

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS



Geoff and Brent's earliest professional headshots, 2008.



2011



2017

Morrison team in 2011 and today; my how we've grown!



2007



2017

A look at our original office for two to our recently expanded full office building.



Sibyl and Brent Morrison.

Our People Solutions services began when the occasional client asked us to find permanent replacements for the accounting and management positions we filled on an interim basis. The first was for California Olive Ranch, then a start-up with the bold mission of creating a California olive oil industry. We recruited a talented fellow named Gregg Kelley as their first controller and he became CEO soon after. Today, Gregg and his team have built the nation's largest domestic olive oil company. (Gregg came from the tech industry and installed our first server shortly after he started as a favor. I hope! I never paid him anyway.)

Years later, Geoff recalls me breaking a long silence during a phone chat about why our recruiting service was growing seemingly without effort by asking "Are we missing something?" We were—the fact that our outreach for candidate referrals also generated interest in our unique approach, and we now do dozens a year. Our People Solutions team, led by Shawn Miller, also advises in human resource areas including employee relations, employee engagement, compensation and incentives, talent development, regulatory compliance, and regular HR "checkups."

When we moved to our current location in 2012, we were one of three tenants; today, we have expanded to the entire building (photo to the left) and are looking for additional space. It's safe to say we're a "real company" now and have much to be grateful for, but the risk of thanking people is that it is impossible not to leave some out. Still, I would be remiss not to thank some of the folks who are an important part of our story.

My last employer, Sunsweet Growers, was our first client and we have served them continuously since. I will always be thankful to then-CEO Harold Schenker, subsequent CEOs Art Driscoll and Dane Lance, CFO Ana Klein, People VP Sharon Braun, and others.

California Olive Ranch is a great client and has been instrumental in our becoming a key consultant to the olive oil industry. While she was Executive Director of California Association of Winegrape Growers, current California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross was equally important in introducing us to the wine industry and we now serve many. Ken LaGrande and Sun Valley Rice gave me my first lengthy interim CFO engagement and it has served as a model

since. Adin Hester at Olive Growers Council and Greg Thompson at Prune Bargaining Association were critical early clients, and I am grateful for the trust of Rabobank, Taylor Brothers Farms, Brendon Flynn of Pacific Farms & Orchards (and several other clients), and Brad Moorer and Lorrie Ford Merker of Michigan Blueberry Growers. Karen Rich at USDA not only inspired our grants practice but has been a tremendous resource, as she and her team are for all who ask. I tease her that she's from the government but she really is here to help.

I have been blessed to work with a lot of great people in my career but I have never worked with a team as talented and dedicated as the people we have at Morrison. I am thankful for every one of them.

There are two people without whom none of this would have happened. Geoff Chinnock left a rock solid job that supported his young family to join a guy who had a heart attack three months earlier and was working out of the back of his house. Through ups, downs, challenges, and triumphs, Geoff has not just stuck with it—and me—but excelled. Words can't do justice to my trust in and friendship with Geoff.

My wife Sibyl never wavered. Our kids were in high school when I started; it took three years before I earned what I had at my last job. We had to draw on our home equity line after I started hiring. Once, during a slow stretch, we held hands and prayed for God's grace and if this was His will for us; the phone rang with a project while "amen" was hanging in the air. I am grateful for her support and much, much more.

The best part is that it's just beginning. I can't be sure what we'll be writing for our 20th anniversary newsletter but I truly can't wait to see it.

OPEN HOUSE

You're invited to our Open House event! Please join us in celebrating our 15 year anniversary with an ice cream social.

**APPETIZERS • DRINKS • SOCIALIZING
ICE CREAM SUNDAES • FUN**

FRIDAY, MAY 12TH

Join us anytime between 4 & 6 p.m.

LOCATION: MORRISON & COMPANY OFFICE

Please RSVP to Camille Hogan at chogan@morrisonco.net.
Visit morrisonco.net/ice-cream for more details.

