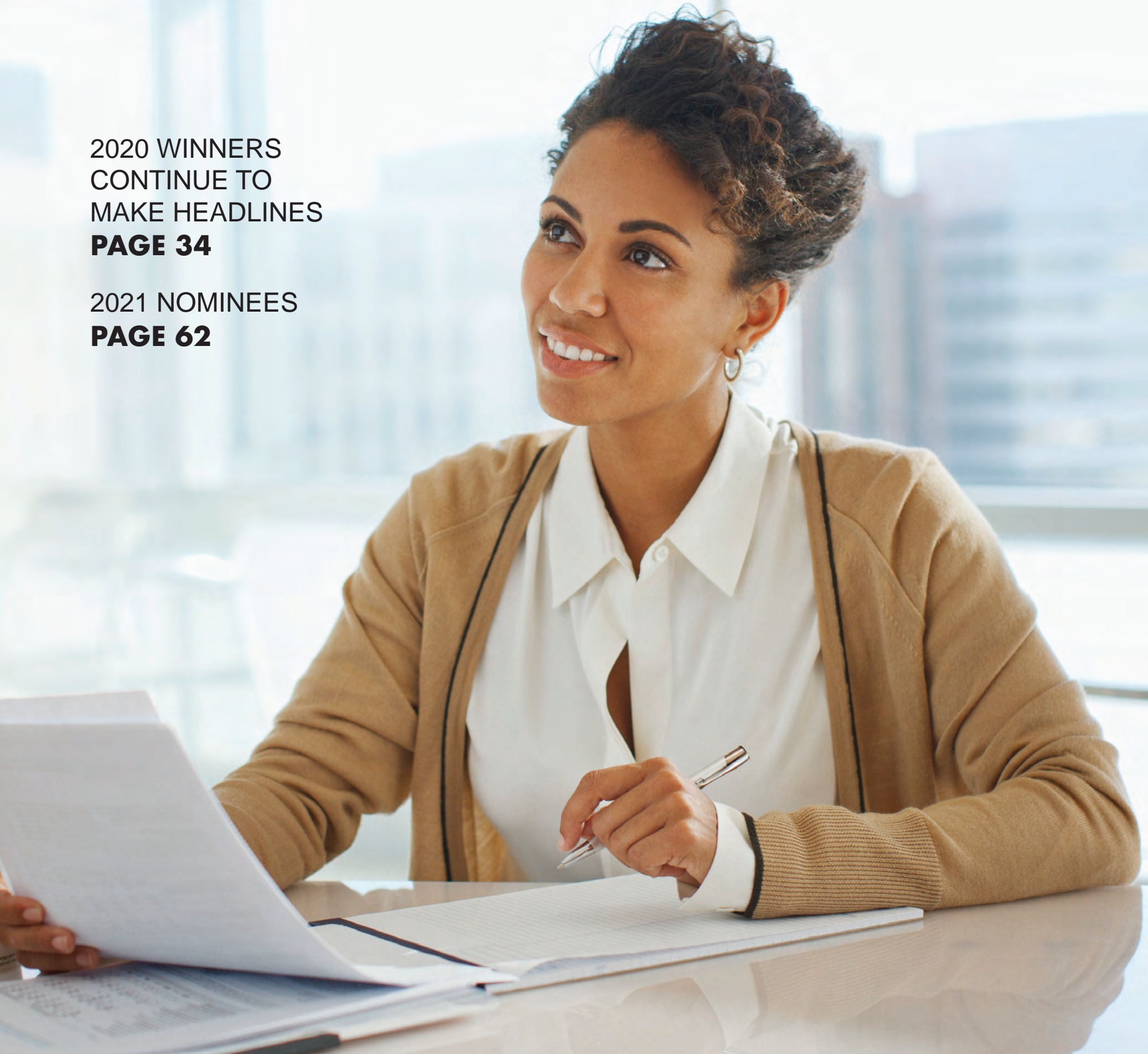


An Orange County Business Journal Special Report

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

2020 WINNERS
CONTINUE TO
MAKE HEADLINES
PAGE 34

2021 NOMINEES
PAGE 62



Diamond Sponsor

J.P.Morgan

Platinum Sponsors



City of
Hope

ORANGE
COUNTY



COX
BUSINESS

FIVEPOINT

UnionBank
A member of MUFG, a global financial group

WELLS
FARGO

Silver Sponsors

CITY NATIONAL BANK
AN RBC COMPANY

girl scouts
of orange county

INGRAM
MICRO

WISE
WOMEN INVESTING IN
SECURITY AND EDUCATION

Women in Business Winners Had a Year to Talk About

Involved With Twitter, COVID, Baseball, Soccer

■ By PETER J. BRENNAN

The six winners of last year's Women in Business awards, held virtually in October 2020, won verdicts, accepted new jobs, retired and even created a minor baseball controversy.

This year's event, which will be keynoted by prior winner **Patty Arvielo**, co-founder and president of **New American Funding**, takes place on Oct. 28 at the **Marriott Irvine**. It's the Business Journal's 27th edition of the event.

Expect a slate of newsmakers from the next crop of honorees. In the meantime, here's an update on last year's winners, many of whom continue to make headlines:

Libby Duane Adams: An Advocacy Job

Chief Customer Officer **Olivia "Libby"**



Libby Adams
Chief Advocacy Officer
Alteryx

Duane Adams, who co-founded **Alteryx Inc.** in 1997, in December stepped into a different role at the Irvine data analytics firm—chief advocacy officer.

She's now focusing on "strengthening upskilling efforts for customers to enable a culture of analytics, scaling the presence of Alteryx in academia and furthering diversity and inclusion in the technology space."

It's been a year of change for Alteryx (NYSE: AYY), the most valuable Orange County-based software company.

Adams' fellow co-founder **Dean Stoecker** stepped down as chief executive last October, taking the executive chairman role. He was succeeded as CEO by Silicon Valley veteran **Mark Anderson**.

The rate of sales growth at the firm has slowed and during the past year, shares have fallen in half to \$75 and a \$5 billion market cap; it's still far above its 2017 IPO price of \$14 a share.

Adams is one of the few female founders of a technology company that has successfully gone public. According to the latest company's proxy, Adams owns more than 1 million shares worth about \$75 million.

It ranked No. 9 on this year's Business Journal list of largest public companies by market valuation.

Adams was also a nominee for the Business Journal's 2021 **Innovator of the Year Award**, which were announced last week (see story, page 4).

"When co-founding Alteryx 24 years ago, the focus is always on our amazing customers and the analytics community to diversify workforces, upskill people talent and offer meaningful business outcomes with data," she posted on LinkedIn. "Thrilled to see the work continue and thrive."

Deidre Pujols: A Baseball Saga

Nonprofit leader **Deidre Pujols** created headlines in the baseball world in February when she posted on social media that this might be the last season for her husband, **Major League Baseball** future Hall of Famer **Albert Pujols**.

"Today is the first day of the last season of one of the most remarkable careers in sports," Deidre wrote in her original post. "I'm talking about my husband @albertpujols who since the time he was a child would eat, sleep and breathe this sport. I have had

the privilege to walk out 23 years of this baseball journey and it is with such a full heart that I speak a blessing over him as he finishes this good race!"

She later clarified that this was the final season of his 10-year, \$240 million contract with the **Los Angeles Angels**. In May, Albert Pujols' career with the Angels ended abruptly as they released the future Hall of Famer.

Angel owner **Arte Moreno** praised Deidre, as well as Albert when that took place.

"Since his Rookie of the Year Season in 2001, Albert and his wife Deidre have generously given their time and resources to countless charities throughout the world," Moreno said in a statement. "We are thankful to the entire Pujols Family."

Deidre Pujols is a big hitter in her own right, as the founder of three nonprofit organizations with local ties.

It started with the **Pujols Family Foundation** in 2005, a nonprofit that's largely dedicated to helping individuals with Down syndrome, which her family has personal experience with. The foundation kept busy with events every month this past year, including a sign language beginner program and adult music therapy.

In 2016, Deidre formed **Strike Out Slavery**, an initiative that aims to raise awareness of human trafficking.

"The New Year gives me new hope for a healthy, productive 2021, and for the progress we stand to make in the fight against modern-day slavery," she wrote on the foundation's website in January. "Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. It involves the illegal trade of human beings, many of whom are among society's most vulnerable."

Her third nonprofit, **Open Gate International**, was formed to train people coming out of trafficking situations in culinary arts and hospitality, two personal passions of Pujols. It's now operating in four international countries, such as teaching culinary classes and holding training events.

As for Albert, he didn't have to travel far for his newest team. He was picked up in May by the **Los Angeles Dodgers** and last month hit a home run against his former team.

Talya Nevo-Hacohen: COVID Insights

Talya Nevo-Hacohen, chief investment officer of real estate investment trust **Sabra Health Care REIT**, has seen firsthand the effects of the COVID-19 on the elderly.

"The pandemic was not uniform in its impact on occupancy," she told analysts on an Aug. 5 conference call to discuss the REIT's second-quarter results. "Sabra's managed independent living portfolio experienced less occupancy loss than our assisted living portfolio, and its recovery has been more gradual."

Sabra's investment portfolio included 41,836 beds/units in 423 real estate properties in the U.S. and Canada as of June 30.

Sabra has kept busy on the acquisition front, such as its second quarter when it bought a skilled nursing care facility for \$33.9 million and made an \$11 million equity investment on a 150-unit senior housing development. It also completed the sale of two skilled nursing/transitional care facilities for net sale proceeds of \$5.9 million.

The company decided to end its **Enlivant**

Joint Venture with private equity firm **TPG**, citing the negative impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the JV's financial performance.

Sabra (Nasdaq: SBRA) currently sports a \$3.6 billion market cap, which is about \$800 million higher than a year ago.

Nevo-Hacohen, a former vice president at **Goldman Sachs**, told analysts in August that the REIT is pursuing a lot of transactions that may not always make news.

"We are getting things done," said Nevo-Hacohen, who is listed as "the general" on Sabra's website identifying its top executives.

"It's not splashy headlines, but that's OK. We're just trying to just keep doing what we know how to do and do it well and make those deals accretive."

Liz McKinley: 'Managing Me'

What millennials want at a workplace recently became a focus of **Liz McKinley**, the founder and CEO of Huntington Beach-based fuel and petroleum products distributor **Pinnacle Petroleum Inc.**

A Forbes article suggested they desire a fantastic workplace that permits dogs and flexible hours, all of which she offered. Above all, they want to feel like they're making a difference.

"We really work on our messaging and how we're different and where we sit in the market," she said during a March podcast hosted by **Gina Osborn**.

"I really try to empower everybody," McKinley empowered herself in an industry not known for women entrepreneurs.

After she put herself through college at **Oklahoma State University** studying finance and marketing, she took on a job as an oil trader at **Koch Industries Inc.**, which is now the nation's second-largest privately owned company.

That decision would send her on a path that played out over the next 30 years as she opened a Birmingham, Ala. office for Koch and then transitioned on to work as a commodities trader at other fuel companies.

In 1995, McKinley launched Pinnacle Petroleum in her home with three employees in a single office and a copy machine stationed in the bathtub. It now counts a team around 30 and annual sales around \$200 million.

Nowadays, she participates in local nonprofits like **Make-A-Wish Orange County** and the **Inland Empire** and **Second Harvest Food Bank**. She likes women organizations where she can find females "dealing with the same issues I am."

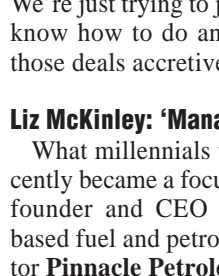
Her most recent change was due to the pandemic, she told the podcaster.

"I'm an A-type overachiever. I'm always trying so hard to do the right thing and be the best."

"I realized that I could relax a little and that COVID was the big year for honing that skill. There was so much going on that I had zero control over, and I had to let things go. The biggest thing was managing me."



Talya Nevo-Hacohen
Chief Investment
Officer
Sabra Health Care
REIT



Liz McKinley
Founder, CEO
Pinnacle Petroleum

La Shawn Stanford: 'Authentic and True'

La Shawn Stanford made a pivotal decision last December—she retired after 25 years at **UPS Inc.**

It was 1995 when she took what she thought would be a seasonal job as a delivery driver. In the middle of a divorce and having to provide for two children, she rushed to find a job that would pay the bills and put food on the table.

After only one year as a driver, she never expected to be approached by management and offered a leadership role.

"I was baffled," Stanford told the Business Journal a year ago. "I was taken aback, and I thought, 'I don't have the skills.'"

Her supervisors believed in her, telling her she could be an asset to the organization.

She was promoted to be a full-time supervisor of her fellow drivers and then climbed the corporate ladder to a variety of executive positions.

Then she became UPS's West Region Community Relations Manager where she oversaw a \$1.2 million budget to help 167,000 employees in 26 states become more involved with their communities. It was in this role that the Business Journal last year recognized her with a Women in Business Award in the category of Women on the Move.

She was thrilled to find herself one of 500 of Orange County's most influential executives.

"24 years ago, I was just looking for a job!" she posted on her LinkedIn page. "Never thought I'd be in the Orange County Business Journal's 2020 OC 500 Directory of Influence Magazine. Stay Authentic and True!"

Michele Johnson: A Winning Litigator

Michele Johnson, a senior partner at **Latham & Watkins**, continued demonstrating why she is considered one of the nation's top litigators.

In July, she won a complete defense jury verdict on behalf of **NextGen Healthcare Inc.**

In December, she won dismissal of securities class action against **Twitter Inc.** and its CEO and CFO arising out of fixes to Twitter users' privacy settings.

Last November, she won a first-round dismissal with prejudice of securities fraud class action against regenerative-tissue developer **PolarityTE**.

Also last year, she won a summary judgment on behalf of the **United States Soccer Federation** in its litigation with the **US Senior Women's National Team** regarding equal pay.

In January, **The American Lawyer** magazine named Latham & Watkins as the Litigation Department of the Year in California. Johnson, who is global chair of Litigation & Trial Department, which has 800 lawyers, accepted the award on behalf of her firm.

"So many people play a role in our successes—our lawyers, paralegals, litigation support teams, and of course, our clients," she said in a statement. "My personal and sincere thanks to them all. To work with all of these people, and to be part of such an incredible global legal community, I am extremely grateful." ■



La Shawn Stanford
West Region
Community Relations
Manager (Ret.)
UPS



Michele Johnson
Global Chair of Litigation
& Trial Dept.
Latham & Watkins

Diverse perspectives
power our unique
solutions.



Our diverse, inclusive teams develop unique insights tailored to your growing business. The experiences that make each of us uncommon will set you apart, too.

Experience the power of being understood.
Find out more at rsmus.com

THE POWER OF BEING UNDERSTOOD
AUDIT | TAX | CONSULTING





Why Orange County Needs to Invest in Women

Orange County is a hotbed for innovation. So, it comes as no surprise that there are so many accomplished professional women based here.

Women-led businesses are an economic force, fueling innovation, growth and job creation.

However, since the start of the pandemic, more than 2.5 million women have left the U.S. labor force, compared to 1.8 million men. Women of color have especially borne the brunt of pandemic-related job losses, with sharply higher rates of unemployment compared with white women.

This is a defining moment of our time in terms of women's professional equality, racial equity and economic empowerment, and our society needs to address this urgently.

With the right support in today's climate, not only will women continue to lead the way, they will also rebuild Orange County's economy for years to come.

Let's meet today's moment

All of us in the business community must continue to empower and support women across our own businesses and networks.

At JPMorgan Chase, we initially created Women On The Move (WOTM) as an internal program across our entire firm to accelerate career growth for our female employees.

In 2018, we expanded WOTM externally to provide even greater support to our female clients, customers and the communities we serve.

WOTM has three main objectives: expand women-run businesses, improve women's financial health and empower women's career growth.

WOTM serves women-owned and led businesses at all stages of development, from startups to global enterprises, by providing greater access to capital, networking, expertise and advice.

But yet – there is still much more to do.

The events of the last year have highlighted inequities everywhere. We know that diversity matters in being able to attract the best talent and be successful.

It is well documented – diversity of all kinds leads to innovation, better services and products and more rewarding workplace cultures. The road to getting there can prove challenging for many organizations, but the journey is worth it.

We need more women-led businesses and we are excited to support women's success across Orange County as we rebuild a stronger and more inclusive economy.

Subscribe to our exclusive WOTM podcast. Available on all platforms.

Learn more: jpmorganchase.com/WOTM



JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

Women on the Move



How Women Entrepreneurs Can Plan for Success

The nearly 13 million small businesses owned by women nationwide are essential to the U.S. economy. Accounting for 42% of U.S. small businesses, they employ nearly 9.4 million people and generate \$1.9 trillion in revenue annually.

Healthy and growing women-owned businesses are vital to an inclusive economic recovery, yet women entrepreneurs face distinct challenges, including fewer resources and less access to professional networks, on top of having a greater share of caregiving duties.

“For many small businesses, having access to trusted experts in areas like marketing, business planning, technology and legal can be a critical turning point for getting back to growth,” says Manishi Parikh, Wells Fargo Commercial Banking market executive for Orange County. Right now, the company is deploying over \$55 million from its Open for Business Fund to 93 nonprofits across the country to provide more women and diverse entrepreneurs with resources.

According to Parikh, these tips and resources can help entrepreneurs pivot from surviving to thriving as they recover from the pandemic and look to the future:

Mentorship

Connecting with mentors is a powerful way for women business owners to share best practices and learn from each other but it's often hard to know where to find them or initiate those relationships. A new program between Wells Fargo and the Nasdaq Entrepreneurial Center called Connect to More is giving women entrepreneurs complimentary support through its signature Milestone Mapping Coaching Circle. Born from the challenges of COVID-19, participants get hands-on help setting and reaching business goals from a network of peer mentors and industry experts.



Manishi Parikh

“As a non-profit committed to access and equity in entrepreneurship, we are grateful to partner with Wells Fargo to help women business owners accelerate their personal and professional growth as leaders and gain support as they solve big problems that make their families and communities stronger,” says Nicola Corzine, executive director, Nasdaq Entrepreneurial Center.

Networking

Networking is more than a buzzword. It can help open doors to growth. Check the local chamber of commerce or consider joining a well-known organization like the National Association of Women Business Owners.

Knowledge

Knowledge is power. Visit Wells Fargo's Women-Owned Business Resources page for free tools to support critical business decisions. Also, female entrepreneurs should check out some of these women-specific podcasts to pick up new strategies from savvy leaders:

- Being Boss digs into the mindsets and tactics that can help women business owners make money doing what they love.
- She Leads features respected female leaders from all industries who let listeners know what it takes to rise to the top.
- The Center offers a playlist of workshops and classes for women-identifying entrepreneurs.
- Women at Work, hosted by Harvard Business Review editorial staff, features conversations about where women are and how they can move forward.

Strategy

Having a concrete business plan is essential to running a successful business. During the pandemic, many small businesses had to create more online offerings, change relationships with supply chains or reduce hiring. Now's the time to review which of these adaptations can be built upon in the future. Running a business is never easy. But new resources and support can help women entrepreneurs overcome the distinct challenges they face and plan for growth as the economy picks up.





Inclusion and Diversity Drive Success for Ingram Micro

Cultivating and preserving a culture of inclusion and diversity is a cornerstone belief at Ingram Micro. Our focus is on equipping every team member with the resources, tools, education and partnerships required to support an inclusive workplace; one in which every Ingram Micro associate can thrive. We seek to celebrate every individual's unique contribution, role, identity and accomplishments. When our associates feel valued for who they are, they are more inclined to bring new ideas and innovation to the forefront, directly benefiting our business, our customers and our partners.

Our people are encouraged to bring their whole and best self to work, every day. Each member of our global team—39,000-plus—offers unique insights shaped by individual experiences, backgrounds, lifestyle choices, physical traits, varied perspectives and more. We not only recognize and respect those differences, but we also believe they're essential to our continued success. Bringing differences together helps make us stronger as a company and as a community.

While the past year has been challenging for all, we've worked hard across our organization to continue to bring optimism and a strong sense of belonging, while also taking the precautionary measures required to help keep our people safe and healthy in the workplace.


We are proud to have launched our **Together at Ingram Micro, Uniquely Us**, global Diversity, Equity & Inclusion initiative. It is a globally coordinated, locally led, associate-driven program with Employee Resource Groups available to our associates around the world to highlight our connection and uniqueness.

"Our organization is committed to welcoming unique and authentic perspectives and differences of all types. Promoting the free flow of ideas, openness, kindness, and respect for everyone will make us better as individuals and as an organization, while further strengthening our business," said Scott Sherman, executive vice president, human resources at Ingram Micro. "We continue to incorporate diversity and inclusion into our learning and development curriculum, as well as in our talent acquisition activities throughout the globe. Our local-led DE&I efforts span 46 countries and 98 locations, and include our Women's Leadership Forum, which provides our female associates with the tools, resources



and opportunities to develop new skills and accelerate their own career development."

We are excited about our programs and our progress, and we see the potential to do and achieve even more. Great things happen when people from varying backgrounds and cultures work together in an open and collaborative environment. We look forward to continuing to be an employer of choice in Orange County—and around the world—as we build further on our vision of helping every Ingram Micro associate realize their full potential!



SUPPORTING A WORKPLACE WHERE EVERYONE THRIVES.

Uniquely us.

Learn more at ingrammicro.com.

Together

Ingram Micro

Paid Advertisement

Challenges For Women in Retirement – And How To Address Them



When anticipating our “golden days of retirement”, we might simply fantasize about starting the day with a lazy breakfast and ending it with a moonlit walk. But when we factor in the prospect of supporting ourselves later in life, those golden days start to look a little less bright for many women.

In fact, according to the TransAmerica Center for Retirement Studies, only one in eight women are “very confident” they will retire with a comfortable lifestyle, while forty-six percent are “not too confident” or “not at all confident.”

If women feel somewhat behind the eight ball, it’s for good reason. According to the Center for American Progress, they earn less on average than their male counterparts, resulting in reduced Social Security benefits and lower contributions to employer-sponsored 401(k) programs resulting in lower retirement savings.

Building on this domino effect, women live longer than men and are also more likely to take time out of the workforce to be caregivers. Put it all together, and it’s an intimidating series of hurdles. But the situation isn’t impossible. By recognizing the challenges and planning to work around them, women can put themselves confidently on the path to a more secure retirement.

