

Register Today!

Airing: September 9, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.

The Business Journal's Excellence in Entrepreneurship Awards will virtually debut on September 9, 2020. The local talent recognized in this program are individuals who exemplify America's entrepreneurial spirit through foresight, creativity, and determination. Join us in recognizing the achievements of this extraordinary group of people who have successfully been able to establish and nurture their businesses by looking through the nominees and tuning in.

Registration Information

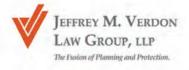
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2020 EXCELLENCE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD NOMINEES

Accurate
Background Inc.,
Irvine
Dave Dickerson,
President/CEO



Architecture Design
Collaborative,
Laguna Hills
Craig Chinn,
Principal/Founding Partner



CISOSHARE, San Clemente Mike Gentile, President/CEO



Idea Hall, Costa Mesa Rebecca Hall, President/CEO



Agapay, Tustin Daniel Han, President



Austin Taylor Inc., Irvine Ron Viggiano, President



CSUF, Fullerton John Bradley Jackson, Director, Center for Entrepreneurship



INBRACE, Irvine John Pham, CEO/Co-Founder



AIVITA Biomedical, Irvine Hans Keirstead, Ph.D., CEO



Avatar Partners Inc., Huntington Beach Marlo Brooke, CEO/Founder



Cultivation Kitchen, Anaheim Dale LaFlam, Owner



JobzMall, Irvine Nathan Candaner, Co-Founder/CEO



All Green Electronics Recycling, Tustin Arman Sadeghi, CEO



Beacon Pointe Advisors, Newport Beach Shannon Eusey, CEO



David Meltzer Enterprises, Irvine David Meltzer, Founder



JustFoodForDogs, Los Alamitos Shawn Buckley, Founder



All-American Leadership, Irvine Rob Nielsen, CEO



Beeya, Laguna Beach Ladan Davia, CEO/Founder



Designers Resource Collection, Costa Mesa Pamela Kellogg, Principal



Kingdom Ventures Unlimited Financial Solutions Inc., Irvine Ernesto Diapera, CEO



Allied Universal, Santa Ana Steve Jones, CEO



Bioniz Therapeutics Inc., Irvine Nazli Azimi, Founder/President/CEO



Ducere Global Business School, Corona Del Mar Mathew Jacobson, Founder/CEO



KPRS Construction Services Inc., Brea Joel Stensby, President



Alternative Divorce Solutions Inc., Newport Beach Lani Baron, Founding Partner



Branch Startup Studio, Irvine Dalip Jaggi, Principal



Ephesoft Inc., Irvine Ike Kavas, CEO/ Founder



Leaf Communications Consulting Inc., San Clemente Dan Leaf, President/CEO



Alternative Divorce Solutions Inc., Newport Beach Jeanann Khalife, Partner



Branded Group, Anaheim Michael Kurland, CEO



Finch PC, Costa Mesa Jonathan Pittard, Co-Founder/Chief Number Cruncher



Managed Direct Response, Irvine Pat Mercuri, President



Alteryx, Irvine Dean Stoecker, CEO/Chairman/Co-Founder



CAIN Group Pacific Sotheby's International Realty, Newport Beach John Cain, Founder/Principal



Fusion of Ideas, Lake Forest Russ Taylor, CEO



Manna Kadar Beauty Inc., Irvine Manna Kadar, Founder/CEO



American Technologies Inc., Anaheim Gary Moore, CEO



Channel Bakers, Anaheim Joshua Kreitzer, Founder/CEO



Gorilla Stationers LLC, Cypress Rosemary Czopek, President



Margaux Agency, Long Beach Monica Garrett, Founder/CEO



2020 EXCELLENCE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD NOMINEES

Mavenlink, Irvine Ray Grainger, CEO/Founder



Outshine Public Relations, Newport Beach Talia Samuels, President



Revealize, Newport Beach Cole McKeon, President



Terra Tech Corp., Irvine Derek Peterson, CEO



MEESH Boutique Advisors, Dana Point Michele Noparvar, Owner/Founder



Pendulum
Property Partners,
Irvine
Kevin Hayes, Managing
Partner



Scarlet Kitchen & Lounge, Rancho Mission Viejo Paige Riordan, Chef/Owner



The Blind Pig, Rancho Santa Margarita Tony Monaco, Owner



Miracle Mile Advisors, Newport Beach Nella Webster, Managing Director



PeopleG2, Brea Chris Dyer, CEO



Seven Gables Real Estate, Tustin Michael Hickman, President/CEO



The Butchery, Costa Mesa Robert Hagopian, Co-Owner



Modulim, Irvine David Cuccia, Founder/CTO



Perfect YOUth, Newport Beach Yeral Patel, CEO/Founder



SmartBug Media, Irvine Ryan Malone, Founder/CEO



The Butchery, Costa Mesa Brian Smith, Co-Owner



Montage International, Irvine Alan Fuerstman, Founder/Chairman/CEO



Pinnacle
Petroleum Inc.,
Huntington Beach
Liz McKinley,
President/CEO



Spinnaker Investment Group, Newport Beach Morgan Christen, CEO/Chief Investment Officer



The Collective, Costa Mesa Tony Oliver, Founder/CEO



Natasha Minasian Interior, The Studio at DRC, Costa Mesa Natasha Minasian, Designer/Owner



