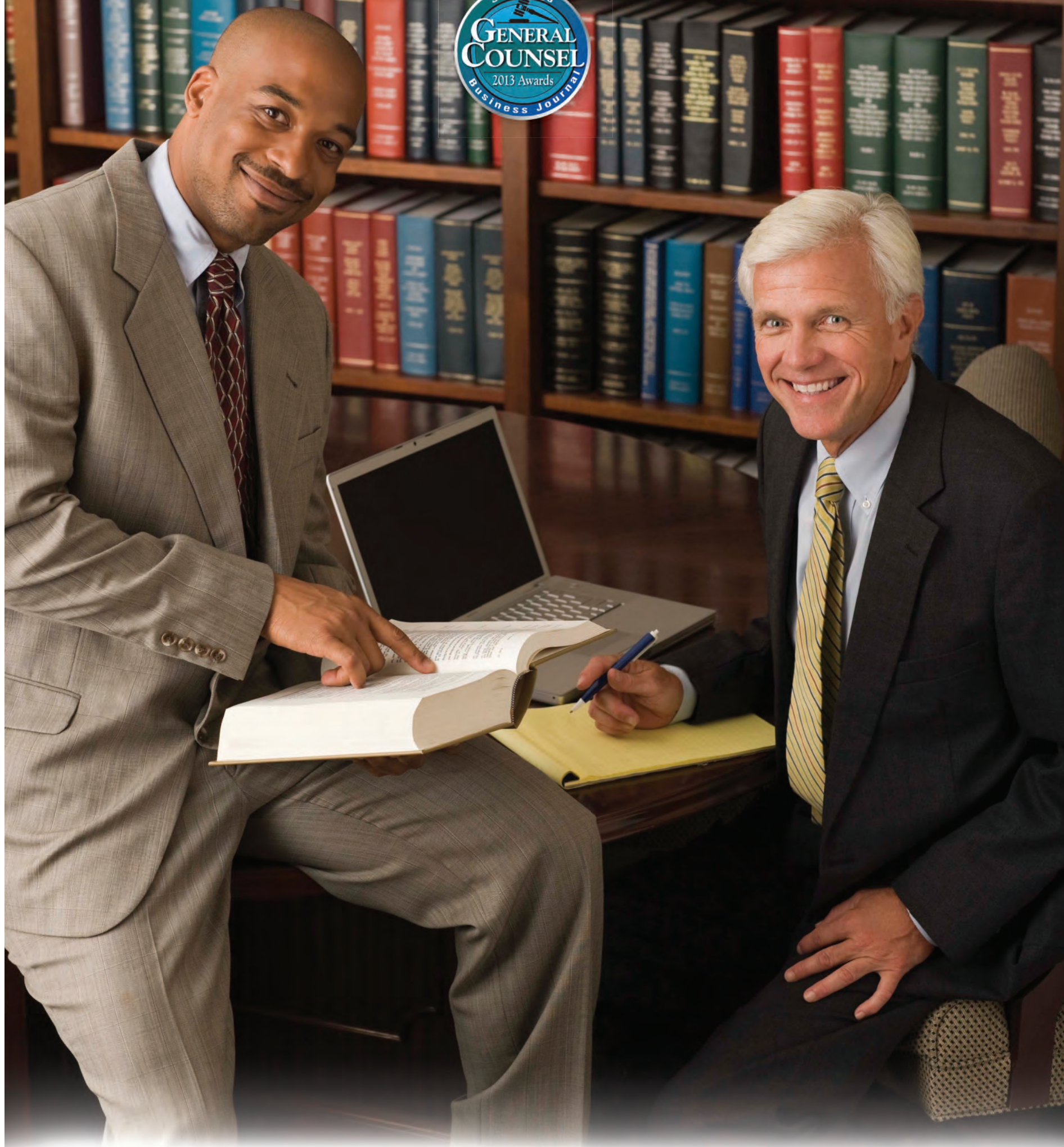


2013 General Counsel Awards

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Letter From The San Diego Business Journal

San Diego is home to some of the most renowned legal minds in the country. To honor our city's diverse assembly of in-house attorneys, The San Diego Business Journal inaugurated the first annual General Counsel Awards and supplement.

In the following pages we pay tribute to 57 individuals whose expertise and oversight have helped shape the way our city has grown, our businesses have prospered and our nonprofit organizations have remained vital. The responsibilities of these in-house counsels range from negotiating multi-million dollar mergers to safe-guarding their organization's intellectual property. These professionals have chosen San Diego as the foundation on which to grow their careers, their families and their community commitments.

The top honorees were acknowledged in a special event on Thursday, October 10, at the San Diego Marriott La Jolla with Judge Irma Gonzalez setting the tone as keynote speaker. Outstanding attorneys were chosen in four categories: nonprofit/government, rising star, privately held companies and publicly traded companies. Along with our award winners, a special Lifetime Achievement Award was presented

to Bernie Porter with the YMCA of San Diego County and an Exemplary Award was presented to Erik Greupner of the San Diego Padres. Our sincere thanks go to our panel of judges—Randy Frisch, Annette Peck, and Sheryl Reichert—for their time and diligent evaluations of all the nominees.

Our sponsors were an essential part of the creation of this program. We would like to thank our title sponsor Sughrue Mion PLLC, our gold sponsor Ogletree Deakins, and in cooperation with ACC America/San Diego Chapter.



Armon Mills
President & Publisher

Lifetime Achievement Award



Bernard (Bernie) Wright Porter Jr.
General Counsel
YMCA of San Diego County
www.ymca.org

San Diego's Ocean Beach lays claim as the birthplace of one of the city's most dynamic legal minds whose 37 years of practice has encompassed financial institutions, high profile law firms, and religious and civic organizations. Bernie Porter still lives the San Diego lifestyle, still residing in one of our quaint beach towns—La Jolla—and serving his community as the vice president of risk management and assistant general counsel for the YMCA of San Diego County. Throughout his career, Porter has divided his time between his legal positions and volunteering. Prior to working with the Y, Porter was a San Diego Superior Court research attorney, an associate at Seltzer Caplan Wilkins & McMahon and legal counsel at Great American Bank. For the past 11 years he has assumed numerous critical roles at the Y, including interim executive director, head of human resources, and board liaison. Porter's contributions have helped establish procedures that have insured the organization's integrity and viability. Outside of his official YMCA duties, he is active in his church as chairman of its board of trustees and is an active member of the San Diego County Bar Association, currently serving as a judge pro tem in small claims court. Porter also continues his volunteer efforts as a group fitness instructor for indoor cycling at the La Jolla YMCA.

