

# Execs form new wealth management firm in Boca

By Dale M. King  
CITY EDITOR

In the wake of major shifts occurring in many of the nation's largest financial institutions, two senior executives at Wachovia and Merrill Lynch, Bob Rubin and Charles Herrington III, have joined forces to form Ruben Herrington, a Boca Raton-based wealth management firm.

Also joining the management team is Debbie Abrams, who served as first lady of Boca Raton for seven years as wife of former Mayor Steven Abrams.

Rubin Herrington's president, Bob Rubin, who formerly served as senior vice president of Wachovia Wealth Management, said the group will provide services to clients directly, but will also focus on providing independent resources for client advisors, including area law firms, bankers, investment managers, accountants and family office managers.

In addition, he said, the firm has formed a formal strategic alliance with Insurance

Office of America (IOA), the largest property and casualty insurance broker in Florida, and will be housed in IOA's new Boca Raton office.

IOA's Chief Executive Officer, Heath Ritenour, said, "Not only are we pleased to be able to offer such high caliber wealth management services to our clients, but we are also giving them the assurance of having a trusted advisor who can provide the accountability that has been lacking in some of the nation's largest institutions.

To offer clients the global resources required for wealth management, the firm has affiliated with an independent broker firm, the ValMark Companies, which specializes in providing multi-source wealth transfer resources for the nation's top 1 percent of independent wealth management firms.

Rubin brings to the firm 23 years of specialization in estate, wealth, charitable, business succession and executive



Bob Rubin



Charles Herrington III



Debbie Abrams

compensation planning for ultra high net worth families, business owners and Fortune 1000 executives.

Herrington is nationally recognized as a specialist in estate

and trust administration with both Merrill Lynch and Wachovia, and holds the designation of certified trust and financial advisor.

Abrams is the former vice

president of Sabre Technical Services.

She has held a number of government positions in Washington, D.C., and, locally, is an alumnus of Leadership Boca,

past president of the Junior League of Boca Raton and currently serves as vice president of the Boca Raton Historical Society.

# Fire-Rescue honors West Boca doc for service

FROM STAFF REPORTS

West Boca Medical Center's Dr. George Blanton received a special call to the Emergency Department entrance the morning of Oct. 15.

Outside the hospital, Palm Beach Fire-Rescue Battalion 5 and its truck were waiting to surprise the ER doctor with a plaque thanking him for 20 years of service to firefighters and paramedics in the community.

Dr. Blanton has been with

the hospital since its opening in 1986.

"It was truly a surprise and an honor to receive such a welcome from a group of individuals whom I have the utmost respect for," said Dr. Blanton. "I have worked with several of these people since the start of their careers, and have treated many of them and their families."

Dr. Blanton is known as an educator for the EMS technicians because of his willingness

to answer questions and provide insight on new procedures.

"I always try to remind patients that it's the firefighters and paramedics that are the true life savers in many situations," Dr. Blanton said.

Around West Boca Medical Center, Dr. Blanton is known for his caring and compassionate. On the same day he received this honor, Dr. Blanton ordered a cake for a 92-year-old patient celebrating his birthday in the ER.



(Special to the News)

Dr. George Blanton of West Boca Medical Center was honored by Palm Beach County Fire-Rescue for 20 years of service.

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## REALITY HEALTH



Dear Dr. Levine,  
I am so embarrassed. My gynecologist just called me to start me on antibiotics for chlamydia. I thought I just had a bladder infection, but it turns out that one of my old boyfriends must have given me something more than I bargained for. I am not promiscuous and have only had two boyfriends since my last culture. I am no longer in contact with them and do not want to discuss this with them. My doctor told me that I not only need to complete a thorough sexually transmitted disease laboratory assessment, but to make matters worse I must notify previous sexual partners. They need to know that they need medication too. I really just can't deal with this. Are there any alternatives to calling them?

In the United States, there are 19 million new sexually transmitted diseases (STD's) diagnosed each year. This includes 900,000 cases of chlamydia like yours. Notifying sexual partners of potential exposure is crucial for prevention of further spread of infection. Traditionally, partners are notified by phone, mail, or even in person. Sometimes the assistance of a public health investigator is required. The large volume of cases of gonorrhea and chlamydia (1.23 million) make partner notification for all named partners

somewhat difficult. It is quite common to hesitate at the concept of contacting an old partner, especially for such an uncomfortable discussion. Recent surveys suggest that using using a private anonymous online notification system can make more people willing to communicate over such issues via a special secure e-mail notification. E-cards are used for a variety of reasons, and notify us of all kinds of important data. There exists a private e-mail service that can allow people like you to notify your "EX" anonymously via an e-card that they need treatment for an STD. The name of the notification system is called inSPOT.

inSPOT messages include information about the type of STD and provide information about where the recipient of the message can get tested. The site was originally designed to help men who have sex with men inform their partners quickly. Two years ago the site was updated for use by all audiences. Notifying your partner is easy, anonymous, and quick. No record of the sender or recipient is kept. The sender can choose to remain anonymous.

Your problem of notifying your previous partners is now solved. I recommend strongly that you follow your doctor's advice to immediately notify all previous sexual partners who may have been exposed to your infection. I would also

be remiss if I did not address a major issue not mentioned in your question. How do you intend to prevent this from happening again? Clearly you have not been practicing safe sex with every partner, or you would not have chlamydia. Fortunately chlamydia can be easily treated with a short course of antibiotics. If you had instead contracted HIV, your illness would be lifelong and life threatening. Even if your partners insist that they have been tested and are free of STD's, you should continue to insist on condom use during every encounter to best protect your health. If abstinence is not right for you, you should use the next best method to protect your health, and that is practicing safe sex, using a condom for every time. This is the easiest way to ensure that you will never have to worry about getting another STD.

Sincerely,

Sara Levine, M.D., F.A.A.P.

Dr. Sara Levine is board certified by both the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American Board of Pediatrics and has been practicing medicine for more than nine years. She graduated summa cum laude from Case Western Reserve University and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. She received her M.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine. She has completed Advanced Clinical Education in Child and Adolescent Obesity from the University of California, San Francisco. Dr. Levine is in private practice in Boca Raton.