



SHUTTS
&
BOWEN
LLP

A CENTENNIAL HISTORY
1910-2010

SHUTTS & BOWEN

Celebrating A Century of Service

1910-2010

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The firm would like to thank the many attorneys and staffers who have contributed their memoirs, anecdotes and papers to the firm's archives through the years and partner Tim Murphy for collecting these materials. Drawing upon these sources, as well as a 1970 history of the firm and Nixon Smiley's 1986 profile "Frank B. Shutts, Pioneer Lawyer," Richard Westlund wrote the text for this centennial history, which was designed by graphic artist Janice Hardy. This publication is copyright © 2009, Shutts & Bowen, LLP.



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A CENTURY OF LEADERSHIP
1910 - 2010



LEADERSHIP,
INTEGRITY AND
PERSONAL
SERVICE HAVE
BEEN THE
HALLMARKS
OF SHUTTS &
BOWEN FOR THE
PAST CENTURY

Leadership, integrity and personal service have been the hallmarks of Shutts & Bowen for the past century. Since its founding in the frontier town of Miami in 1910, Shutts & Bowen has played a leading role in Florida’s legal community, while helping to shape the remarkable growth of the nation’s “Sunshine State.”

As the oldest law firm in Miami and possibly the State of Florida, Shutts & Bowen has a proud tradition of client service and a long-standing focus on three key practice areas: litigation, real estate and transactions, including matters relating to banking, corporate, securities, land use, and taxation.

The firm’s culture—which respects the autonomy of each attorney while taking a team approach to client services—fosters the accumulation of legal experience over the years. Shutts & Bowen’s original name partners, Frank B. Shutts and Crate D. Bowen, each practiced with the firm for more than 35 years, and several current partners have tenures stretching back to the 1960s and ’70s.

“It’s very unusual for one of our partners to leave,” said Arnold L. Berman, who joined the firm in 1977 and served for many years as firm-wide managing partner. “We have a very loyal support staff as well, including many paralegals and secretaries who have been here 25 years or more.”

Through the decades, many members of the firm have been appointed to judicial positions in Florida, and one partner received a presidential appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition to providing leadership to numerous business, civic and community organizations, Shutts & Bowen partners have been elected to key legislative positions in the U.S. Congress and Florida Legislature. One former partner, Rob Wexler, is currently serving in Congress. Two mayors of the City of Miami, and the mayor of Miami-Dade County were members of the firm.

Shutts & Bowen partners are also known for their independent spirit and love of the law. In 1929, when President Calvin Coolidge appointed Bowen a U.S. District Judge for the State of Florida, he declined, saying, “I just want to practice law.”

Lobby and stairwell
of the firm’s current
offices in Miami
Center (circa 1984)

“WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO PROVIDING OUR CLIENTS WITH HIGH-QUALITY LEGAL SERVICES THAT INCORPORATE THE LATEST INNOVATIONS IN THE PRACTICE OF LAW.”

That type of personal integrity—combined with in-depth legal experience and a cost-effective approach to client service—has allowed Shutts & Bowen to build a steadily growing base of loyal clients in Florida, nationally and internationally. Today, the firm’s clients include major corporations, life insurance companies, real estate developers and financial interests, utilities, securities brokers, transportation concerns, financial institutions, health care organizations, local municipalities and smaller enterprises of every nature.

As the firm celebrates its 100th anniversary, Shutts & Bowen has grown from a small two-partner office into a powerful statewide firm with over 200 attorneys and seven offices linked by the latest technology.

“From the time of our inception, we have dedicated ourselves to providing first-rate legal services, new and innovative approaches to problem solving, and the highest degree of professionalism and community service,” said Bowman Brown, a member of the firm since 1968 and chair of the firm’s Executive Committee. “We remain committed to providing our clients with high-quality legal services that incorporate the latest innovations in the practice of law.”



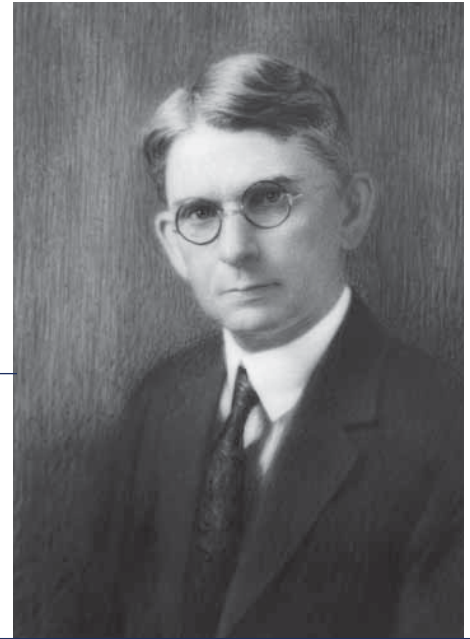




THE EARLY YEARS

1910 - 1919

Frank Shutts



PEOPLE WOULD
COME DOWN
FROM THE
NORTH AND
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THE FIRM AND
CALLING ON
SHUTTS.

Incorporated on July 28, 1896, the new city of Miami was a frontier community of 300 residents nestled between the Everglades and Biscayne Bay. Known for its orange and lemon groves, Miami had caught the attention of railroad magnate Henry Flagler, who recognized the town’s potential as a winter destination. By extending his Florida East Coast railway south to Miami and building the Royal Palm Hotel on the north shore of the Miami River, Flagler launched the first business and real estate boom in the city’s history.

In the next decade, Miami had developed a thriving, small-town economy based largely on seasonal tourism and shipping citrus fruit to the north. At that time, there were nearly 12,000 people in all of Dade County, which included the communities of Hollywood, Fort Lauderdale and Pompano Beach prior to the creation of Broward County in 1915.

Downtown Miami included the county courthouse, several banks, two daily newspapers, small department stores and a handful of local law firms. That was the scene in 1909 when litigator Frank B. Shutts arrived from Indiana to serve as a federal receiver for the failed Fort Dallas National Bank of Miami. He succeeded in paying bank depositors 67 cents on the dollar—far more than the 10 cents they expected to recover.

Shutts, who had a good law practice in Indiana, found Miami’s heat unbearable. He had intended to straighten out the bank’s affairs and return home. Instead, Shutts was hired by Flagler, who offered him a deal he couldn’t resist: a \$7,500-a-year retainer that was more money than the lawyer had ever earned in a year.

After marrying his secretary Agnes John and moving to Miami in 1910, the 40-year-old Shutts embarked on a remarkable legal and business career. Within a few years, he was one of Miami’s most powerful civic leaders, equally comfortable talking with Florida governors and U.S. presidents as with his own two daughters (see “A Legendary Founder”).

“People would come down from the North and make a point of stopping by the firm and calling on Shutts,” recalled Preston L. Prevatt, a partner from the 1950s to the ’80s. “He would get a photographer

The Shutts & Bowen
team in its early years

“MY FATHER WAS A GOOD CONTACT
MAN FOR THE FIRM. HE MADE FRIENDS
QUICKLY AND EASILY.”

—ELINOR SHUTTS BAKER

from *The Herald* to take a picture of he and the person. His law office was full of pictures of important people of the day.”

In addition to co-founding Shutts & Bowen, Shutts stood out as a larger-than-life figure in Miami’s legal and business community, playing a leading role in the development of the City of Miami. An entrepreneur and visionary in addition to being an astute attorney, Shutts founded *The Miami Herald* in 1910 with funds borrowed from Flagler. He also ignited Carl Fisher’s interest in developing Miami Beach, headed Miami’s first telephone company and was instrumental in the construction of Tamiami Trail, which linked Miami to Naples in the west, and the construction of Dixie Highway (U.S. 1).

Shutts’ daughter, Elinor Shutts Baker recalled her father as a mover and shaker in his time. “My father worked from one office in the morning and the other in the afternoon. He was a good contact man for the firm. He made friends quickly and easily and was able to get a lot of business for the firm.”

In a 2002 *Miami Herald* interview, she noted, “Many important people came to our house, especially politicians seeking *The Herald’s* support. Warren Harding once sat on the front porch with my parents. I, age 4, came running out in great distress over a broken toy. President Harding took the toy and was starting to fix it when an aide knocked on the screen door. “Mr. President, your train is ready,” he said. To which the president snapped, “It’s not ready until I am, is it?” and went ahead and fixed the toy.

Shutts outgoing personality—combined with his extensive banking experience—helped the new firm attract prominent clients, laying a solid foundation for the future. The firm’s original office was situated in the Burdines Department Store building at Flagler Street and Miami Avenue in the center of downtown Miami.





SHUTTS AND BOWEN IMMEDIATELY FORMED AN EFFECTIVE LEGAL TEAM.

