

## BUSINESS PEOPLE

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Thirteen attorneys from Sarasota's Williams Parker law firm have been named as 2019 Super Lawyers and four as 2019 Rising Stars.

Super Lawyers is a Thomson Reuters rating service of lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. The multi-phased selection process includes independent research, peer nominations, and peer evaluations.

The Super Lawyers are: **Charles D. Bailey, III, Gail E. Farb, Jennifer Fowler-Hermes, Rose-Anne Frano, Ric Gregoria, John M. Hament, J. Michael Hartenstine, Elizabeth C. Marshall, Mark A. Schwartz, William M. Seider, Jeffrey T. Troiano, Kimberly P. Walker** and **Michael J. Wilson**.

The Rising Stars are: **Fletcher H. Rush, Thomas J. McLaughlin, James-Allen McPheeters** and **Elizabeth M. Stamoulis**. Rising Stars are 40 years old or younger, or in practice 10 years or less.

**Dr. Russell H. Samson**, of Sarasota Vascular Specialists, received the "Excellence in Teaching" Award at this year's Florida Vascular Society Scientific Sessions in April in Hollywood, Florida. He is only the second surgeon to receive this honor, which is given to a deserving FVS member who has demonstrated dedication to teaching in the field of vascular surgery.

Samson is a founding member and past president of the Florida Vascular Society. He is a former chief of surgery at both Sarasota Memorial Hospital and Doctors Hospital.

Samson joined the teaching staff at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in 1980, achieving the rank of associate professor of surgery. He was director of the Noninvasive Vascular Laboratories and chief of vascular surgery at Bronx Municipal Center, New York City, 1980-1986. Today, Samson is a clinical professor of surgery (vascular) at Florida State University Medical School.

He has served as an editor for Rutherford's "Vascular Surgery," the premier textbook in the field of vascular diseases, as well as three other notable international vascular journals. From 2013 to 2018, he was the medical editor of Vascular Specialist, the official publication of the Society for Vascular Surgery, the largest vascular society in world.

Samson was the developer of the Jobst UlcerCare stocking, which is used throughout the world to treat vein disorders, and he holds patents for a novel anticoagulant, as well as structured exercise treatment, for peripheral arterial disease. Additionally, he has developed surgical instruments for varicose vein removal.

Three partners from Dickinson & Gibbons, P.A. — **Deborah J. Blue, Gary H. Larsen** and **Jeffrey D. Peairs** — have been named Florida Super Lawyers for 2019. Partner **Jesse R. Butler** has been designated a Rising Star.

Super Lawyers, a service of Thomson Reuters, identifies attorneys who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement. Each year, 5% of the lawyers in Florida are named Super Lawyers and 2.5% of lawyers 40 years old or younger, or in practice 10 years or less, are named Rising Stars.

Blue specializes in complex marital and family law cases involving equitable distribution, business valuation, alimony, child support, parental responsibility, prenuptial and postnuptial agreements, and paternity. She is board certified in marital and family law.

Larsen, a board certified civil trial lawyer and Florida Supreme Court certified mediator, mediates in all areas of civil litigation, including medical malpractice, wrongful death, personal injury, probate, construction, business, professional malpractice and employment.

Peairs is a board certified civil trial lawyer who specializes in complex litigation matters, including personal injury, motor vehicle negligence, wrongful death, trucking and transportation and product liability.

Butler, a litigation and trial attorney, focuses on product liability and complex tort cases, including cases involving allegations of product defects, fraud, consumer protection statute violations, personal injuries, defamation, and contract and insurance coverage disputes. He is also a specialist in civil appeals and trial support, with board certification in appellate practice.

Dickinson & Gibbons, P.A., based in Sarasota, represents a broad range of individual and corporate clients in complex litigation matters.

**Timothy J. Videnka**, chief investment officer and principal of Forza Wealth Management, has been authorized by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards to use the Certified Financial Planner and CFP certification marks in accordance with CFP Board certification and renewal requirements.

Videnka is now among fewer than 1% of financial advisers in the U.S. that hold both the chartered financial analyst and CFP designations. The CFP marks identify those individuals who have met the rigorous experience and ethical requirements of the CFP Board, have successfully completed financial planning coursework and have passed the CFP certification examination covering the following areas: the financial planning process, risk management, investments, tax planning and management, retirement and employee benefits, and estate planning.

CFP professionals also agree to meet ongoing continuing education requirements and to uphold the CFP Board's Code of Ethics and Professional Responsibility, Rules of Conduct and Financial Planning Practice Standards.

Videnka, 42, has been a professional in the financial services industry for 20 years and works with clients in Sarasota and across the U.S.

