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LCLD Fellows Program Leadership Lunch: *Darden Restaurants and Carlton Fields Jordan Burt*

Monday, February 3, 2014

12:00 pm EST

Hosted by Darden Restaurants, Inc.

Orlando, FL

Speakers:

Teresa M. Sebastian, Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary of Darden Restaurants, Inc.

Gary L. Sasso, President and CEO of Carlton Fields Jordan Burt, P.A.



TERESA M. SEBASTIAN has served as Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary for Darden Restaurants, Inc. since 2010, overseeing Darden's legal affairs, internal audit, and compliance. Darden is the world's largest full-service restaurant operating company with annual sales of more than \$8.5 billion.

Sebastian earned a Bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan, an MBA from the University of North Florida's Coggin College of Business, a Juris Doctor degree, *magna cum laude*, from Michigan State University College of Law, and a Master of Laws degree in Corporate and Finance Law from Wayne State University Law School. During her career, she has worked in various industries including restaurant, manufacturing, energy, data technology, and the financial industries.

Sebastian is also a Board Member of the Leadership Committee for the University of Michigan School of Organizational Studies, a Board Member of the United Negro College Fund, a Trustee for the Darden Foundation, and a member of the General Counsel Forum for the National Retail Federation. She also maintains active membership in other business and legal organizations.



GARY L. SASSO has served as President and CEO of Carlton Fields (now Carlton Fields Jordan Burt) since February 2006. Before that, he led the firm's Litigation department and served on the firm's Board and Executive Committee. Carlton Fields Jordan Burt has 370 lawyers and government consultants with offices in major markets in Florida, Atlanta, Washington, DC, New York, and Hartford.

Sasso received his undergraduate degree in Economics from the Wharton School and earned his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School, where he graduated first in his law school class and served as Editor-in-Chief of the *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*. Following graduation, he clerked for Judge Spottswood W. Robinson, III, on the United States Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit and then for Justice Byron R. White on the United States Supreme Court. He practiced as a litigator in Washington, DC, until moving back home to Florida to join Carlton Fields in 1987.

Sasso is active in many civic and professional organizations. He has served as Chair of the United Way for the Tampa Bay region, Chair of the Tampa Bay Partnership, Chair of the Strategic Advisory Task Force for the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, and Chair of the United Way's Tocqueville Society. He was Editor-in-Chief of the ABA's *Litigation* journal, and he is a Fellow in the International Academy of Trial Lawyers and the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. He serves on the boards of the Leadership Counsel on Legal Diversity and the American Law Institute. Last year he was named by *Super Lawyers* as one of the top 10 lawyers in Florida, he was named "appellate lawyer of the year" by *Best Lawyers*, and he was included in *Florida Trend's* "Hall of Fame." He was born in Miami, Florida, and lives in Tampa, Florida, with his wife, Karen, where they have raised three daughters.