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BROWARD ULTIMATE CEO AWARDS

s a 40-year-old law firm that had only two managing shareholders, both of whom had founded the firm, Gary Rosen was filling two pair of rather large shoes. Taking the job carried with it the responsibility to ensure that the organization, from top to bottom, had confidence that the transition would be successful. He saw fit to make that happen.

Did he come from the mold of managing shareholder? As a litigator, one who "always enjoyed the competition and push/pull of a good fight," he says, maybe not. "Managing other people is not typically regarded as a wonderful fit for the role."

Yet, his fellow attorneys and staff helped make the transition work.

"I am very fortunate that there are lawyers here who have been my friends and partners for over 25 years," he says. "They played a pivotal role in ensuring that, three and half years later, it has been a success."

Whether as an attorney or the head of the law firm, his guiding principles that have made him successful have remained the same: "Knowing what I can do well," he says, "and delegating the things that others can do better."

By fostering a positive environment for professional growth, the firm creates a collaborative atmosphere.

"People here are mutually supportive and empathetic to the challenges that each of us face in our respective roles," he says. "This is true at every level of the firm."

Rosen tells young leaders rising through to ranks his key characteristics of a successful CEO: No fear of making decisions - especially unpopular ones; a constant desire to learn about the business you're in, and everything that affects it; and the ability to spot talent - "who fits in your organization and who doesn't," he says, "and a willingness to act accordingly."

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GARY ROSEN

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EDUCATION

athlete.

B.A., American studies, Brandeis University J.D., Catholic University

PERSONAL NOTE Rosen was a collegiate varsity track

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