1) Understand your retirement budget

Let’s assume that your retirement spending will equal about 80 percent of your pre-retirement spending. From there, consider the following:

- **Social Security.** If you have a spouse, make a plan for claiming Social Security as a couple. It’s usually best for the spouse with the higher income to wait as long as possible to claim benefits.
- **Leisure spending.** When you stop working, you’ll have time for activities like travel or golf, so factor those into your budget.
- **Calculate your tax rate.** Make sure you’ve run the numbers on your expected income in retirement, taking into account what you’ll pay in taxes overall.

2) Save more

Per AARP.org, the maximum monthly Social Security benefit in 2021 is only about \$3,000 for someone filing at full retirement age, so you may have to save more to support your income needs in retirement.

- **Save at work:** A 401(k) plan allows participants to put away up to \$19,500 in 2021. If you aren’t maxing out your 401(k) contribution, get there as quickly as you can. In addition, if you are eligible, take advantage of your employer’s Health Savings Account (HSA). If you use the funds for eligible medical expenses, there are no taxes on the withdrawals—something an IRA can’t boast.
- **Make catch-up contributions:** If you’re 50 or older, you can make additional contributions to your 401(k) plan (up to \$6,500 in 2021) and any IRAs you might have (an additional \$1,000).

- **Save outside your work account:** If you’re eligible for a Roth IRA, this will give you a mix of tax-deferred and post-tax earnings in retirement. If you’re not eligible, you can still contribute up to \$6,000 (\$7,000 if you’re 50 or older) to an IRA account in 2021.

- **Check your progress:** One rule of thumb is that you should aim to save at least three times your salary by age 40, eight times your salary by age 60, and 10 times your salary by age 67, according to Fidelity Investments.

3) Pay down debt

Reducing debt before retirement gives you greater flexibility in retirement. Here’s how to whittle it down:

- **Understand your payoff picture.** Make a spreadsheet of all debts on your balance sheet, the payments on each, and the time it will take to pay them off at your current pace.
- **Make a debt pay-off plan.** Consider getting more aggressive in paying off outstanding debt on a monthly basis.
- **Make a date to be mortgage-free.** A home loan is usually the largest chunk of debt in your portfolio. And it’s not bad debt, but it’s smart to try to enter retirement without that recurring bill on your balance sheet.

4) Consider long-term care insurance

Of those who purchase a long-term care policy at age 60 with a 90-day elimination period, 35 percent will use that coverage, according to actuarial data.

- **Understand the costs.** Estimate the cost of care in your area for both the present and future.
- **Shop in your mid-50s.** This is a good time to shop for long-term care, but if you’re in good health, you can shop as late as age 60 to 65. Remember, the later you buy, the bigger your premiums will be.
- **Consider other products.** Some life insurance policies offer long-term care or a chronic illness rider that allow you to receive some of your death benefits early.

5) Create a guaranteed income stream

An annuity is an insurance product that guarantees a series of income payments, either now or in the future. Annuities are offered in a variety of flavors, ranging from paying a set rate of return to allowing you the ability to participate in the market. Your financial advisor can help you determine which is most appropriate for your investment mix.

With enough planning and preparation, the retirement challenges women face don’t have to be roadblocks. Establishing a strong relationship with a professional financial advisor can help you stay on track and make decisions today that most benefit you tomorrow.

For more information on how The Private Bank can help you achieve your investment goals, visit unionbank.com/theprivatebank.

Investment management services offered by MUFG Union Bank, N.A. in conjunction with its subsidiary, HighMark Capital Management, an SEC-registered investment adviser. Brokerage and investment advisory services offered by UnionBank Investment Services LLC, an SEC-registered broker-dealer, investment adviser, member FINRA/SIPC, and subsidiary of MUFG Union Bank, N.A. Insurance services offered by UnionBank Insurance Services, a division of MUFG Union Bank, N.A., having a California domicile and principal place of business at 1201 Camino Del Mar, Suite 208, Del Mar, CA 92014. California State Insurance License No. 0817733. **Non-deposit investment and insurance products:** • **Are NOT deposits or other obligations of, or guaranteed by, the Bank or any Bank affiliate** • **Are NOT insured by the FDIC or by any other federal government agency** • **Are subject to investment risks, including possible loss of the principal amount invested** • **Insurance and annuities are products of the insurance carriers.**

Some information provided herein was obtained from third party sources deemed to be reliable.





Comprehensive Housing and Healthcare for the Homeless

Our Mission

Illumination Foundation believes that every person has an intrinsic right to home, health, and dignity. Our mission is to provide targeted, interdisciplinary services for the most vulnerable homeless clients in order to disrupt the cycle of homelessness.

Our Programs & Services

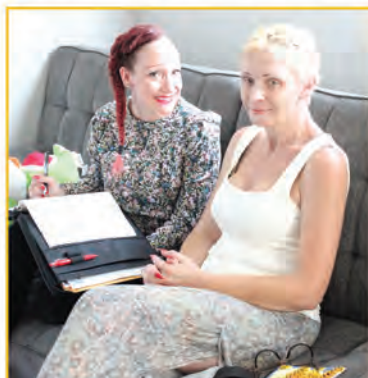
We provide housing and healthcare for individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Employing a compassionate, client-centered service approach, we provide a full continuum of care from street to home to provide the resources and support they need.

Our programs include Shelters/Navigation Centers, Recuperative Care/Medical Respite, Children and Families Program, and Housing.

Our Model

Illumination Foundation takes an innovative and collaborative approach to meet the evolving needs of those experiencing homelessness. Recognizing that housing and healthcare are inextricably linked, our programming focuses on providing both healthcare services and permanent housing.

With this framework in mind, we created our new flagship 150-bed Fullerton Navigation Center and Recuperative Care facility that provides shelter, comprehensive wraparound services, and recuperative care; as well as primary care, behavioral health services, and dental care through a partnership with Illumination Foundation Medical Group (IFMG), an independent medical group, under the same roof.



"Seeing the look on my client and her son's face when I handed them their own keys to a one-bedroom apartment in Anaheim was absolutely priceless. The son was running around screaming with excitement that he got to live there with his mommy and that they did not have to live with so much worry anymore."

— Katelyn, Illumination Foundation Case Manager



"Thank you for not giving up on me and pushing me to be a better woman and better mother. I would not be here if it wasn't for your guidance and Illumination Foundation's faith in me."

— Jamie, Illumination Foundation Client

You can help disrupt the cycle of homelessness. To find out how you can support, please contact 949-273-0555 or visit www.ifhomeless.org.

From street to home, we provide a full continuum of care and resources to bring people the support they need.

In 2020, we served 5,216 clients, providing shelter, health care, counseling, connections to social services, housing, and hope.



390,020 Safe bednights were provided

428 Families were housed



739 Individuals were housed

984 Homelessness clients received recuperative care services



456 Individuals were diverted from entering the cycle of homelessness

250 Children and parents were served through our Children and Families Program

In COVID-19:

In March 2020, Illumination Foundation was selected by the Orange County Health Care Agency to lead the county's COVID-19 mitigation effort. In response, we provided safe socially distanced shelter to those who were most vulnerable and had nowhere else to go.

6 Project Roomkey sites were established in four weeks
2,552 Individuals were served by Illumination Foundation at COVID-19 program sites
100,306 Safe bednights were provided



A Good Connection is Music to Your Ears

Singer/Songwriter Giana Nguyen didn't exactly set out to own a nontraditional music studio with primarily children as students, but that is exactly what happened when she opened Dancing Keys Music Studio in Irvine.

In 2012, Nguyen was focusing on her music career when her former business partner found her online after hearing one of her songs playing on a local radio station. He sought her out for her contemporary style. A longtime pianist, at the time she was teaching piano to a few students from home and seeking new business opportunities. He approached to collaborate, and she jumped at the opportunity.

Together with a third partner, they opened Dancing Keys Music Studio in March 2013 as the only commercial studio in Orange County to specialize in the Australian-developed piano method from Simply Music, the world leader in playing-based music education. In the years since opening, Nguyen has transitioned to be the sole owner of the studio but she and her team have continued to bring this multi-sensory piano approach to families throughout the region. In early 2020 this approach was amplified by the COVID-19 pandemic when the studio that only offered in-person lessons had to quickly close and pivot to online instruction.

"We had our own spring break in a sense where we didn't teach lessons and figured out how to keep serving our students," explains Nguyen. A mic stand with a smart phone clipped onto it could serve as an overhead camera and Zoom would become the new classroom. She went to a local music store to buy all the equipment and pulled together her instructors for technical training and

implementation. In one week, the business shifted completely online with all instructions taking place remotely.

"Our community of students and parents are very resilient, adaptive, and everyone jumped on board."

She adds, "Cox Business internet has been the ticket to making this all happen. There is no way we would be able to do this without a fast and reliable broadband connection."

Dancing Keys Music Studio was able to provide virtual lessons throughout the 2020 shut downs and her client base grew as more parents wanted to find a way to keep their children engaged safely in STEAM activities. "Music really served as an outlet during this hard time for students and instructors alike," said Nguyen.

This sentiment was on full display for the community in December of 2020 when the studio hosted a Zoom holiday showcase. Parents decorated or created backdrops in their own homes for when their child was spotlighted on screen. They were able to connect and cheer each other on via the platform. This past June as California re-opened, Dancing Keys Music Studio hosted an outdoor concert in the courtyard of Woodbridge Village Center for students' families and the community at large. These "Piano Parties" have always served as catalyst for students to publicly showcase the joy of music.

Earlier this year, following the state lifting mandates on operations and masks, Nguyen started operating as a hybrid studio where students can take both virtual lessons at home or in-person lessons at the Woodbridge Village Center location. She even has group lessons where one student participates from home and the rest in her studio. As of August 2021, sixty percent of her students are doing virtual lessons and the team still utilizes technology, physical distancing, air filters in each room, and a robust cleaning schedule for in-studio lessons.





Protection for your business, **24/7.**

Every solution, big or small, starts with a local security specialist who works with you to customize a security system for your business.

- Keep an eye on your business from every angle with up to 32 cameras.
- View a live feed anytime, anywhere you have an Internet connection.
- Receive real-time text alerts if a door is left open, a window breaks or an alarm is triggered.

Because we know what you need is more than a security system. It's peace of mind.



Security
Solutions®



Purchase Surveillance and Detection and Get a \$200 Cox Business Visa® Prepaid Card.*

With a 3-yr. svc. agreement. After online redemption. Mention "reward promo" to qualify.

CALL (877) 404-2523 OR VISIT [COXBUSINESS.COM/SECURE](https://coxbusiness.com/secure)

*Offer ends 4/30/21. Available to new Cox Business Security Service surveillance and detection subscribers in Cox service areas. 3-year service agreement required. Early term. fees may apply. Visa prepaid card available with qualifying new services ordered and activated between 1/1/21 and 4/30/21 with min. 3 yr. contract. Must mention "reward promo" when placing order. Account must remain active, be in good standing, and retain all services for a min. of 30 days after install. Online redemption req'd by 5/31/21 and must follow instructions rec'd after service activation. Limit one card per customer, total not to exceed \$200. Allow 15 days after redemption for delivery. Card is issued by MetaBank®, N.A., Member FDIC, pursuant to a license from Visa U.S.A. Inc. No cash access or recurring payments. Can be used everywhere Visa debit cards are accepted. Card valid for up to 6 months; unused funds will forfeit after the valid thru date. Card terms and conditions apply. Other restrictions apply. Service provided by Cox Advanced Services: Arizona, LLC-ALARM Lic. #18141-0, ROC Lic. #310876; Arkansas, LLC-Lic. #CMPY.0002278; California, LLC-Alarm Lic. #7196, Contractor's Lic. #992992; Connecticut, LLC-Lic. # n/a; Florida, LLC-Lic. #EF20001232; Georgia, LLC-Lic.: Bryan David Melancon #LVU406595; Iowa, LLC- CRN Lic. #C121646, AC Lic. #268; Kansas, LLC-Topeka Lic. #109, Wichita Lic. #2015-36492; Louisiana, LLC-Lic. #F 2006; Nebraska, LLC - Lic. #26512; Nevada, LLC-Lic. #81757; Ohio, LLC-Lic. #53-18-1671; Oklahoma, LLC-Lic. #2002; Rhode Island, LLC-Lic. #9314; and Virginia, LLC-DCJS Lic. #11-7776, DPOR Lic. #2705164725. © 2021 Cox Communications, LLC. All rights reserved. PAD107417-0004

Elevate Your Leadership Potential: Advice to Tomorrow's Women Leaders



*"If you want to take the leap to lead, find a mentor who can help with sound advice. Better yet, get a sponsor who will advocate for you. **You can start with the many inspiring women right here in Orange County.**"*

— Annette M. Walker, President, City of Hope Orange County

I'm often asked by young women what it means to be a leader. To me, leadership is a calling to extend yourself for a purpose bigger than yourself. It means you are willing to make yourself vulnerable and put yourself at risk for something that really matters.

It's not easy. Just ask all the bright, innovative, and incredibly brave Orange County women leaders we honor today. Every one of them has an inspiring story that made their corner of the world just a little bit better despite the challenges, naysayers, and doubters.

Leadership takes confidence, courage, commitment and of course talent. It's about using your influence for positive change. Here's my advice for women who want to make a difference and "lead in."

Relationships.

No one succeeds alone, especially leaders. Cultivating relationships with your team, colleagues, and partners is time well spent. The good news is that many women already do this exceptionally well. Use your talents and position to inspire those around you. Rally them to the cause so they too know that they make a difference.

Presence.

Yes, we know that you can multitask but that is a gift to be used for checklists, not significant work or people. Do not multitask at the expense of presence. Work priorities need your full attention for top performance, and your family deserves the same. Be present and give your full attention at the appropriate time. Don't cheat on one for the other.

Values.

Find a place where you are excited and proud to work. I have been fortunate to work in organizations that align with my personal values. Leading City of Hope

in advancing cancer care isn't just a job, it's my calling. Every morning, I bring my passions and whole self to work. I firmly believe this has greatly enhanced my professional satisfaction and contributed to my advancement.

Love your people.

No HR foul here - I love my people. I love them as individuals. I love the gifts they bring and I let them know it. Your teams need to be treated as people with unique lives, attributes, and ambitions. If you want the best out of them, be the best to them.

Be brave.

Love your teams but challenge them and yourself. My inspiration is Joan of Arc, the mighty courageous young woman who put on men's armor and convinced a king that she could lead an army. When I have a big work or personal challenge, I channel her and "put on my Joan," telling myself the words she once spoke: "I am not afraid. I was born to do this."

Sponsorship.

If you want to take the leap to lead, find a mentor who can help with sound advice. Better yet, get a sponsor who will advocate for you. You can start with the many inspiring women right here in Orange County who want to help you achieve your goals. We can't wait to see what you do.

Congratulations to all the women being honored for their leadership and contributions. Orange County is blessed to have you in our community.



CityOfHope.org/OC

HOPE IS GROWING

City of Hope is bringing its lifesaving cancer care to more OC locations

We're delivering on our promise to bring lifesaving cancer care closer to home. That's why City of Hope is adding three new locations to our Orange County network to help more people who need us. With our world-class cancer center opening in Irvine in 2022, hope is truly growing. **Learn more at CityofHope.org/OC**

Huntington Beach | Irvine Sand Canyon | Newport Beach Fashion Island | Newport Beach Lido



Cityof
Hope®

ORANGE
COUNTY



© 2021 City of Hope



The Power of Financial Confidence Among Women

By City National Bank

The year 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, the landmark change to the U.S. Constitution that granted women the right to vote. The amendment was the result of tireless activism by women like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott and Susan B. Anthony – names now synonymous with the women's rights movement.

But the passage of the amendment holds more than just political importance. It was a moment that has rippled outwards over the past 100 years, allowing successive generations of women to obtain more education, fight for higher wages, accumulate greater personal wealth and move closer to equality.

Today, women earn the majority of college degrees and have done so since the early 1980s, according to the National Center for Education.

Women contribute \$7.6 trillion to the United States gross domestic product annually and lead the way as entrepreneurs, owning more than 9.9 million businesses in the U.S. with 8.4 million employees.

Women also influence how money is given. According to a survey by The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), commissioned by RBC Wealth Management, 81 percent of women see it as important that both their wealth plan and legacy align.

Carolyn Finer, senior investment strategist for City National Rochdale, has worked in the financial industry for 30 years and has noted the changes in how women participate in wealth planning decisions.

"Over time, I've seen women become much more engaged than they were at the beginning of my career. Whenever we're speaking with a couple, we always want to engage with both. But now, we see more and more women taking the lead," said Finer.

In most cases women outlive men, putting them in sole control of family wealth and legacy before it passes to the next generation.

Yet, despite this progress towards equality and economic power, Finer said there's always opportunity to increase education and financial confidence among even the most powerful people, including women.

What Affects Women's Financial Confidence?

With their findings outlined in an article in The Atlantic, researchers saw differing levels of financial confidence when comparing a man and a woman with the same educational background and a similar financial literacy level.

"Though research shows us that men are more confident when discussing finances, we're seeing more and more clients who are strong, independent women. It's just that women seem more apt to say I don't know, but I want to learn. I would say this is its own type of confidence, though, and should be encouraged among everyone," said Finer.

A lot of issues with financial confidence may stem from the cultural narrative surrounding women and money, but making money a more common conversation for women can and has increased women's confidence in making financial decisions, Finer added.

"I disagree with the notion that women don't understand how to handle money. They have so many responsibilities...they're accustomed to taking on many different roles and making important decisions. Finances is just one of them, and financial confidence comes from having a project or platform to exercise that knowledge," she said.

Knowledge is Power

Perhaps as a result of having more of those tools available, younger generations are reporting an increased financial confidence.

For example, according to RBC's *The New Face of Wealth* survey, 72 percent of Millennial women said they are their household's primary decision-maker for financial planning, compared to less than half of Baby Boomer women.

What's more, 78 percent of Millennial women said they've had more opportunities to generate wealth than people in prior generations.

"I have a female client who gave her Millennial daughter the opportunity to be an active participant in the establishment and maintenance of a private family foundation. This family inherited a substantial amount of wealth and with that



comes a lot of responsibility," said Finer. "They were eager to instill confidence in the next generation."

Conversion is Key

Despite all the progress made over the past 100 years, there's always more work to be done. Work that could, in essence, make the world a more equal place.

"It's important to work together and have financial or investment conversations early and often with the right participants," said Finer. "As more and more women are involved in the family conversations, their voice is key." In these uncertain times, City National encourages you to review your investment portfolio with your advisor. Contact our financial professionals today to ask questions and receive help with your wealth planning needs.

This article is for general information and education only. It is provided as a courtesy to the clients and friends of City National Bank (City National). City National does not warrant that it is accurate or complete. Opinions expressed and estimates or projections given are those of the authors or persons quoted as of the date of the article with no obligation to update or notify of inaccuracy or change.

Non-Deposit investment products and not FDIC insured, are not a deposit or obligation of, or guaranteed by, City National Bank and are subject to risks, including the possible loss of principal amount invested.

City National, as a matter of policy, does not give tax, accounting, regulatory or legal advice. Rules in the areas of law, tax, and accounting are subject to change and open to varying interpretations. You should consult with your other advisors on the tax, accounting and legal implications of actions you may take based on any strategies presented, taking into account your own particular circumstances.

This article is a republication of content originally published by RBC Wealth Management, a division of RBC Capital Markets, LLC, Member NYSE/FINRA/SIPC. © 2020, Royal Bank of Canada, used with permission. This article may not be reproduced, distributed or further published by any person without the written consent of RBC Wealth Management. Please cite source when quoting.

Deposit products and services are provided by City National Bank Member FDIC. City National Bank is a subsidiary of Royal Bank of Canada.

Carolyn Finer
Managing Director Private
Investment
City National Rochdale
(212) 508-5694
Carolyn.Finer@cnr.com



WE MAKE IT OUR BUSINESS TO BE PERSONAL.

At City National, you get a Relationship Manager devoted to understanding your goals for the future — and your busy life today.

With a unique perspective, personalized products and services and a mobile app for secure banking anywhere, we treat every challenge as an opportunity to help you achieve your vision of success.

You never stop. So neither will we.

Discover *The way up*® at cnb.com

CITY NATIONAL BANK 
 **AN RBC COMPANY**

City National Bank Member FDIC.
City National Bank is a subsidiary of Royal Bank of Canada.
©2021 City National Bank. All Rights Reserved.



Investing in Women's Financial Futures

By Victoria Collins, Ph.D., co-founder of WISE & former principal of First Foundation Advisors

In 1997, a small group of women in Orange County met with a simple mission and a powerful plan: to educate women about investing, personal finance, and to support others with a similar mission. What began with a successful *Invest in Yourself* conference, officially became WISE (Women Investing in Security and Education), an Orange County-based 501(c)(3).

Fast forward almost 25 years and WISE shows that the dedication, commitment and generosity of its volunteer leaders, board, and members can create significant benefits for our community. By developing innovative programs and tapping the power of collaboration with other nonprofits, WISE is able to deliver high-quality financial education to women and girls from all socioeconomic backgrounds in Orange County and beyond.

In our ever-changing world, helping build financial resilience and expanding career options for women is more important than ever.

“Imagine a young Girl Scout learning about cash flow and investing, or a college student inspired to consider a career in finance after hearing WISE’s “Tearing Down the Pink Wall” panel.”

Thanks to the involvement of active and engaged leaders, WISE is able to achieve greater impact, and benefit our community with minimal administrative cost. We believe that dollar for dollar, WISE is among the most effective nonprofits in the community.

Why Women Need Unbiased Financial Advice

Today many women take an active role in earning money and managing family budgets, but they fall behind men in investing for long-term financial goals. WISE education helps address critical challenges that women face. For example:

- Women are paid 80% of every dollar a man is paid.
- 90% of women will be solely responsible for their finances at some point in their lives.
- About two-thirds of caregivers are women who take time from work which can mean less income.
- Women have more health-care expenses, in part because they live longer than men.
- Women in general have less retirement savings, pension income, investments and social security benefits.
- Women tend to be more conservative investors than men, preferring to put their wealth into real estate, cash or bonds while steering clear of equities.
- Poverty levels are higher for unmarried older women compared with those who are married.

Tearing Down the Pink Wall

Inspiring Women to Reach their Full Potential

WISE’s groundbreaking series *Tearing Down the Pink Wall* provides financial education and career inspiration, encouraging women to pursue careers in financial services. In addition to market insights, each event includes an in-depth discussion of the career journeys of C-suite executives. Featured speakers include women from the *Barron’s 100 Most Influential Women in Finance* list. Celebrity financial journalist, Consuelo Mack, moderates the series. Held in collaboration with universities, the series reaches thousands with inspiring advice to achieve their full potential.

