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# MEET THE TAMPA BAY

## **REAL PRODUCERS TEAM**



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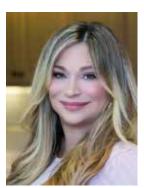


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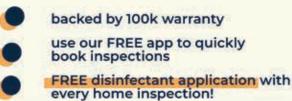
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# Publisher's note HELLO >> TOP PRODUCERS!



#### HAPPY VETERANS DAY TO ALL OF OUR VETERANS HERE IN THE COMMUNITY!

Thanks to all who have served our country with their time and sacrifice. We are honored to feature veteran Jason McIntosh in our cover story this month.

Veterans Day dates back to November 1919 and originates from President Woodrow Wilson. He commemorated this national holiday, Armistice Day, with these words: "To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations..."

Veterans are to be commended for their selfless acts of service.

I am also grateful for all the agents who give of themselves time and time again, dedicating themselves to their clients and serving them. Real estate is more than a career; it's a calling. Top Producers are to be commended for putting others first, for focusing on their clients' needs and living a life of servitude.

This Thanksgiving, be sure to count your blessings and have a heart full of gratitude. Be grateful for your connections, your clients, and your community of Top Producers in Tampa Bay. I am grateful for all of you and our advertising sponsors who have made this publication a success.

Until next month!



Don Hill, Publisher Tampa Bay Real Producers don.hill@realproducersmag.com 203-240-0011

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# JASOR MCNTOSH RISING ABOVE

When you do the right things consistently, good things happen.

A perfect example of that truth is Jason McIntosh.

As Team Leader of the McIntosh Group with RE/MAX Alliance Group, Jason has faced opportunity and more than his share of challenges. Yet day

...



by day, he demonstrates the power of perseverance in rising above and setting himself apart as a true leader.

#### MAKING HIS MARK

Jason's drive to achieve has always been strong.

"I started working in retail at the age of 15 working in a clothing store in the mall. In essence, I've been in retail for the past 31 years, because I've always worked in some type of retail sales," Jason recalls.

As Jason came of age and turned 19, he enlisted in the military in 1993. By the time he ended his service a few years later in 1996, he had picked up important foundational experiences that have served him well through time.

"The military gave me things like structure, discipline and camarade-

rie... I met some really great people. The military is something that carried throughout the years," Jason says. "The impact it has on you throughout your life and your work career is always there."

After leaving the military, Jason headed back to retail, selling TVs. One day, a customer heard Jason's method of going through features and benefits. He liked what he heard, and he offered Jason a chance to come and sell cars with him.

For the next 20 years, Jason would enjoy a skyrocketing career in the auto industry. Along the way, he became the number one salesperson in the Midwest, selling more than 400 vehicles in a single year. He also went on to become a highly-sought-after recruiter and trainer.

#### **CRUCIAL CROSSROADS AND** PERSEVERANCE

Life can take unexpected and unfair turns...like in 2008.

"That year, my youngest daughter was born, and my wife had been diagnosed with cancer," Jason remembers.

In a few months, Jason's wife lost her battle, leaving him as a single father of three children — ages 13 years, 8 years and 9 months.

For several years, Jason kept working and caring for his children — all the while, continuing to grow professionally. He was a dealership General Manager making good money.

"Finally, in early 2015, I decided I wanted to do something different. I got tired of eating dinner with the



## THE MONEY WE EARN IS THE BY-**PRODUCT OF DOING THE RIGHT THING**

kids late at night. There was a moment of realization there. I wanted to take my life back and be a little bit more in control," he says. "One of my friends had gotten into real estate a few months earlier and I made the decision right away that I wanted to do this. I knew if I was going to work really hard, it needed to benefit my family and those around me. I also wanted to help others and give guidance and mentoring, just like during my auto industry days."

So in 2018, Jason took the next steps forward and started his own team. True to form, Jason and his team's results skyrocketed. During his first year as a team leader, The Jason McIntosh team earned the coveted Diamond Level status — 17 years faster than the average RE/MAX team.

The parallels between Jason's past experiences and his work in real estate are real.

"I think in any sales environment, it's vital that you master the discovery process and finding out what's important to people. On a dealership lot, there are 1,000 shiny, pretty cars to look at and choose from. But which one really meets their needs? The same holds true with houses. There is a lot to choose from. But which one is right for their needs? Our clients depend on our expertise. It's up to us to give them the confidence and lead them in the right direction for them...then the money we earn is the by-product of doing the right thing."

Away from work, Jason's world revolves around his family, including

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his daughters, Arianna and Ella, and Arianna's son — Jason's first grandchild — 9-month-old Leo Rios.

Two years ago, Jason and his family faced more tragedy, with the passing of his son, who was 23 years old.

"Things happen and you make your own reasons. There are terrible things that happen for no good reason. You have to...you are led down certain paths that can define you," Jason says. "Tragedies shape you and define you. You can learn from them and you can grow from them." "We're all human and we all need the support of others. You need to look at clients like that," Jason emphasizes. "They are going to have struggles in life and many of them have had bad experiences with members of our industry. But it's up to us to dig deep and to give them the experience that they want. You need to take those experiences...good, bad or tragic and learn from those."

## WE'RE ALL HUMAN AND WE ALL NEED THE SUPPORT OF OTHERS. YOU NEED TO LOOK AT CLIENTS LIKE THAT



**GIVING BACK. MOVING FORWARD.** Jason applies his outlook on life to making the outlook even better for his clients. As Jason says, he believes that his life experiences have shaped him for this point in life — and the opportunity he feels to help those around him.

