

BUSINESS PEOPLE



Prohidney

Attorney **Michael Prohidney**, a principal of Tidlen, Prohidney & DiPasquale PL, has joined the board of directors of the Women's Resource Center of Manatee.

Prohidney previously served on the board of the Manasota Association of Retarded Citizens and is a pro bono attorney for the Florida Attorney's Saving Homes Project. His firm specializes in business and real estate law.

MetLife Securities financial services representative **David J. Valenti** has earned MetLife's Leaders recognition, which is given to top producers who demonstrate high standards of personal integrity, professionalism and customer service. A graduate of the American College with five years of financial services experience, Valenti is a Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow and a member of the National Association of Financial Advisors.



Fishman

The Community Foundation of Sarasota County has added five members to its board of directors. They are **C.J. Fishman, Rodney Linford, Michael Martella, Nelli Miller** and **William Seider**.

Fishman is president of Fishman & Associates Inc., a commercial restaurant design and service business in Venice. Fishman serves on the Advisory Council for All Faiths Food Bank, and on the board of directors for the Venice Area Regional Medical Center.

Linford is a retired aviation and aerospace professional and was vice president, program manager of McDonnell Douglas before its merger with Boeing. He is a member of the CFSG Education Task Force and a former board chairman of the Forty Carrots Family Center. Martella started working for Boar's Head Provisions Co. Inc. in 1977 as a shipping clerk and worked his way up to president in 2002. Martella has been chairman of the Van Wezel Foundation for five years.

Miller is a specialist in entrepreneurial philanthropy and is the co-founder of Biztank, which provides support for start-up companies. Formerly, she was the co-founder of PlanetResume.com and participated in its sale in 2000. Miller is a board member of National Women's Philanthropy, MASA and The Jewish Agency for Israel and is immediate past president of the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee.

Seider earned his law degree at the Fredric G. Levin College of Law at the University of Florida, and is the managing partner at Williams Parker Harrison Dietz & Getzen. Seider

is on the board of directors for the Sarasota Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Florida and the Resurrection House. He was a chairman for the Senior Friendship Center.

The Community Foundation also named its new officers: **Philip Delaney**, chairman; **Patricia Courtois**, secretary/vice chairwoman; **Orion Marx**, vice chairman; **Kathie Roberts**, vice chairman; and **Patrick Dorsey**, treasurer. **Audrey Coleman, Barbara Freeman, Rick Gans, Mike Pender, Kathie Roberts, Richard Smith** and **Terri Vitale** have been renewed for a three-year term on the board, and **Austin Nadwodny** has also been renewed for a one-year term.



Fleece

Attorneys **Jonathan Fleece** and **Jenifer Schembri**, principals at the law firm of Blalock Walters PA, were included in Florida Trend's Legal Elite of 2014.

The roster of attorneys is chosen for their excellence and the respect of their colleagues. Fewer than 2 percent of active Florida Bar members who practice in Florida are listed.

Fleece, board certified in health law, received the 2013 Manatee County Bar Association's Community Service Award and also won Health Care Hero of the Year.

Schembri is board certified in tax law.



Sullivan

Children First, Sarasota County's provider of Head Start and Early Head Start programs, named **Kathleen Sullivan** as its new Head Start director and vice president of programs. She succeeds Hope Kinney, who retired at the end of May.

Sullivan, who has a master's degree in childhood development from Tufts University and a bachelor's degree in Hispanic studies from the University of Southern Maine, was a regional manager for Children First, overseeing the agency's South County operations since 2010. In her new role, she will be responsible for programming and curriculum at 13 early childhood education centers operated by Children First.



Lincoln

Robert Lincoln, a member of the law firm of Icard, Merrill, Cullis, Timm, Furen & Ginsburg PA, was a faculty presenter at the 17th annual Land Use Law Conference on Aug. 21 in Tampa. He provided an overview of the latest and pending cases related to land use law and discussed recent court decisions and their possible influence on land use and development in Florida.

Lincoln has been a member of Icard Merrill since 2004. He represents public and private clients in all aspects of the land development process, with a focus on complex land use, zoning approvals and litigation.

Brando Fetzek, of NDC Construction Co., has been promoted from project engineer to project manager and is working on the River-song Apartment Homes being built next to the

Manatee Performing Arts Center in Bradenton.

