

# AVANI DESAI

BOARD OF DIRECTORS | TRUSTED ADVISOR | CYBERSECURITY EXPERT | CPA

PHONE: 813-465-0999 | EMAIL: [avani@mydesai.com](mailto:avani@mydesai.com) | LINKEDIN: [www.linkedin.com/in/avani-d-596366/](http://www.linkedin.com/in/avani-d-596366/)

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Accomplished Executive with domestic and international experience in information security, operations, P&L, oversight, and marketing involving both start-up and growth organizations. Results-oriented, decisive leader with proven success in new markets, new service lines, and strategic positioning of a multimillion-dollar professional services organization. Track record of increasing sales and growing bottom line while spearheading operational improvement and technology transformation to drive growth. Excel in dynamic, demanding environments while remaining pragmatic and focused.

### Skills & Expertise

## BOARD EXPERIENCE

### Cogent Bank

Cogent Bank is a state chartered bank that has operated as a full service commercial and retail bank

*Board Member*

2021-Current

IT Steering Committee

Assist the CIO by providing counsel regarding prioritizing business and IT projects, discussing how IT services apply to non-IT business needs, and ensuring IT best practices. In addition, helping the bank think through emerging technologies to make technology a value proposition.

### Tuesday

Tuesday is a mobile application that allows the donor to find a cause that matches their passion

*Board Member*

2022- Current

IT Steering Committee

Assist the Founder and the Board by providing counsel over the company's financial systems and controls, also providing direction to company's management of topics of information security, including cybersecurity, risk mitigation strategies, systems, processes, and controls.

### Rally

2021- Current

*Board Member / Investor*

The Social Enterprise Accelerator connects entrepreneurs with resources, funding, and mentors to help them build their ideas into self-sustainable ventures that solve pressing community issues. This initiative helps nonprofits and for-profits alike in the early stages of product or business development to advance a business model that achieves a double bottom line. This program is the first of its kind in the region and is poised to position Central Florida as a hub for social enterprise.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Schellman

Based in Tampa, Fla., Schellman is now the 49th largest CPA firm in the U.S., as measured by annual revenues. It booked \$123 million in revenues in its latest fiscal year. Also, Schellman is the largest specialized CPA firm that only focuses on attestation and certification services. Schellman provides a wide range of attestation and compliance services, including SOC examinations, ISO certifications, payment card assessments, federal assessments, cloud security assessments, healthcare assessments, CSA Star assessments, privacy assessments, cloud security assessments, and cybersecurity assessments.

### **Chief Executive Officer**

2021 - Current

Responsible for providing strategic, financial and operational leadership for the company and will closely coordinate and work with the Board of Directors and senior leadership team. Duties include:

- Brokered a half a billion-dollar transaction with Private Equity, the largest investment to date in a CPA firm,
- Plan, develop, implement, and direct the organization's operational and fiscal function and performance.
- Act as a strategic partner by developing and implementing the company's plans and programs.
- Analyze and make recommendation on the impact of long-range growth initiatives, planning, and introduction of new strategies and regulatory actions.
- Develop credibility and authority for the finance leadership team by providing accurate analysis of budgets, reports and financial trends and operational procedures in order to assist the BOD and senior executive team.
- Create, improve, implement, and enforce policies and procedures of the organization that will improve operational and financial effectiveness of the company.
- Communicate effectively and establish credibility throughout the organization and with the Board of Directors as an effective developer of solutions to business challenges.
- Provide expert financial guidance and advice to others within executive leadership.
- Improve the planning and budgeting process on a continual basis by educating departments and key members of corporate leadership.
- Provide strategic input and leadership on decision making issues affecting the organization; specifically relating to the evaluation of potential mergers, acquisitions, or partnerships.

### **President**

2 yrs 8 mos

Heads the company to guide its strategic vision and oversee its implementation. Duties include:

- Establishing and carrying out organizational or departmental procedures, goals and policies
- Directing and overseeing an organization's budgetary and financial activities
- Managing general activities associated with providing services and making products
- Consulting with other board members, executives, and staff about general operations
- Negotiating and approving agreements and contracts
- Appointing managers and department heads
- Analyzing performance indicators, financial statements, and sales reports
- Identifying areas to cut costs while improving programs, performance, and policies

### **Executive Vice President**

6 yrs 3 mos

Avani has led and delivered over 300 IT Attestation reports and recently has been focusing on emerging IT trends and the risks associated with business effectiveness and compliance standards. Avani focuses on IT risk management, social media, cloud computing, virtualization, and enterprise-wide privacy.

