Reza Rofougaran: A Hint of an IPO

Reza Rofougaran, the co-founder of Irvine-based wireless technology firm Movandi Corp., along with sister Maryam Rofougaran, provided a big hint of the future when the siblings reached back to their days working at Broadcom by hiring its former chief financial officer, Bill Ruehle.

“I was first introduced to Maryam and Reza when I acquired their company Innocent Seeker in 2000 and watched them grow Broadcom’s wireless business to over a billion dollars and shipping billions of radios per year,” Ruehle said at the time of his hiring in March. “Can I help Movandi get to be a large public company?” I’d love to do that. That’s what keeps me going.”

Scott Burri, also a Movandi co-founder, gave his CFO role to Ruehle and assumed the newly created position of chief administrative officer of the company.

Movandi expanded internationally when in July, it announced a deal to provide super-fast telecommunications in Ban Chang, billed as the first “smart city” in Thailand.

Big data will be used in Ban Chang to improve people’s quality of life, including a 3D system to boost people’s incomes, a closed-circuit TV system to ensure public security, and various other innovations to enhance local life, in addition to the state-of-the-art 5G system.

In May, Movandi was named to the 2021 CNBC Disrupter 50, which identifies fast-growing startups. IOTY winner Reza Rofougaran, who is the chief technical officer in addition to being co-CEO, holds at least 850 patents and is reported to be one of the top 30 patent holders in the world. Maryam, who is chief operating officer as well as co-CEO, holds more than 250 issued patents.

OC: “It is as good of any other place for chipmakers due to its location in Southern California with very well-known and established public semiconductor companies and rising startups,” Reza told the Business Journal earlier this year.

“There is so much talent, knowledge and experience, as well as fresh young talented and motivated students with new and fresh ideas.”

Michael Dennin: Surviving the Apocalypse

UCI Physics Professor Michael Dennin kept up his role as “the Superhero Scientist” on a YouTube show, “Fascinating Gadgets Gizmos & Gear Based Technologies,” where last month he reviewed the movie, “The Mitchells vs. The Machines.”

“I absolutely loved the movie,” he said while wearing a cowboy hat. “I’m a fan of zombie apocalypses. I’ve thought long and hard about the physics of surviving the apocalypse.”

In the past year, Dennin also kept busy with his full time jobs as vice provost for Teaching and Learning and as dean of Undergraduate Education at the University of California, Irvine.

“The biggest thing for the past year was keeping the teaching going during the pandemic and teaching remotely,” he told the Business Journal. “That was a huge deal.”

He published 17 blogs that discussed in depth the coming fall semester, touching on details such as grades to integrity to prerequisites. He’s also an active user of Twitter, such as a recent day when he made six tweets to discuss his blogs.

Dennin also managed to find time for five new episodes of his podcast, “Conversations with the Vice Provost” where he interviewed UCI experts in their fields, such as how a library works in today’s world.

Dennin, who has a bachelor’s degree in physics from Princeton University and a doctorate from the University of California, Santa Barbara, began discussing the “Science of Superman” after arriving at UCI in 1997. Soon, local newspapers took notice and Dennin was asked to appear on Ancient Aliens, Star Wars Tech and several other television shows. He even designed an online course for AMC’s “The Walking Dead.”

“I’ve always been very skeptical of the AI-takes-over-the-world-and-kills us movies,” he said on the show reviewing the Mitchells movie.

“This one was way more believable like ‘Oh yeah, that is a mistake we would make as humans.’”

Martha Montoya: An Agricultural Tech Star

Martha Montoya, who has been in the data industry for farmers and food buyers for more than 25 years, kept hitting home runs after winning a Business Journal Innovator of the Year award last year.

The CEO of Irvine-based AgTools Inc., was named the Rising Star Entrepreneur of the Year Award at the Women’s Venture Summit, “Best Investment Opportunity” in Next Wave Impact’s Founders of Color Showcase and one of 20 winners from a pool of more than 4,500 companies in Pepperdine University’s Most Fundable Companies competition.

In May, her company won the Judges and Audience award of the Quick-Pitch of the San Diego Venture Group.

“It has been humbling and rewarding—yes, the cash helped us bring a full-time sales person too!” the company wrote on its blog site.

In 2017, Montoya launched AgTools with her two younger brothers, both engineers, Gustavo and Oscar. AgTools’ platform uses artificial intelligence to provide real-time data to help farmers increase profits and reduce waste. At the same time, it assists buyers and shippers with data on product availability, pricing and routing.

AgTools was a member of the UCI Beall Applied Innovation Wayfinder incubator and last year closed a $1.4 million seed round of financing, with participation from the Tech Coast Angels.

This year, it was one of nine companies selected to join Techstars Farm to Fork Accelerator in partnership with Cargill and Ecolab. Montoya met 120 possible mentors in the industry.

“We then had the tough decision to select 7-10 mentors to help us … almost impossible!” the company’s website said. “It was like going to Disneyland, not knowing which ride to take, with all of them being so great!”
Irvine-based Golden State Foods, long one of OC’s largest privately held businesses with an estimated $5 billion in annual sales by manufacturing and distributing food for many fast-food restaurants, is right in the middle of shipping problems currently plaguing world trade, whether it’s trying to import seasonings from China or seeing demand for boxes go sky high.


Wolpert, the company’s chief strategy and innovation officer, has been busy implementing a digital supply chain at some of its biggest customers who he’s not allowed to identify. It’s also made Volvo’s largest order to date of its electric trucks by agreeing to use 15 Volvo Electric Class 8 trucks, the first zero-emission, battery-electric trucks to be deployed in GSF’s fleet. The first truck, which arrived last March, is running last-mile delivery routes to Starbucks locations throughout Southern California. The leased electric trucks are assisted with funding by a $3.9 million grant awarded to Volvo Financial Services from the Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee’s (MSRC) Inland Port Program.

“The drivers just love these trucks,” Wolpert said. He’s also proud that Food Processing Magazine recognized GSF with a R&D Teams of the Year Awards, including GSF’s Liquid Products North America. In 2020 alone, the 25-person product development team serviced over 700 projects, created more than 1,200 product prototypes, and launched 135 new products.

In the past year, GSF introduced a next-gen packaging and sauce dispensing product for an environmentally friendly, cost-effective, and waste-reducing solution, while improving food safety. He also pointed out that GSF’s Zaxby’s Caribbean Jerk Sauce earned top honors in 2020 as Sauce of the Year, awarded by the Association for Dressings and Sauces. A year ago, farmers were dumping excess milk due to unexpected changes in supply chain caused by the pandemic. GSF’s dairy products subsidiary, KanPak U.S., launched a surplus milk bottling initiative. In the past year, GSF has sold at cost more than 4.6 million bottles of shelf-stable premium milk to food banks and donated 137,280 bottles through the company’s nonprofit GSF Foundation.

“Many food banks in Orange County received these bottles,” he said. “We’re really proud of this program.”

A year ago when Syntiant Corp. announced it shipped more than 1 million processors to customers, Chief Executive Kurt Busch promised the Irvine-based chipmaker would ramp up production. Did it ever. A year later, the Irvine-based company has shipped more than 15 million of its processors that are for always-on applications in battery-powered devices, such as smartphones, smart speakers, earbuds, hearing aids and laptops.

“We believe there isn’t another chip company dedicated to machine learning that has been able to achieve what we have accomplished in a little over three years,” Busch said earlier this year. Among other highlights of the past year, Syntiant:

- Was one of the companies featured during Alexa Startups Showcase as part of the annual conference for app developers on Amazon’s voice assistant platform.
- Was called “one of the coolest chips” by the CRN industry website.
- Was named “Best Product of the Year” by the tinyML Foundation.
- Was a CES 2021 Innovation Awards Honoree.
- Announced a joint development of a voice-controlled solution for security cameras and smart appliances with Renesas Electronics Corp.
- To top it off, Syntiant was named in July to the Business Journal’s Best Places to Work.

“This is the second year in a row our company was named as one of the best places to work in Orange County and we couldn’t be prouder,” Busch said. “While the company has grown considerably since 2017, our culture of innovation and exceptionalism remain at the heart of Syntiant’s success, which is a direct result of the talented, hardworking and dedicated employees we’re so grateful to have on board.”

Bob Wolpert: GSF on Top of Food, Tech Trends

He’s also proud that Food Processing Magazine recognized GSF with a R&D Teams of the Year Awards, including GSF’s Liquid Products North America. In 2020 alone, the 25-person product development team serviced over 700 projects, created more than 1,200 product prototypes, and launched 135 new products.

In the past year, GSF introduced a next-gen packaging and sauce dispensing product for an environmentally friendly, cost-effective, and waste-reducing solution, while improving food safety. He also pointed out that GSF’s Zaxby’s Caribbean Jerk Sauce earned top honors in 2020 as Sauce of the Year, awarded by the Association for Dressings and Sauces.

A year ago, farmers were dumping excess milk due to unexpected changes in supply chain caused by the pandemic. GSF’s dairy products subsidiary, KanPak U.S., launched a surplus milk bottling initiative. In the past year, GSF has sold at cost more than 4.6 million bottles of shelf-stable premium milk to food banks and donated 137,280 bottles through the company’s nonprofit GSF Foundation.

“Many food banks in Orange County received these bottles,” he said. “We’re really proud of this program.”

Bob Wolpert, chief strategy and innovation officer of Golden State Foods, with the company’s newest electric truck from Volvo.

Bob Wolpert: GSF on Top of Food, Tech Trends

Bob Wolpert, chief strategy and innovation officer of Golden State Foods, with the company’s newest electric truck from Volvo.

Bob Wolpert, chief strategy and innovation officer of Golden State Foods, with the company’s newest electric truck from Volvo.
The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically altered the way we all work, and many companies were forced to pivot their business model to stay afloat. Now that workplaces are beginning to re-open, many employers might be wondering: are any of these changes permanent? How different will the world of work be going forward?

Here are the new workplace technology changes we think are here to stay:

- **More hybrid and remote work.** According to KPMG, 69% of CEOs plan to embrace a virtual workforce. Some of these companies will embrace some form of hybrid work, with fewer employees in the office on a regular basis, but still maintaining office space as a centralized location for in-person meetings and team building.

- **Increased use of digital communication and collaboration tools.** To manage this shift to a hybrid workplace, 77% of the KPMG respondents will increase their use of tools like video conferencing, web chat programs and virtual project management.

- **More focus on disaster planning.** The businesses that were able to successfully shift to a remote workplace and quickly implement coronavirus safety protocols were those that already had robust business continuity plans in case of disaster. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) provides assistance to business owners in creating a business continuity plan at Ready.gov.

- **Increased attention to cybersecurity.** With more employees working remotely, that means businesses are more vulnerable to cybersecurity threats if they don’t implement good cybersecurity business practices. A recent BullGuard survey of small- and medium-sized business owners reports that five percent of companies nationwide have suffered from a cyberattack or data breach within the past year. Of those, half said it took 24 hours or longer to recover, and a quarter stated they had to spend $10,000 or more to resolve the attack. Twenty-five percent reported they lost business as a result, and nearly 40% stated they lost crucial data.

**Future-Proof Your Business**

Now that some of these changes are likely to be permanent, it’s important for small- and medium-sized business owners to think about future-proofing their business with an effective “technology stack.” A technology stack – also called a solutions stack, technology infrastructure or a data ecosystem – refers to all the technology services used to build and run a business.

Some of the solutions that should be part of your company’s technology stack include:

- **Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Services**, which give teams a way to make, answer, and forward calls regardless of location;

- **Cloud storage and backup solutions**, which provide different security levels to keep your information safe, depending on your data, industry, and business requirements;

- **Unified communications platforms**, which help your workforce collaborate and manage data from anywhere and at any time, instead of cobbling together various remote project management platforms. These desktop-as-a-service (DaaS) offerings allow employees to remotely access their work desktop and files.

Cost-effective remote managed IT services can help you install and properly monitor all these systems, alerting you to any potential issues. They can also help you determine when it’s time to upgrade from residential grade internet to commercial services so that your video call connections are always clear, and you have plenty of bandwidth to run all the programs you need.

As many of us learned during the pandemic, significant change can often bring immense opportunity. Cloud-based technology makes it possible to successfully pivot to an all-virtual or hybrid work environment, protect your business and customer data and thrive in the years to come.