Exemplary Award



Erik Greupner
Senior Vice President & General Counsel
San Diego Padres
www.sdpadres.com

Erik Greupner was promoted to his current post of senior vice president, business administration and general counsel for the San Diego Padres in October 2011, less than a year after joining the organization as senior vice president, general counsel. In his current role, Greupner has responsibility for legal and government affairs, ballpark operations, human resources and information technology. He helped lead the Padres management in the \$800 million sale of the team to a local group of investors and reorganized the Padres international operations in Latin America, including its baseball academy in the Dominican Republic. Prior to joining the Padres, Greupner worked as a corporate and transactional attorney with the international law firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP. Greupner earned his Juris Doctor degree magna cum laude from the University of San Diego School of Law, where he was a member of the Order of the Coif, as well as executive comments editor of the San Diego Law Review. He currently serves on the board of trustees of Rady Children's Hospital and the board of the Downtown San Diego Partnership.

General Counsel 2013 Judges



Randy Frisch
Vice Chancellor, Business and Administration
National University

Randy Frisch is the vice chancellor for Business and Administration with National University where he serves as both CFO and general counsel. Prior to that, he served as president and publisher of the San Diego Business Journal. Previously, Frisch was an attorney practicing contract and employment law. He is a member of the California, Nevada and Idaho bars. Prior to establishing his law practice, Frisch was CFO of the San Diego Union-Tribune, and vice president of operations and business development.

Frisch has been a reporter, editor and publisher of daily newspapers in Utah, Nevada, Washington state and Idaho. He was the editor of the editorial page of the Salt Lake Tribune, editor and publisher of The Daily News in Moscow, Idaho, and editor and publisher of The Daily Sparks Tribune. He was a reporter at The Lewiston Morning Tribune. He is a graduate of Thomas Jefferson School of Law. He is a member of the board of directors of the San Diego County United Way, American Red Cross, Downtown Rotary, Habitat for Humanity, and the San Diego County YMCA.



Annette Peck
Treasurer
San Diego Military Advisory Council

Annette Peck has more than 23 years of experience directing risk management, insurance and litigation for large international companies in the retail/food service and banking industries. She is currently the treasurer for the San Diego Military Advisory Council. Most recently, Peck was the chief risk management director for Jack in the Box Inc. Prior to that she oversaw litigation/risk management for Chart House Enterprises and San Diego Trust & Savings Bank. Peck received her Juris Doctorate from the University of San Diego School of Law.

Peck currently serves as an officer and board member for the nonprofit organization, San Diego Military Advisory Council, which promotes and represents the business of the military, and the defense industry community in San Diego. She also serves as a board member for the nonprofit organization, United Through Reading.



Sheryl Reichert
CEO
Better Business Bureau of San Diego and Imperial Counties

Sheryl Reichert is CEO of the Better Business Bureau of San Diego and Imperial Counties. She represents the western region on the board of directors of the Council of Better Business Bureaus and she chairs the Bureau Operations Committee, responsible for oversight of all policies, procedures and integrity of all BBB's in the U.S. as well as serving on the executive committee. Before joining the San Diego BBB, Reichert was in charge of advertising sales at the two largest cable TV systems in San Diego.

Early in her career, Reichert decided to switch from working in front of the microphone to behind it. The cable TV industry was in its early development at the time, and she decided to focus on advertising sales. She got a job selling radio advertising in Omaha, and then at age 25, she was hired by Cox Communications as their general manager of Advertising Sales. Reichert is currently a member of the Executive Association of San Diego as well as Rotary Club 33.



General Counsel 2013 Winners

Nonprofit & Government Category

Dwight Smith



**General Counsel & Executive VP
The Neighborhood House Assoc.
www.neighborhoodhouse.org**

Dwight Smith is general counsel for The Neighborhood House Association (NHA), San Diego County's largest multi-purpose human services organization, serving more than 23,000 residents (children, youth, families, and seniors) each year. Smith joined NHA in 2006 and is responsible for the organization's overall legal affairs. He provides business support and advice to the board and senior management, and manages the contract administration, corporate governance, information technology, and human resources functions. He successfully negotiated reductions in NHA's workers' compensation insurance premiums through the efforts of a workplace safety program, achieving an agency savings of more than \$500,000. Prior to joining NHA, Smith was associate general counsel of the San Diego Convention Center Corporation. He holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School. In the community, he has served as an advisor to several charter schools in San Diego, collaborated with the UC San Diego Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, advocating for the rights of disabled children; and he is currently a member of the board of trustees of Alliance Healthcare Foundation, serving on the audit and program committees.

Kevin Cahill



**Business Counsel
The Scripps Research Institute
www.scripps.edu**

As a technology and intellectual property attorney for 29 years, Kevin Cahill chaired the technology groups at several prominent San Diego law firms, including Luce Forward, San Diego's oldest law firm. He represented numerous domestic and international clients in the telecommunications, software, electronics, pharmaceutical and life science industries. Cahill is now business counsel at The Scripps Research Institute, the largest nonprofit scientific research organization in the United States. He specializes in technology development, licensing,

research collaborations, mergers and acquisitions of technology companies and strategic management of worldwide intellectual property portfolios. He has negotiated complex multi-year research collaboration and license agreements for the Institute with Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson) focusing on the development of a universal influenza vaccine. Cahill earned his J.D. at the University of San Diego. He is the founding president of the Del Mar-Solana Beach Rotary Club and chair of the Rotary Model United Nations Program Community Resource Center. Additionally, he is active in the Solana Beach Presbyterian Church and its outreach programs.