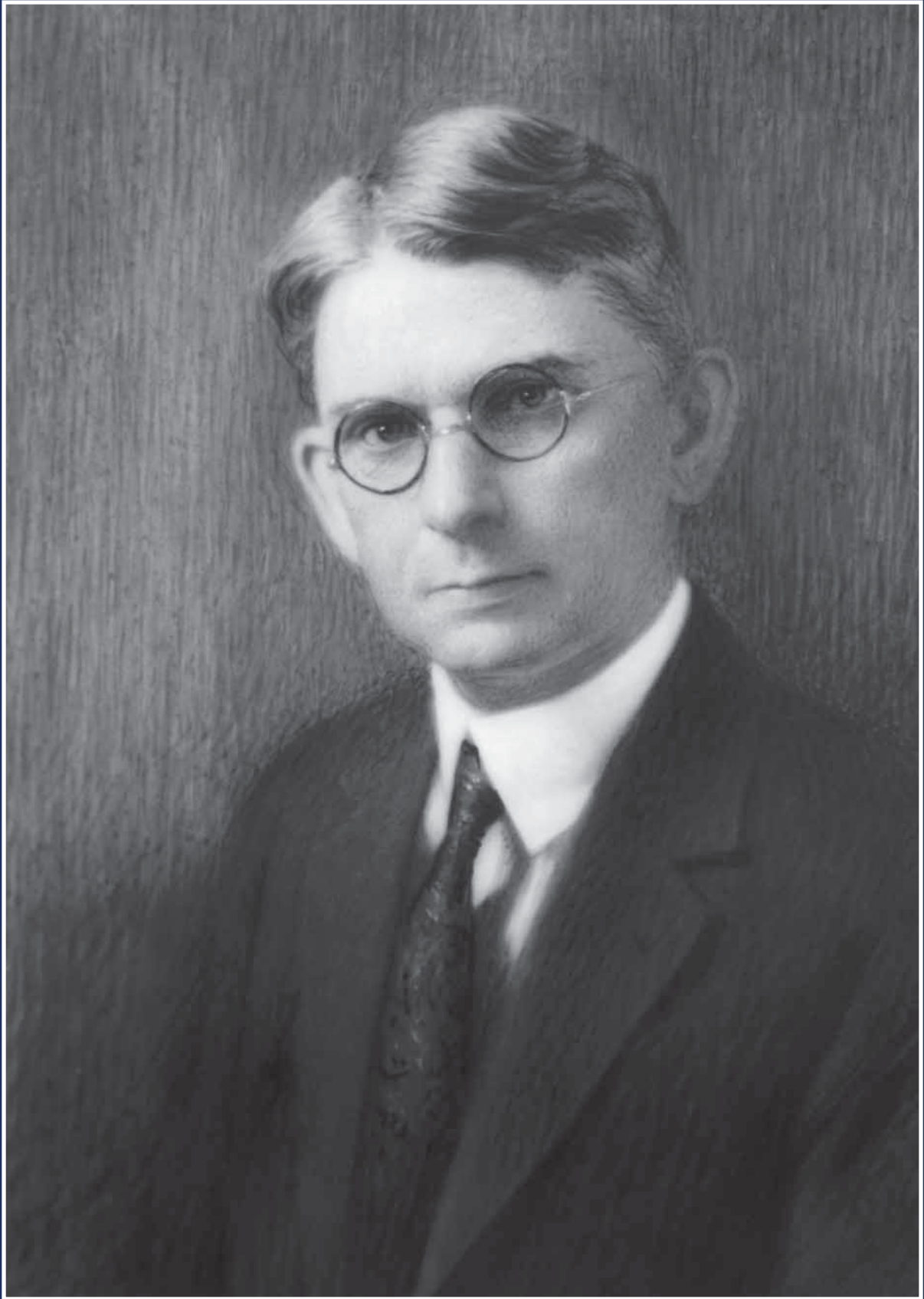


Shutts' initial law partner in 1910 was Henry F. Atkinson, and in 1911 the rapidly growing firm took on a third partner, William Pruden Smith. However, the next year, Atkinson accepted an appointment as a circuit court judge—the first of the firm's many attorneys to join the judiciary. In 1919, Smith also left the firm after winning election as the mayor of Miami—another precedent for the future.

Fortunately, attorney Crate D. Bowen arrived in 1912 from Indianapolis to join the firm, which became Shutts, Smith & Bowen until 1919 when it was renamed Shutts & Bowen. The firm's associates in its first decade were H.H. Eyles (1913-15), W.L. Freeland (1915-18), L.F. Snediger (1915-1918) and G.C. McClure (1916-1919).

Shutts and Bowen immediately formed an effective legal team. Both were Hoosiers who traced their friendship to Indiana Masonic conventions, and there was less than a year's difference in their ages. But while Shutts was an extrovert with an uncanny memory for faces and names, Bowen was much less outgoing. A noted trial lawyer, Bowen stayed in the office and got the work done (See "A Legal Scholar.") As the years passed, Shutts devoted less time to the practice of law, while Bowen remained involved in the law firm's day-to-day decisions.

During its first decade, the firm served many of Miami's pioneer families and businesses, including Flagler and his railroad and hotel companies. Carl B. Fisher, the early Miami Beach developer, was another Shutts & Bowen client, along with his companies, the Alton Beach Realty Co., Miami Beach Transportation Co., and Coco Lobo Cay Club. In the financial sector, the firm represented the Bank of Biscayne. While most of the firm's business involved corporate matters and real estate transactions, Shutts & Bowen's attorneys also handled life insurance issues and other types of litigation, according to the firm's records.



PORTRAITS OF THE FOUNDERS



AFTER HIS GRADUATION, THE DRUGGIST TALKED WITH HIM ABOUT HIS FUTURE. "I'M GOING TO LOOK AROUND AND FIND AN OFFICE, HANG OUT MY SHINGLE AND TRY TO PRACTICE LAW," SHUTTS REPLIED.

FRANK B. SHUTTS: A LEGENDARY FOUNDER

Frank B. Shutts, a prominent political, legal and business citizen of Florida. Born in Aurora, Indiana, on September 11, 1870, the son of Abram and Amanda Shutts, he graduated from DePauw University with an LLB degree in 1892. He was assisted through college and to his law degree by the operator of a drugstore, John Ullrich, in his hometown of Aurora. After his graduation, the druggist talked with him about his future. "What do you propose to do?" he asked. "I'm going to look around and find an office, hang out my shingle and try to practice law," Shutts replied.

Shutts was admitted to the Bar of Dearborn County Circuit Court at Lawrenceburg, Indiana on September 21, 1891. He practiced law in Aurora as Downey & Shutts from 1892-1903, and from 1904-1910 as Shutts & Davies.

With additional advances from his friend Ullrich (all the money being subsequently repaid), Shutts was making progress as a country lawyer when Aurora's bank failed because of the duplicity of an employee. The Comptroller of the Currency in Washington asked Ullrich, the bank's biggest depositor and principal owner, for suggestions. Ullrich recommended Shutts for the post: "We have an up-and-coming young lawyer here in Aurora who has everybody's confidence, and if you will appoint him receiver, I am sure we will cooperate to bring about an early liquidation. It is important to Aurora that the banks be opened again as quickly as possible."

Shutts received the appointment, and began his career as a receiver for closed national banks. Soon after taking care of the Aurora situation, he was sent by the Comptroller to Denver as receiver for a local bank. The situation was badly muddled and Shutts, feeling discouraged, had decided to give up. He wrote his resignation to the Comptroller and then, before mailing it, decided to go out for something to eat.

AFTER A 15-HOUR TRAIN RIDE FROM JACKSONVILLE IN A JULY HEAT WAVE, SHUTTS WAS PREPARED TO DISLIKE MIAMI.

On the way to the restaurant, Shutts came upon a Salvation Army band meeting and stopped to listen. In his pocket was a \$10 bill. As he turned to leave he dropped the bill upon the head of the bass drum. He returned to his hotel and had the best sleep he had enjoyed in many nights.

“Next morning,” he related, “when I awakened I realized that I had the solution to my problems at hand. I was so confident that I tore up the unsent resignation, went to the bank, met the men with whom I had been dealing, and we settled the issue along the lines which were in my mind when I awakened. I have always believed that the \$10 bill was the supplication which accomplished that for me.

Meanwhile, Shutts had built up a large legal clientele in Indiana. He specialized in civil rather than criminal but practiced both in order to make a living. He served for several years as general counsel for an interurban railway operating in Indiana and Ohio. He was also president of the Southern Indiana Telephone Company and was largely interested in the electric light, gas, and public water concerns in Indiana, as well as in other manufacturing industries.

Through his former partner from Aurora, George E. Downey, later Circuit Judge in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, then Judge of the U.S. Court of Claims, Shutts received a commission in 1909 to come to Miami as receiver for the old Fort Dallas Bank.

ARRIVING IN MIAMI

After a 15-hour train ride from Jacksonville in a July heat wave, Shutts, who was impatient with discomfort, was prepared to dislike Miami. Stepping off the train at Miami depot, N.E. 6th St and Second Ave, he found the sun insufferable. He brushed the coal cinders from his suit and sought shade. Mosquitoes covered him. Turning to his traveling companion, E.W. Bebinger, a federal bank clerk, Shutts swore, “My God, this is a terrible place.”



SHUTTS WAS SUCCESSFUL IN PAYING BANK DEPOSITORS 67 CENTS ON THE DOLLAR WHEN THEY EXPECTED LITTLE OR NOTHING.

