



# CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP

**Class of 2019 Directory**



# Shannon Acevedo

| 4040 Lewis Speedway | St. Augustine, FL 32084 | 904-209-0583 | SAcevedo@SJCFL.us |

**Title:**

Senior Supervising Planner

**Company Name:**

St. Johns County

**City:**

St. Augustine

**Education:**

Master of Urban & Environmental Planning, Arizona State University / B.A. Business Administration, University of Michigan

**Three words to describe my role:**

Review. Interpret. Manage.

**Favorite part of my job:**

My favorite part is researching and analyzing code to recommend improvements for land development regulations. I work for a jurisdiction in the midst of growth and our organization is open to new ideas of how to envision and implement the future development of St. Johns County.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

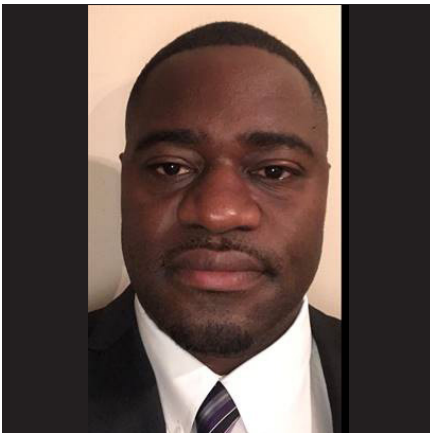
I have learned to manage projects, review and interpret code, and collaborate with others within a short period of time which has prepared me for my recent role as Senior Supervising Planner.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

Doing community theatre and musical endeavors, gardening, spending time with family and friends and going to the beach.

# Alonza Anderson

| 1701 Prudential Drive | Jacksonville, FL 32207 | 904-982-3837 | AndersonA6@DuvalSchools.org |

**Title:**

Project Manager – Facilities Design & Construction

**Company Name:**

Duval County Public Schools

**City:**

Jacksonville

**Education:**

B.S. Building Construction, University of Florida

**Three words to describe my role:**

Cool School Projects

**Favorite part of my job:**

Affecting the public education experience in a positive way at every school in Duval county.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

Becoming an effective developer of quality affordable housing in Northwest Jacksonville.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

Enjoying fun and quality times with my wife, son and daughter.

# Amanda Askew

| 116 First Street | Neptune Beach, FL 32266 | 904-899-2401 | dcm@nbfl.us |

**Title:**

Deputy City Manager

**Company Name:**

City of Neptune Beach

**City:**

Neptune Beach

**Education:**

Masters of the Arts / B.A. Urban & Regional Planning, East Carolina University

**Three words to describe my role:**

Visioning. Service. Compliance.

**Favorite part of my job:**

Meeting with residents or developers and finding creative solutions for development issues.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

Being a successful working mom.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

Hanging out with my family.

# Michael Biagini

| 2926 Edison Avenue | Jacksonville, FL 32254 | 904-322-4437 | MichaelBiagini@SchererNFL.com |

**Title:**

Vice President

**Company Name:**

Scherer Construction

**City:**

Jacksonville

**Education:**

MBA, University of Florida / BBA Management & Marketing, University of North Florida

**Three words to describe my role:**

Construction Business Development

**Favorite part of my job:**

I enjoy meeting people and learning about their motivations and goals. I am also driven to connect others with those that might benefit them personally or professionally.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

I have helped expand our company into a main player in the markets we serve.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

With family or shooting shotguns or both.

# Gerry Dedenbach

| 11801 Research Drive | Alachua, FL 32615 | 352-538-5195 | GerryD@CHW-inc.com |

**Title:**

Vice President

**Company Name:**

CHW

**City:**

Alachua

**Education:**

B.A. Landscape Architecture, University of Florida

**Three words to describe my role:**

Swiss Army Knife

**Favorite part of my job:**

Achieving clients' goals.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

TBD

**When I am not working, I'm:**

Strategizing from 10,000 feet the 30,000 foot approach for the next challenging project.

# Bois Farrar

| 2963 Dupont Avenue, Suite 2 | Jacksonville, FL 32217 | 904-955-5235 | Bois@SkinnerRealty.com |

**Title:**

Associate

**Company Name:**

Skinner Bros. Realty

**City:**

Jacksonville

**Education:**

B.A. English, Hampden-Sydney College

**Three words to describe my role:**

Real Estate Development

**Favorite part of my job:**

I enjoy the daily challenges and learning opportunities real estate development presents. It is rewarding working with peers and making new contacts with a common goal of taking a piece of land and turning it into a positive asset to the community.