Privately Held Large Category

Richard Sheridan



**Corporate Senior Vice President, General Counsel
Scripps Health
www.scripps.org**

Richard Sheridan is corporate senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary for Scripps Health. He is responsible for directing the provision of legal services, advising the boards, management and medical staffs and providing guidance on legal aspects of patient care. Sheridan also has executive oversight for quality, performance improvement and risk management functions as well as internal audit, compliance and information security. Prior to joining Scripps, Sheridan worked at the San Francisco law firms of Hanson, Bridgett, Marcus, Vlahos & Rudy, and Hassard, Bonnington, Rogers & Huber where he focused on hospital and medical legal issues.

Sheridan attended Stanford Law School and Boston University School of Law, where he received his J.D. He gives back to the community through a variety of speaking engagements and pro-bono advisement at numerous local colleges and universities, as well as the American Bar Association, legal conventions and the California Society for Healthcare Attorneys.

Emebet Selassie



**General Counsel
MedImpact Healthcare Systems
www.medimpact.com**

Emebet Selassie utilizes her training in science and the law to guide

the complex legal activities of MedImpact Healthcare Systems. She holds a master's of science and a law degree and is involved in a diverse range of transactional, intellectual property, record retention and contract management, business and technical experiences across a variety of industries including software, telecom, financial services, oil and gas, consulting, and healthcare. In her role she has negotiated complex pharmacy benefit management services agreements with managed care, self-insured, third-party administrator, 340B, and discount card clients. Selassie's responsibilities include ensuring contractual arrangements are in compliance with ERISA, federal and state ant kickback laws, and HIPAA privacy requirements. In addition her management of the company's Intellectual Property Program includes patent, trademark, copyright, registration and monitoring of the application process. She also facilitated the development and corporate rollout of the enterprise Record Retention program, including the creation of a records retention schedule and policies and procedures. Selassie earned her J.D. at the University of San Diego School of Law.

Privately Held Medium Category

Blake Bilstad



**Senior Vice President, Legal & Public Affairs; General Counsel
Provide Commerce
www.providecommerce.com**

Blake Bilstad has a motto that reflects his professional ethics as well as his sense of humor – "Don't take yourself seriously, but always take your work seriously." For nine years, Bilstad has been a key executive and general counsel of Provide Commerce, Inc., an e-commerce company that specializes in the delivery of custom gifts and perishables direct from suppliers to consumers through its popular brands ProFlowers, RedEnvelope, Cherry Moon Farms, Personal Creations and Shari's Berries. During his tenure, he has managed all legal matters for the company. Notably, he closed Provide Commerce's acquisition by Liberty Media Corporation in 2006, and the company's more recent acquisitions of RedEnvelope in 2008 and Personal Creations in 2010. He successfully managed the timely settlement of two class action lawsuits brought against the company, and helped establish a "ProFlowers Professorship of

Internet Studies" at Cal Western Law School out of the settlement proceeds not claimed by class members. Bilstad assisted in the company's highly profitable growth from \$95 million in annual net sales to over \$500 million. He has been an active leader within the San Diego business and nonprofit communities, serving in leadership positions with nonprofits such as the MP3.com Foundation and San Diego Social Venture Partners. Bilstad earned his J.D. at Harvard Law School.

Ethna Sinisi Piazza



**General Counsel
Taylor Guitars
www.taylorguitars.com**

For more than 26 years Ethna Sinisi Piazza, general counsel of Taylor Listug, Inc. dba Taylor Guitars, has advised private and public companies from start-up through middle market, as well as international corporations. Her principal areas of practice have been business transactions, corporate finance, international contracts, manufacturing, distribution, licensing and joint ventures. She also has advised clients on internet law issues such as privacy, electronic signatures, and website development, hosting and product fulfillment. Her diverse industry experience includes health care, biotech, medical devices, software and other technologies, construction, aerospace and defense, energy, consumer goods, sporting goods, apparel, food industry, shipping, banking, and venture capital. Among her high profile actions, she represented adidas in its bid to purchase the TopFlite Golf business in a bankruptcy auction. Piazza received her Juris Doctorate from The University of Texas School of Law. She is active in San Diego's cultural and business scene and is on the gala committee for the La Jolla Symphony and Chorus. She also sat on the 2011 CONNECT Digital Life Venture Roundtable Screening Committee.

Privately Held Small Category

Jonathan Harrill



**Senior Director Business & Legal Affairs
Adconion Direct
www.adconiondirect.com**

Jonathan Harrill serves as senior director business and legal affairs at Adconion Direct,

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specializing in digital privacy, compliance, and media law, as well as overseeing M&A activity and all advertiser, partner and vendor contracts and negotiation. He is constantly addressing the legal needs of the business in an ever-changing environment where media and data use evolve faster than the legal and regulatory environment. In addition, he leads and manages daily operations across the compliance and legal departments. One of Harrill's major accomplishments was his critical role in overseeing the 2011 Frontline Direct and Adconion Audience Network merger, creating the present company — Adconion Direct. In 2012, he successfully completed a comprehensive re-branding and global alignment of Adconion Direct's legal and compliance operations. Both professionally and personally, Harrill continuously gives back, invests and maintains lasting ties in the community. This past year, he worked with several local organizations through Adconion Direct's volunteer efforts including Southern California Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, and Father Joes Villages.

Ryan Roney



Chief Legal Officer
Vistage International
www.vistage.com

Ryan Roney serves as chief legal officer, executive vice president of business development and corporate secretary for Vistage International headquartered in San Diego and its international subsidiaries. His responsibilities include all legal matters that encompass contracts, compliance, business ethics, dispute resolution, intellectual property, and corporate governance. Additionally, Roney is responsible for business development with a focus on international expansion, strategic alliances, mergers, acquisitions and divestitures and developed and implemented a Code of Conduct, including anti-bribery and corruption policies concerning Vistage's international operations and subsidiaries. He successfully worked on the transition from the long term equity owners to a private equity group that purchased Vistage International in November 2012. Roney earned his J.D. at Pepperdine University School of Law. His philanthropic activities include co-founder and member of the board of directors of Warm Spring Foundation, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing clean and hot water to developing countries and areas impacted by natural disasters.