Join WISE in our Mission

You too can make an enormous impact in the financial lives of girls and women. Visit our website www.wiseinvestors.org to learn more and become a WISE member - at zero cost! There are many opportunities throughout the year to get involved with our important mission such as attending events and webinars, volunteering, donating or becoming a WISE sponsor.

WISE Community Partners





They Deserve a Secure Financial Future

WISE® is an Orange County-based nonprofit dedicated to educating women and girls about personal finance and investing. WISE believes that managing cash flow, investments, and financial planning will increase options in life and provide a secure financial future for women and their families. Through strategic partnerships with other nonprofits, workshops on topics such as estate planning and tax strategies, and our groundbreaking series, *Tearing Down the Pink Wall*, are offered at no cost to WISE members!



Join us at wiseinvestors.org

Miracles FOR KIDS



360 Miracle Circle surrounding Mayte and Berenice (From left to right: Michelle Bendetti, Marjie Zethraus, Jaime Saul Hong (Founder), Kristina Lewison, Mayte & Berenice, Hillary Weiner, Sue Lyle, Robyn Williams).

Women Working to Make Miracles

Join a growing network of compassionate women dedicated to providing stability for low-income families with critically-ill children at Miracles for Kids.

Imagine hearing your child is diagnosed with congenital heart defects before she's born and having to navigate her condition as a single mother on a limited income in Orange County. This was the reality that Mayte faced when her daughter, Berenice, had to undergo open heart surgery 5 days after she was born. Due to other organ complications, Berenice would need multiple surgeries which was very difficult, financially and emotionally, for Mayte.

Because of the compassionate women who are part of **360° Miracle**, the first-ever women's network to support families at Miracles for Kids, moms like Mayte have been able to find solace and support through devastating circumstances. Contributing \$83.33/month or 1,000 annually, members of 360° Miracle help families with critically-ill children fight bankruptcy, homelessness, hunger, and depression—so they can fight for their kids' lives. Not only does **100%** of their contribution go directly to support vulnerable families at Miracles for Kids but their collective contribution has made an indelible impact for the 300+ families the organization serves annually.

Most families at Miracles for Kids face a daunting reality of fighting their child's life-threatening illness living in close proximity to the federal poverty line with an average annual household income of only \$23,700. Providing financial assistance to help with mounting bills, housing for families facing homelessness or eviction, counseling, and wellness support along with basic needs, Miracles for Kids is a lifeline.

Launching in the wake of the pandemic, 360° Miracle started with a small group of founding members and has grown to 150 members strong, raising over \$150,000 in the first year. Not only do the caring women who are part of this growing network contribute financially but they become champions of vulnerable families by volunteering, collaborating, and connecting with one another to change lives.

Coming together at a crucial time, this network is gearing-up to host its inaugural 360° Miracle Holiday Tea on Wednesday, November 10th.

Raising support for critically-ill children and their families for the holidays, this will be an exceptional English Tea Party experience. The invitation is open to members and non-members and will invigorate and inspire all who attend to make a difference for the most vulnerable in Southern California and beyond.

For mom's like Mayte, 360° Miracle has afforded her opportunities she wouldn't otherwise have. Working several part-time jobs to support Berenice and herself, she recently stepped into a new role supporting a 360° Miracle member with her candle making workshops. With Berenice's condition stabilizing, Mayte is finally able to find peace thanks to a community of compassionate women called 360° Miracle.

For those interested in joining 360° Miracle or attending the Inaugural Holiday Tea on November 10th, 2021, visit www.360miracle.org or contact Robyn Williams at rwilliams@miraclesforkids.org or call (714) 705-4532.





Holiday Tea

Please Join Us
360° Miracle's Holiday Tea
Wednesday, November 10th

The Inn at The Mission San Juan Capistrano

Enjoy a festive English Tea where you will connect with like-minded women, hear an inspiring speaker and share in the holiday spirit.

Change Lives



Join a growing network of compassionate women making a difference for critically-ill children and their families in need!

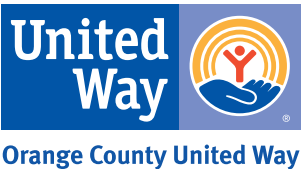
Since 2002, Miracles for Kids has created miracles for 1,500+ families with critically-ill children battling over 100+ illnesses. We help them battle bankruptcy, homelessness, hunger, and depression—so they can fight for their kids' lives.

Miracles **for KIDS**
miraclesforkids.org



Orange County Women Are Leading the Fight for Equity and Inclusion

Making an Impact and Creating Change in Our Community



Local women who share Orange County United Way’s passion and commitment to leading the fight for equity and inclusion are making an undeniable and lasting impact in our community. Their leadership, volunteerism, generosity, and dedication to supporting holistic programs that enable long-term change is both inspiring and impressive. They are Doing More for Orange County. Here are three of these amazing women whose achievements we’d like to highlight.



Martha Daniel

President & CEO, Information Management Resources, Inc. and Cultures United co-Chair & Board Member, Orange County United Way

As co-Chair of Orange County United Way’s Cultures United, Martha is an advocate for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Cultures United aims to promote conversation, collaboration, philanthropy, and unity while inspiring Orange County residents to come together to celebrate, embrace, share, and learn from one another. Martha’s leadership has made it possible to offer a variety of events, programs, volunteer opportunities, and discussions that honor Orange County’s rich diversity and support our belief that we are stronger together.

“We may be different in our cultures, in our skin tones and different in some of our thoughts, but it does not eliminate the humanity that we want the best for our children, to be able to feel safe in our community,” – Martha Daniel

Martha also serves on Orange County United Way’s Board of Directors and is a Founding Member of the Women’s Philanthropy Fund.



Laurie Dubchansky

Founder/CEO, Havaplan Financial and Women’s Philanthropy Fund co-Chair, Orange County United Way

As the Women’s Philanthropy Fund co-Chair, Laurie plays a critical role in the success of this group, which strategically invests in place-based initiatives, bringing holistic programming into a clearly defined geography to positively impact outcomes for women and children facing high poverty, unemployment, and housing instability.

Additionally, Laurie is a member of Orange County United Way’s President’s Circle, an extraordinary group of leaders who invest passion, expertise, and resources to advance our mission and community impact work. Laurie also serves on the United for Financial Security Leadership Council and has dedicated herself to the development of Orange County United Way’s South County Pilot Program—a financial wellness program designed to help families and individuals in South Orange County whose lives were severely impacted by the pandemic and are facing financial and housing insecurity.



This year’s Women’s Philanthropy Fund Breakfast supported the South County Pilot Program, which helped families like Diego’s, a 5th grader at RH Dana Elementary School, who were severely impacted by the pandemic.



Antonella Castro

Real Estate & Business Attorney and United for Student Success Leadership Council Chair & Board Member, Orange County United Way

Antonella is a valued Orange County United Way Board Member and is making a profound impact as the United for Student Success Leadership Council Chair, an initiative which aims to ensure local students receive the support they need to stay on track in school, graduate high school on time, and are college- and career-ready. Antonella volunteered as a mentor for the Class of 2021 Mentoring Program, which helped high school seniors from underserved neighborhoods to stay on track and graduate high school on time. The program provided opportunities for students to develop essential skills to position them for success during school and beyond.



Antonella helping at the Class of 2021 Mentoring Program laptop distribution event—a benefit of the program that helps bridge the digital divide for students.

Join us

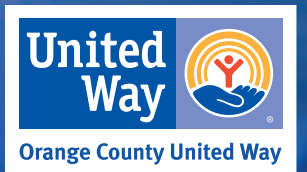
Join local woman and Orange County United Way as we work together to ensure our students succeed, our families find financial security, and our homeless neighbors find a place to call home. Whether it be through donating time, money, or lending a supporting voice, we welcome anyone who is passionate about our community and wants to be a part of an impactful and inspiring coalition of women who empower one another.

Get involved

Women United is a diverse group of nearly 400 local women who actively engage in philanthropy, volunteerism, and advocacy and are committed to making lasting change in our community. This past year, Women United supported 11 transitional housing shelters with monthly meal deliveries, donated gifts to children from underserved local families during the holidays, and supported Orange County United Way’s key initiatives through their volunteerism and charitable giving. To learn more, contact Amanda Hastings at AmandaH@UnitedWayOC.org or 949.263.6141

Women’s Philanthropy Fund is a powerful and influential group of passionate women who create long-lasting social and economic change in our community by advancing United Way’s mission in locally challenged neighborhoods. Additionally, Women’s Philanthropy Fund invests in women-serving programs across the county, assisting women and children to overcome life’s challenges with dignity. To learn more, contact Brigitte De Kruffy at BrigitteD@UnitedWayOC.org or 949.263.6160

WOMEN'S ²⁰²¹ PHILANTHROPY FUND MEMBERS



BONNIE ABATE
Community Volunteer



PANTEHA ABDOLLAHI
Senior Attorney, Theodora Oringher PC



JACQUELINE AKERBLOM
West Regional Managing Partner, Grant Thornton



TARA BALFOUR
Managing Director, Bank of the West BNP Paribas



DAWN TRAUTMAN BEHNKE
EVP, Life Insurance Division, Pacific Life Insurance Company



SHIRIN BEHZADI
CEO and Board Member



SHERRI BOVINO
President & Owner, Global, a 1st Flagship Company



LEE ANN CANADAY
Owner/Broker, RE/MAX Fine Homes, Canaday Group



NICOLE CARRILLO HALL
EVP, Chief Accounting Officer, loanDepot



ANTONELLA CASTRO
Real Estate and Business Attorney



BJ CHANDLER
VP/Owner, Premier Transportation & Warehousing, Inc.



CINDA CHURM
Community Volunteer



VICTORIA COLLINS, Ph.D.



WENDY CUPPS
Community Volunteer



MARTHA DANIEL
President & CEO, Information Management Resources, Inc. (IMRI)



JANET TOLL DAVIDSON
Retired Partner, Paul Hastings LLP



DILANTHI DE ALWIS-MUMMERT
Vice President of Finance - West Region, UPS



SUSAN DE GRASSI
Vice President, Administration & Cause, Antis Roofing & Waterproofing



DELIA DELGADO
Real Estate Investor



HON. DIANE B. DIXON
Council Member, Newport Beach City Council



CELINA DOKA
Partner, KPMG LLP



DIANE DRAKE
Community Volunteer



LAURIE DUBCHANSKY
Founder/CEO, Havaplan Financial



KARI DURHAM
SVP, Human Resources, Skyworks Solutions, Inc.



ARTYN GARDNER
Community Volunteer



LOREEN GILBERT
Founder and President, WealthWise Financial Services



KRISTEN GRIGGS
Community Volunteer



DONNA HANSEN
Managing Director - Chief Administrative Officer and Global Head of Tax, Colony Capital, Inc.



MICHELE D. JOHNSON
Partner, Latham & Watkins LLP



LAUREN JOHNSTON
Community Volunteer



JACQUELINE KELLEY
Partner, Ernst & Young LLP



SARAH LAKE
President, Newport Assets, Inc.



KIM LETCH
Partner, Ernst & Young LLP



LISA LOCKLEAR
Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, Avanir Pharmaceuticals



HEIDI LYNN
Managing Director, Bank of America, Private Bank



MELINDA MASSON
Co-Founder & CEO, Lifestyle of Giving



PAULA MATTSON
Director, Program Management Office, Southern California Edison



ROSE MERGELMEYER
Community Volunteer



NANCY B. MEYER
Community Volunteer



MICHELE MILLER
Community Volunteer



ANN MORRIS
Community Volunteer



SUSAN D. MORRISON
Retired Financial Services



NELLA WEBSTER O'GRADY
Managing Director, Miracle Mile Advisors LLC



MAGGIE O'SULLIVAN
Executive Director, Multinational Corporations, JPMorganChase



SUE PARKS
President & CEO, Orange County United Way



MAYA PATEL
Executive Chair, Tarsadia Foundation



LAILA PENCE, CFP
President, Pence Wealth Management, LPL Registered Principal



LISA PERRINE
CEO, Cibola Systems



BECKI PROCSAL
Partner, KPMG LLP



SHIRLEY QUACKENBUSH
Managing Director, Private Wealth Management, Rockefeller Capital Management



KALPANA RAMAKRISHNAN
Partner, KPMG LLP



MICHELE A. REINGLASS
Mediator, ADR Office of Michelle A. Reinglass & Judicate West



KIMBERLY ROUSH
Executive Career Coach, All-Star Executive Coaching



CHRISTINE SCHEUNEMAN
Corporate Director, Farmers & Merchants Bank of Long Beach



DONNA SCHROEDER
Founding Partner, Schroeder Management Company, Inc.



RENEE SIMONIS
Community Volunteer



BRENDA SPRINGER
CEO, Reveille



TINA STOLIAR
Partner, KPMG LLP



EMILEE TELLO
Chief Financial Officer, Orange County United Way



MARY "MUFF" TENNYSON
Community Volunteer



LINDA THAI
Owner, Larkspark



SHELLEY THUNEN
Chief Financial Officer, RxSight, Inc.



KIRSTEN VALENTA
Community Volunteer



DANIELLE VOLOSHIN
Investment Advisor, Miracle Mile Advisors LLC



STACEY VON BERG
Chief Financial Officer, S.G. Management



JEANNETTE WISTNER
Partner, KPMG LLP



ANNE MICHAELSEN
President, Anne Michaelson Design, Inc.

MEMBERS NOT PICTURED

ANONYMOUS

KRISTEN ALLISON

CATHLEEN BACKLEY

MARLO BROOKE

MARSHA JENNINGS

DEBE LUCKI

TINA NORTON

PEGGY PENJOYAN

DENISE SCHULER

NATALIE WANG



Founding Member

To join this community of philanthropic leaders, contact Brigitte De Kruf at 949.263.6160 or BrigitteD@UnitedWayOC.org

LUGANO DIAMONDS CELEBRATES THE BEAUTY OF THE PARAIBA

Paraiba tourmalines are one of the most sought after gems in the world. Combining the finest craftsmanship with these incomparable stones, the artisans at Lugano Diamonds create exquisite, one-of-a-kind works of art that are both elegant and timeless.

As we celebrate the women honored in this issue who have made significant contributions to their professions, Lugano Diamonds presents this stunning collection that showcases the beauty of the Paraiba — designed for the boardroom, the ballroom and everywhere in between.



Make a Statement

With access to the world's largest and most spectacular gemstones, Lugano has crafted a necklace suitable for the most discerning of collections. The focal point of The Paraiba Necklace is an astounding 18-carat pear-shaped blue-green Paraiba. This unbelievably rare stone is ensconced by more than 32 carats of briolette and round brilliant collection VS diamonds set in 18k white gold.

Timeless Elegance

Two perfectly matched pear-shaped Paraiba tourmaline stones provide the perfect sparkle at the center of these captivating drop earrings. Set in 18k white gold and complemented by a halo of diamonds, they are suspended from two pentagon-shaped diamonds with dazzling Paraiba and diamonds. These earrings are destined to become an heirloom to be cherished for generations to come.





Forever Enchanting

This dazzling necklace exudes impeccable style with a show-stopping pear-shaped Paraiba delicately suspended from a nearly three-carat sapphire and accented by a sublime medley of mixed-shape diamonds and sapphires. Set in 18k white gold, this piece is stunning at any time of day.



In the Black

A piece as bold as the woman who wears it, this meticulously crafted Carbonium and Paraiba Cuff is stunningly beautiful. A spellbinding 67-carat Paraiba brings the star power with more than 15 carats of marquise-shaped and round brilliant collection VS diamonds working in harmony to add the perfect touch of sparkle – an impeccable display of strength and style.



Celebrate Success

This breathtaking Diamond and Paraiba Ring is a true work of art that celebrates the superior craftsmanship for which Lugano is known. A stunning oval Paraiba takes center stage and is surrounded by shimmering rose cut and round brilliant collection VS diamonds set in 18k white gold. Treasure this sophisticated piece for years to come.

LUGANO[®]
DIAMONDS

An experience as remarkable as our collection

View our stunning collection at the Lugano Diamonds Grand Salon located at 620 Newport Center Drive, Suite 100, Newport Beach, and our additional locations in Aspen, Palm Beach and Ocala. Please call 866.584.2666 or email info@luganodiamonds.com for more information.

How to Not Get Blindsided by a Divorce Filing

By Paul Nelson, Esq

Brittany *thought* she was in a good marriage. Wed to her college sweetheart, they both enjoyed successful careers, a large home in Huntington Beach and were proud parents of two boys. Imagine her shock when one morning someone showed up her office to serve her legal documents.

Her husband was suing her for divorce.

If you think Brittany's surprise was justified, you may be mistaken. Despite the vows married people take to maintain their union "til death do us part," the probability of divorce is high—especially in Orange County, which has one of the highest divorce rates in the country.

How high? high? The national divorce rate is 50 percent. In California, it's 60. And in O.C., the rate is more than 70. And if you're on your second or third marriage, the divorce rate is even higher.

Those who think their marriage is safe could be opening themselves up to danger should their spouse get the upper hand in divorce proceedings by making the first move. The best defense? A proactive strategy. In other words, you can hope for the best, but you should still prepare for the worst.

As in any battle—and, trust me, divorce is *war*—preparation is

key to victory. Before the Allies hit those Normandy beaches on D-Day, they spent months developing plans, considering invasion scenarios, amassing, and training an overwhelming invasion force. The Allied High Command also imposed a Cone of Silence over their planning sessions lest any details leak to the enemy, allowing them to prepare countermeasures. When contemplating divorce, it's helpful to adopt a similar strategy, laying groundwork for victory long before the first shots are ever fired. Specifically, this means:

- Retaining a divorce lawyer and determining where your greatest strengths and vulnerabilities lie.
- Identifying what assets are and aren't community property.
- Collecting all the records and documents needed to support your case.

There are also five reasons why you need to act immediately if you hope to get the best out of any divorce settlement:

1. Banks tend to destroy documents after seven years. Brokerage, title, and escrow companies have similar policies. You must obtain all the financial documents you can before they disappear.
2. Other documents, like credit card statements, corporate documents, property deeds, and even marriage licenses can be lost over time and hard to replace.
3. Starting early allows you the time to gather and build your case before the other side even knows there is another side.
4. Your legal team needs to know what they don't know.
 - a. They must determine if a prenup/postnup, if *any*, is valid.
 - b. Estate planning documents must be analyzed for a legal opinion; what is their upside and downside?
 - c. Titles need to be pulled to assess legal ownership.
 - d. Loan and escrow docs concerning real property must be reviewed to gauge community/separate property division.
5. Completing a diary on how much time you spend with your kids will build a stronger case demonstrating you *are* the primary caretaker.

Like an earthquake survival kit, a fire extinguisher, or flood insurance, let's hope your divorce plan is something you never have to use. But as firearms advocates are so fond of saying, "Better to have it and not need it than to need it and not have it."



PAUL NELSON

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

Empowering Women through High Stakes Divorce



PAUL NELSON

4100 Newport Place Dr.
Suite 250
Newport Beach
California 92660

949-760-8888
nelsonkirkman.com

Law firm professionals turn to Nelson Kirkman when business and complex financial challenges are present.

Our history of trial success is legendary in the industry which positions us to fervently protect you, while moving towards a speedy resolution.

NELSON  **KIRKMAN**

FAMILY LAW ATTORNEYS  ADVISORS

High Stakes Divorce Lawyers



Stewardship and Allyship: Cornerstones to Better Companies and Communities

DEI. CSR. ESG. These are so much more than three-letter acronyms. Diversity, equity and inclusion, corporate social responsibility and environmental, social and corporate governance are woven into the very fabric of businesses today. This movement is driven in part by demand from clients and customers who are more aware than ever before of social issues and the importance of protecting our environment. Businesses have come to understand the intrinsic benefits of these efforts. And most have grasped the opportunity to share details about what they have been already doing in these areas to inspire others or are now more focused than ever before on enhancing their efforts to create a better world. By sharing successes and by continuously improving, businesses, their people and the communities where we live and work benefit.

At RSM US LLP ("RSM"), we define stewardship as leaving things better than we found them. Our firm has a long history of such stewardship—both in our firm as well as the communities where our people live and work. The RSM US Foundation, established in 2014, is focused on building tomorrow's leaders, and our firm is humbled to be able to donate millions of dollars each year to deserving nonprofits aligned with that vision. But it doesn't stop there. We also have an unrelenting focus on leaving our firm better for those who will come behind us, and that includes building leadership skills among our people.

Building tomorrow's leaders in today's increasingly diverse workforce is not a "one-size-fits-all" approach that might have worked decades ago. It requires understanding and appreciating the differences and perspectives that each individual brings, and customizing approaches to help them succeed. This includes a specific focus on women in the workplace.

Study after study shows that companies with gender diversity in their leadership ranks achieve higher revenue as compared to their less diverse peers. So having women in leadership positions is a competitive differentiator. Another advantage women bring to the workplace is that they tend to demonstrate high degrees of social sensitivity. This trait fosters psychological safety among teams, leading to members who are less likely to leave, and more likely to harness the power of diversity in general. Ultimately, this social sensitivity results in higher team success and even community engagement—another differentiator in the marketplace.

From September 2020 through this past February, however, women were leaving the labor force at a faster rate than men, according to RSM Chief Economist Joe Brusuelas in RSM's *The Real Economy* blog. While some of this is attributable to the unique circumstances related to the pandemic, it serves as a timely reminder of the importance of gender diversity in the workplace for the long term. How do we get our women to stay in the workplace?

Enter "allyship."

Harvard Business Review views allyship as a strategic mechanism used by individuals to become collaborators and accomplices who promote equity in the workplace through supportive personal relationships and public acts of sponsorship and advocacy. Allies work to drive systemic improvements to workplace policies, practices and culture. In a society where customers/clients, employees and investors see equity and inclusion as a business imperative, allyship by an organization's senior leaders is essential, particularly for women and other underrepresented individuals or groups in the workplace.

To build an effective network of allies, an organization must engage individuals who are interested in relearning the way they see the

world. Allyship requires viewing situations not from the lens of your own experience or perspective, but based on the realities and experiences of others. And since men hold 62% of manager-level positions, their involvement is critical. It's a lifelong process of building meaningful relationships based on trust and accountability with underrepresented individuals or groups.

To be an ally means to align yourself with someone else in *their* struggle. To be an effective ally, best-selling author Peter Bregman (Leading with Emotional Courage: How to Have Hard Conversations, Create Accountability, and Inspire Action on Your Most Important Work; Wiley, 2018) says you must do four things:

- Be confident in yourself.
- Be connected with others.
- Be committed to a purpose.
- Act with emotional courage.

To be confident in yourself, you need to understand who you are as a leader and then determine who you want to become. Asking for feedback is a powerful way to uncover blind spots, while listening to and accepting that feedback is the key to changing your behavior. Starting with confidence creates the foundation for your leadership style.

