

Colson named among CPA Magazine s top 100 accountants

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By Michael French

Marietta Daily Journal Staff Writer

MARIETTA - For the past 26 years, Moore Colson has continuously been one of the top 20 accounting firms in Atlanta, and now its managing partner, Greg Colson, has been named one of the top 100 most influential accountants of 2006 by CPA Magazine.

Born in Winder, the 58-year-old Colson was the son of G.L. Colson, who owned a hardware store. He said he gained an entrepreneurial spirit from his father.

"I think part of the reason I started the firm was my dad owned his own hardware store," he said.

Colson admitted he wasn't immediately interested in accounting, numbers and math. He said he didn't discover that passion until he attended Georgia Southern University.

"When you're in college, you don't know what you want to do," he said, adding that accounting caught onto him and didn't let go.

Graduating in 1970, Colson went to work for DeLoach & Co. in Brunswick until 1981, when he moved to Cobb and started his company.

Colson said he doesn't measure his career in years, but by tax seasons. He's in his 37th.

He said he loves the business because one day is never the same as the last.

"You're never going back to the same office every day," he said. "We're out in the field most of the time visiting companies."

Colson's longtime friend and 22-year business partner, Senior Partner Bob



Kiser, said Colson is a "consensus builder" who works with everyone in his company towards a common goal.

"He works hard at it," Kiser said. "He treats everyone around here equally."

Kiser added that Colson keeps a "jovial" demeanor in the office and is not afraid to hire people with varied expertise to take the company in new directions and try new methods.

Colson said accounting opportunities in the United States have been "unbelievable" during his career and he has remained committed to a focus on serving family-held and closely-held businesses.

"The backbone of the U.S. economy is family-held and closely-held companies," he said, adding that family-held doesn't mean small, but often "pretty big companies."

He said he prefers to work with family-held and closely held businesses compared to large corporations because they can make adjustments faster to their business plans than large companies.

Colson said the accounting industry needs to find a way to entice more people into the profession as demand has outpaced supply for accountants.

Colson attributes his success to "good people" in his company and younger, ambitious accounting companies keeping him on his toes.

"We have no intentions of slowing down," he said. "We like young people pushing us."

Colson said the next three to five years would likely be continued growth for Moore Colson.

"This firm has always been very progressive," he said. "We provide an environment the young people like to come to."

mfrench@mdjonline.com