As Jason says, "The paths you're on in life are leading you to somewhere. Had you not gone down that path, what would have happened? I believe you make your own reasons for going down a path...whatever it is, I don't think it's so much what the path is, but rather what you do with it."



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# TOSDO TANOR



DIRECT DRIVE

In the long and winding path of an average real estate deal, one looks for the most direct path to connect their clients at point A with their closing results at point B.

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One of those REAL-TORs<sup>®</sup> who has gained reputation at being very good at connecting the dots for others is Josh Taylor.

As Broker with Selling Tampa Bay, Josh uses his genuine sense of care and his direct drive approach to making dreams reality.

#### EARLY INCLINATIONS

Josh's path in real estate actually began long before he officially entered the industry.

As a boy growing up in New York, he was exposed to the business of real estate at a very young age.

"My grandmother and mother are Brokers in New York, so it was always around me," Josh recalls. "I remember them paying me for hanging door knockers around the neighborhood when I was 12 years old."

In time, Josh's connection to Florida and his future in real estate would come.

"My grandparents owned a home in Bradenton, and we used to visit and spend time there. In high school, I was looking at colleges and my mom suggested that we look at the University of Tampa," Josh remembers. "The place really hit home with me, with its modern campus. It really stood out from the old, traditional campuses in the Northeast. So, I applied and got in."

#### COMING OF AGE

From the start, Josh enrolled in a path that fit his ambitions — he pursued his Entrepreneurial major.

After finishing his undergraduate degree, Josh began his journey as a REALTOR<sup>®</sup>, working first for Coldwell Banker for two and a half years while he was in grad school.

"While I was in school working as a REALTOR", I was achieving success beyond the expectations," Josh says. "I remember telling my family that I needed to jump into real estate full-time."

**BREAKING NEW GROUND** It was 2011, and the market was still crawling back from the depths of the economic crisis. Some would say not a good time for a new Agent to enter into the business.

"I ended up getting into the business at the worst time," Josh admits. "Yet, I didn't have any student loans and I didn't have anything to lose so I took the risk."

It ended up being a very good time for Josh to start. During his first year, he recorded a solid 12 transactions, followed by 23 deals in his second year, and a stunning 55 transactions in his third year.

#### ONWARD AND UPWARD

The swift upward trajectory of Josh's career continued. He earned his Broker's license in 2009 when he was just 22 years old. Josh has a voracious appetite for growth and for challenging himself and learning more. In the process, he took on efforts that others advised against ... for example, the time when he wanted to take on property management efforts in addition to real estate.

As he remembers, "I had people tell me, 'You can't do property management.' But when people tell me I can't do something, it makes me want to do it all the more."

Josh's determination has paid off and today, Josh has built a successful Boutique Real Estate Brokerage (Selling Tampa Bay) with a small team that does a staggering 250 transactions a year. Plus, Josh manages nearly 100 properties. That's just the start. In 2017, he and his business partner, Tom Parris, Licensed Residential Contractor, started a development company (Whitehall Develop-







...

It's a great feeling being able to help lots of people with a decision they have to live with every single day of their lives...

ment), where they have already built eight single-family homes. In addition, Josh is the Condo Expert and local partner for HighRises.com.

As he says with a smile, "I definitely like to have my hands in a bit of everything."

#### QUALITY OF LIFE

Real estate has provided the kind of life Josh wants.

"This has been my only career. It started really when I was 18. I've always worked my own hours. And every year, I try to do something different," he says. Josh lights up talking about his small, extremely productive team, including his top producer, Rudi Ramnanan, along with Eddie, Jess and Dennis, who sells real estate and coordinates property management efforts.

"I'm a competing broker. I enjoy getting out and working with people," he explains. "I'm 15 years in the business and learning something new every week."

One of Josh's favorite parts of real estate is the way it allows him to spend time with his family, including his wife, Melissa, and their two sons — JJ and Levi.

"I love the freedom of the business," he emphasizes. "I can spend every day of the year with my family, I can take vacations wherever and whenever I want to. It's the freedom of running your own business."

Josh grew up playing soccer at a high, competitive level. It's a sport he still enjoys today. Another favorite Josh enjoys with his family is travel.

#### **GIVING HIS ALL**

Those who know Josh quickly understand that he is straightahead, honest, loyal leader who would much rather get on the phone for a call than text. They also see that he has a heart for helping others.

As he says with a smile, "It's a great feeling being able to help lots of people with a decision they have to live with every single day of their lives ... to help new families transition and to grow. I like working with people to solve problems."

That's leadership. That's a direct drive that makes a powerful impact on those around him.



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Written by Elizabeth McCabe Photography by Roger Slater of CCS Photography

# Morential CRANTOR CRANTOR CRANTOR CONTINUES OF THE CRAWFORD TEAM

## *Fulfilling Her Potential in Real Estate!*

Dedicated. Driven. Determined. Monica Crawford is all of those things as a REALTOR® at Keller Williams St. Pete Realty. Born and raised in Kentucky, she and her husband Adam were looking for a change of scenery, warmer weather, and adventure nearly eight years ago when they headed south.

"We found our way to Gulfport in 2012. Part of the goal of leaving Kentucky was searching for a place that would allow me to fulfill my earning potential. We came down without a place to live and without jobs, but with a determination to figure it out," says Monica, "and as it turned out, once we came to Florida, our lives just really fell into place."

Monica has a degree in communications and has worked in professional baseball, for Mothers Against Drunk Driving and an organ donation awareness nonprofit organization, as well as for a U.S. Marine who received the Medal of Honor. When she came down to Florida, it was her husband who actually discovered what she was going to do next.

