

# SOUTH FLORIDA BUSINESS JOURNAL

## 2017 South Florida Power Leaders

*January 27, 2017*

For more than five years, the *South Florida Business Journal* has compiled our Power Leaders list of the most influential executives from across the region's private, public and civic sectors. These are the true movers and shakers of South Florida's economic engine.



**NEW ADDITIONS:** James S. Cassel Chairman, co-founder and CEO, Cassel Salpeter & Co. LLC

From the start – and every year since – it's grown increasingly challenging to keep the list of executives to 100, especially given the breadth and scope of our dynamic region.

So, over the years, we've introduced the Power Leaders in Banking & Finance, Law & Accounting, Health Care, Real Estate and our most recent arrival,

Power Leaders in Human Resources. We plan to add two more – Power Leaders in Marketing and Power Leaders in Hospitality – before year-end.

Even with these new categories, it was a good time to refresh our approach as we marked the five-year anniversary our hallmark list – South Florida Power Leaders.

This year, we've made significant changes to both how the list is organized and how the honorees are selected.

First, and most importantly, you'll notice that the list has 50 percent more honorees than in years past.

And to make the package more useful to our readers, we are also highlighting these honorees in a variety of categories, including naming nine icons — the true pillars of our thriving community.

In addition, you'll note that 83 Power Leaders were not on last year's list, reflecting our region's dynamic nature.

We've also updated our criteria. Whether from our own reporting or on-the-ground realities of the impact leaders have had in their industries, the regional economy and our community's character, this criteria better reflects the powerful role a successful and involved executive plays across the tri-county region.

South Florida truly is a dynamic and growing business and cultural community. We're pleased to bring you this year's installment of the South Florida Power Leaders. Hopefully you'll find this a valuable resource, as it reflects where we've come from – and where we're headed.

Best regards,

Melanie Dickinson  
President and Publisher  
*South Florida Business Journal*

***James S. Cassel***

*Chairman, co-founder and CEO,  
Cassel Salpeter & Co. LLC*

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*Birthplace: Miami Beach*

*Education: B.S. in political science and economics, American University; J.D.,  
University of Miami School of Law*

*Greatest professional achievement: Transitioning from a successful legal career  
to building a successful investment banking career. He first formed Capitalink  
LLC, which was sold to Ladenburg Thalmann and Co. After serving as vice  
chairman and head of investment banking at Ladenburg, he and his partner,  
Scott Salpeter, built Cassel Salpeter & Co.*

*Personal note: In junior high school, Cassel produced rock concerts for groups  
like Fleetwood Mac. He also worked on dozens of political campaigns.*