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LWBJ celebrates 25 years of growth and success

In 1992, four senior tax and audit professionals left Ernst & Young (now EY) and founded LWBJ. “Our goal was to create a responsive local firm with national accounting and tax expertise,” said founding partner Dave Watson. “But our underlying motivation was the opportunity to work more closely with the families and business owners we served.” Twenty-five years later, the firm remains committed to the standard of hands-on partner involvement with every client and project.

Our founders also were focused on creating a culture that would attract superior associates and nurture their personal and professional development. Through the years, we have been fortunate to engage outstanding professional staff. Like our partners, many have come with Big 4 and private industry experience, and all share our firm-wide focus on helping clients achieve continued prosperity.

In 1993, we hired our first, full-time client service employee. In 1996, we welcomed Paul Juffer, formerly with KPMG and an experienced CFO. By 1998, the firm was growing rapidly, and in 2000, we opened our Ames office to better serve clients in the ISU Research Park and Story County business community. Today, we employ a staff of more than 50 associates and provide a broad range of tax, accounting, business consulting, valuation, M&A and transaction-related services for our clients. We have grown to become one of the Midwest's leading CPA firms, ranking among the top 2 percent of CPA firms in America.

Our partner group has also evolved through the years. One of the founding tax partners left the firm in 1998. Another retired in 2009. We unexpectedly lost Tom Larson in 2016, leaving Dave Watson as the only remaining founding partner. In addition to Mr. Watson, the current partner group includes Paul Juffer, Dave Hove, JD Geneser and Maureen Dockstader, all originally from KPMG. Dave Midtlyng came from McGladrey, and Erik Bonstrom became our first "home grown" partner. Together, they deliver the unique combination of professional skills and expertise, including practical C-level business experience that continues to define and differentiate the firm.

But our work is far from done.

"We recently completed a strategic plan that will drive the firm's growth and success into the future," noted Managing Partner Paul Juffer. "Created by our partners and executive team, the plan builds on our strong foundation to further enhance clients' experience, drive operational excellence, attract and develop superior staff and achieve profitable growth to ensure the longevity of the firm.

"Clearly, we are proud of our past and excited about the future. And we are looking forward to sharing it with our clients, staff and communities.

LWBJ Partnership Team:

David E. Watson, CPA – Tax

Paul A. Juffer, CPA – Business Consulting, M&A, Transaction-related Services

David J. Hove, CPA – Tax

JD Geneser, CPA – Business Consulting, M&A, Transaction-related Services

Maureen Dockstader, CPA – Audit

David J. Midtlyng, CPA – Tax

Erik Bonstrom, CPA -- Audit

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About LWBJ

LWBJ is one of the Midwest's leading CPA, business advisory and M&A firms. We deliver a broad range of tax, accounting, consulting and investment banking capabilities to serve businesses and individuals.