Bebinger remembered that Shutts rode in silence as he puffed on a strong cigar to discourage mosquitoes. It being summer, the two major resort hotels, The Royal Palm and the Halcyon, were closed. But the Green Tree Inn, set off by blooming Royal Poinciana trees, was an attractive place to stay.

The Fort Dallas National Bank had opened in 1902 and enjoyed considerable success until 1905 when its president, W.M. Brown, made a sizeable loan to Salem Graham to build the 150-room luxury Halcyon hotel on Flagler Street. Built of gleaming white limestone columns, the Halcyon was one of Miami's most impressive structures in the city's early years.

When Shutts arrived, the Halcyon was in receivership, along with the Fort Dallas National Bank. Since it had opened at the beginning of the recession, the timing proved fatal. Few guests showed up and its owner was unable to make payments on his loan. As a result the Fort Dallas Bank failed. Unable to find a buyer who would pay the worth of the great white elephant, Shutts induced the Green Tree Inn manager Mrs. March to manage the Halcyon during the winter season of 1909-1910. She continued to manage it the following year, doing so well she eventually bought the hotel for \$91,200, contributing greatly to Shutts' success in paying bank depositors 67 cents on the dollar when they expected little or nothing.

One problem remained for Shutts before he could return to Indiana. Flagler had a note for the bank for \$47,000. Shutts wanted to have the note recessed for a time, but no one in the Flagler system in Miami had authority to do so. On his way home, Shutts went to New York to see Flagler. Appearing before the 79-year-old partner of John D. Rockefeller in the Standard Oil Company Building, Shutts explained what was being done to straighten out the affairs at the closed Miami bank. It was essential, however, to allow Flagler's note to ride a few months longer.

Flagler was agreeable. In the meantime he had become impressed by the clear and convincing argument Shutts had presented. To have a





MEANWHILE, SHUTTS HAD CHANGED HIS MIND ABOUT MIAMI AS A PLACE TO LIVE. HE LIKED THE PEOPLE, A RUGGED TOWN OF INDIVIDUALISTS LIKE HIMSELF.

petitioner of such ability and confidence appear before him was a rare experience. He asked Shutts if he would be interested in representing the Flagler System in Miami.

At the time, Shutts was prematurely graying, 40, tall and slender, bespectacled, confident but tending to be quiet and thoughtful when out of his element. Shutts thanked Flagler, and without hesitation turned down the offer. Having a good practice in Aurora, he was disinclined to move.

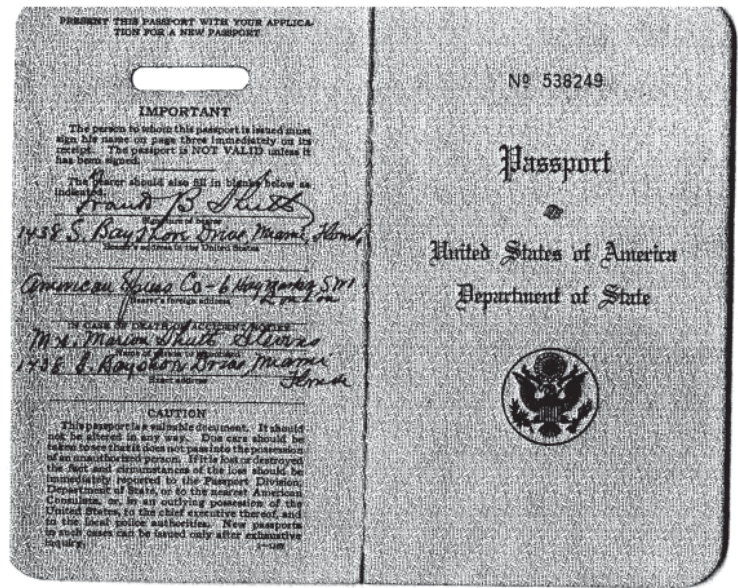
At that point, Flagler offered him a retainer of \$7,500 a year if he would accept the Miami position. That was more money than Shutts had ever earned in a year. He promised Flagler he would consider his offer, and did so on his way home.

Meanwhile, Shutts had changed his mind about Miami as a place to live. He liked the people, a rugged town of individualists like himself. Except for a few professionals like physicians, lawyers and ministers, most residents had little formal education, but they were bright and ambitious, and they possessed a sense of humor. They laughed uproariously at the sometimes risqué stories Shutts liked to tell. Yet he could see no benefit in leaving Aurora.

And there was no doubt that Miami offered many opportunities. Its growth from three families living on the Miami River in 1895 to 5,000 in 1909 had been phenomenal. Meanwhile the Everglades was being drained, with the prospect of a million acres of rich soil would be opened for farming. At that moment Miami's future as a resort seemed less important, for it was summer and Shutts had only seen closed hotels and relatively empty streets.

Shutts also had a personal reason for considering the move to Miami. He had been engaged to the same woman, Fannie Folk, for 20 years. Their marriage had been continuously postponed because of Folk's ailing mother, whom she nursed. By moving to Miami he would leave this galling problem behind. By the time Shutts reached Aurora he had decided to accept Flagler's offer.

By spring of 1910 Shutts had closed his Aurora practice, and his books and papers were packed and ready for shipment to Miami. He



had one regret, that he would be unable to take his attractive young secretary, Agnes John, with him. But in those days a man did not take a young woman to a distant city unless she was his wife. But how would he break the formal employer-employee relationship that existed between them in order to propose marriage? He stopped at her desk and they talked about his departure and what Miami was like.

“Aurora is so dull,” she said. “Then why don’t you come with me to Miami...as my wife?” asked Shutts. Looking up and seeing that Shutts was serious, Miss John reached for the handle that controlled the typewriter well of her desk and closed it as she said. “Let’s go!”

A SUCCESSFUL ATTORNEY, BUSINESSMAN AND CIVIC LEADER

Once settled in Miami, Shutts wasted no time in assuming a position of prominence. In addition to founding a new law firm, Shutts purchased the defunct newspaper, *The Morning News Record*. Using funds borrowed from Flagler, he converted it to *The Miami Herald* on December 1, 1910 and remained the guiding spirit of that publication for 27 years. Shutts bought out Flagler’s interest in 1912, finally selling the paper in 1937 to brothers John S. and James L. Knight for \$2.25 million.

In 1913, Shutts interested pioneer land developer Carl Fisher in investing in Miami Beach. Together with John S. Collins, the team completed a wooden bridge across Biscayne Bay on the site of the current Venetian Causeway. In 1917, Shutts became president of South Atlantic Telephone & Telegraph Company, the first telephone company in Miami.

In 1921, Governor Cary D. Hardee appointed Shutts to a four-year term on his staff with a rank of lieutenant colonel. From that point on he was known as “Colonel Shutts.”

LOOKING UP AND SEEING THAT SHUTTS
WAS SERIOUS, MISS JOHN REACHED FOR
THE HANDLE THAT CONTROLLED THE
TYPEWRITER WELL OF HER DESK AND
CLOSED IT AS SHE SAID. “LET’S GO!”

In the 1920s, Shutts promoted the development of a deepwater 18-foot channel across Biscayne Bay to the Gulf Stream so it could be used by the Clyde-Mallory Line. He also negotiated the city’s acquisition of the Bayfront Park property from Florida East Coast Railway for \$1,340,000. He was also instrumental in bringing the Seaboard Railway into Miami, and in the construction of the Tamiami Trail and Dixie Highway.

Colonel Shutts was chairman of the first committee to raise funds for the Miami Y.M.C.A. in 1918 and was treasurer of that organization for many years. He was a founder member and one of the organizers of the Miami Rotary Club, and second president of that organization. He became chairman of the Salvation Army’s local advisory board in 1920 and remained active in that organization for many years. In fact, he was one of the few persons in the United States to receive the Order of Distinguished Auxiliary Service. He was also a member of the National Guild of Former Pipe Organ Pumpers.

Throughout these years of service to his community, Colonel Shutts divided his time between the law firm and newspaper. Each bore the stamp of his strong personality. He customarily spent the mornings in one, the afternoons in the other. Each witnessed a parade and meeting of many of the most important persons of the day. Many times when the *Herald* needed pictures of famous national and world figures, they were able to get autographed copies from the walls of Shutts’ law office. Of the 112 photos counted at one time, 111 were autographed, the exception being that of Abraham Lincoln.

Meanwhile, the Shutts enterprises ballooned during the great land boom of 1925: *The Herald* had 80 reporters among its 650 employees and published more than 42 million lines of paid advertising that year—14 million more than any other newspaper in the country.

Colonel Shutts was an avid reader, preferring history especially political history. He remembered both facts and dates, and was quick to pursue any careless error that appeared in print or discussion.

In an address before the Committee of One Hundred upon the subject, Colonel Shutts said that he welcomed his friends; but could

THE FOUNDING OF THE MIAMI HERALD

Miami, Florida
November 22, 1910

To the Public:

The properties of the LaBelle Stoneman Company, publishers of "The Morning News Record," passed into my hands as Receiver on August 22, 1910. On November 21, 1910, by order of Judge Minor & Jones, of the circuit court, the relationship was raised and the receiver discharged.