The board of directors of Suncoast Aquatic Nature Center Associates has elected **Ronald A. Shapo** as chair. The board has also selected two new directors, **Randy Mallitz** and **Michael S. Taaffe**.

SANCA is a nonprofit 501(c)3 business created to manage Nathan Benderson Park, in Sarasota.

Shapo began his career as an accountant, spent two decades primarily as a trial attorney handling complex business issues, and then served as an attorney for numerous companies in transactions and projects totaling billions of dollars, with emphasis on real estate, public/private partnerships and corporate/ finance. He retired from the international law firm of Holland and Knight, LLP in 2017 and currently serves as a mediator and arbitrator.

Mallitz, co-founder and principal of the Mallitz Investment Group, was president and CEO of divisions of Aearo Technologies in the U.S. and Asia for 16 years, during which he built the company's sales to \$600 million. Before that, he was CEO of Kardon Industries for 16 years. Mallitz has a strong record of leadership founded on principles of effective planning. He previously served on the board of the Nathan Benderson Community Park Foundation.

Taaffe, a partner with Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick, LLP, is a pre-eminent trial attorney and director of Shumaker's Broker-Dealer and Data Breach Groups. He has been a member of numerous local charitable boards and has a lifelong involvement with rowing, including service as a founding member and coach of Sarasota Crew, which he led to several regional, state and national championships.

Five members of Sarasota law firm Fergeson Skipper, P.A., have been selected for inclusion in the 2019 edition of Florida Super Lawyers. **James O. Fergeson, Jr.**, **Richard R. Gans**, **David S. Maglich** and **Douglas R. Bald** made the list of Super Lawyers. **Matthew S. Francis** was chosen as a 2019 Rising Star.

Super Lawyers, a rating service of outstanding lawyers, represents no more than 5% of lawyers in the state. The Rising Star designation is awarded to candidates 40 years or younger or in practice for fewer than 10 years, and recognizes no more than 2.5 percent of attorneys in the state. The annual listing is intended to be a credible and comprehensive resource for those seeking legal counsel.

Fergeson, who practices tax law, has been chosen as a Florida Super Lawyer each year since 2008. Gans, who specializes in wills, trusts and estates, has been on the list since 2007.

Bald, who specializes in wills, trusts and estates and real estate law, has been named four times since 2014, while Maglich has been honored twice. His practice areas include wills, trusts and estates and real estate law. Francis' practice areas include litigation and appeal, banking and finance, and collections.

Fergeson, Gans, Maglich and Bald are board certified by the Florida Bar in their areas of expertise and hold AV Preeminent Peer Review Ratings from the attorney rating site Martindale-Hubbell.

Fishman & Associates, based in Venice, recently hired **Stacy Jackson** as regional sales manager.

She has nearly 20 years of experience in the restaurant services industry. His professional background includes opening new restaurants for a large restaurant chain, selling restaurant equipment and working as general manager of a restaurant equipment dealership in New York prior to relocating to Venice in 2016.

Jackson graduated from Western Illinois University with a bachelor's in business.

Fishman & Associates provides food service design to diverse clients nationwide, including assisted living and retirement centers, health care facilities, hotels, hospitals, schools, restaurants and country clubs.

Social Security disability attorney **David Simon** was recently chosen for the list of 2019 Florida Super Lawyers.

Each year, no more than 5% of the lawyers in the state are selected by the research team at Super Lawyers to receive this honor. Super Lawyers is a rating service of outstanding lawyers from more than 70 practice areas who have attained a high degree of peer recognition and professional achievement.

The law firm of David Simon, P.A., has offices in Sarasota and Port Charlotte.

ThriveTracker, a leading tracker for performance marketers, has hired **Peter Varga Jr.**, a 16-year veteran of the industry, as managing director. Clickbooth, in Sarasota, is ThriveTracker's parent company.

Throughout his industry tenure, Varga has excelled at developing key relationships with clients, providing guidance in the performance marketing space and helping customers to optimize return on investment (ROI).

Previously, Varga was an affiliate marketer for five years before joining Clickbooth as an affiliate strategist, senior affiliate strategist and then senior corporate recruiter and trainer. Varga worked as director of corporate development at Revcontent from 2014 to 2018.

Most recently, he held the position of senior affiliate executive at Clickbooth, cultivating partnerships and managing affiliate outreach.

Angelica Hull, youth and family program manager at Sarasota's John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art, has been named the winner of an Exemplary Service Award from Florida State University.

Hull received the award June 10 for excellent performance and dedication. She also was acknowledged with a five-year service award.