

# Bowles **Rice** VIEWS **&** VISIONS

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# Celebrating Our Centennial

## 100 Years of Advocacy, Counsel, Leadership and Service

A few years ago, I attended an event celebrating the 100th anniversary of the West Virginia Manufacturers Association. Among the speakers that evening were representatives of two companies that had been members of the Association for its entire 100-year history: Willie Lively of Kanawha Manufacturing and Joe Eddy of Eagle Manufacturing.

How had these great companies achieved continuous success for more than 100 years? Willie and Joe articulated a simple, common formula for their success: both companies had reinvented themselves several times in that hundred years, even as they remained constant in their culture and values.

At Bowles Rice, our formula for success over the past 100 years has been remarkably similar. The culture and values of Bowles Rice are the same as when I joined the firm 37 years ago (no, I have not been here 100 years), even as law firms and the practice of law could scarcely be more different than when I graduated from law school in 1982.

What was the culture and what were the values that attracted me to Bowles Rice in 1983?

In 1983, we were entrepreneurial to our core. I recall the multitude of practice groups being organized in response to new opportunities in our markets. That rich tradition of anticipating and meeting the future needs of our clients and communities continues to this day. Indeed, in 2019 we reaffirmed our entrepreneurial spirit by launching several new focus teams, all in emerging areas of the law.

In 1983, we were dedicated to – and fully engaged in the life of – the many communities we call home. Lawyers across our firm held public office, led business groups and trade

associations, and were actively involved in non-profit organizations of all sorts. Today, we likewise boast many current and prior public officeholders, and there is scarcely a business, professional or non-profit organization that we are not involved in.

In 1983, we were a diverse group of individuals, enjoying an open, collegial and democratic culture. Many clients, friends and community leaders have commented to me over the years that there is no single Bowles Rice “type.” I agree. We remain a firm of very diverse personalities and styles, united by our commitment to excellence, teamwork, the success of our clients, and the satisfaction of a job well done.

Finally, in 1983 we were a forward-focused law firm. As we embark on our second century, I and all of us at Bowles Rice could not be more excited about the future. Our opportunities have never been greater, and we have never been more prepared to seize those opportunities.

Ultimately, we owe our success these past 100 years to our clients, our friends and our communities. *Thank you.* We are passionate in our belief that if we maintain our focus on the success of our clients and communities – and remain true and loyal friends to our many colleagues and collaborative partners across our region – everything else will take care of itself. At Bowles Rice, we will never lose sight of this truth. Forward. 

### From Our Managing Partner



**Thomas A. Heywood**  
Bowles Rice LLP

Tom Heywood is Managing Partner of Bowles Rice. He has significant experience in health care, corporate, finance and commercial law, and leads the firm's Government Relations Team.

Heywood serves on numerous charitable and non-profit boards, including the Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, the West Virginia Roundtable and the Discover the Real West Virginia Foundation. He also participates actively in various business and trade associations.