During the three months in which the company has been in charge of a receiver, its affairs have been adjusted, its debt paid and the company placed in sound financial basis. A reorganization of the company is being effected, and on December 1st, this paper will appear with a new name and under new management.

Respectfully,
Frank B. Shutts

“TO FRANK SHUTTS, FROM ONE GREAT LAWYER TO ANOTHER.”

— WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN



PHOTO COURTESY OF
WWW.PBASE.COM/DONBOYD/MEMORIES

not overlook the obligation he owed to those who did not like him. His enemies, kept him stimulated. They were the men who supplied the steady, serious competition, which made him stay alert, one step ahead of them. Because he had to be always watchful of them, he had no time for relaxation. And, they made him more patient with those who annoyed him and kept him from making enemies on his own account.

A Republican in politics during his early career in Indiana, Colonel Shutts became what he termed a Southern Democrat upon settling in Miami. Although always active in party affairs, he was never a candidate for political office in Florida. He had a strong sense of humor, including ribald anecdotes. And he could laugh at himself as evidenced by the photograph in his office of William Jennings Bryan, another lawyer who divided his time with other pursuits, bearing the handwritten inscription, “To Frank Shutts, from one great lawyer to another.”

For most of his life in Miami, Shutts lived with his wife and two daughters in Point View, 1438 South Bayshore Drive. In 1947, he and his wife moved to the seventh floor of the Tower Hotel overlooking the site of the former Royal Palm Hotel. In an interview at that time, the 76-year-old Shutts said, “I have had a good life and a full one. I cannot think of one thing that I would do otherwise were I given the chance to make that choice.”

Shutts died several weeks later. He is buried in Woodlawn Park Cemetery with the following inscription on his gravestone: “Gently he rests in the city he loved.”





HIS TWO-STORY
MIAMI HOME
OVERLOOKING
BISCAYNE BAY
HOUSED ONE
OF THE FINEST
COLLECTIONS OF
LAW BOOKS IN
THE SOUTH.

CRATE D. BOWEN: A LEGAL SCHOLAR

Crate D. Bowen, a scholar and legal craftsman from Indiana, was one of Florida's leading trial lawyers for nearly 40 years, known for his thorough research and careful preparation. His two-story Miami home overlooking Biscayne Bay housed one of the finest collections of law books in the South.

Born May 31, 1871 in Union City, Indiana, Bowen attended Butler University at Indianapolis before being admitted to the Indiana Bar in 1893. After practicing law in Indianapolis for several years, he served as assistant city attorney from 1906 to 1910. With his wife Jessamine ("Jet") and young daughter, he came to Miami in 1912 when Shutts asked him to join him and W.P. Smith in the practice of law.

A quiet person, he enjoyed discussing his legal issues with other members of the firm. On one occasion, J.P. Simmons was conducting a real estate closing in the old First National office when Bowen walked in, deep in concentration, circled the group without looking up and walked out.

For many years he was the partner in charge of litigation and he took his job seriously. During this period, the courts had what they called Rule Days, a time of the month when certain things had to be done depending on the status of the particular litigation involved.

E.B. Leatherman, the clerk of the Circuit Court had staffers employed to bring up the dockets to the law firm. Bowen would frequently ask the office manager, "Are the dockets complete?" And when they were, he would review each piece of litigation carefully. The next day he would go to each of the younger men in the office with probing questions relating to their cases, asking questions like, "Why did you stipulate in this case? Why wasn't that paper filed?"

He was the first chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Miami Public Library, which he was instrumental in establishing and remained one of his primary interests throughout his life. He was at various times a member of the Committee of One Hundred, president of the Dade County Community Chest and of the Miami Rotary Club and a trustee of Butler University.

IN 1929, BOWEN ATTRACTED NATIONAL ATTENTION WHEN PRESIDENT CALVIN COOLIDGE APPOINTED HIM A U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE STATE OF FLORIDA. HE DECLINED AND OPPOSED SENATE CONFIRMATION, STATING, "I JUST WANT TO PRACTICE LAW."

In 1929, Bowen attracted national attention when President Calvin Coolidge appointed him a U.S. District Judge for the State of Florida. He declined and opposed Senate confirmation, stating, "I just want to practice law."

Bowen was able to achieve that goal, while helping to guide the firm's growth through the years. With so many lawyers and new faces coming and going, the story is told that after one associate had auspiciously completed six months in research and assistance, Bowen spotted him at work in the library and commented to another partner, "Who is that young man who has been using our library?"

On another occasion, Preston G. Prevatt had a client who was pestering him to get to his particular problem, at a time the firm was overloaded with work. One day this client started pulling on Prevatt's coat to get his attention. Prevatt, who seldom lost his temper, turned and said, "Get the hell out of here and don't come back." Bowen, who overheard the conversation from the next room and knew the client, approached Prevatt and said, "Preston, if you need any help call on me."

It was customary in these days for the lawyers to frequent the various neighboring restaurants for lunch. Bowen's favorite was Child's Restaurant on Flagler Street, where he would customarily study the menu very carefully, then invariably order a slice of apple pie and milk for lunch.

A cigar smoker, Bowen reportedly never carried more than \$5 in his pocket at any time. "Will" Smith used to say that he still had the first dollar he ever earned. He would characteristically send his secretary or the office manager downstairs to the bank to cash a \$5 check for weekend expenses. Once when Mrs. Bowen greeted the office manager at a party she started, "Are you the young man who cashes Mr. Bowen's check every Friday?" Mr. Childress replied to everyone's delight and understanding, "I'd hate to be the highwayman to hold up Mr. Bowen."

Slowed in his late years by age and a fall that broke his leg and hip, Bowen retired from the law in 1951. He died in Miami on July 23, 1959 at the age of 87 and was buried in New Albany, Indiana.

His colleagues remember Bowen as a devoted scholar who was patient, considerate, courteous and kind to others throughout his long career.





BOOM AND BUST

1920 - 1949



AT THE START
OF MIAMI'S
BOOM-AND-
BUST CYCLE,
SHUTTS &
BOWEN GREW
QUICKLY
IN SIZE.

For Dade County, the decade of the 1920s was a time of steady business expansion followed by an unprecedented real estate boom that resulted in the creation of Coral Gables and other new communities. Then, a devastating hurricane in 1926, the stock market crash of 1929, and the Great Depression put the brakes on the region's economy and commenced a quiet period that lasted through the early 1940s.

At the start of Miami's boom-and-bust cycle, Shutts & Bowen grew quickly in size. On February 1, 1919, J.P. Simmons, known as "JP" by his partners, joined the firm. A 27-year-old graduate of Stetson University, he was placed in charge of real estate and supervising the firm's expanding team of lawyers. Known for his keen sense of humor, Simmons played a dominant role in managing the internal operations of the firm until his death in 1961. He also served as president of Miami Bond and Mortgage Company, a company of statewide importance, and organized the Miami Industrial Bank, at one time Florida's largest industrial bank.

Another new partner, Preston G. Prevatt, was hired in 1920 at a salary of \$175 a month—well above the going rate of \$50 a month. Prevatt had been working with a Jacksonville firm in the life insurance sector, and he continued this work with Shutts & Bowen, while extending his practice into general real estate as well. A partner through 1962 and of counsel through 1968, one of Prevatt's many long-lasting contributions to South Florida was his role in clearing up the title to the land in what now constitutes the Broward suburb of Plantation.

For many years, Prevatt handled most of the firm's probate work. He was also a director of the Coral Gables First National Bank as well as chairman of its examining committee. In 1953, his son Preston L. Prevatt joined as partner, giving Shutts & Bowen a father-son legal team until the senior Prevatt's death in 1968.

In November 1922, another highly regarded attorney, L.S. Julian, joined the firm as an associate, initially handling probate matters, but later transferring to litigation. Other notable attorneys included John S. Benz, who was the firm's principal trial lawyer from 1918 until his death in a 1929 automobile accident. Harold M. Wilson was a partner from

Frank B. Shutts.
Eleanor Patterson
and Arthur Brisbane

A KEY FACTOR IN THE FIRM'S GROWTH WAS ITS HEAVY INVOLVEMENT IN SOUTH FLORIDA'S BOOMING LAND AND RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE MARKET.

1920 to 1927 and Ernest A. Watson handled corporate matters during the boom years of the 1920s.

Meanwhile, Shutts & Bowen moved to the new First National Bank Building in 1923, taking half of the eighth floor. As the firm grew from 12 to 23 attorneys, it expanded to include the entire floor. Because there was no air conditioning in Miami at the time, the hotter offices on the south and west sides of the building were generally occupied by the firm's junior associates. On the other hand, the library was located on the cooler east side. Eventually, the firm's offices also extended into the adjoining First Trust office.

Another indicator of the firm's growth was its rapid increase in billings and revenue. In 1919, the firm's annual statement indicated total receipts of \$70,728, which netted each of the three partners (Shutts, Smith and Bowen) just over \$12,000 each.

By 1921, the firm's revenue had climbed to \$83,732, with Shutts and Bowen netting \$14,240 apiece. A year later, revenue had climbed to \$110,708 with each senior partner earning \$18,618. On the other side of the ledger, the firm's expenses that year included \$1,772 for rail travel and \$33 for publicity. By 1923, the firm brought in \$139,030 in revenue, rising to \$166,326 in 1924—more than doubling in just five years.

