

Rhea F. Law

Updated October 2024

Current Positions

Business:

- University of South Florida, President and CEO, March 2022 – Present
- University of South Florida, Interim President, August 2021 – March 2022
- Tampa Electric, Board Member, 2017 – Present
- Peoples Gas, Board Member, 2017 – Present

Higher Education/Medical/High Tech:

- H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, National Board of Advisors, Member 2010 – Present
- H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, Board of Directors, August 2021 – Present
- American Athletic Conference, Board of Directors Executive Committee, 2022 – Present

Public Policy and Economic Development:

- Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce, Lifetime Ex Officio Board Member as Past Chair
- Florida Council of 100, Past Chair, Executive Committee and Chair, Economic Competitiveness Committee; Member of Program Committee and Membership Committee 2021 – Present
- Tampa Bay Economic Development Council, Past Chair (THEDC), Lifetime Executive Committee member
- Tampa Bay Partnership, Council of Governors, 2021 – Present

Military:

- Blue Angels VIP, F-18 Super Hornet Flight, Key West Naval Base, 2023
- MacDill AFB Support Council – Former Chair and Member, 2011 – Present
- Air Mobility Command Civic Leader, U.S. Air Mobility Command, 2008 – Present

Former Positions

Legal:

- Buchanan, Ingersoll & Rooney, Of Counsel through August 2, 2021
- President, CEO and Chair of the Board of Fowler White Boggs, 2002 – 2014; Chair, Florida Offices, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney, 2014 – 2018.
- Led merger with Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney May 2014, became Chair, Florida Offices through December 31, 2018
- US Law Firm Group, Trustee and Former President, 2012, Member 1995 - 2018
- Terralex, Trustee
- American Bar Foundation, Fellow
- Member, Leadership Council on Legal Diversity – 2010-2014
- The Florida Bar: Chair of Grievance Committee, 1994-1997
- Hillsborough County Bar Association: Chair, Environmental and Land Use Section 1991 – 1992
- Member, Managing Partner Forum: Advisory Committee 2002 – 2005; 2009 – 2010
- Member, Stetson University College of Law, Board of Overseers
- Member, Hillsborough Association of Women Lawyers
- Licensed, Supreme Court of Florida, 1980
- Member, Society of Trial Advocacy, Stetson University College of Law, 1978

Business:

- 2 G Foundation and 4 G Foundation, CEO, 2020 – 2021
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, Multicultural Advisory Council Member, 2012 – 2017
- Member, Hillsborough County Business Advisory Group
- Member, Pasco County Business Advisory Group
- Event Chair, Tampa Bay Business Hall of Fame, 2009
- National Association of Industrial and Office Properties: President, Tampa Bay Chapter, 1997; Board of Directors, 1996 – 2009; Chair, Tampa Bay Watch 1992 – 2009, Chair Public Affairs 1992 – 1995
- National Association of Industrial and Office Properties of Florida, Inc.: President, 1998
- Member, Tampa Bay Regional Water Accord, 1998
- Vice President, Public Affairs, 1996, Board of Directors 1992 – 2000
- Graduate, Leadership Tampa, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, 1991

Medical/Health Tech:

- Lions Eye Institute, Member, Board of Directors, 2021 - 2022
- Member, Board of Directors, Tampa Bay Technology Forum, 2014-2015
- Member, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute Board of Directors, 2000 – 2010
- Judge, Band-aids B.R.I.D.G.E., USF College of Medicine, 2013

Higher Education:

- Stetson University College of Law, Board of Overseers, Former Chair and current Honorary Board Member; Former Member, Board of Trustees for Stetson University, 2022
- University of South Florida Health Professions Conferencing Corporation, USF Center for Advanced Medical Learning and Simulations (CAMLS), Chair, 2013 – August 2021
- Vice Chair, USF Presidential Search Committee, 2018 – 2019
- Chair, Vice Chair, University of South Florida Inaugural Board of Trustees, 2001 – 2013
- Member, University of South Florida Presidential Selection Committee, 1999 – 2000
- Chair, Research, Innovation, Engagement and Job Creation Workgroup of the USF Board of Trustees, 2012
- Member, Advisory Committee for the University of Tampa College of Business, 1998-2001
- Corporate Committee Chair, Stetson Cornerstone Campaign
- University Research Project Administrator, Office of Sponsored Research, University of South Florida, 1968-1977