Publicly Traded Large Category

Debora Buljat



General Counsel
General Dynamics
NASSCO
<http://www.nassco.com>

Debora Buljat is the associate general counsel for General Dynamics National Steel and Shipbuilding Co. (NASSCO), serving in that capacity since 2007. She provides advice and counsel to support business operations including risk analysis on corporate policy, corporate governance, employment matters and general liability matters. She also has primary oversight for all litigation matters. Buljat earned her J.D. at the University of Denver School of Law. She is actively involved in the Association of Corporate Counsel, including serving as a board member for ACA's national labor and employment section and speaking at the 2009 national ACA conference. She also has served as a faculty member for a course on in-house practice that has been taught at the University of San Diego and Thomas Jefferson Law Schools. Buljat has served as a director on the San Diego County Bar Foundation, a philanthropic organization that supports nonprofits that ensure access to justice. She has also co-chaired the organization's largest fundraiser, Evening in La Jolla.

Keven K. Lippert



**Vice President,
General Counsel &
Secretary**
ViaSat Inc.
www.viasat.com

Keven Lippert, VP, general counsel and secretary for ViaSat Inc., manages the company's legal department, providing wide-ranging legal support to its business operations, including corporate, employment, government and commercial contracts, real estate, intellectual property, international, legal compliance, litigation, mergers and acquisitions, financings, and securities law. Lippert also has played a key role in leading the legal team for the company's acquisitions. He led a team that recently obtained the first aeronautical license at Ka band frequencies in the United States, allowing the launch of JetBlue and United Airlines high speed in-flight internet services over ViaSat's satellites and was part of a team that procured ViaSat-2, expected to be the world's highest capacity satellite at launch (scheduled for 2016). He holds a J.D. degree from the University of

Michigan. Aside from his professional responsibilities, Lippert volunteers for the Encinitas Little League and La Costa Canyon Pop Warner.

Publicly Traded Medium Category

Steven Spector



**Executive Vice
President & General
Counsel**
Arena
Pharmaceuticals
www.arenapharm.com

Steven W. Spector is the executive vice president, general counsel & secretary of Arena Pharmaceuticals, Inc., a biopharmaceutical company with approximately 300 employees in San Diego and Switzerland. Since 2001 Spector has advised Arena in connection with various public and private financings, corporate alliances and acquisitions. He oversaw the regulatory approval of the company's first commercial pharmaceutical product and facilitated the repayment of an outstanding balance on a \$100 million note payable to an investor. Spector earned his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania. He is a past president and member of the board of directors of the Association of Corporate Counsel, San Diego Chapter. Spector and his family are active supporters of local and national charitable and nonprofit organizations involving ALS or "Lou Gehrig's Disease" and he assisted his 12-year-old daughter in creating a benefit concert at Qualcomm stadium that raised \$35,000 for the local effort after her aunt was diagnosed with this disease.

Eshel Bar-Adon



**Chief Legal Office,
Executive Vice
President of Specialty
Finance**
BoFI Federal Bank
www.bofifederalbank.com

Eshel Bar-Adon joined BofI Federal Bank as their first in-house counsel in 2011 as the new financial institution began an era of tremendous growth. This success has led to a significant increase in the need for legal resources. To accommodate this explosive growth and the resultant demand for legal services, Bar-Adon built an in-house legal staff of six fulltime attorneys to meet the needs. In addition to establishing, developing and managing the Bank's legal division, Bar-Adon established BofI's Specialty Finance Division which has grown to more than 30 professionals, and has contributed substantially to the bank's profitability. He is noted

for helping to create the secondary market for structured settlement annuity payments and lottery prize payments in the 1990's, and is now a nationally recognized expert in the laws governing the transfer of these payments. Bar-Adon earned his J.D. at Georgetown University Law Center. He is an active member with the Association of Corporate Counsel and also supports and contributes to bank-sponsored philanthropies including San Diego Meals on Wheels, San Diego Habitat for Humanity, and Rady Children's Hospital.

Publicly Traded Small Category

Jason M. Hannon



**Executive Vice
President & General
Counsel**
NuVasive, Inc.
www.nuvasive.com

Jason M. Hannon serves as NuVasive, Inc.'s executive vice president & general counsel. Hannon has responsibility for corporate and business development. Hannon has been instrumental not only in driving NuVasive's legal efforts, which cover a very wide variety of issues; but also leading business development efforts, which have culminated in deals totaling more than \$300 million, all while serving as a cultural ambassador both inside and outside the company. He notably won a Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal trademark case; guided an \$80 million acquisition of a neuromonitoring business (the first entry into medical services for NuVasive); and expanded operations into 10 new countries outside the U.S. Hannon earned his J.D. at Stanford Law School. He oversaw the creation of the company's new charitable foundation, the NuVasive Spine Foundation that provides life-saving spine surgery in rural Africa. Hannon also participates in TVIA (Teen Volunteers in Action) with his 13-year-old son.

Brad Young



General Counsel
SANYO North
America Corp.
www.sanyo.com

Brad Young is a lifer. He has been with the SANYO organization for his entire legal career. He is responsible for strategic planning and management of legal affairs and risk management for all of SANYO's North American Group companies and divisions of SANYO North America Corporation. His wide ranging responsibilities include corporate compliance, advising executive management on all legal matters, as well as administration and

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management of the legal department personnel. Young's specialties include management of legal affairs; transaction law; corporate records; employment law; risk and litigation management; commercial real estate; and mergers and acquisitions. Young has generously donated his time as pro bono general counsel at the Magic Johnson Foundation where he is responsible for evaluating and negotiating all transaction agreements and providing general legal and corporate advice to the executive officers of the Foundation and its board of directors. Young earned his J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law.

