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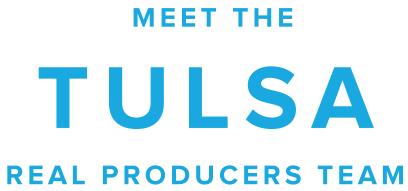
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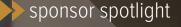
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Story by Dave Danielson • Photos by Pamela Jean

making sure the pieces fit

As you know, each real estate transaction comes with what can be an almost endless line of moving parts. That's why it means so much to have a partner on your side to make sure they all come together in the end.

That's where Team Lead Kimberly Altier and The Altier Mortgage Team with Union Home Mortgage come into the picture with experience, expertise and true individual care.

"I like helping my first-time homebuyers get into a home. That's the bottom line. Along the way, I really enjoy the interaction with my title and REALTOR® partners," Kimberly explains.

"For me, it's about the whole package. It's fun to facilitate the process with all these people I work with. It's about the motion of it all and bringing everyone together. It's a puzzle and we enjoy making sure the pieces fit."

Learning and Growing

Kimberly brings a true wealth of experience to each interaction with her partners and clients. In fact, she has been in the industry since 1991. Through time, she owned a credit reporting company for the first 20 years of her career. She also gained experience in wholesale lending before turning her attention to retail lending with consumers in 1999.

Team Effort Through time, Kimberly has enjoyed sharing the journey with others who have joined the team, including Jonathan Powers, who she brought on 10 years ago.





"That's where I really found my love for the industry," she says with a smile. "It changed my life. I have helped so many customers. I helped a guy who was living in Austin in his car. That's how I got into the business."

"He is my right-hand man. We're also proud to have Kelsey on the team as our marketing person," she smiles.

One of the key differences those who work with Kimberly and her team notice is the extreme service and communication they experience.

"We call every buyer, buyer's agent and listing agent every Tuesday for every contract. We really do that. We probably make 25 to 100 calls, and we do it, because in this business, it really is about the communication," she explains.

"Through that process, we find out everything that can go wrong and nip it in the bud. That's how we can close any loan in three weeks because we do things immediately."



True Partnership

Kimberly and the team also take pride in supporting their partners' business by circling back when it's time to move forward.

"We really track everything. In some cases, clients may need credit repair before they can move forward. In those cases, we work with them," Kimberly says.

"Then, once they are ready to move ahead, we circle back to their REALTOR[®] and let them know that they are ready to move forward with the process again. We call it extreme customer service."

In addition, Kimberly and her team are available to support their partners and clients on the weekends, as well.

Family Fulfillment

Away from work, Kimberly's world is made much richer by her family.

She looks forward to time with her husband, Robert Kleven of Concept Building.

She also likes spending time with their two dogs and their cat.

In her free time, she enjoys time spent at her family's cabin, enjoying boating on the lake. She also has a passion for cooking.

Other favorites include walking, and spending time in the sun and water. She is also looking forward to completing work on her family's pool.

When you're looking for a partner to help you make all the pieces fit, look to Kimberly Altier and The Altier Mortgage Team.

"It's our mission to be informative and caring," she says. "No one is a number for us. All that we do is based on relationships and extreme customer service."



Contact The Altier Mortgage Team Today!

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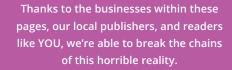
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JERERAY WITH TULSA HOME + DESIGN REAL ESTATE DELAY

Things have a way of coming full circle.

While pursuing a bachelor of science degree in business administration at Oklahoma State University in the late 2000s, Jeremy DeLay became associated with Jennifer Hands — then with the surname Magers — and her future husband, Roderick, through her brother Justin, one of his best friends. Even as life sent them in different directions, with DeLay moving on to earn a master's of business administration from Oklahoma Wesleyan University in Tulsa and starting a family with his college sweetheart, Maria, it proved to be a friendship that was forged to last.

Little did he know their reconnection years later would change the trajectory of his career.

RECONNECTING WITH OLD FRIENDS

Fast forward several years and, DeLay, who was busy bolstering his resume with various sales and business development jobs, reached out to Tulsa Home + Design — owned by Jennifer and Roderick Hands — to have his house looked at for a renovation project. What they proposed took him by surprise and was even better than a quick quote. The Hands offered him a job as a real estate agent with their brokerage.

