

WORK FACES

ON THE JOB

Mike Micallef is president of JMK Holdings Management Co. nonmanufacturing businesses, including Reata Restaurants and Flight Services of Fort Worth, and Sierra La Rana and CF Ranch in Alpine.

What personality traits do you possess that enable you to be successful?

I'm not overwhelmed when a disaster happens. That's not to say I don't ever get upset; I certainly don't like it when my hands are tied or I'm just sitting around. I'm best when I can immediately start working to find solutions to the problem.

What is the most challenging aspect of your job?

Allocating my time. I manage all of the nonmanufacturing businesses for my family, Reata Restaurant Group, Flight Services, Sierra La Rana and CF Ranch. However, I'm fortunate enough to have great teams at each of these organizations. Our employees are the real stars.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?

Interacting with longtime friends while developing new relationships with our guests, especially during the rodeo. For



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the last seven years Reata has been an integral part of the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo, and now we have two annual event locations: Reata at the Rodeo and Reata at the Backstage. I also get great satisfaction from seeing what our restaurant management team accomplishes during this annual event; while still running our established — and busy! — Sundance Square restaurant.

What was your very first job?

Other than mowing lawns, I worked a summer job at Texas

Outdoors off the Weatherford traffic circle when I was 14 and 15 years old. Because I am a hunting and fishing fanatic, I ended up spending most of what I earned on new gear, but I still enjoyed myself and learned a lot.

What is your ultimate career goal?

My goal is to continue to grow the businesses that I currently manage while also looking for new opportunities. For example, at Reata we are focusing on the expansion of our already successful catering business, searching for additional restaurant locations, and refining our operations at Reata at the Backstage. I'm also excited about what's happening in Alpine, home of the original Reata and our residential development, Sierra La Rana. The Big Bend area continues to grow, changing more in the last three years than it did in the previous 20. With more and more people retiring to this region, combined with strong government growth and an expanding art scene, the future is very bright for our West Texas ventures.

— Rhonda McKinney