Pinner Construction, Anaheim Dirk Griffin, CEO



Sterling Public Relations, Corona del Mar Paula Steurer, President/Founder



The Mark USA INC., Irvine Traci Shirachi, CEO/President



NetServe Systems Inc., Laguna Hills Abdi Ahmed, President



Platinum Wealth Group, Orange Ken Kladouris, President/Wealth Advisor



Stretto, Irvine Jonathan Carson, CEO



The Sandwich Society, Tustin Mi Ho, Owner



Ocean at Main, Laguna Beach Craig Strong, Chef/Owner



Powerhouse Communications, Santa Ana Kristin Daher, President/Founder



Stretto, Irvine Eric Kurtzman, CEO



The Saywitz Company, Newport Beach Barry Saywitz, President



Old Brea Chop House, Brea Tony Fasulo, Owner/Operator



Profit Recovery
Partners LLC/Steiner
Innovations/Two
Masters Win Club,
Costa Mesa
Donald Steiner, CEO



Syntiant Corp., Irvine Kurt Busch, CEO



Think Together, Santa Ana Randy Barth, Founder/CEO



Orange Aluminum, Laguna Niguel Cameron Munson, President



Restaurant365, Irvine John Moody, Co-Founder/Chief Strategist/Board Member.



TAE Technologies, Foothill Ranch Michl Binderbauer, CEO



Trilogy Financial, Huntington Beach Jeff Motske, President/CEO



<u>2020 EXCELLENCE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD NOMINEES</u>

US Alliance Group Inc., Rancho Santa Margarita Fadi Cheikha, CEO



Uplift Transport, Irvine Greg Krueger, Founder



Vincit, Irvine Ville Houttu, CEO



Ware Malcomb, Irvine Lawrence Armstrong, Chairman



uDirect IRA Services Irvine Kaaren Hall, CEO



Veronica Kirin Inc., Long Beach Veronica Kirin, President



ViridiSTOR LLC, **Tustin** Terry Mullin, President/CEO



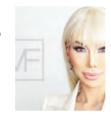
WindWater Real Estate, Irvine Rudy Caamano, CEO



Unbiazed LLC, Brea Danny Basu, Managing Partner



VF Developments LLC, **Costa Mesa** Victoria Vu, Managing Partner/Founder



Wahoo's Fish Taco, **Tustin** Eduardo Lee. Co-Founder/Partner



WurkNow Inc., Irvine Sammy Singh, CEO/CO-Founder



Unbiazed LLC, Brea





Zadara Storage Inc. Irvine Nelson Nahum, CEO



Roger Pakalapatty, Managing Partner





Canned cocktails: 4-pack for \$14.00



Surf City's restored bus won best in class in the Huntington Beach classic car show in 2014

Surf City

▶ from page 3-

Quiksilver Inc. and his son, Robbie Mc-**Knight**. Together they bring more than 50 years of experience in sports apparel and retail.

Owners Elena and Josh Kornof and Chris and

Connections run deep; golf apparel firm TravisMathew, which acquired Robbie Mc-Knight's shoe company **Cauter** ahead of its own \$125.5 million sale to Callaway Golf Company in 2017, is also making contributions to Surf City.

The casual sports apparel firm's co-founder Travis Brasher and president emeritus Ryan Ellis are both investors and advisory board members, along with the McKnights.

Ouiksilver, which now operates under the umbrella of Boardriders Inc., and TravisMathew are based in Huntington Beach, a few miles from Surf City's operations.

In the beverage department, Surf City has also won the attention of Bart and Dan DeClark, co-founders of artificial sweetener maker Flavor Infusion International. The company has operations in Laguna Beach and Panama. They're also investors and advisory board members. "I think I can speak for the advisory board

when I say that we're proud to be investing in our local community and in a product as cool as this," Bob McKnight said. "We will use our experience to guide the distillery to become one of the most recognizable and enjoyed brands in the space."

"We believe our story is one of monentum." Van Dusen said

"The alcohol business is a difficult one, and finding the right distribution McKnight: 'proud to partner and the right advisory board be investing in local members is really the challenge. We think we're positioned well in the cur-

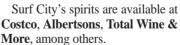
rent environment, as the only distillery in Huntington Beach and one of the few in OC. We are growing extremely fast and we couldn't be happier to see our brand resonating with the com-

community

Sales Afloat

Since the pandemic, retail sales via its dis-

tributor Southern Glazer's Wine & Spirits are up more than 50%, according to Van Dusen.



Director of Sales Ben Carpenter, most recently the beverage director for Newport Beach's Balboa Bay **Resort**, is driving retail growth and brand expansion, Van Dusen said.

Meanwhile, the company has also seen 30% to 40% of its overall sales come from curbside pickup, while its tasting room remains closed in accordance with the state, he said.

Like other area booze makers such as Santa Ana's Blinking Owl Distillery, Surf City has helped make bulk sanitizer for commercial and personal use during the pandemic. After an initial flurry of sales, that product line has seen slower sales as the year has progressed and larger national sanitizer manufacturers upped their production.

Other new hires include Bill Auxier, who

Surf City Still Works



■ FOUNDED: 2018

■ FOUNDERS: Josh and Elena Kornof

■ HEADQUARTERS: Huntington Beach

■ BUSINESS: distillery

■ PRODUCTS: Shorebreak Vodka, California Gin, Surfrider Rum, Pierside Bourbon

■ **NOTABLE:** expanding to 25K-SF facility with \$2.7M investment

was tapped as head distiller just in time to oversee capacity expansion from 5 gallons per minute to 8 gallons per minute in the distillery. He will bring innovation to the menu in the form of new spirits.

Auxier was previously production manager and distiller at Los Angeles-based Greenbar Distillery.

Van Dusen said consumers can expect to see new canned cocktail flavors and a new category of hard seltzer drinks hit the menu next