"They were like, 'Why don't you come sell for us and do real estate?' And at first, I was like, 'I don't know if I want to do real estate," DeLay said. "But I've always had a sales background, and eventually the timing just worked out to jump on and join them. My career is, fortunately, falling forward because a lot of unexpected things have happened. There have been some big life-changing things where I just wasn't expecting what was coming next to come next. I feel like I've been at the next step, and it's like I didn't realize this was gonna happen. That's why I say it's kind of like falling forward because it's all worked out. "It just kind of came out of the blue."

STARTING IN REAL ESTATE

After getting his real estate license in April 2021, DeLay spent the first year learning about the industry and spreading his name around the Tulsa area. That patience paid off because when the market went bonkers in 2022, he was ready to put his new and old sales skills to the test.

> "The first year was just super slow," DeLay said. "It was learning, and I was like, 'Oh, I need to figure out how to get this thing off the ground.' Then my first deal closed in May of '22, and in between May and August, I did like \$4 million in sales. It was just like one transaction to another, and it was also super fun. The

market was insane, and it felt like people were just coming left and right to buy houses."

His long-term goal is to work in real estate fulltime with the Hands family, but in the meantime, he continues to build his presence by utilizing social media and sending out mailers to potential home buyers in his network.

66

There have been some big life-changing things where I just wasn't expecting what was coming next to come next.

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Photos by **Peak RES** Story by **Kevin Green**

SPREADING THE WORD

DeLay and his wife, Maria, also use her charcuterie business, The Grazing Table, to further introduce him to potential customers via the company's growing social media pages, which feature more than 8,000 likes and followers across Facebook and Instagram. The business took off quicker than they imagined, but it has been a blessing to the DeLays, who have been married since December 2010 and have two sons — Stone Ryan (6) and Rhett Daniel (2).

"Having her just give me exposure is great as well," DeLay said. "Our dream is her running The Grazing Table and me doing real estate, and that just kind of being the things that we have in life going forward would be ideal."

According to The Grazing Table's website bio, Maria's eye for charcuterie started as occasional date-night treats for her husband but quickly grew from its humble beginnings to a booming small business that often sells out of its popular holiday specials.

Much like how The Grazing Table helps promote DeLay's real estate business, DeLay is more than willing to spread the word about the entrepreneurial ventures of his wife any chance he gets.

"I share all her stuff on my page, and she shares my stuff on hers," DeLay said. "We talk a lot about each other. She's honestly more popular than I am ... she's gotten me some sales.

"She's super supportive."

FAMILY TIME

When DeLay, a Tulsa-area native who graduated from Bixby High School, isn't selling homes to his growing client base, he enjoys spending his downtime with his wife and taking his boys to local spots like the Tulsa Zoo, the Oklahoma Aquarium in Jenks, the Gathering Place and the associated Discovery Lab Children's Museum.

The DeLays also frequent OK Cookie Momster and Barbee Cookies for their dessert needs.

For DeLay, supporting those establishments is all about giving back to the community and city that helped shape him into the successful person and businessman he is today. With that in mind, it is no wonder he has developed a passion for helping other people find and establish roots in Tulsa.



"I was born here, I met my wife here and we had our kids here," DeLay said. "So it's important to me that my kids are getting to have experiences that I had growing up in Tulsa. We have options of where we can live, but we choose Tulsa because it is such a great place for our family, and there's really no other place we'd want to live."

UNEXPECTED BLESSINGS

Reconnecting with friends led an unsuspecting DeLay to find more meaningful work as a real estate professional, further developing his bond and business partnership with Tulsa Home + Design and the Hands family in the process. He is now on the fast track to success in a market filled with talented real estate agents, establishing himself as a familiar and friendly face that hopeful homeowners now and in the future can rely on and trust.

"I love and appreciate Tulsa Home + Design, and Jennifer and Roderick in particular," DeLay said. "That's such a huge part because I wouldn't be doing this if it weren't for them and the opportunities they've given me. They paid for my licensing upfront, they paid for all of my dues upfront until I started selling and really put me in a position to succeed, which has been awesome. "I wouldn't be doing it if it weren't for them."





