San Diego Business Journal OFTHE YEAR AWARDS 2021

June 24, 2021 Free Virtual Event • 2:00-3:30 pm

The **San Diego Business Journal** is proud to honor the accomplishments of San Diego County's most impressive Chief Executive Officers. 2021 CEO of the Year Award categories are: Public Company - Large - Public - Medium - Private Company - Small Private Company - Medium - Private Company - Large Business Nonprofit - Nonprofit and Rising Star. We will unveil the winners and recognize all the finalists.

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD HONOREE



JOE PANETTA PRESIDENT & CEO BIOCOM CALIFORNIA

Joseph Panetta is President and CEO and a member of the Board of Directors of Biocom California, the state's leading advocate for the life science industry. With more than 1400 members, Joe oversees a powerful network of offices in San Diego, Los Angeles, South San Francisco, Washington, D.C., and Tokyo. Joe is Chairman of the California Biotechnology Foundation.



www.sdbj.com

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL CEO OF THE YEAR JUDGES 2021



MARK CAFFERTY President and CEO San Diego Regional Economic **Development Corporation**

As president and chief executive officer at San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, Mark Cafferty sits at the center of a unique collaboration of business, trade, community, and education leaders who have redefined the region's economic development strategy, cementing the region as a key stakeholder in the global economy. A Boston native, he earned his bachelor's in marketing and communications from Assumption College in Worcester, Massachusetts, and his advanced certification in Performance Measurement and Non-Profit Management from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. He resides in San Diego's Point Loma neighborhood.





DAVID H. CREAN

President, ACG San Diego Managing Partner, Cardiff Advisory

David H. Crean is David H. Crean is President of ACG San Diego and Managing Partner at Cardiff Advisory where he leads the firm's Mergers and acquisitions (M&A), corporate development, and valuation transactions with life science and healthcare companies. Dr. Crean holds FINRA Series 79 and Series 63 licenses and is a Registered Investment Banking Representative of BA Securities LLC, Member FINRA SIPC. Dr. Crean also serves on the Boards of Directors for Histogen, Inc. (Nasdag: HSTO), California Life Sciences Association (CLSA), Association for Corporate Growth (ACG) San Diego, the Alzheimer's Association and Student Success Programs of the Charter School of San Diego.







CHRISTINA de VACA Chief Executive Officer **Corporate Directors Forum**

Ms. de Vaca currently serves as CEO of the Corporate Directors Forum (CDF), an organization whose mission is "to help directors, and those who support them, build more effective boards through continuous education and peer-networking". Prior to this role, she was a CDF board member serving on the Executive Committee and chairing the organization's Programs Committee. Before joining CDF, she served as the Director of Corporate Relations and Business Development for the Graduate School of Business at the University of San Diego (USD), where she strengthened USD's School of Business relationships with the business community.





ALAN PROHASKA Regional President and Head of Corporate Banking,

PNC Bank, Greater San Diego

Alan Prohaska is regional president and head of Corporate Banking for PNC Bank in Greater San Diego. He is responsible for leading the overall growth of PNC in San Diego county, with a specific focus on Corporate Banking. Prohaska, who joined PNC in February 2021, brings nearly 20 years of banking experience to PNC, including his most recent role as San Diego middle market region manager at Wells Fargo.

ska has a hacholor political science from the University of California at Santa Barbara, and an M.B.A. in finance and organizational behavior from the Anderson School of Business at UCLA.





BRET **SCHANZENBACH** President and CEO Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce

Bret Schanzenbach has served as the President and CEO of the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce since January, 2019. Schanzenbach, a native Californian and resident of San Diego's North County since 1971, came to the Carlsbad position from the Vista Chamber of Commerce where he served as CEO for 9 years. His corporate background before the Chamber was in residential real estate and the software industry. In 1992 he start Technica Inc., a human resources software company. Before venturing into the corporate world, Schanzenbach spent seven years as a youth minister. He earned his Master's in Theological Studies from the University of Dallas.