As Vice President Cox Business for the Orange Coast market, encompassing Orange County, Palos Verdes, and Santa Barbara, Jodi Duva is responsible for leading a world-class team delivering customized communications solutions to local business communities. Duva oversees sales and service delivery across all sales channels. In her role as Vice President, Duva is focused on maintaining and enhancing a strong track record of success and collaboration. She is very involved in the community and serves on the boards for Orange County Business Council and Girl Scouts of Orange County.
Congratulations to Jim Palmer, President of Orange County Rescue Mission for being selected as a nominee of Orange County Business Journal’s Innovator of the Year Award. A well-deserved honor for the man who continues to lead a team of 89 employees and thousands of volunteers in furthering the nonprofit’s mission of providing homeless individuals and families with the tools and pathways out of homelessness. Through its transitional living facilities and outreach programs, the Rescue Mission provides shelter, food, healthcare, education, job training, and a variety of other tools to support individuals in getting back on their feet.

Between 1992 and today, Dr. James “Jim” Palmer has taken Orange County Rescue Mission from a single rundown facility housing of just nine homeless men in Santa Ana to a nine-facility, two county operation serving thousands of homeless and formerly homeless individuals each year.

Palmer is motivated by compassion. But it is his faith and courage to approach the myriad of complex problems resulting in homelessness that drive his innovative approaches to serve those in need.

Palmer established the transitional housing and comprehensive services facility, Village of Hope, the Rescue Mission’s flagship program. It serves as a model to other organizations throughout the country. The lack of quality and accessible health care for the needy led Palmer to launch Hurtt Family Health Clinics, now with three multi-service clinics in Orange County. When he learned of the plight of women trapped in sex trafficking, he created Strong Beginnings to serve that population. Palmer gained tremendous insight about veterans when his son entered the military, which led him to establish the veteran-specific services for homeless veterans at Tustin Veterans Outpost.

Beyond his work at Orange County Rescue Mission, Palmer is involved locally and in various parts of government. He was the only person to have ever served on three levels of government at once, as a Tustin City Councilman, a County Housing Commissioner, and a Senate Confirmed Presidential Appointee. He oversaw a staff of 125,000 and an annual federal budget of $1.4 billion.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, community leaders throughout Southern California sought out Palmer for his expertise to provide solutions for the homeless population. In addition, Palmer led the entire Rescue Mission team to ensure it remained 100% operational throughout the pandemic. In fact, 60 men, women, and children graduated from the Rescue Mission’s two-year program amid the pandemic. Additionally, in 2020 the organization created a distance learning program for the children living at its facilities to ensure quality education for its school-aged children.

For more information, please contact Anna Song at (714) 247-4377 or anna.song@rescuemission.org.
When COVID-19 hit, nearly half of small businesses had to furlough or lay off staff members. But as the economy reopens and businesses rebuild, you may be ready to hire or rehire. Deciding how to staff your business may be heavily influenced by the ongoing crisis, even as you rebuild for the future. These four steps can guide you through the hiring process.

1. Determine your current needs
First, examine whether your business model shifted due to COVID-19. If so, your staffing needs may be different. For example, if you are now offering remote services or doing more of your business online, you may need a more robust tech team. This could mean rethinking the roles in your business and coming up with new job descriptions.

2. Consider the pros and cons of rehiring any laid-off workers
Since small businesses can feel like family, you may be tempted to rehire anyone you let go. However, whether you rehire workers may depend on whether your current needs have changed (step one). If you still need your former employees' skills, rehiring them can offer big benefits, like a shorter learning curve and loyalty to your business.

However, if you're hoping to rehire former employees to reduce paperwork, be aware that you may need to file the same tax forms and other paperwork that you would with a new hire.

Plus, some furloughed workers may not want to come back — whether over safety concerns (especially for in-person work) or because they found work elsewhere. They may also be less willing to adapt or pivot their roles to reflect any changes you've made to your business while they were let go.

3. Plan your hiring process
When it comes to searching for talent, you may want to think outside the box. If, after the first two steps, you're still not sure exactly what type of role or employee is best suited to help you rebuild, you might want to hire a worker for a contracted period of time. Or you might hire two part-time roles instead of one full-time employee. Just be sure to check the guidelines around hiring contract workers versus full-time employees in your area.

4. Prepare to answer COVID-related questions
In addition to standard questions around compensation and benefits, potential hires may ask you about your response to COVID-19. Think about how you'll answer questions around safety precautions, sick-day policies, health insurance, and remote work.

Candidates may also ask whether a role has room for growth or if it's temporary and rooted in COVID-19-specific changes to your business. They may also be curious to know how you would handle their role if COVID-19 upticks again or if your business faces any new forms of uncertainty.

While the COVID-19 crisis has presented clear and unprecedented challenges, a growing number of small businesses are optimistic about the future and ready to bring on new staff members. Making smart choices about staffing can help you navigate this crisis, fortify any changes you've made to your business strategy, and be prepared for a changing small business landscape.
More than 500,000 heart valve procedures are performed worldwide each year, many using sophisticated medical technologies like those made by Edwards that enable either the repair or replacement of diseased heart valves.

Edwards Lifesciences’ roots date to 1958, when Miles “Lowell” Edwards set out to build the first artificial heart. Edwards was a 60-year-old, recently retired engineer with an entrepreneurial spirit and a dream of helping patients with heart disease. With a background in hydraulics and fuel pump operations, Edwards believed the human heart could be mechanized. He presented the concept to Dr. Albert Starr, a young surgeon at the University of Oregon Medical School, who thought the idea was too complex. Instead, Starr encouraged Edwards to focus first on developing an artificial heart valve, for which there was an immediate need.

After just two years, the first Starr-Edwards mitral valve was designed, developed, tested, and successfully placed in a patient. This innovation spawned a company, Edwards Laboratories, which set up shop in Santa Ana, California – not far from where Edwards Lifesciences’ corporate headquarters is located today.

The spirit of innovation remains central to Edwards today. Since introducing the first commercially available heart valve in 1960, Edwards Lifesciences has continued to meaningfully advance heart valve therapy.

Today, Edwards continues to lead the field of tissue replacement heart valves and repair products and advanced hemodynamic monitoring. Edwards’ major product lines are focused on transcatheter aortic valve replacement, surgical heart valve replacement and repair and critical care monitoring.

The company invests approximately 17 to 18 percent of sales in R&D, and recent years’ product growth is directly related to the outputs of Edwards’ R&D. Over the last several years, Edwards has been proud to introduce several innovative products that help maintain strong global leadership positions and enabled more patients to benefit from the company’s life-saving technologies than ever before.

Edwards continues to be focused on solving unmet needs and promoting transformative solutions with the power to make meaningful differences across the spectrum of healthcare – for patients, clinicians and the overall healthcare system.

Edwards Lifesciences has continuously developed the world’s leading technologies for structural heart disease and critical care medicine.

Innovation starts with inspiration.
And we’re inspired.

By creating a community unified around a single passion. To help patients live longer, healthier and more productive lives. By working with clinicians to solve unmet needs and make meaningful differences across the healthcare system. By evolving a portfolio of breakthrough technologies with a patients-first mindset.

Edwards Lifesciences. From inspiration to realization.

Edwards, Edwards Lifesciences and the stylized E logo are trademarks of Edwards Lifesciences Corporation or its affiliates. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. © 2019 Edwards Lifesciences Corporation. All rights reserved. P-110-1611 v.0.0

Edwards Lifesciences • One Edwards Way, Irvine, CA 92614 USA • edwards.com
The first half of 2021 has seen the highest level of business acquisition activity in years. Owners of businesses have explored merger, acquisition and disposition transactions through the pandemic. Larger companies are looking forward to consolidating assets and operations strategically while cross-border acquisitions are also beginning to pick up pace. The level of activity is driven by low interest rates, a rebound in economic growth and anticipation of changes in federal tax rates.

At this time last year, companies were scrambling to make sense of pandemic shutdowns, expressly focused on transitioning staff to working from home and analyzing balance sheets and liquidity, while halting an array of transactions previously green-lighted to go. This year, however, is a very different story. Many businesses of all sizes are seeking to grow their scale, re-consider operational imperatives, and streamline to remain competitive. Moreover, private equity firms and Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPACs) are actively investing capital.

The “New Normal”

We appear to be approaching a return to normal processes in deal terms and diligence, albeit with asset values following the stock market to new highs. The “new normal,” however, does not necessarily mean a return to pre-pandemic business as usual. Over the last year and into the immediate future, most diligence has been and will be conducted online, while deals have taken on a more protracted negotiating period. Closing timelines have been extended by secretaries of state administrative delays, slower processing of antitrust and foreign investment approvals, and the requirements of transferring PPP loans and other artifacts of government involvement in the US economy during the pandemic.

Carve out and asset acquisitions have gained popularity, as the structure can isolate unknown and unwanted liabilities in the seller’s organization, justifying, at least in theory, higher prices. In addition to COVID related concerns, employment law compliance diligence has become a key area of focus.

SPACs as a Buyer Category

The creation of a SPAC, sometimes referred to as a “blank check” company, remains an important mechanism for realizing M&A objectives this year. SPACs can be an interesting alternative for business owners who want to retain future upside in the company (in the form of shares of a newly public company), see a generous infusion of cash to the company’s balance sheet through a private placement of stock at the time of the acquisition, and also receive cash proceeds.

However, these mandatory M&A transactions for a SPAC, commonly called a “de-SPAC”, can be difficult to execute. The process is similar to a public company merger, because the SPAC buyer is required to obtain shareholder approval in accordance with SEC proxy rules. It can be difficult to engage and convince the retail investors who acquired SPAC shares to affirmatively vote and approve a transaction at the level required to approve the deal, creating timing issues. Moreover, sellers (and their lenders) find SPACs to offer both pros and cons, so understanding the underlying business strategy is critical to realizing the right result. In addition, it is not appropriate to sell a public company to a SPAC in its mandatory acquisition, but a division can be a good fit as a carve-out sale instead.

COVID-related Issues

This year’s M&A activity is permeated by an array of COVID-related issues. Transfers of PPP Loan balances, if not already forgiven, can be time consuming and challenging. Other COVID-related issues involved in M&A transactions range from EIDL Loans and tax deferrals, to an understanding of industry specific government relief components. As expected, travel and entertainment industry transactions will remain particularly challenging. In transaction documents, sellers are looking to exclude COVID challenges from conduct of business covenants and disclosure against representations and warranties, shifting the risk to buyers. Buyers in the meantime fear exposure to past failures in response to COVID, whether related to compliance with local and state laws/regulations, or implementation of policies regarding return to work or vaccination of employees.

R&W Insurance

Representations and Warranties (R&W) insurance has, in the last 7-8 years, evolved from a niche product to an essential part of the M&A process. The insurance covers unknown, pre-acquisition risks in the acquired business. Traditionally, for a period of time after closing, the seller would cover those risks, on the theory that if the seller still owned the business, the valuation would be impacted by the newly discovered faults. Now sellers can set the risk of unknown claims at only a portion of the insurance deductible or in some cases at zero. However, since the start of the pandemic, we are seeing far more exclusions in coverage, ranging from COVID-related liability, to California-specific employment law and pension issues, to cyber-attacks. Either seller or buyer needs to bear the risk of these excluded claims (and also negotiate through known issues that insurance will not cover). So R&W insurance is more prevalent than ever, meaning most deals effectively have three interested parties in the negotiation, and each policy covers less.

Conclusion

There are additional new currents in M&A transactions, such as a renewed focus on environmental, social and governance factors, the prospect of tax law changes and more robust antitrust enforcement, and the continued erosion of non-compete agreements as an effective means of protecting acquired goodwill.

The formalities and process of M&A can seem static, on the surface not changing much from decade to decade. But there is always innovation in transactions as well, whether dramatic ones such as R&W insurance or SPACs, or more subtle changes in emphasis in addressing risks as businesses come together. Every year, thousands of innovators in their own fields benefit from M&A, and are part of the growth of new developments in transactions.

Shoshana Zimmerman, USC law school, and Tom Waldman, UCLA law school, set aside their rivalry to jointly author this article. Zimmerman and Waldman, together with 35 other corporate lawyers at Newport Beach headquartered Stradling, Yocca, Carlson and Rauth, complete dozens of transactions for Southern California companies and investors every year.
Aggressively Resolving Your Family Law Matters

Nelson Kirkman is the law firm that discerning clients turn to when their family law issues are challenging and complicated.

We fervently prepare to move towards early settlement. Opposing counsel and judges know our history of trial success. These facts often combine to force a speedy resolution.

NELSON KIRKMAN
FAMILY LAW ATTORNEYS ADVISORS

High Stakes Divorce Lawyers.
Building on Excellence

One in eight men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetime, and one in 41 will die of the disease, making it the second-leading cause of U.S. cancer deaths in men, just after lung cancer, according to the American Cancer Society.