A key factor in the firm's growth was its heavy involvement in South Florida's booming land and residential real estate market. Eventually, Shutts & Bowen's real estate department included 13 lawyers, who examined abstracts, closed sales and advised clients. In 1925, the firm's receipts totaled \$335,478, reaching \$409,967 in 1926—a peak that would not be surpassed for more than two decades.

At the same time, skyrocketing demand for Miami homes pushed housing prices through the roof. To help its associates and staffers reduce their living costs, the firm purchased an apartment house on SW 6th Street between 15th and 17th Avenues near the future Orange Bowl site and renamed it Shutts & Bowen Apartments.

Another noteworthy event was the arrival of Sherman Minton, who joined the firm as an associate in 1925, moving from his solo practice in



JETTY

KEEP

YOUR

BEACH

CLEAN



DESPITE THE UPS AND DOWNS OF SOUTH FLORIDA'S ECONOMY IN THE 1920S, SHUTTS & BOWEN CONTINUED TO ATTRACT TOP LEGAL TALENT.

Indiana, and soon became a partner. Known as “Shay” by his colleagues, Minton was “a fine litigation lawyer: tall, heavy, a fighter, aggressive,” according to his colleague Prevatt. Many years later, Circuit Judge John J. Kehoe called Minton a successful trial lawyer who could “charm the daylights out of anyone.”

But in 1926, Dade County’s real estate boom suddenly collapsed. National economic concerns and a deadly September hurricane made Miami real estate far less attractive to out-of-town investors. The firm began to downsize and total receipts fell more than 20 percent to \$290,615 in 1927.

Following that dramatic change in the market, Minton returned home to Indiana, where he was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1934. A loyal Democrat, he became one of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s confidantes, faithfully supporting “New Deal” legislation. In 1940, Roosevelt appointed him to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

In 1949, President Harry Truman named Minton to the U.S. Supreme Court, where he took a broad view of governmental powers and voted to strike down school segregation practices in the 1954 landmark decision, *Brown v. Board of Education*. He retired from the court in 1956 for health reasons.

Despite the ups and downs of South Florida’s economy in the 1920s, Shutts & Bowen continued to attract top legal talent. Joseph F. McPherson left his law practice in Washington to join the firm in 1927. Known as “one of the best extemporaneous lawyers on his feet, a very fine attorney,” McPherson stayed with the firm until 1938 when he returned to the nation’s capitol.

In 1930, attorney Harry N. Boureau joined the firm at a salary of \$125 per month—an indicator of the slower pace of Miami’s business climate after the stock market crash of 1929. Boureau did estate work, then developed a general practice that included all the real estate work for the Seaboard Airlines Railroad, representation of the Clyde Lines and later the Fraser and Lovett maritime interests.

MIAMI BEACH REMAINED A POPULAR
WINTER DESTINATION FOR WEALTHY
NEW YORKERS AND OTHER “SNOW BIRDS.”
THE 1930S SAW A WAVE OF CONSTRUCTION
ALONG OCEAN DRIVE AND COLLINS
AVENUE, CREATING A STRING OF
“MODERNE” ART DECO HOTELS.

During this period, the firm’s founder, “Colonel” Shutts, continued to focus on his business interests, while running the law firm almost as a personal fiefdom. He gave final approval to hiring each new associate and decided if one were to leave. He personally gave Christmas bonuses to the secretaries, including his own long-time assistant Hazel Sheddan. The junior Prevatt recalled that everyone at the firm, young or old, came to work on New Year’s Day, making sure to greet “the boss” because he felt strongly the year should begin properly.

During the 1930s, Miami, like the rest of the nation, endured the economic hardships of the Great Depression. Many of the new residential subdivisions and commercial buildings planned during the 1920s never materialized, and the firm’s real estate practice slowed dramatically.

However, Miami Beach remained a popular winter destination for wealthy New Yorkers and other “snow birds.” The 1930s saw a wave of construction along Ocean Drive and Collins Avenue, creating a string of “moderne” Art Deco hotels. Fifty years later, the restoration of those pastel-colored historic landmarks helped spark the revitalization of Miami Beach and provided the backdrop for the hit 1980s television show “Miami Vice.”

Meanwhile, Shutts & Bowen managed to stay afloat at a time when other firms closed their doors. “There was not much legal work, and the firm had to be reduced,” said Prevatt. “A lot of lawyers went back to the cities they came from, and the firm stayed stagnant.”

One of the firm’s leading attorneys was Charles A. Carroll, an associate who spent nearly a decade at Shutts & Bowen prior to his appointment as a judge of the Third District Court of Appeal.

Through the 1930s and early 1940s, the firm had a small core of partners who saw Shutts & Bowen’s overall receipts fall from \$100,000 annually in the 1930s to \$70,000 to \$80,000 a year in the early 1940s. Partners’ earnings fluctuated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

South Beach
as it is today



A 1940s memo from J.P. Simmons, reinforced the importance of billing and collecting: “My experience reflects that a great deal of money is saved by billing clients promptly, because when a matter gets old on the books, the client forgets the amount of work done at the time. Very often the client wants to have the bill reduced, and quite often may not want to pay it at all.”

In 1937, L.C. Childress joined the firm as business manager, and served more than 30 years in a role that today would be called managing partner. He succeeded E.W. Bebinger, who had filled the role of office manager since March 1, 1913.

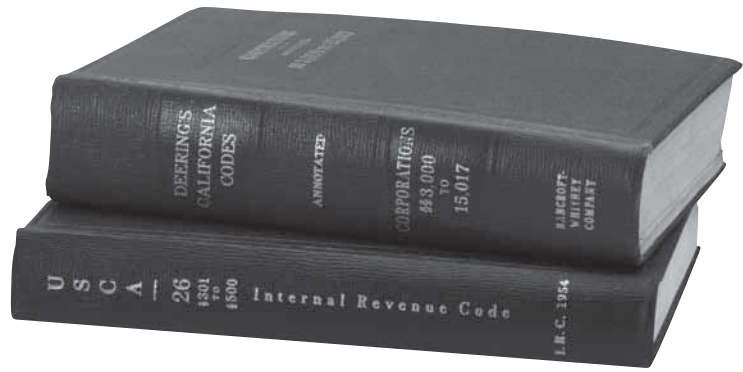
Two years later, Grady L. Crawford joined the firm after graduating from Stetson College of Law. “I was hired to work for Mr. Prevatt and helped him with estate matters and life insurance company mortgage loans,” Crawford recalled in a 1986 note. “The firm had never hired anyone right out of college before and they did not know what I could do. So I got a crack at a lot of things that were going on.”

The firm’s partners at the time were Shutts, Bowen, Simmons, Prevatt and Leo S. Julian. Crawford’s fellow associates included Boureau, L.S. Bonsteel and A.M. Woore. During the 1940s, Crawford spent four years in the Navy, returning to the firm in 1946. He managed Fuller Warren’s campaign for governor in 1948 and became a partner in 1949 along with Bill Simmons.

Soon afterward, Crawford was among three Shutts & Bowen attorneys who began distinguished careers on the bench. Hal P. Dekle, Ray H. Pearson and Crawford were appointed judges of the Circuit Court for Dade County. Crawford served 26 years from 1953 until his retirement in 1978. “His reputation as a jurist was outstanding in every sense,” said Chief Judge Gerald Wetherington in a 1986 obituary. “Judge Crawford was a man of unquestioned integrity, very intelligent, with a superb judicial temperament.”



THE POSTWAR UPSWING
1950 - 1969



DURING THE
1950S, THE FIRM
GRADUALLY
DOUBLED IN
SIZE TO ABOUT
20 LAWYERS.

During World War II, many U.S. servicemen were introduced to Florida through Army, Navy and Coast Guard training camps and military bases. After the war ended in 1945, they remembered Miami's sunshine and began postwar migration that is still continuing. By 1950, Dade County's population had reached 500,000, and a decade-long boom was underway in the region's construction, real estate and hospitality sectors.

Shutts & Bowen prospered from that upswing. During the 1950s, the firm gradually doubled in size to about 20 lawyers, many of whom specialized in one or two areas of practice.

With the deaths of Shutts in 1947 and Bowen in 1951, the firm began a steady transformation from the "old guard" to new leadership. One gradual change was a greater increase in individual autonomy, a greater diversity and the development of broader range of practice areas than in the past.

In 1959 the firm moved into new offices in the new First National Bank Building at 100 South Biscayne Boulevard, across the street from the present Miami office. The 12-partner firm—now called Shutts, Bowen, Simmons, Prevatt & Boureau—was one of the bank's first tenants, occupying the east half of the tenth floor. The two most senior partners, Simmons and Prevatt, settled into spacious offices at opposite ends of the favored north side. Three other partners, H. N. Boureau, William P. Simmons Jr., and Richard M. White occupied slightly smaller offices.

