

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

BUSINESS WOMEN

of the year awards **2021**

FINALISTS

THANK YOU TO OUR JUDGES AND SPONSORS



KIMBERLY BECKER
President & CEO
San Diego County
Regional Airport Authority



BETSY BRENNAN
President & CEO
Downtown San Diego
Partnership



CHRIS BRYANT
Former President & CEO
San Diego Employers Association
(Retired)



THERESA CLEMENTS
Treasury Solutions Sales Group
Executive - Executive Director
J.P. Morgan



DONNA DEBERRY
CEO
Central San Diego Black
Chamber of Commerce



LISA EASTERLY
President & CEO
Cyber Center of Excellence



LIDIA S. MARTINEZ
Partner
¡Adelante! Strategies



NANCY ROHLAND-HEINRICH
Vice Chancellor, Communications
and Community Engagement
National University System

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Women on the Move is JPMorgan Chase's commitment to fuel female ambition and advance financial equality.

Today, with women making up half of our global workforce and represented at every level of our organization, we are building on our success and reaching externally to expand our commitment to empower all women.

JPMorgan Chase proudly stands with the San Diego Business Journal as we celebrate a group of extraordinary businesswomen and leaders.

Learn more: jpmorganchase.com/WOTM



JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

Women on the Move

BUSINESS WOMEN

of the year awards 2021

FINALISTS



**ALISON
ALPERT**

Partner
Best Best & Krieger LLP



**STACEY
ANFUSO**

CEO/ President
La Jolla Logic



**JENNIFER
ARNOLD**

Senior Associate
Wilson Turner Kosmo



**ASHLYNN
BALL**

Partner
RBTK, LLP



**ELIZABETH
BANKER**

President/CEO
Shore Solutions Inc.



**JENNIFER
BARNES**

CEO
Optima Office



**TAMELA
BARNHART-REESE**

President
Barnhart-Reese Construction



**DEVON
BARRACK**

Small Business Banking
Group Manager
Union Bank



**ANNALISA
BARRETT**

Senior Advisor
KPMG Board
Leadership Center



**VALERY
BELLOSO**

Director of Strategic
Initiatives
Accessity

The C2K Board of Directors and staff congratulates

Chéri Pierre

COMPUTERS 2 KIDS CEO

For being selected as a finalist for the
San Diego Business Journal
Business Women of the Year Award 2021

Congratulations to all the finalists and a big thank you
to Chéri for the amazing work she has done, leading
Computers 2 Kids towards its pledge:
Ending the disparity of access to technology.



CONGRATULATIONS TO FINALIST

Selina Scott

Director of Outside Plant Construction

You have long been a powerful role model for women interested in pursuing a career in STEM. You are the epitome of a strong, dynamic woman in business. We are inspired by your leadership, commitment to connecting our communities, and paving the way for others.

Congratulations to you and all of the 2021 finalists for Business Women of the Year!



Dynamic Business Woman

Giving birth to new San Diego birthing center

It might seem counterintuitive to open a customer-facing business during a pandemic, but for midwife Nikki Helms, January 2021 was as good a time as any. After all, no catastrophe can stop the miracle of babies being born. And with Cox Business's phone and internet solutions in place, Helms was able to realize her dream of opening the San Diego Community Birth Center.

In the late 2000s, Helms began researching the disparities and outcomes for women of color, particularly those for Black women, in hospitals and birthing centers. Helms, a Black woman herself, had firsthand experience.

"I wanted to change those statistics. I wanted to have a greater impact," Helms said.

She spent seven years as a practicing doula—an emotional and physical support person for pregnant women—before deciding she wanted to be a clinical practitioner. In 2010, she enrolled in the Nizhoni Institute of Midwifery. She completed the rigorous three-year program and concurrent five-year apprenticeship while raising her girls and working full time.

Today, Helms is one of only a handful of Black midwives in San Diego County.

It wasn't an easy journey to get the keys to

her new Bankers Hill clinic—and the pandemic changed her timeline—but Helms was determined to create an option for any woman seeking an alternative to the hospital birthing experience.