DEBRA ROSEN President and Chief Executive Officer, North San Diego **Business Chamber**

Since assuming her position in 2009, Rosen has built the Chamber into a respected regional business organization, diversifying its programs, membership and Board of Directors. Rosen has aggressively advanced a competitive agenda that includes building strong chamber membership and advocacy for business, strengthening political relationships, developing a sustainable military program, and protecting business interests on a local and state level.

She is credited with the turnaround of two underperforming nonprofit organizations, Rosen took the chamber out of debt and into being recognized as one of seven, 5-star US Chamber organizations in California.





JERRY VARGA Office Leader **RSM US LLP**

Jerry Varga is the Office Leader of RSM's San Diego office as well as the Assurance Practice Leader. He has over 25 years of experience providing audit and management advisory services to middle-market companies in the consumer products, technology and life sciences industries. In addition, Jerry works extensively with portfolio companies of private equity groups and early stage companies backed by venture capital firms. As the Office Leader he is responsible for developing and executing strategy, driving growth and maintaining the office's dynamic culture.



We're up to speed, so you can go full speed.

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Sayed Ali Interpreters Unlimited, Inc.



Stacey Anfuso La Jolla Logic



Lorens Attisha Soapy Joe's Car Wash



Elizabeth Banker Shore Solutions, Inc.



Cody Barbo Trust & Will



Ken Barnes Options For All



Jennifer Barnes Optima Office



Chris Barry NuVasive



Kimberly Becker San Diego County Regional Airport Authority



Christopher Bittner obrARCHITECTURE Inc.



Karie Boyd Boyd Law APC



Anahid Brakke San Diego Hunger Coalition



FINALIST CEO of the Year

Congratulations Cheryl Wilson

Thank you for 31 years of leadership as President and Chief Executive Officer of St. Paul's Senior Services. We, the Board and employees of St. Paul's, are proud to serve with you.

StPaulsSeniors.org

St. Paul's Senior Services is a faith based San Diego non-profit. Founded in 1960.

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= Innovative insights

At PNC, we understand the importance of looking at your business holistically. Our local, entrepreneurial teams put in the work to fully understand your industry sector in San Diego and beyond, and to understand your plans for your company's future. When we bring it all together, you get innovative insights and future-forward solutions that can help you implement your vision.

For more information, contact Alan Prohaska, Regional President, at <u>alan.prohaska@pnc.com</u>.

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Innesa Burrola Boutique Recruiting



Talisin Burton Burton Restaurants, LLC



Peter Callstrom San Diego Workforce Partnership



Teresa Campbell San Diego County **Credit Union**



Kelly Capen Douglas Voices for Children



Kimberlee Centera **TerraPro Solutions**



Jaye Connolly-LaBelle RippleNami, Inc.



Lou Cooperhouse BlueNalu



Juliet Correnti Radeus Labs, Inc.



Athena Countouriotis **Turning Point Therapeutics**



Win Cramer JLab



Tamara Craver Reality Changers



Congratulations to LENNY LESZCZYNSKI

CEO of the San Diego Automotive Museum for being named a finalist in the San Diego Business Journal **CEO Awards 2021**





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2021 CEO of The Year Finalist

OUR INNOVATIVE IDEAS COME FROM THE TOP

CONGRATULATIONS AMIR MOUSSAVIAN ON BEING NAMED 2021 CEO OF THE YEAR FINALIST







Anna Crowe Crowe PR



Michael Dallo Dallo Law Group



Robert Dean Vista Hill Foundation



Nickolas Del Pego Deckard Technologies



Maritza Diaz ITJuana



Steve Dietlin Tri-City Medical Center



Darrah DiGiorgio Johnson Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest



Steven Dinkin National Conflict Resolution Center



John Dobak



Shawnda Dorantes Beauty Lounge Medical Spa



Kelly DuFord Williams Slate Law Group



Shahab Elmi Cymbiotika, LLC



Finalist in the San Diego Business Journal's 2021 CEO of the Year Awards



Because of Don's innovative leadership and belief in the extraordinary potential of every young person, thousands of transition age foster youth in San Diego have been empowered to become Confident, Capable, and Connected adults! He is a dedicated leader who fosters excellence in his employees, youth participants, and the community at large.



jitfosteryouth.org





Thank you to our CEO, Chris Williams.

