



Pinellas Education Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charley Harris Becomes New Board Chair of the Pinellas Education Foundation

LARGO, Fla. (Aug. 20, 2020) – The Pinellas Education Foundation is proud to announce that Charles M. (Charley) Harris has become the new Chair of the organization’s Board of Directors. Harris, a longtime shareholder and litigator at Trenam Law, has served as general counsel and a board member for the Foundation for the past 16 years.

He succeeds Doug Bishop, CEO of Bouchard Insurance, a Marsh and McLennan Agency, who recently completed a successful two-year term as Board Chair.

“The Pinellas Education Foundation makes a profound difference to our students, teachers and community, and I couldn’t be happier to take on this new role in helping guide our impactful work,” said Harris. “I want to congratulate Doug on his superb working leading the Foundation. During his tenure, we received the landmark \$5 million gift from the Richard O. Jacobson Foundation – the largest single gift in our history – and made many great strides.”

Harris earned his Juris Doctorate degree at Florida State University’s College of Law, his Master of Laws degree at Vrije University in Brussels, Belgium; his Master of Arts degree from the University of Hull in Yorkshire, England; and his Bachelor of Science degree in finance from the University of South Florida.

Harris has been honored by *The Best Lawyers in America* in Commercial Litigation and Intellectual Property Litigation, and been named a Florida Super Lawyer from 2013-20. He has earned an AV Preeminent Peer Review standing – the highest peer rating system, recognizing professional excellence – by Martindale-Hubbell. And *Florida Trend* has named him as a “Legal Elite” attorney.

“The Pinellas Education Foundation has been fortunate to have had a long tradition of excellent Board Chairs, and Charley will continue that legacy,” said Foundation CEO Stacy Baier. “Not only is he a preeminent attorney in his field, he brings an easy-going personal style, a passion for the public education and a long history with us as well. We’re excited to have him step into this important new position setting our course for the future.”

In addition to his leadership with the Foundation, he is extensively involved in the community, with highlights including serving as a trustee with the Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg (2015-present); a trustee for the Dali Museum (2009-present); on the Board of Governors for the Pinellas Urban League (2010); as a board member for the St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce (2016-present, and Chair in 2008); president of the University of South Florida National Alumni Association (2007); and Chair of the Police Athletic Association (2006).

The board also appointed Tash Elwyn (President and CEO, Raymond James & Associates) as Vice Chair, Robert Byelick (Partner, Abbey, Adams, Byelick & Mueller LLP) as Treasurer, and Susan Johnson (General Counsel, Echelon Development LCC) as Secretary.

About the Pinellas Education Foundation

Pinellas Education Foundation is an independent, non-governmental not-for-profit established in 1986. Its mission is to enhance and improve educational opportunities in Pinellas County Schools. The Foundation is a coalition of business and community leaders who collaborate with community partners to nurture student success in the classroom and to better prepare them for the world beyond. To learn more about the Foundation visit www.pinelleducation.org.

CONTACTS

Dave Scheiber
Vice President of Communications
Pinellas Education Foundation
727-455-4359
dave.scheiber@pinellaseducation.org

Nicole Gonzalez
Assistant Director of Communications
Pinellas Education Foundation
727-514-0347
nicole.gonzalez@pinellaseducation.org