



Best talent

Growing emphasis on recruiting top attorneys

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Where has Shutts & Bowen made strides in the Greater Fort Lauderdale market?

Over the past year, we've made significant strides in aligning our business strategy with the firm's broader vision, particularly in our Fort Lauderdale office. Our focus has been on attracting and investing in talented lateral attorneys and boutique law firms while also continuing our focus on developing and retaining the best emerging young associate attorneys to ensure that the firm is positioned to continue providing creative, efficient, and high-quality legal services to our clients. This has been central to the firm's unique legacy as being one of the longest operating top tier full-service law firms in Florida.

In terms of key highlights, our real estate and commercial finance teams have been particularly active. We've represented developers and financial institutions in a wide array of projects that are shaping urban areas in South Florida, but also in other large metropolitan areas of the state. Notably, the firm has provided a range of legal services to assist a well-known private, non-profit client in securing the governmental development permits and orders necessary to construct 489 affordable townhomes and multifamily units within the city of Oakland Park. This affordable housing initiative likely stands as one of the nation's largest such residential developments that is driven by a not-for-profit social enterprise mission, that includes partnership with a local religious institution and is primarily privately financed. The project, located in Oakland Park, is a win not only for our client but represents the realization of a true public-private partnership between our client, its local religious institutional partner, the city of Oakland Park and Broward County, all of whom have come together to provide much-needed affordable housing for first responders, working professionals, and others in the workforce but also to revitalize and sustain the surrounding neighboring community and single family home owners for the years to come.

Beyond affordable housing, we've also supported infrastructure and master planning initiatives. For example, the firm has been collaborating with a well-known developer on a major community-driven master plan for downtown Pompano Beach. This ambitious project includes a city hall, mixed-use developments, and public spaces designed to integrate residential, office, and commercial areas seamlessly.

What trends or market dynamics are influencing the legal sector?

The legal sector is undergoing significant shifts, and one of the most prominent trends continues to be an enduring emphasis on attracting and retaining top talent. In today's competitive market, law firms need diverse and highly skilled professionals who can adapt to both the business market and our clients' evolving needs. This means we must not only attract exceptional talent but also invest in developing their skills and careers. Additionally, the firm has been laser-focused on fully embracing the use of artificial intelligence in all sectors of its statewide practice. Partners and associates alike are leveraging the use of AI in both the litigation and transaction practice areas to drive efficiency and more creative approaches to achieve our clients' business objectives.

Which industries do you see driving growth?

Real estate and commercial finance will continue to be strong drivers of growth for us. Florida remains a hotspot for development, and the demand for both residential and mixed-use projects is only increasing. Our work in property development law, in particular, plays a vital role in helping developers bring these projects to life. Litigation will also remain a key focus as businesses continue to face complex legal challenges. Whether it's commercial disputes, regulatory compliance, or other legal issues, our litigation team is well-equipped to provide the high-quality representation our clients need. ■