

Robert W. Merrick

**Chairman of the Board & C.E.O.
LATTER & BLUM, Inc.**



Robert W. Merrick oversees the oldest and largest commercial and residential real estate operation in the Gulf South. LATTER & BLUM and CJ BROWN have 21 offices in areas that include greater New Orleans, greater Baton Rouge and four franchises, three of which are in coastal Mississippi.

As the largest third party property manager in the area, LATTER & BLUM Property Management, Inc. maintains over 11 million square feet statewide to include commercial, industrial, multifamily communities, and single family dwellings. "

A nationally respected expert in real estate, Mr. Merrick is the only person in Louisiana, and one of a handful nationally, to earn the professional designations of the Appraisal Institute (MAI), American Society of Real Estate Counselors (CRE), Society of Industrial and Office Realtors (SIOR), and Commercial Investment Real Estate Institute (CCIM).

As an active real estate investor, Mr. Merrick has been one of the leading developers of industrial real estate in the area. A partnership formed by Mr. Merrick in 1990 resulted in the purchase of 241 acres in Elmwood Business Park, and a subsequent resurgence of business activity in that area. Merrick Partnerships control approximately 10,000 acres of investment properties in the metro area, as well as apartments, shopping centers and general commercial income providing assets.

In 1986, Merrick purchased LATTER & BLUM, the oldest and largest full-service real estate firm in the Gulf South. Since that time, LATTER & BLUM has acquired 14 brokerage firms including Coldwell Banker and Weber Realty Group in the New Orleans area.

Under Merrick's leadership, LATTER & BLUM expanded their services to include insurance, property management and a mortgage division.

Not only has Mr. Merrick held active roles in business affairs, he has also held positions on the boards of numerous charitable and civic organizations. The American Red Cross honored Mr. Merrick as the 2005 Humanitarian Of The Year. His company is a leading financial contributor to worthy causes in the communities served by LATTER & BLUM.