Thanks to a GoFundMe campaign, Helms raised nearly \$150,000, which she used to lease and revamp her space. She hired a Black woman contractor to install flooring, and with the help of friends, Helms painted the walls and made upgrades, creating a modern Zen environment for expectant women and their partners. On Jan. 5, 2021, she opened the doors to the only Black-owned birth center in San Diego.

Of course, part of getting her business up and running meant utilizing the right technology to best meet the needs of her customers and community, so she had Cox install internet and phone services.

Thanks to her Cox Business internet connection and a few tutorials from Cox technicians, Helms has been able to meet with patients via video-conferencing when needed, which has been critical to her business during the pandemic. She also regularly lectures and teaches monthly classes via live video to the community.

With the technology support from Cox Business,



the San Diego Community Birth Center is serving a broad community of new and soon-to-be parents—and all the babies now being born at the facility. Along with her former mentor, certified midwife Darynée Blount—as well as an acupuncturist, several employees and three students—Helms is gearing up for a baby boom.

While the entire team is comprised of women of color, Helms stresses that the San Diego Community Birth Center is open to all.

"We serve anyone who walks through the door, and we make our services accessible to everyone who needs them," Helms said.



**BUSINESS
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FINALISTS



**GINNY
BENEKE**

Chairmen and
President

Chairmen's Roundtable



**VANESSA
BENITEZ**

Regional Vice
President

Word & Brown



**CARRIE
BOBB**

CEO

Carrie Bobb & Co., hellojenny
& Carrie Bobb Foundation



**BROOKE
BOONE KELLY**

Wealth Management Advisor

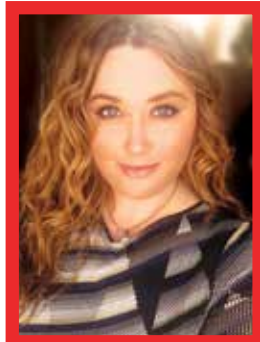
Weatherly Asset
Management, LP



**KAILYNN
BOWLING**

CEO/Co-Founder

ChicExecs PR & Retail
Strategy Firm



**KARIE
BOYD**

Owner, CEO, Lead Trial
Attorney

Boyd Law APC



**JANICE
BROWN**

Principal (Partner)

Meyers Nave



**JULIE
BROWN**

President

SDI Staffing



**KRISTIE
BRUCE-LANE**

President / Founder

The Thumbprint
Project Foundation



**AMY
BULGATZ**

President
& Chief Financial Officer

Sammy's Woodfired Pizza



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congratulations
Haneen Khater
Principal Architect at DBRDS

DBRDS



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BUSINESS WOMEN

of the year awards 2021

FINALISTS



KAREN BURGES

Chief Operating Officer
& Executive Director
NAIOP San Diego



INNESSA BURROLA

President
Boutique Recruiting



BARBRA CALANTAS

Vice President/Biology Director/
San Diego Office Lead
Environmental Science Associates



TERESA CAMPBELL

President & CEO
San Diego County
Credit Union



KELLY CAPEN DOUGLAS

President and CEO
Voices for Children



NIKKI CARLSON

CEO/Co-Founder
ChicExecs PR & Retail
Strategy Firm



MARY CHEEKS

President & General
Manager
Jamul Casino



JENNIFER CRAWFORD

Associate Partner |
Business Development
Syska Hennessy Group



ANNA CROWE

CEO and Founder
Crowe PR



LISA DAIGLE

CFO
Neighborhood
Healthcare

Congratulations, MARGIE NEWMAN!

Thank you for your
encouragement, thoughtful
leadership and infectious spirit.
Every day you inspire us to
communicate with confidence.