To be connected with others you must listen with a willingness to learn something new, which is the basis of connection. Following through on a commitment builds trust for lasting, honest relationships. True success depends on connecting with others.

To be committed to a purpose you have to create a clear, powerful, compelling focus toward a larger purpose in order to channel your energy and the energy of those around you toward a common goal. On a macro level, we are focused on creating an **inclusive** environment for everyone at RSM, but at the micro level – we are asking ourselves to be focused on a specific person who need us to be their allies.

To act with emotional courage we have to pause and understand when we do not want to feel something. Then, instead of avoiding it, head straight for it. Act boldly. Emotional courage feeds on confidence, connections and commitment.

As we all challenge ourselves to be vulnerable, to build trust and demonstrate courage, we become allies to the women and other underrepresented groups who will make our organizations succeed. As we practice these skills and role model them for others, our organizations will evolve to be more inclusive for women and all colleagues without a conscious effort to do so. This benefits our organizations, our people and our communities.



Kate Seitz
Assurance Partner and National Women's
Employee Network Group Leader
RSM US LLP



Yudit Freda
Senior Manager, State and Local Tax,
Orange County
RSM US LLP

THE POWER OF BEING UNDERSTOOD
AUDIT | TAX | CONSULTING

RSM

CELEBRATING THE WOMEN OF COMPASS

We would like to honor and celebrate the contributions of our female agents and colleagues all across the region who have been an inspiration to us all.

Dana Point – Huntington Beach – Laguna Beach
Long Beach – Newport Beach



“It is an absolute privilege to be recognized amongst these respected female leaders in Orange County. On behalf of myself and The AC Team, I would like to congratulate all the nominees and cheers to the strong women everywhere!”

ANNIE
CLOUGHERTY



949.375.3037 | annie.clougherty@compass.com
annieclougherty.com | DRE 01716801



BRENDA
MCCROSKEY

949.280.5563 | brenda.mccroskey@compass.com
brendamccroskey.com | DRE 01869273

“My best congratulations to all of the women in business nominees! It is an honor to work beside all of you impressive and successful females!”





JODY CLEGG

714.515.7052 | jody@jodyclegg.com
jodyclegg.com | DRE 01230876

“I am honored to be recognized amongst some of the most distinguished business women in Orange County. Congratulations to all the Women in Business nominees and thank you for paving the path for other women to succeed!”



KIMBERLEE DRAKE

949.500.7108 | Kimberlee.Drake@compass.com
KimberleeDrake.com | DRE 01068050

“It’s an honor to be nominated amongst these distinguished women in Orange County. I would like to congratulate all the nominees and thank you for paving the path for other women to be successful!”



kimberleedrake
REAL ESTATE



This is a monumental moment of my professional career to be nominated amongst these impactful women in Orange County. I would like to congratulate all the nominees and thank them for setting the stage for future female leaders.”

JESSICA CORDOVA

949.877.2462 | jessica.cordova@compass.com
DRE 02006588

MARIANA DONAHUE

949.395.8899 | marianadonahuere@gmail.com
marianadonahue.com | DRE 01954154

“I truly feel honored to be nominated amongst these phenomenal women in Orange County. My most emphatic congratulations to all the nominees and thank you for the privilege of standing next to you.”



“This nomination is an important and momentous occasion for me. I am honored and humbled to be a part of this inspirational group of successful women of Orange County.”

THE ROBYN ROBINSON TEAM

949.295.5676 | robyn@robynrobinson.com
robynrobinson.com | DRE 00849269



MEGAN VARGA GROUP

949.930.5000 | megan.varga@compass.com
meganvarga.com | DRE 01274948

“I am honored to be included as a nominee with these inspiring women who are industry leaders and drive innovation throughout Orange County.”



2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

Nicole Accetta, Co-Founder

OTACA Tequila, Aliso Viejo

OTACA Tequila, a new-to-market agave spirits company, launched in Spring 2021 throughout Southern California. Founded by Nicole and Anthony Accetta, a husband-and-wife duo with a shared passion for entrepreneurship, artistry, and the endless pursuit of the ultimate sipping tequila. After years of researching and tasting the world's finest tequilas and traversing Mexico's most-treasured agave plantations, the Dana Point duo embarked on a mission to create their own ultra-premium tequila that would be 'Once Tried, Always Craved Agave.' OTACA Tequila is a boutique agave spirits brand made from 100% Blue Weber agave piñas grown in the lowlands in the town of El Arenal - Mexico's gateway to the blue agave region of the Jalisco Lowlands. Each hand-selected agave piña is harvested once it reaches its optimum maturity after eight years and then fermented, twice filtered, and twice distilled through a proprietary chilling process. The result is a pristine, ultra-smooth sipping tequila presenting the purest expression of agave's natural flavors.



Lisa Ackerman, Founder

The Autism Community in Action (TACA), Irvine

After successfully starting and running three businesses with her husband, Ackerman shifted her entrepreneurial skills to help her son when he was diagnosed with autism at 2 ½ years old. She was commonly told to find "institutional placement" which was something she would not accept and led her to founding The Autism Community in Action (TACA) in 2000. TACA's mission is to provide education, support, and hope to families living with autism with the vision for every individual with autism to lead an independent life. Ackerman has led TACA to become a national non-profit organization annually serving over 75,000 individuals. Ackerman's son, Jeff, who is now 24 years old, is successfully attending college and enrolled in the same curriculum as his typical peers. Ackerman has lived the ordeals of autism. Her drive is to lead TACA to continue to support and bring hope to families for as long as TACA is needed. In addition, under her leadership, TACA's social media program was launched and has grown to over 355,000 followers, along with a private Facebook support group with more than 13,000 members.



Brateil Aghasi, CEO

WISEPlace, Santa Ana

Brateil Aghasi is a visionary leader with a passion for serving women and children. As the CEO of WISEPlace, she is leading the path towards a "Housing First" mentality with a new \$30 million development project to build 30+ units of permanent supportive housing. This is the first housing development in WISEPlace's almost 100 year history. She is entrusted with building and growing a trauma-informed care approach to case management, mental health and therapeutic support, along with financial empowerment services to provide housing, hope and stability for women experiencing homelessness. In her role, she is responsible for guiding the strategic vision and direction of the organization, increasing program efficiencies and effectiveness, day-to-day operations and implementation of various fundraising campaigns and initiatives. Thanks to Aghasi's leadership, WISEPlace revenue has tripled for three years and the number of women served increased by 150 percent. Aghasi started her career as chief operating officer of WHW, after spending eight years there she was recruited by Big Brothers Big Sisters OC/IE as director of programs. She also generously volunteers her time and expertise and serves on the Boards of CSUF, UCI and One OC.



Marion Anderson, Senior Director of People & Culture

Channel Bakers, Anaheim

From the day she started at Channel Bakers as an international contractor and consultant, Marion Anderson has been an invaluable part of the company's infrastructure and growth. She was tasked with building Channel Bakers' already expanding global presence in EMEA with a new office in Scotland. She proved from moment one that she was an expert at building something from the ground up with her unflinching expertise in local government relations, and her well-honed acumen in interpersonal and human resource relations. When the opportunity came for Anderson to join the main office in California, she was once again tasked with building something from the ground up. The HR department at the main office was in need of revision and direction. She met this need with style and speed by implementing a Human Resources Information System (HRIS), updating company-wide policies, and improving the talent acquisition process. Anderson also laid out the infrastructure's foundation with a keen eye for allowing growth, and an open-hearted approach to the acquisition of talent. Her efforts to change the way Channel Bakers found its new employees in a time of rare scarcity were deeply inspired by DE&I (Diversity Equity and Inclusion) principles, but to stop the story there would sell Anderson's accomplishment just a bit too short.



Rochelle Anderson, HR Generalist

RBA Builders Inc., Huntington Beach

Rochelle Anderson began her career with RBA Builders, Inc. after high school and worked her way through various assignments including admin assistant, accounting, and payroll before finding her niche in human resources where she was promoted to human resource generalist. Anderson's dedication to process improvement and the well being of RBA employees is evident in all that she does. In addition to chairing the Events & Wellness Committee, Anderson also represents the Company as a member of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) and on the Board of Advisors for the UC Riverside Women in Leadership Program. Anderson was also selected for membership in RBA's Young Executive Training Initiative (YETI Program) and is on track to become the company's human resource manager in the near future. remain engaged as a team and poised for the influx of new business opportunities as the economy rebounds that might have been missed without this continued support.



Corinne Anderson Schoepe, Director, Global Brand

Fluidmaster, San Juan Capistrano

Corinne Anderson's career trajectory and contributions to the higher levels of the organization have skyrocketed within her nine years at Fluidmaster. She started in finance, rotated through the various disciplines, and spent the majority of time in financial planning and analysis. She later moved to marketing, where she successfully launched the Perfect Fit tank lever line, which was the fastest new product development project completed at the company over the past decade and is now a \$4 million line. She instituted a brand management discipline, creating standards and guidelines as well as completely overhauling all global packaging in less than a year. She has oversight of the European marketing activities and product launches. She also drives the strategic brand direction globally and international business development and co-leads strategic planning. She is also actively promoting a culture of collaboration and innovation. On top of all of that, she also sits on the board of Fluidmaster.



Paula Aragone, CEO

Aragone & Associates, Yorba Linda

Paula Aragone brings almost two decades of real estate experience to every transaction, where she specializes in coastal communities from San Clemente to Huntington Beach and inland to Yorba Linda. Argone's expansive network, unparalleled client service, and proven marketing strategies have made her an elite member of First Team Real Estate, which represents the top 1% of sales associates nationally. Argone attended four years of Law School in her native country, which has been proven to be an edge in Real Estate contracts and effective negotiation technique. She believes in ensuring the highest standards of ethic and practice are maintained at all times. Her extensive experience with complex transactions, her strong law background and unique skill set is especially appreciated by high - net - worth clients with equally high expectations and standards.



Kahroba Ayazi, Business Owner

J&K Hospitality Group, Costa Mesa

Kahroba Ayazi has owned and operated four restaurants in Orange County with a 5th opening soon. While a successful corporate director, she took on the role of small business owner- a job many believed to be "less challenging & less pay" for her education and experience but proven to be more rewarding and plentiful a challenge. She lives day to day to provide for her family at home and the team of family she has created at the restaurants. The past two years she continued to stay positive, to be creative with business ideas to sustain her family during the unknown and to keep the team strong. She attends every meeting with her two year in tow & gets the job done. Ayazi could easily step back in the corporate world, but that would mean giving up the opportunity for their daughter to see her action, to see the strength she brings to the table day in and day out, to see how a businesswoman runs the family business with the same integrity, love, dedication and hard work as she does for her family.



Zarina Bahadur, CEO & Founder

123 Baby Box, Irvine

Zarina Bahadur saw an exhausted mom at the grocery store juggling her crying baby and struggling to pick the right products for it. She thought to herself there must be a better way. Even though she was a college student at the time at UCI, Bahadur persisted to start the company. 123 Baby Box is a monthly subscription box for babies. Each box comes with products tailored to the baby's age and developmental stage. The company has subscribers all over the world and has even been accepted to the highly competitive Long Beach Accelerator (2% acceptance rate).





Celebrating leaders in the community

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

**To all the Women in Business nominees,
we celebrate your achievements.**

wellsfargo.com

2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

With their accelerator acceptance comes their first seed investment valuing the company at \$2 million. The company, led by Bahadur, has already established global partnerships with 40+ major baby companies. Bahadur and 123 Baby Box was also recently featured in Forbes.

Pamina Barkow, Owner & CEO

Orange County Pain Management, Mission Viejo

Pamina Barkow and her husband launched Orange County Pain Management in 2008. She was CEO/nutritionist and he was medical director. They quickly grew by providing Integrative Pain Management services. They offered non-surgical interventional services and coupled western medicine with strong nutritional and eastern treatments (such as acupuncture). Within a couple of years, they were the third largest South OC pain management clinic. They continued to work hard at adding services, providing excellent care and by their 12 year anniversary, they were one of the leaders in the area with three locations and over 12 employees, eight independent contractors, and served hundreds of patients monthly. As CEO she led their vision and growth as well as created high functioning dynamic teams. She led a Merger and Acquisition deal for the sale of the clinics in April 2021.



Debbie Barlow Taylor, COO

Fusion of Ideas, Lake Forest

Debbie Barlow Taylor is the CEO of FUSION OF IDEAS, which provides end-to-end business technology solutions for companies of all sizes. The Lake Forest-based company has developed strong relationships with top device manufacturers and national retailers to help clients boost their bottom line by creating brand experiences and maximizing the use of their technology. FUSION OF IDEAS' services include corporate gifting and hardware branding solutions, software consulting and development, and full-service deployment programs. Barlow Taylor joined FUSION OF IDEAS in 2010, when the then-retail business was located at The Shops at Mission Viejo. In 2011, FUSION OF IDEAS shifted its focus to strictly business-to-business sales and Barlow Taylor was named COO. In her former role, Barlow Taylor was credited with directing internal operations that led to the company's tremendous success, achieving an average of 45% year-over-year increase in revenue. Today, as CEO, Barlow Taylor has led FUSION OF IDEAS to work with some of the nation's top companies—including 21st Century Fox, Sotheby's International Realty, Major League Baseball and Wynn Resorts—to maximize the use of mobile technology in their organizations.



Amy Bast, Chief People Officer

SureCo Healthcare + Technology, Santa Ana

Amy Bast is a strategic executive leader with over 15 years of comprehensive leadership skills in developing global talent teams and driving organizational effectiveness for the organizations she supports. Bast is a seasoned business partner to her leaders and skilled in moving the needle to organizational success. Bast has transformed a tactical administrative function into a strategic talent function that aligns and supports the organizational strategy for the next hyper-growth phase in a multistate environment. Bast currently sits on the executive leadership team to drive talent strategies that produce high-performing business units and enable organization objectives. Bast has lead talent strategy at various stages of organizational maturity such as hypergrowth mode, organizational design, reorganizations into different business models and operating companies, and more. Bast's nimble, transformative approach to the organizations she is a part of positively impacts their processes and recruiting strategies.



Katie Bayliss, Attorney & Counselor at Law

Bayliss Law Firm, Irvine

Katie Bayliss is recognized as a leading attorney representing small and medium sized businesses as well as individuals and families with young children. Mrs. Bayliss is the founding attorney and counselor at law of Bayliss Law Firm. She has over 10 years of practice with focus on corporate law, real estate law, estate planning/probate, and injury law. In her practice, she is known for being compassionate, patient, and for successfully attaining settlements for clients who would have normally been overlooked by other firms. Mrs. Bayliss is also a real estate broker and the owner of All In Realty, a boutique real estate brokerage. She specializes in assisting clients acquire and sell residential and commercial properties. Many of her clients are searching for the ideal vacation home whether it be in the mountains or on the lake front; and are investors who need her advice on current California and local laws especially in the area of short-term rentals. Mrs. Bayliss and her husband, Shaun Bayliss who is also a realtor, serve Orange County, its surrounding areas, and the entire state of California for their clients' real estate needs. They live in north Orange County with their two young children.



Kenya Beckmann, Chief Philanthropy Officer

Providence Southern California, Irvine

Kenya Beckmann joined Providence in 2019 as chief philanthropy officer for

Southern California. Beckmann came to Providence with more than 20 years of experience in philanthropy in both health care and higher education. In two years, Beckmann has overseen the growth of all eight Providence foundations across Southern California, exceeding fundraising goals. Last year, Providence St. Joseph Hospital, Orange, received a \$16 million gift, its largest ever. Significant gifts were also made to support the new Leonard Cancer Institute at Providence Mission Hospitals in Mission Viejo and Laguna Beach. Critical 3D mammography equipment was funded for St. Jude Medical Center, Fullerton. In the Los Angeles region, a \$50 million gift was secured to fund the new patient tower at Providence Cedars-Sinai Tarzana Medical Center. Beckmann's goal is for Providence Southern California to be the premiere destination for philanthropists and philanthropy professionals.



Letitia Berbaum, COO & Wealth Advisor

The Zandbergen Group, Laguna Beach

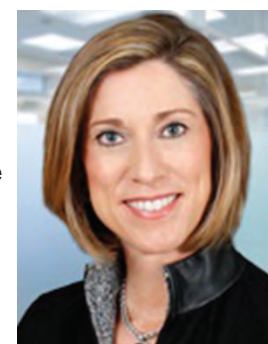
Respected for her dedication to serving her clientele with excellence, Letitia Berbaum is paving the way for future generations of female financial advisors. Through innovative strategies, Berbaum is able to help her clientele become financially fit so that they can thrive through life's ebbs and flows. As COO of The Zandbergen Group, Berbaum specializes in wealth management, asset transfer strategies for high net worth individuals and multi-generational families, and full-service strategic planning for business owners - from those seeking an entrepreneurial framework to those exploring an exit plan. Berbaum has been recognized as an outstanding wealth manager in several publications and has been named as an Orange County Five-Star Wealth Manager for five consecutive years. She has earned the Accredited Investment Fiduciary® (AIF®) designation and holds both Series 7 and 66 securities registrations as well as Long Term Care Insurance, Life & Health, and Insurance licenses.



Kimberly Dwan Bernatz, CFA, AEP, Managing Director

CIBC Private Wealth, Newport Beach

Kimberly Dwan Bernatz is head of CIBC Private Wealth's Newport Beach office, with more than 20 years of industry experience. The firm provides a full suite of investment management, wealth planning, trustee services and private and commercial banking solutions. Bernatz leads the firm's client service and growth objectives in the Southwest region. She and her team, are dedicated to delivering exceptional performance and service across the full spectrum of wealth management. Over the course of her career, Bernatz has worked with high net worth individuals, families and non-profit organizations to craft customized plans for clients in the areas of wealth and estate planning, personal trust and investment management. She has helped her clients build wealth, retain wealth and plan for the transition of their wealth to future generations and/or charity. She has successfully guided her teams toward bottom line business growth while always ensuring that the highest-quality client experience is never compromised.



Pooja Bhalla, Executive Director of Healthcare Services

Illumination Foundation, Orange

Dr. Pooja Bhalla joined Illumination Foundation in 2017 as chief operating officer, responsible for the strategic planning and daily operations of all programming, including recuperative care, behavioral health, and housing. Since March 2020, she has directed their effort to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within the population of those experiencing homelessness in Orange County, a vast undertaking at the behest of the Orange County Health Care Agency that has included providing a safe environment for more than 2,500 individuals needing isolation and medical care. Bhalla has also implemented an innovative partnership with Illumination Foundation Medical Group, a private medical group which provides medical, dental, and mental health primary care services for clients. In February 2021, Bhalla was promoted to the newly-created role of executive director of healthcare services, where she focuses on the complex issue of healthy equity in order to improve quality outcomes and reduce health disparities.



Kim Bibb, Realtor

Villa Real Estate, Newport Beach

Kim Bibb, Villa Real Estate's co-founder and top agent, has been the icon of luxury real estate in Newport Beach for over 20 years. As Villa's highest-producing agent, Bibb closed over 40 transactions totaling \$143 million in 2020 alone. Not only is Bibb the unparalleled expert in the highly sought-after Peninsula Point submarket, where she resides and has transacted more than \$1.5 Billion in sales, but she was named by WSJ Real Trends as a top 100 agent nationwide for individual sales volume in 2020. Bibb has dominated the Newport Beach market, selling hundreds of elite coastal homes while setting new high-water marks for



Private enterprise or personal ambition—we'll manage both

Just because your wealth management and business financial needs are different doesn't mean you need different banks to manage them. When you partner with Union Bank®, you join a single trusted resource that can deliver customized solutions to address both. So whether you're taking your start-up to the next level, managing an established middle-market company, or need advice on business succession planning, choose the right partner to manage all of your financial goals. Choose Union Bank.

Learn more at unionbank.com

Julie Beckley

Director, Business Development
Orange County Commercial Banking
julie.beckley@unionbank.com

Candice Nakagawa

Director, Private Wealth Advisor
candice.nakagawa@unionbank.com

Robbin Narike Preciado

Regional President
and Managing Director
robbinnarike.preciado@unionbank.com



A member of MUFG, a global financial group

Wealth planning strategies have legal, tax, accounting and other implications. Prior to implementing any wealth planning strategy, clients should consult their legal, tax, accounting and other advisers.



©2021 MUFG Union Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. Member FDIC.

Union Bank is a registered trademark and brand name of MUFG Union Bank, N.A. unionbank.com

2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

exceptional properties on the Oceanfront and Bayfront. Bibb is known for setting the gold standards for market intelligence and client service in coastal Orange County.

Lisa Blanc, Real Estate Agent

Seven Gables Real Estate, Tustin

A seasoned Orange County real estate professional with a tenure spanning 22 years as a licensed realtor, Lisa Blanc is both an industry leader and trusted advisor to clients. She is an annual multi-million-dollar top producer and the top overall agent for Seven Gables Real Estate's Orange office. Blanc is the recipient of the Don Rea Award, an award given out to an agent who showcases outstanding character among all Seven Gables agents. In addition, she is a new agent mentor and has been awarded several Seven Gables' Core Values Awards including "Be a Proud & Active Member of the Community," "Love What You Do," "Lead with Authority," and "You Matter."



Ashley Bleckner, Private Wealth Advisor

Ellevest, Capistrano Beach

Ashley Bleckner is a seasoned professional in the financial services industry, guiding clients through complex financial situations with ease. Inside Ellevest she's a mentor to members of the team, freely dispensing advice on work and life. She is inclusive and demonstrates through her daily actions that our individual and collective success aren't mutually exclusive; she knows that women helping women is a good thing. The company is fortunate to have such a supportive leader and want to see her recognized for all she does not only for the company, but for the wider Orange County community. Bleckner is a Certified Financial Planner™ (CFP®) professional, she's been in the financial services industry for nearly a decade since obtaining her bachelor's and master's degrees in economics.



Olabisi Boyle, Vice President, Product Planning and Mobility Strategy

Hyundai Motor North America, Fountain Valley

As the product & mobility vice president at Hyundai Motor North America, Olabisi (Bisi) Boyle's role and responsibility is to be the chief product champion and ensure the North American customer voice is represented in the HMNA product line-up. This includes planning the lineup to ensure product competitiveness in the market, revenue and pricing management, leadership in electrification and eco-strategy, and Smart Mobility (including IT business solutions and connected car technology). Her mindset is to set ambitious, almost ostentatious, goals like enabling a hydrogen-based economy, making impactful contributions to the community at large, supporting and encouraging diversity on a large scale and becoming one of the best, smart mobility providers.



