

# Shelley Stewart – 2018 2nd Vice President

Shelley Stewart has always pursued excellence in the home building industry; status quo never being enough.

Starting in high school, Stewart embarked on her career in the title market as an errand runner for a local Daytona Beach company. After earning her license as a Title Agent and Certified Land Closer, she went into business with two partners in 1995, establishing Southern Title Holding Company, and in just 11 short years she had over 20 offices.

And, she hasn't slowed down.

Believing that relationships are key to a successful industry, Stewart has committed herself to like-minded organizations that can further the successful business of home building. As a member of the Volusia Building Industry Association (VBIA), Florida Home Builders Association (FHBA), National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), Florida Land Title Association, Women's Council of Realtors, multiple Realtor associations, and additional Home Builder Associations, she seeks out the opportunity to advocate on behalf of the industry she has come to love.

Her dedication to home building is evident by her continuous leadership and participation at Florida's Capitol. In 2008, Stewart was one of three agents appointed by then Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp to serve on the Title Insurance Study Advisory Council, created to conduct a comprehensive examination of Florida's title insurance system and to make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on the best course of action regarding title insurance for both consumers and the industry. Most recently, Stewart testified on behalf of home

builders and realtors to pass a bill that caps estoppel certificate fees, completing a multi-year effort to reign in unreasonable charges to consumers.

"Shelley knows what it takes to make home building successful in this precarious economic environment – relationships," says Rusty Payton, FHBA CEO and Chief Lobbyist. "She is a true leader; passionate about our industry and dedicated to the future of its success. We are proud to have her serve as FHBA's next Second Vice President."

She not only believes in the industry, but the organizations that serve it. As a member of FHBA, Stewart has been on numerous Committees, including the Governmental Affairs Committee and Political Action Committee. Her leadership within FHBA can be found in her service as Chair of the 2016 Membership Committee, successfully securing Florida as the third largest Home Builders Association in the nation, and this past year as Third Vice President.

VBIA Executive Director Sandy Bishop observes: "Don't let Shelley's ever sunny personality fool you- she's an analytical peacemaker, breaking the task down and creating allies for solutions to every challenge."

Her efforts have not gone unnoticed.

As a result of her active involvement in federal, state, and local issues impacting the industry, Stewart was appointed in 2012 to the American Land Title Association's Governmental Affairs Committee and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners Industry Liaison Committee; two national leadership positions that guide policies of the insurance industry. In 2014, Stewart was listed in the Volusia/Flagler



Business Report's Influential Women in Business and named "Woman of the Year" in 2016 by the Volusia/Flagler Association of Women Lawyers. In 2017, Stewart was selected by First American Title's event, "Women in Title", as one of seven agents from across the country to serve on a panel discussion that analyzed the challenges facing title agents as a result of new federal and state regulations as well as the significant impact of women in the industry.

In Shelley Stewart fashion, she continues to move forward.

She thrives on seeking new and better ways to deliver the "Ultimate Closing Experience" to Floridians. Most recently, her focus has been on improving efficiencies and embracing technology while maintaining the vital personal touch that makes the closing process and home ownership an integral part of the American dream.

"Shelley has a true understanding of what it takes to create a better business environment for our industry," says FHBA President, Jeremy Stewart. "We are confident in her capacity to lead our organization as Second Vice President." 