Margie Newman
Intesa Communications Group
Founding Partner
San Diego Business Journal
Business Women of the Year
Finalist 2021

Public Relations
Government Affairs
[intesacom.com](https://www.intesacom.com)

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SAN DIEGO ^{HAS THE} SECOND LOWEST

FEMALE PARTICIPATION

In the Labor Force Among
Major American Cities,⁺
Disproportionately
Affecting Moms

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BUSINESS WOMEN

of the year awards 2021

FINALISTS



SARAH DAVIS

Founder, President and Chief Creative Officer
FASHIONPHILE



CHANDARA DIEP

Of Counsel
RJS LAW



ERIN DIMRY

Chief Marketing and Business Development Officer
DLA Piper



SHAWNDA DORANTES

FNP-C, MSN and Founder
Beauty Lounge Medical Spa



DEBORAH ELLIOTT

Founding Principal
ID Studios, Inc.



DURANA ELMI

COO
Cymbiotika, LLC



DEBBIE ESCOBEDO

President and CEO
Balboa Thrift and Loan



LAURIE FISHER

Founder and CEO
LMA Marketing and Advertising



MYRA CHACK FLEISCHER

Lead Counsel & Founder
Fleischer & Ravreby



MICHELLE FLORES-GONZALES

Chief Operating Officer / VP
Flores



Options For All (OFA) proudly celebrates Melissa Malone-Montgomery's selection as a finalist for Business Woman of the Year.



This dynamic member of OFA's executive leadership team is also a successful entrepreneur, a working mother, and a generous community volunteer. Melissa's driving philosophy as a business leader places people at the center of operations – and empowers them to do their best. Under her steady guidance, every OFA employee knows their role is critical to our mission of better serving individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout California.



Celebrating leaders in the community

In every community, there are leaders who set the course for positive change through their vision and guidance. Their work not only supports local needs, but inspires others to do the same .

SDBJ Business Women of the Year nominees, we celebrate your achievements.

wellsfargo.com

**BUSINESS
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FINALISTS



**PAMELA
GARDNER**
President and CEO
Biotech Vendor
Services, Inc.



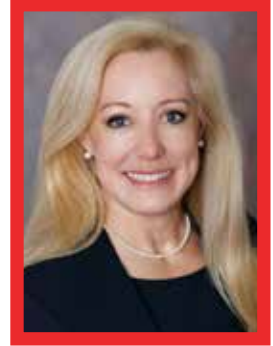
**STEFFI
GASCÓN HAFÉN**
Partner
Snell & Wilmer



**MICHELLE
GONZALEZ**
President and CEO
TrueCare



**JODIE
GRENIER**
CEO
Foundation for Women
Warriors



**DIANE
HANSEN**
CEO
Palomar Health



**ELIZABETH
HAWKINS**
Operations Manager
Swinerton



**MOLLY
HE**
CEO
Element Biosciences



**LISA
HELLMANN**
Senior Vice President, Human
Resources and Corporate
Communications
Hologic



**HEATHER
HERNANDEZ**
Director
CBIZ & MHM



**KIMBERLY
HERRELL**
Owner and CEO
Schubach Aviation

BUSINESS WOMEN OF THE YEAR FINALIST

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

**BUSINESS
WOMEN**
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FINALIST

KELLY DUFORD WILLIAMS

Slate Law Group congratulates our founder and managing partner Kelly DuFord Williams on being a SDBJ Business Women of the Year finalist! Thank you for your leadership and we are so proud of all you have accomplished!





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Kathleen Medina, CFTA

Vice President, Sr. Trust Officer
kathleen.medina@unionbank.com

Christiane Tsuda

Vice President, Sr. Portfolio Manager
christiane.tsuda@unionbank.com

Negin Banaei

Vice President, Private Wealth Advisor II
negin.banaei@unionbank.com
NMLS ID #755484



Wills, trusts, foundations, and wealth planning strategies have legal, tax, accounting, and other implications. Clients should consult a legal or tax advisor.

Union Bank does not create estate plans. Estate plans should be reviewed by an attorney who specializes in estate planning and is licensed to practice law in a client's state.