As a leader in contemporary technology, the firm's central business office featured an early model of the Xerox copier. Although the law firm's library facilities were adequate, many older volumes, such as state reports, English reports, corpus juris and the older treaties were discarded prior to the move. However, the solidly constructed desks, chairs and conference tables that had served the firm's attorneys for nearly half a century were retained for the future. As a result, the office décor was an attractive blend of the old and the new, much as the firm is today.

Firm members and
associates in 1968

IN 1959 THE FIRM MOVED INTO
THE NEW FIRST NATIONAL BANK
BUILDING AT 100 S. BISCAYNE
BOULEVARD, ACROSS THE STREET
FROM THE PRESENT MIAMI OFFICE.

A significant expansion occurred in 1965 when Thomas H. Anderson and Herbert L. Nadaeu merged their practices with the firm. The merger necessitated additional space, which was found by taking over the entire tenth floor of the building. At that time, the firm's partners decided to return to the name Shutts & Bowen, which has not changed since then.

At the time of the merger, partners John S. Chowning and Preston L. Prevatt were appointed to a committee to redesign and redecorate the enlarged firm's offices, including a new conference room, file room and central office. A burnt orange carpet in the reception area provided a visual indication to clients that the firm had changed.

During the 1960s, Shutts & Bowen—like the rest of Miami—responded to the city's changing demographics. Hundreds of thousands of Cubans arrived in the city, fleeing Fidel Castro's dictatorship and bringing a new entrepreneurial spirit to South Florida. In keeping with the city's growing Hispanic character, the firm hired Spanish-speaking secretaries and built new client relationships in its key practice areas.

At the same time, the civil rights movement was opening new doors for blacks throughout the United States. In Miami, the era of segregation came to an end, resulting in more egalitarian political climate and increased diversity throughout the business community.

By the end of the 1960s, Shutts & Bowen had grown to 19 attorneys. The firm was reorganized into new departments based on major practice areas, making it possible to handle legal matters more efficiently at less cost to the client. Thomas L. Wolfe headed the Corporate Department; William P. Simmons, Jr. headed the Litigation Department; John S. Chowning headed the Real Estate Department; and Willard R. Brown headed the Probate and Estates Department. In 1968 a leading management consultant firm undertook a four-month study and analysis of firm operations, including client relations, billings, associate training and overall efficiency. The results of that internal study provided a strong structure for the firm's expansion in future decades.

The firm's new offices
in the First National
Bank Building (1959).





A GROWING OFFICE NETWORK
1970 - 1999



SHUTTS &
BOWEN STEADILY
EXPANDED ITS
LEGAL SERVICES
AND OPENED
NEW OFFICES IN
OTHER FLORIDA
MARKETS.

In the 1970s, South Florida's economy resembled a roller-coaster ride. After several years of prosperity, a statewide recession hit in 1974. Higher gasoline prices limited vacation travel and the state's fledgling condominium market went into a three-year tailspin. At the same time, Miami's financial and real estate markets took on an increasingly international orientation that eventually turned the Brickell Avenue financial corridor into the "Wall Street of Latin America." By the end of 1970s, the region was growing again, despite record high inflation that pushed residential mortgage rates well into the double-digits.

Meanwhile, Shutts & Bowen steadily expanded its legal services and opened new offices in other Florida markets. The firm also helped transform the state's banking industry, contributing to the overall growth of Florida's economy.

During the 1970s, the firm attracted a number of leading attorneys, such as Thomas Calhoun Britton, who joined Shutts & Bowen in 1971 after retiring as Dade County Attorney. A few years later, highly regarded international tax practitioners Marshall Langer and Jordan Bittel became partners, significantly expanding the firm's client capabilities. Bittel taught at the University of Miami Law School and Langer became co-editor of *Income Taxation of Foreign Related Transactions*, a leading treatise in that field. Both spoke at tax conferences around the world.

Bowman Brown focused on expanding the firm's banking practice into the international marketplace. By the mid 1970s, Shutts & Bowen represented a number of representative and agency offices of prominent foreign banks. The state's financial sector took a key step forward in 1977 when Gov. Reubin Askew signed the Florida International Banking Act, which allowed non-U.S. based banks to establish offices in Florida to serve foreign personal or business clients. A 1979 revision to the law allowed the foreign banks to accept deposits only from non-resident aliens. A staunch proponent of the new legislation, Brown became a leader in the Florida International Bankers Association (FIBA), which was founded in 1979 to support international banking and commerce. As Brown said, "We have one of the strongest financial-institution practices

Members of the firm
with their families at
a summer party.

“TODAY, WE HAVE ONE OF THE STRONGEST FINANCIAL-INSTITUTION PRACTICES IN THE STATE, BASED ON OUR LONG TRADITION. AFTER ALL, THAT’S WHAT OUR FOUNDER CAME DOWN HERE TO DO—LIQUIDATE A BANK.”

—BOWMAN BROWN

in the state, based on our long tradition. After all, that’s what our founder came down here to do—liquidate a bank.”

Meanwhile, Shutts & Bowen began expanding its office network to service its growing clientele. In 1979, partner John B. White, a corporate and tax specialist, followed several of his developer clients northward, establishing the firm’s first office in West Palm Beach. Several Miami partners also moved to West Palm Beach including Berman and Robert E. Gunn, a trusts and estates lawyer.

“A lot of the firm’s early expansion was determined by the needs of our clients,” recalled Berman. “That was certainly the case with the West Palm office.” Through the years, the office expanded to 20 attorneys primarily by adding prominent local lawyers including Arthur J. Menor, a real estate lawyer who succeeded White as the office’s Managing Partner, Alfred A. LaSorte, a real estate litigator, and Raymond W. Royce, a prominent land use lawyer.

In 1983, the firm relocated its Miami office to the new Miami Center at 201 South Biscayne Boulevard. Today, the firm occupies the 14th, 15th and 16th floors in this landmark Miami office building.

At the same time, the firm established an initial presence in Central Florida. Partner Karl Hart, a 20-year veteran, found himself spending an increasing amount of time in the Ocala area, and opened a small office in Orlando.

In 1985, Orlando attorney Charles R. “Robin” Fawsett joined the firm in Orlando. A specialist in labor relations, representing management, Fawsett’s arrival added to the firm’s overall legal capabilities. Robert Sommerville, a longtime Miami partner whose practice focused on real estate also moved to Orlando.

Throughout the 1980s, Orlando’s tourist-oriented service economy created strong demand for new housing developments, retail centers, office buildings and public infrastructure projects. Shutts & Bowen was well positioned to benefit from this growth and the office grew rapidly

In 1990, the dissolution of Orlando’s Swann & Haddock law firm, allowed Shutts & Bowen to increase its legal team. Joining the firm were James G. Willard, now managing partner of the office, partner Kenneth Wright and several other experienced attorneys. Today, the

Miami Center, home
of the firm’s downtown
Miami office



SHUTTS & BOWEN WAS WELL POSITIONED TO BENEFIT FROM CENTRAL FLORIDA'S GROWTH, AND THE ORLANDO OFFICE GREW RAPIDLY.

Orlando office has more than 50 lawyers, second only to Miami in size. The office continues to have a strong real estate practice.

At one point during the 1980's, Shutts & Bowen turned down a potential merger with another old-line Miami firm, Mershon Sawyer Johnston Dunwoody and Cole. The firm also considered a merger with Holland & Knight, and was courted by several of the nation's "mega firms" with 1,000 or more attorneys in multiple jurisdictions. Eventually, the firm's partners decided to retain their independence and continue a strategy of controlled growth in the Florida market.

In the early years of the 1990's the Miami office attracted several new partners, including Xavier Suarez, who joined Shutts & Bowen in 1993 after serving as mayor of Miami for eight years. It was a homecoming of sorts for the mayor, whose first job after graduating from law school was as an associate with the firm. In 1997, Alex Penelas left the firm to become the first elected mayor of Miami-Dade County.

Meanwhile, the success of the firm's Orlando office had demonstrated the need for a Shutts & Bowen presence in the State Capitol. In 1994, former Florida Lt. Governor Bobby Brantley joined the firm as a government relations consultant, opening a small office in Tallahassee for this purpose. "Our Tallahassee office helps our firm provide effective advocacy and representation services to clients throughout the state," said Berman.

Shutts & Bowen had long considered opening an office in Fort Lauderdale as well. In 1998, partner Allan M. Rubin, an eminent domain specialist who lived in Broward, opened the firm's new office with several attorneys from the Miami office. Shortly thereafter, partner George I. Platt, a former Broward County Commissioner, brought his active government relations practice to the firm, establishing an anchor for additional growth.

Farther afield, international tax specialist Langer relocated to London, and opened an office primarily to provide U.S. tax advice. Soon afterwards, partner Rosemarie Sanderson moved to the Netherlands and opened an office in Amsterdam for the same purpose. Both attorneys provided effective "of counsel" support for the firm's European clients. Langer retired in 2006, while Sanderson continues to head the Amsterdam office.

Lake Eola fountain in
downtown Orlando





INTO THE 21ST CENTURY
2000 - 2010



IN THE FIRST
DECADE OF THE
NEW CENTURY,
SHUTTS &
BOWEN
SUCCESSFULLY
FOCUSED ON
ACHIEVING ITS
LONG-TERM
GOALS.