We have options of where we can live, but we choose Tulsa because it is such a great place for our family, and there's really no other place we'd want to live.





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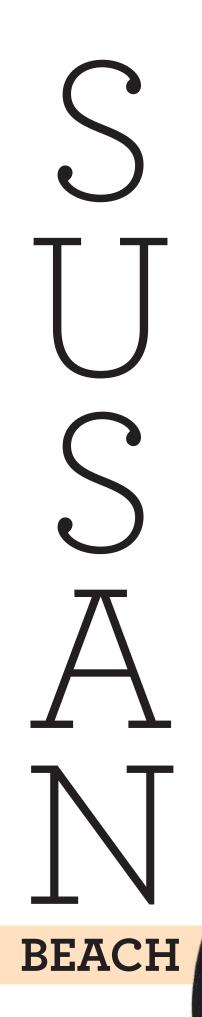
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FIVE DECADES THE WORKFORCE

It is no doubt a relevant inquiry. After all, Beach has been in the workforce for about 55 years — the past 29 of which were spent serving her local community in the real estate business through Keller Williams Realty.

According to the Social Security Administration, the Normal Retirement Age — also referred to as Full Retirement Age — varies from age 65 to age 67 by year of birth. Beach is due and more than deserving of retirement and the benefits that come along with it.

When the topic comes up and she thinks about her tenure, questions of her own penetrate her mind. "Am I looking that much older? Is it that obvious?" However, there is no hesitation in her voice when she answers with a firm "No", and her reasoning has to do with her purpose in life.

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My role is very far-reaching, so I get to really do what I love and stav interested in what I do every single day. So I'm like, 'Why would I retire?

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Susan Beach is asked the same question probably three or four times a week: "Is retirement in your near future?"

> Right now, that purpose revolves around her duties at Keller Williams

That isn't to say Beach doesn't enjoy the small things in life — cooking, walking, spending time with her family and traveling are among her favorite hobbies. She is simply passionate about her work, and withdrawing from that at this time would leave a hole she wouldn't know how to fill.

"If I think about retiring, I'm like, 'What am I gonna wake up and do every day?"" said Beach, who spent three years in production before accepting a position in leadership. "My role is very far-reaching, so I get to really do what I love and stay interested in what I do every single day. So I'm like, 'Why would I retire?'"

BEFORE REAL ESTATE

Before getting her real estate license in December 1994 and joining Keller Williams in January 1996, Beach worked in the wholesale apparel industry with her husband for 26 years. The job kept her busy as she traveled back and forth between Oklahoma and Arkansas, doing business with all JCPenney stores in the area while her husband dealt with luxury retailers like Neiman Marcus in

It was a fulfilling gig through her 20s and 30s, but as she continued getting older, the grind of constantly traveling started taking its toll. Walmart began its rise in the corporate landscape around that same time, changing the complexity of wholesale and retail for

the foreseeable future. For Beach, that was another sign that a career change might be a good idea.

"The margins were going to be very different for these retail stores," Beach recalled. "Who's the wholesaler going to cut first? The wholesaler is going to cut the middleman, and we were the middleman. It didn't matter how successful we were, we were still in the middle. We kind of anticipated that, so about five years before we took the dive, we knew it was coming; we knew we had about five years to go."

A NEW DIRECTION

Beach and her husband looked into many different opportunities that could have suited their desired lifestyle, and the occupation that correlated with the least amount of financial risk was, of course, real estate. It took some convincing from her significant other, but she ultimately decided to join the industry. The rest is history.

"Truly, it was not my first choice," Beach said. "My husband had to literally talk me into it. I just didn't think I was going to like it."

It takes courage to leave the comfort zone of a nearly three-decade career, but Beach was no stranger to difficult situations. Growing up the youngest of four children certainly had its obstacles, but it was those challenges and her relentlessness to overcome them that spurred her to a life of success and progress and the feeling of accomplishment.



"Hands down, I would not be who I am today without that because I had to be strong," Beach said. "I had to be resilient. I had to pat myself on the back. If I wanted to succeed, I had to succeed because I wanted to succeed."

And succeed she did.

