

BURKE LAWTON BREWER & BURKE

SERVING INVESTORS SINCE 1964

A HISTORY OF BURKE LAWTON BREWER & BURKE

Burke, Lawton Brewer & Burke began with the fortuitous meeting of two young Air Force pilots who were both stationed in London during the early 1960's. As their friendship grew, Franklin A. ("Frank") Burke and Thomas N. ("Nick") Lawton soon realized their mutual interest in investing and financial management, when combined with their undergraduate and post-graduate work in finance and business, could lead to a career beyond the military. In September 1964, while still in London, they joined as partners and created the investment firm of Burke, Lawton & Company. Many of the firm's first clients were their military colleagues. The firm is fortunate to count a number of these original clients, along with their children and grandchildren, as clients today.

In January 1965, after completing their respective military service commitments, Frank and Nick moved the firm to Philadelphia, Nick's hometown. Although Frank and his wife, Elizabeth, were originally from Kansas, they liked Philadelphia and also thought its proximity to Wall Street would be advantageous for the firm. The two men settled into a small, two room office in Chestnut Hill behind what used to be the Girard Bank (later Mellon) building with Girard Bank providing custody and clearing services.

Slowly but surely the firm began to grow without any advertising or cold-calling, as the founders built trusting relationships one at a time. Often, current clients referred new clients and just about everyone the two came into contact with eventually became clients, including the salesman who sold them the furniture for their first office, their real estate agent, other military reservists, and most of their neighbors.

In 1968, one of those clients, J. Curtis ("Curt") Brewer, joined Frank and Nick and the firm eventually became known as Burke, Lawton & Brewer. In 1969, the firm became a member of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange. The firm would remain active on this exchange until it ceased to be self-clearing in 1994. By the late 1960's the firm's accelerated growth propelled it to purchase its first building, a historic home in Erdenheim, near Chestnut Hill. Not surprisingly, the sellers of this building became clients of the firm as did their children.

In 1972, the firm introduced its first monthly [*Client Briefing*](#) – a summary of economic and market activity which it still provides to clients today.

In 1974 the firm began offering investment management services. These added services proved to be a catalyst for additional growth and ultimately became what is now known as BLB&B Advisors, LLC.

The firm continued along this path until 1989, when Nick Lawton passed away suddenly. Later that year Frank's brother, Clayton E. ("Clay") Burke joined the firm as a partner and shortly thereafter in early 1990, the firm's name changed to Burke, Lawton, Brewer & Burke. Clay remained as a partner until his retirement in 2002.

In 1994, the firm entered into an agreement with WFS Clearing Services, the predecessor firm of today's custodian, First Clearing LLC.

The partnership reorganized in 2005 into a limited liability company. The following year Laura W. Brewer, John T. Lawton, W. Dean Karrash, and Cornelius P. McCarthy joined Frank and Curt as members in the firm.

The firm is well into its fifth decade and continues to provide its clients with personalized investment management and brokerage services of the highest quality. At its founding in 1964, the firm's stated goal was "to help people build tomorrow's financial security through sound investments today." We still believe in this goal and each day work towards its achievement for every one of our clients.