Clifford Bowden was a member of the Bars of the State of New York and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and, also, the Federal District and Appellate Courts. Bowden was a partner since 1936 of one of the largest law firms in the country, Shearman & Sterling, with headquarters on Wall Street and foreign offices in Paris and Brussels. As a legal representative of American corporations making investments abroad, he traveled extensively in Europe, Latin America, Canada and Japan.

He represented several large European corporations in the United States and acted as director in the United States for the Uddeholm Steel Corporation and Holmens the Newsprint Corporation, both of Sweden. Bowden was active in the work of the International Bar Association and the Foreign Policy Association. He served on various committees of the Association of the Bar of the City of New York, the New York State Bar Association and the American Bar Association. He published many law review articles.

Bowden was a member of the board of trustees of Grove City College. Bowden's brother, Edward, was a chairman of the Department of Business Administration at Grove City College.

He passed away July 13, 1974.

Additional degree: Doctor of Jurisprudence, University of Pennsylvania Law School; Honorary Doctor of Laws, Grove City College.