"Keller Williams had a Career Spotlight Night and Adam told me, 'I think you would be great in real estate.' I had never even considered it, but I was ready to be out of my comfort zone and so I went to hear what they had to say. Now, in my seventh year in the industry, I joke that depending on the day, I either blame Adam or credit Adam for getting me into real estate."

She joined Keller Williams in 2013 because of Rachel Sartain's leadership in the downtown St Pete office. After working as a single agent for nearly two years, Monica joined Lonnie and Jennifer Orns' team and spent the next two years learning from them. "I'm really grateful for that experience and learned so much about what it takes to lead a real estate team. Towards the end of 2018, I was ready to form my own team and The Crawford Team officially launched in January 2019."

#### THE CRAWFORD TEAM

The Crawford Team consists of three full-time agents. Monica acts as the lead listing agent and she is joined by Annie Kushner and Sierra Kluson. Nicole Walker is the team's full-time Director of Marketing and Operations and Alexandra Hiotakis with List2Close Management is the team's full-time Transaction Coordinator. Monica lovingly refers to this group as her "fleet of females."

"The biggest reason that I started the team is that as a newer mom, I was feeling a struggle between career goals and parental goals," says Monica. "I



My husband is my strongest supporter. Adam knows how to Everything we have achieved has been as a team.



...

wanted to be a Mega Agent and a Mega Mom, but didn't feel as though I could be both. I wasn't willing to compromise one for the other and starting the team gave me the best of both worlds."

In addition to providing excellent service to more clients, the team's mission is to enable agents to maximize their potential, both professionally and personally, and to serve as a support system for one another. As Monica says, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together."

Working together creates a great team atmosphere. The team helps one another stay focused on the right things and achieve a healthy counterbalance of work and family life.

#### **BUILDING A REFERRAL-BASED BUSINESS**

"Starting this business was really hard," says Monica. "The first year I only sold seven houses. It was really tough."

"I'm a firm believer that you have to focus on the *right* things, especially in an industry where there are so many ways to be successful." She changed her approach to focus on buyers and to use open houses to build her pipeline and for the next 18 months, she held an open house every weekend. She also started a coaching program that helped her develop her niche and as a result, has built a referral-based business.

"I find a client and earn their business for life," says Monica. "It takes more time to develop those relationships." But it is worth every ounce of effort and it also pays off.

Last year, 80 percent of her business was from repeat clients and referrals. Her team volume was \$17 million and The Crawford Team ranked third in her brokerage for most units sold,

closing 63 units in 2019. "I was really proud of our team's performance last year, especially as a new team," Monica says.

One way that Monica sets the tone for referrals is through setting proper expectations with clients through the C.A.R.E. (Creating A Referable Experience) approach. It holds Monica accountable for delivering exceptional service to her clients and it lets the clients know that she's going to expect them to refer her team to all their friends and family.

#### FINDING HER PURPOSE IN HELPING OTHERS

With a background in nonprofit work, Monica struggled to find the purpose in real estate on the onset. In a numbers-driven industry, it was challenging to find the fulfillment that she had in nonprofit work.

At a training, she learned that someone else was having the same issue she had and the solution was simple - focus on the number of families helped rather than a volume goal.

"It changed the way I looked at real estate," says Monica. "When people invite me to help them realize their real estate goals, they are inviting me into their life story." The results have been life-changing.

"I learned to love this job and appreciate the bigger picture finding a place for families to make memories," says Monica. As a result of this shift for her, she became more self-confident as a REALTOR®. She saw how homes changed people's lives and she was eager to be a part of that process.

#### FOCUSED ON FAMILY

When Monica isn't working, she loves savoring time with her family. She says, "My husband is my strongest supporter. Adam knows how to push me and keep me grounded. Everything we have achieved has been as a team." And, as a full-time stay-at-home dad, Adam is also living his best life.

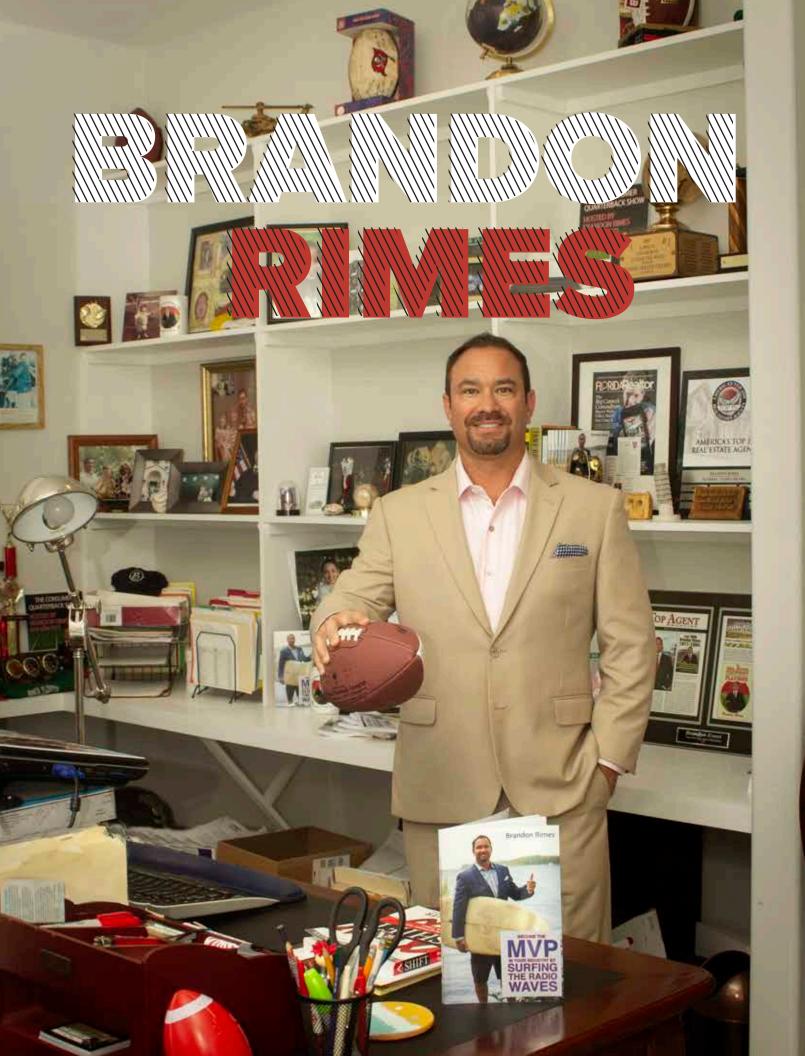
They have two children. Their son, Leeland, is  $4\frac{1}{2}$ and is the "sweetest little soul" and has the kindest heart. Their daughter Willa is 3 months old and already has a fiery spirit and her mom's determination.

