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Executive Biographies

Windermere Leadership

John Jacobi

Chairman and Founder

In 1972, John Jacobi purchased Windermere Real Estate, a one-office, eight-agent company in the Seattle neighborhood of Windermere. Under Jacobi's leadership, Windermere has grown to become one of the most respected real estate networks in North America, consisting of more than 220 offices, all locally owned and independently operated.

Jacobi has always served as the company's "idea machine" and early on, set the stage for Windermere's business practice of empowering agents with the vital tools and services needed to bring them success. Under his direction, Windermere became the first local agency to develop franchises, allowing individual brokers to control and manage their offices. In 1999, Jacobi passed the day-to-day business operations of the company to his trusted management team of Jim Shapiro, Geoff Wood and Jill Jacobi-Wood.

Jim Shapiro

Vice Chairman

Shapiro has led the growth and development of Windermere Services since 1983, when he began as the Services company's sole employee. He was appointed vice chairman in 2003 after serving as chief executive officer since 1995 and for the previous 16 years in various leadership positions.

Prior to joining Windermere, Shapiro worked in the insurance industry as an administrative manager for ENI in Bellevue, WA and as administrative manager for the Family Life Insurance Company in Seattle.

Geoff P. Wood

Chief Executive Officer

Geoff P. Wood is chief executive officer of Windermere and is responsible for the core infrastructure functions of the company and continued success of the entire network. Wood joined Windermere Real Estate in 1993, managing the five Jacobi family-owned real estate offices in Seattle, which continue to be managed by his wife Jill Jacobi-Wood. Two years later, he was promoted to vice president and became president in 1999, followed by the promotion to his current post in 2003. As CEO, Geoff is responsible for leading more than 220 independently owned offices comprised of more than 6,000 real estate professionals.

Under Wood's leadership, Windermere Real Estate has entered new markets in California, Nevada, Arizona and Montana while improving and enhancing the tools and services provided to the agents throughout the network. By partnering with owners and agents who share Windermere's vision of honesty and professionalism, Wood is strategically growing the network while maintaining the quality and integrity of the Windermere name.

Prior to joining Windermere, Wood received his master of business administration degree from the University of Washington and a bachelor's degree from Whitman College. He also worked in his family's business, Timberland Homes, in construction and business management.

Jill Jacobi-Wood

President, Windermere Real Estate Company

Jill Jacobi-Wood is president of Windermere Real Estate Company, responsible for overseeing the five Jacobi family-owned real estate operations located in the Seattle area. With her strong background in real estate office management and agent relations, Jacobi-Wood plays a vital consulting role for the senior management team on day-to-day business operations.

Jacobi-Wood began working for Windermere Real Estate at the age of 14 and has participated in virtually every aspect of running the real estate operation, growing from clerical functions in the early years to her current senior management role.

Jacobi-Wood graduated from Seattle University with a bachelor's degree in humanities.

Michelle Barry

Executive Vice President, Marketing

Michelle Barry serves as executive vice president of marketing for Windermere Real Estate. Barry is responsible for driving marketing strategies and programs, consulting with offices, producing Windermere publications, overseeing internal communications and advertising, and managing Windermere's marketing staff.

Prior to joining Windermere Real Estate in 1997, Barry spent 10 years as director of communications for KCTS/PBS, where she oversaw marketing and promotion for KCTS, as well as media relations, community outreach, customer service and on-air promotions. Barry also served as a promotion manager and writer/producer for KIRO-TV/CBS, where she was responsible for overseeing the station's advertising and public relations.

Barry graduated from Weber State College with a bachelor's degree in public relations.

Matt Carroll

Executive Vice President, Real Estate Operations

Matt Carroll is responsible for directing the operations of Windermere's administrative arm, primarily focusing on owner relations and consulting with office owners on financial and business operations for more than 220 offices in seven western states and British Columbia.

Prior to becoming executive vice president of real estate operations in 2003, Carroll served as the general manager of Windermere Real Estate Company for four years. A 25-year industry veteran, Carroll has served as agent, branch manager, agent/manager mentor and office owner.

