

People in Business

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SEMPCheck Services, a provider of regulatory compliance management systems for the energy industry, has appointed **Anton du Preez** vice president, auditing and SEMS, of the company's safety and environmental management system program.

Kimberley Johnson has joined Haak Vineyards as executive chef.

Attorneys **James A. Byerly** and **Gary L. Murphree** have joined Ewing & Jones as principals.

Kristen Rabel has been named first vice president at **CB Richard Ellis**.

Julia Wright has joined the Elaine Turner team as the director of stores.

HRSS CPAs & Advisors, formerly H.R. Shaikh Seyar, has admitted two new partners to the firm. **Sabeen Pirzada** will oversee the business services tax group, while **Aamir Maniar** will be leading the assurance services for the firm.

Angela Moore has been named director of food and beverage at the **Four Seasons Hotel Houston**.

Karen J. Garfield has been named executive director of Southwest Region of the Development **Corporation** for Israel/State of Israel Bonds.

BBVA Compass announced that **Gloria Ryan** has been appointed senior vice president and team leader for its commercial banking unit in Houston.

The Post Oak Group of Cos. announced the appointment and association of **James P. Webb** and J.P. Webb Advisory in The Woodlands. Webb is a veteran of the financial services profession, with experience in institutional investment management consulting, asset management, retirement and estate planning.

Reliance Life Sciences announced the appointment of **Atul Varadhachary** as president of **U.S.** operations.

Bob Burns has been named president and CEO of Applus RTD North America, including management responsibilities for the U.S. and Canada.

Witt/Kieffer has announced the addition of **Diane Tanking** and **Scott Sette** as consultants specializing in health care management and executive searches.

Westlake Chemical Corp. announced two executive appointments. **Mike Mattina** has been promoted to vice president and general manager-North American Pipe Corp., with responsibility for the PVC pipe business. **Mike Powell** has been appointed vice president and general manager-Westech Building Products, and will assume responsibility for the PVC windows, fence and related building products business.

Moelis & Co., an independent investment bank based in New York, announced its plans to establish an office in Houston focused on serving clients in the oil and gas industry and other companies based in the region. **Brady Parish** has been named as a managing director. The office is expected to open in April.

Will Bradley has joined Read King Commercial Real Estate as vice president of leasing.

Maxoil Solutions, an oil and gas consultancy headquartered in Aberdeen, Scotland, has appointed **Brad Nelson** as business development manager for the firm's North & South America operations.

Fulbright & Jaworski has named the following new partners in its Houston office: **Alaina King Benford**, who concentrates on real estate litigation, including eminent domain and condemnation matters; **Randall Richardson**, who focuses on professional liability, product liability, mass tort and catastrophic injury matters; **Craig Vogelsang**, who handles investment in and the acquisition and disposition of oil and gas

properties, pipelines and related facilities; and **Chris Watt**, who advises on commercial litigation matters with a focus on construction cases, health care litigation and professional negligence.

Hogan Lovells US announced that **David W. Locascio** and **José Luis Vittor** have joined the Houston office as partners in the infrastructure, project, and public finance and energy practices.

Robert Stevenson has been appointed chief operating officer of TerraSpark Geosciences.

Donna Marshall has been named head of school at the Westview School. **Paul Janssen** of **BMC Software** has been elected to the school's board of directors.

Richard B. Hemingway Jr. has been named a partner in the oil and gas practice group of Thompson & Knight.

Michelle Homfeld has been named a senior private banker in **Wells Fargo's** Wealth Management Group.

Hi-Way Equipment Co. announced the appointment of **Greg Webb** as the consultant responsible for overseeing paving product lines at all Texas locations.

Diane Longoria has joined Pointsmith, a point-of-purchase management company, as director of marketing.

Chris Rogers has joined the Mergis Group, a specialty professional placement firm, as managing director of the Houston office.

Joanne Naponic announced the opening of Joanne Naponic Properties. Naponic has over 39 years of experience in real estate.

The Reach Group, a Houston-based international oil and gas performance improvement company, announced the promotion of **Marc Vaillancourt** to vice president-Asia Pacific, and **Kayla Shows** to human resource manager.

The Department of Homeland Security has appointed **D. Wayne Klotz**, the president of Klotz Associates, to a new U.S. national group, the Community Resilience Task Force. The task force's goal is to develop programs for communities in the event of a disaster, natural or otherwise.

Chamberlain Hrdlicka announced the election of **Josh Bowlin** and **Brett Berly** as shareholders and **Julia Calnek** and **David Sheinbein** as equity shareholders.

Tiffany B. Rivers has joined Office's business development division.

Berkeley Research Group, an expert advisory and data analytics firm based in Emeryville, Calif., has opened an office in Houston. **Saul Solomon** has been hired as director to lead the Houston office. He is joined by **Ronald Vollmar** and **Joseph Wilkinson**.

Huron Consulting Group announced that **J. Kevin Blodgett** has joined the company as a managing director in Huron Legal. Blodgett will focus on improving performance and reducing costs for corporate law department clients.

Stephen K. Gardner has been promoted to chief executive officer and president of NGP Capital Resources Co. The change follows the departure of **John H. Homier**, who is assuming a new role as a venture partner with the Natural Gas Partners funds.

The Chronicle lists appointments to executive-level positions in Houston. Send announcements to katherine.feser@chron.com.