Rising Star Category

Shaka Johnson



Senior Attorney
Sony Electronics Inc.
www.sony.com

Shaka Johnson was born and raised in San Diego and earned his J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law. He currently serves as a senior attorney at Sony Electronics Inc. where he is the lead attorney in the U.S. for the post-

sales support and promotions group as well as the corporate procurement group, while also managing litigation and product safety matters nationwide for his company. Prior to his arrival at Sony, Johnson served as corporate counsel at SANYO North America Corporation and Gateway. Johnson has handled numerous corporate legal matters, including management of contracts, litigation management, product development and marketing, employment, corporate communications, and several other general corporate advising and compliance matters throughout North America. He has negotiated multi-million dollar contracts including contracts in Canada and has also helped his companies in bringing various products to market, successfully spearheading an initiative involving numerous U.S. companies that led to a national campaign to raise awareness about the safe use of baby monitors. His commitment to the community has been constant over the years. He is a member of the Founding Committee for the San Diego County Bar Association, participates on the Jackie Robinson YMCA Board of Managers, and the USD School of Law Alumni Board's Diversity and Inclusion Committee.

Tracie Carroll



In-house Counsel
Sanford-Burnham
Medical Research
Institute
www.sanfordburnham.org

Tracie L. Carroll currently serves as in-house counsel for the prestigious Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, an organization dedicated to discovering the fundamental molecular causes of disease. Her principal focus is on intellectual property and she handles and assists with the institute's agreements, negotiations and general patent portfolio inquiries across the institute's three campuses. Prior to joining Sanford-Burnham, Carroll served as a business and intellectual property litigation attorney for three years, practicing in state and federal courts throughout Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, and San Bernardino Counties. Carroll received her law degree from Whittier Law School. She values volunteering as a pure form of philanthropy and has volunteered with organizations such as the Constitutional Rights Foundation, Public Law Center, and the Illumination Foundation. She has recently received recognition as

the 2012 Inteum AUTM Western Region Scholarship Awardee and as a 2012 Outstanding Young Attorney Nominee.

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General Counsel AWARDS 2013

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General Counsel 2013 Finalists

Nonprofit/Government Category

Leslie FitzGerald



**Chief Deputy City Attorney
Office of the City Attorney
www.sandiego.gov**

As the chief deputy city attorney, Leslie FitzGerald supervises 15 real property and land use attorneys and advises the City Council's Land Use and Housing Committee. She also provides legal advice to the Housing Authority and City Council on all affordable housing issues, including numerous affordable housing projects and homeless issues.

Karen Landers



**General Counsel
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System
www.sdmts.com**

As San Diego Metropolitan Transit System's (MTS) general counsel, Karen Landers represents the agency and its related entities in all legal matters. Since joining MTS, Landers has negotiated several multi-agency and private agreements to coordinate public projects and allocate risk and financial responsibility. This includes a long-term operating agree-

ment to rehabilitate MTS's 70-mile Desert Line freight railroad and an amended and restated shared use agreement for the San Diego Subdivision.

Thomas Russell



**General Counsel
San Diego Unified Port District
www.portofsandiego.org**

Thomas Russell was appointed Port attorney in September 2012, serving as general counsel and chief legal officer for the San Diego Unified Port District. Russell is responsible for the legal aspects of the Port's development projects such as the Chula Vista Bayfront, the North Embarcadero Visionary Plan, the San Diego Convention Center Expansion, the Old Police Headquarters and Lane Field.

Cynthia Stratton



**General Counsel
Meals-on-Wheels
Greater San Diego, Inc.
www.meals-on-wheels.org**

Cynthia Stratton serves as general counsel for several nonprofit organizations that focus on children and seniors. She is currently general counsel for Meals on Wheels of Greater San Diego; pro bono general counsel for Friends of La

Jolla Elementary School; and pro bono general counsel for Muirlands Foundation. Stratton's practice focuses on business litigation with an emphasis on employment and wage and hour matters, including handling claims of wrongful termination, harassment, and discrimination.

Privately Held Category

Shelley Bennett



**Senior Vice President,
Legal Affairs, Chief Privacy Officer and Secretary
DriveCam, Inc.
www.drivecam.com**

Shelley Bennett is a member of the executive leadership team of DriveCam. As the top lawyer at DriveCam, she has guided the company through a number of legal and business accomplishments. Under Shelley's guidance, DriveCam has entered into stock financings with significant investors, restructured its capital stock and completed a tender offer providing liquidity for many investors. She has been an active member of the Ocean Air Elementary PTA and also is the Dartmouth College District Enrollment Director for the San Diego area.

Deborah Butera



**Senior Vice President,
General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer & Secretary
Kratos Defense & Security Solutions, Inc.
www.kratosdefense.com**

Deborah Butera is responsible for handling all legal matters affecting Kratos Defense & Security Solutions in its domestic and international markets and leading the company's efforts in corporate governance, ethics and compliance, intellectual property protection, transactions, global trade matters and dispute resolution. In addition she manages the compliance program, including compliance with import and export laws, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and the U.K. Bribery Act.



**Darragh Davis
Vice President, General Counsel, Corporate Secretary
Petco Animal Supplies, Inc.
www.petco.com**

Darragh Davis has been the vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary for PETCO Animal Supplies, Inc. since January 2004. Her areas of expertise

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CONGRATULATIONS!

The Neighborhood House Association congratulates **Dwight Smith** as the recipient of the **San Diego Business Journal 2013 General Counsel Award** in the Nonprofit category

San Diego Business Journal
PRESENTS
2013 GENERAL COUNSEL AWARDS

Nonprofit Category
Dwight Smith
The Neighborhood House Association

Neighborhood House Association... Celebrating 100 years in 2014!
www.neighborhoodhouse.org

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range from mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, ethics and compliance, transactional counseling, regulatory matters, government contracts, labor and employment, and complex commercial litigation. Davis also is an adjunct professor at the University of San Diego School of Law on In-House Practice.

Lynn Herrick



**Vice President of Human Resources, General Counsel, and Corporate Secretary
GreatCall Inc.
www.greatcall.com**

With more than fifteen years of success serving as general counsel of innovative, privately held companies and working at large law firms, Lynn Herrick has served as both general counsel and vice president of human resources for GreatCall, Inc. since October of 2009. Herrick has made enormous contributions in leading the transformation of GreatCall's human resources compliance policies and practices as GreatCall has matured from a young start-up.

