

Shumaker Adds State Sen., City Atty To Dade City Office

By [Jack Rodgers](#) | Feb 10, 2022, 12:02 PM EST · [Listen to article](#)
[Shumaker Loop & Kendrick LLP](#) has added two attorneys with a breadth of experience in public service to its Dade City office.

Daniel "Danny" W. Burgess Jr. and Matthew E. Maggard joined the firm after working at their own private practice group, Maggard & Burgess PA, since 2017. According to Maggard's [LinkedIn](#) profile, the practice began as Hersch & Maggard PA in 2013 but was changed to Maggard & Burgess in 2018.

That firm's website notes the pair dissolved their practice to make the jump Feb. 1.

"We extend our thanks and gratitude to all those we have had the privilege of serving and we look forward to expanding the services that we are able to provide to existing and new clients," Burgess and Maggard said in a statement posted to their firm's website.

Burgess has held numerous public office positions, including serving as the mayor of Zephyrhills, as a [Florida House of Representatives](#) member, and as director of Florida's Department of Veterans' Affairs. He is currently a member of the [Florida Senate](#), representing the state's 20th district. That area encompasses the city Burgess formerly served as mayor, Zephyrhills, and Dade City. Burgess was elected to the post in 2020.

Burgess is the newest of three former public servants to join Shumaker in 2022, which includes Rick Kriseman, the former mayor of St. Petersburg, who [joined](#) the firm's government affairs service line and lobbying group in January. Former Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn also [joined](#) Shumaker in January.

Burgess also serves in the [U.S. Army Reserve](#) as a major, the firm said.

In a statement Tuesday, Burgess said he made the move because of the firm's innovative leaders and to help clients solve complex problems.



Danny Burgess



Matthew Maggard

"Shumaker handles some of the most cutting-edge cases, with a prestigious team of attorneys who stand out as difference makers in Tampa Bay," he said.

Maggard has considerable public service experience, serving as a certified legal intern in the Florida State Attorney's Office in Tampa during law school, according to his LinkedIn profile. He graduated from the [Florida Coastal School of Law](#) in 2012, when he also held that position.

Maggard became interim city attorney for Zephyrhills in August 2016 and assumed the role full-time two months later, according to his LinkedIn profile. In that role, he provides legal advice to city attorneys and has represented Zephyrhills in real estate, contract and code-related litigation, the firm said.

In an email to Law360 on Thursday, Maggard expand on his relationship with Burgess, whom he said he had known since childhood, as both his and Burgess' families have a close relationship.

"As we grew older and our education and commitments took us away from Pasco County for a period of time, we both knew we wanted to establish roots of our own and give back to this community that has supported us for so long," he said. "I started my own law firm in Dade City in 2017 and when I was looking to expand my practice, it was an easy decision to partner with Danny."

Maggard said having his own firm had given him the ability to focus on a range of law, including real estate, business and family estate law. He said he also will continue working for Zephyrhills and continue work as a hearing officer for Pasco County.

"I am very proud of how much my business grew in five years," he said. "However, there came a point where there just wasn't enough time in the day for our small firm to meet the legal needs of our clients. When Shumaker approached us about joining, it was an opportunity for us to not only expand our resources but also to provide our clients with access to top legal experts in all areas of law. A true win-win."

Ron Christaldi, managing partner of Shumaker's Tampa office, said in a Feb. 8 press release that both Burgess and Maggard made great additions to the firm because of their connection within their community.

"Danny and Matthew are respected leaders, with strong ties in Pasco County," he said. "Adding

them to the firm will allow Shumaker to serve new clients and continue its exciting growth."

Last November, the firm [added](#) five attorneys to its Florida and Ohio offices. And in January, the firm [added](#) Michael "MJ" Johnston, the state's former deputy secretary of Business Regulation.

--Additional reporting by Adrian Cruz, Madison Arnold and Emma Cueto. Editing by Alyssa Miller.

Update: This story has been updated with additional comments from Maggard.