Yet as advances in diagnosis and treatment have improved in recent years, so too have survival rates, especially at academic medical systems, including UCI Health, says David I. Lee, MD, one of the nation’s foremost prostate cancer surgeons. He recently left Penn Presbyterian Medical Center and the University of Pennsylvania’s Perelman School of Medicine in Philadelphia to direct the new UCI Health Comprehensive Prostate Cancer Program.

Lee, a top specialist in robot-assisted prostatectomies, is eager to build on the UCI Health Center for Urological Care’s legacy as a powerhouse of leading-edge prostate cancer care and innovative research.

“Prostate cancer is a disease that requires teamwork,” says Lee. “At UCI Health, we have one of the most talented prostate teams in the country. Our multidisciplinary group of highly skilled urologists, radiation oncologists, medical oncologists and other experienced professionals work together like a fine-tuned machine. That’s not something a lot of other places have.”

Emerging evidence and treatment options

The prostate is the gland that produces semen and helps deliver sperm to the penis. It’s located just below the bladder and surrounds the urethra. The American Cancer Society estimates that in 2021, 251,800 new cases of prostate cancer will be diagnosed in the United States, and 31,000 men will die of the disease.

 Improved diagnosis and treatment

Imaging and biopsy techniques have improved significantly in recent years, Lee said. UCI Health was among the first to use Artemis, a revolutionary technology that combines 3D imaging, a robot arm and a needle-guidance system to precisely locate and biopsy prostate cancer cells.

UCI Health prostate experts also have used cryotherapy to kill tumor cells by freezing affected tissue with ultracold gas. And they were the first in the nation to employ high-intensity, focused ultrasound to destroy only cancerous tissue, sparing the rest of the prostate gland.

Radiation therapy improvements now more accurately target prostate tumors. And new cancer medications attack cancer cells in different ways, offering still more options for patients with advanced prostate disease.

“We’ve also gotten better at determining who needs definitive therapy and when it’s appropriate to step back from overtreating this condition,” Lee says. “Instead, we are now able to safely monitor many men with active surveillance for a number of years.”

Advantages of robot-assisted surgery

Open prostatectomy involves reattaching the bladder and urethra, which requires a longer recovery time and the use of a catheter for up to three weeks. Minimally invasive robot-assisted prostate surgery, which UCI Health pioneered, offers precision, less blood loss and less pain, and catheter removal within six days after the procedure.

“In experienced hands, it can also lessen side effects such as loss of urinary control and sexual function,” says Lee, who now performs the surgery on an outpatient basis for many patients, when appropriate.

Most important, Lee says, is the prostate team’s commitment to help men understand all their options. “We want our patients to know that we will give them the best possible care designed to meet their individual needs, and that we will see them through each and every step.”

Learn more at ucihealth.org/prostate
PIO NEERING TREATMENTS

UNMATCHED CARE

That is what you can expect from the UCI Health Comprehensive Prostate Cancer Program. Above all, our experts are innovators. Our team includes the nation’s leaders in successful robot-assisted prostatectomies and pioneers in using high-intensity ultrasound to destroy tumors while sparing the rest of the prostate gland.

As part of Orange County’s only academic health system — with research and innovation powered by the University of California, Irvine — we also give our prostate cancer patients access to individualized therapies, technologies and clinical trials not found elsewhere.

We STOP AT NOTHING to revolutionize the detection, diagnosis and treatment of prostate cancer.

Learn more at ucihealth.org/prostate

David I. Lee, MD, one of the nation’s foremost prostate cancer surgeons, recently joined UCI Health to direct our new Comprehensive Prostate Cancer Program. He developed a novel pain-control method that makes it possible to send most prostatectomy patients home the same day.

UCI Health
WelcomeHomeOC: An Innovative Housing Solution
Collaboratively Working to End Homelessness in Orange County

One of the biggest challenges families and individuals experiencing homelessness face in Orange County is that they simply cannot find a place to live. Even with housing vouchers, many people are unable to secure housing. United to End Homelessness, an Orange County United Way key initiative, is advocating to develop more affordable housing options as the long-term solution while simultaneously working to help our vulnerable neighbors who need to find a place to call home now.

That is why we created WelcomeHomeOC: A housing navigation and landlord incentive program that provides financial assurances to landlords who rent units in Orange County to individuals, Veterans, and families with a housing voucher and ensures supportive services are provided to help newly housed people stay in their homes for the long-term. The program aims to engage our community members and work with them to reduce the housing search time by increasing the availability of rental units.

A Win-Win Solution
We pair property owners looking for tenants with housing voucher holders who need a place to call home.

491* people have been housed
74* property owners in the network

*as of 08/08/21

How Does it Work?
01 Property owners submit unit availability to WelcomeHomeOC.
02 WelcomeHomeOC matches voucher holder with a unit and submits application to property owner for review and approval.
03 WelcomeHomeOC provides holding fee, application fee, and a double security deposit to property owner. Simultaneously, supportive services and new furniture are provided to the program resident.
04 Property owner receives rent directly from Public Housing Authority and a portion of the rent from program resident.

What is the Success Rate?
- ZERO evictions since start of the program in 2018
- 100% of rent has been collected for participating units
- 95% retention rate for program residents

Why We Need This Program Now
- If people do not find housing in a timely manner, they may lose their housing voucher, which means they return to square one.
- As a community, if we do not use the vouchers allocated to us, we might lose the financial assistance attached to them in the future.

Welcome Home Stephanie
In 2014, Stephanie’s husband lost his job, they lost their home, and then they separated. The 67-year-old grandmother was battling chronic health conditions and hospital stays alone, and ended up in a homeless shelter. The WelcomeHomeOC program helped Stephanie find a stable and safe apartment in Tustin where she still happily resides. “It was like an answer to a prayer when I got the call,” said Stephanie. “[My apartment] gives me security and safety—it has allowed me to tell my kids not to worry. When I come up the walk, I get a smile on my face.”

What Property Owners Are Saying
“WelcomeHomeOC is the best conceived and most landlord-friendly social assistance program I have seen in three decades of property management. I wish it was everywhere.” — James Wehrman, President, FDC Management, Inc.

A Proven Program
WelcomeHomeOC is nationally recognized by HUD as a “best-practice program” and is endorsed by both the California Apartment Association (CAA) and the Apartment Association of Orange County (AAOC).

To learn more about WelcomeHomeOC or to join the Property Owner Network, visit WelcomeHomeOC.org or contact Amanda Grill: AmandaGrill@UnitedWayOC.org or 949.263.6114

Orange County United Way is striving to remove barriers, close gaps, and level the playing field to ensure our students succeed, our families find financial security, and our homeless neighbors find a place to call home. We put these goals into action through our three key initiatives: United for Student Success, United for Financial Security, and United to End Homelessness. To learn more, visit UnitedWayOC.org
WelcomeHomeOC

☑ Guaranteed Rent
☑ Double Deposits, Incentives, and Assurances
☑ Help Orange County Veterans and Families

Join the WelcomeHomeOC Property Owner Network

WelcomeHomeOC is a landlord incentive program that provides financial incentives such as double security deposits, sign-on bonus, holding fees, and other assurances for landlords who rent units in Orange County to individuals, Veterans, and families with a housing voucher.

The program is a joint effort between the United to End Homelessness initiative, Orange County United Way, Public Housing Authorities, and rental property owners to reduce the time involved in the search for housing by increasing the availability of rental units.

A Proven Program

Empowered by Orange County United Way

“WelcomeHomeOC is the best conceived and most landlord-friendly social assistance program I have seen in three decades of property management. I wish it was everywhere.” – James Wohrman, President, FDC Management, Inc.

For more information, contact Amanda Grill, WelcomeHomeOC Property Owner Engagement Specialist, at AmandaGrill@UnitedWayOC.org or (949) 263-6114

WelcomeHomeOC.org
As a contributor for Forbes Council, I was asked, “What is your best tip for how nonprofit leaders can strike the right balance between accountability and empathy?” I believe empathy and accountability must have a healthy balance. We have seen businesses, including nonprofit organizations, which have thrived with high accountability within their teams via design-thinking by adapting their business models and service delivery to meet the needs of who they serve. Interestingly, in further contemplation, empathy is the key starting point for design-thinking to listen, learn, and then adapt to meet the changing needs of those you serve throughout your entire organization and those who serve within it as well. While it is regular practice in the technology sector, nonprofits can implement the same design-thinking approach in order to develop high impact solutions to solve some of the greatest issues related to poverty such as homelessness, food insecurity, and the college access gap.

At The Wooden Floor, we regularly follow a design-thinking process which includes three steps:

1. Empathy - providing opportunities to listen and learn from the students and families we serve in order to create results-driven programs.
2. Ideation - providing an affordable way for us to generate new thoughts on programs and/or process improvements, which we can implement either incrementally or at a larger scale.
3. Experimentation - what we like to call “piloting” of new projects. This provides our team with an opportunity to try something new, without the high investment of organizational resources, and at the same time creates an opportunity for learning.

By implementing design-thinking throughout an organization, it can help to reinforce and codify the empathy practices throughout the organization which have other additional benefits to leadership and management practices, staff retention, team engagement, and culture sustainability.

Can empathy be learned? Yes - and it is worth it. Empathy is one of the five areas of emotional intelligence as Daniel Goleman writes in *What Makes a Leader?* (Harvard Business Review, 1995): *Self-Awareness, Self-Regulation, Motivation, Social Skills* and *Empathy*. While the article was written many years ago, it still stands the test of time, especially today, as we emerge from the pandemic. It is no longer a nice to have soft-skill as a leader. It’s a key strategic leadership skill to have in order to be agile, ideate on new solutions or perspectives, and to meet the evolving needs of your employees, teams, customers, and communities.

During the pandemic, at The Wooden Floor, it is of high importance to listen and learn from our students and families by remaining connected to them. The Wooden Floor is an after-school, creative youth development organization and we make a 10-year commitment to our 475 students from 3rd-12th grade. We offer them a rigorous dance education approach that is strategically integrated with academic services, college and career readiness, and family services. Since 2005, 100% of our graduates have enrolled in higher education. In April 2020, the early forecasts showed the impact of distance learning could have a dramatic effect on low-income young people, and it was important for us mitigate that impact for our students at The Wooden Floor.

In the early days of the pandemic, we began making phone calls home to all 475 of our students on a regular basis, then once we were in a virtual service delivery for 2020-2021, we systematized a data process and feedback mechanism to ensure we heard from our students and families on a regular basis about their evolving needs through a combination of programmatic alignment, student mentoring check-in points, and formal surveys conducted over the spring 2021 to students, parents, and alumni of The Wooden Floor. Due to their feedback, we:

- Purchased 225 laptop computers for our students who would not have had digital access during the summer when they needed remedial support - thanks to the generosity of our corporate and foundation partners.
- Increased mentors to connect with our students beginning as early as 3rd and 4th grade, previously beginning in 6th grade, to provide the social and emotional support that they needed due to distance learning and social isolation at home.
- Offered our families emotional support during the pandemic in fall 2020, and we launched Parent Mental Health Group and Saturday Morning Coffee to share about themselves, as well as community news regarding school district updates, food distribution sites, and vaccine information.
- Increased our requested tutoring hours for any students, and maintained our All-Campus GPA of 3.0 through spring 2020.
- Engaged with our alumni from all over the country to participate on Career Day Panels and virtual college tour guides as a way for them to give back during the pandemic to the students who are following in their footsteps.

Additionally, the insights our students, parents, and alumni provided were integral in helping us affirm key priorities, and launch our next 10-Year Strategic Vision 2021-2031 to: Drive Social Innovation, Deepen Impact and Uplift Our Community with a correlated Strategic Plan 2021-2023. We are laser-focused to ensure our students are well-positioned both during and post-pandemic with the social, emotional, and academic well-being to reach for their dreams for college and beyond.

We believe when change is used as a means of social change, innovation flourishes into courageous life-changing outcomes for the children we serve, and moves The Wooden Floor’s exciting mission forward, which helps move our community forward.
WE ARE CREATING
GENERATIONAL CHANGE THROUGH
THE POWER OF DANCE

Founded in 1983, The Wooden Floor is one of the foremost creative youth development nonprofit organizations in the country. We transform the lives of young people in low-income communities through the power of dance and access to higher education.

We give young people the tools and guidance to follow a path out of poverty by serving students in grades 3-12 after-school for up to 10 years with a comprehensive approach that is grounded in exploratory dance education which is strategically integrated with long-term mentoring relationships, academic services, college and career readiness, and family support services.

In Orange County and through national licensed partners, our long-term approach fosters the confidence and gifts within each child to innovate, communicate, and collaborate – skills necessary for success in school and in life.

100 percent of students who graduate from The Wooden Floor immediately enroll in colleges and universities across the nation.

