

MYERS & RUSSELL, P.A.

A LAW FIRM SPECIALIZING IN EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Myers & Russell, P.A. is a truly unique law firm. We are proud to be one of the few law firms located in the State of Florida specializing solely in the highly complex and technical practice of employee benefits law. We are committed to meeting our clients' employee benefits needs by delivering high quality service, practical solutions, and solid, understandable advice in a timely manner.

With over 35 years of combined experience in employee benefit matters, our staff specializes in providing advice on all aspects of employee benefits to employers, including correction of administrative operational issues for plans, designing, drafting, revising, reviewing, implementing, administering, and terminating defined benefit pension plans, profit sharing plans, 401(k) plans, ESOPs, non-qualified deferred compensation plans, special compensation arrangements, stock related incentives, flexible benefit programs, cafeteria plans, welfare benefit programs, VEBA's and MEWA's.

The firm also represents and advises employers in benefit plan matters before the Internal Revenue Service, Department of Labor, and Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; in corporate transactions, such as financing, mergers, acquisitions, sales and bankruptcies; in continuation of healthcare coverage issues, specifically COBRA and HIPAA portability and privacy issues; and in all types of issues regarding fiduciary obligations relating to employee benefits.

Our diversified client base includes both publicly traded and closely held corporations, as well as for-profit and not-for-profit entities located throughout Florida and the United States. Our clients are involved in a myriad of different industries, including, but not limited to, banking, manufacturing, mining, agriculture, healthcare entities and physician practices, construction and professional employer organizations.

Representative clients include Anchor Glass Container Corporation, Walter Industries, Lee Memorial Hospital, Haines City Citrus Growers Association, EPIX, Inc. and Citrus and Chemical Bank.

Biographical Descriptions

Carol L. Myers, Esquire. Carol has practiced employee benefit law for over 25 years. In addition, for the three years prior to attending law school, she worked in pension administration and actuarial services. As President of the firm, Carol directs the firm's practice and focuses on all aspects of employee benefits. She regularly assists employers with complex issues in administering, designing, revising, preparing and implementing all types of employee benefit plans and compensation arrangements. Carol frequently represents employers with regard to employee benefits involved in company financing activities, mergers, acquisitions, sales and bankruptcies. She also represents employers before the Internal Revenue Service, Department of Labor and Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

A member of the Florida Bar Association, Carol is also actively involved in both the Employee Benefits Committee Section on Taxation and the Real Property, Probate and Trust Section of the American Bar Association. She is a member of the Tampa Bay Pension Council. She is a frequent speaker before various professional groups on all aspects of employee benefit matters.

Carol established **Myers & Russell, P.A.** (formerly Carol L. Myers, P.A.) in 1992, after spending 13 years as employee benefit practice director of Florida's largest law firm, Holland & Knight. She received her law degree, with high honors, from the University of Florida in 1978 and her LL.M. degree in taxation, with high honors, from the University of Florida in 1979.

Sandi M Russell, Esquire. A long-term resident of Sarasota, Florida, Sandi joined the law firm following graduation from law school in 1999. She graduated magna cum laude from the University of South Florida in 1996. She received her J.D., with high honors, from the University of Florida in 1999 where she concentrated her studies in business law. She had the honor of receiving the highest score in the state of Florida on her bar exam of students testing under the multi-state portion of the bar exam. Sandi is also a member of the Order of the Coif, the honors society for law school graduates.

Sandi is active in the young lawyers division of the Sarasota Bar Association.

Barbara J. Wolodzko, Esquire. A long term resident of Bradenton, Florida, Barbara joined the law firm in 2002. Barbara received her law degree from Rutgers School of Law in 1997 and her LL.M. degree in estate planning from the University of Miami in 2000. Barbara practiced in Bradenton and Miami before joining Myers & Russell, P.A. specializing in estate planning and employee benefit law and plan administration.

Barbara is active in Big Brothers/Big Sisters Adopt-a-School program, the E-Mentoring Program and the Teen Court program. She has participated in the volunteer income tax assistance project, the bankruptcy pro-bono project and the domestic violence project of her communities.

Melanie D. Shaw, Esquire. A recent transplant from Minneapolis, Minnesota, Melanie joined the law firm in 2003. Melanie received her law degree from Florida State University College of Law in 1995. Melanie practiced in Tallahassee, Florida and Minneapolis, Minnesota before joining Myers & Russell, P.A. specializing in benefit plan service agreements, welfare plans, cafeteria plans, flexible spending plans, HIPAA portability, and COBRA.