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## Two Becker & Poliakoff attorneys join Katzman Garfinkel

Marlene L. Kirtland, managing shareholder of Becker's Orlando-area office for 12 years, and C. John Christensen, a 22-year veteran of the firm, moved to Margate-based Katzman's Maitland office.

Deborah C. Espana

2011-10-31 12:00:00 AM

Two Becker & Poliakoff attorneys and their staff of six have joined Katzman Garfinkel & Berger, which focuses on community association representation.

Marlene L. Kirtland, managing shareholder of Becker's Orlando-area office for 12 years, and C. John Christensen, a 22-year veteran of the firm, moved Monday to Margate-based Katzman's Maitland office.

Kirtland is a former assistant state attorney and former adjunct law professor at Florida Metropolitan University, now Everest University.

Christensen previously served as a legal analyst with the state Department of Business and Professional Regulation's Division of Condominiums, Timeshares and Mobile Homes; worked as a legislative analyst for the state House and Senate Judiciary committees; worked in the legal department of the Vistana Time-Share Condominium Resort in Orlando.

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## Orlando-area lawyers resign, join competitor

By [Mary Shanklin](#), Orlando Sentinel

6:34 PM EDT, October 31, 2011

Two Central Florida lawyers who specialize in community-association law, along with their staff, resigned from the Becker & Poliakoff firm over the weekend and announced Monday they would join a competitor — the law firm of Katzman, Garfinkel & Berger.

Marlene L. Kirtland and C. John Christensen had worked for decades at the Becker firm. Joining them at Katzman will be their six paralegals and legal assistants. Kirtland was the managing shareholder in charge of Becker & Poliakoff's Orlando office. Both firms are based in the Fort Lauderdale area but have offices in the Orlando area.

Becker & Poliakoff on Monday announced a reorganization of its Maitland-based Central Florida office, putting Chris Draper over the firm's community-association clients in Central Florida. Draper is a firm shareholder who led that office from 1994 through 2008. He has been practicing law in the firm's West Palm Beach office since then.

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## **Katzman Garfinkel & Berger Add Industry Powerhouses to Expand Central Florida Community Association Practice**

*Prominent Attorneys Marlene Kirtland, John Christensen and Team Join Leading Community Association Law Firm's Central Florida Offices*

Maitland / Orlando ([PRWEB](http://www.PRWEB.com)) October 31, 2011 -- Katzman Garfinkel & Berger (<http://www.KGBLawFirm.com>), the leader in community association law in the state of Florida, today welcomed the addition of two well-known community association lawyers, [Marlene L. Kirtland](#) and [C. John Christensen](#), along with their six paralegal/legal assistant staff members, who together bring with them decades of experience serving Central Florida's common interest ownership communities.

This seasoned team led by Kirtland and Christensen were previously with the law firm of Becker & Poliakoff for decades. They will join a vibrant team of KG&B attorneys and staff who are truly Committed to Community by providing the quality legal services and advice that volunteer directors and association managers depend upon for successful community operations.

Ms. Kirtland was the Managing Shareholder in charge of Becker & Poliakoff's Orlando office prior to joining KG&B. In addition to 12 years with Becker & Poliakoff, Ms. Kirtland also previously served as an Assistant State Attorney in the Ninth Judicial Circuit, where she gained broad experience in jury and non-jury trial litigation in the court's Appellate and Felony Trial Divisions. A former adjunct professor of law with Florida Metropolitan University, she is active in the Legal Aid Society of Orlando and is admitted to practice in the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

Mr. Christensen has dedicated his professional career over the last two decades while at Becker & Poliakoff to the representation of condominiums, timeshares and homeowner associations in the state of Florida. In addition to 22 years with Becker & Poliakoff, Mr. Christensen also has worked for the Department of Business & Professional Regulation (DBPR), Division of Florida Condominiums, Timeshares and Mobile Homes, for the Judiciary Committees of the Florida House of Representatives and Florida Senate as a Legislative analyst.

"We are very proud to be welcoming this powerhouse team of community association veterans to our firm's Central Florida offices," said [Alan Garfinkel, Founding Partner, Katzman Garfinkel & Berger](#). "The addition of Marlene and John and their team members will only enhance our firm's growing presence throughout Central and Northern Florida, including the Greater Orlando area, the I-4 Corridor from Tampa to Daytona, Brevard County's Space Coast and the Metro Jacksonville area."

"John and I are truly excited to be joining Katzman Garfinkel & Berger, an outstanding law firm that is exclusively devoted to the representation of Florida community associations and one that I know will enable us to best serve community association clients in the Orlando and the Central Florida area without the kind of conflicts that firms with multiple client bases may encounter," said Ms. Kirtland.

"I previously worked with John, Marlene and their team of support staff and have seen firsthand the care they take when approaching issues and solving problems for boards and managers," aid [Donna DiMaggio Berger, Managing Partner and Executive Director of the firm's Community Advocacy Network \(CAN\)](#). "I think their approach, attitude and philosophy will be a perfect fit for our Firm's dedication to improving the quality of life for the millions of Floridians living in these common-interest ownership communities."



Named as one of the “Best Places to Work” in 2009 by the South Florida Business Journal, the firm has also been designated as "One of the Most Distinguished Law Firms in America" by Martindale-Hubbell, a peer review rating system spanning more than a century of service evaluating American Law Firms.

For more information on [Katzman Garfinkel & Berger’s Central Florida offices](#) or to speak directly with attorneys Marlene Kirtland and John Christensen phone (407) 539-3900 or email [mkirtland\(at\)kgblawfirm\(dot\)com](mailto:mkirtland(at)kgblawfirm(dot)com) or [jchristensen\(at\)kgblawfirm\(dot\)com](mailto:jchristensen(at)kgblawfirm(dot)com).

About Katzman Garfinkel & Berger (KG&B):

Katzman Garfinkel & Berger is Florida’s leader in community association law, with clientele that include more than 1,000 of the finest community associations statewide. “Committed to Community,” the firm offers Florida communities a full range of legal services, including general corporate representation, lien collection and foreclosure services and strategies, first-party insurance claim recovery and construction defect litigation.

Unique in its level of commitment to Florida community association education, the firm provides a comprehensive educational program for Board members and managers through the Katzman Garfinkel & Berger Law and Learning Center, including the popular Board Member Boot Camp™ seminars and “We Speak Condo” course series. Dedicated to the best interests of Florida community associations, the firm does not represent developers, banks, insurance companies or other entities with interests adverse to its community association clientele.

For more information and contact details for Katzman Garfinkel & Berger’s seven strategically located offices throughout Florida, visit: [www.KGBLawFirm.com](http://www.KGBLawFirm.com).

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