

BOSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

BUILDING ON BOSTON'S NEXT CHAPTER 18



THE LIST LARGEST RETAILERS IN MASSACHUSETTS 22

ORGANIZED LABOR

A kinder, gentler Teamsters Local 25

The president of Boston's major Teamsters union wants to set the record straight about his tactics. **MARY MOORE, 3**

HIGHER EDUCATION

Berklee College's sweet music

Defying industry trends, Berklee College of Music is seeing strong revenue growth. **CRAIG DOUGLAS, 4**

BIOFLASH

HOW TO KILL THE ZOMBIES BY USING BIOTECHNOLOGY 9



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Learn More

There has to be a shared responsibility in this conversation.

— JOHN FISH, Suffolk Construction CEO

'We want to put together a real, collective agenda.'

— JON HURST, president of the Retailers Association of Massachusetts

TECHFLASH

LIFE UNDER GOOGLE: ROBOTICS FIRM SAYS NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED 8



What Business
WANTS

INDUSTRY LEADERS WORRY THAT THEIR CONCERNS ARE BEING FORGOTTEN AGAIN IN THE LATEST POLITICAL CONTEST.

COVER STORY BY GEORGE DONNELLY, 16

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IN PERSON

Getting to know the executives who make business tick



Kimberly Sherman Stamler,
COO of Related Beal.

BY MARC SHINSAKI

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Building on Boston's next chapter

COO FASCINATED WITH HOW DEVELOPMENTS FIT INTO THE FABRIC OF THE CITY

BY JAY FITZGERALD
Special to the Journal

Kimberly Sherman Stamler has always loved cities.

When she was young growing up just outside New York City, she'd eagerly plan and map out how she and her mother would get into Manhattan – the roadways, the bridges, the exits, the mileage, street by street, block by block – to visit museums or other city attractions.

"Getting there was almost as fun as actually being there," recalled Stamler. "How a city operates – the transportation, the buildings, the culture – has always fascinated me."

Today, Stamler is intricately involved in exploring and understanding another city: Boston.

Earlier this year, Stamler was appointed chief operating officer of Related Beal Cos.'s Boston office, which is currently undergoing a transition following last year's merger between the Related Cos. of New York and the Beal Cos. of Boston. In some respects, it hasn't been a difficult merger: Related's president is Bruce Beal Jr., son of Bruce Beal Sr., head of the former Beal Cos. and now chairman of the renamed Related Beal Cos. of Boston.

In other respects, though, it's a merger that's bringing together into one portfolio one of the more diverse and prominent collections of properties in Boston: Congress Square, Lovejoy Wharf, the Clarendon, One Back Bay, and the Arlington.

► CLOSER LOOK

KIMBERLY SHERMAN STAMLER

Title: Chief operating officer, Boston office, Related Beal Cos.

Age: 36

Education: Bachelor's degree, urban studies, University of Pennsylvania, 1999

Residence: Boston

Currently, Related Beal, which has about 40 employees in Boston, is renovating Fidelity Investments' long-time headquarters building on Devonshire Street, as the giant mutual-fund company gradually shifts the core of its operations to its new headquarters overlooking the Fort Point Channel and to the South Boston waterfront.

And right in the middle of all of Related Beal's activities in Boston is Stamler, the former senior vice president at Related Cos. who had spent the past 15 years based in New York.

Stamler's first job after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in urban studies was at Related Cos, where she once did a summer college internship.

And she became fascinated with commercial and residential real estate and how various developments fit into the fabric of a city. "In real estate, there's so many things to be done in any given project," said Stamler, who started at Related Cos. as an analyst and eventually worked her way up the ranks.

It's not as if Stamler is unfamiliar with Boston.

Over the years, she says, Boston has become a sort of second home to her, as she regularly shuttled between

the two cities to help monitor and hammer out development deals, often joint ventures between Related and Beal Cos., before the two firms formally merged last year.

"I've worked in Boston for years, traveling a lot there," said Stamler, whose local projects include construction of the 103-unit Clarendon tower in 2009.

"Kimberly has been intimately involved with Related's pursuits in Boston for over a decade and brings a wealth of real estate experience across several asset classes, making Kim the ideal fit to help write the next chapter of growth for Related Beal," said Bruce Beal Jr. in a statement.

As a youth, Stamler also regularly visited Worcester, where her father grew up and where her grandparents used to live. Her grandparents also used to own a lake home in Webster. So she knows the region, not just Boston.

As she did when she was young and visited New York with her mother, she enjoys exploring Boston with her own sons, ages 7 and 4.

"My children love to walk around the city and go to different places," she said. "We like walking through all the neighborhoods, looking at different buildings, noticing the architecture. Boston is a terrific city. There are so many opportunities here."

And she's bullish on the city from a professional perspective.

"There's so much going on here, so much growth and things that people want to grow," she said. "Boston has arts, culture, education, mass transit, vibrant (companies). It's a matter of continuing to grow all these things."