Students at The Wooden Floor consistently exceed their peers nationally. Our students become change agents and beacons of hope within their own families, their neighborhoods, our community, and our world.

JOIN US TO MOVE MORE YOUNG PEOPLE FORWARD.
Find out more at TheWoodenFloor.org
I have seen several articles in the news relating to the patent waivers for the COVID-19 vaccines. For example, one recent headline states “3 Million People Have Died of COVID Since Rich Nations Began Obstructing Vaccine Patent Waiver.” CNN stated that “US President Joe Biden’s administration said Wednesday it would support the easing of patent rules on COVID-19 vaccines, potentially expanding global supplies.” Apparently, these waivers were initially proposed by South Africa and India in May.

But is a patent waiver really what is being sought by South Africa and India? Potentially, but it is unlikely that patent protection is really what is keeping South Africa and India from obtaining the vaccine. It is more likely that the trade secrets required to manufacture the vaccines is what is keeping South Africa and India from getting the vaccine. Accordingly, some of the media coverage regarding vaccine waiver fails to recognize the most important IP rights involved in the COVID-19 vaccines.

Why is it unlikely that patent rights are keeping South Africa and India from getting the vaccine? It is because South Africa and India are sovereign nations that grant patent rights themselves. It is the South African government, not the United States Government, that decides whether to grant or enforce patent rights in South Africa. If they chose to, South Africa and India could deny any party patent rights for the COVID-19 vaccine in their countries. It is true that this could get South Africa and India into trouble with respect to some of their trade treaties, but the fallout from that seems insignificant compared to the ability to get the vaccine quickly. Additionally, the vaccine has only been recently developed, and it is unlikely that there is a patent covering any of the vaccines in South Africa or India. Normally, it takes at least 3-4 years, or potentially much longer, between the filing of a patent application in the US and the grant of a patent application in India. Therefore, as of this writing, there is no patent for any of the COVID-19 vaccines.

As a patent attorney, I find headlines like “3 Million People Have Died of COVID Since Rich Nations Began Obstructing Vaccine Patent Waiver” troubling because they cast patent protection in a bad light. In reality, it is highly unlikely that patent rights have anything to do with access to the vaccine in South Africa or India at this point. It is more likely that “intellectual property rights” sought by South Africa and India include this know-how.

What is the COVID-19 Vaccine IP Waiver?

So what do these countries really want? The term “intellectual property right” really encompasses patents, trademarks, copyright, and trade secrets. Trademarks cover brands, but they provide no protection against copying a vaccine. Copyright protects creative works, but not vaccines. The only remaining IP right is trade secret, and I believe that it is trade secrets that India and South Africa are really after.

A trade secret is valuable information that is kept secret by the party owning the information. The value in the trade secret is in the fact that it is not known by others. The classic example is the formula for Coca Cola®. Since none of Coca Cola®’s competitors know its formula, they cannot copy the beverage. The vaccine has two potential “types” of trade secrets: those that are included in the patent application and those that were not.

A patent application is required to disclose how to make and use the claimed invention. For a COVID-19 vaccine, this means that a person skilled in the art would need to be able to make and use the claimed invention without undue experimentation. The information in a patent application is kept secret for 18 months, or until the application issues as a patent, whichever occurs first. Eighteen months ago, in February 2020, and COVID-19 was just becoming a pandemic. Thus, the patent application for the vaccine had not yet been filed. Indeed, the vaccine had not yet been invented. More likely, the first patent applications were likely filed about a year or so ago. Thus, it may be another four to six months before the vaccine patent applications are publicly available. It may be that South Africa and India are seeking to obtain copies of the patent applications before they become publicly available.

Additionally, the COVID-19 vaccines are “biologics,” meaning drugs that are a protein, an amino acid, or some other large biomolecule. Biologics are notoriously difficult to copy, even with the information in a patent application. The little details around making the vaccines, what the patent law would not require in a patent application because it is “routine experimentation,” can take months or years to work out. Thus, these little details, also called “know how,” will be valuable trade secrets for some time after the patent applications or patents are publicly disclosed. It is likely that the “intellectual property rights” sought by South Africa and India include this know-how.

As a patent attorney, I find headlines like “3 Million People Have Died of COVID Since Rich Nations Began Obstructing Vaccine Patent Waiver” troubling because they cast patent protection in a bad light. In reality, it is highly unlikely that patent rights have anything to do with access to the vaccine in South Africa or India. It is more accurate, the media should be saying that South Africa and India are lobbying the WTO to compel Pfizer, Moderna, and other vaccine makers to disclose how to make the vaccine, and potentially provide technical support in the effort. Whether that is better or worse is a matter of personal opinion, but there is no denying that what is being sought is very different from what is being reported by most media sources. I hope those making the policy have a better understanding of these questions than what is being provided by the media.

Brent Johnson, Ph.D. is a shareholder in Maschoff Brennan’s Orange County office. He is focused on patent prosecution, BPAI post grant proceedings, IP due diligence, and client counseling – particularly in the areas of pharmaceutical and other chemistry-related technologies.
Congratulations 2021 Nominees

1105 Media - Rojer Kapur
AVISTA Biomedical Inc. - Dr. Hans Keirstead
Alergyx Inc. - Olivia Duane Adams
Ambry Genetics - Tom Schoenherr
AnesthesiaGo - Michael Bronson, MD
AONDEVICES INC. - Mouna El Khalib
Aproiam Advisors - Rhonda Ducote
AITOM - Richard Sweeney
Axis Research & Technologies Inc. - Nick Moran
Before the Butcher - Danny O’Malley
Billion Dollar Beauty - Natalie Plain
BioPhotons Inc. - Patrick Johnson
Bircher Anderson & Davis - Bob Anderson
Bilcentra Inc. - Fred Foucar
Blue-White - Rob Gledhill
ROMANI Cold Buzz - Sam Madani
CathWorks - Ramin Moosavi
Codbreaker Technologies - Cheri Tree
CoverCrow Inc. - Cassandra Caldarella
David Meltzer Enterprises - David Meltzer
Digital Motors - Andreas Heinrichs
Director of the UCI Vaccine Research and Development Center - Phillip Felgner
Edwards Lifesciences - Katie Szyman
Edwards Lifesciences - Larry Wood
e-PlanSoft - Michael Chegini
Evedopics Inc. - Jay Cormier
FundingShield LLC - Ilie Sari
GameChanger Charity - Jim Carol
Harvest Landscape Enterprises Inc. - Max Moreno
Hyperdisk Marketing Inc / Hoary Agency - Nicholas Singer
iBASE - Sung Kim
InForce - Dr. John Pham
Lantern & Scroll - Karen Good
Learning Ovations Inc. - Jay Connor
LeggUP! - Tom Finn
Loadstop - Omer Cheema
Loan Administration Network Inc. - Charlene Nichols
Matregenix Inc. - Sheriff Solomon
MeridianLink - Tim Nguyen
Mozmo Corporation - Joseph Lee
Malix Labs - Fabian Battaglia
Naturade - Claude Tellis
Nextworks Strategy-ENP - Scott Hamilton
Nguyen Torbet LLC - Quan Nguyen
Obsidian Security - Ben Johnson
Orange County Rescue Mission - Jim Palmer
Overair - Ben Tigner
PreludeDx - Troy Bremer
Restaurant365 - Tony Smith
Revive Concierge - Dalip Jaggi
Robotic Assistance Devices - Steve Reinhart
Scanwell Health Inc. - Stephen Chen
SCGWest Development - Kyle Gorman
SCGWest Development - Brandon Lehman
SetSchedule - Roy Dekel
Seven Galles Real Estate - Mike Hickman
ShopGoodwill.com - Ryan Smith
Smart Cups - Chris Konik
Smart Energy Water (SEW) - Deepak Garg
Smart Health Clubs - Praveen Kashyap
Sonics - Jay Zhao
Specright Inc. - Matthew Wright
Stretto - Jonathan Carson & Eric Kurtzman
Sunset Bank - Carson Lappetito
Tarsus Pharmaceuticals - Leo Greenstein
TaxRise - Essam Abdullah
Teradek LLC - Nicolas Verheem
The Wooden Floor - Dawn S. Reese
ThinkIQ - Doug Lawson
Titan Health & Security Technologies Inc. - Vic Merjianian, Esq.
TMC Hospitality - Phillip Bates
TRADEC - Sandy Saly
Travel, Entertainment, and Marketing - Mike Olivas
Turnkey Beauty Inc., Vincenzo Skincare LLC - Vince Spinnato
UCI Health Digestive Health Institute, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, UCI School of Medicine - Kenneth J. Chang, MD
Vantis Institute - Jess Oslo
VoteApp - Daniel Stonton
Westcliff University - Dr. Anthony Lee
WhiskerCloud - Adam Greenbaum

Reservation Information
Visit www.ocbj.com/bizevents or contact Melanie Collins,
Signature Events Manager, at 949.664.5065 or collins@ocbj.com.

Event Date
September 9, 2021
12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Tickets*: $175 / Table of 10: $1,650

Keynote Speaker
Neel Grover
Founder and Exec Chair

DIAMOND SPONSOR
COX BUSINESS

PLATINUM SPONSORS
Maschhoff Brennan
Stradling

SILVER SPONSOR
UCI Health

*Tickets are non-refundable. Ticket price includes self parking and a six-month subscription to the Orange County Business Journal ($15 allocated to the subscription). New subscribers only. Current subscribers may gift the subscription to a colleague.
How to Choose a Spouse Divorce Attorney?

By Paul Nelson, Esq.

Here’s irony for you: To escape one’s relationship—your marriage—you must create another relationship—with your divorce attorney.

And just like a marriage, your attorney-client relationship will require commitment, demand honesty, and often hinge on compromise. The difference? Unlike a marriage, your relationship with a divorce attorney is designed to be short-lived.

Even so, you should look for a lawyer much like you would a spouse. Accordingly, here are some tips when divorce attorney seeking:

1. Ask for References
Matchmakers have been around for centuries. Many cultures still use them to pair compatible mates from the pool of local singles. Even in our more “liberal” Western culture, it’s still common for friends to set each other up with dates, and for people to seek the approval of family and loved ones before getting “serious” with a potential husband or wife.

Likewise, when looking for an attorney, it makes sense to ask the advice and seek references from others in your professional circle, such as your CPA/financial advisor, business lawyer, or business coach.

2. Locate a State Bar-Certified Specialist in Family Law
One of the best sources to find an attorney is the State Bar website. The State Bar of California maintains a list of members who are Certified Specialists in their area of law. Each attorney has met substantial law practice and educational requirements in addition to receiving favorable evaluations by other attorneys and judges familiar with their work in a particular legal specialty.

3. Assess Chemistry
Relationships that work on paper don’t always do so in real life. That’s why, no matter how well a divorce attorney may be rated, you need a sit-down to see if you “click.” As with a personal relationship, make sure your values and expectations are in sync. If not, you may be dealing with a professional divorce—along with your marital one.

4. Discuss Money
Before committing to marriage, it’s common for couples to talk about how they will handle finances. This can be uncomfortable, but it’s an issue that must be faced head-on to avoid long-term problems.

Lisa-wise, when talking with an attorney, fees and expenses must be addressed up front. Also, don’t be fooled by what appears to be a low hourly rate. An inexperienced attorney may charge less by the hour but require more time to accomplish what a more skilled and expensive lawyer could do in far less time.

5. Exchange Vows
Once you and your selected attorney are ready to commit, it’s time to exchange vows. Although these don’t yet have the traditional cache of “to love, honor and cherish,” they nonetheless express the ideal behaviors to which both parties should aspire:

- **Lawyer’s Vows:**
  - ✓ I vow to advocate for your position zealously and effectively.
  - ✓ I vow to maintain confidentiality ‘til death do us part.
  - ✓ I vow to interact with opposing counsel in a dignified, yet assertive manner.

- **Client Vows:**
  - ✓ I vow to provide direct and unambiguous advice.
  - ✓ I vow to take reasonable legal positions based on the law as it is or should be.

A divorce is a painful and demanding process that can trigger extreme emotions. Yet if you have an attorney whom you trust, you can minimize the discomfort and emerge in a better position to start the next phase of your life.

Nelson & Kirkman
FAMILY LAW ATTORNEYS & ADVISORS

4100 Newport Place Drive, Suite 250, Newport Beach, California 92660
949-760-8888  nelsonkirkman.com

High Stakes Divorce Lawyers
AnesthesiaGo, Ladera Ranch

Dr. Michael Bronson is practicing Anesthesiologist in Orange County, CA. As a leader within his anesthesiologist group, he was tasked on a nightly basis with determining which anesthesiologists were assigned to which cases the next day. This was traditionally done with a pencil and paper, look about 60 minutes to complete and often riddled with human errors such as double bookings. Without a solution existing in the marketplace, Dr. Bronson put together a team to create an AI enabled scheduling solution that could integrate the available providers with the cases for the next day and produce the most efficient and optimized schedule. By using the cutting-edge technology the time it takes to create assignments is reduced on average by 44 minutes each and the human error component is reduced.