Public Policy and Economic Development:

- City of Tampa Mayor's Development Advisory Committee, 2019 - 2020
- Member, Board of Directors, Enterprise Florida, Inc.
- State of Florida Attorney General's Office, Member of Transition Team – Charlie Crist
- Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, Chair, 1999; Leadership Tampa Class of 1992; Chair Economic Development Day and Government Day – 2001 - 2013
- Chair, Tampa Bay Partnership (Economic Development and Marketing organization); Former Chair, Board of Directors, Executive Committee 1999 - 2018
- Chair, Tampa Bay Partnership (Public Policy organization), 2016 - 2018.
- Chair, Tampa Hillsborough Economic Development Corporation – Chair, 2000 and 2011; General Counsel - 2016 – 2018; Executive Committee Member 2010 – Present; Chair, Steering Committee, 2010; Governance Committee Chair
- Member, Advisory Committee for Development and Review, City of Tampa

- Pasco Economic Development Council, Board of Directors 2011 – 2013
- Westshore Alliance, Board of Directors, 2001-2003

Military:

- Tampa Bay Defense Alliance, Inaugural Board of Directors and Secretary/Treasurer, 2012 - 2015
- Selected by Secretary of Defense to participate in Joint Civilian Orientation Conference, U.S. Department of Defense, 1997
- Member, Defense Orientation Conference Association, 1998 - 2001
- Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Committee
- Inaugural Honorary Wing Commander, 6th Air Mobility Wing, MacDill AFB, 2009 - 2011
- Member, US Central Command Organization and Family Picnic Committee, 2010
- Chair, Inaugural MacDill AFB Support Committee
- Host, Operation Helping Hand, March 2012
- Member, Air Force Ball Committee, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011
- F-16 flight, MacDill Air Force Base, 1999

Community:

- American Heart Association, Chair, Metro Board, 2013 – 2015, Chair, Heart Walk, 2004, Logistics Chair, Heart Walk, 2001
- Host Committee, NCAA Women's Final Four, 2008
- President, University Club – 2001 - 1st woman, Board member 1998 - 2001
- Vice Chair, Superbowl Host Committee, 2006 - 2009
- Honorary Chair with Husband, Wayne Williams, Cattle Barons' Ball, American Cancer Society, 2007
- Participant, Day of Discovery, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, 2007
- Tribute Chair, Gulf Coast/southwest Region, Arthritis Foundation
- Member, Tampa Bay Regional Institute for Public Policy Board of Directors
- The Victory Ship: Board of Trustees & Vice Chair, 1999-2001
- Chair, Walk to Defeat ALS, ALS Association, 2003
- Members, H. Lee Moffitt Society, H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, 2003
- Member, Golden Triangle Civic Association, 2003-2007
- Chair, Committee of One Hundred, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, 2001
- Participant, White Coat Mini-Internship Program, Tampa General Hospital, 2001
- Chair, Kiss a Pig or Something "Wilder", Boys and Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay, 2000

- Graduate, USF Mini-Medical School, 1996
- Member, Shriners Hospital Benefit Days, Egypt Temple Shrine, 1984

Education:

- B.A., with honors, from the University of South Florida, 1977
- J.D., with honors, from Stetson University College of Law, 1979 Executive Editor, Stetson Law Review, Author of two published works, First Place, Moot Court

Honorary Degrees:

- Honorary Doctor of Business Administration, Webber International University, 2013
- Honorary Doctor of Medicine, USF Health Morsani College of Medicine, 2013
- Honorary Doctor of Laws, Stetson University College of Law, 2024

Gubernatorial Appointments:

- University of South Florida Inaugural Board of Trustees – Chair and Vice Chair, 2001 – 2013. Appointed by Governor Jeb Bush and reappointed by Governor Charlie Crist.
- Florida Council of 100, 2003 – Present. Served as Chair 2015 – 2016. Appointed by Governor Jeb Bush.
- General Counsel, Tampa Hillsborough Expressway Authority. Appointed by Governor Jeb Bush.

