

## **MCANGUS GOUDELICK & COURIE CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY, CONCENTRATES ON NEXT 10 YEARS**

COLUMBIA, S.C. - Founding Members Hugh McAngus, Rusty Goudelock and Jay Courie never expect the kind of growth their law firm MG&C has seen over the past 10 years. "We couldn't be happier with where we are right now," says Senior Partner Hugh McAngus. "But to be honest, we never really planned it this way."

Ten years ago, the idea was to start a small, "boutique" law firm that concentrated on workers' compensation law. There were no plans for growth. No marketing strategies. And no aspirations of offices in four cities. Today, MG&C is a full-service law firm with more than 55 attorneys and 160 people on staff.

"Our clients and our people are really what have given us the ability to grow like this," says Founding Member Rusty Goudelock. "We are very fortunate to have great clients and great people. And when you have a dynamic that meshes like that, growth is inevitable."

Several years after opening their Columbia office, that dynamic paid off and presented MG&C with an opportunity to open a new office in Charlotte, NC. "When the Charlotte opportunity presented itself, we wanted to make sure we could still provide the same level of service, culture, values and atmosphere we have here in Columbia," said Founding Member Jay Courie. "We're very service oriented, so we worked hard to make sure it was a perfect fit for our clients as well as us."

After opening that second office in Charlotte, locations in Charleston and Greenville soon followed. "Opportunities just kept presenting themselves and we have never been afraid to make a move when that happens," said Goudelock. But as those additional opportunities presented themselves, MG&C was careful to make sure the firm didn't grow too quickly. "We concentrated on growing wisely not just geographically. The most important thing to us was to maintain our culture. And that meant hiring the right people. So we go out and look for people who have the same work ethic; people with whom we can build a relationship, regardless of whether we're hiring attorneys or staff members," says Courie.

Growth has also lead to diversity. While MG&C had first concentrated on workers' compensation law, they are now a full service firm with practice areas that include a full range of litigation, commercial and consumer law, product liability, construction, government relations, estate planning and probate litigation. And as the firm grows, they will continue to concentrate on diversifying their practice. McAngus says, "Ten years has made a big difference in how we look at growth. At first we wanted to remain a four or five attorney boutique. But now we're more focused on diversifying our practice areas as well as growing geographically, but only when and where it makes sense."

"Where we're headed in the next 10 years, I'm not sure. But I do know our first priorities are to remain client-focused and to grow better, not just bigger," said Courie. "It sounds

like a cliché, but I think what our clients appreciate about us most is that we respect them and understand we wouldn't be here if it weren't for them. It's amazing to come as far as we have in over the past 10 years, and I'm looking forward to the years to come.

MC&G plans to celebrate their 10th anniversary with clients and staff at their respective offices.