AOQdev Inc., Irvine

Mouna El Khalib, CEO and Board Member of AOQdev Inc.

Mouna El Khalib is the co-founder and CEO of Southern California based AOQdev Inc. The company developed an application specific edge AI processor that can reliably recognize human speech and audio commands in very noisy environments. The tech can be implemented in a small footprint SoC for always-on battery powered applications such as smartphones and wireless headsets. AOQDevInc is expanding its family of application specific edge AI processors to sensor fusion applications such as motion sensors. El Khalib leads the company and managed all the formation and company architecture. Under her guidance the company has achieved $1,000,000+ revenue, an IP version 2 from 19 including engineering, management, and advisors; hired overseas contractors in different countries including India and Morocco; and raised seed round funding. As CEO and CTO, El Khalib architected AOQDevInc product line and succeeded in winning two agreements with tier 1 semiconductor companies. In addition, AOQdev built their own chip AON1100™ which is a High-Performance, Ultra-Low Power Edge AI device with integrated application-specific inference algorithms.

Mouna El Khalib is the co-founder and CEO of Southern California based AOQdev Inc. The company developed an application specific edge AI processor that can reliably recognize human speech and audio commands in very noisy environments. The tech can be implemented in a small footprint SoC for always-on battery powered applications such as smartphones and wireless headsets. AOQDevInc is expanding its family of application specific edge AI processors to sensor fusion applications such as motion sensors. El Khalib leads the company and managed all the formation and company architecture. Under her guidance the company has achieved $1,000,000+ revenue, an IP version 2 from 19 including engineering, management, and advisors; hired overseas contractors in different countries including India and Morocco; and raised seed round funding. As CEO and CTO, El Khalib architected AOQDevInc product line and succeeded in winning two agreements with tier 1 semiconductor companies. In addition, AOQdev built their own chip AON1100™ which is a High-Performance, Ultra-Low Power Edge AI device with integrated application-specific inference algorithms.
Billion Dollar Beauty, Irvine
Natalie Plain, Founder & CEO
Natalie Plain, founder & CEO of Billion Dollar Beauty, launched Billion Dollar Brows out of her Los Angeles apartment in 2004 strictly as a passion project. She had always been obsessed with her eyebrows but felt uninspired by the products that were on the market. So she went to a cosmetic lab and told them her idea for a brow brand. Plain, a former White House intern, has been awarded two patents for her inventions—the Brow Buddy Tool, a do-it-yourself eyebrow shaping tool, and the Billion Dollar Box, a sustainable, a magnetic makeup organizer that allows users to mix and match their favorite makeup products. Billion Dollar Brows has sold millions of their hero product, the Universal Brow Pencil, and currently retails their new Billion Dollar Beauty Box at over 700 Target stores nationwide. In addition, BDB’s products are sold globally in Australia, Japan, and Norway. BDB’s revenue more than doubled year over year from 2019 to 2020 while also delivering their most profitable year on record.

BioPhotos Inc., Anaheim
Patrick Johnson, President & CEO
Patrick Johnson is the CEO and president of BioPhotos Inc., and the inventor of the award-winning Celluma Series of Light Therapy devices. With an extensive background in the medical device industry, Johnson saw the potential for bringing the significant therapeutic benefits of Low Level Light Therapy affordably to the masses, leading to the founding of BioPhotos. Prior to BioPhotos, his leadership experience includes 10 years with Pro-Dex, Inc., a publicly held medical device manufacturer, serving the roles of chief business development officer, CEO and president, and board member. Johnson left Pro-Dex in 2010, and started Blue-White, a development company in Long Beach focusing on new technology and products within the broadcasting industry from appointment viewing to a highly engaging viewing experience on the internet-based news aggregation and sharing platform called Oasis™. Nodecast, the parent company of Blue-White, is the world’s largest contributor of video content to social media according to ComScore, and Oasis is now used by more than 2,000,000 users worldwide making Nodecast a true leader in the news aggregation and sharing platform community. Its success has led to Oasis being sold in 2016 to Bitcentral, a pioneer in the news industry, which is one of the largest providers of news solutions in the world. The company has over 6,000 major television stations with Oasis and more than 500,000 monthly active users. Today, Oasis is the leading platform in the news industry, and Johnson now speaks extensively on the benefits of Low Level Light Therapy.

Birch Anderson & Davis, San Juan Capistrano
Bob Anderson, Co-Chairman
Birch Anderson & Davis Partners joined in 2020 to form Birch Anderson & Davis. The two firms joined forces bringing strong track records of well-established commercial real estate firms in Orange County. Birch Anderson & Davis is focused on investment and management of multi-tenant industrial and office facilities, leveraging its operational expertise. Since its inception in 1939, the Birch organization has grown from a local home building contractor to national prominence as a leading real estate developer and manager in the Western United States. The company has managed over 22 million square feet of commercial property for both their own investment and for various private and public investment entities over the past 40 years, in the United States and in Asia. Additionally, the Birch organization has engaged in asset management and repositioning/capital plays for major financial institutions, including the U.S. Government, as well as developed or constructed over 100 million square feet of commercial property nationally.

Bitcentral Inc., Newport Beach
Fred Fourcher, Founder, CEO & New Adventure Lead Advisor
Fred Fourcher founded Bitcentral in 2000, building a nationwide news distribution network for CBS Newsroom and another one for NBC News Channel in 2003. In 2005, Bitcentral entered the news production systems market and pioneered the first large-scale, Internet-based news aggregation and sharing platform called Oasis™. Oasis is now used by more than 1,200 news organizations worldwide and distributes content to over 20,000 stories daily. Fourcher was also one of the first internet-based thought leaders in the industry. Fourcher received an Emmy in 2017 for Bitcentral’s innovation in television news systems. Bitcentral now has more news production systems in 250 TV stations than any competitors in the U.S. It is also one of the dominant providers of master control systems in Latin America. Fourcher’s vision of always designing and delivering efficient and effective media workflows for customers has resulted in him being an innovator in digital streaming with FUEL™. FUEL, a production, streaming, and monetization solution, transforms the broadcast industry from appointment viewing to a highly engaging viewing experience on any platform.

Blue-White, Huntington Beach
Rob Gedlich, CEO & President
Blue-White was founded in the 1950’s by Rob Gedlich’s grandfather, Rob Gedlich Sr. He had the idea to design a chemical pump to add a small amount of chemicals to the water, making it clean and clear for swimmers. Blue-White began with a simple flow meter to measure the amount of water flowing through the pool filter daily. Adding chemicals and proper water filter ensures a safe, clean pool for swimmers. Blue-White began making pumps and flow meters for the swimming pool industry. Eventually, they expanded into other markets like: water and wastewater treatment, processing plants, food and beverage, and more. The company recently launched a new type of flow meter, reliable chemical feed that requires zero maintenance for municipal water treatment plants. They also developed a new peristaltic pump that can accurately pump disinfectants into community water distribution systems.

BOMANI Cold Brew, Villa Park
Samm Madani, Co-Founder & CEO
Samm Madani is the co-founder and CEO of BOMANI Cold Brew, an alcohol-infused cold brew coffee and alcohol from sugar cane, two of the fastest growing categories in the beverage industry. Launching BOMANI in March 2020 with business partners Amin Arjandi and Kai Drewy, Madani and the BOMANI team are quickly redefining the RTD beverage space through the creation of a new beverage category, defined by BOMANI’s top-quality ingredients, best-in-class flavor, and innovative branding.

CathWorks, Aliso Viejo
Ramin Moussavi, CEO
Ramin Moussavi has executive leadership and operational experience in general management, marketing, strategy, product development, and commercialization across multiple market segments. He is currently the chief executive officer and a board member at CathWorks. Moussavi was responsible for developing the clinical and commercial strategy for CathWorks—a non-invasive, digital, AI-based medical device solution for identifying coronary artery disease—and is now leading the company’s globally. He helped with the regulatory clearance of the product in Europe, United States and Japan. He also led the company’s Global Health Economic & Reimbursement strategy where the company was successful in receiving reimbursements in the US and Japan. He is leading the way in building an innovative and community-based organization with a mission to provide clinicians with objective data, so they can make the best decisions for their patients.

Codebreaker Technologies, Santa Ana
Chen Tree, CEO
Chen Tree is a best-selling author, professional keynote speaker, and world-renowned entrepreneur. She was the visionary behind, and CEO of Codebreaker Technologies, LLC., with clients in more than 100 countries worldwide. She is the creator of the revolutionary B.A.N.K. methodology and Codebreaker’s sister company, CodebreakerX, which is designed to help business owners close more sales in less time and improve their communication skills and personal relationships. Tree has spoken to hundreds of thousands of entrepreneurs and professionals globally at some of the top business conferences in the world. She has also been invited to speak at Harvard University, the University of California, Google, and the United Nations.

CoverCrow Inc., Huntington Beach
Cassandra Caldarrella, CEO & Founder
Cassandra Caldarrella is the founder and CEO of CoverCrow, Inc., a company that’s devoted to helping fortify the stenography profession by helping to meet the demand for stenography services. She developed and launched CoverCrow, Inc. which is a SaaS platform for court reporters to connect with agencies and attorneys that is transforming engagement and commerce through the proven power of sharing user-generated content. It’s a game changer for the court reporting industry, which dynamically helps attorneys and agencies hire court reporters for their depositions instantly. It is designed to leverage the impact of word-of-mouth networking for job coverage as the richest path to authenticity, new users, and ROI. It’s still a start-up in Beta phase, but it is revolutionizing the industry, even in its infancy.

David Meltzer Enterprises, Lake Forest
David Meltzer, Founder
In addition to his role as founder of David Meltzer Enterprises and Co-founder of S1M, David Meltzer serves as an executive producer and host of 2 Minute Drill, which premiered its second season in June on Bloomberg and Amazon Prime. He also serves as executive producer of Entrepreneur’s show, Elevator Pitch, which recently finished its sixth season and has been extended for at least two more seasons. Elevator Pitch not only empowers entrepreneurs around the world with tools and advice to improve their businesses (and gain investment), but it is ranked as the #1 digital business show and garnered more than 50 million views. In addition to The Playbook, Meltzer also launched daily Instagram Live and Office Hours sessions during the pandemic, providing additional value by interviewing a wide array of entrepreneurs, business leaders, athletes, experts, and academics, to name a few. A television version of the “Office Hours” show will be coming later in 2021, also featured on Bloomberg and Amazon Prime.

Digital Motors, Irvine
Andrews Hinrichs, CEO
Andrews “Andy” Hinrichs is the chief executive officer of Digital Motors and a member of its board of directors. An accomplished entrepreneur and seasoned executive, Hinrichs is the visionary behind AutoGravity, where he built a diverse team of innovators to reinvent car financing for millions of car buyers, and then on to put together another diverse team of innovators to reinvent the automotive retail process as Digital Motors. He and his team launched Digital Motors, a platform which allows auto dealers to offer their customers a complete beginning-to-end online purchasing capability, at the onset of the pandemic, thus providing the perfect tool to meet the restrictions of a stay-at-home economy. Throughout its 25-year financial services career in the U.S., Europe and Asia, Hinrichs has started businesses and led digital initiatives on a global scale.

Edwards Lifesciences, Irvine
Kate Szyman, Corporate Vice President, Clinical Care
Kate Szyman is Edwards Lifesciences’ corporate vice president of Clinical Care, a position she has held since joining the organization in 2015. Szyman has brought a number of products to market during her time at Edwards, including the recently FDA-cleared Acumen Hypotension Prediction Index (HPI) software for use with the Acumen IQ finger cuff. Using
Achieving great things for our community

When someone comes along who has the courage and vision to turn dreams into reality, the future looks brighter for everyone.

We proudly recognize all the Innovator of the Year nominees!

wellsfargo.com

© 2021 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. IHA-7057860
機器學習，The Acumen HPI software alerts clinicians of the likelihood a patient is trending toward hypotension, or low blood pressure. Until now, the software has only been available for patients using an invasive arterial line. In her highly successful career as a medical oncologist, Dr. Cheryan has a long track record of accomplishments. Her most significant business achievement, however, is leading Edwards critical care’s shift to products that support the company’s innovation in Smart Recovery technology—a high-growth area that’s on its way to becoming the largest part of its critical care portfolio. Smart Recovery combines three critical components for hemodynamic monitoring: leading sensor technology, or low blood flow, deep technology backgrounds along with ophthalmology retina surgery scientific congresses. Woodward previously held key positions in manufacturing management, regulatory affairs, and strategic and clinical marketing primarily in the company’s leading surgical heart valve franchise.