To relax and unwind, Monica loves to be outside. "I need to be among the trees and feel the earth under my feet," she says. She loves to take family walks down to the water or visit one of the beautiful parks around the city.

She has high hopes to go on a three-month road trip out West in 2021. The family bought a 13-passenger van that previously belonged to a Christian rock band for touring, made some modifications to make it more family-friendly, and now take it on family road trips. It's a great way to experience the outdoors and make family memories.

Real estate has given Monica the opportunity to pursue her dreams and live up to her potential. She has an attitude of gratitude and is thankful for her family, her team, her brokerage and her clients. She knows she wouldn't be where she is today without them.











## AN MVP DRIVEN TO SCORE FOR OTHERS

As a quarterback on the football field, Brandon Rimes got the ball on every play. Whether handing the ball to someone else, throwing it downfield to a teammate, or keeping it himself, the gains Brandon realized were always on behalf of others.

Brandon's same winning ways continue today. As a real estate agent, radio and TV host, author and speaker, he sets the stage for others to shine.

#### WINNING WAYS

Brandon grew up in LaBelle, Florida. Winning became a habit early and often.

When he was 10 years old, he was quarterback on his Pop Warner team that went undefeated and played in the first-ever Pop Warner Super Bowl.

As Brandon says, "Dads who coach are normally tougher on their kids, and the kids are better for it. And that's the way it was for me. He taught us how to win and be tough."

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Sometimes, children who achieve sports success at a high level at a young age lose their passion for the game.

#### Not Brandon.

As a high school senior, his team again finished their season undefeated and played in the Florida state championship game. Brandon was named team MVP.

Moving on to college, Brandon became part of the inaugural football team at the University of South Florida. Although he had played quarterback at a high level, Brandon's coaches had a different role in mind for Brandon.

"They moved me to play as a defensive back and punt returner," he recalls. Being a quarterback isn't something Brandon just did. It's part of his DNA. So with collegiate playing eligibility remaining, he transferred to another school — and a familiar position in the offensive backfield — at quarterback for Ferrum College in Virginia.

Again, Brandon had a powerful impact. As a junior, he led his team to an undefeated mark through seven games. Then injury struck. Brandon rolled his ankle, and the team lost three in a row, ending his playing career. Once again, Brandon was named team MVP.

#### AN MVP SHARING VALUE

By now, you see a clear pat tern. Brandon gives his all to whatever he has a passion for. In turn, he masters what he does, he contributes at a high level, and he is recognized as an MVP.

...

But the MVP award is more than a designation or some dusty trophy. It is the symbol of someone who is truly valuable as a resource who helps others around them win. And that describes Brandon to a tee.

"Through the years, I've been in the underdog role. At 5'8", I feel like I was always underrated a bit," he says. "But I bring that effort of achievement to everything I do. No one is going to outwork me."

Like other high-performing athletes, the playing days on the field ended for Brandon. But his competitive fire and knack for making winning plays continued in another field.

It wasn't long after college before Brandon talked with friends who were excelling in the world of mortgage lending. They recruited Brandon, he joined the team, and for seven years built a successful career helping others achieve their homeownership dreams.

Brandon made the transition to become a real estate agent. That was about a decade ago.

With time, Brandon studied, learned, worked hard and excelled. He continued developing himself in all ways, including becoming an Anthony Robbins Business Mastery graduate. He created and built his own team four years ago with his wife, Lindsay. Appropriately, it's named Platinum MVP Realty. Last year, the team joined the Keller Williams organization.

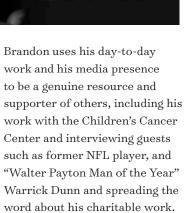
Family time is Brandon's priority, and he enjoys a strong, close bond with Lindsay, who has made her own mark as an accomplished entrepreneur, business owner and, as of a year ago, a rock-star real estate agent on the team. When he's not working, Brandon is busy enjoying time and mentoring his 13-year-old daughter, Braelyn.

Today, Brandon, Lindsay and the team are definitely on a winning streak. The Platinum MVP team at Keller Williams is on pace to finish 2019 with \$30 million in volume.

"It's exciting to see the way our team is growing and adding more momentum as time goes on," Brandon smiles.

#### **SHARING THE SIGNALS**

One of Brandon's passions delivers results for a wider audience — literally. You'll find Brandon spreading his helpful advice far and wide as an author, and as radio and TV host of "The Real Estate QB Show," and "The Consumer QB Show." In the Tampa area, you can hear him each day during the 5 p.m. drive-time slot on iHeartRadio AM 1380 The Biz "The Wall Street Business Network" and FM 99.9, and again on Sundays at 7 a.m. on FM 102.5 The Bone. His popular show is also syndicated via AmazonTV, AppleTV, Roku and 85 other outlets worldwide!