From leading us through a pandemic with a bright guiding light, to prioritizing continued flexibility and putting the needs of our colleagues first, we appreciate and celebrate you.

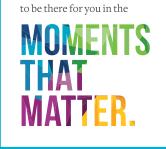
Congratulations on your nomination for CEO of the Year!

SCAN TO SEE HIS PASSION IN ACTION:



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Cesar Enciso EVOTEK, Inc.



Johan Engman Rise & Shine Hospitality Group



Mick Farrell ResMed



Bradley Feldmann Cubic Corporation



Sean Ferrel Managed Solution



Jonathan Gallagher Coastal Payroll



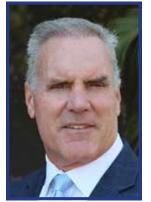
Nancy Gannon Hornberger SAY San Diego



Greg Garrabrants Axos Financial, Inc. and Axos Bank



Leslee Gaul Visit Oceanside



Tom Gilman Biosero, Inc.



Michelle D. Gonzalez TrueCare



Patrick Gough PKL Services, Inc.





Congratulations SBCS CEO Kathie Lembo, Finalist for San Diego Business Journal's 2021 CEO of the Year

This year, with Kathie Lembo at the helm, SBCS (formerly South Bay Community Services) stepped up to be the main contractor providing services to unaccompanied minors at the San Diego Convention Center, managed distribution of rental and utility assistance alongside the City of Chula Vista, and continued to respond to the community's evolving needs during the COVID-19 pandemic while maintaining their myriad of long-term programs. SBCS is celebrating its 50th year of service and is recognized locally and state-wide for its innovative, strengths-based approach to supporting the well-being and prosperity of children, youth and families. Learn more about SBCS' work to strengthen communities by visiting SBCSsandiego.org.



Since the start of the pandemic, C2K has distributed over 40.000 computers to kids in need and their families.

There are still thousands of children that will benefit from your donation of a computer, electronics or financial support.

Computer 2 Kids is bridging the digital divide.

Please consider joining us in this endeavor and donate today!



www.c2k.org





Sandra Gramley Platt/Whitelaw Architects, Inc.



Neil Hattangadi Cortica, Inc.



Jeff Hawkins Truvian Sciences



Ben Hemminger Fashionphile



Kimberly Herrell Schubach Aviation



Spencer Hutchins Concert Health



Michelle Jacko Jacko Law Group, PC



Myron Jucha BJA Partners



Bryan Knox Catalent Pharma Solutions



Grayson Lafrenz Power Digital Marketing



Kent Lee Pacific Arts Movement



Kathryn Lembo



Deacon Jim Vargas President & CEO San Diego Business Journal 2021 CEO of the Year Finalist

