

Dawson Rutter

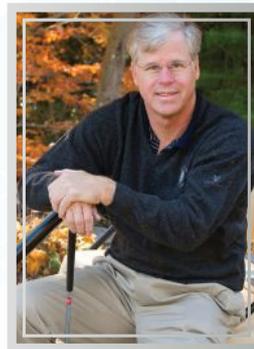
CEO of Commonwealth Worldwide
Boston, Mass. and New York, N.Y.

When people speak about Dawson Rutter, it's more than likely that the word "generosity" will come up frequently. Colleagues, peers, and friends often mention Dawson's willingness to share his time and insight—no matter how frank—to help operators and the industry as a whole.

During his time in chauffeured ground transportation, it's fair to say that Dawson has experienced it all. From his humble beginnings as a college student behind the wheel of a cab

to building his business by catering to ultra-high-end clientele in his current role of CEO of Commonwealth Worldwide, Dawson has gleaned a lifetime of knowledge, making him one of the pre-eminent thought leaders in the industry. But, despite running a prestigious company in two of East Coast's largest markets, while deftly navigating the politics impacting his business in those cities, he is always willing—if not, eager—to offer advice or guidance to help his fellow operators' businesses grow and thrive.

"Dawson Rutter is a true pioneer in the ground transportation business," says Don Mahnke of ABC Worldwide Transportation. "He has shared his knowledge and generosity on a personal and professional level that has certainly propelled ABC and me on a journey that puts us in another stratosphere. Dawson is a true leader and professional on all levels, and never hesitates to be a friend or share his business knowledge at any time."



Longtime friend Brett Barenholtz of Above All Transportation/Boston Car has a relationship with Dawson that spans more than 40 years.

"The guy means the world to me. I've known him since I was 12 or 13, when he used to drive a cab for my dad's company. When I transitioned from the cab industry to the limo business, I put six cars on the road, and I went to Dawson and asked, 'Now what?' He helped me find my way with all aspects of the business, and he has been a true mentor



for me. We still have lunch together about once a month."

Dawson's generosity transcends the one-on-one time he offers to industry peers; he also has used his vast experience to better the industry through his work with the National Limousine Association. During his time as an NLA board member and first vice president, he was largely instrumental in helping to grow the NLA's PAC Fund, which continues to be used to wrestle the industry's toughest issues. Furthermore, he is extremely active in supporting charitable causes in and out of the industry. Each year at the Chauffeur Driven event, Dawson and his significant other Tami Saccoccio donate a "Weekend with Dawson & Tami," which offers a high-bidder a few days of mentoring and fun with the couple. It is a perennial high-ticket money-raiser.



"What Dawson has done for the industry is incredible," says Barenholtz. "People like him make chauffeured transportation great because they share and help with their knowledge. Even working in the same market, he never makes you feel like you're competing—you end up feeling like you're working together. He's an icon, and I'm incredibly fortunate to call him a friend." — RS

