

Shumaker Names 5 New Section Leaders In Florida

By **Madison Arnold**

Law360 (June 6, 2022, 1:22 PM EDT) -- Shumaker Loop & Kendrick LLP has chosen a slate of five leaders for its new business sector groups spread across two Florida offices and three industries.

The firm last week announced that it selected three new leaders based in its Tampa shop and another two in its Sarasota office to lead newly-formed sector groups that cover rapidly evolving industries that play a major role in the U.S. economy. The new leaders include David B. Singer, Ernie Marquart and Steven M. Berman as sector chairs and two new co-chairs, Juan Villaveces and Meghan Serrano, who will serve in a capacity similar to a vice chair.

"By organizing into business sector teams, and then positioning top-flight lawyers as leaders like David, Ernie and Steve, we can bring our entire range of experiences from across our 10 offices to bear on every issue any client encounters," said Shumaker Management Committee Co-Chair Jennifer Compton, in a statement on the new sector chairs. "We're here to make sure our clients succeed, and naming these new leaders is key to that success."

In the real estate, construction and development business sector, Shumaker chose Tampa's Singer as chair and Sarasota's Villaveces as co-chair.

The firm recently reorganized its industry groups into business sector groups, which are made up of many industries. The idea behind the reorganization is to be totally focused on client needs, said Shumaker Chairman Tom Dillon in an interview with Law360 Pulse Monday.

"The best way to solve clients problems is to know the business space in which they operate. And so the idea is that those sector teams will just be more attuned to what's going on in the particular sector and anticipate client needs," Dillon said.

Singer represents clients before government agencies in growth and planning issues, policy proposals and election law.

He's been with Shumaker for more than three years and previously worked as an attorney for Singer Law Group PA, according to his LinkedIn profile. Singer earned both his bachelor's degree and his law degree from the University of Michigan.

Villaveces practice centers around both residential and commercial real estate law as well as lender representation, where he advises clients on a wide range of matters, the firm said. He earned both his law degree and his bachelor's degree from Florida State University.

"Particularly like real estate and development [is] such a hot area, so it was obvious to have someone from Florida lead that effort, but they are firm-wide positions. So they're certainly active in Florida but they're responsible for all of our locations," Dillon said.

Tampa's Berman is the new chair of the financial institutions and insurance business sector with Sarasota's Serrano serving as co-chair.

Berman's practice focuses on business bankruptcy litigation as well as representing creditors, investors, distressed debt lenders, trustees, committees and business entities that are litigating disputes in bankruptcy court.



David B. Singer



Ernie Marquart



Steven M. Berman

Berman has been with Shumaker for 14 years, according to his LinkedIn profile. He is a graduate of the University of Florida Levin College of Law and earned a bachelor's degree from Florida State University.

Serrano's work spans civil and business litigation. She represents businesses, insurers, banks, lenders and landlords in state and federal courts.

She has been with Shumaker for almost 14 years, according to her LinkedIn profile. Before that, Serrano worked as an assistant district attorney for the Middlesex District Attorney's Office in Massachusetts.

She is a graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Law and earned an undergraduate degree from Boston College.

"We've elevated these two tremendous people as we expand Shumaker's premier position in these business sectors," Dillon said in a statement about the co-chairs. "These sectors of the American economy are shifting daily, and Meghan and Juan have the skills and proven records to stay out in front on behalf of our clients."

Finally, Tampa's Marquart was tapped to lead the transportation and distribution business sector as chair. He has more than 30 years of experience at the firm and is a past managing partner of the Tampa shop.

He represents transportation services providers and intermediaries in his practice. He also represents clients in other sectors including health care, manufacturing and retail.

Marquart is also a graduate of the University of Florida Levin College of Law. His bachelor's degree comes from Boston University.

Shumaker is home to more than 270 lawyers and advisors, the firm said, with 10 offices spread across Florida, Mississippi, the Carolinas and Ohio. Its heaviest presence is in Florida with locations in Dade City and Tallahassee in addition to the Sarasota and Tampa shops.

--Editing by Alex Hubbard.



Juan Villaveces



Meghan Serrano