Kenny Key



**Vice President, General Counsel
Interra Energy, Inc.
www.interraenergy.us**

Kenny Key has brought his experience working on energy, natural resource, and environmental

law issues to help Interra Energy's growth. As vice president and general counsel, Key manages external business relationships, working with local agencies to maintain and execute permitting strategies, business strategies and tax planning. He helped to secure more than \$800,000 in grant funding from the California Energy Commission.

Tom Lofaro



**Vice President, U.S. Legal and Corporate Secretary
Ledcor Group of Companies
www.ledcor.com**

Tom Lofaro is vice president, U.S. legal and corporate secretary for the Ledcor Group of Companies, a multi-faceted international construction firm. He also volunteers his time as a temporary judge and settlement conference officer for the San Diego Superior Court.

Romy Selati Loseke



**General Counsel & Secretary
Westcore Properties, LLC
www.westcore.net**

Romy Selati Loseke is the general counsel and secretary of Westcore Properties, LLC.

Loseke led the Westcore legal team in the acquisition of a \$600 million portfolio of industrial and office properties—the largest real estate transaction in California and the

second largest in the United States for 2012. Loseke has 16 years of corporate and real estate legal experience, both domestic and international.

Ryan McCrary



**General Counsel, Vice President
Hughes Marino
www.hughesmarino.com**

As general counsel for Hughes Marino, Ryan McCrary is responsible for the legal affairs of the company as well as tenant representation. His recent responsibilities included the creation of a commercial contract database. A native San Diegan, he has an extensive background in commercial leasing, construction and real estate transactions.

Nancy Radtke



**Senior Vice President, Corp Services
MedImpact Healthcare Systems
www.medimpact.com**

As senior vice president, corporate services, Nancy Radtke serves as MedImpact's in-house legal counsel. As the head of the legal department of the nation's largest privately held pharmacy benefit manager, Radtke manages a full spectrum of legal services. She is responsible for MedImpact's excellent track record in litigation and for actively working to maintain their national standard of excellence.

Bronwyn Savary



**Vice President & General Counsel
Verimatrix, Inc.
www.verimatrix.com**

Bronwyn Savary is vice president and general counsel at Verimatrix, Inc., where she advises the company on a variety of legal issues associated with the global development, marketing, licensing and sale of technology and related services. Savary has extensive experience in managing corporate legal departments, managing outside counsel, and advising director and employees at all levels of U.S. and international companies.

Bob Schraner



**General Counsel
Arrowhead General Insurance Agency, Inc.
www.arrowheadgrp.com**

Robert Schraner has been general counsel for Arrowhead General Insurance Agency since 1998 and is responsible for all legal aspects of the company. His most recent accomplishment was working with the agency's private equity shareholders and senior management to sell Arrowhead and its affiliated companies to the publicly traded Brown & Brown, Inc. for \$400 million.

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We applaud Woodrow Dave Smith for his contributions over the years to both the legal profession and our community. As an active sponsor of personal and professional achievement, we believe in the power of achievement. And we proudly support our employees who share this vision.

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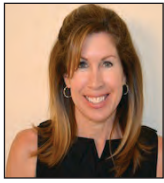
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Maria Seedner



**General Counsel
CUSO Financial Services,
LP**

www.cusonet.com

Maria Seedner has been general counsel for CUSO Financial Services, LP since 2004. In this capacity she oversees the various legal obligations of the organization. Seedner is involved with several community efforts including the Wounded Warrior Project and the Boys and Girls Club of St. Mary's Church.

Ric Shwisberg



**General Counsel
MKS Residential**

www.mksresidential.com

Ric Shwisberg is a principal and the chief operating officer/general counsel of MKS and its affiliate, ReyLenn Construction Company. Prior to the formation of MKS and ReyLenn, he served as senior vice president/general counsel-West Coast for The Morgan Group, Inc. While there, Shwisberg successfully negotiated and closed construction financing and joint venture agreements with institutional equity partners for projects with a total cost in excess of \$285 million and successfully negotiated and closed sales transactions with an aggregate sales price of projects in excess of \$450 million.

Angela Soldner



**General Counsel
Coffman Specialties, Inc.
www.coffmanspecialties.com**

As general counsel for Coffman Specialties, Inc., Angela Soldner's accomplishments include wide-ranging experience with public works, legal and contractual issues. She has overseen complex contract negotiations and preparations relating to waterway canals, airport runways and taxiways, and highway projects.

Dalton Sprinkle



**Executive Vice President
& General Counsel
OneRoof Energy
www.oneroofenergy.com**

As part of OneRoof Energy's executive team, Dalton Sprinkle oversees and manages all legal operations of the development-stage solar financing company. He negotiated a multiple series of senior and mezzanine bridge financing totaling more than \$20 million, and negotiated a unique \$30 million revolving development financing/construction arrangement to support solar project construction costs.

Dennis Stryker



**General Counsel
Rick Engineering
Company**

www.rickengineering.com

Dennis Stryker is the general counsel for Rick Engineering Company. His department is responsible for all legal aspects of the corporation and its subsidiaries, including business and commercial transactions, litigation, employ-

ment and labor issues, and professional liability issues. He also acts as the corporation's risk manager. He is a past chair of the board of directors of the California Minority Counsel Program.

JT Taylor



**Vice President & General
Counsel
Websense, Inc.**

www.websense.com

JT Taylor is vice president and general counsel for Websense, Inc. a global leader in protecting organizations from the latest cyber-attacks and data theft. In his role, Taylor provides practical, business-driven legal guidance to the executive team as well as leads domestic and international attorneys, contracting professionals, and support personnel. Prior to becoming an attorney he served as a U.S. Naval Officer leading high-performing operational teams in aviation, shipboard, and public affairs roles.

Rebecca Weinrib



**General Counsel
Eddy Pump Corporation
www.eddypump.com**

Rebecca Weinrib is general counsel for Eddy Pump Corporation, a technology development company that builds equipment for the military, mining, oil and other commercial industries. Weinrib formed the company's the legal department and oversees all activities related to its legal needs. In 2010 she co-founded The Animal Pad, an all-breed dog rescue with the goal of creating a sanctuary where dogs and children in dependency can meet and learn from one another.

