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**Longtime FBA President and CEO Alex Sanchez Announces Retirement**

*Alex Sanchez will retire at the end of 2023 after 30 years of service*

TALLAHASSEE—Florida Bankers Association President and CEO Alex Sanchez will retire at the end of 2023 after 30 years of service to the association and the Florida banking industry. Sanchez announced his upcoming retirement at the recent FBA board meeting in Miami on Thursday, December 8th, surrounded by several former FBA Past Chairs, his wife Patsy, and daughter Carolina.

Sanchez is only the 3rd CEO in the FBA’s 135-year history, preceded by strong leaders Floyd Call and John Milstead. Sanchez joined the FBA in 1993 as a lobbyist and became CEO in 1998 following Milstead’s passing.

“Alex was our Chief Lobbyist in 1998, when we had the tragic passing of John Milstead, FBA president at the time. After witnessing Alex’s energy, tenacity and work ethic, I proposed to the Board that he be the next president,” said FBA Past Chair Charlie Brinkley. “As evidenced by his career of 30 years, the right choice was definitely made. I have been in the fortunate position over the last 29 years to work with Alex and call him a true friend. The banking industry will miss a real warrior.”

As CEO, it has been Sanchez’s mission to make the association politically strong. He has advocated passionately for the banking industry at the state and federal level, forging longstanding relationships with bank regulators and politicians alike, leading trips to Washington, D.C., organizing briefings with key decision makers and regulators, and speaking out on national television about critical issues like credit union taxation and the climate reporting requirement. Sanchez describes himself as a “one-trick pony,” supporting those on both sides of the political aisle who support the banking industry.

“Alex Sanchez has been the leader of the Florida Bankers Association for 30 years and is one of the most respected leaders in banking. His endless passion, enthusiasm and energy to support all banks, and our mission of bringing capital to Main Street, is amazing,” said FBA Chair Bill Penney. “Alex is a true inspirational leader and a model for all aspiring leaders to follow. Alex, a career well done; I’m proud to call you my friend.”

Prior to joining the FBA, Sanchez worked as an attorney for Miami-based law firm Sinclair Louis, specializing in business law. He served in the US Air Force for almost five years. Sanchez graduated from the University of Iowa College of Law. All who know Sanchez are familiar with his love for banking, family, and country.

“I love the FBA and I love serving you. I truly believe the banking industry is a noble profession because you, our bankers, provide the capital that makes the economy go. You make the dreams of so many Americans come true by creating new home and business owners,” Sanchez said. “As the 3rd CEO in our 135-year history, it has been an honor to sit in my chair each and every day.”

The FBA Executive Committee, led by Incoming Chair Jose Cueto, will serve as the search committee for Sanchez’s successor. Sanchez will continue to serve as CEO of the FBA through December of 2023 to assist in the transition.

“Alex is going to be extremely missed after a 30-year career dedicated to protecting the interests of banks and representing our industry in Washington, D.C., and Tallahassee. His work has laid the foundation for the survival and future of our banks,” Cueto said. “He will be very difficult to replace.”

The FBA is incredibly grateful to Sanchez for his many years of dedicated service and wishes him a happy and fulfilling retirement.

“Alex has been a professional mentor and personal inspiration to those of us who have been privileged to make the FBA a career. His energy, passion and tenacity are contagious. On behalf of our entire FBA team, we are all so thankful for Alex’s dedication, leadership and guidance throughout his extraordinary career serving the Florida banking industry,” said FBA COO Pamela Ricco.

Though Sanchez will be dearly missed, the FBA looks forward to welcoming Sanchez’s successor and continuing to serve as the voice of Florida’s banking industry.

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***The Florida Bankers Association****(FBA) serves as the primary resource through which Florida financial service providers work in unity to influence the state and federal legal regulatory environment in which they serve their customers. Established in 1888, the FBA is one of Florida’s oldest trade associations and has a membership of more than 250 financial institutions.*