Carroll built and owned Greenlake Realty, which merged with Windermere in 1993. Prior to that Carroll purchased and operated Jewel Properties. He graduated from Toledo University in 1976.

William Feldman

Executive Vice President, Business Development

William Feldman serves as executive vice president of affiliate development for Windermere. Feldman is responsible for the growth of the Windermere brand with responsibilities that include building a network of Windermere Real Estate ownership and consulting with owners to develop recruitment and longevity programs.

Prior to joining Windermere Real Estate, Feldman worked as an associate broker with the Tomlinson Agency in Spokane, WA. He has also served as a broker for Alvin. J. Wolff Company

and as owner of C. Fritz Nelson Company.

William M. Murray

Executive Vice President, Benefits

William Murray serves as executive vice president of Windermere and is responsible for directing the company's financial operations, overseeing vendor relations, reviewing Windermere financial statements and administering the company's property, casualty and benefit plans.

Murray comes to Windermere Real Estate with an extensive background in operations improvement, technology assessment and client management. Prior to joining Windermere Services Company in 2001, Murray served as executive vice president and chief operating officer of Windermere Mortgage Services, a Windermere-affiliated business. Murray has held various managerial and executive positions in the employee benefits, international shipping and oil exploration industries.

Murray graduated from the University of Washington in 1974.

David L. Odom

Executive Vice President, Finance

David Odom serves as the executive vice president of finance for Windermere. In this role he is responsible for overseeing all of the financial operations of the Windermere Services Company and other related entities. Odom directs the accounting and finance functions of the organization, including the financial and tax reporting and systems integration. He also serves as a business consultant to the owners in this arena.

Odom comes from an extensive background as a certified public accountant, 20 years in public practice and 5 years in private industry. After founding and operating a local CPA practice in Bellevue for 15 years, he merged the company Odom & Associates, CPAs with a large regional firm, which now serves as part of Moss Adams. In 1998, he purchased an interest in a freight logistics brokerage company and served as the President and CFO during his 5 year tenure. Odom is a 1979 graduate from Washington State University, with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

Diane Peterson

Executive Vice President, Internal Operations

Diane Peterson joined Windermere Services Company in June 1996 as Executive Vice President for Oregon Services in Portland. In November 2003 she relocated to the Seattle headquarters, and assumed her current position overseeing the company's internal operations. Peterson's extensive real estate background allows her to manage the company's programs and operations that impact agent/client activities including customer service, education and training. Her responsibilities also include serving as a liaison to owners on legal matters and overseeing the company's human resources programs.

She has held a real estate license since 1979, and in 1993 joined Cronin & Caplan Realty Group in Portland. In 1994 she became the manager for CCRG's commercial office, and the following year was promoted to operations manager overseeing all 16 of the company's offices. She held that position until 1996.

Peterson earned her bachelor's and master's degrees both in mathematics from the University of Oregon. She has taught math at the junior high and high school levels, and was an elementary school principal. She holds broker's licenses in both Washington and Oregon.

Don Riley

Executive Vice President, Business Operations

Don Riley serves as executive vice president of business operations and is responsible for the research and development of new products and services that help owners improve the daily operations of Windermere offices. Riley also oversees the operation of Windermere's affiliated service companies, including mortgage, title and escrow businesses. An industry veteran, Riley brings a wide range of experience in selling, managing and financing real estate.

Riley was previously the general manager of Windermere Real Estate/East, Inc. for seven years. He has also taught real estate classes for several years. Prior to joining Windermere, Riley was with Richard James Realtors for 10 years, serving five of those years as president.

Michael Fanning

Vice President, Affiliate Development

Michael Fanning serves as vice president of affiliate development for Windermere and is responsible for assisting with the growth of the Windermere brand. His responsibilities include expanding the network of Windermere offices and consulting with owners to develop recruitment and longevity programs while incorporating a strong understanding of the technical side of the tools Windermere provides to affiliates.