Awards and Recognitions:

- Most Admired CEOs, Tampa Bay Business Journal, September 2024
- ICON Award, Tampa Bay Business & Wealth, September 2024
- Honorary Doctor of Laws, Stetson University College of Law, 2024
- Paragon Award, Ryan Nece Foundation, 2024
- Tampa Bay's Power 100, Tampa Bay Business Journal, January 2024
- Recipient, Tampa Bay Business Woman Awards, Overall Winner, 2023
- Recipient, Tampa Bay Business Woman Awards, Education (Large) Category, 2023
- Tampa Bay's Power 100, Tampa Bay Business Journal, February 2023
- 2023 Women of Distinction, Girl Scouts of West Central Florida, 2023
- Spirit of Achievement Award, Junior Achievement of Tampa Bay, Inc., 2023
- Recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow and presented with the Service Above Self Award by the Rotary Club of Tampa, August 2022
- Lifetime Achievement Award, Tampa Bay Business Journal, 2022

- Florida Council of 100: Governor's Business Leader of the Year Award 2021
- Inducted as a *2021 and 2018 Honorary Member of the National Association of Inventors* in recognition of support and commitment to innovation at USF and continued advancement of collaborative business partnerships in the Tampa Bay area – November 1, 2021, and September 17, 2018.
- Inclusion in Florida 500, Florida Trend Magazine, highlighting the 500 most influential executives in different economic sectors throughout the state of Florida since 2018; Living Legend in 2021; recognized as an influential executive in higher education in 2022.
- Martindale Hubbell AV Rating
- Florida Super Lawyer, 2006 – 2019
- Top 50 Female Lawyers
- Leading Zoning/Land Use Lawyer, Chambers 2004 – 2019
- Florida Legal Elite Hall of Fame 2009 – 2021
- Legal Elite Lawyer of the Year 2019
- Chambers 2017 Rankings – Band 2 – Real Estate/Land Use
- Inclusion in Best Lawyers in America© 2006 - 2019 for:
 - Administrative/Regulatory Law
 - Environmental Law
 - Government Relations Practice
 - Land Use and Zoning Law
 - Municipal Law
 - Real Estate Law
- 2021 Honoree for Edge Business Magazines' 2nd Annual Celebration of Women
- Recipient of Resolution by the Board of Overseers of Stetson University College of Law for selfless devotion to the affairs of the College of Law and advancement of legal education. February 13, 2021
- Named an expert voice for the *Miami Herald's* Top-50 Florida Influencer Project – May 18, 2018 culminating in the Florida Priorities Summit November 13-14, 2018.
- Awarded University of South Florida Distinguished Alumna Award, October 18, 2018, Parade Recognition, October 19, 2018, On field recognition at Homecoming Game, October 20, 2018.
- January 2017 - Named to the 2017 *Tampa Bay Business Journal* Power 100 list - # 6. The inaugural Power 100 list highlights people who have the greatest impact and influence on the Tampa Bay business community.
- "Lawyer of the Year" award recipient in the 2017 Edition of The Best Lawyers in America© Ms. Law received the highest ratings this year from her peers in a specific practice area and geographical location, making her the only attorney to receive this "Lawyer of the Year" award.

