

COMMISSIONERS & STAFF

Cari Haught Coats, Commissioner City of Orlando Appointee

Cari Coats serves as chief operating officer for CNL Real Estate Advisors. Coats directs the organization's real estate investment research and analytical activities, strategy formulation, product development process, as well as all operational and performance management functions. Coats joined CNL as chief marketing officer in January 2004. In January 2005, she was appointed chief strategy officer for CNL Financial Group, responsible for all corporate level strategy development and performance management.



Previously, Coats was vice president of business development for RDV Sports and executive vice president of the Orlando Magic, joining the NBA franchise as part of the start-up team in 1987. Coats' 16-year NBA career included appointments as vice president of marketing for RDV Sports and president of the Orlando Magic Youth Foundation.

Prior to joining RDV Sports, Coats was a senior account executive with the Orlando office of Young & Rubicam. From 1984 to 1986, she was director of communications and member programs for the Greater Orlando Chamber of Commerce. Coats began her career in broadcasting, most notably as co-host and producer for the nationally syndicated television show "PM Magazine" in Orlando from 1980 to 1984.

Coats serves on the Board of Directors for Enterprise Florida. Previously, she chaired Mayor Buddy Dyer's Downtown Strategic Transition Team and served on the Mayor's Parramore Advisory Board. She is also a former member of the board of trustees and executive committee of the Orlando Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Orlando Museum of Art board of directors and the Ronald McDonald House advisory board. She is active at her alma mater, the University of Central Florida, having served 10 years on the board of directors and executive committee of the UCF Foundation. In 1994 she was named UCF's Distinguished Alumnus of the Year.

Coats holds a Bachelor's Degree in Radio and Television/Communications from UCF and a Masters in Business Administration – Global Executive from Duke University.

She and her husband, Russ, reside in Orlando. They have nine-year-old twin daughters, Kate and Maddie.