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PROFILES







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If you are interested in nominating people for certain stories, please email us at: jason.shelden@realproducersmag.com.







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Mid-Western Roots and a Texan Heart MIDITTEN BY MEGAN TAYLOR-DICENZO MIDITTEN BY MEGAN TAYLOR-DICENZO MIDITTEN BY MEGAN TAYLOR-DICENZO

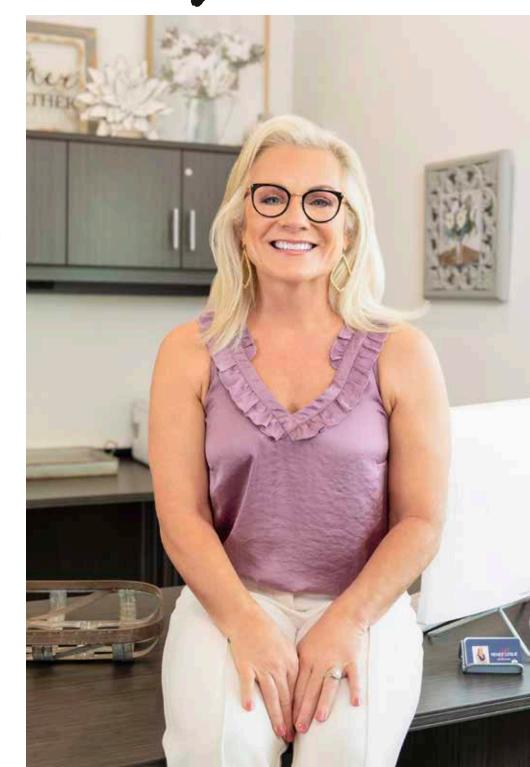
Renee Leslie has been through good times and bad. She's learned to dig in, to pivot, to stay, and to go. She's a Hoosier and a Texan, a wife and a mother, and a REALTOR® recognized by RE/MAX of Texas as one of the Top Ten agents in the city of Houston and the entire state. Most importantly, she's a woman who, through faith and prayer, continues to set goals and achieve them every step of the way.

Renee was two when her father was transferred to Indiana through his job at IBM. She became a Hoosier and adored spending time in nature. "My first job was detasseling corn at twelve years old," Renee laughed. "I love my mid-Western roots."

She attended Hanover College, a beautiful little college in Southern Indiana, and holds a Bachelor of Science in mathematics. Shortly after graduation, Renee married a Second Lieutenant from Fort Knox. Following his retirement from the military, he entered Corporate America, and they had two beautiful children, Patrick Nathaniel (who goes by Nate) and Rachel.

Renee's first professional career was as a Systems Engineer, writing logistics software for companies like PepsiCo and Mead. "I loved working for the company, but when they put my son in my arms, the day after I turned 30, everything changed," Renee explained. "I had been corporate-minded previously, but after the birth of my son, I just wanted to be a mom."

Fortunately, Renee was able to stay home with her children until Rachel





turned seven and Nate was nine. Her husband's work brought them from Connecticut to Texas in 2006, but shortly after their move, the economy took a turn, and her husband was displaced from his job.

"I remember when he came home five months after we'd moved to Houston and said, *I don't have a job anymore*," Renee shared. "I thought it was one of the darkest days of my life. We had just built a new home in Gleannloch Farms in Spring, in part to be closer to my parents who retired to North Texas. I woke up the next morning and said, "I'm going to real estate school."

It was a surprising decision since Renee didn't know a soul in Houston, but she decided she would do whatever she needed to make real estate happen, pay the mortgage, and put food on the table.

"Getting into real estate came out of a desperate situation for us," Renee remembered. "I wanted to figure out how I could be a mom and support my family at the same time."

After earning her real estate license in 2006, Renee called Elizabeth Foster at Coldwell Banker, the agent who had helped her family transfer to Texas. "I told her my husband's job had

disappeared," Renee said. "She was a person of faith. She said, when you're going through difficult times, be still and God will direct your path. But, whatever you do, don't sell your house."

Renee took Elizabeth's advice. She didn't sell the house and trusted that God would find a way. She found amazing mentors at Coldwell Banker who took her under their wing. "I credit Dwayne Sawyer and Joe Spilman for helping me get started; they had the most patience with me," Renee shared. "I think about the time those two invested in me, and I want to be that person for someone else."