Fetzek, a native of Manatee County, graduated from the University of Florida in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in building construction and has been with NDC since 2011.

NDC has also promoted **Chris Gray** from project engineer to project manager. Gray will begin his first project as manager when NDC breaks ground on Manatee County's Southeast Water Reclamation Facility this fall. Chris was born and raised in Bradenton and graduated from the University of Florida with a bachelor's degree in construction management.



Christy

Sarasota attorney **Erin Christy**, director of planned giving for the Florida State University Foundation and the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, has been reappointed to a three-year term on the board of the Florida Bar Foundation, a statewide charitable organization whose mission is to provide greater access to justice.

Christy, whose work for the Ringling Museum is focused on individual and planned giving, has been with FSU since 2010. She practiced law in the Tallahassee office of Pennington, Moore, Wilkinson, Bell & Dunbar and in Sarasota. She earned her bachelor's and law degrees at Florida State University.

A Sarasota native, Christy serves on the board of the Sarasota County Bar Association Young Lawyers Division.



Gans

Richard Gans, a shareholder in the law firm of Fergeson, Skipper, Shaw, Keyser, Baron & Tirabassi PA, was included in Florida Trend magazine's Florida Legal Elite.

The 2014 list of 1,165 Legal Elite attorneys represents less than 2 percent of Florida Bar members who practice in Florida. Published in the July issue of Florida Trend, the list includes attorneys in private practice as well as top government and nonprofit attorneys.

Gans is certified by the Florida Bar as a specialist in wills, trusts and estates and is a Fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel. He has an AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating from the attorney rating site Martindale-Hubbell. He has been recognized as a Five Star Wealth Manager.



McCormick

After a lengthy executive search, the United Way Suncoast Board has named **Suzanne McCormick** to lead the organization as president and CEO, beginning this month.

McCormick comes to Suncoast following 15 years with United Way of Greater Portland, in Maine, where she was president and CEO.

She also has extensive experience in the human services field. She was CEO for both the People's Regional Opportunity Program and American Red Cross of Southern Maine. She served in Thailand with the Peace Corps following college.

McCormick graduated from Duke University with a bachelor's degree in political science. She and her family will move to the greater Tampa Bay area.

United Way Suncoast and its partners serve Sarasota, DeSoto, Hillsborough and Pinellas counties.



Larsen

Gary Larsen has been designated a Super Lawyer in the category of alternative dispute resolution for 2014.

Larsen is one of only 40 lawyers in Florida to receive this distinction. A partner in the firm of Dickinson & Gibbons PA for 30 years, Larsen is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell and has been a board certified civil trial lawyer since 1991.



Moneymaker

Elizabeth Moneymaker, the newest partner at Dickinson & Gibbons PA, has been designated a Super Lawyer in civil litigation defense for 2014. She is one of only 49 lawyers in Florida to receive this distinction.

Moneymaker is AV rated by Martindale-Hubbell.



Weiss

Dr. Robert Weiss, a Sarasota pediatrician, was recognized as one of America's top doctors in 2014 by the New York research firm Castle Connolly Medical.

Castle Connolly selects physicians using a peer-review survey in which physicians vote for doctors they believe are skilled, qualified, reputable and empathetic. Doctors can't nominate themselves, nor pay to be listed.

It was Weiss' 15th consecutive year to be listed in his specialty, pediatrics. He has more than 38 years of experience and has been in private practice in Sarasota for 35 years.



Petrucci

Patricia Petrucci, a senior partner at Dye, Deitrich, Petrucci & St. Paul, received the 2014 William C. Grimes Award for Lifetime Achievement in Community Service.

Petrucci has been an attorney in Manatee County for more than 35 years. She has provided many hours of pro bono legal work for Myakka City Historical Society, Galvano One Stop Center, Lemur Conservation Foundation, Children's Academy of Southwest Florida and Manatee County Girls Club, d/b/a Just for Girls Inc.

She also was the first female president of the Manatee County Bar Association in 1987 and has been on the Bar Association Board of Directors and the Library Committee. She chaired the 12th Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee and served on the Board of Gulf Coast Legal Services. She has acted as a judge for local Moot Court competitions and for the Florida Bar Justice Teaching program.

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