Eve Brackmann, Partner/Shareholder

Stuart Kane LLP, Newport Beach

Eve A. Brackmann is a partner and shareholder at Stuart Kane LLP, and practices in the firm's Litigation group. Ms. Brackmann litigates business disputes, including both regular and complex cases. As lead counsel in jury and bench trials in both state and federal court, as well as private arbitrations, she has established a winning record on both the plaintiff and defense sides. Ms. Brackmann specializes in real estate disputes as well as high-stakes business litigation for clients such as casino developers, shopping center owners, mortgage companies, and domestic and multi-national companies in sectors ranging from manufacturing to aviation. She has also represented property owners in a variety of first-party and third-party insurance coverage cases. In the community, Ms. Brackmann has been elected for director at large on the Board of Directors for the Orange County Bar Association.



Marcy Brown, Senior Vice President and Chief Hospital Operations Officer

Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian, Newport Beach

As SVP and chief hospital operations officer Marcy Brown is responsible for the management of hospital operations at the two Hoag Hospital campuses, Newport Beach and Irvine. In this role Brown ensures that Hoag delivers high quality, safe, efficient and patient-centered healthcare services to the community it serves while achieving strong financial results. Her role and responsibilities were especially challenging beginning on January 27th, with the admission of the first patient in Orange County diagnosed with the novel Coronavirus. The everchanging realities of the scope and impact of COVID pandemic required her to lean in, provide calmness and direction with strength, be innovative, omnipresent and lead new front-line teams in their response while equipping them with the necessary personal protective equipment, resolve, support and recognition. Despite the unprecedented disruption



of the pandemic Ms. Brown's leadership and influence allowed Hoag to be recognized by U.S. News & World as the top hospital in Orange County for the fifth consecutive year and to be 1 of only 11 hospitals in the nation to earn top rating as "high performing" in all 17 conditions and procedures - less than 1% of the 4000 hospitals evaluated.

Lauri Burns, Owner & Founder

Vera's Sanctuary, Trabuco Canyon

Vera's Sanctuary is the only licensed residential drug treatment site in Orange County dedicated to victims of human trafficking. Vera's Sanctuary has 18-beds onsite, providing withdrawal management (detox) and residential treatment for women, including those who are pregnant and addicted needing services. The program provides 42 hours of weekly therapeutic services, including groups, individual counseling and case management. Lauri Burns is CEO of The Teen Project is a nonprofit 501c3 serving at risk young women. They provide drug treatment at no cost to eligible recipients through the support of County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Health, Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) and gracious donors. The Teen Project is a parent to the parentless providing young women without resources with a chance at life.



Dana Butler-Moburg, CEO

J.F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center, San Juan Capistrano

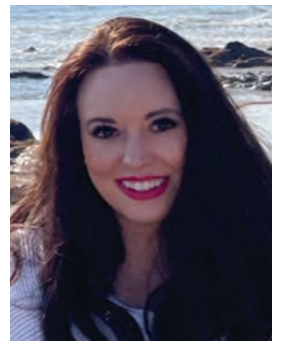
For the past 24 years, Dana Butler-Moburg has been the executive director of J.F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center in San Juan Capistrano. The Shea Center is dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities through therapeutic horse-related programs. The Shea Center is one of the largest therapeutic equestrian centers in the U.S. In the past six years, The Shea Center has doubled in size while increasing client services to over 15,000 hours each year reaching over 1800+ clients with 50 staff and nearly 700 annual volunteers. The average retention for senior staff at the Center is 12 years. During her tenure, The Shea Center has trained therapeutic equestrian professionals from nearly every state in the U.S. and 16 different countries. During 2020, Butler-Moburg was responsible for helping to support and lead therapeutic equestrian facility leaders through the pandemic. With regular webinars that reached out to the entire US and four countries, she spoke to more than 1000 professionals and continued to personally mentor 30 different CEOs of therapeutic equestrian facilities throughout 2020 with strategies to continue services and keep programs viable.



Jamie Lyn Byerlee, Owner

Events by Jamie Lyn, Laguna Hills

Events by Jamie Lyn was founded over 21 years ago with the philosophy focused on the customer. They want the entire event process to be enjoyable for you from start to finish by paying attention to every detail. They make the process productive and cost effective, and always discrete.



Kristin Byrnes, CEO & President

Project Access, Orange

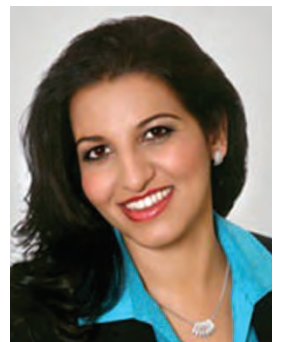
Following years of serving in leadership roles in the nonprofit sector, Kristin Byrnes began her career with Project Access in 2004 and was promoted from executive vice president to CEO and president in 2010. In just 20 years, Project Access has become the leading provider of vital on-site health, education, and employment services to families, children, and seniors. She successfully implemented a unique roadmap of new programs and service offerings based on the needs of residents and prospects from a broad range of cultural and ethnic backgrounds living in affordable housing communities throughout California in addition to creating new business opportunities and fundraising efforts for Project Access. Under her leadership, Project Access has expanded to 80 apartment communities across the country, providing health, education, and employment services to help stabilize at-risk households. Throughout 2020 her stewardship successfully navigated Project Access through enormous challenges posed by the pandemic; pivoting the organization to directly address critical needs of residents including food, distribution of additional resources, and targeted wellness calls. She and her team served more than 22,500 individuals and ensured families remained stabilized and supported.



Rashmi Chaturvedi, President

Kaygen Inc., Irvine

Rashmi Chaturvedi is the co-founder and president of KAYGEN, a global business and technology consulting company specializing in enterprise data management. With over 25 years of technology expertise, she started her career as a database administrator and quickly moved up to spearhead large business transformation initiatives resulting in improved efficiencies. She co-founded KAYGEN in 2003, as a strategic advisor and has been



Highest Ranked Hospital in Orange County



5 Years in a Row

hoag.org



© 2021, Hoag is a registered trademark of Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian. All Rights Reserved.

2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

instrumental in providing data driven solutions to customers globally. KAYGEN's Data First approach has enabled customers to digitally transform their customer experience, operations & business processes leading to increased productivity, & profitability, while maintaining compliance with the latest data privacy and security regulations. An advocate for economic equity, Chaturvedi serves on the boards of women owned and small businesses such as the Board for Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC and WBEC-West). Her insights have led to more direct contract opportunities for women owned businesses. As an executive board member and financial officer for Transportation Business Advisory Council at Los Angeles Metro, her work has played an important role in ensuring that small and diverse businesses have direct access to contracts and are paid timely on the executed contracts.

Mary Cheval, Principal

Ware Malcomb, Irvine

Mary Cheval is principal at Ware Malcomb, a contemporary and expanding full service design firm providing professional architecture, planning, interior design, civil engineering, branding and building measurement services to corporate, commercial/residential developer and public/institutional clients throughout the world. Cheval is a proven leader in creating and executing innovative design solutions while ensuring meticulous attention to detail from concept through completion. Cheval consistently goes above and beyond for her clients and team. She is fiercely dedicated to surpassing challenging goals and expectations and cares deeply about the personal and professional development of her team. As a result, Cheval is well respected within the design community and is creating a positive impact for the next generation of women leaders. Cheval's expertise with workplace strategy, delivering human centered, evidence-based design solutions are instrumental to Ware Malcomb's project success, including Thales Avionics, Karma Automotive, and Toyota Financial Services.



Nicole Christopherson, Broker

NMC Realty, Rancho Santa Margarita

Nicole M. Christopherson is a highly respected and sought-after real estate expert who has been helping couples, families and individuals buy and sell foremost coastal and foothill properties in Orange County since 2003. Over the years, she has earned a stellar reputation as a trusted advisor and partner to clients and colleagues alike in choice locales such as Mission Viejo, Coto De Caza, Huntington Beach and Newport Beach, as well as high- and mid-rise communities in Irvine. With an undergraduate degree in education from Arizona State University and a master's degree in literacy from Chapman University, Christopherson leverages her rich background and applies it to every aspect of real estate, from growing a one-person operation into a successful full-service real estate agency-NMC Realty-to educating her clients. Dedicated to promoting and maintaining the highest standards of conduct in the real estate profession, she is a Vesta trained professional and board member of the Newport Beach Association of REALTORS® (NBAOR), where she serves as the elected representative for the organization in Sacramento at the state level.



Jody Clegg, Founder

The Jody Clegg Team, Huntington Beach

Founded by acclaimed real estate professional Jody Clegg, the Jody Clegg Team is a hand-selected, top-performing group of professionals with the singular goal of providing clients with the most customized and thorough client service in the business. The real estate industry is a constantly evolving field. Gone are the days when a realtor could simply stick a sign in the front yard to sell a home, and the Jody Clegg Team prides itself in being at the forefront of client service and innovation. Each sale tells its own story with its own moving parts, and Clegg has personally chosen uniquely qualified staff and agents to help her in her pursuit of revolutionizing client expectations in the field of real estate. For more than 22 years, the team's offerings have ranged from luxurious oceanfront estates to cozy single-story cottages, resulting in more than \$1 billion of real estate sales in Orange County. Partnering with internationally renowned real estate powerhouse Compass, Clegg has aligned herself with the biggest brands in luxury real estate, providing her clients with unparalleled exposure to an exclusive marketplace few others can claim. Priding herself on unrivaled marketing quality, community knowledge, and outstanding client service, Clegg and her team have established themselves as one of the most innovative luxury real estate forces in Orange County.



Annie Clougherty, Realtor

Compass Real Estate, Newport Beach

Representing both buyers and sellers throughout Orange County, Annie Clougherty has emerged within the local real estate scene as one of the top agents in the county as well as throughout California and nationwide. Recognized by both her peers and industry leaders, she has been listed as one of the top agents in the country by the Wall Street Journal's "Real Trends" report, ranking her in the Top ½ of



the top 1% in the country, and is also ranked in the top 500 real estate agents in the state of California. Clougherty has been a friendly, yet competitive force in the local real estate market for more than 20 years. As an Orange County native and longtime Newport Beach resident, Clougherty maintains extensive knowledge of the personalities, unique attributes, and intricacies of each Coastal Orange County neighborhood.

Taylor Coleman, Creative Manager

Howard Building Corporation, Costa Mesa

Taylor Coleman joined HBC three years ago as a marketing coordinator. Very quickly Coleman's talents began to shine through her creativity, dedication, and hard work. She has been pivotal in creating a fresh new perspective to our client presentation materials through her ability to write compelling copy coupled with the use of various new technology mediums resulting in an increase of awarded work. She epitomizes the vision and values of the culture at HBC and has elegantly streamlined this messaging across all corporate communication methods. Her desire for continuous improvement and willingness to take on new challenges is why she is now the creative manager at HBC. She is highly respected and well-liked by her colleagues and industry partners. True to her good nature, Coleman is also actively involved in HBC's ESOP and Wellness committees in addition to being one of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion champions.



Amy Cook, CEO & Founder

Osmond Marketing, San Clemente

Dr. Amy Osmond Cook founded Osmond Marketing in 2009. Osmond Marketing is a woman-owned, full-service content marketing organization specifically designed to meet the needs of small businesses and healthcare companies. Its innovative model allows companies to operate on retainer but with the oversight to have all contracted hours available for their perusal at all times. With its unsurpassed quality and customer service, Osmond Marketing has experienced exponential growth. She has been featured in publications such as People and USA Today and on television shows such as Good Morning America.



Tammy Cooper, CEO, CFO & Chairman

Technolgent, Irvine

As the CEO, CFO and chairwoman of Technolgent, Tammy Cooper is responsible for the oversight and management of all departments of Technolgent, including sales, finance, personnel, legal and all corporate and governance functions. Over the last 16 years, Cooper has presided over unprecedented growth of the organization, taking the woman owned company from a 20 employee startup to its current 250 employee global provider of Edge-to-Edge™ information technology solutions and services for Fortune 1000 enterprises. Cooper and her team focus on turning their clients' vision into reality by enabling them to focus on driving innovation, increasing productivity, and outperforming the market. She continually works to achieve streamlined strategic cash flow, banking relationships, and vital planning of financing and credit lines to spur growth and critical investments.



Michele Cortes, Chief Financial Officer

Vincor Construction Inc., Brea

Michele Cortes started a small paving company with \$250 in her pocket and a college diploma in her hand. Under her supervision, leadership, and experience, that small paving company eventually grew into a licensed general contractor, generating \$60 million dollars in revenue per year. As the company grew from its origins, Cortes was able to hire her first employee, which then led to a company of 50 individuals, and still growing. She is the CFO and partial owner of Vincor Construction, Inc. She works diligently with her accounting staff to ensure the financial operation and projection of the company are always thriving.



Shawn Covarrubias, VP-Client Services

Apriem Advisors, Irvine

Awarded Apriem's first Miyagi Award, a recognition given to highlight an individual's perseverance and commitment exhibited throughout the year, Shawn Covarrubias embodies client service to the highest degree. She is an integral part in creating a concierge level of service, making ourselves available to our clients to answer any questions and help solve any problems, no matter how big or small. After becoming Apriem's first ever employee, she had to give up her long-standing career in the financial services industry to take care of her children. After a decade of successfully raising her children, she came back in the financial services industry better than ever. She takes lead in various aspects of the business - client services, operations, human resources, compliance, as well as staff engagement and diversity/inclusion programs.



Congratulations to all the women recognized for making outstanding contributions to their organizations and helping shape and grow Orange County.

First Foundation proudly supports all women in business, and is honored to have our own Lindsay Lawrence recognized.



Looking to further your career at a company with strong values?

Learn more about opportunities with First Foundation:

firstfoundationinc.com/careers



PERSONAL BANKING

BUSINESS BANKING

PRIVATE WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Member FDIC First Foundation Inc. provides two separate and distinct services: (1) investment advisory services through First Foundation Advisors, as an SEC registered investment adviser, and (2) banking, trust services, and philanthropic and family consulting through First Foundation Bank, Member FDIC and Equal Housing Lender, and insurance services through the bank's subsidiary, First Foundation Insurance Services. Private Wealth Management services provided by First Foundation Advisors are Not FDIC Insured, Not Bank Guaranteed, and May Lose Value.

2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

Gloria Crockett, CEO

Make-A-Wish Orange County & Inland Empire

Gloria Crockett is a highly skilled nonprofit executive with more than 25 years of experience in organizational development, fundraising and program development, board leadership and strategic planning. She brings an extensive background in working with national teams of dedicated individuals representing multiple major markets to move forward bottom-line objectives that are both strategic and empowering. Crockett, president and chief executive officer of Make-A-Wish Orange County and the Inland Empire, has been granting wishes since September 2019. When presented the opportunity to take the lead at the organization, she could not pass on the once-in-a-lifetime chance to advance the vision of the foundation. She immediately implemented her strategic initiatives and priorities in partnership with a passionate staff, board of directors and other key stakeholders of Make-A-Wish OCIE by granting wishes that provide joy and hope to children. Her commitment to provide uplifting support to families facing difficult times due to hardships associated with children battling critical illnesses remains unmatched.



addition to the impressive leadership team. Today, she leads systemwide marketing initiatives, providing strategic vision and direction as Mountain Mike's continues to expand. DeNembo has made huge strides to fuel and sustain the growth by modernizing the 40+ year legacy brand and its nearly 250 units - now developing throughout eight Western states. Most recently, she spearheaded a variety of innovative digital initiatives, including a new mobile app and loyalty program. She also oversees an authentic partnership for a brand embraced by sports fans of all ages, as Mountain Mike's is the Official Pizza of the San Francisco 49ers.



Kristin Daher, President & Chief Storyteller

Powerhouse Communications, Santa Ana

Since founding Powerhouse Communications five years ago, Kristin Daher has continually advanced its standing as one of Orange County's premier, female-led firms. She has strategically reimaged the agency's approach to PR, influencer and social media programs - leveraging innovation, thought leadership and entrepreneurship - and has fostered a company culture that celebrates all wins, big and small. While its roots are in restaurant, franchise and domestic CPG, Daher has diversified Powerhouse's portfolio in the last year to include new specialties like health and fitness, international CPG, technology and data analytics. The agency's roster now features clients in these sectors, including London-based Tone & Sculpt, award-winning Pasolivo olive oil and Merchant Centric, a leader in data analytics. Daher's insightful growth measures have led to new hires, a deeper client list and endless possibilities for future success. Under Daher's leadership and for the second consecutive year, Powerhouse was named a "Top Franchise PR Firm" by Entrepreneur.



Mariana Donahue, Real Estate Agent

Compass Real Estate, Newport Beach

Mariana Donahue has been fortunate to have the opportunity to learn about the industry from a young age. This has given her a belief in the importance of listening carefully to people, which is essential to helping her buyers and sellers identify their needs and goals for the future. Working with Compass has elevated her business to a new level that allows her to deliver the best results. She is a certified international property specialist and a pricing strategy advisor providing her with additional tools and resources to service her clients locally and internationally. Donahue is excited to continue with a top producing real estate company and help everyone find their place in the world.



Samantha Dorey, Partner

Everett Dorey LLP, Irvine

Samantha Dorey is a founding partner of Everett Dorey LLP, a full service civil litigation firm that represents multi-national corporations, non-profits, cities, public agencies and school districts in all aspects of litigation. She specializes in complex civil litigation with an emphasis in catastrophic injury, public entity defense, employment law, mass tort, asbestos litigation and environmental law. She also regularly advises clients on non-litigated matters, including development of risk management protocols and procedures related to property management and environmental issues. As a leading litigation firm in California routinely retained as trial counsel in complex and challenging cases throughout the state.



Angela Dailey, Managing Partner/ Executive Director

DAI Partners, and Women Investing in Security and Education (WISE), Huntington Beach

Angela Z. Dailey has been breaking glass ceilings her entire career and contributing to the advancement of inclusion and diversity by both example and actions through her business and community involvement. Dailey began her career at a small investment bank that became one of the most powerful and controversial firms on Wall Street. In recognition of her contributions to the firm's growth and subsequent crisis management, she was appointed to the Board of Directors, one of the first women to join the board of a prominent investment firm. In 1990 Dailey became an entrepreneur forming DAI Partners, a strategic communications firm offering services to C-suite executives. The firm quickly attracted a roster of top tier financial firms. Serving as managing partner, she has provided leadership for the firm to prosper over 30 years. Clients included many women CEOs, who were powerful forces for diversity and inclusion. Eager to help advance this agenda, Dailey and her partners conceived the groundbreaking series, Tearing Down the Pink Wall, to showcase prominent women in finance, educate and inspire women to reach their full potential.



Kimberlee Drake, Realtor

Compass Real Estate, Newport Beach

With over 20 years of industry experience, former owner of a successful Interior design firm, many years of ties to Major League Baseball, Kimberlee Drake uses her market insight and strong professional networks to ensure that clients are informed and empowered as they buy and sell in Southern California's luxury markets. Bringing extensive knowledge and experience of the real estate market, Drake offers her clients an outstanding level of service. Honesty and integrity are two characteristics that have helped her build a business of repeat clients and referrals. Drake offers to market anything from homes, vacation or retirement properties, and commercial investments to discriminating buyers locally and around the world. Drake brings to her clients a wealth of skill, experience, and professionalism that is at the top-shelf of the Orange County real estate industry. Drake truly enjoys her work and commits to excellence in all she undertakes. Drake's clients rave that she is wonderful to work with, is incredibly detail-oriented, a savvy negotiator and a level tenacity like no other.



Kathleen Delaney, Chief Marketing Officer

Kofax, Irvine

As chief marketing officer at Kofax, Kathleen Delaney advances market recognition and customer awareness for the company. She has cemented Kofax's position as a leader in empowering organizations to work like tomorrow, today, through an unwavering focus on driving revenue and building strong, modern, diversified teams. Recently, Delaney increased Kofax's market awareness with a major rebranding campaign that resulted in 2.6 billion impressions from over 1,400 global media placements and helped Kofax go from near zero to almost a 20 percent global share of voice in the intelligent automation space. She and her team have implemented cutting edge marketing technology to create a demand engine that influences over 65 percent of Kofax' new revenue. Alongside the successful rebrand and demand generation, Delaney is responsible for all of Kofax's global marketing functions, including product marketing, digital marketing, social media, marketing operations, events, and public and analyst relations.



Rhonda Ducote, President & Principal

Apriem Advisors, Irvine

Rhonda Ducote, AIF® with her long-standing experience and success has placed her in a unique position of influence in the financial advice industry, particularly as a woman in leadership. She is passionate about two things; helping people achieve their financial dreams and developing people and teams to be their best. She brought industry-changing initiatives that gained Apriem nationwide recognition, not just as a top financial advisory firm, but also an outstanding small business and one of the most civic-minded companies. Through Apriem's service offerings, she brings a focus on helping the underserved demographics of women, blue-collar workers, and nonprofits. She is the Legacy Builders Chair, launching the "Million Dollar Match" Campaign for Southern California Hospice Foundation to secure funding for Heavenly Home, the first hospice house in Southern California. Her industry experience mixed with her passion for people has set her apart as a respected leader, advisor, mentor, and coach.



Carol DeNembo, Vice President of Marketing

Mountain Mike's Pizza LLC, Newport Beach

Carol DeNembo is vice president of marketing for Mountain Mike's Pizza, a leading family-style pizza chain known for its legendary crispy, curly pepperoni and Mountain-sized pizzas. When the brand was acquired in 2017, and operations moved from Northern California to Newport Beach, DeNembo was a significant

Jamie Duran, President

Coldwell Banker Realty, Southern California, Irvine

A real estate professional in Southern California for 30 years, Jamie Duran is president of Coldwell Banker Realty in Southern California, overseeing 75 offices,



Thank you, Kenya Beckmann



For your leadership and dedication to our communities. As Providence Southern California's Chief Philanthropy Officer and as a humanitarian dedicated to helping the most vulnerable among us, you live the Providence Promise every day by knowing, caring for and easing the way of all you serve. Congratulations on your Women in Business Awards nomination.

[Providence.org](https://www.Providence.org)

2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

4,400 independent sales associates and 226 employees. Her territory includes the counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Diego. A licensed broker and a true "in-the-field" hands-on leader, Duran has a track record that speaks volumes about her abilities to drive a company forward in both innovation and growth. Throughout her years of real estate service, she has demonstrated her personal and professional commitment to providing excellent customer service to sellers, buyers and the sales associates who guide them. Her firsthand, up-to-the-minute knowledge of the regional marketplace and a big-picture understanding of industry trends have earned her gratitude and respect among Coldwell Banker clients and her professional colleagues nationwide.



