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Blackwater Resources tweaks leadership structure with eyes on growth

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Birmingham-based Blackwater Resources has named longtime officer and director of development [John Abernathy](#) president of the commercial real estate firm.

Abernathy will retain his role as director of development, while overseeing the company's growth plans, directing a group of six senior entrepreneurial developers, according to a release from Blackwater.

Founded in 2010 out of AIG Baker Shopping Center Properties, Blackwater is aggressively expanding into 15 states over the next two years.

The firm currently has over 1.2 million square feet under construction and over 1.3 million square feet under development.

Founder [Alex Baker](#) will continue as chairman of the company, while focusing on building industry relationships and leads for future large-scale investments, the release said.

"I did my first ground up development in 1983 and for many of the last several years have been directing developers instead of focusing on industry development," Baker said. "Last year, when we acquired the 1 million square foot Tallahassee Mall and began the de-malling of that property, I realized I missed development at the property level. I believe the opportunity to allow John to direct Blackwater's aggressive growth plans while freeing me up to spend time reviewing investment opportunities is what is needed to push our company to the next level."

[Amy McMullen](#), who has served as Blackwater's general counsel, has been promoted to executive vice president and chief operating officer.

"Amy has been a part of our family of companies for over 14 years and has effectively been functioning in these capacities. We are formalizing this arrangement and formally turning these responsibilities over to her," Baker said.

[Elizabeth Poindexter](#) was also named senior director of leasing and will direct the company's leasing efforts for new and existing developments.

"With John and Amy assuming these top positions and with our other internal moves, our average experience level at senior positions within the company exceeds 17 years of experience within our family of companies, forming quite possibly the strongest development team in the industry," Baker said.

Bryan Davis covers real estate, retail and manufacturing for the Birmingham Business Journal. [Click here to follow him on Twitter.](#)