

# Missions & Visions

SHERIN AND  
LODGEN | 75 YEARS



Douglas M. Henry

2020 marks the 75th anniversary of Sherin and Lodgen, and the firm's managing partner Douglas M. Henry says has the best of both worlds — a collegial, small firm atmosphere where the attorneys have big firm experience and expertise.

"Clients are surprised that I answer my own phone," he says. "That doesn't happen at big firms." With growth on the horizon — Henry cites the renewable energy practice as particularly hot — Sherin and Lodgen is actively seeking lateral hires at the partner level.

Henry recently sat down with *Lawyers Weekly* to discuss the firm.

**Q: What is your area of practice?**

**A:** In general, I have a commercial real estate practice, but lately I've been focusing on solar leasing throughout the country as well as community development lending.

**Q: How long have you been with the firm, and how long have you been managing partner?**

**A:** I got to the firm in 2005 and have been managing partner since 2015.

**Q: How would you describe the firm's mission?**

**A:** We produce high quality work for clients while staying committed to a collegial and civic-minded culture here at Sherin. We are passionate about making a positive impact in Boston through both our legal and pro bono work, including the charitable initiatives we are involved in.

**Q: What is your firm's greatest strength?**

**A:** Responsiveness and senior-level attention. Our lawyers offer big firm expertise but not big firm pricing.



**Douglas M. Henry**

MANAGING PARTNER,  
SHERIN AND LODGEN

**Q: What practice areas do you see as having the most potential for growth in 2020, and why?**

**A:** Our renewable energy practice is going gangbusters. Bethany Bartlett is working on solar finance and development across the country and storage is the next hot area in renewables. Our hospitality practice, led by Josh Bowman, focuses on hotel development, finance and management. There aren't a lot of people in that area that do it as well as we do. The Employment Department has really expanded over the last few years, particularly in the area of executive advocacy, which our own Nancy Shilepsky pioneered.

**Q: As a managing partner, what trends in management do you see as most likely to lead to substantive change in the legal profession?**

**A:** A new generation of lawyers is coming up. They are very bright, smart people but they don't necessarily have the same goals

One of the challenges is to transition both the expertise and the practices from those lawyers to the next generation. Every firm is facing the issue of how to do this and maintain as many clients as possible. Consolidation also presents a challenge, although we have resisted that. We are a 45-lawyer firm with a national practice based here in Boston. We get calls all the time, but we like being independent.

**Q: What do you see as the greatest opportunity the legal profession will face over the next five years?**

**A:** Back to the generational transition: It may be a challenge, but it is also an opportunity for firms and talented younger lawyers to take on practice areas and become the next generation of legal practitioners and leaders.

**Q: What is unique about your firm's culture? What sets you apart?**

**A:** We have a small firm atmosphere, but big firm legal resources as far as talent is

**"We have a small firm atmosphere, but big firm legal resources as far as talent is concerned. We are a Boston-based firm but we have a national presence"**

as some of our old-line lawyers. They want to practice at a high level of law but they also want to maintain a work-life balance. Law firms have to be more accommodating to different work styles going forward. Technology is also helping us to become better lawyers, more responsive and efficient, and I think the next generation will take it to even higher levels.

**Q: How is technology changing the practice of law?**

**A:** There is a lot more automation in what we do. For example, we developed a software program called Lease Craft for some of our clients that helps develop a first draft of leases on a fairly efficient basis. It's a much more efficient way to do things as opposed to 20 years ago, when we would have had a bunch of associates work on it. Clients appreciate the technological advancements as well because it makes our work more cost efficient.

**Q: What do you see as the biggest challenge the legal profession will face over the next five years?**

**A:** Our firm is like a lot of firms in the country that are seeing a big transition from senior lawyers to younger lawyers.

concerned. We are a Boston-based firm but we have a national presence and national recognition for some of our attorneys. And we have a strong commitment to the Boston community through charitable and pro bono work.

**Q: What pro bono work does your firm do that you are most proud of?**

**A:** A recent event found 30 of our employees putting together bags for the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center and we also volunteer with Heading Home. Last year, we received the Massachusetts Bar Association's Access to Justice Award for our pro bono efforts, which was a huge honor. The MBA highlighted our work with PAIR [the Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project] doing asylum cases. We've also represented an Alabama death-row inmate for more than 20 years and file amicus briefs through civil rights organizations. These are all things we are very proud of.

## OFFICE LOCATION

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