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BUSINESS WOMEN

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**TINA
HOWE**

Vice President
Bill Howe Family
of Companies



**SARA
HOWLAND**

President
BJA Partners



**SHARON
HUERTA**

Shareholder
Sullivan Hill Rez &
Engel



**ANGELA
HUSKEY**

SVP & Chief Clinical Officer
Millennium Health



**ZEYNEP
ILGAZ**

Co-Founder and Chief
Advisor
Confirm Biosciences



**MICHELLE
L. JACKO**

Founder and Managing
Partner
Jacko Law Group, PC



**LAURA
JOSH**

Area President
Gallagher Benefits
Services



**HANEEN
KHATER**

Partner + Principal
Architect
DBRDS



**COURTNEY
KING**

Co-Founder
Orchyd



**BARBARA A.
KROL, PHR**

Chief Human Resources Officer
California Coast Credit Union

Congratulations Michelle D. Gonzalez, MPA

President & CEO of TrueCare

2021 Business Women of the Year
Award Finalist

We applaud Michelle for her visionary and heartfelt leadership at TrueCare. Thank you for your dedication, passion and extraordinary contributions to our organization, patients and community.



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Congratulations **TINA HOWE**

V.P. Bill Howe Family of Companies
2021 Business Woman of the Year Finalist

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL



**Congratulations Tina Howe for being selected as a
2021 Business Women of the Year Finalist!
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and contributions to the company
and San Diego community.**

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LINDA KUROKAWA

Executive Director, Community Education & Workforce Development
MiraCosta College



VICTORIA LAKERS

Partner
Calibre One



MONIQUE LASHBROOK

Partner
Snell & Wilmer



ANGELA LEAVITT

Founder & CEO
Mojenta



BROOKE LEVASSEUR

CEO
AristaMD



KRISTEN LINEHAN

Vice President, Global Professional Services
Seismic



JENNA LYNCH

VP of People and Culture
Artemis Institute for Clinical Research



FELICIA LYON

Partner
KPMG LLP



MELISSA MALONE-MONTGOMERY

Vice President of Human Resources
Options For All



KRISTIN MARTIN

Chief People & Administration Officer
Poseida Therapeutics



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“

“I founded WithHealth, Inc. in 2017 to make healthcare affordable, proactive, and accessible. We deliver on the promise of precision care and are focused on improving employee health and employer outcomes. Congratulations to all the finalists, it is an honor to be recognized alongside these amazing women. I want to thank all of the WithHealth employees and the WithHealth Medical Group for making this vision a reality, and *San Diego Business Journal* for this recognition.”

- **Cindy Salas Murphy**
Founder & CEO, WithHealth



Congratulations

Mary Cheeks

PRESIDENT & GENERAL MANAGER, JAMUL CASINO

**2021 BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARD FINALIST
SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL**

The Jamul Indian Village of California is proud to Congratulate the President and General Manager of Jamul Casino for yet another honor. We applaud her bold and steady leadership during her tenure and are pleased to see her work appreciated by the wider business community with this prestigious nomination. Thank you Mary!



jamulindianvillage.com
14191 Highway 94, Jamul, CA 91935



BUSINESS WOMEN

of the year awards 2021

FINALISTS



KARA MATHIS

Director, Investments
Longfellow Real Estate Partners



TRICIA MERCER

SVP Employee Relations
Sentek Global



MICHELLE METTER

Partner & Co-Founder
Fast Forward Events & PR



SHARI MILLER

Registered Principal/Financial Advisor
Symbio Financial Partners/
LPL Financial



AMY MORWAY

Founding Principal
ID Studios, Inc.



TRACY MURPHY

President
IQHQ



DANIELLE MYERS

Partner
Robbins Geller
Rudman & Dowd LLP



VATSALA NAAGESHWARAN, M.A., M.S.

Vice President Operations
and Business Development
Absorption Systems



SARA NEVA

Real Estate Attorney
Procopio



MARGIE NEWMAN

Founding Partner
Intesa Communications
Group

Congratulations Devon Barrack

Union Bank® celebrates Devon Barrack for being selected as a 2021 Business Women of the Year finalist. She is an exceptional leader and an inspiration to all of us at Union Bank.

Congratulations and thank you to Devon and all the extraordinary honorees for their outstanding commitment and contributions to the San Diego community.



