

Keys to Success

Welcome to the *South Florida Business Journal's* special section devoted to the Key Partners Awards. Recipients of this honor are the lawyers and accountants whose advice often makes it possible for South Florida businesses to not only succeed, but to exceed their most impressive goals. Certainly, our business community would find it difficult to function without them.

But these professionals take their considerable expertise and commitment to community another step further. While business is their priority, they also give their time and resources to help many who are in need within our region.

As you read about the Key Partners honorees, you will be inspired by their considerable achievements and by the many, meaningful ways they make South Florida a better place.

Honorees were recognized at an Aug. 18 event at the Hyatt Regency Pier Sixty-Six, presented by MassMutual Financial Group and sponsored by PNC Bank.

KEY PARTNERS AWARDS

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MANUEL A. DIAZ

Senior Partner, Lydecker Diaz
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EDUCATION

- A.A., with honors, Miami Dade College
- B.A., with honors, Florida International University
- J.D., University of Miami
- Resident Fellow, Harvard Institute of Politics

PERSONAL NOTE

- Diaz's son Manny is defensive coordinator for the University of Texas football team.

Vision, leadership, management and mentorship define Manuel A. Diaz's interpretation of a key partner. It's "someone who helps set the vision for the firm, manages results and expectations, sets an example, and inspires others to perform at their best by sharing knowledge and encouraging the free flow of ideas, while having fun doing it," he says.

Diaz follows these principles in both the personal and professional aspects of his life. A force in local, state and national politics for nearly three decades, Diaz was first elected Miami mayor in 2001, having never before held elected office. He was reelected to a second term in 2005, and was chosen to lead the U.S. Conference of Mayors as its president in 2008.

Returning to private practice in 2010, Diaz today focuses on real estate, construction and zoning law. He has helped usher the firm through a period of strong growth – and under many of the rules he passed during his term, including Miami 21 and the Tree Master Plan. He continues to be an advocate for good public policy, and works to help others in the community through organizations including the Bloomberg Family Foundation, City Year Miami, Mayors' Institute on City Design and the U.S. Homeland Security Advisory Council.