FINDING PURPOSE IN LEADERSHIP

Beach carried her strong-willed mindset into adulthood, and her peers picked up on her positive and purposeful attitude. Her desire to be good at her trade put her in positions to make a good living, but there was still something missing until Keller Williams approached her about going into leadership.

Regardless of whether it was wholesale apparel or real estate production, she was good at what she did. However, she never thought about loving or hating her job — it didn't matter as long as she was making money. That all changed, though, when leadership became a part of her everyday life, weaving itself into her very being.

"Once I got into leadership, and I say this even today all these years later, I should have been doing that all that time," Beach said. "That's where my passion is. I'm really good at sales, but I can't say that I love it or I hate it; it's a vehicle. But I love my leadership position." Beach is responsible for four pillars within her leadership position — growth, productivity, profitability, and culture — and each has its own requirements.

Growth entails hiring the right people for the company, and productivity directly relates to the talent chosen for hire. Meanwhile, profitability ties in with the Keller Williams economic model and making sure the people brought into the company produce at a high level. However, perhaps the most important of all the pillars is culture.



Once I got into leadership, and I say this even today all these years later, I should have been doing that all that time. That's where my passion is.

"The culture is really what pulls it all together in terms of having a productivity-specific environment that people can really thrive in and be transparent and authentic with each other and come from a place of contribution, not scarcity," Beach said. Even with all those responsibilities, Beach is only touching the surface of what she hopes to accomplish in the coming months and years.

A GROWTH MINDSET

She is already in charge of seven offices ranging from the central office in Midtown to other communities like Glenpool, Sand Springs, McAlester, Coweta, Okmulgee and Bristow, and those were opportunities she created for herself. Nothing was given to her. Furthermore, according to Beach, her branch is number one in the city, in production and closed volume.

"That's a big deal, and it's a big deal because I made a conscious decision that there's opportunity all around me," Beach said. "All I have to do is go seek it out." And with so many opportunities still to be grasped, it is no wonder Beach has no plans to retire. She is focusing on not only her future, but the future of real estate in Oklahoma as well.

If she keeps pushing for the betterment of the industry to further improve service to the community, the legacy she leaves behind once she does finally retire will be everlasting and beneficial well into the future.

"That is profound to have been with a company as long as I've been and to still feel as passionate about that company as I did when I interviewed 26 years ago," Beach said. "I think there's any number of things I could do, and I'm sure something will come up.

"I'm always looking."







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JESSICA MICHAEL FORD

Photos by VAST Media and Ashton Marie Photography • Story by Zachary Cohen

When Jessica and Michael Ford began dating nearly twenty years ago, they quickly discovered they were aligned in their deepest values and dreams. Both had a deep commitment to their faith and serving others. They also shared an entrepreneurial spirit that would eventually take them into several businesses together.

"We both had graduated from the same bible college, had attended the same church, and had a love for helping others. I helped start a children's home overseas, and Michael has been overseas with other projects helping underserved communities," Jessica reflects. "The foundation of it is that we both love outreach and service. That's how we got involved in real estate investing, too. We wanted to help people who were hurting."

What separates us as agents is our communication. We are able to take clients step by step through the process. We have a system and process for everything we do.

Entrepreneurs, Investors, REALTORS®

Today, Jessica is a top REALTOR® and the face of Jessica Ford & Associates with Chinowth & Cohen, while Michael is co-owner and COO, handling the backend of the business, but their entrepreneurial histories go back much further.

Jessica ran a salon business and was a top cosmetologist for many years, while Michael ran several direct sales businesses. Michael began investing in real estate in the early 2000s, and Jessica joined him after they married in 2007. The couple bought and flipped foreclosed homes through the recession, falling in love with the real estate business as well as the opportunity to serve their community. When the market began to recover, Jessica and Michael transitioned their investment

business to a rental portfolio and opened SlimGeneration, a medically supervised DNA-based weight loss clinic.

"We were helping people who were severely obese and dealing with medical challenges. We did a DNA program to get a full workup and develop a process for them to lose weight and get healthy," Michael explains. "We did that for several years, but real estate has always been our passion as a couple."

Following Their Passion

Real estate has long been Jessica and Michael's passion. In 2018, Jessica was licensed and Michael joined her in a support role, beginning the next stage in the evolution of their real estate careers. Over the past five years, the business has grown exponentially. Jessica Ford & Associates closed 76 transactions for \$19 million in 2022.





