

ATLANTA
BUSINESS
CHRONICLE

SPECIAL SECTION

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OUTSTANDING
DIRECTORS AWARDS



JANIE MADDOX
WellStar Health System Inc.



PHIL HUMANN
Coca-Cola Enterprises Inc.



MILTON JONES
YMCA of Metro Atlanta



TAYLOR GLOVER
Cousins Properties Inc.



GERALD BENJAMIN
Halperns' Purveyors of
Steak & Seafood



JOHN HUNTZ
CardioMEMS Inc.



BOBBIE KNOPF
Nobis Works



PETE CORRELL
SunTrust Banks Inc.

[editorial]



[The Reynolds Group Inc.] [www.thereynoldsgroupinc.com]

Gerry Benjamin has been invaluable to Halperns'

By H.M. Cauley
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Gerry Benjamin has an established track record that covers 30 years of investment banking, corporate finance advising, principal investing and restructuring experience. It is that expertise that makes him an invaluable member of the board at Halperns', the local company whose name is synonymous with exceptional seafood and beef.

"Gerry Benjamin has been my lead board director for more than 20 years," said Howard Halpern, chairman, Halperns' Steak & Seafood. "I knew his talent, financial expertise and good common sense could help to navigate through developing this business. He understands the relationships between brokers, employees, insurance companies — all the entities involved in running a business."

Benjamin developed much of his business acumen in positions with several local firms. The Ohio native earned a degree in accounting from the University of Kentucky, which he attended on a full music scholarship, and began a career in public accounting with the Atlanta office of Ernst & Young. In 1985, he co-founded Williams, Benjamin, Benator & Libby, a 60-person certified public accounting firm that he led as the managing partner and

Private company

Nominee: Gerald R. Benjamin, partner/managing partner of Atlanta Equity

Board: Halperns' Purveyors of Steak & Seafood

Nominated by: Howard Halpern, chairman, Halperns' Steak & Seafood



Benjamin
Atlanta Equity

director of corporate finance services. He served as the CEO of Premier Healthcare Inc., a health-care services venture management and development firm, and as a senior managing director with Casas, Benjamin & White LLC, a restructuring and merger and acquisitions advisory firm. As a managing director with Navigant Capital Advisors LLC, he directed the company's national investment banking practice and led the private equity advisory activities. In 2007, he co-founded Atlanta Equity Partners, a middle market private equity firm.

Benjamin's first introduction to Halpern and his food business was in the 1980s. "I was his CPA," Benjamin said. "We've now worked together for 25 years."

As part of Halperns' seven-member board, Benjamin most enjoys planning and

"I have been most fortunate to have Gerry Benjamin as my lead board member. He first served at the first company I founded, Buckhead Beef, which through his efforts we successfully sold to Fortune 100 company Sysco Foods. Subsequently, my son Kirk and I founded Halperns' Steak & Seafood, which in eight short years has grown to the largest independent meat and seafood company in the country. Gerry has been invaluable providing his business acumen, financial contacts and, most importantly, has proved invaluable during this rapid growth and expansion."



Howard Halpern
Chairman, Halperns' Steak & Seafood

executing growth strategies — a job that taps into his strong corporate finance and mergers and acquisitions background.

"I knew [Halperns'] had experienced rapid growth and great success, and I thought I could make a contribution," he said. "I have a feel for the opportunities in the market, and I've enjoyed planning for more growth and making sure it's adequately financed. My proudest accomplishment is having been able to finance expansion into the eastern U.S. and the Caribbean. Last year alone we made three acquisitions."

Halpern singles out Benjamin's

oversight as a major force in helping the company grow.

"He has such an extensive knowledge," Halpern said. "He's so important to myself and the company."

Along with his work on the Halperns' board, Benjamin is part of The Mother Nature Network, Consumer Financial Services LLC, Office Images Inc., MOG Lodging Investors LLC and Atlanta Eats LLC. He sits on the board of trustees for Woodward Academy and the University of Kentucky's Gatton College of Business and Economics, and is chair of the board of the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta.

[editorial]



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