

Irela M. Bagué
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Ms. Bagué is an experienced bilingual public affairs consultant and principal for Bagué Group a full service consulting firm with over 20 years of experience in Florida with a broad range of experience in the areas of business development, public infrastructure, water & waste water resources, natural systems restoration, sustainable “green” initiatives, public involvement services, market research and government affairs.

In 2003, Ms. Bagué was appointed to the South Florida Water Management District Board by Governor Jeb Bush, where she held the position of Board Vice-Chair until April 2007. She was responsible for establishing policy in the areas of water resources development and regulation, flood control, water quality protection and natural systems restoration primarily with a focus on the restoration of America’s Everglades.

As a former state appointed official, Ms. Bagué has earned the respect of clients and policy makers alike. She is known for her in-depth understanding of the political process and for her critical insight and clear and straightforward communications style making her a credible and engaging spokesperson.

Ms. Bagué has been an advocate of natural systems restoration, water resources and diversity in the environment. Ms. Bagué has also provided key testimony on behalf of the State of Florida to the United States House of Representatives Sub-Committee on Water & Power.

Ms. Bagué served as Chair of the Miami River Commission and was instrumental in gaining public support for the multi-million dollar dredging project to deepen the channel for larger vessels to help increase Miami’s marine and shipping economy.

Career highlights include working for National Audubon Society's Florida State Office as the State's Public Affairs Coordinator managing outreach campaigns to promote support for Everglades restoration.

Ms. Bagué currently serves on the National Parks Conservation Association’s Regional Council and Chairs the Sustainability, Environment & Energy Committee of the Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, is on the Board of Directors of Florida Water Advocates and is a member of the Diverse Environmental Leaders National Speakers Bureau.

Ms. Bagué is considered community leader advocating for the link between the environment and the economy and is a frequent contributor to The Miami Herald and Sun-Sentinel Editorial sections.

President- Bagué Inc. / Bagué Group (2005-Present)

Currently manages the day to day operations of Bagué, Inc. / Bagué Group a business development consulting and public affairs firm headquartered in Miami, Florida. Ms. Bagué provides strategic planning, business development counsel and public affairs services for major corporations and institutions. Bagué Group's client roster includes: AECOM, MWH Global, Miami Dade County, City of Miami, Suffolk Construction Co., Florida Department of Transportation, Jacobs Engineering.

Governmental Affairs Director- MAGBE Consulting Services, Inc. (2005-Present)

Manages government relations and develops public information plans and executes campaigns for private and public clients, such as Coastal Construction/ Camillus House, Florida International University, Florida Department of Transportation, Miami Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization and the City of Miami/Marlins Stadium Parking.

Director of Business Development, Green Energy/Just Energy (August 2012 – June 2014)

Member of the senior management team in charge of developing strategic business relationships with influential legislative, business and community players to establish company's presence in the Green energy space. Creating key partnerships with corporate and regionalized business units to build awareness of and plans for market development activities and opportunities. Responsible for development, marketing and management of carbon offset and renewable energy product lines.

Director of Public Relations & Corporate Affairs / Just Energy (July 2011- August 2012)

Member of the senior management team in charge of developing regional presence by establishing multiple sales channels to market various product lines and focusing on the small commercial and residential consumer. In addition, served as company spokesperson managing media relations and created the company's first media relations and social media policy.

Vice-President-Gordon Reyes & Co. (2003-2006)

Served as Senior Account Manager for Miami based Public Relations and Government Affairs firm. Managing media relations, developing and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders and elected officials. Created Community Positioning plans, provided Public/Government Affairs and Business development counsel and created Hispanic Market campaigns. Managed top accounts for Bellsouth/ATT, Florida Power & Light, Amerigroup and Pan American Hospital.

Public Affairs State Director-National Audubon Society- Florida State Office (1999-2002)

Managed public relations, public policy advocacy campaigns, media relations, communications and publications was responsible for developing multilingual and diversity outreach campaigns to promote public support for Everglades Restoration.

Government & Public Affairs Coordinator-SFWMD (1998-2000)

Responsible for public outreach, stakeholder relations and communications with elected officials and community leaders. Responsible for developing marketing and communications plans and the implementation of campaigns for diverse markets promoting water conservation and ecosystem restoration.

Legislative Aide-Miami-Dade County Commission- District 11 (1993-1998) Managed District office for Miami-Dade County Commissioner Miguel Diaz de la Portilla. Responsible for coordinating community affairs, intergovernmental relations, media relations and event coordination and logistics.

Education

Associates of Arts – Miami Dade College
Strategic Focusing Program- Oxford Leadership Academy

Languages

Fluent in both English & Spanish languages

Public Service

Served as Vice-Chair on Board of Governors of the South Florida Water Management District appointed by Governor Jeb Bush (2003-2007)

Served as Chair, Miami River Commission (2003-2007)

Candidate for the Florida House of Representatives, District 116, Miami-Dade County (2002)

Professional & Civic Service

Inaugural Class, Presidential Leadership Scholars 2015

Chair, Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce, Sustainability, Environment & Energy Committee

Advisory Council, National Parks Conservation Association, Suncoast Region

Board of Directors, Florida Water Advocates

Board Emeritus Member, South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Member, South Florida's 100, Sun-Sentinel Editorial Board

Member, Leadership Florida- Class XXV- Florida Chamber of Commerce

Founding Member, Coral Gables Arts Cinema

Served as Board of Directors, Friends of the Commission for Women

Served as Chair of the Board, Girl Scout Council of Tropical Florida

Served as Member, Florida Bar Statewide Advertising and Solicitation Grievance Committee

Served as Member, Water Resources Advisory Commission

Served as Director, Coral Gables Community Foundation

Served as Vice-Chair, Governing Board, South Florida Water Management District

Served as Chair, Miami River Commission

Served as Event Chair, American Cancer Society/Breast Cancer Walk

Served as Treasurer, New Water Coalition/US Desalination Coalition

Served as Member, Coral Gables Emergency Management Board

Awards & Recognitions

2015 Miami Dade College, Alumni Hall of Fame

2015 Mujer Legendaria- Green, Ford Motor Company

2012 Board Emeritus Recognition, South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

2010 Board Appreciation, Coral Gables Community Foundation

2009 Women of Impact, Women's History Coalition of Miami Dade County

2008 AXA Businesswoman of the Year, Philanthropy Award

2008 Valor Award, American Diabetes Association

2007 Rising Star Award – Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce

2007 Certificate of Appreciation - Miami Dade County Mayor & County Commissioners

2007 Board Recognition – South Florida Water Management District

2007 Chairman's Recognition – Miami River Commission

2007 Leadership Florida Class XXV

2006 Up & Comers Government Award, South Florida Business Journal

2006 Best of Miami, Improving Quality of Life, Miami Today News

2005 In the Company of Women, Miami Dade County

2005 Women of Leadership, South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

2004 Director of the Year, South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce