

Joe De Francis, chair

Joe De Francis is currently the Managing Partner of Gainesville Associates, LLC, a family company that he owns together with his sister, Karin. Through Gainesville, De Francis manages and oversees major De Francis Family investments, including a roughly 425-acre tract of land located in Prince William County, Virginia, a western suburb of Washington, DC.

Before that, from September 1989 until November 2002, De Francis was the Chief Executive Officer and controlling shareholder of the Maryland Jockey Club (MJC), the corporate parent entity of Pimlico Race Course (home of the Preakness Stakes, the middle jewel of thoroughbred racing's famed Triple Crown) and Laurel Park. In November 2002, De Francis sold a controlling interest in the MJC to Magna Entertainment Corporation (MEC), a publicly-traded company headquartered in Aurora, Canada (a suburb of Toronto), and retained a minority interest in the MJC. He continued as the CEO of the MJC.

In February 2006, De Francis assumed greater responsibilities at the MEC corporate level when he was appointed both as a Director and an Executive Vice-President of MEC. In September 2007 MEC acquired De Francis' remaining interest in the MJC, and in February 2008 De Francis resigned from the Board of Directors of MEC to pursue his interest in Gainesville.

De Francis graduated from UCLA School of Law with a J.D. Degree (1982), UCLA Graduate School of Management with an M.B.A. degree in Business Economics (1982), and Stanford University with an A. B. degree in Political Science (1977). Following graduation from UCLA, De Francis practiced law with the international firm of Latham and Watkins, first in their Los Angeles office and later in their Washington, D.C. office, where he specialized in antitrust, including litigation as well as mergers and acquisitions work.

De Francis has served on the boards of directors of numerous industry, civic and charitable organizations, including the National Thoroughbred Racing Association, the Board of Trustees of Loyola College, the Baltimore Symphony, the Johns Hopkins Heart Institute Board of Governors and the Board of Directors of the Signal 13 Foundation for the Baltimore City Police Department.

Joe Gorajec

As a graduate of the University of Arizona's Race Track Industry Program, Joe Gorajec has spent his entire adult life in the horse racing industry. The position that defined his career is the 25 years he served as Executive Director of the Indiana Horse Racing Commission (1990-2015). During that time, the commission's mission was to protect the integrity of its racing and the safety and welfare of its human and equine athletes. It was a mission Gorajec took very seriously, and during his tenure Indiana was on the forefront of many important issues including being the first state in the nation to regulate anabolic steroids and cobalt.

“I truly believe that the welfare of our horses should be the priority of all racing industry participants,” Gorajec said. “As their guardians we need to put their interest above the commercial interest of their owners, trainers and the tracks where they race. I look forward to serving on The HSUS National Horse Racing Advisory Council and improving the treatment and status of all horses in the racing industry.”

Stacie Clark Rogers

Stacie Clark, raised in Ontario, Canada, is the daughter of thoroughbred trainer Joan Clark and owner Peter Clark. Growing up around Thoroughbred racing, her parents’ passion for the industry soon became her own. Stacie started working at the racetrack over the summers while attending University. Galloping horses in the mornings and working in the Media and Publicity Department in the afternoons, horses took up almost all of her time.

After graduating with Combined Honors in Media Communications, Stacie went on to work in the Toronto, Ontario Film and Television industry. After four years in the field and as an Assistant Editor, the chance to ride races as a jockey was expiring and her career in television was put on hold.

From 1993 through 1996 Stacie rode as a jockey in Ontario and was nominated for the 1994 Sovereign Award as Outstanding Apprentice in Canada. When Woodbine Racetrack expanded its television department in 1999 the cross over to Associate Producer and Racing Television Commentator was a natural one. During her tenure, Stacie worked on Sovereign Award winning productions “Woodbine Entertainment Live” and “Woodbine Racing Live.”

In more recent years, Stacie’s focus has turned to the development of Thoroughbred retirement initiatives and implementation of equine aftercare programs. In 2004, as Thoroughbred Retirement Program Manager at Adena Springs, the first ever in-house retirement program was created. These efforts have in turn resulted in numerous industry recognition awards for both Adena Springs and Mr. Frank Stronach. Stacie was also directly involved in the implementation and management of the aftercare programs at Gulfstream Park and Santa Anita Park.

In 2013, Stacie produced HRTV’s Eclipse Award winning, Emmy-nominated documentary “Saratoga War Horse.”

Stacie served on Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance board since its beginning and Stacie was Chair of the accreditation committee for a year and half. In November 2014, Stacie joined the TAA full time as operations consultant.

Allen Gutterman

Allen Gutterman, a native New Yorker (Brooklyn born), has been a marketing and public relations executive in racetrack management for over 40 years. He began his career in harness racing at Monticello Raceway in upstate New York, graduated to Yonkers Raceway, then moved to New Jersey to be part of the team that opened the Meadowlands in 1976. The Meadowlands was his introduction to thoroughbred racing and, after 15 years at the Big M, he was drafted by the New York Racing Association as senior vice-president of marketing at Belmont, Saratoga and Aqueduct. He served from 1990 to 1995.

Allen spent a year in Chicago in charge of marketing at Arlington Park and a year as an on-site consultant during a reorganization at Sam Houston Park in Houston.

When Churchill Downs purchased Hollywood Park in 1999, Allen joined their team as v.p. of marketing. When Churchill sold Hollywood in 2005, Santa Anita Park brought him on board in the same role through 2012. While there, he developed a successful relationship between the track and City of Hope.

Allen is a partner in the New York based Black Swan racing stable. He's also a partner in the Racing Resource Group, an industry consulting firm. He returned to NYRA in 2014 for a six-month stint as a consultant at both Belmont and Saratoga during a management transition. Allen is on the advisory board and the communications committee of the Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance.

In non-racing roles, he spearheaded a successful charity project between the American Contract Bridge League and the Alzheimer's Association. He also led theater tours to London for Playbill Magazine and Playbill Travel and is a former advisory board member on the Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment Commission. He lives in Los Angeles with Robert Guillot, his partner since 1985.

"Just about everything good that's happened in my life I owe to the horse...to the racehorse."