At the start of the 21st century, Florida was well positioned for another growth spurt. New job creation was strong and more than 1,000 people a day relocated to the state. In addition, Florida was relatively unaffected by the collapse of the “dot-com” boom in the late 1990s.

In fact, the state benefited from a dramatic shift in individual and institutional investing patterns from technology to real estate. The result was an unprecedented boom in the state’s residential market, characterized by rapid development, double-digit increases in property values, and a high level of speculative buying.

Then, in an eerie echo of the 1920s, the over-heated residential market came to a sudden halt. Hurricane Wilma hit South Florida, causing relatively little property damage, but resulting in long power blackouts and a slow recovery period. Meanwhile, demand for new residential units plummeted as speculators fled the residential market.

That was the start of a prolonged real estate downturn across the state, and an increase in the firm’s workout group, which represents the interests of property owners, financial institutions and developers in a challenging marketplace. While the ups and downs of Florida real estate dominated the business headlines for the first decade of the new century, Shutts & Bowen successfully focused on achieving its long-term goals.

Rather than become a mega firm, Shutts & Bowen’s partners chose to grow, reaching approximately 200 attorneys—large enough to offer a full range of client services, while small enough to provide personal attention to every matter. “At the same time, we decided to stay a Florida firm and not expand to other states,” Berman said. “We believe there is a strategic advantage to staying a Florida firm, as we receive a large number of referrals from law firms in other states. Also, when you expand to New York, Washington, DC, or Boston, there’s often a pressure to raise billing rates across the firm. Now, we can assist multinational companies, foreign and national banks and other Fortune 500 clients on a national scale with a competitive advantage in terms of fees and services.”

Members of the
firm’s Orlando
office, 2009



Members of the
Tampa office, 2009

Within the Florida market, Tampa—the Gulf Coast’s business hub—was a logical site for the firm’s expansion. After a quiet search for the right partners, R. Alan Higbee, a prominent corporate and securities lawyer joined the firm in 2006 along with partner David Gemunder and two more junior lawyers associates. The Tampa office grew quickly, reaching 21 lawyers in its first 18 months.

“This was a logical expansion to the state’s Gulf Coast in a market similar to our other markets South Florida,” Berman said. “We have been fortunate to attract very experienced, high-quality attorneys familiar with the region.”

Currently, the firm’s Tampa office represents clients in corporate, securities, merger and acquisition, government contract, intellectual property, commercial litigation, real estate, construction, banking, tax, estate planning, bankruptcy, health care, and employment law matters. A key to the growth of the firm’s Tampa office was the office’s strong institutional corporate client base.

“One of the strengths of our firm is consistent management policies and practices, which help provide a high level of client service at all geographic locations,” said Joseph D. Bolton, who succeeded Arnold Berman as Managing Partner in 2008. “We have been successful in exporting the culture of our firm to new offices.”

As Shutts & Bowen looks ahead to its second century, the firm continues to be recognized for its leadership in legal, business and government sectors. For instance, Brantley (Tallahassee) and Wright (Orlando) were asked to serve on the 2006 transition teams of incoming Governor Charlie Crist and Attorney General Bill McCollum.



Members of the
West Palm Beach office, 2009

“ONE OF THE STRENGTHS OF
OUR FIRM IS CONSISTENT
MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND
PRACTICES, WHICH HELP PROVIDE
A HIGH LEVEL OF CLIENT SERVICE
AT ALL GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS.
WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN
EXPORTING THE CULTURE OF
OUR FIRM TO NEW OFFICES.”

— JOSEPH D. BOLTON



Members of the
Fort Lauderdale office, 2009

Recognized as an authority on environmental and governmental law, Wright has also been called to lead groups that help shape policy and regional development. He is chairman of the Florida Environmental Regulations Commission, a board that approves state standards, and has served on the East Central Florida Regional Planning Council. In 2007, another Shutts & Bowen partner, Daniel T. O’Keefe, was also appointed to that planning council, which reviews developments of regional impact.

In 2007, the Urban League of Broward County selected Fort Lauderdale partner Sidney C. Calloway as the recipient of its annual Margaret Roach Humanitarian Award for inspiring change and demonstrating ongoing leadership in the advancement of social justice and race relations.

“Sidney Calloway is a shining example of a community leader who has worked tirelessly year after year to promote equal opportunity while motivating others to support the advancement of minorities,” said Lisa Barker, the Urban League’s vice president of development. “Sidney has helped engineer profound changes in our political, educational and social institutions through his leadership.”

Clearly, today’s Shutts & Bowen attorneys are following a tradition of civic leadership that began with Frank B. Shutts back in 1910. As the firm begins its second century, Shutts & Bowen remains dedicated to serving its clients and communities, helping them achieve success in the coming decades.



Members of the
Miami office, 2009

TODAY'S SHUTTS & BOWEN
ATTORNEYS ARE FOLLOWING
A TRADITION OF CIVIC
LEADERSHIP THAT BEGAN WITH
FRANK B. SHUTTS BACK IN 1910.
AS THE FIRM BEGINS ITS SECOND
CENTURY, SHUTTS & BOWEN
REMAINS DEDICATED TO SERVING
ITS CLIENTS AND COMMUNITIES,
HELPING THEM ACHIEVE SUCCESS
IN THE COMING DECADES.

KEY DATES IN THE FIRM'S HISTORY



December 1,

1910

Frank B. Shutts arrives from Indiana. He forms the law firm of Shutts & Smith, and founds The Miami Herald. Shutts & Smith's first office is located in the original Burdines Building in downtown Miami.



1912

Crate D. Bowen arrives in Miami from Indianapolis to join Shutts & Smith in the practice of law.



March 1,
1913

Firm changes name to Shutts, Smith & Bowen.



June 12,
1913

Through Frank Shutts' personal efforts, Carl Fisher becomes interested in developing Miami Beach and makes his first investment in Florida. They both work with John S. Collins, who completed a wooden bridge across Biscayne Bay at the site of the Venetian Causeway.

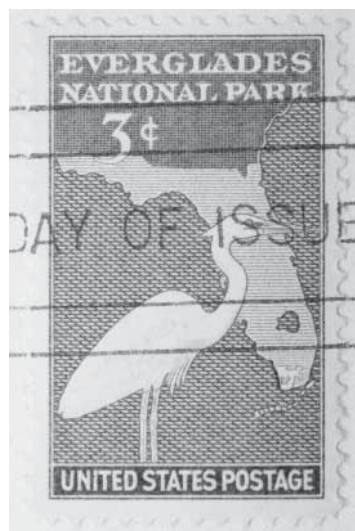
JOE AND JENNY WEISS AT THEIR SEAFOOD RESTAURANT ON THE SOUTH TIP OF MIAMI BEACH. THE ORIGINS OF JOE'S STONE CRABS. PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.PBASE.COM/DONBOYD/MEMORIES

KEY DATES IN THE FIRM'S HISTORY



1917

Frank Shutts is named president of South Atlantic Telephone & Telegraph Company, the first telephone company in Miami (1917-1925).



1919

Long-time partner J.P. Simmons joins Shutts & Bowen.



December 31,
1919

William Pruden Smith retires from the firm to become mayor of the City of Miami.



January 1,
1920

The firm name is changed to Shutts & Bowen.

KEY DATES IN THE FIRM'S HISTORY



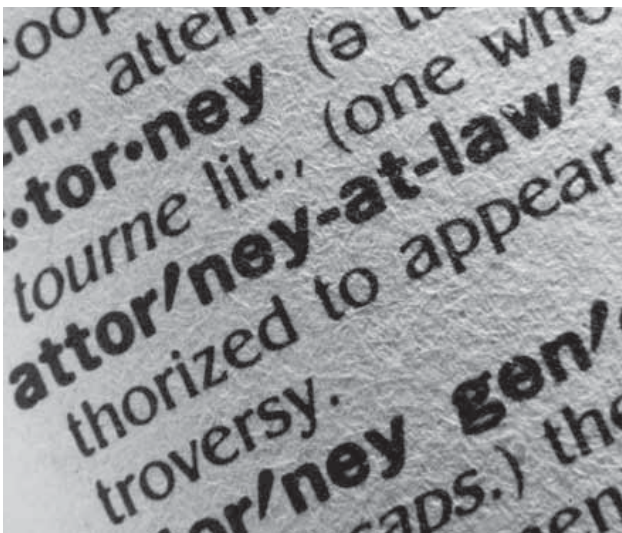
1920

Another long-tenured partner, Preston G. Prevatt, joins the firm.



1920

Frank Shutts becomes chairman of Salvation Army's local advisory board, becoming one of the few persons in the U.S. to receive the Order of Distinguished Auxiliary Service.



1922

L.S. Julian joins Shutts & Bowen as partner.



1923

Shutts & Bowen becomes the first tenant in the new First National Bank Building on the northeast corner of Flagler Street and First Avenue.

KEY DATES IN THE FIRM'S HISTORY



1925

At the peak of the region's land boom, Shutts & Bowen employs 23 attorneys, an unheard of number for that era.