Edwards Lifesciences, Irvine
Larry Wood, Corporate Vice President, Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement
Larry L. Wood has served as corporate vice president, Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement officer of Edwards Lifesciences since 2007. He has been responsible for key company R&D, operations, marketing, and commercial, clinical and regulatory initiatives in transcatheter valve replacement around the globe, guiding the program from developmental stages, through global launch and on to tremendous commercial success. Wood has more than 30 years of experience in the providing innovative solutions to prevent wire-fraud, Fin-tech company providing innovative solutions to prevent wire-fraud, I.Suri is the CEO and chairman of FundingShield, a market leader in electronic plan reviews and improving the jobs of reviewers and applicants alike.

e-PlanSoft, Irvine
Michael Chegini, CEO
Michael Chegini is a visionary whose drive to innovate and commitment to improving how public agencies and the AEC industry perform plan reviews led to the foundation of e-PlanSoft. Based in Irvine, Calif., e-PlanSoft is a software company that simplifies how complex products are built and drives the company to lead the way in technology and leading edge advancements in the company’s offerings. Dr. Chegini has over 40 years of practical experience in civil and structural engineering design, design management, program and project management, and construction of buildings and supporting facilities for public transportation agencies, public agencies and public sector. His expertise in the compliance management includes plan review, code analysis, seismic and facility condition assessments and ADA evaluation and design of new and renovation, expansion, improvement, and upgrade designs of all types of building systems. He has diversified experience in all project delivery methods. Under his leadership and vision, the company has been awarded a total of 12 patents, with more under consideration, each representing uncharted territory for electronic plan reviews and improving the jobs of reviewers and applicants alike.

Eyedaptic Inc., Laguna Hills
Jay Cormier, CEO
Jay Cormier is CEO of Eyedaptic, founded in 2012 with the mission of transforming the lives of visually impaired people by making the world a more inclusive place. Cormier’s team has developed software that enables edge devices to “see” what humans can see, enabling people who are blind to enjoy the same everyday tasks like reading a bill or locating an item in the grocery store. His vision drives the company to lead the way in technology and leading edge advancements in the company’s offerings. Dr. Cormier has over 40 years of practical experience in civil and structural engineering design, design management, program and project management, and construction of buildings and supporting facilities for public transportation agencies, public agencies and public sector. His expertise in the compliance management includes plan review, code analysis, seismic and facility condition assessments and ADA evaluation and design of new and renovation, expansion, improvement, and upgrade designs of all types of building systems. He has diversified experience in all project delivery methods. Under his leadership and vision, the company has been awarded a total of 12 patents, with more under consideration, each representing uncharted territory for electronic plan reviews and improving the jobs of reviewers and applicants alike.

Hyperdisk Marketing Inc./ Hooray Agency, Irvine
Nicholas Singer, Chairman of the Board
Nicholas Singer has served to the business visionary, innovator and entrepreneur for over 45 years. Singer is currently the chairman of Hyperdisk Marketing/Hooray Agency in 1994, after recognizing that the digital revolution would change communications forever. He helped pioneer the early digital marketing revolution from SEO, video streaming, advanced interactive displays, to the fully integrated content development and digital distribution. Since 1974, Singer has been developing complex engineering solutions for businesses. Singer was an engineer on multiple classified projects at Summa Corporation. Singer has received over 50 patents some that cover multiple categories from edible packaging to dissolvable packaging for food product and automotive.

iBASEt, Foothill Ranch
Sung Kim, CEO
Sung Kim has both a strong academic and private industry background. His academic background includes being an Adjunct Professor of Computer Science at Chapman University as well as being an Assistant Professor at Wake Forest University. During his nearly 14 years at iBASEt, he has worked his way from being a senior software engineer to CTO and head of product and R&D. At iBASEt, Kim is responsible for providing senior technical direction of the company’s technology and product roadmap. iBASEI is a software company that simplifies how complex products are built and maintained. Founded in Southern California in 1996, iBASEt’s solutions ensure digital continuity across manufacturing, quality, and maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) operations on a global scale. iBASEt’s iSeries, powered by Solumina, is a cloud native platform that establishes a digital ecosystem to drive innovation and improve operational performance. iBASEt customers include Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Rolls Royce, Pratt & Whitney, and Textron.

InBrace, Irvine
John Pham DDS, MS is a researcher, three-time entrepreneur, team builder, former aerospace engineer and practicing orthodontist. His research is featured in numerous cover articles in the American Journal of Orthodontics and the Journal of Clinical Orthodontics, and he frequently speaks on cutting edge technology topics at industry association meetings, orthodontic conferences and residency programs. As CEO and co-founder of InBrace Corp., Dr. Pham is leveraging his years of research and orthodontic practice experience to transform the industry with an invisible, healthy, patient-friendly solution for a great smile. With his mentor, research partner and INBRACE inventor Dr. Hongsheng Tong, the two founded INBRACE in 2012 and incorporated in 2014. By 2018, the company had secured $26 million in venture funding, moved to a new office location in Irvine, tripled manufacturing capacity, and more than doubled our team. Today, Dr. Pham and InBrace are focused on product refinement and infrastructure buildout in preparation for sustainable, long-term growth. Employee headcount has surpassed 90 as INBRACE expands customer acquisition, training, customer support and marketing resources.

Lantern & Scroll, Dana Point
Karen Good, President
Dr. Karen H. Good, Esq. has managed to grow a business organically from a small startup in NC to a multimillion dollar manufacturing, design, and retailer of lighting, with locations in CA, NV, TX and NC. Good started from nothing, armed only with an education, a passion for

Ike Suri, Chairman & CEO
Ike Suri is the CEO and chairman of FundingShield, a market leader in electronic plan reviews and improving the jobs of reviewers and applicants alike.

FundingShield LLC, Newport Beach
Ike Suri, Chairman & CEO
Ike Suri is the CEO and chairman of FundingShield, a market leader in electronic plan reviews and improving the jobs of reviewers and applicants alike.

INBRACE expands customer acquisition, training, customer support and marketing resources.
Solutions at the speed of now

Stradling is proud to help companies across California meet the demands of today’s fast-changing business landscape.

We are a premier business law firm with 110+ lawyers in 12 Western U.S. locations. Top companies and municipalities count on us for the right team and skills to meet their toughest challenges 24/7, 365 days a year.

Learning Ovations Inc., Irvine
Jay Connor, Founder & CEO
Joseph Connor is the founder/CEO of Learning Ovations. Their featured product, A2O Assessment to Instruction, supports teachers and administrators in achieving reading outcomes for all children. It has a consistent outcome in numerous clinical trials of children reading at 5th grade level at the end of 3rd grade. Learning Ovations has the commercialization/technology transfer role, in partnership with the US Department of Education, National Institutes of Health, Florida Center for Reading Research, and the University of California - Irvine, in expanding the use of A2O, an ESSA “strong evidence” research-based technology to districts across North America. This recognition of the need to develop tools to achieve transformative outcomes in community systems was a driving consideration in his founding of The Collaboratory for Community Solutions. The research findings from over 75 communities are found in his book, published spring 2003 (second edition 2005) by Wilder Press - Community Visions, Community Systems was a driving consideration in his founding of The Collaboratory for Community Solutions.

LogiUP, Newport Beach
Tom Finn, Co-Founder & CEO
Tom Finn, co-founder and CEO of LogiUP, a professional coaching and employee wellbeing platform created for enterprises of all sizes, possesses a wealth of experience in employee benefits, insurance market trends, development and revenue strategies, central to the company’s unique positioning as the first professional development platform packaged as an employee benefit. Driven by Finn’s vision of making career development and employee development programs easy and scalable, LogiUP seamlessly integrates world-class coaches and therapists, proprietary science-backed assessment and ROI data into one easy-to-use platform. Finn is the thought leader/brain trust behind Talent Insurance™ providing professional coaching for a fraction of the price to small group employers across the US. Since launching in late 2017, LogiUP has helped thousands unlock employee potential and supported the expanded role of HR leaders turning their attention back towards people and culture development.

Loadstop, Irvine
Omer Cheema, Co-Founder & COO
Omer Cheema is a serial entrepreneur with emerging technologies experience in logistics, healthcare, government, education and technology domains. Cheema has led various technology and product departments for fortune 500 organizations, including Kaiser Permanente, UCI, One Call, Harbor Health Systems, LoadStop Technologies. He is also sits as chief strategy advisor to Adloads Technologies and Board member of WCM Ventures. Currently Cheema is a COO and co-founder of Loadstop.com. Loadstop is a Saas-based TMS (Transportation Management System) Technology start up for Logistics industry that went into production in 2020. This is the time when COVID 19 hit the globe. Yet, this did not stop him from utilizing his entrepreneur skills and valuable network with his co-founder team to acquire success and get the traction going. They achieve $1 million ARR in the first year. This was by far a huge and significant accomplishment ever.

Loan Administration Network Inc., Irvine
Charlene Nichols, CEO
LANI (Loan Administration Network, Inc.) is a specialty staffing company formed in 1992 and provides staffing services to Banks, mortgage companies, credit unions, title and escrow companies, healthcare, IT, and insurance industries. LANI’s CEO has 29 years of service in the financial industry.

Matregeen, Irvine
Shervin Solaimani, CEO
Matregeen, Inc. utilizes a proprietary platform technology to design, develop, and manufacture highly tunable nanofiber materials applicable to a diverse set of industries that includes biomedical, filtration, and energy. The company is integrated with a strong IP portfolio and a team of experts in material science. Matregeen relocated its operations from Boston in 2018 to Irvine. The company has been focusing since then on developing innovative products based on their nanofiber platform technology and expanding its manufacturing capacity to deliver these next generation nanofiber products at scale. The company has bootstrapped and self-sustained through the revenue generated from the material sales. To date, Matregeen has leveraged its nanofiber platform technology to develop various products for multiple applications, including: mental health, cosmetic masks, wound healing patches, tissue engineering scaffolds, air filters, water filters, dental barrier membranes, and membranes for lithium-ion batteries.

MeridianLink, Costa Mesa
Tim Nguyen, Co-Founder & Chief Strategy Officer
Tim Nguyen founded MeridianLink to provide technology solutions that level the playing field across the financial sector. These solutions have successfully disrupted the status quo in the financial services industry, allowing credit unions and banks the ability to offer products and services to compete with larger financial institutions. Nguyen’s leadership and vision have helped established MeridianLink as the leading loan origination software provider for mid-market financial institutions and also consumer reporting agencies who provide credit data to help consumers looking to get a mortgage, find employment or find an apartment. He co-founded MeridianLink to transform the financial industry and has experienced a track record of continual growth and expansion. He combines an entrepreneurial spirit with a keen focus on execution; blending his experience in building high-performing teams, operational efficiency, and bringing new products and services to market.

M Mazmo Corporation DBA InnoCaption, Buena Park
Joseph Lee, Founder & CEO
Joseph Lee is the founder and co-CEO of InnoCaption, a mobile app development company that provides real-time captioning of calls for the deaf and hard of hearing community. InnoCaption was founded in 2007 and officially launched public service in 2016 after a lengthy R&D and stringent FCC certification process. InnoCaption is at the forefront of modernizing telecommunications accessibility for the deaf and hard of hearing community through its mobile app, which empowers users to choose between captions generated by best-in-class automated speech recognition technology or live stenographers. InnoCaption currently serves over ten thousand users and is seeing rapid growth with the adoption of smartphones across all age groups and demographics.

MobiLabs, Irvine
Fabian Battaglia, CEO
Fabian Battaglia is 35-year tech veteran that is quickly building Orange County’s next great tech company that is accelerating the deployment and adoption of True5G mmWave wireless networks. MobiLabs has had rapid growth throughout the last year, recently closing $12.5 million in new funding during a pandemic, a testament to the company’s current and future value proposition. In just a short time since the company was founded, Battaglia has established an impressive board of directors that include James J. Petersen, former CEO and chairman of Microsemi Corporation as chairman; David J. Alchier, former chairman of the board of Skyworks Solutions, Inc.; Kurt Busch, CEO of Santant, Bill Carpou, CEO of Octane; and Rick Goerner, former IP marketing and sales at Microsemi Corporation. In addition to these achievements, MobiLabs has announced a growing list of global distributors including a Richardson RFPD, Aecom and the Nizing Group that will help bring their True5G wireless solution to customers worldwide.