"As I got started, I thought about ways I could differentiate myself from other agents and help others," he says. "And I've found it's a lot like being a quarterback, where you need to look ahead, set up the next segment, and pivot from one topic and guest to another."

Brandon brings his work as an agent to his audience each day.

"The number one takeaway of doing the show is innovation.

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PEOPLE ARE ROM THEIR **SPACE** 



That's what I feel strongly about," he emphasizes. "As part of my daily show, I feature multiple real estate listings. I think my highest duty for my sellers is to get the maximum exposure, which leads to maximum profits and a shorter marketing period."

#### **DRIVING AHEAD**

People recognize Brandon in the supermarket and tell him they've heard his show. It's gratifying to the man who wants to reach and support more people.

"I love being that consumer advocate. It's something I feel a strong moral responsibility for. There's a lot of clickbait out there, with people are trying to sell you something," Brandon says. "Everything I do is geared toward consumers to give them what they need to make an informed decision — not commission-based advice."

Working together, Brandon and Lindsay incorporate a variety of elements that set them apart. Lindsay spent 12 years as the owner of a sales firm, building up to \$40 million in annual production. She brings her expertise and experience to the Platinum MVP TEAM, as well. In fact, in the past six months, the team has grown with 11 new people!

Lindsay has trained with five master healers across the nation for the past six years, along with energy healing and Feng Shui. She brings this healthy focus to the Platinum MVP TEAM and her clients.

As Lindsay says, "Adding this aspect in for our clients on the real estate side gives us an edge, because people are becoming more aware of energy and they're looking for ways to decrease stress from their lives and create good energy in their space.

That goes for their team members, as well.

"Coaching meditation and doing healing also helps our team," she says. "And I incorporate in coaching sessions how our agents can achieve that work/life balance, which also helps them stay fresh and on top of their game."

Together, Brandon and Lindsay are clearly making a difference each day in the lives of those around them.



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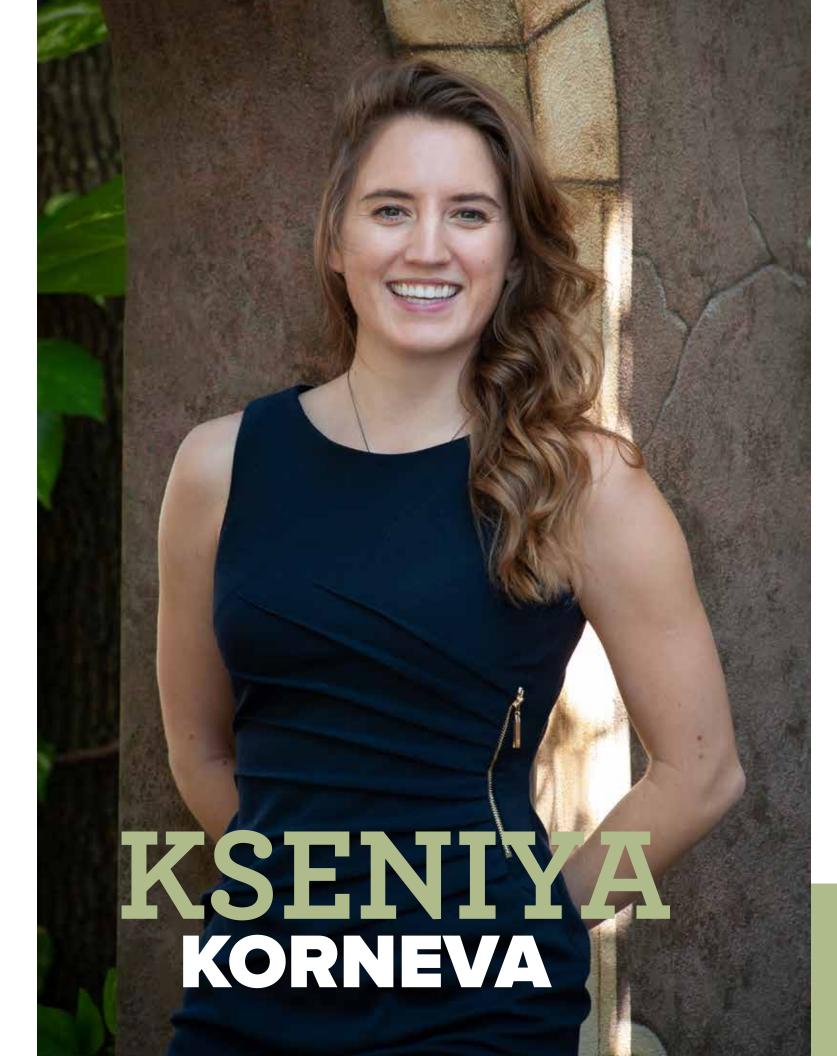
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## ENGINEERING EXCELLENCE



IT'S REALLY COOL TO BE ABLE TO HELP PEOPLE BUY THEIR FIRST HOME... TO HAVE THEM REALIZE THEY CAN DO IT.

rising star

By **Dave Danielson** Photo Credit: **Carol Walker**/Thomas Bruce Studio

> The lessons and paths of the past can be applied to create the triumphs of the future.

One who demonstrates that is Kseniya Korneva. As this month's Rising Star, and a REALTOR® with Pineywoods Realty, she is engineering excellence.

#### **Designing Her Destiny**

Growing up, Kseniya took her talents to Clemson University, where she pursued a degree — and what she thought would be a future career in engineering.