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

Shahab Elmi CEO of Cymbiotika







Bob Leone MRC Smart Technology Solutions



Lenny Leszczynski San Diego Automotive Museum



Brooke LeVasseur AristaMD



Scott Lewis Voice of San Diego



John Lincoln Ignite Visibility



Nancy Maldonado The Chicano Federation



Neal McFarlane McFarlane Architects



Dan McQueen Fluid Components International LLC



Chris Megison Solutions for Change



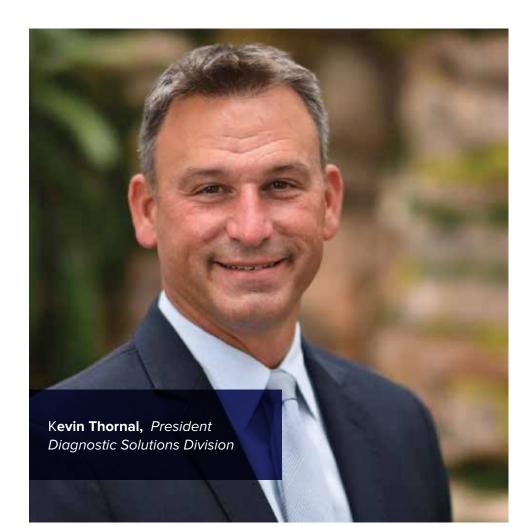
Ric Militi InnoVision Marketing Group



Joe Monaco Dudek



Jon Renau





Congratulations to Kevin Thornal,

- President of our Diagnostic Solutions Division, for nomination as a finalist in the 2021 San Diego Business Journal CEO of the Year Award.
- Kevin led Hologic to the forefront of the global COVID-19 response, developing and supplying more than 100 million molecular diagnostic tests.
- "It is a great honor to be nominated for the CEO of the Year Award, and I am so proud of our teams at Hologic for all of the hard work that they do and especially their tremendous efforts this past year to get us beyond the pandemic."



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Congratulations Nancy Maldonado Chicano Federation



64 On behalf of the entire **Chicano Federation team**, we'd like to congratulate our CEO on being a finalist for the SDBJ's **CEO if the Year! Nancy** is a motivational and inspiring leader who has fearlessly led us through a challenging year and has never waivered when it comes to advocating for our community and always putting #CommunityFirst. **Felicidades Jefa!**





The Chicano Federation SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL OF THE YEAR AWARDS 2021 FINALISTS





Brian Morales Pro-Cal Lighting, Inc.



Amir Moussavian Eturi Corp



Molly Nocon Noah Homes



Keith Olmo Jan Pro of San Diego



Trevor Outman Shipware LLC



Jason Paguio Asian Business Association San Diego



Chip Parker LabX Ventures



Lisa Paul-Hill Wheelhouse Credit Union



Walter Philips San Diego Youth Services



Cheri Pierre Computers 2 Kids



Victor Ramsauer Levitzacks, Certified Public Accountants



John Reynolds Jon Renau

Congrats to our passionate leader STEPHEN RUSSELL!



"I want to live in a community that is free of fear, where families and individuals can be their best selves. I can't solve it all, but having housing is the most basic foundation in life for folks to thrive. ... I feel in my heart that it is my duty to do what I can with my position and skills to make the situation better." –

Stephen Russell, President and CEO



Congratulations to Kim Becker

President & CEO, San Diego County Regional Airport Authority





Congratulates



The Asian Business Association's President & CEO

Jason Paguio

for being a finalist in the **San Diego Business Journal's 2021 CEO of the Year Awards!**



Asian Business Association San Diego

7675 Dagget St #340 San Diego, CA 92111 www.abasd.org





Nathan Rogge Bank of Southern California



Tina Rose Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County



Mia Roseberry Wounded Warrior Homes



San Diego Housing Federation



Scott Sabin Plant With Purpose



Nancy Sasaki United Way of San Diego County



Elizabeth Schott Accessity, formerly Accion San Diego



Mark Schulze Crystal Pyramid Inc.



Ronson Shamoun RJS LAW



Juergen Stark Turtle Beach Corporation



Seth Stein Eastridge Workforce Solutions



Laura Tancredi-Baese Home Start, Inc.

Congrats to SAY San Diego's CEO Nancy Gannon Hornberger!



Everyday Nancy champions SAY San Diego's vision of opportunity, equity and well-being for all. Honoring Nancy this year is particularly special as SAY San Diego celebrates 50 years of partnership and service in 2021! Cheers to Nancy and many more years of SAY San Diego partnering with youth, adults, families and communities to reach their full potential.



To connect or learn more about Social Advocates for Youth, San Diego Inc. please visit www.saysandiego.org.





