

HWH_40_FINAL-MP4_1080mp4

00:00 / 05:47

Transcript

00:11

Tom and I would meet just happenstancely just in the evening,

00:19

7.30 or 8 o'clock, both of us parked in the same garage, and we kept looking at each other like,

00:25

what are we doing? We're working until 7, 8 o'clock at night, and we're both doing very,

00:33

very well at our respective firms, but we thought with that type of work ethic that perhaps we

00:39

could do it on our own. When we announced and opened the door shortly thereafter, we wondered if we

00:47

were going to have any business. We weren't sure. It was scary, I'll put it that way, because we

00:51

had no clue as to what might be in store for us. We hoped that people would come with us,

00:57

but we didn't know. They all had families. They all were in very comfortable positions in

01:04

established law firms, and they left all of that. to start Hill Ward Henderson at ages 44,

01:11

43 and let's call it 42. Probably in hindsight maybe doesn't look like quite as big of a risk but

01:18

at the time it was a big step out for those guys. But at the same time we knew that it had to be

01:24

done and one of the impressions that we wanted to make in our community was that we were not just a

01:31

startup firm. We're veterans in the practice of law. This is a traditionally good firm.

01:37

with good people and hopefully and I think we did live up to those expectations you could tell

01:44

early on that it was going to be a place that grew a place that cared about the community where

01:50

they were working and all of that was important to me we have grown to over 130 lawyers but have

01:57

maintained the same personality that we had when we were much smaller and that's what creates the

02:05

stability that allows, and the base, that allows an organization like ours to continue,

02:14

but not only continue, to hugely succeed. I'm bullish, I'm optimistic, whatever those words would

02:19

be about the future of Hill Ward Henderson. You have all these young, very bright,

02:25

hardworking, people who want to make a difference in the legal community,

02:30

in our Tampa Bay community. They are a joy to be around. They're going to do tremendous things and

02:37

so I'm excited. The future of Hill Ward Henderson is going to be nothing short of great.

02:44

This firm is just... an example to so many others as to how a firm should operate.

02:52

And whether it's 10 years from now, 20 years from now, or 40 years from now, I think people will be

02:58

telling that same story. You know, every person here brings their own personality, their own style

03:03

to the table, and that makes us better lawyers. You know, every day showing up here, we should all

03:08

have the mentality that we can be better lawyers. We can be better than the day before.

03:13

and that that is what we need to continue to strive for to make sure that we're always hitting our

03:18

standard and continuing on the reputation of being a very high caliber firm in this community.

03:26

Hill Ward Henderson has absolutely lived up to what they said it would be. The people genuinely care

03:32

about you. It really is an important part of who we are and we don't want to grow just to grow

03:39

because that would change who we are and so we are very intentional. It's what drove us both

03:45

internally and externally. The people we hired and joined us as well as the clients and the client

03:52

base that we have and that continues forward. We are all about focusing on relationships.

03:58

We were trying to develop basically a family. a family of competent lawyers a family of a

04:06

staff when we started we had no no thoughts of trying to be a large law firm i mean we just wanted

04:15

to do our jobs and do them well we've been very fortunate in how that's worked but it's truly been

04:21

a practice of love and devotion well I don't think any of us ever envisioned the success that we've

04:30

had, but I knew this was going to be successful and this was going to be a good place. We're all

04:34

trying to accomplish the same goal and that's to win as a team. The mission of serving people and

04:40

helping people, corporations, individuals, that mission is very attractive,

04:46

I think, to me and will keep me going. I think it's awfully important that we adhere to that

04:54

mission. Number one, I love what I do. Number two, I enjoy the people that I'm associated with

05:01

here. I love them. And that's lawyers, staff, everybody.

05:08

You know, it's truly, I mean, I know it's maybe Hackney, but it's my family.

05:13

A lot of us can say we've been at the right place at the right time from that initial decision that

05:20

they made to where we are today.