



Wisconsin's Most Influential Business Leaders

Welcome to the 2022 edition of the Wisconsin 275, a special publication that highlights the 275 most influential executives in different economic sectors throughout the state. This immense, year-long research initiative by the editors of BizTimes Milwaukee has resulted in a personal, engaging look at the state's most influential business leaders.

CATEGORIES

Banking and Finance

Business services

- Accounting
- Law
- Marketing/PR
- Staffing

C-Suite

Emerging Industries

- Startups
- Technology
- Venture Capital

Health Care

Hospitality, Tourism & Entertainment

- Tourism
- Hospitality
- Entertainment
- Sports

Insurance

Living Legends

Manufacturing and Energy

- Energy and utilities
- Food and beverage manufacturing
- Manufacturing
- Transportation and logistics

Other Leading Industries

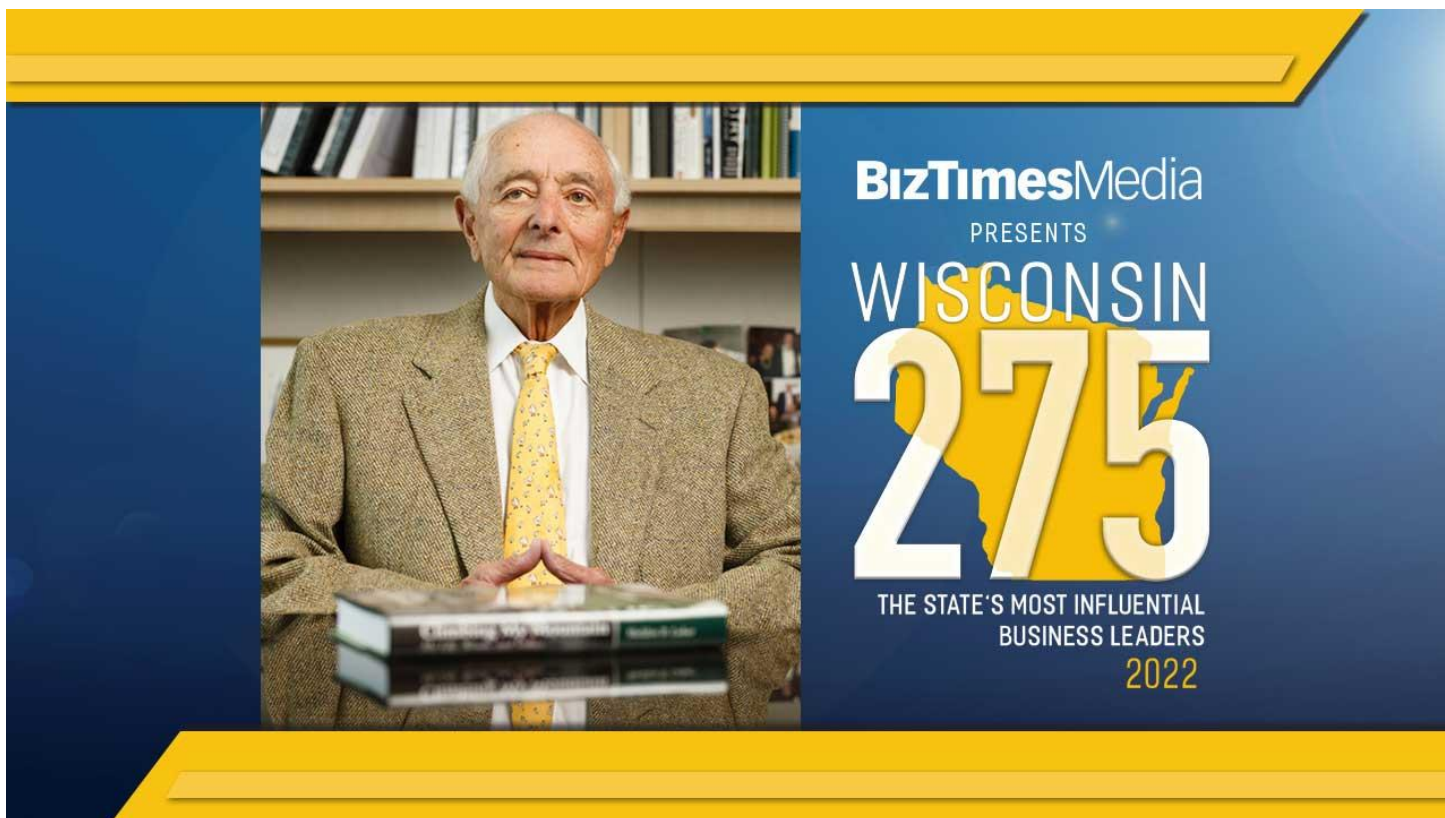
- Agriculture
- Retail

Nonprofits and Education

- Education
- Nonprofit

Real Estate and Development

- Architects and engineers
- Construction
- Economic development
- Real estate



Sheldon Lubar

Living Legends

Chairman and founder

Lubar & Co. | Milwaukee

Sheldon Lubar is founder and chairman of Lubar & Co., a family-owned, Milwaukee-based private investment and wealth management office. He was chairman and chief executive officer of the Christiana Companies Inc. until its merger with Weatherford International in 1999 and chairman of Total Logistics Inc. until its acquisition in 2005 by SuperValu Inc. He's held federal governmental appointments under presidents Carter, Nixon and Ford, and was past president of the University of Wisconsin System Board of Regents. His \$10 million gift to University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee established the Lubar School for Entrepreneurship, and its home, the Lubar Entrepreneurship Center. He also co-founded and served as president of the Wisconsin Policy Research Institute.

Education: Bachelor's and J.D., UW-Madison

First job: “Marine National Exchange Bank. I learned everything about banking: estate planning, lending, investing and management.”

Top of your bucket list: “Living past 100.”

Business leaders you’d like to have dinner with: “Warren Buffet, he is the best investor in America. David Rubenstein, he says he knows who the best investors in America are.”

What would make Wisconsin better: “Very low college tuition.”



David Lubar

Banking and Finance

President and CEO

Lubar & Co. | Milwaukee

David Lubar leads Lubar & Co., the Milwaukee-based private investment firm his father, Sheldon Lubar, founded in 1977. David has been with the business, which invests in middle-market operating companies, since 1983. In 2021, he was named chairman of Ixonia Bancshares, the holding company for Ixonia Bank. Lubar has sat on the boards of Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance, BMO Financial Corp., Baird Funds Inc., the Milwaukee Brewers, Froedtert Health, and other nonprofit organizations.

Education: Bachelor's, Bowdoin College; MBA, University of Minnesota

Career advice: “Think for yourself and trust your own judgement.”

Favorite destination: “Hanging out on the shore of Lake Michigan in Oostburg, just 40 minutes north of Milwaukee. We read, relax, play games and have outdoor fires.”

Toughest business challenge you’ve ever faced: “I have been involved in the start-up of several businesses, beginning with writing the business plan. It is far more challenging to start a company that has no history, no employees, customers, suppliers, infrastructure, than it is to take a going concern and double or triple its revenues. I have had successes like Lake Express ferry and failures which are no longer in business.”

What would make Wisconsin better: “Wisconsin does not have a statewide initiative or referendum process which, with the signed support of a sufficient number of Wisconsin citizens, would allow for a statewide vote to determine passage of a new law or repeal of an existing law.”