



BERNSTEIN



**Florida Venture
FORUM**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FLORIDA VENTURE FORUM ADDS BERNSTEIN PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT
TO ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

MIAMI, WEST PALM BEACH & TAMPA, Fla – August 11, 2020 – The Florida Venture Forum, the leading statewide support and member organization for investors and entrepreneurs, today announced that Bernstein Private Wealth Management, one of the world’s leading investment management and research firms, had been appointed to its board of directors.

Patrick Bonanno, Vice President and Financial Advisor in Bernstein’s Tampa office will serve as Forum board representative. In addition, Cecilia O’Reilly, Vice President and Financial Advisor in Bernstein’s Miami office, and Aisha Ali, Vice President and Financial Advisor in Bernstein’s West Palm Beach office, will serve as board alternates.

Bernstein Private Wealth Management partners with business owners and entrepreneurs to help transfer the wealth, knowledge and values they’ve accumulated over a long career to the next generation, engaging business owners and their professional advisors throughout the lifecycle of the business.

“We are extremely excited to welcome Bernstein Private Wealth Management, and Aisha, Cecilia and Patrick, to an already strong board,” said Travis Milks, managing partner of Topmark Partners and 2020-2021 Florida Venture Forum board chair. “Our organization’s strength has always been its membership, and the cutting-edge companies we serve. Bernstein Private Wealth Management’s involvement certainly enhances the organization in both of these areas.”

Patrick Bonanno, of Bernstein Private Wealth Management, added, “We have long admired the work of the Florida Venture Forum and share the organization’s commitment to helping early and growth stage founders find the capital and resources they need to grow and scale. As the Florida innovation ecosystem continues to grow, successful founders become ever more critical as mentors and investors. Our business is helping founders plan for those opportunities.”

Florida Venture Forum board members work to promote the organization’s mission to help entrepreneurs obtain funding through education, strategic partnerships, and networking opportunities.

“The Florida Venture Forum has over 36 years of success connecting growing Florida companies with capital sources and services, and our single greatest strength in this effort is the collective commitment

of our members to both the organization and the state,” said Kevin Burgoyne, president and CEO of the Florida Venture Forum. “We welcome Bernstein Private Wealth Management to the board and look forward to working together to serve growing Florida companies and their founders.”

About the Florida Venture Forum: The Florida Venture Forum is Florida’s largest statewide support organization for investors and entrepreneurs, helping companies with headquarters, operations or supply chain in Florida connect with sources of capital from across the country. Since 1984 over 1400 companies have presented at Forum events and have gone on to raise upwards of \$8B in equity capital and contribute well over \$10B in total economic value to Florida. The Forum’s 200+ members represent a “who’s who” of venture capital and private equity dealmakers, including and equity and debt investors at all stages, as well as major law, accounting, and investment banking firms, and large corporates active in the innovation ecosystem. The Forum provides programs and programming statewide throughout the year in addition to hosting major annual conferences like the Florida Venture Capital Conference, the Statewide Collegiate Business Plan Competition, the Early Stage Capital Conference, and industry-focused events including aerospace and healthcare. For more information, visit: <http://www.flventure.org>.

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