Jennifer Friend, CEO

Project Hope Alliance, Costa Mesa

When Jennifer Friend began as the CEO of Project Hope Alliance, PHA supported just one school and 65 kids providing transportation services to students experiencing homelessness. Under her leadership, the organization has grown dramatically to now serving 2,587 children & youth attending 43 schools throughout Orange County having built a nationally recognized program model in ending youth homelessness with a high school graduation rate >20% above the national average. In a volunteer quantitative study conducted by Edwards Lifesciences, it was determined that the work of PHA in getting homeless students to high school graduation will save OC \$14.3 million by 2030, with each high school graduate contributing \$75,000 back into the economy annually. Her tenacious and determined efforts are not only changing the lives and course trajectory of the children & youth served by PHA but also elevating the health, strength and well-being of the entire county.



Neda Eaton, President/CEO

Irvine Public Schools Foundation, Irvine

Neda Eaton is a visionary leader with a passion for serving the community. For ten years, Eaton has served as president and chief executive officer of the Irvine Public Schools Foundation (IPSF), one of the leading educational foundations in the nation. She is entrusted with ensuring that high-quality enrichment programs in critical areas such as the arts, music, science, math, and mental health and wellness are sustained in public schools. In her role, she is responsible for guiding the strategic visioning and direction of the foundation, program and social enterprise development, day-to-day operations, and implementation of various fundraising campaigns and initiatives. Under Eaton's leadership, IPSF has achieved tremendous success by strategically uniting the business, parent, and community to earn the reputation of the premier educational foundation in California.



Lauren Ellermeyer, President

Beyond Fifteen Communications Inc., Irvine

Lauren Ellermeyer co-founded Beyond Fifteen Communications in September 2009 with the goal of disrupting the traditional public relations agency model. The innovative entrepreneur and partner, Leslie Licano, launched the agency with a client-first approach and a new concept for positioning clients past the expected "fifteen minutes of fame." Because of Ellermeyer's vision and commitment to excellence, Beyond Fifteen goes beyond the norms of traditional PR and brings the highest level of media and market attention to its client's brand propositions. As a business pioneer, Ellermeyer has led the agency into new areas of expertise e.g. digital marketing, influencer marketing, experiential marketing, events and SEO by skillfully tying entrepreneurial ideas to results-driven strategies. The agency is setting new standards of PR execution, while redefining the agency/client relationship.



Julia Erdkamp, Director

Slalom, Irvine

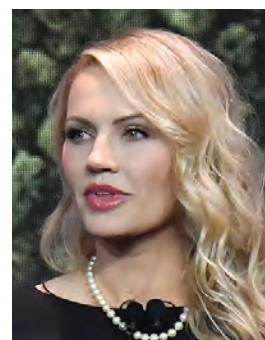
Julia Erdkamp is a brilliant strategist continuing to help local companies and government agencies navigate some of the most difficult times. When COVID hit, local agencies all over Southern California reached out to her to determine next steps. Her insights and leadership have had an immeasurable impact on local agencies, communities, and businesses. One of the most impactful achievements has been Erdkamp's development of a municipal leadership program. State and local leaders from around California attend her cohorts to learn how to bring business and financial acumen to local government. She built this program on her own, and eventually reached such a level of success that it is now hosted by CSU, Fullerton. One person at a time, she is building better leaders who will ultimately make better decisions to shape our communities.



Sara Fahy, Vice President, Corporate Affairs & Experience

Revance, Irvine

Sara Fahy is an Orange County native with nearly two decades of experience in communications. From her first days at Revance, Fahy has demonstrated a talent for creating brand-worthy experiences for various stakeholders. Whether it's investors, customers, or peers, Fahy is always thinking ahead to curate strategies and plans to elevate the brand and experience of Revance. As the VP of corporate affairs & experience, Fahy leads global reputation management, corporate brand management, internal and external communications, community engagement, and cross functional milestones and strategies with investor relations, medical affairs, marketing, HR, finance, and legal teams. She has been instrumental in leading Revance's communications initiatives during a period of growth and has positioned Revance as the company setting the new standard. Fahy's thoughtful yet efficient work ethic shines throughout numerous corporate affairs projects and initiatives, inspiring her colleagues to reimagine the status quo.



Mandy Fry, President

Z SUPPLY Inc., Costa Mesa

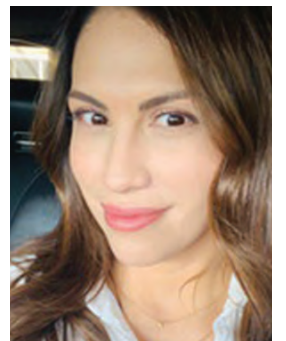
Mandy Fry has overseen tremendous growth within Z SUPPLY since she came onboard, and subsequently was named president and partner of the company. She's overseen the launch and growth of the proprietary wholesale platform, shopB2Z, which now has a virtual showroom and user-friendly tech features that create a specialized shopping experience for retail partners. During COVID, she successfully was able to continue business, implementing morale-boosting monthly video team meetups in the new work-remote environment. With the exponential growth of the brand both before and during COVID, while retail partners were suffering due to lockdowns, she implemented a successful Black Friday give-back program that helped funnel funds to wholesale accounts on Z SUPPLY's eCommerce page.



Charlene Garza, Owner & CEO

Horizon Personnel Services Inc. and StaffChex Inc., Orange

Charlene Garza founded Horizon Personnel Services and StaffChex with her late husband Ruben Garza in 2004. Ms. Garza spearheaded the growth of these local Orange County businesses from scratch to two of the largest Orange County based staffing agencies, providing jobs for thousands of Orange County and California workers.



Erin Genzano, Owner & CEO

Compass Real Estate, Newport Beach

Erin Genzano serves as the regional manager, transaction operations at Compass. A respected, results-oriented leader, she is highly regarded by her clients and colleagues. Now in her fourth year at Compass, Genzano has built and grown her team to service clients throughout Orange County. She has been instrumental in driving efficiencies through solutions-driven process improvements to provide exceptional experiences for clients.



Kimberly Gerber, President

Excelerate, Irvine

From Verizon to Edison to UCLA, Kimberly Gerber has more than two decades of experience in leading world-class organizations and their executives towards success through her blended coaching, consulting and training approach. Her innovative leadership development programs have helped senior managers think strategically, elevate their presence, finesse their communication and strengthen their impact on teams and organizations. Working with talented and high achieving senior leadership professionals, 94% of her clients are promoted to executive roles as a result of their work with her. Prior to founding Excelerate in 2002, Gerber was a dot.com COO and served as marketing director for Starbucks Coffee and Fleetwood Enterprises. A strong promoter of women, Gerber has held multiple board positions at NAWBO-OC, and is a supporter of WHW, Girls, Inc. and the Girl Scouts.



Shayna Goldberg, Chief of Human Resources

SetSchedule, Irvine

Shayna Goldberg has revolutionized HR and organizational dynamics in our company, bringing people together for one common goal and purpose. As an HR professional, Goldberg's direct impact is on the accomplishments of the people that work at SetSchedule. As SetSchedule has grown, Goldberg has highlighted and showcased the talents and accomplishments of others. By Creating company values, career and learning paths, mantras, and more Goldberg has created a nurturing environment which fosters growth and creativity, improves performance, and





ALWAYS BE READY®

For mind and body, from head-to-toe, 5.11 is the pioneering, purpose-driven brand making purpose-built gear for those who demand more of themselves, for the greater good and for those on the mission of a lifetime.



DEBRA RADCLIFF

CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER
5.11®, INC.



5.11 is proud to recognize Debra Radcliff, Chief Marketing Officer, on her 2021 OCBJ Women in Business Awards nomination. Debra is an exceptional leader, utilizing her extensive retail and marketing background to continue to expand 5.11's robust position in the outdoor apparel and gear industry.

2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

increases overall employee satisfaction, which has been validated by several best workplace awards and recognition.

Karen Good, President

Lantern & Scroll, Dana Point

Karen H. Good has managed over a 15 year period to grow a start up from a \$10,000 loan with zero outside capital into a multi million dollar multistate operation. Good is highly educated, has gotten most of her education through academic scholarships and was a participant in Rotary Internationals Ambassadorial Scholarship to the UK. Aside from being a brilliant scholar, Good is also a qualified and current attorney, admitted in South and North Carolina. Good has worked in Washington DC as a congressional staffer and has taken all of these skills and thrown them headfirst into the business. As such, her company has grown exponentially and having grown from Charlotte to Dallas to Vegas is now moving to Southern California.



Lisa Greubel, Executive Vice President, Branch Manager & Real Estate Agent

Seven Gables Real Estate, Tustin

Since 1988, Lisa Greubel has been representing buyers and sellers throughout Orange County as an associate with Seven Gables Real Estate. After years of being recognized as one of the firm's top-ranking agents, Greubel entered the management arena to assist with the daily running of Seven Gables in 2006. Today, Greubel is Seven Gables' executive vice president and branch manager to both the Tustin and Orange office locations. she continues to sell real estate with her partner, Christine Greubel. Having worked together for over three decades, the powerful duo at this point in their careers specializes in luxury listings and sales while retaining a growing list of referrals and repeat clients.



Jill Griffin, President & Chief Commercial Officer

Advantage Solutions, Irvine

Jill Griffin joined Advantage Solutions in 2008 to lead a then-\$30 million division within the enterprise's emerging marketing services group. Since that time, she has led the Advantage Marketing Partners division's journey to a \$1 billion collective of agencies offering services in brand development, consumer and shopper marketing, digital marketing and media, experiential marketing, multicultural marketing and culinary marketing. She has served as Advantage's president and chief commercial officer since April 2019. In 2020, as each Advantage Marketing Partners agency navigated unprecedented, pandemic-fueled headwinds and accelerated change, Griffin focused on the development and rapid scaling up of new products and services that have transformed shopper engagement across the digital-and-physical marketplace. These include important digital and e-commerce solutions that enabled brands and retailers to connect with, surprise and delight the fast-growing universe of digital shoppers in new and safe ways, including e-commerce sampling with online order pickup or delivery, virtual events and digital demos. Her vision and emphasis on results were instrumental in Advantage Solutions becoming a public company (Nasdaq: ADV) in October 2020.



Kaaren Hall, CEO

UDirect IRA Services, Irvine

Despite being in the midst of a recession and mortgage market collapse, Kaaren Hall founded and made a resounding success of uDirect IRA Services. She discovered a strategic way to put her 20+ years in mortgage banking, real estate, and property management to use. The solution was an untapped market for both her skills and for investors - self-directed IRAs. Learn more about Hall and her thriving company at uDirectIRA.com. Hall is also CEO/Founder of OCREIA - the Orange County Real Estate Investors Association. Founded in 2012, OCREIA offer real estate investing education for all levels of investors on a large variety of real estate investing topic.



Rebecca Hall, President & CEO

Idea Hall, Costa Mesa

Idea Hall, founded by Rebecca Hall, enjoys the reputation and position as Orange County's (OC) agency of choice. While rooted in public relations, Hall identified a gap in the industry and successfully brought marketing, branding, public relations and advertising services together under one roof. Through the integrated marketing model, Hall and her team have been privileged to work with some of the most established commercial real estate businesses in OC, as well as non-profits taking on some of the county's biggest issues - including homelessness and mental health. In addition, the agency has attracted and retained top, local talent through its strong corporate culture where people come first. Under Hall's leadership and guidance, Idea Hall has successfully maintained aggressive growth, averaging +15% YOY, for



the last three years. Since establishing the agency in 2003, Hall remains one of the first female heads of an agency and one of the most successful female marketing and PR entrepreneurs in the county. She attributes her success to staying ahead, constantly innovating and developing and maintaining strong relationships.

Alex Head, Luxury Lead, SoCal & Hawaii

Compass Real Estate, Newport Beach

Alex Head is currently a marketing lead for the luxury division at Compass. She began her career in real estate marketing back in 2006. She has been instrumental in the creation and implementation of the luxury division at Compass. Head leads marketing strategy, driving cross-functional alignment across advertising, content, design, and public relations teams throughout integrating campaigns. Head goes above and beyond for her agents providing them with the best service possible. She is a respected advisor to her clients, colleagues and peers.



Heather Heleloa,

The RANCH Restaurant & Saloon, Anaheim

After accepting the award for Restaurant of the Year in Anaheim, THE RANCH is poised to celebrate its 10th anniversary as one of Orange County's best restaurants and event venues. In her newly appointed role as the director of sales & marketing, Heather Heleloa is working to further establish THE RANCH as the top-rated, independently owned luxury concept in the region. In 2020 Heleloa generated profitable revenue streams and reduced costs with her approach to new business. She propelled 228% growth in revenue-driven lead generation, converting an average of 19% of inquiries to sales. She also amplified public relations efforts to increase earned media by 414%.



Teresa Hernandez, President

Lincoln Club of Orange County, Irvine

Teresa Hernandez, restaurateur and small business owner, was named the next president of the Lincoln Club of Orange County in 2021, making her the first Hispanic woman to lead California's oldest and largest conservative donor organization. Ms. Hernandez served as the vice president of the club since 2016 and has been a passionate, active member since 2012. Teresa Hernandez is a seasoned restaurateur and small business owner. Her 34-year-old restaurant El Cielito Lindo was a 200-seat boutique restaurant and bar. El Cielito Lindo unfortunately closed due to challenges of operating under California's shutdown orders, but Ms. Hernandez immediately got to work developing a new restaurant set to open soon at the District at Tustin Legacy. Casa Del Sol will be located inside the promenade area.



Beth Holmes, Manager of Construction and Planning

Cox Communications, Foothill Ranch

As manager of construction and planning at Cox Communications, Beth Holmes is a trusted professional whose leadership over several large geographic markets - including Orange County, Palos Verdes, and San Pedro - has resulted in 100% on-time residential construction deliveries for three straight years. She is a dynamic leader at Cox, with 25+ years of experience, who has developed company efficiencies, led the regional team through a national management initiative, and helped standardized a workflow platform nationally. Amidst these successes, Holmes executes her day-to-day and manages the infrastructure, planning, and engineering and repair and maintenance - for residential builds, Cox Business, and carrier work. In every project, she is committed to getting the job done in a thoughtful, ethical, and efficient manner and encourages her teams to do the same. Ever grateful for her past mentors, Holmes 'pays it forward' through professional development opportunities for her staff to achieve their own successes.



Amanda Horton, Realtor

The Horton Team, Newport Beach

Amanda Horton has been a top-producing licensed real estate broker since 2002. With her full-time work ethic and proactive approach, Horton assures sellers and buyers that every transaction will proceed in a professional and efficient manner. She and The Horton Team are dedicated to providing the highest level of service to their clients from the first meeting to well beyond the end of a transaction. An Orange County native, Horton was raised in Laguna Beach, and is an active member of the Laguna Beach Parents Club and Laguna Beach High School Alumni Association where she has served as a board member for over 12 years. Her in-depth knowledge as a local resident, homeowner, and real estate broker provides an unsurpassed level of expertise about the area. She enjoys sharing marketplace knowledge to guide new and existing clients throughout the process.



JENA JENSEN, DEFENDER OF CHILDHOOD



CHOC is proud of Jena Jensen, our chief government relations officer, for her passionate advocacy of children's healthcare needs to local, state, and federal policy makers. Her work during the pandemic has been especially impactful, helping ensure our community partners understand the unique physical and mental health challenges facing Orange County's children and families during this challenging time. We are grateful Jena is part of CHOC's mighty brigade dedicated to keeping kids happy and healthy.



2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

Deeniece Huynh, Project Manager

Howard Building Corporation, Costa Mesa

Deeniece Huynh has managed projects for some of the largest names - Netflix, Vans, Riot Games, Blizzard. Her 18 years of experience inform strong leadership, organized workflows, and integrated collaboration and have been a driving force behind the completion of several multimillion dollar projects. In an industry known for being inflexible, Huynh is adaptive. This allows her to find alternate solutions to any challenge. Her fresh approach to each project and her consistent follow through has helped her create strong relationships with clients, architects, and subcontractors. In 2018, her team was awarded a Commercial Real Estate Women-Orange County (CREW-OC) SPIRE Award for Vans. She attributes her success to working alongside several talented individuals every day building something from nothing. Over the past year, Huynh has successfully maintained and nurtured relationships with clients and consultants, resulting in return business while assuring future success. Despite setbacks prompted by COVID-19, Huynh used business savvy to successfully resolve conflicts. As a result of her ability to work through difficult situations, HBC maintains a strong relationship with all parties involved.



Felicia Hyde, Principal, Lifestyle Studio Director

H. Hendy Associates, Newport Beach

As principal and Lifestyle Studio director at national interior architecture firm H. Hendy Associates, Felicia Hyde is known for her disruptive multifamily interior designs. With more than three decades of experience, Hyde has made an indelible mark on the multifamily communities she has touched, a portfolio comprised of thousands of luxury apartment units with custom-tailored interiors, curated amenities and sensory lifestyle experiences. Through her work, she has elevated the living experiences of today's renters and redefined the meaning of home with experiential designs that have become synonymous with luxury living. Clients consistently commission her to attract desired users to their multifamily developments as she leads with foundational knowledge of the local business environment and a deep respect for each project city's history and architecture. The legacy she has built has earned Hendy repeat business from one of the nation's largest private companies focused on the acquisition and development of multifamily communities.



Neda Imbimbo, CFO

BigRentz, Irvine

Neda Imbimbo joined the BigRentz team in 2014 with a diverse background encompassing financial and operational areas of expertise. As VP of finance & operations for BigRentz, she directs the financial strategy and financial planning for the company while driving operational efficiencies by streamlining processes to drive revenue growth and increase profitability. Throughout her career, she has served in a variety of functions, lending her expertise in financial reporting and public accounting auditing to a number of international corporations, and has also developed and managed a global operations audit process for a tech company. Imbimbo holds a B.A. in Economics and Psychology from the University of California, Davis.



Shelley Iocona, CEO

ON ITS AXIS, Costa Mesa

Shelley Iocona is the quintessential "woman in tech." She is an innovator, mentor and advocate for the under-voiced. After an early career in engineering and product for several global tech leaders, Iocona transitioned into consulting where she has scaled a leading award winning innovation firm that celebrates inclusive entrepreneurship. Committed to giving back, during COVID-19 Iocona not only scaled her internal team but she support other local OC community members through free workshops, mentorship and in kind services. As an example, in partnership with SAPs HanaHaus, she launched the Business Bites innovation series, which is a free monthly webinar series designed to bring business and career advice to the community.



Scharrell Jackson, Founder & CEO

Leadership in Heels, Lake Forest

Scharrell Jackson is a principal/chief operating officer who joined BPM in early 2020 with over 35 years of operations, accounting and finance experience, which she utilizes to support BPM as the firm's principal and chief operating officer. Scharrell leads the firm's corporate service teams, which include business development, marketing, information technology, human resources, and administration. Her experiences span from industries such as manufacturing and distribution, real estate and construction, property management, food services, and professional services, serving in roles as VP of finance and operations, chief



financial and operations officer and corporate controller. Scharrell has a background that results in operational efficiency, human capital development, technological innovation, and business growth and scalability. Her experience leads businesses through business combinations (mergers and acquisitions), and she continues to help drive BPM's expansion further into Southern California and other West Coast markets.

Mara James, Founder & CEO

Extraordinary Lives Foundation, Mission Viejo

Mara James is the founder and CEO of Orange County's Extraordinary Lives Foundation (ELF), a 501c(3) tax-exempt organization, dedicated to improving children's mental health and wellness by supporting families with educational tools, resources and community awareness events. ELF encourages families to recognize mental health symptoms, overcome stigma and ask for assistance. Through prevention, early intervention and holistic treatment, many of the potential traumas affecting today's youth can be transformed within a generation. Mara James is also the author and creator of "The Power of Piggie Bear", which is ELF's first therapeutic tool, created to improve the mental health and wellness of young children by developing their emotional intelligence. The "Piggie Bear" character teaches children self-care techniques for dealing effectively with their emotions.



Jena Jensen, Chief Government Relations Officer

CHOC Children's, Orange

Jena Jensen is chief government relations officer at CHOC Children's in Orange, which has provided state-of-the-art medical care to children since 1964. As CHOC's central resource for advocacy and public policy, Jensen fosters relationships with federal, state and local elected officials, business, academic, community and opinion leaders. During 2021, Jensen added CHOC's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiative to her portfolio, recruiting CHOC's first DEI officer, Dr. Sharonne Herbert. Jensen is dedicated to creating awareness and generating support for CHOC in its mission to nurture, advance and protect the health and well-being of children. Her exemplary business leadership has been critical through the COVID-19 pandemic. Jensen's nearly 30-year tenure with CHOC dates back to 1992. Prior to CHOC, she worked several years in hospital communications before accepting a position with a public relations agency that provided consulting services to the organization along with a variety of other multi-sector Orange County clients.



Ashley Johnson, President & CEO

Visit Laguna Beach, Laguna Beach

Shortly after graduating college, Ashley Johnson was hired by Visit Laguna Beach (formerly the Laguna Beach Visitors & Conference Bureau) to fill an entry level position. She immediately got in there, rolled up her sleeves and wanted to learn anything and everything she could from her (former) boss. As sustainable/'green' travel was becoming a trend in the travel space, the VLB team saw how Laguna's tide pools were being visited (and demolished) by school groups coming from everywhere. They produced a seven minute Tidepool DVD and won an Emmy Award in children's programming. That DVD also won Visit Laguna a Telly Award and a Tourism Marketing Excellence Award for Best Sustainable Tourism Messages in Advertising - Visit California. She began immersing herself in travel industry news, data & trends and recommended a DBA name change to 'Visit Laguna Beach' as a call to action from the consumer. Visit Laguna Beach was one of the first destination marketing organizations (DMOs) in Southern California to shift in this direction. A couple of years later, she was recognized as 'one of 30 emerging leaders under 30' by the California Travel Association. She accepted the role of president & CEO in 2016. At the helm, she's worked effectively to position the destination, develop a new organizational chart, conduct hirings for both the executive office and daily-operating Visitors Center, and works effectively with the board of directors.



Barbara Johnson Bechthold, Vice President of Administration

Clean Energy, Newport Beach

Barbara Johnson Bechthold has been working with Boone Pickens in his natural gas endeavors for over 27 years. She currently serves as VP of the company's global risk management and human resources departments. Her experience and expertise has earned her a stellar reputation with agencies vital to the success of the company, including the U.S. Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the California Energy Commission. Barbara graduated from Vanguard University with a BA in Organizational Management. Today, as more companies look to address climate change, Clean Energy is well-positioned to meet their demand for low- and negative-carbon fueling solutions with renewable natural gas (RNG), the cleanest fuel in the world.