Devon Barrack

Small Business Banking Group Manager





Congratulations

to our President and CEO Diane Hansen! Your leadership is inspiring and we are honored to support you in your nomination as Business Woman of the Year.

- Your Team



BUSINESS WOMEN

of the year awards 2021

FINALISTS



KRISTIN NORBY

Senior Vice President -
Financial Advisor, Portfolio
Management Director

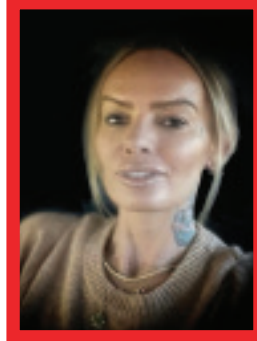
Morgan Stanley Wealth Management



**HARRIET
OBERMAN**

VP of Finance

Artemis Institute for
Clinical Research



**KALINA
O'CONNOR**

President and CEO

Campbell
Neurosciences



**MARIE
OLESEN**

CEO

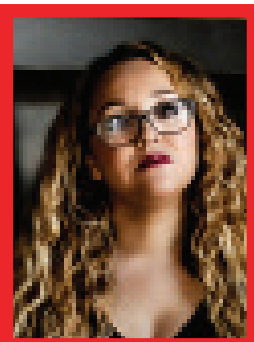
La Jolla Cosmetic



**RAVEN
O'NEAL**

Executive Director

Stella Labs



**M. VIVIANA
OROPEZA**

Small Business Attorney

Oropeza Law, PC d/b/
Attorney in Heels™



**CHÉRI
PIERRE**

Chief Executive Officer

Computers 2 Kids



WENDY PURVEY

President and Chief
Operating Officer

Pacific Sotheby's
International Realty



**MIA
ROSEBERRY**

Executive Director

Wounded Warrior
Homes



**MELISSA
ROSENTHAL**

Chief Creative Officer

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of the year awards 2021
FINALISTS



**JILL
RUSSELL-LAYMAN**
Associate Principal
ID Studios, Inc.



**CINDY
SALAS MURPHY**
Founder & CEO
WithHealth



**JUSTINA
SANCHEZ**
Quality Engineer II
TÜV SÜD America



**SELINA
SCOTT**
Director of Outside
Plant Construction
Cox Communications



**DINA
SEGAL**
Assistant General
Counsel
Intuit Inc.



**JESSICA
SHRADER**
Government Affairs and
Community Engagement
Manager
Tri-City Medical Center



**KRISTEN
SIEFFERT**
President
Finance of America
Reverse (FAR)



**JEAN
STADWISER**
Partner
KPMG LLP



**MONICA
SZAKOS**
President & Senior
Financial Adviser
Asset Preservation Strategies



**CAROLYN
TAYLOR**
President, Founding Partner
Weatherly Asset
Management, LP



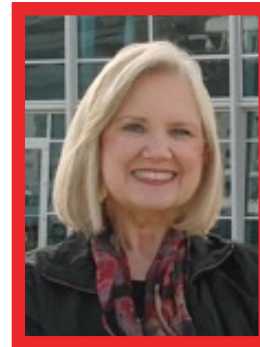
**RUTH-ANN
THORN**
REDCO Chairwoman
REDCO



**ELIZABETH
TRESP**
Principal
Tresp Law, APC



**JENNIFER
TROWBRIDGE**
Junior Partner
Jacko Law Group, PC



**RITA
VANDERGAW**
Acting Executive Director
Comic-Con Museum



**CARMEN
VANN**
Project Executive
BNBuilders



**DR. INA
VON BER**
President & CEO
Ambassadorial
Roundtable



**TARA
WEISINGER**
Principal, Director of
Tax Services
Rowling & Associates
LLC



**KELLY
DUFORD WILLIAMS**
Founder and Managing Partner
Slate Law Group



**CHELSEA
WILSON**
Founder & CEO
3CS



**JENN
ZEIS**
Vice President of
Clinical Research
Toolbox Medical Innovations