Renee put in the work. She showed up every day and listened as experienced agents took calls. Within a few years, her business started turning a profit. She suggested her husband get his real estate license, and he did.

In 2013, Renee realized she needed a team and transitioned to RE/MAX. "I loved Coldwell Banker and all the people who worked with me," she said, "but at the time, Coldwell Banker's structure was not conducive to building a team."

By 2015, Renee considered opening a brokerage in Tomball. "It had a lot to do with the fact that we lived in Spring,

but we did a lot of life in Tomball," she explained. "Through a lot of prayer and knocking on doors, things fell in place."

In 2016, Renee opened RE/MAX Elite Properties in Tomball. "I like having a smaller office since I'm still a producing broker," she shared. "If I had an office of 100 agents, it would be impossible to be as hands-on as I am."

In 2019, Renee and her husband divorced after 30 years of marriage. "The divorce leveled me. It ALMOST stripped me completely of everything. But I am a fighter. We have two beautiful adult children, and I'm so thankful for them," she said. "2019 was a very, very hard year."

The following year, Renee noticed a property on Main Street in downtown Tomball. "It was listed as residential, but it was not actually residential at all!" she recalled. "I scooped it up as an investment, and started working on a plan to build my office there. We opened the doors to our beautiful new office in January 2022, where we now have 30 agents."

In the summer of 2022, Renee met a native Houstonian, John Bollato. Two years later, they married. They live quite happily in Tomball with their two Miniature Schnauzers, Max and Marley. Renee and John own a short-term rental business with several properties, as well as her commercial property. John is very hands-on with helping Renee manage these properties. She's enjoying the freedom of traveling and developing a work-life balance. "As I've gotten older, that balance has become more and more important to me," Renee explained. "I try to teach my new agents to take time for themselves; I had to learn the hard way."

As a health and fitness enthusiast, Renee wants these years to be her most fun and healthy. "I want to run and play with my grandchildren someday," she said. "Staying mentally, physically, and emotionally healthy has become my priority. I love to work, and I love to go."







14 · May 2025



Melissa Perez-Mueller's journey into real estate wasn't your typical career path. After spending 21 years as a devoted stay-at-home mom, she found herself as an empty nester, moving six times and naturally referring friends to agents, lenders, and builders. However, one builder—who had received four referrals from Melissa—posed a simple yet life-changing question: "Why aren't you an agent?" That was her turning point.

"It was something I had always wanted to do once my kids went off to college, and that time had come," Melissa recalls. "Five weeks later, I had my license. I know it's my calling for sure."

A Family-Driven Real Estate Powerhouse

Fast forward a decade, and Melissa and her husband, Jeff, now lead the thriving MPM Lux Realty, affiliated with Keller Williams The Woodlands. Their dynamic team includes buyer's specialist Angelica Valdez, transaction coordinator Ashley Perez, executive assistant Briana Prickett, and VP of Operations Jeff Mueller.

Calling MPM Lux Realty a family business is an understatement. While it wasn't initially planned, the close-knit team operates with an unshakable synergy. "We're a mighty force," Melissa says proudly.

Jeff, as VP of Operations, handles finances, marketing strategies, and media production. Meanwhile, their daughter Briana has been a pillar of organization and expertise as Melissa's executive assistant for six years. "She's phenomenal," Melissa beams.

With a team composed of family members and trusted professionals, MPM Lux Realty has achieved remarkable success, ranking in the top 1.5% of small teams in Keller Williams. "We move forward with our vision of helping clients achieve their real estate goals as if they are our own

family," Melissa explains.
"Wedo it with a servant's
heart, a commitment to
education, and a level of
communication and service
that makes the buying or
selling process seamless.
We also finished with the
#5 Team in the entire South
Texas Region in 2024."
"Finishing the year with a
total of over 570 units and
\$200 Million in Sales Volume
for our career!!"



We move forward with our vision of helping clients achieve their real estate goals as if they are our own family."



Real Estate with a Sprinkle of Fun

Melissa's dedication to her clients knows no boundaries literally. Recently, she accompanied a client to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, to explore potential property investments. "They were considering buying a house there, so I connected with a KW agent in Cabo, "she shares. "I sprinkled a little work into my fun at the beach. Real estate is 365 days a year, but it's about

balancing it within your life. The rest is about truly living."