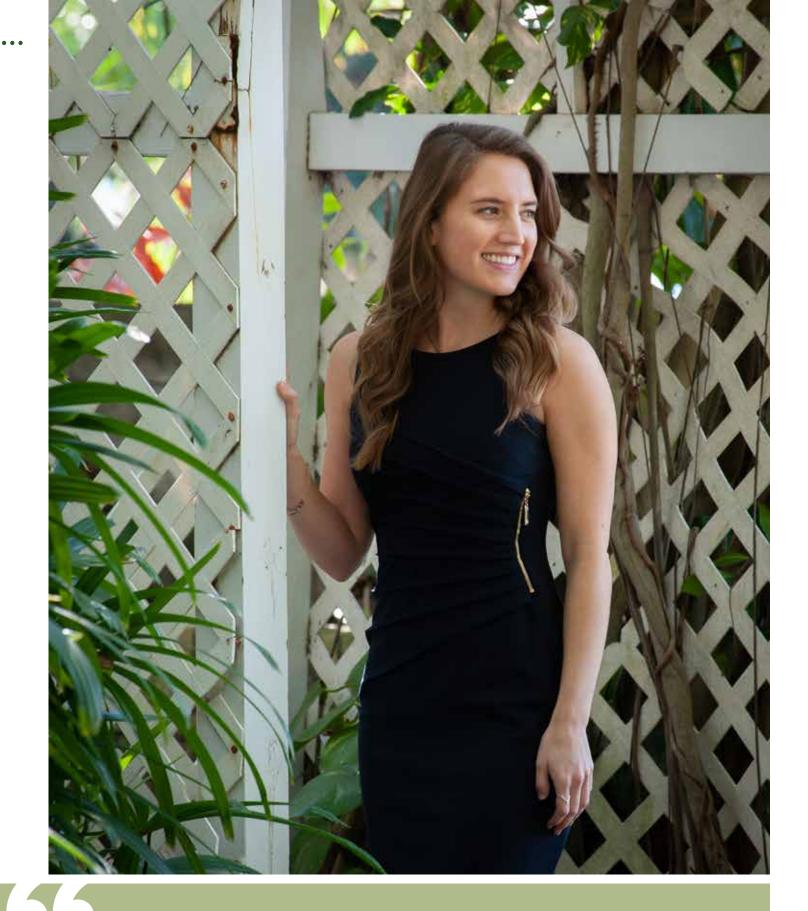
In 2016, Kseniya graduated from Clemson and moved west.

"When I graduated with my engineering degree, I moved to Seattle. It was a bit of a random move, but I just wanted to live somewhere with mountains and a city," she recalls.

She began her career — and soon began thinking along new lines.

"I lived in Seattle for a year and worked in engineering during that time," Kseniya remembers. "But about four months in, I realized I wanted to do something different."

Real estate was top of mind for her.



I KNEW THAT IF I KEPT GOING AT IT, THERE WOULD BE A PEAK THAT I WOULD REACH...MY DREAMS OF WANTING TO ACHIEVE BIGGER AND GREATER THINGS. As Kseniya says, "It wasn't long before I started shadowing a local brokerage there. I took my online class and my test in Seattle."

Soon, it was time for another move.

"At that time, my boyfriend and I knew we wanted to live somewhere that was sunny and near a lot of our friends who were mostly living in the Southeast," she explains. "Tampa has the best real estate market, and I knew I wanted to do real estate, so we decided to come here. We didn't even visit first."

#### Gaining through Groundwork

Kseniya started with Keller Williams in the fall of 2017. She enjoyed her start there, gaining from the company's trademark brand of training and a strong team atmosphere. After working with Future Home Realty and Brainard Realty, Kseniya joined her current home at Pineywoods Realty.

In the meantime, she worked through the gauntlet many new agents face.

"It was definitely tough at first, not knowing anybody, because I was new to the area," Kseniya recalls. "I didn't know the neighborhoods yet. So I did a lot of visiting open houses, visiting broker open events, and familiarizing myself with all the neighborhoods."

Through her determination and strategic work, Kseniya gained traction.

"I held a lot of open houses," she says. "Also, I was able to gain a lot of clients from just surrounding myself with the right mentorship and with people who taught me to do things the right way. I am incredibly grateful for The Welcome Home Team for all of their support and guidance this past year."

Kseniya tends to specialize with buyers in the market.

"The majority of who I work with tend to be buyers, and a lot of them helping whoever I can."

Her open, helpful approach has translated into real results. During her first year, Kseniya completed six transactions. Last year, she finished 18.

As she considers her early success in the business, Kseniya has helpful words of advice to offer to those who are joining the business today.

"There are a lot of things that the industry advises you to do, including waking up at 5 a.m., and a lot of other things. But I really think the thing is to do what's right for you. It could be open houses or online marketing, and social media is getting more beneficial," she explains. "I would suggest trying all of the lead generation methods. For example, for me, open houses work better in certain neighborhoods than other neighborhoods. So definitely find a neighborhood that you connect with better and can convert easier."

## Sharing Success

"My sister has her Ph.D., and she's looking to become a professor. My dad's a professor, my grandpa was a professor, and my grandma was a teacher. My mom also has her Ph.D., and she runs a lab. So my family has a lot of academia," she smiles.

The love to help and educate also runs deep within Kseniya, as well.

helping those in the business.

"I'd like to do more mentoring with newer agents," she says. "I'd like to get to a point where I can hire agents and mentor and train them."

are first-time home buyers, though I also do some listings, as well," she says. "As I continue to expand and grow, I'm getting more and more listings. I really enjoy working on both sides. I like

Kseniya hails from a family of educators.