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We want to serve people and to love people well. We are here to show love to people, to show them that we care and they do matter. We love our community. "What separates us as agents is our communication," Michael says. "We are able to take clients step by step through the process. We have a system and process for everything we do."

"Being in the cosmetology industry, you build a lot of relationships. It is easy to talk to people to find out what's going on







in their world and what their dreams and aspirations are," Jessica adds. "So, I've always found that real estate is very much the same way. It's all about building relationships with people, finding their dreams and aspirations, and matching them with a house."

With extensive industry knowledge and a large network, Jessica and Michael are well-equipped to guide buyers, sellers, and investors along their real estate journey.

Adding Value to Their Community

Jessica and Michael provide some unique value-added services, too. One of their unique offerings is linked to their new company, Low Demo Reno.

"We work with sellers who would like to renovate to sell for top dollar. We look at their home, price up a renovation to make it move-in ready for the next family, and then we renovate it at no [up front] cost to them. They simply pay at closing. It's a huge value add for sellers to get top dollar for their property," Michael explains.

Jessica and Michael are also the hosts and co-producers of American Dream TV, Selling Tulsa. Their role as lifestyle and real estate experts allows them to share inspiring stories of business owners, charities, and nonprofits in Tulsa.

"As a husband and wife team, business owners, and investors, we want to be of value to the community and pay it forward. One of the ways we want to do that is by sharing our love for Tulsa," Michael explains.

Jessica and Michael first connected through their shared commitment to their faith, and their faith remains a central part of their lives. They are involved in various nonprofits and other local organizations, including their church and a new program they created, Backpacks for First Responders. This organization provides backpacks for children that have been removed from their homes for domestic or substance abuse. Inside the bag are different toys and tools to support the child during the transition.

"Our legacy is all about paying it forward to the next generation," Michael says. "We are, more than anything, faith-based — living right, doing right, using our gifts and talents, and teaching our children to be that way. Ultimately, we are here to help our fellow man."

"We want to serve people and to love people well. We are here to show love to people, to show them that we care and they do matter. We love our community," Jessica says.

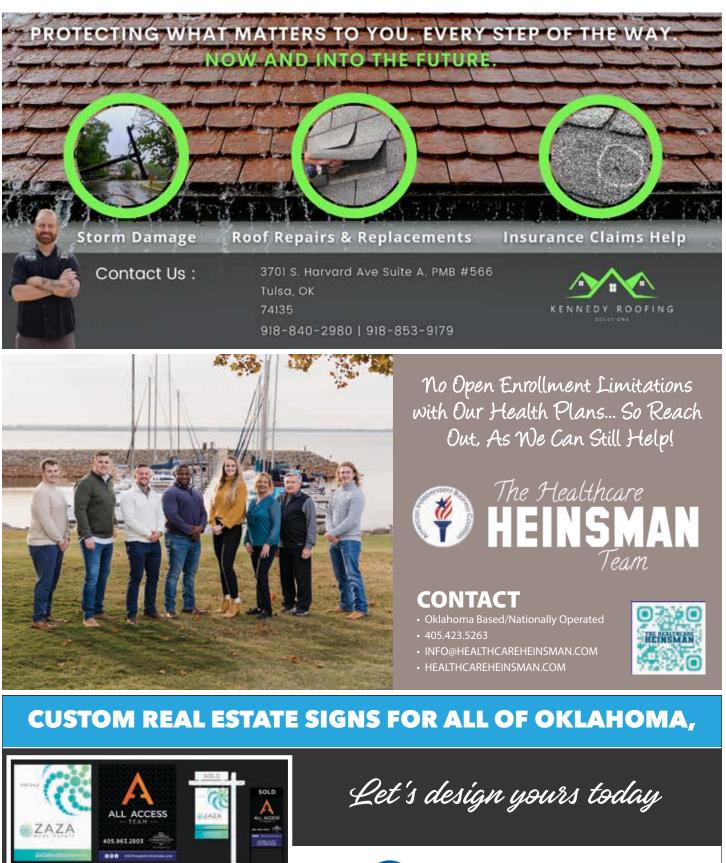
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