Naturade, Irvine
Claude Tells, CEO
Claude Tells currently serves as CEO of Naturade, a lower middle market nutraceutical company, that he owns through his family office, Towerview. Tells led Naturade to expansion into all 59 Costco Wholesale Clubs in Southern California as of July 2021. Naturade is the first Black-owned company in this plant-based nutrition category sold at Costco. In addition, he co-founded, operated and sold Healthy Body Products, a healthy beverages company. Tells originated, structured and closed a $55 million deal with Pepsi before selling the company.

Nextworks Strategy Division of ENP Institute, Irvine
Scott Hamilton, CEO
Scott Hamilton is a well-known thought leader, advisor & keynote speaker in the field of strategy & innovation for Global 5000 through mid-market companies. In his prior role as a corporate level executive, he led key strategy, operations, human resources and organization effectiveness roles for such companies as Nestle, Bergen Brunswig, Honeywell, ARAMARK, Golden State Foods & DirecTV. Today Hamilton and his team of Nextworks Strategy Advisors provide powerful leadership and organizational programs focused on strategic planning & execution, ideation & innovation methods, DEI programs, ROI performance management improvement and the pioneering use of ‘collective intelligence’ for aligned results. Hamilton is also CEO of the Executive Next Practices Institute, one of the regions largest enterprise level research, innovation & investor organizations that is based at UCI Beall Applied Innovation.

Nguyen Tarbet LLC, Irvine
Quan Nguyen, Patent Attorney
Quan Nguyen is a seasoned Patent Attorney and a Founding Partner at Nguyen Tarbet Intellectual Property LLC (NTIP). NTIP protects innovation through securing patents and helping to commercialize products for publicly traded companies, corporations, universities, investors, and entrepreneurs. NTIP also has a special Division dedicated to the success of Startup companies in Orange County. For many years, NTIP Startup Division has worked closely with UCI Beall Applied Innovation, and a number of community industry leaders in the Startup space, to provide the most comprehensive support for Startups. This support includes guiding CEOs of emerging companies to effectively demonstrate and communicate the value of their innovations. Further, NTIP Startup Division has directly facilitated investments of millions of dollars in Andrews Venture Capital for Startups in Orange County. Notably, NTIP Startup Division was instrumental in the formation of the Orange County MedTech Investment Group within the Tech Coast Angels. Through empowering the Startups for success, NTIP has helped strengthen the entrepreneurial culture in Southern California and has contributed to making Orange County a destination for entrepreneurship.
SOME OF THE GREATEST IDEAS START HERE.

Celebrating our 10th Anniversary, Maschoff Brennan provides legal counsel and representation to some of the world’s most innovative companies. With over 45 attorneys and offices in the technology-focused regions of California and Utah, our attorneys are known for having the breadth of experience and the forward-thinking insight needed to handle complex technological and business issues across all industries and geographic boundaries. We look forward to many more years of meeting new litigation and intellectual property-related challenges and continuing to represent our clients with the dedication and creativity they have come to expect.
CONGRATULATIONS TO
RAMIN MOUSAVI
ON HIS NOMINATION
FOR THE OC BUSINESS
JOURNAL INNOVATOR OF
THE YEAR AWARD.

CEO of
CATHWORKS

“I am honored to lead CathWorks, a company with a transformational product portfolio, exceptionally talented people, and committed investors and strategic partners.” —Ramin Mousavi

Under Ramin’s leadership, CathWorks is well-positioned for the next phase of technological innovation, market adoption and global growth.

CathWorks’ revolutionary non-invasive FFRangio system has the potential to become standard of care, optimizing treatment decisions and improving outcomes for patients with coronary artery disease around the world.
excellence at every opportunity for the benefit of their clients. They aligned themselves with top notch, like-minded individuals who strived to be innovative and create distinction. Seven Gables defined themselves by creating a culture that ultimately became the standard bearer of the business. Through Mike Hickman’s innovative direction and leadership, Seven Gables’ creative spirit is as alive and vibrant as it was when they first opened their doors. In 2020, Seven Gables created an exclusive, game-changing service for the industry of real estate. The exclusive program, SG Certified, was designed to benefit both home buyers and sellers. For everyone involved, the SG Certified program allows for a stress-free process through transparency. It lays out all of the facts up front which in turn eliminates surprises and paves the way for a smooth transaction.

ShopGoodwill.com, Santa Ana
Ryan Smith, Senior Director of Operations
Shopgoodwill.com is the first ecommerce auction platform created, owned and operated by a nonprofit organization. The site was designed here in Orange County by Goodwill of Orange County in 1999 to provide an engaging online shopping destination that would further the Goodwill mission of putting people to work. Today, more than 125 Goodwill organizations from across the country list and auction unique items on the site, including art, antiques, collectibles, apparel, jewelry, electronics, and more. All revenue from these auction sales fund Goodwill’s life-changing programs and services for people with disabilities and other barriers. More than $1 billion in online sales have been generated on shopgoodwill.com since its launch — and half of that, $500 million, came in just the last three years. shopgoodwill.com is receiving more than 21 million unique page views each week, and currently has more than 2.4 million registered customers. Last year, the site saw nearly 25 percent growth in sales over the previous year with $171.3 million in sales.

Smart Cups, Mission Viejo
Chris Kanik, Founder & CEO
Smart Cups launched on December 11, 2017. In 2018, The Additive Advantage, the mother company that held the patents, was acquired by International Flavors and Fragrances. Smart Cups licensed their intellectual property to The Ranch Companies, founded by Mike Tyson, allowing them to print ingestible THC and CBD with a high degree of accuracy, solving dosage issues that plague the industry. The waterless nature of Smart Cups Technology significantly reduces the resources needed to transport products from the manufacturer to the consumer, and can solve sustainability issues across manufacturing verticals. An upgraded machine will arrive this fall, allowing Smart Cups to print on the sidewalls of plant-based bioplastic cups, increasing production tenfold by printing on 16 cups per second. The new machine will allow the expanded use of Smart Cups Technology, with broad implications for a myriad of industries, including pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, cleaning supplies, and more. For example, consumers could buy eco-friendly cups with printed mouthwash, where they would just have to add water to activate the ingredients and be ready for use. The technology allows companies to print and ship at a liquid volume of over 600% when compared to traditional aluminum cans, making it possible for more products to be shipped at a time and minimizing the weight of each unit.

Smart Energy Water (SEW), Irvine
Deepak Garg, Founder & CEO
Deepak Garg is the Founder and CEO of Smart Energy Water (SEW). A thought leader and industry stalwart, Garg is leading product and technology development, innovation, vision, strategy, and leadership at SEW. Over the years, he has brought together like-minded people, developing high powered business and technology teams, and started a SEW family (now 1000+ strong) that aims to connect billions of people with their energy and water providers. These teams have successfully created the #1 Digital Customer Experience, Digital Workforce Experience, Smart AI/ML Analytics Platforms that address key business challenges and power the sustainability movement. All the SEW platforms leverage next-gen technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, IoT to power customer and workforce experiences. Backing on scalability, modularity, flexibility, and security, SEW clients deliver award-wining experiences and set new benchmarks for the industry. Driven by Garg’s stellar vision, SEW has navigated 22+ geographies to serve energy and utility companies, connecting 700+ Mt people and serving 2000 Smart Cities/communities. Garg is also noted Member and Contributor of the Forbes Technology Council.

Smart Health Clubs, Irvine
Praveen Kashyap, CEO
Praveen Kashyap is an inventor, engineer and an entrepreneur in a relentless pursuit of simplicity. He is a global software and App development leader talented at maturing innovation from concept to high quality products and services that generate remarkable customer experiences. He has a master’s in mechanical engineering and PhD in Computer Science. As a global innovator, Kashyap is a holder of over 20 US and International patents and has led projects resulting in 70+ US and international patents. In 2018, Kashyap founded Smart Health Clubs in association with Mike Apart CEO The Claremont Club to build the Integrated Wellness Platform for Health Clubs. Our vision is to merge Healthcare with Fitness to enable Health Clubs to provide holistic wellness solutions to all of their members, but especially “at risk” and chronically ill populations. By 2021, this
Talent Insurance™

Utilizing data-driven science, people assessments, and professional and mental health coaching, Talent Insurance from LeggUP is a one-size-fits-one preventative mental health solution available as an employee benefit.

Add Talent Insurance to your company’s benefit package

All eligible employees match with a professional coach, receiving 6 sessions per plan year

Customize coaching programs from our library of Wellbeing & Productivity topics

Organizational leaders track utilization & measure success from aggregated results

www.leggup.com
platform was deployed in over 100 Health Club locations, nine of them are in the top 85 Clubs in the US, with over 100k active users per month.

Sonics, Irvine
Jay Shao, Founder & CEO
Jay Shao is the founder and CEO of Sonics, an on-demand grocery delivery app that provides a one-stop mobile shopping experience and direct door-to-door delivery of fresh foods, supplies, and services. Launched in April 2020, Sonics is an efficient, cost-saving mobile marketplace built on a proprietary platform, that is reshaping the connections between the wholesalers and the consumers by minimizing the cost of products and maximizing the functionality of the existing facility of our suppliers. Working closely with local farmers and nationwide distributors, Sonics has eliminated the middle parties, allowing customers to receive groceries that are more fresh and less expensive in a more convenient way. Modeled on the popular Chinese universal app platforms Meituan, Ele.me, and Alibaba, Sonics is a service platform capable of meeting a multitude of shoppers’ needs from the comfort of their Smartphone. Door-to-door grocery deliveries, services, customized solutions, and provisions are currently available to consumers living in Orange County and Los Angeles County. Plans to expand the Sonics+ one-stop mobile shopping experience across California are in play for 2021, and long-term plans are to grow the platform nationally, and then internationally.

Specright Inc., Tuslın
Matthew Wright, Founder & CEO
Matthew Wright is not just a CEO, but a true innovator. After working in the packaging industry for over 20 years, he decided to solve the problems he experienced firsthand by starting Specright. In doing so, he’s raised tens of millions of dollars and created a new category of enterprise software - all without a background in technology. In a few short years, he has transformed the way companies like Johnson & Johnson, Thermo Fisher, Albertsons and Procter & Gamble manage their critical product and packaging data. His innovation and vision is enabling these companies to report on sustainability, bring products to market faster, ensure the quality and safety of things we touch or consume every day. Wright is a leading operator and executive in the packaging and software industries. Under his leadership and with his vision, Specright has been recognized as a Gartner Cool Vendor, a distinction reserved for the world’s most innovative companies. Salesforce, arguably one of the most successful software companies of all time, named Specright the winner of its inaugural Platform Innovation award. He has held leadership positions at National Paper, Temple Inland, and rightPAQ—a packaging company he co-founded.

Stretto, Irvine
Jonathan Carson & Eric Kurtzman, Co-CEOs
Stretto is an efficient, cost-saving mobile marketplace built on a proprietary platform, that is reshaping the connections between the wholesalers and the consumers by minimizing the cost of products and maximizing the functionality of the existing facility of our suppliers. Working closely with local farmers and nationwide distributors, Sonics has eliminated the middle parties, allowing customers to receive groceries that are more fresh and less expensive in a more convenient way. Modeled on the popular Chinese universal app platforms Meituan, Ele.me, and Alibaba, Sonics is a service platform capable of meeting a multitude of shoppers’ needs from the comfort of their Smartphone. Door-to-door grocery deliveries, services, customized solutions, and provisions are currently available to consumers living in Orange County and Los Angeles County. Plans to expand the Sonics+ one-stop mobile shopping experience across California are in play for 2021, and long-term plans are to grow the platform nationally, and then internationally.

Tarsus Pharmaceuticals, Irvine
Carson Lappetito, President
Carson Lappetito serves as president and director of Tarsus Pharmaceuticals, an entrepreneurial regional business bank headquartered in Irvine, CA with operations across the Western US. He also serves as president and director of his parent company, H Bancorp. Prior to the formation of H Bancorp, he served as vice president of Hovde Private Equity Advisors where he was responsible for analyzing and valuing investment opportunities as well as assisting portfolio companies with M&A, operational strategy, investment management and ALCO. Prior to H Bancorp, Mr. Lappetito was also assistant portfolio manager for Hovde Capital Advisors, a long/short hedge fund focused on investing in the financial services sector. Mr. Lappetito continues to be an active investor numerous companies at various stages of their growth and currently serves on the board of the financial technology company, Nectova. Mr. Lappetito graduated from Bates College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and Political Science with a minor in Mandarin Chinese.