Publicly Traded Category

David Barrett



**Assistant General
Counsel
SDG&E
www.sdge.com**

As assistant general counsel — environmental at SDG&E, David Barrett is responsible for advising senior management and managing all environmental, land use, and natural resource legal matters for the energy company. He regularly interacts with senior management, the board and other stakeholders on environmental matters.

David Berger



**General Counsel &
Corporate Secretary
Senomyx/Tandem
Diabetes Care
www.senomyx.com**

David Berger has more than 18 years of experience advising senior management and corporate boards of emerging growth companies. As senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary for Senomyx he has completed multiple collaborative research and development agreements with many of the world's largest flavor, food and beverage companies. In addition, he has responsibilities as general counsel for medical device company, Tandem Diabetes Care.

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San Diego's top legal minds gathered to celebrate their brightest stars at the San Diego Business Journal's first annual General Counsel Awards on Thursday, October 10. With the San Diego La Jolla Marriott as the background, more than 250 professionals representing organizations from local nonprofits to global corporations acknowledged the outstanding accomplishments of their peers. Judge Irma Gonzalez presented the keynote remarks. The program was supported by title sponsor Sughrue Mion PLLC, gold sponsor Ogletree Deakins and in cooperation with ACC America/San Diego Chapter.

2013 General Counsel Award Winners

Lifetime Achievement Award

Bernard (Bernie) Wright Porter Jr.
YMCA of San Diego County

Exemplary Award

Erik Greupner
San Diego Padres

Nonprofit Category

Dwight Smith
The Neighborhood House Assoc.
Kevin Cahill
The Scripps Research Institute

Privately Held Large Category

Richard Sheridan
Scripps Health
Emebet Selassie
MedImpact Healthcare Systems

Privately Held Medium Category

Blake Bilstad
Provide Commerce Inc.
Ethna Sinisi Piazza
Taylor Guitars

Privately Held Small Category

Jonathan Harrill
Adconion Direct
Ryan Roney
Vistage International

Publicly Traded Large Category

Debora Buljat
General Dynamics NASSCO
Keven K. Lippert
ViaSat Inc.

Publicly Traded Medium Category

Steven Spector
Arena Pharmaceuticals
Eshel Bar-Adon
Bofi Federal Bank

Publicly Traded Small Category

Jason M. Hannon
NuVasive, Inc.
Brad Young
SANYO North America Corp.

Rising Star Category

Shaka Johnson
Sony Electronics Inc.
Tracie Carroll
Sanford-Burnham Medical
Research Institute



**Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient
Bernie Porter and Reo Carr, Executive
Editor, San Diego Business Journal**



**Keynote Speaker Judge Irma Gonzalez
and Armon Mills, President & Publisher,
San Diego Business Journal**



Winner Keven Lippert, ViaSat and Karen Dow, Title Sponsor Sughrue Mion PLLC



Winner Richard Sheridan, Scripps Health and Anthony Novom, Title Sponsor Sughrue Mion, PLLC



Exemplary Award Winner Erik Greupner, San Diego Padres



Winner Tracie Carroll, Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute, Jeff Carroll and Dennis Stryker, Rick Engineering Company



Winner Eshel Bar-Adon, BofI Federal Bank



Winners Shaka Johnson, Sony Electronic Inc. and Brad Young, SANYO North America Corp.



David Berger, Senomyx and Winner Steven Spector, Arena Pharmaceuticals



Caroline Perry, San Diego Padres and Winner Debora Buljat, General Dynamics NASSCO



Winner Jonathan Harrill, Adconion Direct



Winner Ethna Sinisi Piazza and Chris Wellons, both with Taylor Guitars



Winner Blake Bilstad, Provide Commerce, Inc.



Dennis Davis, Spencer Skeen and Tim Johnson, all with Gold Sponsor Ogletree Deakins



Photos by Bob Thompson Fotowerks

Additional photos from the event are at the following link: www.Fotowerkssd.smugmug.com



David Boss, Boss Law Firm, APLC and Winner Kevin Cahill, The Scripps Research Institute



Karen Landers, San Diego Metropolitan Transit System, Winner Ryan Roney, Vistage International, Armon Mills, President & Publisher, San Diego Business Journal



Winner Dwight Smith, Rudolph Johnson and Michael Kemp, all with The Neighborhood House Association



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Sierra Brandis



**Associate General Counsel & Director
TaylorMade-adidas Golf Company**
www.taylormadegolf.com

Sierra Brandis is associate general counsel and director with TaylorMade-adidas Golf Company which sells under the TaylorMade, adidas Golf, Ashworth, and Adams brands. Brandis advises her clients on a variety of domestic and international commercial legal matters. Brandis frequently speaks at conferences on social media legal topics and has implemented a collection process at the company for Soles for Souls, collecting new and gently used shoes for third world countries.

Lewis Ensley



**Vice President — Legal,
Western Region
Balfour Beatty**
www.balfourbeattyus.com

Since joining Balfour Beatty Construction in 2007, Lewis Ensley has provided comprehensive legal services to the business—beginning as assistant general counsel, then general counsel and presently as vice president-legal. In his present role, Ensley manages the legal affairs for Balfour Beatty's West Region. Ensley is able to pull from both his experience as a construction contract litigator and as construction superintendent, providing strategic and practical advice to support all facets of the business.

work as a board member of Girls on the Run International and chair of the board for Girls on the Run San Diego.

Mike Pfeiffer



**Executive Vice President
& General Counsel
Realty Income Corp.**
www.realtyincome.com

As a member of the senior executive team of Realty Income Corp., Mike Pfeiffer oversees the various legal aspects of the company, including compliance with all laws, regulations and requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the New York Stock Exchange. He provides oversight and a legal perspective for the acquisition, leasing and sale of properties as well as the company's insurance and retirement plans.