### **Find My CME**

1 yr 11 mos

#### **Co-Founder/Board Member**

Developed by physicians who needed a more efficient way to manage their CME courses and credits. Now physicians can perform a quick CME search by date, location, specialty, or subspecialty.

### **MyCryptoAlert**

1 yr 11 mos

#### **Co-Founder/Board Member**

A push notification system for cryptocurrency, based on parameters that you set, and can easily change, so never again will you miss an opportunity to profit

### **KPMG LLP**

4 yrs

KPMG is one of the leading providers of risk, financial and business advisory, tax and regulatory services, internal audit, and corporate governance. KPMG is one of the leading providers of risk, financial and business advisory, tax and regulatory services, internal audit, and corporate governance.

### **Director, Risk Consulting**

- An experienced director that effectively helps companies' meet internal control and compliance objectives. Holds strong experience in information technology and application controls, attestation and compliance engagements, and controls rationalization. Skilled in: Assisting organizations with the startup of an internal audit function

- Providing SOX 404 compliance and consulting engagements
- Performing external audits and attestation reviews at financial service institutions Participating in internal quality review for integrated audits
- Utilizing analysis to develop business strategies to meet objectives, while minimizing risk Working with teams to implement best-solutions to ensure overall corporate success
- Creating process maps to identify and assess business goals and management processes; ensure processes are aligned with organizational strategies

**Manager**

**3 yrs 1 mos**

**Senior Associate**

**1 yr 1 mos**

**Associate**

**1 yr 11 mos**

## EDUCATION & CERTIFICATIONS

### **University of Florida – Warrington College of Business**

*Bachelor's degree, Management Information Systems,  
General 1998 – 2002*

### **Certificate of Cloud Security Knowledge (CCSK)**

*Cloud Security  
Alliance Issued  
Apr 2015*

### **ISO 27001 Lead Auditor**

*PECB  
International  
Issued  
Sep  
2014*

### **Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP®)**

*(ISC)<sup>2</sup>  
Issued Jan 2013*

### **Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP)**

*IAPP - International Association of Privacy  
Professionals Issued Jul 2011*

### **Project Management Professional (PMP)**

*Project Management  
Institute Issued Nov  
2010*

### **Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control (CRISC)**

*ISACA  
Issued Apr 2010*

### **Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA)**

*ISACA  
Issued Apr 2009*

### **Certified Public Accountant - FL**

*NASBA*

### **Certified Public Accountant - NH**

*NASBA*

## CURRENT VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

**100 Women Strong, A Giving Circle at Central Florida Foundation** 2012-Current  
*Past Chairwoman*

The mission of 100 Women Strong is inspire women in Central Florida to be philanthropists and strategically help women and children in the community through collective giving.

**Orlando Health Foundation** 2014-2023  
*Board Member*

The Arnold Palmer Medical Center Foundation serves as the community outreach arm of Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children, Winnie Palmer Hospital for Women & Babies, and the Howard Phillips Center for Children & Families.

**Central Florida Foundation** 2017-Current  
*Audit Committee Chair*

Central Florida Foundation is the place for people who want to invest in their community. The Foundation serves as the region's community foundation and is home to more than 400 charitable funds. The Foundation manages and invests funds, offers personalized service and expert giving advice, connects caring people, businesses, governments, and organizations to local initiatives that build and inspire community, and empowers them to make informed decisions that make a difference now and in the future. Central Florida Foundation works with individuals, families, businesses, professional advisors and nonprofits.

**Philanos** 2016-2021  
*Board Member*

Philanos supports the creation, development, and expansion of women's collective giving grantmaking nationwide. We are a national network of independent collective giving groups. We are more than 14,000 women strong. Our members pool their money to award large impact grants in their own communities. We share best practices about membership, grantmaking, and governance to strengthen our organizations and ultimately to strengthen our communities. Our members have granted more than \$100 million to nonprofit organizations throughout the U.S. Our educational webinars, online chats, and national conferences inspire smart, informed philanthropy.

## CURRENT OTHER EXPERIENCE

**YPO** 2018-Current  
*Member*

Orlando Chapter. YPO is the global platform for chief executives to engage, learn and grow. YPO members harness the knowledge, influence, and trust of the world's most influential and innovative business leaders to make a difference in the world through business, personal, family and community impact.