2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

Meghana Joshi, Senior Project Manager

Little Diversified Architectural Consulting Inc., Newport Beach

Meghana Joshi is an award-winning architect with 18 years' experience in architecture, design, and project management. As a senior project manager in Little's Retail Studio, her positive impact permeates the design industry and the communities in which she serves. Joshi received the 2018 American Institute of Architects (AIA) California's "Associate" award and "Presidential Citation" as well as 2019 AIA Orange County's "Service Award" honoring her commitment to the profession. At AIA Orange County, she is the founder/ chair of the Women in Architecture Committee, and director of Equity, Diversity & Inclusion. Her professional contributions as a diverse architect were honored at "Say it Loud" exhibit at the AIA National 2019 Conference. Joshi is also the founder of "Project Amplify," celebrating the voices and works of minority architects throughout the world.



Manna Kadar, Founder & CEO

Manna Kadar Beauty Inc., Irvine

The Manna Kadar brand made Inc. Magazine's 2020 "Top 5,000" list and is published among the fastest-growing enterprises in the OC Business Journal. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) recently named her 2020 Young Entrepreneur of the Year. Kadar's innovative approach to business earned Kadar a spot among the "Top 40 Under 40 Beauty CEO's," along with being named 2018's USC Alumni Member of the Year.



Olivia Karpinski, Co-Founder & Vice President of Sales and Marketing

Vivera Pharmaceuticals, Newport Beach

As one of the youngest co-founders of a biopharmaceutical and biotech company, Olivia Karpinski became a founding partner of Newport Beach-based Vivera Pharmaceuticals at 29 years old. With over ten years of experience in healthcare, she leads the company's business development and marketing efforts with agility and precision to stay ahead of the quickly evolving health care and technology sectors as the company's vice president of sales and marketing. Under Karpinski's helm, Vivera has expanded its footprint to include six divisions and two additional Orange County locations in Mission Viejo and



Irvine. Karpinski has focused on combining her industry knowledge with a hands-on operational approach, creating both a comprehensive and efficient supply chain and diversified distribution channels for Vivera's products. Vivera Pharmaceuticals is an industry-disrupting, vertically integrated company with science-driven, patented technology, clinical trials, manufacturing capabilities, and distribution for its products.

Sloane Keane, Chief Executive Officer

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County, Santa Ana

Big Brothers Big Sisters Chief Executive Officer Sloane Keane has dedicated the last seven years to improving the lives of others in her community. She is an advocate for social change through youth mentorship and has impacted all facets of the organization, from creating new funding strategies that have tripled annual revenue to nearly doubling the number of matches supported through the program. Since becoming CEO in 2018, Keane has continued the growth trajectory for the number of children impacted by mentoring by nearly 20 percent since the start of 2018. She has also led the California state alliance of Big Brothers Big Sisters affiliates as chair to participate in its first Capitol Day in Sacramento in decades. Under her leadership, the first-ever statewide awareness campaign and partnership between MENTOR California and Big Brothers Big Sisters launched this summer, beginning with a backpack drive that unites NFL and NBA franchises in support of youth mentorship.



Tiffany Ketterer-Buchanan, SVP Finance

CrowdStrike, Irvine

Tiffany Ketterer-Buchanan started with CrowdStrike nine years ago as the first finance hire, working beside the CFO and one of CrowdStrike's co-founders. Her career progression at the company has been defined by tackling new and unknown challenges and coming out the other side with fantastic results. In nine years, she went from finance manager to senior vice president, making her one of the most promoted people at CrowdStrike. During this time, she also had two children, two years apart in age, while maintaining her leadership role and ultimately leading the company through the largest cybersecurity IPO in history. She attributes her success to her ability to keep up with CrowdStrike's ever evolving needs and lead her team through many different initiatives and challenges, as well as the support she's gotten from leadership throughout the years.



Ignite: awareness

ROMEO GUZMÁN
Assistant Professor
of History

Giving Voice to the Voiceless

For CGU's Romeo Guzmán, history is a living, breathing record that begins with people and their communities, not something locked away in dark, cold archives. As a leading practitioner of "public history," he ensures that voices excluded from traditional narratives are reflected in public art installations and other media. He's training the next generation of historians to help communities discover the stories of the places they call home.



Ignite Awareness. Explore CGU.

To read more about Romeo and other CGU success stories, go to cgu.edu/ignite



Claremont Graduate University

#carrytheflame

2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

Diane Kimbro, Principal

Stone Kimbro, Irvine

Diane Kimbro started with the company in 1988, her 2nd job out of college. She quickly endeared herself to the father/son partners of this family-owned insurance business with her work ethic and integrity. The business focus at the time was life insurance and health insurance. As the client base evolved into serving closely-held businesses, Kimbro saw an opportunity to develop the small-group retirement plan business. Starting on her own, she grew the department to become a major revenue source over the next several years. In 2000, Kimbro was named partner. In 2019 the company was rebranded as StoneKimbro to reflect the partnership between Kimbro and her remaining partner. Kimbro will be the sole successor to this financial services business when her partner retires in the next few years.



Robin King, Corporate Relations/ Development

The Shea Center, San Juan Capistrano

Robin King brings 20+ years of business development experience to The Shea Center. As a seasoned executive from the for-profit world, King combines her love of people, her knowledge for cause marketing, and her desire to engage organizations in corporate social responsibility to broaden the footprint of corporate support at The Shea Center. She along with her incredible development team, engage board members and passionate committee members to raise millions of dollars for The Shea Center every year through their Gala, Annual Giving Fund and the BBQ. Throughout this very difficult year, King and her team built out a corporate team building program to provide a new revenue stream from concept to inception that launched in Spring of 2021. King leads all efforts to introduce corporate partners to The Shea Center leading to more corporate sponsors, volunteers, committee and board members.



Kate Klimow, Chief Administration Officer & Director, External Relations

UCI Beall Applied Innovation, Irvine

Managing through significant growth and change for an entrepreneurial division, and operating within an academic institution, Kate Klimow has used her strong leadership skills to build a solid operational structure to support UCI Beall Applied Innovation (BAI) objectives and promote a collaborative, inclusive work culture. Klimow is a master at synthesizing different points of view and helping teams create plans that benefit the mission. She is adept in diplomacy and can provide strategic insight to various stakeholder groups ranging from operations, academic, entrepreneurial, legislative, political and philanthropic. BAI is transitioning from a startup, established in 2014, to a dynamic business unit within UCI and requires leaders who can inspire the team to push through comfortable grooves so boundaries continue to be stretched, and goals achieved. Klimow's keen business insight and knowledge of improving operations while leading tactical marketing activities provides the leadership needed to foster a cohesive, innovative, high-performing work environment.



Catherine Kooiman, Owner & Entrepreneur

Skin So Sweet, Huntington Beach

Established in 2006 being one of the first original leaders in our industry to bring the art of sugaring for hair removal to Orange County, Skin So Sweet has cultivated a beautiful brand, over a decade long passion and two OC locations to serve their clients. Skin So Sweet/ Get Sugared Inc. founder and CEO Catherine Kooiman has led Orange County's love affair with sugaring long before the movement ever became popular. Skin So Sweet's HB location is the product of two expansions later when she built and designed the HB studio in 2010. After the sale of her CDM location in 2012, a successful five-year professional line of sugaring products and professional leadership in sugaring education/certification. Skin So Sweet's second brick and mortar studio is now available in beautiful old town Tustin.



Gina Lara, Senior Manager, Tax and Forensics

Smith Dickson, Certified Public Accountants LLP, Irvine

Gina Lara is ever progressing and is a knowledgeable financial professional with over 15 years of experience. She holds an MBA, is a CFP, EA, and a member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and CalCPA. Ms. Lara joined Smith Dickson, CPAs several years back and has been a tremendous contributor to the company's success. She is a formidable asset to her clients, helping them in the Tax and Forensic Accounting Departments. With this dual role, she is able to work with individuals, business owners, and trusts with tax planning and compliance and also provide financial analysis and litigation consulting services. Her greatest achievement has been earning the respect and trust of her clients.



Julie Laughton, Owner

Julie Laughton Design Build, Laguna Beach

In 1991, Julie Laughton left NYC, moved to Laguna Beach, California, and added CKBD (Certified Custom Kitchen and Bath Designer) to her Interior Design License. Shortly after that, she became a licensed General Contractor. She devoted her career to custom home design and remodeling, with a focus on historical homes. With her passion for the Art Deco Era, she fell in love with all the early California homes built from 1910 through 1930's, the Spanish and Mediterranean styles, the Craftsman, and of course the California Bungalows. Laughton has completed over 500 custom kitchen designs and remodels along the way. She has had the pleasure of working on such historical remodels as the Georgian Hotel in Santa Monica, California, built in 1938, the historical Friar's Club in New York City, and an original Wallace Neff home in Pasadena, built in 1928, which was featured in the movie, *Monster-in-Law*, starring Jane Fonda and Jennifer Lopez. Always painstakingly meticulous with her design details, Laughton is able to help all her clients achieve their goals for each unique home, whether it involves creating an inviting and functional kitchen, doing a room addition, remodeling the entire home or building a dream home from the ground up.



Lindsay Lawrence, Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer

First Foundation Inc., Irvine

Lindsay Lawrence has played an important role in First Foundation Bank's growth over the past six years. As chief operating officer she oversees all deposit, treasury management and operational activities for the bank as well as designing and implementing service delivery framework for the company. She also manages the enterprise delivery business intelligence, and systems architect teams. Alongside her team, she helped develop and now manages First Foundation's digital bank channel. She also helped spearhead the bank's entrance into cryptocurrency alongside partners NYDIG and FiServ. As the first female on the executive team for First Foundation Bank, Lawrence led the team in an initiative to strategically align the bank's infrastructure in order to scale efficiently and deliver a unified approach to the bank's client base, which was central to the bank's growth.



Gloria Lee, Client Relations Partner

Rutan & Tucker LLP, Irvine

Gloria Lee is the Client Relations Partner at Rutan & Tucker, LLP, Orange County's largest and premier full service law firm. Lee is a natural connector, both internally at the Firm and externally. Her impact on the Orange County business community cannot be understated. At Rutan & Tucker, she spearheads the Firm's strategic partnerships and growth of business development opportunities. Lee has helped originate over 100 institutional clients across industries including technology, retail, restaurants, real estate, manufacturing, banking and healthcare. Lee is instrumental in successfully managing these important client relationships. Prior to becoming the Firm's client relations partner, Lee focused on the financing and development of commercial, residential and resort properties. Her practice included representing lenders, developers, landlords and tenants in all aspects of real estate transactions, including real estate secured financings, acquisitions, dispositions, title review and due diligence analysis. She also has experience with the structuring, development and regulation of residential, commercial, condominium, timeshare, and fractional use planned developments and associations.



Julie Leffler, President & Creative Director

Big Hype Marketing & PR, Newport Beach

Big Hype Marketing & PR is a creative marketing and public relations agency based in Newport Beach, CA. They help growing businesses build hype and impact audiences by providing marketing solutions to companies in all industries and of every size. They are all about building hype around businesses and brands by providing impactful marketing solutions custom-tailored for specific businesses, target audiences, and target geographical areas. As the visionary leader and creative director for the agency, Julie Leffler launched Big Hype Marketing & PR in 2015 and has built a powerhouse agency with a clientele that includes both individuals and businesses across a variety of industries. With over 20 years of experience in marketing, brand development, and public relations, Leffler is a top-notch strategist and able to develop and execute innovative campaigns that make an impact. Leffler provides steadfast dedication to clients and consistently creates strategic campaigns that make an impact. Noted for her creative and discerning eye, on-point content writing skills, and ability to multi-task as if she had eight arms, Leffler is involved in every project that comes through the Big Hype doors.



Nicole Lucas, Corporate Counsel, Irvine

St. John Knits Inc., Irvine

Nicole Lucas has consistently proven herself to be a valuable partner to



Angela Zepeda

CMO, Hyundai Motor America



Olabisi Boyle

VP of Product Planning
and Mobility Strategy,
Hyundai Motor America



Dana White

CCO, Hyundai Motor America

Congratulations on your journey to the top.

Hyundai is proud to honor Angela, Olabisi and Dana
as outstanding professional women in their field.
You make our Orange County community brighter.



2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

departments across all areas of the business at St. John Knits. From human resources to marketing, Lucas helps enable the business to achieve their goals from the initial planning stages of their projects. During her time at St. John, she has worked to develop, improve, and streamline operations within the Legal department, and has utilized her business background to implement performance tracking metrics to demonstrate the department's productivity and value to the company. This has had a ripple effect of improving internal tracking of projects, contract management, and litigation preparation. Additionally, Lucas established the company's privacy department and has worked to get the company compliant with evolving privacy laws by creating and advising a cross-functional business team. Outside of work, Lucas is currently a member of the board of directors of the Chapman MBA Alumni Association.



Interview". There are many facets to her that include being a friend, wife, and working mother who continuously leads by example.

Dawn Maroney, President, Markets & CEO, Alignment Health Plan California *Alignment Healthcare, Orange*

Few other executive leaders have influenced the course of Alignment Healthcare's business and success more than Dawn Maroney. With more than 30 years of health plan experience, Maroney is highly regarded not only as an expert in the health care sector, but also a pioneer in positioning organizations for success in challenging Medicare, Medicaid and underserved markets. During her tenure with Alignment, Maroney has played a direct role in making the company what is today one of the fastest-growing Medicare Advantage companies nationwide that also made its debut on the NASDAQ in March 2021. In her role, Maroney leads the overall consumer experience as well as Alignment's growth and expansion, overseeing critical areas including sales, product development, provider partnership and market expansions. Under her visionary leadership, the company has successfully launched award-winning, innovative products that cater to the specific needs of seniors and significantly expanded its presence in key new markets.



Kate Lyle, Director, Industrial Cold and Food *Ware Malcomb, Irvine*

As a licensed architect, Kate Lyle brings over 16 years of architectural experience to the Ware Malcomb team. She is a leader in complex project types including cold storage, food processing, and manufacturing and excels in planning, interpreting, organizing and managing projects through all phases of development. Lyle is known by colleagues to be devoted to high quality design and service, financial astuteness, and attention to detail. Lyle has been working on complex projects types including food processing, manufacturing and cold storage for over 10 years. She has worked on large scale projects for household names like Sysco and FreezPak. Since joining Ware Malcomb as studio director, she has proven herself a leader, mentor and devoted team member. She continues to lead the growth and business development in the booming sector of cold building development.



Kate Marr, Executive Director

Community Legal Aid SoCal, Santa Ana

Under Kate Marr's leadership, Community Legal Aid SoCal (CLA SoCal) has grown from 90 to 120 employees, and the organization has expanded its free legal services for low-income residents in areas of law including family security, housing, health, economic justice, immigration, and seniors, resulting in significant life-changing impact for clients. In February 2019, Marr led the more than 60-year-old organization through a complete rebrand, unifying the Orange and Los Angeles County offices which were previously operating under two separate names. Under Marr, CLA SoCal also began a restructuring process to create specialized substantive legal units. During Marr's tenure, the agency has engaged in important litigation that has broad community impact. A 2017 case against the city of Fullerton on behalf of a homeless individual led to broad policy change in how cities deal with homelessness. Additionally, CLA SoCal's Complex Litigation Unit represented Kennedy Commission, a community-based non-profit focused on increased production of affordable housing in Orange County, in three different lawsuits against the City of Huntington Beach to uphold state affordable housing laws and to ensure that the City planned for its share of affordable housing. Their lawsuits culminated with Huntington Beach planning for 504 units of new affordable housing.



Samrah Mahmoud, Partner

Troutman Pepper, Irvine

Samrah Mahmoud is a commercial litigator at Troutman Pepper, a national law firm with over 1,200 attorneys across 23 U.S. cities. Mahmoud defends clients against class actions and litigates on behalf of healthcare companies and insurers in coverage and bad faith lawsuits. She has successfully defended clients at all stages of a case and has been involved with several notable class action and high-stakes litigation matters. Among her many accomplishments, she defended a health plan in a multiweek jury trial in Los Angeles Superior Court that resulted in a complete defense verdict. She also has won cases for clients on dispositive motions in arbitration and at the pre-trial stage, including in a recent TCPA class action and in a dispute over a hotel sale where she defeated breach of contract, breach of the implied covenant, and fraud claims at the summary judgment stage and successfully defended the win on appeal.



Colleen Maloy, President

David Meltzer Enterprises, Lake Forest

As president of David Meltzer Enterprises, Colleen Maloy helps to further the brand of David Meltzer as a public speaker, best-selling author, and business coach. In her previous role as the Director at Sports 1 Marketing, Maloy oversaw the company's internship program, operated as the event coordinator, and served as executive assistant to the company's CEO, among other roles. Maloy is one of the longest-tenured employees at DME and her support of the founder David Meltzer, has been integral as the company pivoted during the pandemic. Maloy's leadership has empowered the team to reach even greater heights than ever before, including filming three seasons of their two new television shows (Office Hours and 2 Minute Drill), which airs in millions of homes on Bloomberg/Amazon Prime. She's also won Sports 1 Marketing's Employee of the Year award in 2018, and has won employee of the month nine different times.



Joi Mar, Managing Director

Green Street, Newport Beach

The finance industry is scrutinized for its lack of diversity and Joi Mar has done a tremendous job of showing what it takes to excel and help diversify this business. As managing director for Green Street's Market Analytics product, she's at the epicenter of the impressive and growing commercial real estate data and analytics platform while leading the training and development of her growing team. Mar's skills are limitless, as she is deeply involved in talent development and investing in each individual on her team. She recognizes the importance of diversity in the workplace, is a founding member of Green Street's Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Council, and sits on the front lines of harnessing women's curiosity in finance. When Mar noticed the lack of female applicants, she spearheaded our Women in Finance event- an opportunity for students to network and learn to "Ace the



Jessica Morrow, Head of Operations

Revive Concierge, Irvine

Jessica Morrow has been a part of Revive Concierge since the beginning. She has been an inaugural part of growing the company to where it is today. Taking on many responsibilities from accounting to sales there has been nothing she hasn't been able to conquer. Revive is on a mission to help real estate agents bring massive value to their clients. Over the past two decades the real estate industry has been slowly changing and evolving. With information at the fingertips of the consumer, discount brokerages and do-it-yourself options, there has been a big push to minimize the perceived value that real estate agents bring to their clients. At Revive, they believe that the innovation should actually be going the opposite way on the value scale – increasing the value real estate agents and brokers can bring to their clients. The founders of Revive are dedicated to providing real estate agents with the tools to add value and high level solutions. Armed with first-hand knowledge of what it's like to be in the 'real estate trenches' Morrow aims to empower agents with knowledge and tools to grow their own businesses and bring value to their clients.



Sumita Mavros, Senior Vice President, Customer Experience

Ephesoft, Irvine

Sumita Mavros leads a newly formed customer experience department for Ephesoft as SVP of CX. She has built an organization devoted to delighting customers through their journey. She is actively improving customer engagement and education through the onboarding and production stages, not only to retain happy customers but help them automate more use cases and become even more productive. Prior to that, Mavros led the product team at Ephesoft as VP of product management and strategized a vision for the company's product platform focused on time-to-value products, cloud-first technologies and collaborative developer communities to accelerate product growth. She successfully launched several products in her tenure as well as working closely with Ephesoft's customer advisory board, customers and partners.



Brenda McCroskey, Realtor & Team Leader

Compass Real Estate, Corona Del Mar

Brenda McCroskey specializes in selling luxury real estate and has achieved record

CONGRATULATIONS

to our employee-owners for being recognized
as influential **Women in Business**



SARAH
WEBB



MAGGIE
MINNELLA



DEENIECE
HUYNH



TAYLOR
COLEMAN

HBC would like to congratulate Sarah, Maggie, Deeniece, and Taylor for being exceptional leaders in the construction industry. We look forward to what these amazing employee-owners have in store for the future!

Learn about how we're working towards a more equitable and inclusive industry at [**https://howardbuilding.com/community**](https://howardbuilding.com/community)

HBC

HOWARD BUILDING CORPORATION

2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

sales prices in Corona del Mar, Newport Beach, and Newport Coast. She has enjoyed involvement in the real estate business her entire life - not only with her mother, a 44-year veteran but also her grandfather, who was practicing up until his 90's! McCroskey is a 40+ year resident of Orange County, primarily in the Port Streets, Newport Beach, and Corona del Mar on Spyglass Hill. She has bought and sold multiple properties here and has managed and invested in rental property for 10 years, along with having built a custom home. McCroskey earned a degree from UCI in Social Ecology and has twenty years of experience in luxury travel, which included owning her own business for 12 years representing private island resorts. This wealth of upscale travel experience translates well into the luxury real estate market. She is well versed in providing the highest level of possible service to her clientele.



Nicole McMackin, CEO

Irvine Technology Corp., Santa Ana

Nicole McMackin is CEO and president of Irvine Technology Corporation (ITC). ITC is a National Technology Staffing and Solutions company serving mid-sized and Fortune 500 clients throughout the United States. McMackin is a leader in promoting Women in Technology and has developed a curriculum to educate female technology executives to become certified Chief Information Officers (CIO). McMackin took over ITC at the age of twenty-nine and within three years the company was recognized by Inc 5000 as one of the fastest growing privately held companies in America. McMackin has an established career in sales and management with a strong emphasis of working within Fortune 300 organizations. She is a dedicated information technology staffing professional with key strengths to include; leadership and development managing and producing revenue, strategic planning, interpersonal relationships, team building, organizational development and analytical and creative problem solving. Her extensive experience and full life cycle knowledge in information technology, engineering and corporate solutions sales and management have set her above others in her field.



Meghan Medlin, CEO

Medlin Workforce & Reentry Solutions LLC, Orange

Starting from scratch in spring 2019, Meghan Medlin launched MWRS, a consulting agency specializing in reentry and employment for nonprofits and government agencies. In 2020 she saw a 270% increase in business and so far in 2021 is up 50% and has added two consultants to her team. MWRS is unique in its field in that they are the only consulting agency that specializes in these areas. The growth of MWRS led to Medlin launching a nonprofit organization called the Hub for Integration, Reentry & Employment (H.I.R.E.) in late 2020 so that she could also support reentry clients with direct service. Medlin has represented the community at large and community-based organizations on a number of community initiatives including being deeply involved in the county's Stepping Up Initiative, Prop 47, Recidivism Reduction, homelessness and SB823. Her voice has brought on considerable change and accountability among county processes so that community voices are heard and represented, and county organizations are held to a level of appropriate accountability. Her involvement has increased services and resources for the underrepresented populations in our county and both of her organizations are dedicated to creating, improving, measuring and growing services and resources for the reentry and other underserved populations which in turn create safer communities for us all.



