



September 7, 2023

Dear Friend,

Fifty years ago, Lynn Downey and Bobby Cleveland started a small law firm off the square in Marietta, Georgia. The pairing of Lynn, who approached litigation as nothing less than legal warfare, and Bobby, who employed a more gentlemanly approach to litigation, somehow worked. Both men frequently found themselves on the winning side of jury trials. After a verdict, Lynn would be wise to steer clear of opposing counsel or risk that the arguments would spill into the street outside the courthouse, while Bobby — win, lose, or draw — would often walk back to the office with opposing counsel, counting his adversaries as among his closest friends. While the founders of our firm have passed, their legacy continues today, as Downey & Cleveland celebrates its 50th anniversary.

The small historic Cole House where the firm began was renovated over the years to accommodate a growing number of clients, along with the partners, associates, and support who dutifully tended to their files. Continuing to grow, the firm recently acquired an adjacent bank building. While many firms change names as partners come and go, it has always seemed fitting that our firm remain Downey & Cleveland. We do not plan to change that for another 50 years.

For the firm's employees, past and present, we are appreciative of your daily contributions that have been instrumental in the firm's success.

For the judges and court staff, fellow attorneys, and local businesses, we are thankful, and we are proud to partner with you in the legal community.

For our clients — some of whom have been with us since the very beginning 50 years ago — we are truly grateful beyond words.

We wish you all success, as we endeavor to continue to honor the legacies of Lynn Downey and Bobby Cleveland at our firm.

Thank you,

Partnership at Downey & Cleveland

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