

A LEGACY OF HONESTY, INTEGRITY, SERVICE

Family law firm serves generations of Scottsdale clients

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It almost sounds like a novel that's too good to be true—a woman well-known for her brutal honesty sharing a law practice with her 93-year-old grandfather, from whom she has learned so much about the law, integrity and customer service. But it's real life and it's Michelle Perkins' story.

Perkins and her grandfather, C.D. Owens, are the partners at Owens & Perkins (“O&P”) in Scottsdale. Her parents are not attorneys, but Perkins was attracted to the profession because of her grandfather and the opportunity to help people. She graduated from ASU's Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law in 1994. Jobs for lawyers were scarce then, she said, but she was able to move into an office in her grandfather's building.

Two years later the two became business partners and a year after that Perkins became the Managing Partner, in charge of all aspects of running the practice. Today the firm focuses primarily on family law, but the practice also includes wills and trusts, probate and criminal law.

Perkins considers her two greatest achievements in the past 20 years to be these: during and in the aftermath of the Great Recession, none of the lawyers or support staff were laid off or fired; and no one on the O&P team has ever missed an event in their child's life because of work. “We have a family culture,” Perkins said. “We don't want anyone to miss those special moments.”



Her firm's greatest accomplishments? First, she said, its longevity. Next year, the firm will celebrate 50 years of a continuously-run law firm in Scottsdale. “When C.D. opened his firm in 1967, there were only six lawyers in Scottsdale,” Perkins said. “He loves continuing to serve the needs of the Scottsdale community.”

Second, she said, is the decades-long relationship with their clients and their families. “We're on our third generation with many of our clients, and what we have is ‘generations representing generations.’ We pride ourselves on being there for our clients during the most difficult time in their lives,” Perkins said.

Her clients appreciate that. On Avvo.com, a site that independently rates lawyers and helps people locate a lawyer in their area, Perkins has glowing reviews, and not a single negative one. Some examples: “Michelle Perkins was a breath of fresh air to

work with.” She is “honest, fair and respectful.” She is “personable, yet direct with clear and effective communication.” “Ms. Perkins is an attorney who can do it right from the beginning.”

Perkins advises young adults who might want to become lawyers to go into the profession for the right reasons. “If it's only for the money, you won't be happy,” she said. “Having your heart in the right place makes all the difference with regard to satisfaction in your chosen career.”