SDBJ CEO of the Year Finalist

Robert Dean President and CEO WITH 50+ Years of Service to Vista Hill!

"It has been a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated group of employees who share my passion for delivering the highest level of behavioral health services to the San Diego Community. Together we are creating stronger families and brighter futures. I am honored to be recognized among such a stellar cohort of nonprofit CEOs."

Rob Dean



Accessity, formerly Accion San Diego, congratulates all the finalists for their contributions to San Diego's community and our CEO, Elizabeth Schott is honored to be among this amazing group.



For 27 years, Accessity has served San Diego small businesses with access to loans from \$300 to \$100,000 and a community of support and education.

Visit our new website at accessity.org and support local businesses!







Stuart Tanz ROIC



Kevin Thornal Hologic, Inc.



Tonya Torosian Promises2Kids



Deacon Jim Vargas Father Joe's Villages



Chris Wahl Southwest Strategies



David Wellis San Diego Blood Bank



Don Wells Just in Time for Foster Youth



Chris Williams Marsh & McLennan Agency



Cheryl Wilson St. Paul's Senior Services



Doug Winter Seismic



Oren Zaslansky Flock Freight



Peter Zien AleSmith Brewing Company



Thank you Solutions for Change CEO and Co-Founder, Chris Megison for believing in us, fighting for us, and showing us we are WORTH IT. When the least of us become the best of us, #WeAreOneUs!



Love, The Families of Solutions for Change

Join the Fight! 722 W CALIFORNIA AVE, VISTA, CA 92083 760-941-6545 • SOLUTIONSFORCHANGE.01

CONGRATULATIONS TO PROMISES2KIDS CEO TONYA TOROSIAN!

Tonya has been selected as a finalist for CEO of the Year 2021! She is committed to *creating a brighter future for foster children*[®] and is a leader who inspires community members to join Promises2Kids' efforts in providing hope, support and opportunities to San Diego foster children.



www.promises2kids.org | (858) 278-4400 | info@promises2kids.org 🕞 in 🕑 🎯 🖸



Based in San Marcos in north coastal San Diego County, FCI's history of technological innovation, commitment to global customers, community, and the support of exceptionally skilled and dedicated employees have allowed the company to thrive for the past 55 years.

We congratulate our CEO/President Dan McQueen as a finalist for the *San Diego Business Journal's* 2021 CEO of the Year Award.



Fluid Components International (FCI) designs and manufactures thermal mass flow meters, flow switches and level switches for industrial process measurement applications.

www.FluidComponents.com



KELLY DUFORD WILLIAMS

Slate Law Group congratulates founder and managing partner Kelly DuFord Williams for being one of the finalist for CEO of the year.You truly are the most hard working woman with the biggest heart. We appreciate and celebrate you!

Convention

➡ from page 1

through 5 with an estimated attendance of 3,000 and AKC Meet the Breeds, August 14 through 15 with an estimated attendance of 7,000 to 10,000," he said. "The San Diego Convention Center serves as an economic driver for our region. We help drive business to local retailers, attractions, special event venues, hotels, bars, restaurants and more. The employees that work at our neighboring businesses are able to take their income and reinvest it throughout the County of San Diego, further

benefiting the community."

Other notable upcoming events include, but are not limited to: American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (August 31-September 3); The American Society of Anesthesiologists (October 8-October 12); American Society of Nephrology (November 4-November 7); National Association of Realtors (November 12-November 15); and Comic-Con (Special Edition Event, November 26-November 28).

Short-Term Housing

During the fiscal year July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021, the San Diego Convention Center Corporation couldn't host any events due to the coronavirus crisis and subsequent state restrictions. As a result, it estimated a lost regional economic impact of \$1.58 billion.

So, the San Diego Convention Center shifted its focus, said Rippetoe.



housing."

