



For Immediate Release

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First Place Announces New Board Member, Rob D. Leinbach

PHOENIX, Ariz. – May 2, 2016 – [First Place®](#), an Arizona-based nonprofit serving adults with autism and other special needs, announces the appointment of Rob Leinbach, the former President and COO of Walton Global Holdings (USA), Ltd. (“Walton”), to its Board of Directors.

First Place is advancing new residential options for adults with autism and related disorders, and is underway on First Place-Phoenix, a transit-oriented property sited in the heart of the city at 3rd Street and Catalina. Groundbreaking is expected in 2016.

“Rob brings a rich background and discerning insight to strategic business leadership and board governance,” said Denise D. Resnik, First Place Board Chair, President & Founder. “As a parent of child who has autism, Rob also brings a personal passion to advance independent living options.”

“First Place is an extremely important undertaking to help fill the void of residential opportunities for adults with autism,” said Leinbach. “Our society needs to create solutions now in order to avoid underserving those in need.”

Walton, a Canadian based real estate investment and development company, experienced tremendous growth in the United States during Leinbach’s nine-year tenure with the firm. Prior to joining Walton, Leinbach was an attorney in private practice in Seattle, Washington.

Leinbach received his Board of Directors Certification from the UCLA Anderson School of Business in 2010. Leinbach received his J.D. from the University of Washington School of Law, his M.B.A. from European University (Barcelona, Spain) and his Bachelor of Arts from Occidental College.

Leinbach is a member of the Urban Land Institute and resides in Phoenix with his wife Jenni, daughter Alison and son Lucas. Lucas was diagnosed with autism in 2015.

Leinbach serves on the First Place Board with:

- Denise D. Resnik; Board Chair, President & Founder, First Place; SARRC Co-founder & Board Member Emeritus; CEO & Founder, DRA Collective
- Michael Sklar; Board Vice Chair, First Place; Real Estate Developer/Investor
- Joe Cooper; First Place Board Treasurer; Business Consultant and Former NYSE Company Executive
- Sara Dial; First Place Board Member & Secretary; President and CEO, Sara Dial & Associates
- Nancy L. White, J.D.; First Place Board Member; Partner, Steptoe & Johnson
- Tess Bureson, First Place Board Member; Chief Operating Officer of the Translational Genomics Research Institute (TGen) and President of TGen Health Ventures

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About First Place:

First Place AZ is a nonprofit organization advancing innovative residential options for adults with autism and related disorders. Led by private sector principles, First Place is creating replicable residential and post-secondary education model that promote collaboration among the private, public and nonprofit sectors, and serve as a catalyst for advancing federal public policy focused on housing solutions for special populations. First Place AZ celebrates neuro-diversity, independent living and a path toward opening doors for more real estate options. For more information, visit www.firstplaceaz.org.