

ULTIMATE **CEO** INSIGHTS

SFBJ honors 15 of the region's top executives

The honorees of the *South Florida Business Journal's* 2017 Ultimate CEO Awards truly reflect the high caliber of leadership boosting the region's economy and enhancing our community.

The companies our Ultimate CEOs lead illustrate how – from Palm Beach to Broward and Miami-Dade counties – the tri-county region is an innovative, thriving and ever-evolving market full of opportunity.

From multinational corporations to professional service providers to the developers who transformed cow pastures into business parks and corporate centers – and the not-for-profits that rely on their generosity to change people's lives – these honorees have proven how real leadership can benefit a community.

Honorees were feted Sept. 28 at a gala awards ceremony held at the Fort Lauderdale Marriott Harbor Beach Resort & Spa. Thank you to our presenting sponsor Comcast Business; corporate sponsors AvMed, GCI Worldwide and Wells Fargo; and associate sponsors the Business Development Board of Palm Beach County, Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance and Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce.

Congrats to our honorees!

► HONOREES

<p>ANTONIO 'TONY' ARGIZ 16 <i>Chairman and CEO, MBAF</i></p> <p>JAMES BERGER 18 <i>Managing partner, Berger Singerman LLP</i></p> <p>DORIA M. CAMARAZA 20 <i>Senior VP/GM, American Express Service Centers</i></p> <p>CESAR CONDE 22 <i>Chairman, NBCUniversal Telemundo International and NBCUniversal Telemundo Enterprises</i></p> <p>ANDREW DUFFELL 24 <i>President/CEO, Research Park at Florida Atlantic University</i></p>	<p>KENT S. ELLERT 26 <i>President/CEO, Florida Community Bank, N.A.</i></p> <p>JERRY J. FEDELE 28 <i>President and CEO, Boca Raton Regional Hospital</i></p> <p>MICHELLE FEE 29 <i>CEO, Cruise Planners</i></p> <p>LISA LUTOFF-PERLO 30 <i>President and CEO, Celebrity Cruises</i></p> <p>DEV MOTWANI 32 <i>President/CEO, Merrimac Ventures</i></p>	<p>MARK PERLBERG 34 <i>President/CEO, Oasis Outsourcing</i></p> <p>BEVERLY RAPHAEL 36 <i>President/CEO, RCC Associates</i></p> <p>PAUL STEVEN SINGERMAN 38 <i>Managing partner, Berger Singerman LLP</i></p> <p>GERMAINE SMITH-BAUGH 40 <i>President/CEO, Urban League of Broward County</i></p> <p>TERRY STILES 41 <i>Founder/chairman, Stiles Corp.</i></p>
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JOCK FISTICK

► CLOSER LOOK

www.mbafeqa.com
1450 Brickell Ave., 18th floor,
Miami 33131
(305) 373-5500
Education: B.B.A. and graduate studies in auditing and taxation, Florida International University; National AICPA Banking School, University of Virginia
Career: Kaufman, Rossin & Co.; Bernie Shenkman, CPA; and Wometco Enterprises

PERSONAL NOTE

"I love doing yoga, or sitting on a beach in the Bahamas and smoking a Padrón cigar and sipping some aged Bacardi rum. Besides that, I like to keep myself healthy. I work out six days a week."

ANTONIO 'TONY' ARGIZ

CHAIRMAN AND CEO, MBAF

If Tony Argiz could define what's been key to his career success, it's been hunger. It's what drove him as a child of 9 who arrived alone from Cuba, "a lifelong experience and I wake up every day knowing what it was like when I got here and never want to go back to those days."

It's the drive that has created one of Florida's largest independent public accounting firms, and the same spirit that pushes Argiz to keep building the business, mentoring his team, and supporting his clients and the community.

"I want to provide for my family and my grandkids, and make sure I take care of them and make sure they're not in the same situation [I was] when I came over," he says. "If I'm going to be in a profession, I want to learn something every day and strive for perfection and be the best professional I can."

These are lessons Argiz learned from his coaches when he played baseball in high school and on an athletic scholarship in college, and from his mentors growing through business. Whether it's a .300 hitter, a

Cy Young pitcher or a business executive, "always do your best, so at the end you have no excuses, whether it's on an athletic field or in business," he says.

As the landscape grows increasingly competitive, Argiz is challenged to ensure his firm remains relevant and irreplaceable to his clients, prospects and its team. It's a daily task he's pursued from the time the firm had a handful of people through today, when the payroll has topped 600, Argiz says.

He lauds founding partner Alvin Brown for being a role model in the office and community throughout his career.

"I saw his history of giving and caring in the community, just taking care of the less fortunate. So we do what we need to do to be the best we can and continue to grow the firm," he says. "The reward is just seeing our employees buy homes, educate their kids, and live better and more rewarding lives because of the opportunities and rewards they receive from working at MBAF."



Clockwise from top left: Tony Argiz with his grandsons, 4-month-old Max and 3-year old James; Argiz works with Marilyn Fernandez, left, and Alexys Gutierrez, right; and Argiz at his Miami office.