While she helps the families she works with, Kseniya also enjoys the dynamic of In the meantime, Kseniya enjoys her role of helping her clients achieve their dreams. In the process, she enjoys giving back and engaging with her community. In fact, she hosts a monthly exercise class and looks for other ways to reach out and become involved.

"One of my favorite parts of what I do in real estate is having people realize how much easier it is to buy a house than they thought. Usually, people think it's a huge ordeal. It's really cool to be able to help people buy their first home...to have them realize they can do it."

At the same time, she remembers the same spirit she has...a spirit that has helped her achieve early success.

"I definitely think I have a little bit of stubbornness. A lot of people told me to go back to engineering," Kseniya says. "It was difficult to not have a steady paycheck to rely on, but I saw what the capacity was and the opportunity that was there. I knew that if I kept going at it, there would be a peak that I would reach ... my dreams of wanting to achieve bigger and greater things."

Each day, Kseniya Korneva is achieving bigger and greater things on behalf of those she serves...by engineering excellence.



making a difference

# **REALTOR**<sup>®</sup> KARLA DORSEY



"I work with many clients who are going through or have been through the divorce process. It can be a challenging time," says REAL-TOR<sup>®</sup> Karla Dorsey.

She decided to start a local chapter of the National Association of Divorce Professionals (NADP) in South Tampa to make a difference in the lives of others who may be affected by this process.

Clients often need additional professional help outside of real estate when navigating the complexities of a divorce. Karla explains that they may need referrals for a lawyer, mediator, childcare advocates, financial planner, or counseling. She says, "While I feel like I'm an expert in my field, I like to have the confidence to be able to refer my clients to professionals whom I know, like and trust."

Starting a national chapter of the NADP was an amazing opportunity to assemble a group of professionals to help people during a trying time in their life. Professionals come together to attend monthly meetings where they can collaborate, refer, and educate one another.

Karla also became a Certified Divorce Specialist CDS (trademark) through the NADP by attending a three-day workshop held at Nova Southeastern University in South Florida. It has been time well spent as she can help others who might be facing one of the most challenging times in their lives.

#### **ABOUT NADP**

The NADP seeks to "make a positive impact on the divorce process through our community of high-achieving professionals." Professionals are connected with one another, creating a "unique opportunity to create

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## New Director of the South Tampa chapter of the **National Association of Divorce Professionals**

strategic alliances within the divorce industry." As their website states, "Through our in-person and online platform, NADP members locally and nationally come together in a powerful and productive way."

#### **GET INVOLVED**

"We are actively looking for professionals who want to participate in the South Tampa chapter of NADP," says Karla. Get involved by making a difference in the lives of those who are experiencing or who have been through the divorce process.

Professionals of all industries are needed, including attorneys that specialize in family law, bankruptcy, will & estate planning, forensic accountants, life coaching, insurance agents, title agents, mental health professionals, and more.

For more information, contact Karla at karla@karladorsey.com or 813-394-7049.



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Morgan Kidd serves as Sales and Marketing Manager with Coast to Coast Moving and Storage. As she says, the primary mission is making the job of relocating as smooth as possible.



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ble, so that's one less thing you have to worry about."

As Morgan says, the Coast to Coast team enjoys their partnership with the region's real estate community.

"We're here to serve their clients, so when they sell a home, they know their clients will be taken care of on the back end with their move," she emphasizes. "They can trust that their clients, family members and friends in the community will be taken care of — and it's going to happen with no hassle from start to finish. Trust us with your move, and we'll do it right."









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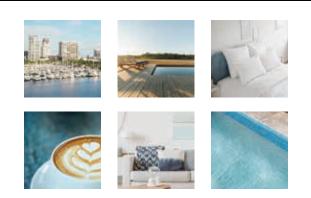
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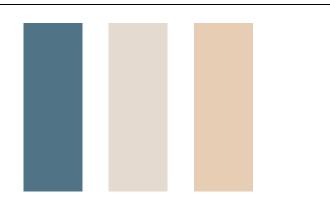
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area. If you live in a flood zone, your mortgage company will also require flood insurance, which is not included in a homeowner's insurance policy, but can be purchased separately. If you live in California or another area prone to earthquakes, your lender may require that you purchase separate earthquake insurance.

#### HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE PROTECTS YOU AS WELL AS YOUR LENDER FROM LOSS

If you are like most people, your home is one of the biggest investments you will ever make. A disaster, such as a fire, tornado, or hurricane could destroy your home and the belongings it contains in a matter of hours or less. Even after your mortgage is paid off - or if you paid cash or inherited the home it makes financial sense to maintain your homeowner's insurance coverage, to protect one of your largest assets. The property is not only collateral for your lender – it is also your home.

#### A HOMEOWNERS POLICY CAN HELP **PROTECT YOU FROM LIABILITY**

A standard homeowner's policy can also protect from liability in case someone else is injured on your property, or if you, a family member, or even a pet accidentally damages property belonging to another. For example, your homeowner's liability coverage would apply in the following scenarios: 1. Your teenage daughter invites over a

- friend who trips on a vacuum cleaner
- 2. A party at your house results in someone getting hurt by slipping around your pool area.

A home is a substantial asset. If you own a home, we recommend you get homeowners insurance, not only to satisfy your lender, but also to protect your significant investment in the purchase and maintenance of the property. Our experienced Advisors can help you get the best quote on a homeowner's insurance policy and any additional coverage you may need to protect your home. Contact us today at 727-385-5082 or email us at info@tampabayinsurance.com.

