

# The Palm Beach Post

## **REAL NEWS STARTS HERE**

### **Business people on the move in Palm Beach County**

By Wendi Ladika – Palm Beach Post Staff Writer: February 2015

#### **EDUCATION**

Barry N. Liebowitz of International College Counselors in Boca Raton is part of a growing group of educational consultants and school counselors in the nation to earn the designation of Certified Educational Planner. Certification is granted to those consultants and counselors who meet stringent application requirements including a master's degree, specialized training, significant professional experience, and involvement in professional activities and organizations.

#### **AGRICULTURE**

Governor Rick Scott recently appointed Dan Casper, vice president of procurement, sales and marketing for Southern Gardens Citrus, to the Florida Citrus Commission, the governing board of the Florida Department of Citrus, an executive agency of the Florida government charged with the marketing, research and regulation of the Florida citrus industry. Casper was appointed to represent District 3, which includes Hendry, Lee and Palm Beach counties as well as most of southern Florida and the Gulf Coast.

#### **BIOTECH**

Dyadic International, a global biotechnology company focused on the discovery, development, manufacture and sale of enzymes and other proteins, announced the appointment of Michael Tarnok as the company's chairman of the board of directors. Tarnok will continue to serve on the company's audit and compensation committees. Tarnok earned a master's of business administration in marketing from New York University and a bachelor's of science in accounting from St. John's University.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS**

NCCI in Boca Raton just announced Deborah Hyman as its director of communications services. Hyman is responsible for internal communications, marketing research, and marketing communications

activities. Hyman earned a master's of arts degree in communications from American University and a bachelor's of arts degree in mass media arts from Hampton University.

## **FINANCE**

Victor T. Connor, wealth management specialist, was recently named a member of the 2015 Executive Council. Executive Council honors are presented to financial advisors who have demonstrated an extremely high level of commitment to clients through personal service and professional integrity. This marks the 8th year that Connor has qualified for this important recognition.

## **HOSPITALITY**

The Palm Beach County Hotel & Lodging Association recently elected its 2015 officers and board of directors. Officers include: president Cheri Rutledge, West Palm Beach Marriott; 1st vice president George Isaac, Hilton Singer Island Oceanfront Resort; 2nd vice president John Bailey, Hilton Suites, Boca Raton; treasurer Tom Spoto, Embassy Suites, Palm Beach Gardens; secretary David Semadeni, Amcal Management Corp.; and chair Bill Murray, Best Western Palm Beach Lakes Inn. Three-year directors include: Donna Ainsworth Springhill Suites & Towne Place Suites, Boca Raton; Matt Boris Wyndham Grand, Jupiter; Alan Cristantiello, Embassy Suites, Boca Raton; Ken Kaylor, Wyndham Garden Hotel, Boca Raton; Natalie Le Clerc, Chesterfield Hotel; Paget Kirkland, Kirkland Event & Destination Services; and Peter Ricci, Florida Atlantic University, Hospitality Management Program. Two-year directors include: Cathy Balestriere, Crane's BeachHouse; and Achim Kuhn, Hilton Garden Inn, Palm Beach Gardens. One-year directors include: Andy Hussein Hyatt Place, West Palm Beach; and Cheryl Reed, Pelosi Marriott's Ocean Pointe, Palm Beach Shores.

## **LEGAL**

Attorneys I. Jeffrey Pheterson and Rana M. Gorzeck, of the West Palm Beach-based law firm Ward, Damon, Posner, Pheterson and Bleau, have been recognized as Top Lawyers in the 2015 South Florida Legal Guide.

Sylvia L. Wenger has joined the Boca Raton law firm of Weiss, Handler & Cornwell. She graduated magna cum laude from University of Miami School of Law, where she was a Dean's Merit Scholar.

Lewis, Longman & Walker shareholders Stephen A. Walker and Kenneth G. Spillias are recognized in the 2015 South Florida Legal Guide as Top Lawyers in the area of environmental law. Shareholder Terry E. Lewis is recognized as a Top Lawyer in the area of governmental law.

The West Palm Beach law firm of Beasley Kramer & Galardi announced that attorneys James W. Beasley, Jr., Joseph G. Galardi and Amy Bloom have been named Top Lawyers for 2015 by the South Florida Legal Guide.

The firm was also recognized as a Top Law Firm by the publication. Ackerman, Link & Sartory in West Palm Beach was named as a top overall law firm in the 2015 South Florida Legal Guide. In addition, Wendy Link was named as Top Lawyer in the areas of real estate finance and commercial finance law, partner Dave Ackerman was named as a Top Lawyer in corporate and business litigation and professional liability defense, and partner Scott Link was named a Top Lawyer in the areas of corporate and business litigation and securities litigation and arbitration. All six partners at the West Palm Beach law firm of Clark, Fountain, La Vista, Prather, Keen & Littky-Rubin have been recognized as Top Lawyers for 2015 by the South Florida Legal Guide, including Mark W. Clark, Donald R. Fountain Jr., Nancy La Vista, David C. Prather, W. Hampton Keen and Julie H. Littky-Rubin. The firm was also recognized as a Top Law Firm by the publication.