- Chosen for Inclusion in the Best of Tampa Bay book, 2017.
- Identified in top 25 most Influential Business Players in Tampa Bay (only lawyer), *Tampa Bay Times*, 2017.
- Recipient, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce Dottie Berger MacKinnon Women of Influence Award, April 28, 2016.
- Inaugural Member, Power 100, Tampa Bay Business Journal, 2016.
- Recipient, Induction into the University of South Florida Order of the Golden Brahman, October 27, 2016.
- Recipient, University of South Florida College of Pharmacy Bowl of Hygeia, September 1, 2016.
- Recipient, Most Powerful and Influential Women of Florida Award, National Diversity Council, 2015
- Recipient, Five Fabulous Females, Academy Prep Award Winner, February 3, 2015.
- Recipient, Most Powerful and Influential Woman Award, Florida Diversity & Leadership Conference, April 30, 2015.
- Recipient, Lawyer of the Year, Tampa's International Trade and Finance Law, Best Lawyers, 2014.
- Recipient, Chairs, Award for Excellence in Leadership, Tampa Bay Partnership, 2014
- Honorary Doctor of Business Administration Degree, Webber International University, 2013
- Honorary Doctor of Medicine Degree, University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine, 2013
- Recipient, Herman W. Goldner Award for Regional Leadership, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, 2012
- Recipient, Glass Ceiling Award, National Diversity Council, 2012
- Recognition, Women's History Month, 6th Air Mobility Wing, MacDill AFB 2011
- Recipient, President's Fellow Medallion, University of South Florida, 2010
- Awarded, Flag flown over Afghanistan and on Air Force One by General Raymond E. Johns, Commander, Air Mobility Command, Scott Air Force Base, 2010
- Selected as one of the top 50 women business leaders in Florida, Florida International University's Center for Leadership and the Commonwealth Institute, 2007, 2008, 2009.
- Recipient, Woman of the Year, Tampa Bay's Business and Professional Women, 2009 with commendation from Mayor Pam Iorio.
- Recipient, Tampa Bay's 100 Most Influential Business Leaders, CEO Council of Tampa Bay, 2009
- Recipient, for Fowler White Boggs, Inaugural award of "Organization Most Supportive of Women", E Women Network, 2009
- Recipient, Award for Excellence in Community Service, Daughters of the American Revolution, 2009

- Inducted into the National Association of Industrial Office Properties (NAIOP) Hall of Fame, 2009, as well as Special Service Awards, 1994, 1998, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2007, 2008. Presidents' Awards, 1995 and 2006, and the Spirit Award, 2000
- Recognition for Support of Global Awareness: Presented by Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn – Bangkok, Thailand, 2008
- Recipient, Tampa Bay CEO of the Year, Tampa Bay CEO Magazine, 2008, and recipient of CEO of the Year for Legal Services, 2008
- Inducted, Stetson University, College of Law Hall of Fame, 2008
- Recipient, Tampa Bay Partnership, Chairs' Cup of Excellence for Regionalism, 2006
- Inducted, Business Women's Hall of Fame, St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce, 2005
- Who's Who in Business in the Tampa Bay Area, Tampa Bay Business Journal, 2004 – 2005.
- Honoree for Exemplifying Ideals of Honor, Wisdom and Earnestness, Beta Gamma Sigma, University of South Florida, 2005
- Recipient, Tampa Bay Business Journal, Inaugural Businesswoman of the Year, 2004
- Recipient, Tampa Bay Business Journal, Business Services Women of the Year, 2004
- Selected as one of Florida's Most Influential People, Florida Trend, 2004
- Recipient, Lawyer in the Spotlight Award, Hillsborough Association for Women Lawyers, 2004
- Recipient, Ben C. Willard Award, Stetson University College of Law, 2002
- Recipient, Volunteer of the Year, Southern Economic Development Council, 2002
- Recipient, Richard L. McLaughlin Award, Florida Economic Development Council, 2002
- Inaugural Parke Wright III Leadership Award, Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce, 2002
- Recipient, Service Above Self Award, Rotary Club, 2002
- Inducted, Tampa Bay Business Hall of Fame, The Florida Council on Economic Education, 2002
- Knighted, Lady of the Law, and inducted into the Court of Honor, Krewe of Venus, 2002
- Recipient, Distinguished Award Winner, Tampa Bay Women in Business, The Business Journal, 2000
- Awarded, Flag Flown "Over MacDill" in Honor of Support and Friendship to MacDill AFB, 2000
- Key to the City of Tampa conferred by the Mayor of Tampa, Dick Greco, 1999
- Recognition for Outstanding Leadership and Support of MacDill, 1999
- Proclamation from the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissions for Leadership, 1998
- Proclamation from the Florida Senate for work in Economic Development, 1998
- Selected by Secretary of Defense William Cohen to participate in the Joint Civilian

Orientation Conference, May 1997

- Recipient, McNeil Award, Fowler White Boggs Banker, 1995
- Selected, Outstanding Young Woman of America, 1978