

ANA MARIA PIUMBINI WALTERS

Founder, Freedom to Belong · Partner, US Legal Now · CEO, Forever Realty · Operating CEO · CEO & Shareholder, American Photonics
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Ana Maria Piumbini Walters is a hands-on operating CEO — real P&L, daily decisions, and execution, not a figurehead title. She is CEO of Forever Realty, partner of US Legal Now, founder of Freedom to Belong (501(c)(3)), and CEO and shareholder of American Photonics. More than 30 years of leadership across real estate, immigration services, optics manufacturing, technology, retail and client services. Based in Sarasota, Florida; naturalized U.S. citizen (2018).

EXECUTIVE BIOGRAPHY

As CEO of Forever Realty Investments LLC, Ana runs real estate and investment portfolio strategy with day-to-day ownership of growth, risk and capital decisions. As partner of US Legal Now and founder of Freedom to Belong, she connects professional immigration services with a nonprofit mission of free education and citizenship pathways — mission-first community work alongside operator accountability.

Since 2014 she has also led American Photonics, a Sarasota precision infrared and laser optics manufacturer. She restructured distribution from a concentrated national model to diversified worldwide channels, rebranded the business and modernized marketing. Under her leadership, global market share expanded from about 3% to 15% within four years. She works alongside founder Steve Walters' manufacturing core.

Earlier she was CEO and shareholder of Granite Forever, USA (Southwest Florida granite import/manufacture/install; customers included Home Depot, Lowe's and 150+ remodel firms). In Brazil she held senior commercial roles at Microsoft, GPA, IBM (first female National Director of Retail Sales), Fast Shop, Carrefour and Visual Presence — including multi-hundred-million and billion-scale purchasing and retail P&L.

Education includes Harvard executive AI programs, Kellogg board director development, an MBA in Business Management, and bachelor's degrees in Business Management and Systems Analysis. Languages: English and Portuguese (fluent); Spanish and Italian (conversational). Author of *Revealing the Corporate Comedy* and *Bluff Like a Woman*.

CURRENT BOARD AND EXECUTIVE ROLES

- Freedom to Belong — Founder (501(c)(3))
- US Legal Now — Partner (Sócia)
- Forever Realty Investments LLC — CEO and Board Director (hands-on operating CEO)
- American Photonics — CEO, Shareholder and Board Director