This philosophy of blending work with life's joys even led to a memorable moment on HGTV. Melissa and her family starred in Season 24, Episode 3 of *Beachfront Bargain Hunt*, aptly titled "Mother Knows Best." The episode chronicled their journey to finding the perfect beach house in Crystal Beach, Texas.

"HGTV reached out to me on Facebook," Melissa recalls.

"At first, I thought it was a scam, but after an interview, we were on TV! It was so much fun, and we found our dream home."

Rooted in Family and Community

Beyond real estate, Melissa and her family are deeply involved in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, particularly the steerauction, for the past six years. "We love taking clients and friends to the rodeo—it's a way MPM Lux Realty supports children's education while making unforgettable memories," she says.

Melissa's secret to success is simple: a balance of passion, purpose, and family. As a bilingual REALTOR® with a heart for service, she continues to provide unparalleled client satisfaction while embracing life's moments with joy.

For Melissa, real estate isn't just a career—it's a calling infused with adventure, family, and the unwavering belief that success is best when shared.









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TESSIFLEMING NOTHING MUNDANE ABOUT IT

WRITTEN BY MEGAN TAYLOR-DICENZO

Jessi Fleming is a small-town girl born and raised in Magnolia, Texas. She offers many years of real estate knowledge, tactful negotiation, and market analysis, and she prides herself in luxury customer service from contract to closing. But that's just the start of her story. Jessi began her career in real estate at just 17 years old. "I found my niche early on," she explained. "One of my best friend's moms worked for Sotheby's. She approached me and said I would love real estate and had the personality for it."

Jessi worked as her assistant while finishing high school. Although she wasn't licensed at the time, she helped with marketing and learned all she could for the next two years. After graduation, Jessi attended Texas A&M University, earning a bachelor's in communication and a minor in business administration and management from Mays Business School. While pursuing her degree, she worked part-time for Terrence Murphy's, TM5 Properties at College Station. She also worked as a Marketing Intern for the university's Athletics Department.

"I worked in sports broadcasting and learned how to be fast-paced and in front of the camera," Jessi recalled.
"I continued to work in real estate throughout college and got licensed in my senior year." Following her college graduation, Jessi returned to Sotheby's International with Martha Turner in The Woodlands. While out showing on the lake, she met the owner of LakeConroe Realty and, soon after, joined forces with his team and hasn't looked back. In 2021, LakeConroe Realty merged with COMPASS.

"We're a big brokerage with a small boutique feel," Jessi shared. "I manage contracts for our team while listing/ selling my own properties with personal clients. I kind of do it all! I'm a team player, and I love the variation allowing constant learning and growth the opportunities offer."Jessi is able to do it all because she's developed a wealth of knowledge and skills over many years. "Since I started quite young, I was able



to learn a great deal as a silent partner on the side," she explained.

She's also someone her clients know they can trust. "I'd like to think they feel at peace when they're working with me because I put myself in their shoes," Jessi said. "It's as if I'm purchasing that house alongside them. I can mold to each family's unique needs, allowing me to protect their interests from start to finish."