David Szekeres



**Vice President— Head
of M&A, Governance &
Securities and Assistant
Secretary
Life Technologies
Corporation**
www.lifetechnologies.com

David Szekeres oversees numerous areas of legal responsibilities at Life Technologies Corporation. His major achievement for 2012 and 2013 was the sale of the company to Thermo Fisher Scientific for \$13.6 billion—the largest M&A deal in San Diego history, the largest non-pharmaceutical M&A deal in biotechnology/life sciences history, and currently the fifth largest M&A deal in the world this year.

David Eisler



**Executive Vice President
& General Counsel
ACTIVE Network**
www.activenetwork.com

David Eisler is the senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary at ACTIVE Network. He oversees ACTIVE's legal department and headed negotiations for the acquisition of StarCite, Inc., a leader in the global corporate travel and strategic meetings. Eisler has more than ten years of corporate legal experience and is an active member of Emerging Leaders at Jewish Family Service.

Denise Jackson



**General Counsel &
Executive Officer
AMN Healthcare
Services, Inc.**
www.amnhealthcare.com

AMN Healthcare is the nation's largest clinical workforce management and health care staffing company with thousands of clinicians working each day. Denise Jackson serves as a director for AMN Healthcare's 25 subsidiaries and is an integral member of the AMN Healthcare executive management. She has been recognized by her peers in the Association of Corporate Counsel as In-House Counsel of the Year. She also has been acknowledged as a business and community leader for her

W. David Smith



**Senior Vice President,
General Counsel and
Assistant Secretary
SDG&E**
www.sdge.com

Dave Smith is considered one of the most prominent general counsel's in San Diego, and the state of California. Smith has been instrumental in promoting SDG&E's commitment to excellence through the retention of diverse lawyers. Among his many community and civic commitments, Smith has served as the co-chair of the California Minority Counsel program.

Diane Thompson



**Senior Vice President
Secretary & General
Counsel
Bridgepoint Education**
www.bridgepointeducation.com

As senior vice president, secretary and general counsel, Diane Thompson oversees all legal and compliance issues for the Bridgepoint Education. Prior to joining the Bridgepoint team, Thompson spent more than 11 years with the Apollo Group, a multi-billion dollar for-profit education company. Thompson was named Leading In-house Counsel in California in the June 2013 issue of The Daily Journal.

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THE SAN DIEGO PADRES PROUDLY CONGRATULATE

ERIK GREUPNER
2013 Exemplary Award Winner

• AND •

CAROLINE PERRY
Rising Star Finalist

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- Business & Securities Litigation
- Securities & Business Arbitration
- Financial Fraud
- Employment & Labor Law
- Trusts, Estate & Tax Planning

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Rising Star Category

Sean Blixseth



**General Counsel
SANYO North America
Corp.**
www.sanyo.com

Sean Blixseth is the gateway to information and strategy regarding legal affairs in North America for SONY's parent company in Japan. As SONY North America Corporation's general counsel his job requires fluency in the Japanese language and a deep understanding of Japanese corporate culture and business etiquette. Among his numerous responsibilities Blixseth conducted an exhaustive legal audit of all North America business units and subsidiaries which began in August 2012 with visits to all locations in the U.S. and Canada.

Emily Lough



**Corporate Counsel
& Chief Compliance
Officer
Maxwell Technologies,
Inc.**
www.maxwell.com

Emily Lough is the corporate counsel & chief compliance officer of Maxwell Technologies, Inc., a public company headquartered in San Diego, California. Lough began her career at Maxwell as an intellectual property intern during law school. She also has been a volunteer justice for 2012 National Criminal Procedure Moot Court Tournament hosted by

the University of San Diego School of Law.

Richa Nand



**Vice President & Counsel
Cytori Therapeutics, Inc.**
www.cytori.com

Richa Nand began her professional career in the scientific field. In 2004, Nand joined Cytori Therapeutics as in-house counsel, intellectual property. Today, Cytori has 62 issued patents worldwide and more than 75 pending applications worldwide. Nand also fills the role of director of business development for Cytori.

Caroline Perry



**Associate General
Counsel
San Diego Padres**
www.sdpadres.com

Caroline Perry is the associate general counsel of the San Diego Padres, a position she has held since 2011. Her general practice at the Padres focuses on contracts (particularly sponsorship deals and non-baseball events), employment law and management of outside litigation counsel. She is a member of the Lawyer's Club in San Diego and also volunteers with Feeding America San Diego, where she is a team leader.

Elaine Reagan



**General Counsel / Chief
Compliance Officer
San Diego City
Employees' Retirement
System**
www.sdcers.org

San Diego City Employee's Retirement System's (SDCERS) Elaine Reagan oversees a broad range of legal services as general counsel and chief compliance officer. She is responsible for supervision and direction to staff attorneys and outside counsel, directs the execution of SDCERS' legal policy; prepares and monitors the legal division's budget; and is considered the in-house authority on pension law compliance matters.

Ryan Simon



**General Counsel
eBioscience, Inc.**
www.ebioscience.com

Ryan Simon started his career with eBioscience in 2008 as a member of the corporate development and strategy group focusing primarily on intellectual property licensing and acquisition, then transition to lead internal counsel in 2012. Additional oversight includes counseling executive leadership on business strategy, implementation, contracts, intellectual property, liability and risk assessment.

Tamara Swenson



**Senior Corporate Counsel
AMN Healthcare
Services, Inc.**
www.amnhealthcare.com

Tamara Swenson is senior corporate counsel of AMN Healthcare, Inc. In this capacity she supports AMN's business teams in the negotiation of client facility solutions across multiple service lines, including new market opportunities and strategic alliances. Previously, Swenson served as associate general counsel at NASSCO.

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**McKenna Long
& Aldridge LLP**

McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP congratulates

Eshel Bar-Adon
of BofI Federal Bank

for his well-deserved recognition as a winner of the

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(Medium Company, Publicly-Traded Category)

in the *San Diego Business Journal's*
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Congratulations, Blake Bilstad!

Leventhal Law congratulates
Blake Bilstad on being a winner in the
Medium, Privately-Held Company Category
for the 2013 General Counsel Awards.

Blake Bilstad, General Counsel
Provide Commerce

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