

President's Message



Ricky Polston to Leave Citizens

June 7, 2023

Today's President's Message is bittersweet. General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer Ricky Polston will be leaving Citizens later this month to return to the private sector.

The former Florida Supreme Court Chief Justice was presented with an opportunity he felt was best for him and his family at this stage of what has been an exemplary legal career. He will be leaving June 30, 2023, to lead the constitutional law section at Shutts & Bowen LLP. Ken Tinkham will assume the role of Acting General Counsel and Chief Legal Counsel.

During his brief tenure here at Citizens Ricky has become a respected counsel and trusted advisor to me and other members of the Executive Leadership Team. With hurricane season approaching, and the legislative session in full swing, he hit the ground running.

Ricky has asked me to pass along a few words to all of you:

"My decision was not an easy one. During my time with leaders and employees from across the company, I have been amazed at the team's level of professionalism, dedication, and enthusiasm. I understand and fully appreciate the critical role Citizens plays during these challenging times in the Florida property insurance market. Citizens' policyholders and the people of Florida are in good hands."

HOWEVER, Ricky is not leaving the Citizens family. He will of course remain available to provide legal advice as outside counsel. But importantly, I have asked Ricky to be a part of the search/hiring process to identify his successor. Look for updates in the weeks ahead.

I know I speak for the entire ELT when I wish Ricky well in this new endeavor.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tim", with a long, sweeping horizontal line above it.

Tim Cerio
President/CEO and Executive Director

Timothy M. Cerio | President/CEO and Executive Director
Citizens Property Insurance Corporation
Email: tim.cerio@citizensfla.com