1925

Indiana attorney Sherman Minton joins the firm, leaving to become a U.S. Senator from Indiana.



1928

Frank Shutts is instrumental in the construction of the Tamiami Trail and Dixie Highway.



1929

President Calvin Coolidge appoints Crate Bowen a U.S. District Judge for the State of Florida, but Bowen declines, stating, "I just want to practice law."

DADE COUNTY COURTHOUSE UNDER CONSTRUCTION
IN DOWNTOWN MIAMI. PHOTO COURTESY OF
WWW.PBASE.COM/DONBOYD/MEMORIES

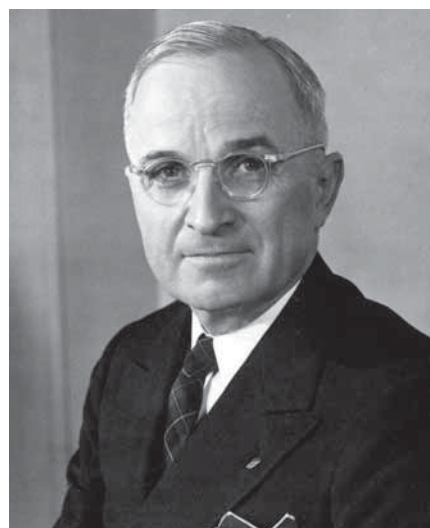
KEY DATES IN THE FIRM'S HISTORY



January 1,

1939

Firm changes name to Shutts, Bowen, Simmons, Prevatt & Julian.



1947

President Harry Truman appoints Sherman Minton to the U.S. Supreme Court. Frank Shutts dies in the Tower Hotel at age 76 (1871-1947).



March 4,

1949

Crate Bowen retires from the firm.



January 3,

1958

Firm changes name to Shutts, Bowen, Simmons, Prevatt & Boureau.

THE LITTLE RIVER BANK AND TRUST ON NE 2ND AVENUE, LITTLE RIVER. PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.PBASE.COM/DONBOYD/MEMORIES

KEY DATES IN THE FIRM'S HISTORY



1959

Shutts, Bowen, Simmons, Prevatt & Boureau moves into offices in the new First National Bank Building. Once again, Shutts & Bowen is the bank's first tenant, occupying the east half of the 10th floor.



July 23,

1959

Crate Bowen dies in Miami at the age of 87 (1871-1959).



January 1,
1964

Firm changes name to Shutts, Bowen, Simmons, Prevatt, Boureau & White.

MIAMI BEACH CONVENTION CENTER.
PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.PBASE.COM/
DONBOYD/MEMORIES



September 1,
1965

Shutts, Bowen, Simmons, Prevatt, Boureau & White merges with Thomas Anderson & Herbert Nadeau. The firm name reverts back to Shutts & Bowen. The firm takes over the entire 10th floor of First National Bank Building.

KEY DATES IN THE FIRM'S HISTORY



1971

Thomas Calhoun Britton joins the firm after retiring as Dade County Attorney.



1977

Florida Gov. Reubin Askew signs the Florida International Banking Act, leading to significant growth in the financial sector for the state and the firm as well.



1979

Firm opens its first new office in West Palm Beach.



1983

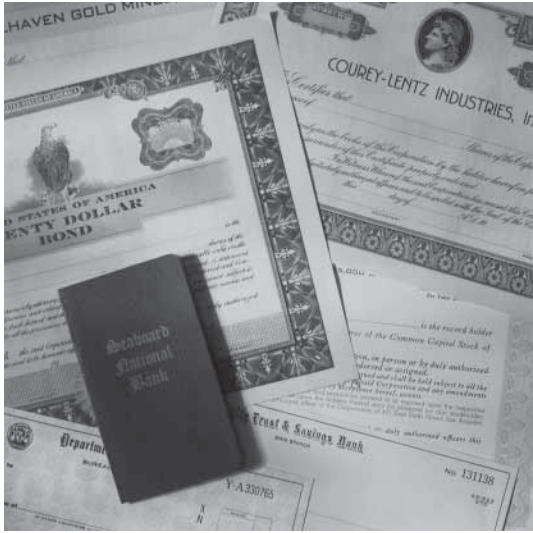
Miami office moves to Edward Ball Building at 100 Chopin Plaza, now known as Miami Center, 201 S. Biscayne Boulevard.

KEY DATES IN THE FIRM'S HISTORY



1983

Shutts & Bowen opens its Orlando office.



1986

Firm qualifies for listing in "Bond Buyer's Directory of Municipal Bond Dealers of the United States."



1993

Xavier Suarez re-joins the firm after serving as City of Miami mayor for eight years.



1997

Alex Penelas leaves the firm after winning election as first mayor of Miami-Dade County.

KEY DATES IN THE FIRM'S HISTORY



1998

Tallahassee office opens.



1998

Fort Lauderdale office opens.



2006

Tampa office opens.

2010

Shutts & Bowen celebrates its 100th anniversary.



CURRENT PROFESSIONALS OF THE FIRM

As of August 2009 Eric S. Adams
Jeannette E. Albo
Claire A. Ashington-Pickett
Lauren S. Atherton
Gary M. Bagliebter
Ryan D. Bailine
Steven K. Barber
Brendan A. Barry
Daniel Barsky
Olesia Y. Belchenko
Brent C. Bell
Bud Bennington
Arnold L. Berman
G. L. Black
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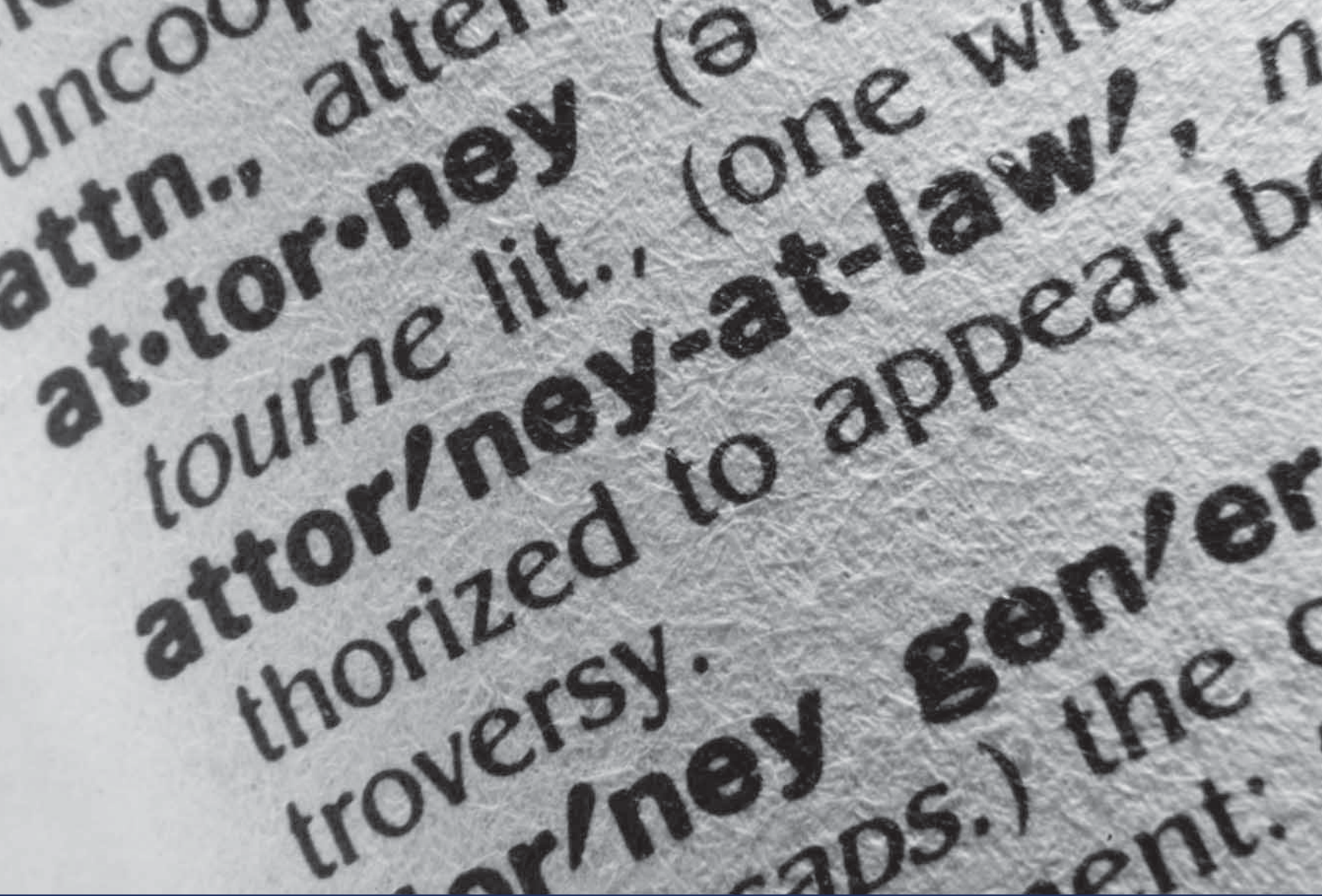
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