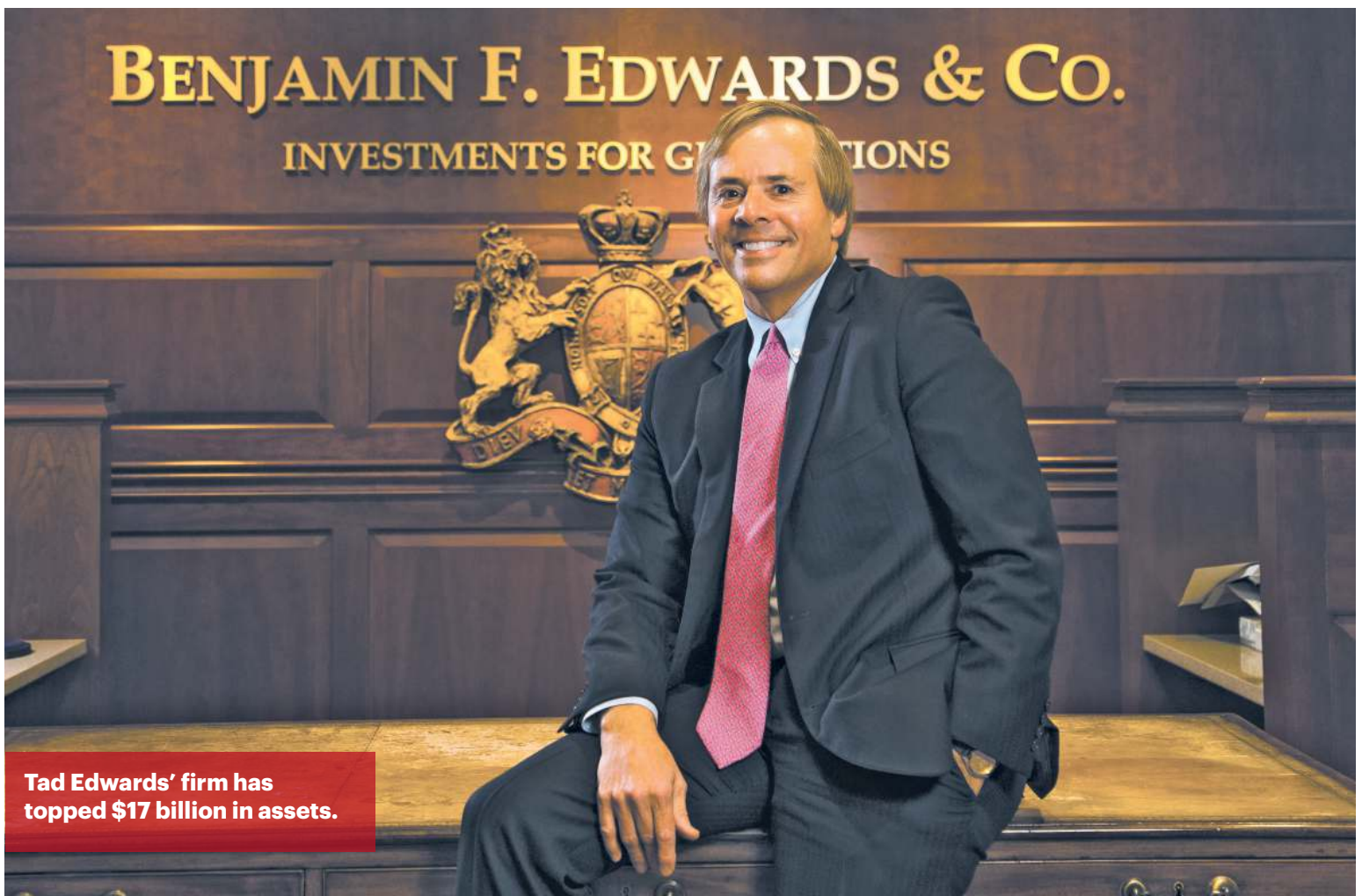


Benjamin F. Edwards reaches \$17 billion in assets



DILIP VISHWANAT

Benjamin F. Edwards & Co. has reached \$17 billion in assets, with the addition of \$675 million from seven new financial advisers in six existing offices nationwide and a new office in Berryville, Arkansas.

In the St. Louis area, one of the additions is Bradley Joiner, who joined the Edwardsville office from Merrill Lynch. The others – in Sarasota, Florida; Wheaton, Illinois; Mandeville, Louisiana; Portland, Oregon;

and Berryville – are from Morgan Stanley; Stifel, Nicolaus & Co.; Raymond James; and Wells Fargo; as well as Merrill Lynch.

In all, the firm, led by Tad Edwards, has 55 offices in 25 states. *–Greg Edwards*