Prior to joining Windermere Real Estate, Fanning worked in mortgage software development for Wells Fargo in Seattle. He has also served as a mortgage broker for First Interstate Bank. He joined First Interstate Bank in 1993 after receiving a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Western Washington University.

Lynn Sweeney Pedersen

Vice President, Community Relations

Lynn Sweeney Pedersen joined Windermere Real Estate in June 2000 to fill the role of vice president of Windermere's community relations efforts. Pedersen is responsible for public relations, community outreach and the planning, marketing and promotion of Windermere's sponsorships and internal and external events – including Seattle's annual Opening Day Windermere Cup Regatta.

Prior to joining Windermere Real Estate, Pedersen was the director of creative services for Westin Hotels & Resorts worldwide and its parent company, Starwood Hotels & Resorts. She joined Westin in 1993 after receiving a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Washington.

Michael Rahmn

Vice President, Technology

Michael Rahmn serves as the vice president of technology for Windermere Real Estate. Rahmn is responsible for the development, design and implementation of Windermere Real Estate's technology strategy, including Internet and software applications. He also acts as a leader of Windermere's in-house technology division.

Rahmn was named vice president of technology in 2003, after serving as director of technology for three years. Prior to that, he was the director of information services for Windermere's regional office in Spokane since 1997. Before joining Windermere, Rahmn was a REALTOR for more than five years.

Rahmn graduated from Eastern Washington University with a degree in business administration.

Regional Leadership

John Becker

President, Windermere Services, Inland Northwest

John Becker serves as president of Windermere's Inland Northwest operations and has been a real estate broker for over 25 years. Becker is responsible for overseeing support for Windermere offices in Eastern Washington, Idaho and Montana.

In addition, Becker, along with his wife Marianne, are the owners of Windermere's North Wall Street office in Spokane, partners in the Spokane City Group office and partners in the Caldwell and Nampa, Idaho offices.

Becker became president of Windermere Services, Inland Northwest in 1992 after serving as president of Star Brokers for 10 years. Prior to that, he worked as a partner and manager for Provincial Properties and also served as a sales associate for House and Home Real Estate in Spokane.

Bob Bennion and Bob Deville**Co-presidents, Windermere Services, Southern California**

Bob Bennion and Bob Deville share responsibility directing the growth and operations of Windermere Real Estate in Southern California. Appointed in 2003 to oversee development of the brand in the region, Bennion and Deville also own and operate three offices in California's Coachella Valley.

Bennion and Deville also serve as one of the Seattle area's leading real estate partnerships. They became licensed agents with Windermere in 1998. Prior to their affiliation with Windermere, Bennion and Deville served with the Dover Group of Seattle.

Bennion earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Seattle University. Deville earned a master's in business administration from the University of Southwestern Louisiana and has worked in real estate since 1971.

John Eskew**President, Windermere Services Oregon, Inc.**

John Eskew serves as president of Windermere Services Oregon, Inc. Eskew is responsible for directing all aspects of operations for Windermere offices in Oregon. Responsibilities include acting as a financial and business consultant to Windermere's office owners in Oregon. Prior to taking on responsibility for Oregon operations, Eskew was Windermere Real Estate's chief financial officer for four years. He previously spent 12 years at ELDEC Corporation as manager of finance, handling the company's budgeting, accounting, mergers and acquisitions and systems implementation.

Eskew graduated from Whitman College in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in economics.

Jeanne Grainger**President, Windermere Services, Southwest**

Jeanne Grainger serves as president of Windermere in the Southwest. Grainger directs the overall growth and productivity of the Windermere brand in the southwestern states. Grainger is responsible for identifying and recruiting owners interested in expanding the Windermere brand and provides agents, managers and owners with training and consulting on Windermere's advanced real estate technology systems and education and marketing programs.

Grainger joined Windermere in 1988. She has served in a variety of management positions during her tenure at Windermere Services, including director of communications, executive vice president and co-president, and as an executive management team member.

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