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FTI branches out in Detroit with former Ford exec aboard

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By **SARAH A. WEBSTER**
 FREE PRESS BUSINESS WRITER

One former Ford Motor Co. executive has landed on his feet.

James C. Gouin, who started at Ford in 1979 and left as a vice president in March, has accepted a position with Baltimore-based FTI Consulting Inc.

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Gouin, who will be senior managing director in the FTI Corporate Finance unit, will be based in FTI's Detroit office, which opened about a month ago.

FTI is part of the behind-the-scenes business advisory industry, which has been highly active in Detroit's automotive industry lately as automakers and their suppliers continue to restructure and well-known billionaire investors such as Wilbur Ross and Carl Icahn invest in the sector, leading many other investment firms to believe there are untapped opportunities in the auto industry.

FTI Consulting has more than 2,000 employees located in most major business centers in the world and has experience with business investigations, litigation, mergers and acquisitions, regulatory issues, reputation management and restructuring.

In a statement, Dominic DiNapoli, FTI's executive vice president and chief operating officer, said Gouin, 47, "adds to our extensive automotive capabilities and bench of industry specialists as we expand our already leading position of serving clients in this industry."

Gouin holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Detroit Institute of Technology and an MBA in finance from the University of Detroit.

Before he left Ford, Gouin had served as Ford's vice president of finance, strategy and business development for international operations since September 2006. In that role, he focused specifically on growth in China, Asia, Australia and South Africa.

Prior to that, he held a variety of high-ranking posts, including vice president and controller for Ford. Over the years, he also served as chief financial officer for Ford's ConsumerConnect group and as chief financial officer for the Ford Investment Enterprises Corp. He also has held various finance leadership positions in the marketing and sales, vehicle operations and manufacturing departments.

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