Tarsus Pharmaceuticals, Irvine
Leo Greenstein, CFO
Leo Greenstein has more than 20 years of business and finance experience with life science companies. Since joining Tarsus in April 2020, he has been instrumental in leading the company through its successful IPO, its rapid corporate and operational build-out, and the completion of a strategic commercialization partnership for its lead product candidate in Greater China. Mr. Greenstein thoughtfully guided Tarsus in completing its October 2020
Taxes are Inevitable. Your Tax Debt Is Not.

Trusted, Licensed, and Acclaimed Tax Professionals

Thousands of taxpayers choose TaxRise every month to resolve their tax issues and gain the financial freedom they deserve. Our tax experts assist with:

- Business Tax Debt
- Personal Tax Debt
- Audit Protection
- Tax Preparation
- Penalty Abatement
- Bank Levy Release
- Wage Garnishment Release
- Tax Lien Release
- Resolution Preparation
- Resolution Negotiation

Receive a Complimentary Tax Consultation Today

Call 949-649-4561
or visit www.taxrise.com

We are not guaranteeing that your IRS or state tax debt will be lowered by a specific amount or percentage or that your tax debt will be paid off within a specific time period. Individual results will vary based on circumstances, including your ability to provide TaxRise Inc. with information that is accurate and timely. We do not assume tax debt, provide credit repair services, make monthly payments to creditors or provide tax, bankruptcy, accounting or legal advice. Read and understand all program materials prior to enrollment, including any potential adverse effect on credit rating. Not available in all states. Speak to a TaxRise representative for details.

© Copyright 2021 TaxRise™
unprecedented material traceability and insight into ways to improve yield, quality, safety, reducing warranty reserves for quality and safety issues. ThinkIQ, Aliso Viejo

Doug Lawson, CEO

Douglas Lawson has founded, built and sold multiple software startups in the Industrials Sector. His understanding of customer challenges and his leadership creating innovative products to meet those challenges is widely respected in the industry. The products from his startups are used in nearly 3 billion square meters globally. Personal on a local level ThinkIQ is the logical culmination of his career and, as CEO, he is intentionally creating a company that will have global impact, delivering enormous value to its customers, creating safer, better and trustable products with a uniquely compressed timeline of four months from the time of the IPO organizational meeting to its first day trading on the NASDAQ as “TARS”. The IPO proceeds of $100 million provided Tarsus with the necessary resources to advance its product development pipeline and to hire top local OC talent for critical R&D, marketing, and administrative roles.

Titan Health & Security Technologies Inc., Newport Beach

Vic Merjanian, Founder & CEO

Vic Merjanian is founder and CEO of Titan Health & Security Technologies, a tech company dedicated to making the world a safer place. Titan HST provides integrated software and hardware solutions to all sectors ranging from sports & entertainment, to hospitality, defense, and healthcare. Designed to provide immediate, accessible, reliable and comprehensive 2-way mass communication, Titan HST’s patented technology reduces response times by an average of 50% - and allows for continued communication even when networks are down. Empowering clients with Titan HST’s next-gen technology allows them to minimize damage to property, injury and most importantly loss of life during emergencies. Amid the widespread COVID-19 pandemic, Merjanian has continued to innovate. The launch of Titan HST’s COVID-19 safety features is helping organizations reopen and stay open, while at the same time reducing the spread of infection through a customizable health pre-screen, 2-level contract tracing, population density monitoring, sanitation confirmation, and asset tracking.

TMC Hospitality, Irvine

Philip Bates, CEO & Co-Founder

Philip Bates is the co-founder and CEO of TMC Hospitality. Under his leadership, TMC Hospitality is a forward-thinking hotel development and management company focused on elevating hospitality from a service to an experience through strategic development, investment, and brand creation. The company is a leader in social group travel with two hotel brands, Bode and DRIFT, and has invested in and/or managed over $200 million of hospitality projects. Bode, with two locations in Nashville and Chattanooga and plans for a third location in Palm Springs, redefines traditional travel by creating flexible spaces that expertly blend the style of vacation rental homes with the comforts and conveniences of a boutique hotel, while DRIFT, with openings in San Jose Del Cabo, Santa Barbara and Nashville on the horizon, is a modern and minimalist hotel concept for independent travelers that values adventure and culture with space, but intentional details and amenities. Both brands emphasize social group travel and innovative technology, such as mobile check-in and digital concierge to make the guest experience seamless.

Travel, Entertainment, and Marketing, Newport Beach

Mike Olivas, CEO

TEAM has earned a niche in the national Group Travel industry, three years after its inception team what Nationwide offering Group Travel for services for college groups across North America. Since 2017 team has been working on a Next Level Innovative and now patent pending approach to Group Travel, for the first time group travel/tours for the company will be fully automated, with an amazing crowdfunding and social platform. Beta to release in July of 2021. The words “Group & travel” were the most negative words since the world came to a halt in March of 2020. TEAM had to give refunds, travel credits and unfortunately downsize its Company by over 85%. TEAM had over $3million booked in travel for the spring of 2019, but out of resilience CEO and founder Mike Olivas negotiated each agreement with clients, hotels, and venues and was able to stay very profitable during a non-travel year and in the spring of 2020 creatively found a way for only a 40% drop on revenues by researching and targeting those states and destinations who were able to travel.

TurnKey Beauty Inc., and Vincenzo Skincare LLC, Capistrano Beach

Vince Spinato, President & CEO

Cosmetic chemist and “certified nose,” Vince Spinato is the go-to expert in beauty product development, with a career spanning over 25 years in the personal care, cosmetic and fine fragrance industries. As president & CEO of TurnKey Beauty, VS Vincenzo Ltd., and Vincenzo Skincare, Spinato has formulated and developed hundreds of products for skin and hair care, color cosmetics, bath & body and fine fragrances as well as baby and pet products. His newest luxury product under the Vincenzo Skincare brand, is Caviar & Diamond. A cosmetics and beauty industry expert, Spinato has been at the helm refining and developing cutting-edge technology, as well as FDA-approved ingredients for over 300 brands for the private sector and retail companies, including Chanel, Estee Lauder, MAC, Victoria Secret, Bath & Body Works, Gap/Banana Republic and more. He’s developed fragrances and beauty products for celebrities including Jennifer Lopez, Gwen Stefani, Carrie Underwood, Victoria Beckham, Seth MacFarlane, Jessica Simpson, Michael Jordan, and Lindsay Lohan, among others.

UCI Health Digestive Health Institute, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, University of California, Irvine School of Medicine, Orange

Kenneth J. Chang, MD, Executive Director

Dr. Kenneth Chang is a board-certified UC Irvine Health internist and gastroenterologist who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of gastrointestinal diseases related to esophageal and gastrointestinal disorders. Chang’s clinical research focuses on development of endoscopic modalities for cancer and pre-cancer diagnosis, staging and therapy. He pioneered the development of endoscopic ultrasound guided fine-needle aspiration and EUS-guided fine-needle injection. He is the author of more than 470 publications and book chapters in the techniques use in gastrointestinal malignancies. He has conducted numerous clinical trials on the development of new biologic agents for esophageal and pancreatic cancers. Most recently his clinical research focus has been on endoscopic management of GERD, and obesity and fatty liver. Chang completed his medical degree and residency at
Brown University. He then completed a fellowship in gastroenterology at UCI Medical Center and the UCI School of Medicine, where he has been a faculty member for more than 25 years. He is director of the UCI Vaccine Research Development Center, the Protein Microarray Laboratory and Training Facility, Irvine. He is also director of the UCI Vaccine Research and Development Center, the Protein Microarray Laboratory and Training Facility. His research program measures immunity induced by infection, and identifies vaccine antigens. He has been active in understanding the progression of the COVID-19 outbreak in Orange County and the efficacy of the mRNA vaccines. Dr. Felgner joined the UCI Irvine faculty in 2002 after two decades in the biotechnology industry, including founding Vical Inc. in San Diego based on his discovery of DNA vaccines where he served as chief scientific officer. He discovered and developed Lipofection🊀 DNA and RNA transfection technology in 1985, the most widely used approach for introducing nucleic acid into cultured cells. This work preceded the development of lipid nanoparticles (LNP) in the first mRNA vaccines from Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna. Based on this and related efforts, his work has been recognized worldwide. Dr. Felgner was most recently awarded Spain’s prestigious Princess of Asturias Award for Technical and Scientific Research to acknowledge his contributions to designing COVID-19 vaccines.

Vantis Institute, Newport Beach

Jess Oslo, Co-Founder & Clinical Director

Jessica Oslo, MA is the clinical director and founder partner of Vantis Institute. She is highly regarded within the medical community for her artistry and aesthetic expertise expressed through her Vantis Follicle Replication™ (FR™) and VFR™. VFR™ is a patent-pending and proprietary hair density treatment that aesthetically replicates each patient’s biological hair follicles. The treatment is a permanent solution that gives patience the appearance of a thicker, fuller head of hair without surgery or downtime. Oslo also has extensive experience camouflaging severe scarring and stretch marks.

VoteApp, Orange

Daniel Stanton, CEO

Daniel Stanton is a 22-year technology industry veteran and the founder and CEO of Level 2 Designs Inc., a technology solutions firm providing IT, development, and security services to companies in SoCal and the world. VoteApp is revolutionizing voting with the most secure, convenient, and trustworthy system in history. By harnessing the power of Blockchain, patent-pending Vote App gives anyone who has a stake in the election the power to verify votes and election results while ensuring privacy and security. Stanton is a graduate of Cal State Fullerton with a degree in Business Information Systems. He was also involved in the college’s entrepreneurship program where he successfully launched one of the early offsite backup solutions. Stanton has a broad range of technology knowledge, from data center infrastructure and cyber security to application development.

Westcliff University, Irvine

Dr. Anthony Lee, President & CEO

Dr. Anthony Lee is the president of Westcliff University in Irvine, Calif., one of the fastest growing universities in the U.S., going from less than 100 students in 2015 to over 3,300 students in 2021. Dr. Lee has served leadership positions across numerous universities and schools in the U.S. and internationally. In these roles, he has successfully led schools through the accreditation process at the university and K-12 levels. With expertise in innovative online and hybrid programs, Dr. Lee has launched new programs infusing and integrating technology with traditional campus-based classes for an enhanced learning experience. He is a proven leader in many critical areas within higher education including marketing, finance, operations, compliance and accreditation.

Dr. Lee has been a globally recognized innovator in higher education. In 2009, while most online schools were approaching education as an asynchronous experience, he pioneered live online teaching, both nationally and globally, to combine the convenience of studying remotely with the value of live interactions between students and faculty. This approach provided students and faculty from around the world the opportunity to learn from and with one another in real-time in the classroom. Students representing 97 different countries now study and learn together at Westcliff University.

WhiskerCloud, Newport Beach

Adam Greenbaum, CEO

Adam Greenbaum launched WhiskerCloud in 2016 with a dream of modernizing the veterinary industry. Today, thousands of veterinary professionals worldwide trust WhiskerCloud to make their lives easier. With secure cloud hosting and custom designs, WhiskerCloud makes it easier for pet parents to find quality veterinarians, book appointments, and complete forms quickly and easily. In 2016, WhiskerCloud was named a Top 50 Company to Watch in Denver, CO, and named one of the fastest growing universities in the U.S., going from less than 100 students in 2015 to over 3,300 students in 2021. Dr. Lee has served leadership positions across numerous universities and schools in the U.S. and internationally. In these roles, he has successfully led schools through the accreditation process at the university and K-12 levels. With expertise in innovative online and hybrid programs, Dr. Lee has launched new programs infusing and integrating technology with traditional campus-based classes for an enhanced learning experience. He is a proven leader in many critical areas within higher education including marketing, finance, operations, compliance and accreditation.

Dr. Lee has been a globally recognized innovator in higher education. In 2009, while most online schools were approaching education as an asynchronous experience, he pioneered live online teaching, both nationally and globally, to combine the convenience of studying remotely with the value of live interactions between students and faculty. This approach provided students and faculty from around the world the opportunity to learn from and with one another in real-time in the classroom. Students representing 97 different countries now study and learn together at Westcliff University.

WhiskerCloud, Newport Beach

Adam Greenbaum, CEO

Adam Greenbaum launched WhiskerCloud in 2016 with a dream of modernizing the veterinary industry. Today, thousands of veterinary professionals worldwide trust WhiskerCloud to make their lives easier. With secure cloud hosting and custom designs, WhiskerCloud makes it easier for pet parents to find quality veterinarians, book appointments, and complete forms quickly and easily. In 2016, WhiskerCloud was named a Top 50 Company to Watch in Denver, CO, and named one of the hottest startup launches of the year. Since then, WhiskerCloud has added multiple products and product offerings to its lineup to bring more technology to veterinary hospitals. In 2021, WhiskerCloud was named a top 21 website design company in the United States and the only company on the list solely dedicated to veterinary medicine.