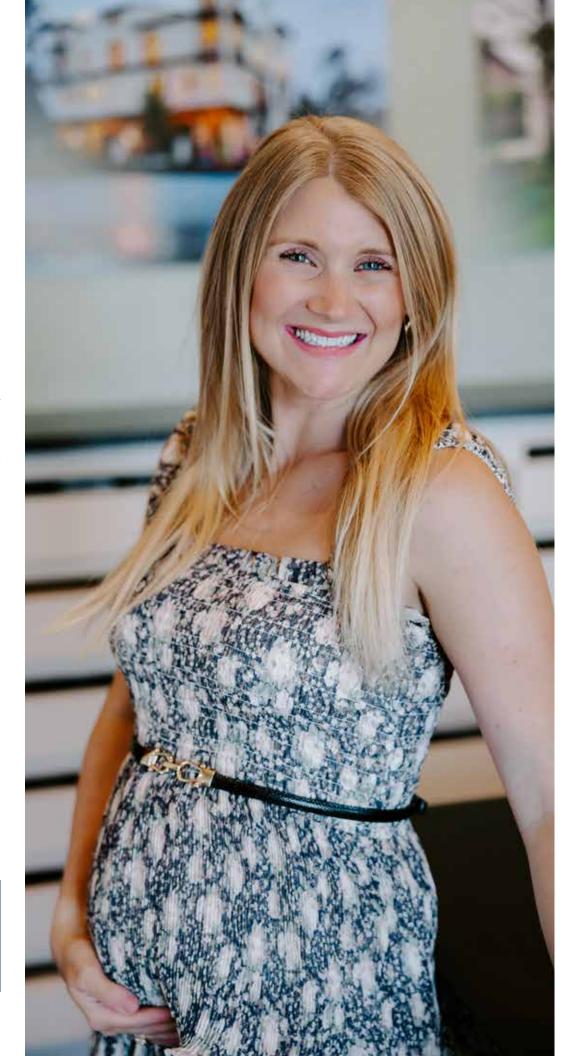
Now on a team of five, Jessi's hoping to continue on this path of success. "I'm very loyal, and I don't see slowing down anytime soon!" she said.

Her personal life isn't slowing down either. Married to Bradley Fleming, they have two children under five and live on the lake. Outside of the office, Jessi and her husband are either spending time with their family at the golf course or cruising Lake Conroe on their boat. They are members at Restoration Church and are both growing their businesses in Montgomery, TX.

What's more, Jessi and Bradley raise more than 100 Exotic animals on their land, animals that come from all over the world. Some of the animals are Red Stag, Lechwes, Kangaroos, axis, fallow, wildebeest, and many more. "We're always ranching, fishing, boating, or with our family," Jessi shared, "but I also love a good spa day with my girls. I live a pretty mundane life, but I wouldn't have it any other way." In truth, there is nothing mundane about Jessi or her life. Between her early start in real estate to her exotic wildlife herds, she's living life on her terms. She's also living with purpose and listening to her calling.

"I keep my head down and keep serving how I know best," Jessi shared. "My calling is people, and if I keep to my calling, it will all work out in the end."

> "I'm very loyal, and I don't see slowing down anytime soon!"











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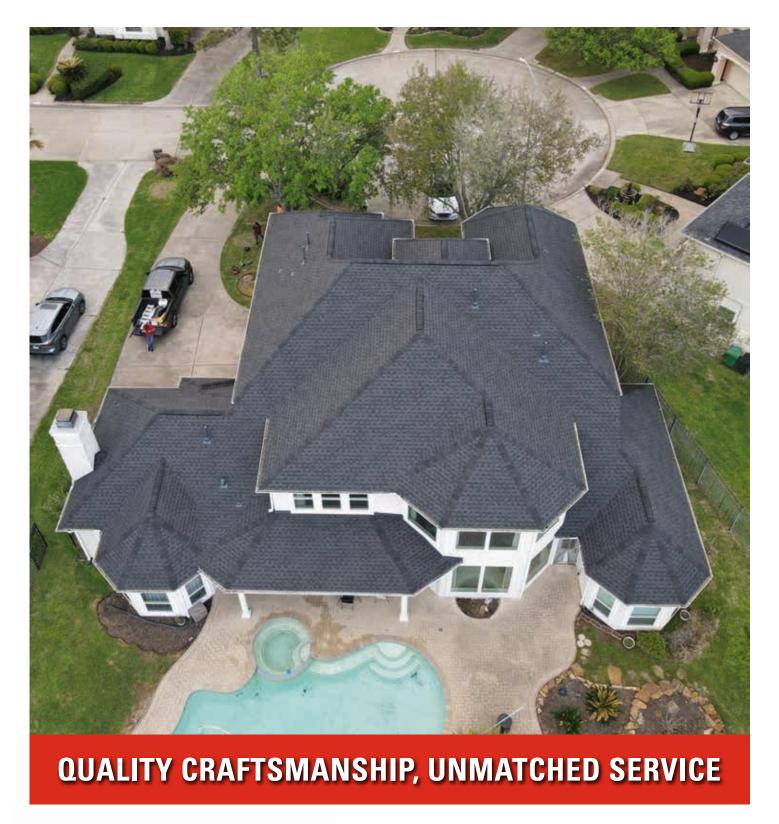
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