Rippetoe President/CEO San Diego Convention Center Corporation

began cancelling and a ban on gatherings went into effect," he said. " In less than a month, we prepared our facility to support Operation Shelter to Home, a city-led effort to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 among individuals experiencing homelessness in San Diego. Between April 2020 and March 2021, the operation served over 4,000 individuals and helped over 1,300 individuals and 43

"Before the start of the pandemic, we

predicted we would have a record-setting

economic impact in our region in 2020.

Then the pandemic began, conventions

Immigrant Children

families find permanent or longer-term

As the last of the homeless residents moved into longer-term housing and as events continued to get canceled through July due to ongoing restrictions in California, public officials called on the Convention Center to meet yet another emergency need, said Rippetoe. This time, it was to house im-

migrant children as they waited to be reunited with family or sponsors in the United States.

Since then, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement has been using space within the Convention Center building for this effort, he said. Plans are to close the operation by July 15, said Rippetoe, giving the Convention Center staff enough time to clean and transition the building before events resume Aug. 1.

Vaccinated Onsite

To prepare for reopening, The San Diego Convention Center has been working closely with city, county and federal public health officials to enhance cleaning, disinfection and infectious disease prevention as well as conduct extensive employee training.

To encourage employees and partners to get vaccinated, the San Diego Convention Center held a series of educational "virtual town hall" meetings with coun-

ty public health leaders about the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines, said Rippetoe. The venue also offered multiple opportunities for staff members to be vaccinated onsite, he added.

Also in anticipation, the San Diego Convention

Center recently hired a new executive chef for **Centerplate**, its food and beverage partner. **Sufi Karaien** previously served as its senior executive sous chef and will begin in his new role this month.

"I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to step into this leadership position and continue to develop new and creative approaches to catered experiences" upon reopening, said Karaien.

Steady Increase in 2022

Rippetoe and his team are motivated to welcome guests back into the building and hopeful the San Diego Convention Center will continue to significantly impact the local economy.

"When comparing our projected operating revenue for FY22 to pre-pandemic years, averaging the revenue from fiscal years 2017 to 2019, we expect it to



"The San Diego Convention Center serves as an economic driver for our region. We help drive business to local retailers, attractions, special event venues, hotels, bars, restaurants and more. The employees that work at our neighboring businesses are able to take their income and reinvest it throughout the County of San Diego, further benefiting the community."

CLIFFORD "RIP" RIPPETOE

be down approximately 44%," said Rippetoe. "Our operating revenue primarily includes building rent, food and beverage, and ancillary services for events such as A/V. We project this revenue to steadily increase in 2022 and future years as international travel returns and attendee confidence builds." ■

San Diego Convention Center Corporation

FOUNDED: Center opened in 1989 PRESIDENT/CEO: Clifford "Rip" Rippetoe HEADQUARTERS: Downtown San Diego BUSINESS: Meetings and convention center REVENUE: FY20 \$31.4M EMPLOYEES: 312 WEBSITE: www.visitsandiego.com NOTABLE: Economic impact of \$977.4M in FY20 CONTACT: Maren.Dougherty@VisitSanDiego.com

CONGRATULATIONS!



LISA PAUL-HILL

President & CEO Wheelhouse Credit Union

Finalist 2021 CEO of the Year

Lisa Paul-Hill grew up in Encinitas and graduated from the University of San Diego. As a native, she has always sought to positively impact our community. Lisa exemplifies the credit union principle of *people helping people*, and through the 2020 pandemic, played an integral role in helping hundreds of San Diego small businesses prevail.

Founded in 1934, Wheelhouse has been serving those who live and work in our community with a full suite of financial services. Best known for being San Diego's #1 Solar Loan Financer.



Wheelhouse Credit Union is formerly known as San Diego Metropolitan Credit Union and is open to all San Diegans

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Retail Opportunity Investments Corp. (NASDAQ: ROIC), is a fully-integrated, self-managed real estate investment trust (REIT) that specializes in the acquisition, ownership and management of grocery-anchored shopping centers located in densely-populated, metropolitan markets across the West Coast.