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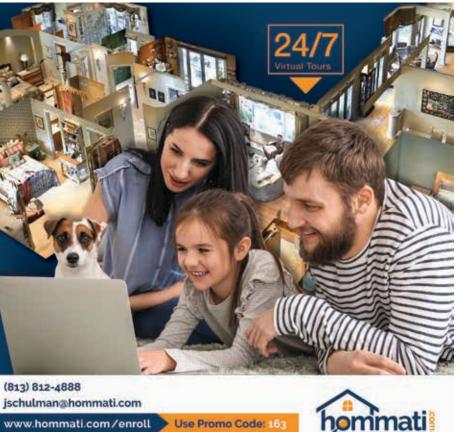
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# **Title Fraud:** The DIY way to protect your property's title from being stolen (and a FREE GIFT!)

#### **Kevin J. Overstreet**

Insured Title Agency, LLC President/ Owner

## Hello Real Producers!

This is the fourth in a series of writings about one of the fastest growing, and most financially devastating, crimes in America: Title Fraud. While there are many types of title fraud, we're focusing primarily on when fraudsters create false documents and add them to Public Record.

The first two articles were meant to introduce you to what title fraud is, and give you a basic understanding of how easily it can be committed. Article three discussed the four basic ways in which a property owner can avoid becoming a victim of title fraud:

- 1. The DIY Method
- 2. The County Clerk's Website
- 3. Title Monitoring/Alerting Services
- 4. Fraudshine State Enrollment

In this month's issue, I'll go into greater detail about how you can check the title to your own Florida property(ies). **The DIY method** outlined below costs you nothing and takes just a few minutes.

## For a quick 'refresher' here are the key points I've covered so far:

- In nearly all Florida counties, the Public Records are available online and can be accessed anonymously, unlimited and free of charge by anyone.
- The 'effective date' of every Owner's Policy of Title Insurance is exactly the same as the date/time of recordation of the Deed used to transfer title to the new owner.
- Unlike other types of insurance, the effective date represents the end of the coverage period of title insurance.

- There is nothing insuring against criminals stealing the title of any property by (among other methods) creating false documents and recording them in the Public Records.
- Once this is done, the fraudster can take out loans against the property...or even sell it. The presence of a mortgage will not stop a determined criminal. Templates for all commonly used documents can easily be found online. Furthermore, nearly exact matches of the needed documents are already in the Public Records and can be re-created at will.
- E-Recording is available in all but 11 Florida counties, allowing the criminals to record from an unlimited distance. This also creates an opportunity for documents that are not originals to be recorded.

## The DIY method: Detect Title Fraud without spending money!

As mentioned above, anyone with internet access can search the title of any Florida property without employing a title agency, attorney, etc. I recommend that every property owner do this at least annually (monthly is much better).

Below are general instructions for conducting a 'self-check' of your property's title. This is important information, of which anyone in real estate should have a basic understanding. For the most up-to-date version of these basic search instructions, please visit www.fraudshinestate.com/DIY any time.

#### The Do-It-Yourself Guide to Title Fraud Prevention The FREE Gift:

1. Go to your County Clerk's website.

- 2.Locate the link to access Public Records (how to do this varies from county to county).
- 3.From there, find the Deed that was recorded when you bought your property. This is your 'starting point'. The Legal Description, located somewhere on the Deed, is something you'll want to memorize or keep handy.
- 4. Start a new search, using your name and date range. The date range should be from the time you purchased your home through the current date. If the particular county has the option to add 'Document Type' as a search criteria, select 'Deed'.
- 5. If you're able to narrow your search by selecting Deed as the document type, then compare the legal description of each of the documents that are returned in the search to that of your original Deed from step 3. Any Deeds with matching legal descriptions should be closely scrutinized. In most counties, you'll be able to click on each individual record and it will take you to an image of that document.
- 6. If the county doesn't allow you to select the type of document, carefully scroll through the entire list of documents your search criteria returns. Look for all documents listed as 'Deed'. Once you have your list reduced to Deeds only, then perform the tasks in step 5 (above).
- 7. Review the image of each Deed (if any) that appears to pertain to your property. This establishes the 'chain of title' for your property from the time you took ownership, through the time of your search. NOTE: The 'effective date' of the Public Records varies greatly between Florida counties. The county's effective date should be shown somewhere on the Clerk's site. Documents of any kind that were recorded between the effective date and the actual date may not appear in your search output.

#### If any document (particularly any Deed) appears questionable, you should consult with a title company or an attorney. It may be necessary to initiate legal action.

In the event that your initial search of the Public Records (steps 1 through 7 above) reveals nothing out of the ordinary, it's advisable you repeat the process on a monthly basis.

In order to make your 'monthly updates' less time-consuming, you're likely able (depending on the county) to narrow your search parameters in such a way to only view newly-recorded documents. If this is the case, be sure each subsequent search has a 'start date' that is the same as the county's 'effective date' was when you last searched the records.

Each time you perform the monthly update, there should be no newly-recorded documents with which you're unfamiliar. Bear in mind that a given document in the output will only pertain to your property if the legal description matches that which is on the Deed used to establish your ownership of the property (step 3 above). Let's say you'd like to check the title of your property but prefer to not hassle with the above steps. We have two great options for you!

1. Check Now: Visit our website at

www.fraudshinestate.com, and click the 'Check Now' button located on the Home page. By simply inputting the property address, our system will perform an instant search and deliver the results directly to you. OR

2. **30-Day FREE Trial:** Go to <u>www.fraudshinestate.com</u>, and click the 'Start Title Monitoring Now' button located on the Home page. You'll then be shown three different membership levels. If you choose the 30-Day Free Trial, you'll receive the FREE Report, as well as one FREE update approximately 30 days later.



Should you have any questions, concerns or difficulties with the above, please reach out to the Fraudshine State team via phone at 813-NO FRAUD (663-7283) or via email at <u>info@fraudshine.com</u>. Thank you for your time.



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