**Biggest accomplishment**

Personally: Playing in three consecutive NCAA Men's Lacrosse tournaments and being selected to play lacrosse in England after college. Business: Successfully managing the horizontal and vertical construction of Dream Finders Homes new 45,000 corporate headquarters building in Jacksonville with very little commercial construction experience in my background..

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

I am spending time with my wife, two sons and dog. Coaching my son's youth sports teams, playing golf, and pulling for the Washington Redskins, Washington Capitals, Georgia Bulldogs and Jags.

# Blake Fletcher

| 4510 NW 6th Place | Gainesville, FL 32607 | 352-224-6400 | Blake@TheFletcherCompanies.com |

**Title:**

Chief Operating Officer

**Company Name:**

Fletcher Family Companies

**City:**

Gainesville

**Education:**

B.A. Business Administration, Millsaps College

**Three words to describe my role:**

Creative. Passionate. Forward-Thinking.

**Favorite part of my job:**

The diversity of challenges I get to face on a day to day basis. No two days are ever the same.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

Being part of a great leadership team that has handled our companies doubling in size each of the last three years.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

Spending time with my family, watching gator athletics or training for a long run/triathlon.

# Laura Gonzales

| 9715 Gate Parkway North | Jacksonville, FL 32246 | 904-718-2256 | Laura.Gonzales@TD.com |

**Title:**

Senior Relationship Manager/Vice President

**Company Name:**

TD Bank

**City:**

Jacksonville

**Education:**

MBA, University of North Florida / B.S. Finance & Management, Florida State University

**Three words to describe my role:**

Advisor. Deal Maker. Relationship Builder.

**Favorite part of my job:**

I love to network, connect people and to structure and close deals.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

Being recognized as a top CRE lender in the state and being a mom to two special girls.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

Usually spending time with my family and friends either swimming, boating or biking.

# Charles “Chuck” Griffith

| 50 North Laura Street, Suite 1100 | Jacksonville, Florida 32202 | 904-598-9929 | CGriffith@eminentdo-

**Title:**

Partner

**Company:**

Papalas | Griffith, PLLC

**City:**

Jacksonville

**Education:**

Juris Doctor, Florida Coastal School of Law / B.A. Political Science, Elon University

**Three words to describe my role:**

Eminent Domain Attorney

**Favorite part of my job:**

I take pride in defending landowner's rights against the government, knowing that without our help, many landowners would be left fighting on their own against some of the most powerful state agencies and private utilities.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

Being named one a Top 10 Attorney Under 40 for Northeast Florida in 2017 by *Attorney at Law Magazine*, First Coast Edition.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

Spending time with my wife, Lauren, and our two daughters, Ginny (4) and Maggie (1).

# Holly Grimes

| 820 A1A North, Suite E21 | Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082 | 904-245-6565 | HGrimes@wbassociates.com |

**Title:**

Associate & Senior Project Manager

**Company:**

Wakefield Beasley & Associates, A NELSON Company

**City:**

Ponte Vedra Beach

**Education:**

Master of Architecture, University of Florida / B.S. Design, Tennessee Tech University

**Three words to describe my role:**

Adaptive. Communicative. Collaborative.

**Favorite part of my job:**

I love being immersed in Commercial Real Estate and Land Development. I truly enjoy contributing to the direction and growth of my firm, locally and as a whole.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

I was selected as a Rising Retail Leader under 40 by ICSC in 2017.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

Enjoying food, drinks, and fun with friends while raising two daughters to be strong and kind.

# Lindsay Haga

| 14775 Old St. Augustine Rd | Jacksonville, FL 32258 | 904-376-6296 | HagaL@ETMinc.com |

**Title:**

Senior Planner

**Company Name:**

England-Thims & Miller, Inc.

**City:**

Jacksonville

**Education:**

M.A. Public Administration, University of North Florida / B.S. Geography, Florida State University

**Three words to describe my role:**

Regulatory Entitlement Sherpa or Permit Puzzle Master

**Favorite part of my job:**

Connecting dots between ideas, people, and permits to create the spaces we live in.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

Blending two distinct yet simpatico divisions in the St. Johns County Growth Management Department during my role as Chief Planner: Current Planning & Zoning. At the time I joined the County, the divisions were “separate but equal” creating confusion between roles and authority, contributing to red tape bureaucracy and low morale. With one budget cut, we merged the divisions which pushed us all forward to exchange ideas. It was successful because of the people involved.

**When I’m not working, I’m:**

Walking my dog Kita, planning travel adventures, and training for triathlons with my best friend, Chad; sometimes we do all three at once!

