

Gail Markham

Born April 22, 1951 in St. Petersburg, Fla., Gail Markham faced adversity from a young age. Her mother, Peggy MacDonald, had four children including Gail by the time she was 23 and did her best to overcome the challenges of living with an abusive alcoholic husband. Gail was resilient. School became her place of comfort, an escape from the abuse she faced at home. As a result, she excelled in her education, naturally driven and inspired to become an independent woman.

Gail earned a scholarship to attend the University of Florida, where she began college in 1969. In 1971, she transferred to the University of Maryland, College Park and graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from the College of Business and Management. Her first job brought her to Southwest Florida, where in 1975 she joined a local CPA firm.

Passionate about her career, Gail excelled in accounting and was soon tasked with establishing the firm's Cape Coral office. However, she was met with discouragement from the firm's leadership when she aspired to become a partner. Gail's ambition and determination wouldn't allow her to accept any such limitation, and she didn't waste any time moving forward with her dream. With less than five years of experience, Gail left her first job in accounting to start her own firm, L. Gail Markham CPA.



Founded in August 1979, that firm is known today as Markham Norton Mosteller Wright & Co., P.A. (MNMW). It is one of the largest and most respected firms in Southwest Florida with offices in Fort Myers and Naples. As founder and president, Gail's leadership and personal style have made their mark. Not the typical accounting firm, MNMW has expanded into the related areas of business consulting, litigation, forensic accounting and mediation services, human resources consulting, elder services, medical and dental practice consulting and technology consulting, while expertly meeting its clients' needs for bookkeeping, tax planning and general accounting.

Gail has been a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) since 1977, and she is also Accredited in Business Valuation (ABV), Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF), Registered Investment Advisor (RIA), and a Florida Supreme Court Certified Family Mediator in addition to being a Certified Financial Planner (CFP). At MNMW, she is the Partner in Charge of Litigation, Forensic Accounting and Mediation Services. She is also a stockholder of MNS Financial Management, LLC, DBA Marquis Wealth Management, is heavily involved in numerous professional organizations and is frequently tapped for her leadership as an expert in the field of forensic accounting.

Gail is a recognized leader in the Southwest Florida community and has received many honors as a business woman and philanthropist. While she supports an array of worthy causes in our community, her passion is PACE Center for Girls. Her personal childhood experience inspired her to accept an offer by Judge James H. Seals to help found PACE in 2007. As co-founder of PACE, Gail has helped hundreds of at-risk girls overcome difficult circumstances and heal emotionally. Through the experience, Gail too has found healing through sharing her story with those in need of a role model. She has served as chair of the PACE Board of Directors since 2006.

Gail loves her work at MNMW and PACE, and in her free time she also enjoys spending time with her teenage son Curry and her life partner Doug Meurer. Other personal interests include photography, travel, fishing and the beach.

An outstanding role model for youth, Gail Markham is duly recognized by Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida as an outstanding Laureate for the 2013 Business Hall of Fame, Lee County.