# Katherine “Kat” Hardwick

| 214 N. Hogan St., #120 | Jacksonville, FL 32202 | 904-631-3715 | katherine@dtjax.org |

**Title:**

Vice President of Marketing

**Company Name:**

Downtown Vision, Inc.

**City:**

Jacksonville

**Education:**

B.S. Communications, University of North Florida

**Three words to describe my role:**

Champion. Connector. Placemaker.

**Favorite part of my job:**

Every day I get to work with people who--in all kinds of ways--are all focused on making Jacksonville a better place. I love producing the State of Downtown Report each year, weaving together development, office, residential and quality of life trends to show that Jacksonville is a great place to invest in.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

Influencing how people see Downtown Jacksonville - and helping them to (re)discover all that the heart of our City has to offer.

**When I’m not working, I’m:**

Discovering new parts of our country from big cities to national parks.

# Marc Hudson

| 2038 Gilmore Street | Jacksonville, FL 32204 | 904-479-1963 | [mhudson@northfloridalandtrust.org](mailto:mhudson@northfloridalandtrust.org) |

**Title:**

Land Protection Director

**Company Name:**

North Florida Land Trust

**City:**

Jacksonville

**Education:**

B.A. History, State University of New York at Geneseo

**Three words to describe my role:**

Identify. Purchase. Preserve.

**Favorite part of my job:**

Going out into our region and finding all of the unique natural and historic landscapes, each one with its own story and legacy of caretaking by a family or a person, then the endlessly creative ways to pinch pennies and preserve that property.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

Ultimately, being part of the growth of an organization which in 3 years has gone from flat broke, to bringing in \$18 million in land acquisitions this year, and personally, from growing its accomplishments from 800 acres of land preserved to 18,000 acres.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

Hiking, cooking, woodworking and reading is how I like to spend my time.

# Douglas Hutchinson

| 4041 NW 37th Place Ste. B | Gainesville, FL 32606 | 561-358-6170 | [Doug@PepineRealty.com](mailto:Doug@PepineRealty.com) |

**Title:**

Director Commercial Real Estate

**Company Name:**

Pepine Realty, LLC

**City:**

Gainesville

**Three words to describe my role:**

Commercial Network Development

**Favorite part of my job:**

The challenge of assembling complex real estate solutions, against the odds, exhilarating. Unconventional linkages and connections of development trends are my specialty.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

Relocating a major vertical textile industry leader from the East and West Coasts to West Texas.

**When I'm not Working, I'm:**

Building custom cars and racing.



# Maurice Martinez

| 221 N. Hogan Street #314 | Jacksonville, FL 32202 | 904-255-8167 | MauriceM@COJ.com |

**Title:**

Business Compliance Officer

**Company Name:**

City of Jacksonville

**City:**

Jacksonville

**Education:**

B.S. Business Administration/Entrepreneurship & A.S. Construction Management, Florida State College of Jacksonville / B.S. Leisure Services Management, University of Florida

**Three words to describe my role:**

Small Business Advocate

**Favorite part of my job:**

My favorite parts of my job includes being a part of the entire procurement process from reviewing specification prior to the bid, working with an agency to assign a small business participation goal, attending pre-construction conferences with the winning bidders, and reviewing the project for compliance with the contract specifications.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

Earning an Associates' degree in Construction Management because it changed the direction of my career to real estate and development.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

Relaxing with family.

# Michael McGowan

| 1478 Riverplace Blvd, #107 | Jacksonville, FL 32207 | 904-219-2016 | McGowan@ChaseProperties.com |

**Title:**

Vice President

**Company Name:**

Chase Properties

**City:**

Jacksonville

**Education:**

B.A. Applied Economics, University of Florida

**Three words to describe my role:**

Acquisition and Development

**Favorite part of my job:**

Using my creativity to take vacant or older property and create something new that better suits the community. Discovering undervalued or underutilized property and being able to go out and make a positive change for Jacksonville is very gratifying.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

Besides raising my one-year old son, fulfilling my goal of becoming a commercial developer and being able to work on major projects around my hometown like "The District" on the Southbank or "Parkland Preserve," a 200-acre retirement community at the World Golf Village.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

With my wife and son at the pool, on the boat, or anywhere outdoors. I like traveling with the family to the mountains in North Carolina or fishing and diving down in the Florida Keys. We are looking forward to the arrival of our second son in a few months.

# Kathryn McKie

| One Independent Drive, Suite 114 | Jacksonville, FL 32202 | 904-598-7348 | KathrynMcKie@regencycenters.com |

**Title:**

Senior Manager, Financial Services

**Company Name:**

Regency Centers

**City:**

Jacksonville

**Education:**

B.A. Management, Georgia Institute of Technology

**Three words to describe my role:**

Analysis. Underwriting. Due Diligence.

**Favorite part of my job:**

No two days are ever the same. I get to work with team members all around the country on all different types of real estate projects.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

With virtually no website design experience or instruction, I was able to successfully create a website for my previous company that they still use today.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

Driving my kids somewhere, playing tennis, running or on my sailboat.

# Elizabeth "Betsy" Pepine

| 4041 NW 37th Place Ste. B | Gainesville, FL 32606 | 352-262-9842 | Betsy@PepineRealty.com |

**Title:**

Broker-Owner

**Company Name:**

Pepine Realty

**City:**

Gainesville

**Education:**

MBA, Wharton School of Business, University of Penn. / B.A. Economics, Duke University

**Three words to describe my role:**

CEO. Idea Generator. Change Agent.

**Favorite part of my job:**

To build relationships with my clients and agents and know that I am making a positive impact in and on their lives.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

Raising two daughters who are making a positive impact in the world and those they encounter.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

Running on the beach, exploring new cultures, trying new recipes and reading books.

# Patrick Pierce

| 7220 Financial Way, Suite 100 | Jacksonville, FL 32256 | 904-465-7828 | PPierce@ESINC.CC |



**Title:**  
Senior Manager

**Company Name:**  
Environmental Services, Inc.

**City:**  
Jacksonville

**Education:**  
M. S. Fisheries Management, University of Georgia / B.S. Wildlife Ecology, University of Florida

**Three words to describe my role:**  
Mentor. Manager. Problem-Solver.

**Favorite part of my job:**  
I am fortunate to have the opportunity to work on a variety of projects ranging from small, single-family projects to the largest residential, commercial, and industrial developments. I also enjoy that my position allows me to get out from behind the desk and into the field many times each year.

**Biggest accomplishment:**  
Being selected to lead the most experienced team within our company, handling the largest and most challenging projects.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**  
At the lake or at the soccer fields.

# Anthony "Tony" Pooley

| 7220 Financial Way, Suite 100 | Jacksonville, FL 32256 | 727-515-4990 | TPooley@ESINC.CC |



**Title:**  
Sustainability and Resiliency Development Lead

**Company Name:**  
Environmental Services, Inc.

**City:**  
Jacksonville

**Education:**  
M.A. Global Sustainability / B.S. Environmental Science & Policy, University of South Florida

**Three words to describe my role:**  
Entrepreneur. Educator. Mediator.

**Favorite part of my job:**  
Identifying and developing projects that promote ecological conservation, social responsibility, and return on investment.

**Biggest accomplishment:**  
Developed a Sustainability Plan for Liwonde National Park in Malawi, Africa, with a focus on tourism strategies to promote economic, social and environmental justice in the region specific to job creation, cultural preservation and environmental protection.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**  
Exercising, followed by beers on the beach.

# Christopher Rusnak

| 7807 Baymeadows Road East, Suite 205 | Jacksonville, FL 32256 | 904-435-0430 | CRusnak@GreenPointeLLC.com |

**Title:**

Controller

**Company Name:**

GreenPointe Holdings, LLC

**City:**

Jacksonville

**Education:**

B.S. Accounting, Southeastern Louisiana University

**Three words to describe my role:**

Financial Guardian & Trustee

**Favorite part of my job:**

Hearing about the newest deal and discussing strategy with our capital partners.

**Biggest accomplishment**

Earning a leadership role at dynamic real estate company.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

Spending time with my family, enjoying the outdoors and occasionally playing a round of golf.

# Jessie Spradley

| 103 Century 21 Drive, Suite 100 | Jacksonville, FL 32216 | 904-725-4355 | JSpradley@NEFBA.com |

**Title:**

Government Affairs Director

**Company Name:**

Northeast Florida Builders Association

**City:**

Jacksonville

**Education:**

B.A. Political Science, University of North Florida

**Three words to describe my role:**

Event Planning Lobbyist

**Favorite part of my job:**

The members of NEFBA are what make the job rewarding and fun. I am always impressed by their ability to work together on common issues that face the building industry, even though many of them are in direct competition.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

*In life:* Convincing my wife Nicole to marry me and then to have a baby with me.

*At NEFBA:* I am proud of the work we have done at NEFBA to create a culture of safety, including adding OSHA trainings to our event calendar and hosting an Annual Fall Stand Down Training to help end fall related accidents on job sites.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

Either fishing in my Kayak or down at the Bank cheering on the Jaguars.

# Mary Sullivan

| Wildlight Avenue, 1 Rayonier Way | Wildlight, FL 32097 | 904-477-1373 | Mary@RaydientPlaces.com |

**Title:**

Manager, Real Estate Accounting

**Company Name:**

Rayonier

**City:**

Wildlight

**Education:**

BBA Accounting, University of Toledo

**Three words to describe my role:**

Manager Real Estate Accounting

**Favorite part of my job:**

My favorite part of my job is creating pivot tables and management reports.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

Setting up/ installing the project accounting system.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

Playing tennis

# Ryan Taylor

| 12740 Gran Bay Pkwy W # 2310 | Jacksonville, FL 32258 | 904-540-5544 | Ryan.Taylor@CPPI.com |

**Title:**

Vice President / Project Executive

**Company Name:**

Charles Perry Partners, Inc.

**City:**

Jacksonville

**Education:**

B.S. Operational Management, University of Florida

**Three words to describe my role:**

Problem Solving Leader

**Favorite part of my job:**

When the final touches are made, the work is complete and we are ready to turn over the project to our client, I can look back and appreciate how a building concept has been transformed into a reality. It makes all the headaches during the process worth it.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

Getting the chance to play football for the University of Florida.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

Enjoying time with my family, watching sports and thinking about the next DIY project.

# Clint Thomas

| 4615 US Highway 17, Suite 1 | Fleming Island, FL 32003 | 904-284-8321 | Clint@CarltonConstruction.net |

**Title:**

Vice President

**Company Name:**

Carlton Construction, Inc.

**City:**

Fleming Island

**Education:**

B.S. Building Construction, University of Florida

**Three words to describe my role:**

Leader. Strategic. Troubleshooter.

**Favorite part of my job:**

The favorite part of my job is to inspire a shared vision with all people involved on a project. One of the best feelings is seeing what was once someone's dream come to life and the final result and the sense of accomplishment that comes with it when building our amazing projects.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

Building a great team of people that I share the same core values. They exude integrity, strong work ethic and compassion for our construction projects.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

Spending time with my family. We love to work out at the gym together, and enjoy trips to the beach.

# Cynthia "Cyndy" Trimmer

| 1 Independent Drive #1200 | Jacksonville, FL 32202 | 904-807-0185 | CTrimmer@DriverMcAfee.com |

**Title:**

Attorney

**Company Name:**

Driver, McAfee, Hawthorne & Diebenow, PLLC

**City:**

Jacksonville

**Education:**

Juris Doctor / B.A. Law & Society/Psychology, American University

**Three words to describe my role:**

Land Use/Zoning

**Favorite part of my job:**

I love having the opportunity to help business owners and developers make their visions a reality. Serving as a liaison between some of the best design professionals in the area and local government officials is incredibly rewarding.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

Orchestrating a project that required coordination between multiple FDOT branches, several COJ departments, and numerous strong personalities in a short amount of time to enable my client's development to proceed on schedule.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

Serving on Jacksonville Bar Association and Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association boards, volunteering with Junior League of Jacksonville, watching Steelers football, and trying to be the best auntie ever.

# Bradley Weeber

| 14775 Old St. Augustine Rd | Jacksonville, FL 32258 | 904-497-3600 | WeeberB@ETMinc.com |

**Title:**

Vice President / Shareholder

**Company Name:**

England-Thims & Miller, Inc.

**City:**

Jacksonville

**Education:**

M.S. Biosystems Engineering / B.S. Biosystems Engineering, Clemson University

**Three words to describe my role:**

Land Development Consultant

**Favorite part of my job:**

Being a part of a team to develop large scale projects that make a positive contribution to the region. It's a good feeling when you can clearly see projects you worked on in Google Earth.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

Finding engineering/development solutions that have pushed projects over the line from unfeasible to feasible.

**When I'm not working, I'm:**

With my family, usually boating.

# Russell Yaffee

| 9822 Tapestry Park Circle, Suite 205 | Jacksonville, FL 32246 | 904-735-6477 | RYaffee@PetersandYaffee.com |

**Title:**

Vice President

**Company Name:**

Peters and Yaffee, Inc.

**City:**

Jacksonville

**Education:**

M.S. Transportation Engineering (degree pending), University of Central Florida / B.S. Civil Engineering, Tulane University

**Three words to describe my role:**

Marketing, Marketing, Marketing.

**Favorite part of my job:**

I thoroughly enjoy mentoring our younger staff. It brings me great satisfaction to watch them grow and learn to become leaders in our industry.

**Biggest accomplishment:**

Within 10 years, Peters and Yaffee, Inc. has grown from 2 to 20 employees, through hard work, dedication and a whole lot of luck.