Shachi Mehra, Co-Owner & Executive Chef

ADYA and Spice Girls Sauces, Anaheim

Chef/Partner Shachi Mehra has led ADYA to tremendous success in its first five years of business. She is responsible for bringing a new Indian experience to Orange County at ADYA, an authentic Indian restaurant that is a reflection of modern India. The menu revolves around fresh, sustainable ingredients and focuses on contemporary interpretations of Indian street foods, tandoori specialties and rich curries. With two thriving locations, in Anaheim and Irvine, and a flourishing catering business, Chef Mehra has gained local and national attention for her accomplishments, including becoming a winner on Food Network's Chopped; earning the title of Rising Star Chef in the Golden Foodie Awards; and being tapped to serve as Guest Chef with Celebrity Cruises. In 2021, Chef Mehra launched her own line of sauces for retail sale, Spice Girl Sauces, which she plans to grow for nationwide distribution in the coming months. Chef Mehra is driven by giving back, as she is dedicated to supporting many local and regional charities through her businesses.



Maggie Minnella, Administrative Manager

Howard Building Corporation, Costa Mesa

Maggie Minnella joined HBC early in her career as a

receptionist and, over the last 16 years, she has not only grown into an asset to the company. She has grown into a leader. As administration manager, she currently oversees all personnel in our Orange County office. More than being able to lead a diverse group of people, Minnella has the keen ability to inspire. She encourages employees to continue to learn and grow, stand up for what they believe in, and give back to the community. As a female leader in the construction industry, Minnella has demonstrated that it is possible to succeed and make a difference through compassion, kindness, and fortitude.

Dania Monge, Director of Marketing & Operations

Province West, Irvine

After receiving her Bachelor's in Communication from Boston University, Dania Monge began her 10-year marketing career in Bellevue, WA managing a comprehensive mix of marketing communications, advertising, training, and digital marketing programs for PACCAR, a Fortune 500 product manufacturer and distributor. Since moving to California, Monge has worked for two brand powerhouses -Targus and Houzz. Monge joined Province West five years ago and has since then transformed and innovated our company's Marketing, Public Relations, Operations, HR, and Finance Department. Wearing myriad hats, she effortlessly blends strategy, design, and technology to craft and preserve an authentic narrative for Province West. As the brand champion, Monge works closely with the Marketing team to produce content that is infused with the Province West brand DNA across all touchpoints. With an emphasis on thoughtful design, Monge partners with the brokerage team to create best-in-class client marketing materials, including listing presentations, offering memorandums, email announcements, video content, and digital assets.



Jessica Monroe, CPA, Founder & Partner

Revolve Law Group, Irvine

Jessica Monroe co-founded Revolve Law Group, drawing on inspiration from her childhood. She watched her dad, a small business owner, affected by every penny taxed or saved. She saw the effects of insufficient and even bad advice. As a young adult, Monroe recognized how every dollar earned or taken away affects business, and most importantly, family. It's not just dollars, it's time and opportunity-time that was taken away from family so those dollars earned could provide better opportunities for loved ones. Monroe has earned a reputation for caring too much, because she does, and she knows her clients do too. As an attorney and C.P.A., Monroe represents individuals and businesses under audit or executing transactions with intricate tax implications. Based in Irvine, the firm focuses on areas of practice such as taxation, civil litigation, appeals and writs, asset protection, business law, and real estate law.



Annette Morgan, Chief Administration Officer

City of Hope Orange County, Irvine

Annette Morgan is a health care strategy and operations expert who is changing the local health care landscape by helping City of Hope fulfill its promise to bring best-in-class cancer care to Orange County. With her colleagues, she is developing a \$1 billion campus in Irvine and a regional network of care that will deliver advanced treatments and shape health care delivery for generations to come. An accomplished health care professional before joining City of Hope, she is also an expert in implementing innovative wellness and prevention programs. She has been recognized by Becker's Hospital Review as a national health care star and by The Greater Irvine Chamber as a 40 under 40 honoree. American health care is transforming, and one of the bright, committed stars is Annette Morgan. A health care operations expert who already made a difference promoting wellness in Orange County, she is now ushering in a new era when OC residents can access lifesaving cancer care that had been previously unobtainable locally.



Jennifer Morris, Founder

Ajenda Public Relations, Orange

Jennifer Morris would describe herself as a student for life who is always learning, which has contributed to her success, because she continuously wants to grow and improve. And it's paid off--her clients have graced "Good Morning America," been featured on the "Late Late Show," and gone viral for campaigns that the agency executed. This year, Morris is marking the 10th anniversary of her company, Ajenda Public Relations, which is a national public relations and marketing agency based in Old Town Orange that supports Orange County's favorite chef-driven concepts, national franchised eateries, and more! The agency supports approximately 30 accounts and employs ten people, which keeps Morris very busy, as a hands-on business owner, who built her agency from the ground up. She started Ajenda PR without having studied or worked in PR before, but paired her life skills, experiences and knowledge of working in the hospitality industry to service a few clients and grew the agency into a well respected agency.



2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

Sara Naheedy, Esq., Co-Managing Partner

Revolve Law Group, Irvine

A highly respected attorney, Sara Naheedy recently joined Revolve Law Group. Her expertise adds an unprecedented edge to the innovative team and its legal support strategies. She approaches every situation with purity of intention and a quality of being rooted in truthfulness, accountability and commitment to the betterment of others. Additionally, she draws upon her psychology background to represent her clientele in a manner that aligns with these principles. Known for her shrewd respect for people's time and relentless commitment to conserving resources, Naheedy works to curate a common goal of dispute resolution, not contentious litigation. Based in Irvine, the firm focuses on areas of practice such as taxation, civil litigation, appeals and writs, asset protection, business law, and real estate law. However, the firm and its partners specialize in building relationships through concierge support. Revolve Law Group is home to trusted counsel who focus on the solutions of tomorrow.



Robbin Narike Preciado, Regional President, Managing Director

MUFG Union Bank, Orange

Robbin Narike Preciado is managing director and regional president for MUFG Union Bank, overseeing branches in Southern California with more than 261,000 customers and over \$10 billion in deposits. Narike Preciado joined Union Bank in 2010 as executive director for retail programs and has enjoyed a 35-year career in financial services. Prior to Union Bank, she held management roles at Wells Fargo. As a fourth generation Japanese American, Narike Preciado grew up in Southern California and was raised by a single working mother, who she calls her "inspiration and role model." Narike Preciado is passionate about the people and community she serves. Her dedication has won her many accolades and awards, including past Pacific Coast Business Journal's Business Woman of the Year and Top Woman in Finance-STEM, Women of Color. She is currently director of the Orange County United Way and the Orange County Business Council. Narike Preciado holds a B.A. in Economics from UCLA.



Susan Natland, Partner

Knobbe Martens, Irvine

Susan Natland is a partner at Knobbe Martens' Orange County office, and has been practicing for over 23 years. Natland is co-chair of the Trademark and Brand Protection Group, chair of the Data Privacy Group, a founding member of the firm's Diversity Committee. Natland has also taught advanced Trademark Law at UCLA Law School and is a regular author and speaker in the fields of intellectual property and data privacy laws. Natland was also seconded at Amazon.com for two years in its trademark and brand protection group, providing in-depth knowledge and hands-on experience related to business drivers and concerns. In 2020, Natland was appointed by the United States Secretary of Commerce to be vice chair of the United States Patent and Trademark Office's (USPTO) Trademark Public Advisory Committee (TPAC).



Rachel Nelson, CFO

CB Technologies Inc., Orange

Rachel Nelson joined CBT at its inception in 2001 and has led its financial operations since 2012. Under her leadership, CBT increased EBITDA by 720% over a three year period, brought in \$5mm of investment, automated and streamlined accounting processes, and has added Fortune 100 customers, and global partners like HPE, Intel, and PTC. During the pandemic in 2020, the company faced financial challenges, but was able keep staff fully employed due to Nelson's ability to leverage funding through different avenues. As a result of Nelson's efforts, CBT not only increased headcount by 27% but was also able to honor CBT's Future of Work Inclusion initiative, which supports underprivileged students with scholarships and internship opportunities. Nelson's financial leadership has been integral to CBT's growth from an IT value-added reseller with 12 employees to a premier Domain Expert Integrator with 56 employees.



Marla Noel, President

OC Growth Advisors, Mission Viejo

Marla Noel excels as a business owner, she doubled her market share and sold the company for 15 times EBITDA. Noel works with small business owners to focus and improve growth, profitability, and sustainability as an executive coach. Noel is a CPA and understands the financial impact of sound strategic planning. She has been the life preserver of her clients who need support in developing good business practices and managing a team. Noel is good at problem-solving and is creative in thinking of out-of-the-box solutions for her clients. She loves business and enjoys helping her clients enjoy their



businesses. Noel appreciates the value and enthusiasm of her clients and the strength it takes to run a business, and her endeavor is to provide the support every business owner needs to reach higher levels of success. Noel chairs a peer group, WPO, Women Presidents' Organization and has been a member for over 10 years.

Helena Noonan, Principal

Compass Real Estate, Dana Point

Born and educated in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Helena Noonan began her career in real estate in the late 90's serving a very exclusive clientele in Miami Beach. A savvy world traveler who lived in Europe and Hong Kong prior to making Orange County her home, Noonan is fluent in English, Spanish and Portuguese and speaks conversational Italian. In nearly 19 years of serving the local coastal communities, she has become accustomed to the complex negotiations, changing dynamics and international opportunities found in today's luxury markets. Her extensive experience, problem solving acumen and keen negotiation skills are the foundation of her signature service.



Melissa Northway, Financial Advisor

True Path Financial, Newport Beach

True Path Financial and Insurance Services is a general life insurance agency of National Life Group. Melissa Northway has spearheaded the delivery of several large scale projects with high profile clients such as PBS Kids, Netflix and Warner Brothers. She has also managed website for eight consecutive years with public relations firms on campaigns and creating content to promote diverse product lines.



Sarah Oberly, VP of Business Development

The Bascom Group, Irvine

Sarah Oberly's start in commercial real estate was an unlikely one, beginning with an invitation. A co-managing partner at The Bascom Group, a private equity firm specializing in multifamily real estate investments, based in Irvine, recruited her to interview with the portfolio operations team from a background in customer service-related roles. The opportunity led Ms. Oberly to joining a team of real estate professionals who oversee the operations of a portfolio of 10,000+ multifamily apartment units across the U.S. In her role, she leads initiatives to improve the wellbeing of those who reside in the company's apartment communities by implementing outreach projects such as an annual scholarship program for residents and numerous fundraisers for non-profits that align with the company's values. She subsequently attained the title of vice president of business Development after five years of employment within the company.



Sharon Oh-Kubisch, Attorney

Smiley Wang-Ekval, Costa Mesa

Sharon Oh-Kubisch is of counsel at Smiley Wang-Ekval, LLP. Ms. Oh-Kubisch concentrates her practice on business litigation, and she has handled a wide range of complex matters, specializing primarily in the areas of commercial real estate, finance, financial services and business disputes. Her current and former clients include a diverse range of lenders, financial institutions, brokers, builders, developers, investors, subcontractors, brokers, mortgage companies, homeowners' associations, property managers, and businesses seeking outside general counsel. Her experience includes all phases of litigation in both state and federal courts as well as alternative dispute resolution, and she has obtained several multi-million judgments on behalf of clients. Prior to joining Smiley Wang-Ekval, Ms. Oh-Kubisch served as assistant general counsel for three private real estate funds, managing their transactional and litigation department.



Jennifer Olson, VP-Finance

Apriem Advisors, Irvine

Jennifer Olson, CFA, CFP®, CIPM, AIF® is an expert in finance and has appeared in national business publications discussing stock market fluctuations. A natural born leader, she leads various firm initiatives such as compliance to a global investment performance standard to ensure full disclosure and fair representation of investment performance. A charitable champion developing relationships with non-profits, she coordinates initiatives for Apriem's philanthropic arm, Apriem Cares. She is an integral part in the success of Apriem as a nationally-recognized firm for diversity and inclusion and a top financial advisory firm. When it comes to mentoring, Olson takes it to the highest degree - she is a member of the CFP Board Mentor Program; a former "Big of the Year" awardee and nominated by Big Brothers Big Sisters OC as a 2019 Honoree during National Philanthropy Day. She was named in InvestmentNews 40 Under 40 list, recognizing her accomplishments, contribution to the industry, leadership and promise.



2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

Anoosheh Oskouian, President & CEO

Ship & Shore Environmental Inc., Signal Hill

Anoosheh Oskouian is president and CEO of Ship & Shore Environmental, Inc., a Long Beach, California-based, woman-owned, certified business specializing in air pollution abatement, capture, and control solutions for industrial manufacturers. Ship & Shore helps manufacturers and essential businesses meet air quality and environmental challenges by providing customized energy-efficient air pollution abatement systems for various industries, resulting in improved operational efficiency and tailored "green" sustainable solutions. As its only female CEO, Oskouian is unique within the environmental industry. She has more than twenty years of experience in industrial and commercial project construction of a wide range of clean air technologies and combustion equipment such as Thermal Oxidizers. During her impressive career, Oskouian has mastered air pollution abatement, waste heat recovery, energy consumption reduction and fabrication of integrated green solutions. Oskouian's in-depth process knowledge and expertise provide the foundation for engineering and designing superior, innovative and efficient equipment.



duties, controls and metrics across the financial and accounting functions of the company. Pitol also supervised the Quality of Earnings process and financial due diligence from the finance/accounting perspective for 28 completed acquisitions (some of them all work done in house) and led the back-office integration for said acquisitions, including businesses with operations in Canada and Australia. In addition, she assumed treasury function overseeing the streamlining of the function; consolidated over 35 bank accounts into six operating accounts; developed plan for phasing out the use of legacy accounts after acquisition; and leveraged the use of software automation for cash posting resulting in additional speed in terms of visibility of payments and accuracy of posting.



Jessica Oslo, Co-Founder & Clinical Director

Vantis Institute, Newport Beach

Jessica Oslo, MA is the clinical director and founding partner of Vantis Institute. She is highly regarded within the medical community for her artistry and aesthetic expertise expressed through her Vantis Follicle Replication™ or 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 patients the appearance of a thicker, fuller head of hair without surgery or downtime. Oslo also has extensive experience camouflaging severe scarring and stretch marks. Even with all her success, Oslo takes the most pride in being a kidney donor. She's also on the waiting list to give her liver and bone marrow. Her passion for helping people has permeated her personal and professional life. She takes the time to understand her patients needs and provide them with a solution that leaves them more confident than when they walked in.



Anya Ostry, SVP of Occupier Advisory & Transaction Services

CBRE, Newport Beach

Anya Ostry is an award-winning global transaction advisor who has positively impacted her community through her role as senior vice president of Occupier Advisory & Transaction Services for CBRE. She's a partner at CBRE's only hub team based in Southern California, focused solely on multi-market portfolios and occupier representations. She specializes in analyzing portfolio costs, monitoring and seeking opportunities and transaction goals, and is constantly developing strategic solutions for her Fortune 500 clients in key markets across the U.S. Ostry is dedicated to making a positive impact in Orange County and currently serves as a board member of CSU Fullerton's Mihaylo College of Business & Economics Executive Council and is a member of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County. During the global pandemic, Ostry hosted multiple virtual coffee sessions and chats with her peers and clients to offer support and guidance on topics that impacted their businesses.



Claudia Perez, SVP, Operations

Marquee Staffing, Irvine

Claudia Perez joined Marquee in 2011 and is now the Sr. vice president of operations, overseeing day-to-day strategic operations, including spearheading marketing projects, employee training and development programs for internal and Marquee Staffing's contingent workforce. With her strong background in business development, she continuously strives to build lasting partnerships with clients and candidates. As a result, her team focuses on quality, customer service, compliance and strategic placements.



Kelsey Peterson, Workplace Manager, Orange County

Compass Real Estate, Huntington Beach

Kelsey Peterson has been with Compass since 2018. She is an essential part of the leadership team as the workplace manager, office operations and strategy. She has developed key processes and working relationships regionally, overseeing all external vendors and suppliers. Peterson leads the charge in fostering an environment that inspires creativity and innovation.



Maria Pitol, VP/ Corporate Controller

Montrose Environmental, Irvine

Maria Pitol has been with Montrose Environmental for over five years and is now the vice president and controller where she has implemented proper segregation of

Lindsey Poker, Vice President, Strategic Alliance Development & Delivery

US Bank, Placentia

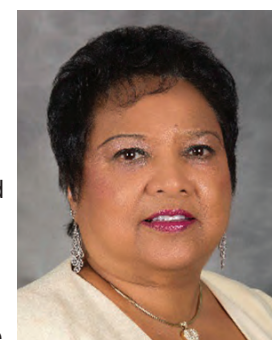
Lindsey Poker started her career at U.S. Bank in 2011 as a contract negotiator and entered procurement management in 2013. In procurement, she was honored with U.S. Bank's highest award twice: individually for my commitment to mitigating third-party vendor risk and as a team member on an enterprise-wide project for technical innovation. In 2016, she was selected by the CFO to serve as the finance representative on the Dynamic Dozen, a group of high potential employees that guide the bank's efforts to attract millennial customers. In 2017, Poker transitioned to consumer and business banking, accepting a role on the leadership team for the Inland Empire in branch operations and subsequently the Orange County market as the digital lead where she received U.S. Bank's highest honor for a third time. Recently, Poker became a product owner where she oversaw the design and implementation of business banking products for its alliance program.



Ladeira Poonian, Chairwoman of the Board

iBASEt, Foothill Ranch

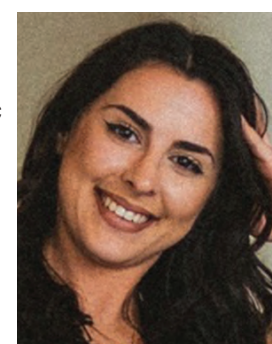
iBASEt helps manufacturers in complex, highly regulated industries, like aerospace and defense, modernize and streamline production to improve product quality, integrate with global supply chains, manage costs and scale with demand. After 28 years of nursing experience, she stepped into the role as chief executive officer and chairman of the board after her husband tragically passed away in 1998. Though the transition was difficult, Ladeira Poonian persevered and succeeded in her new role, promoting product innovation and earning countless awards. Over the course of Poonian's history with iBASEt, she has instilled her unique sense of leadership and care, marked by an inviting, flexible corporate culture, tireless devotion to customer care and an entrepreneurial spirit, positioning the company for long-term success. Under Poonian's leadership, along with her son, iBASEt CEO Naveen Poonian, the company completed a successful fiscal year for 2021, as validated by strong software revenue and gross margin gains. Business growth was driven by new customer additions and a quick pivot to a remote business model, in response to the COVID-19 disruption. Poonian's focus on the growing demand to simplify the digital transformation of manufacturing, quality, and sustainment operations played a significant role in the success achieved over the past 12 months.



Mia Prio, CEO & Founder

Luxury Life Managers, Dana Point

In the height of COVID, as a single mother under 30, Mia Prio birthed the first of its kind - LLM. A concierge domestic solutions company servicing the top 1% and middle-class alike. Within three hours of finalizing her business plan, she secured her first client and has successfully executed over \$75,000.00 of projects in her first six months of business. From construction project management and design to estate streamlining and oversight, her clients have the support they need with the person and team they know they can trust. Partnering with other professionals in the domestic and corporate support services, LLM bridges the gap between home projects, management and lifestyle administration. Using her trusted network of resources and long standing professional relationships, her company has provided a sense of security for her client's whether the project be large or small. It is the first company of its kind in Southern California and its proven success shows how deeply it was needed.



Ashley Proctor, Managing Director

The EMMES Group of Companies, Irvine

Ashley Proctor joined EMMES in 2013 and is focused on US asset management and is also chief information security officer responsible for all cyber security policies and procedures. Proctor has overseen the successful acquisition, repositioning, value creation and disposition of prominent office projects in the western region, including 4000 MacArthur in Newport Beach, and 1 Columbia Place, 2 Columbia Place, 701 B Street and 707 Broadway in San



2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

Diego. Ashley also managed the repositioning of Centerview, a LEED Platinum, 625,000 SF Class A office property located in Irvine, California. Proctor has over 15 years of experience in commercial property management including oversight of major property renovations and property leasing. Prior to EMMES, Proctor held positions at Bixby Land Company and Cushman & Wakefield.

Debra Radcliff, Chief Marketing Officer 5.11 Inc., Irvine

Debra Radcliff joined 5.11 in November 2018 as global chief marketing officer. In this role, she is responsible for leading the strategic marketing direction for 5.11, an iconic global consumer brand rooted in serving public safety and military professionals, providing purpose-built technical apparel, footwear and gear. Radcliff is accountable for strengthening and evolving all aspects of the 5.11 brand and marketing strategies for retail and digital direct-to-consumer, wholesale and professional channels. Over the past year, Radcliff worked with executive marketing management to conduct extensive market research into the brand's female customers and ways that 5.11 can better meet the needs of these women. Prior to joining 5.11, Radcliff was SVP marketing for West Marine, sr. director of marketing for The Home Depot and vice president of marketing for Sports Authority. In her prior organizations, she oversaw and directed all aspects of marketing strategies, leading the development of integrated marketing plans, leveraging new insights, best practices, innovative executions and media integrations to create growth, improve financial performance and gain competitive advantage.



Allison Rawlins Tift, Vice President Land Advisors Organization, Irvine

Allison Rawlins Tift has been with Land Advisors since 2008 and is a residential land broker focused on Orange County infill transactions. After an internship with O'Donnell/Atkins during her senior year of college led to a full-time career in land brokerage post-graduation from USC, Rawlins Tift has represented developers, apartment builders, and public and private homebuilders, most recently closing the largest residential land transaction in 2020 with Toll Brothers at the Nakase Nursery in Lake Forest, which was over \$100M for 600+ home sites on 122 acres. She is a licensed real estate broker.



Dawn S. Reese, CEO

The Wooden Floor, Santa Ana

Dawn S. Reese is the chief executive officer of The Wooden Floor, a creative youth

development organization. The organization receives numerous awards including the 2021 New York Life Foundation AIM High Afterschool Award for Middle School Programming. During Reese's tenure, The Wooden Floor opened its second location in Santa Ana, and licensed its model in Washington, DC. Reese received the 2020 Women of Distinction Award from 34th CA Senate District, 2019 Women Breaking Barriers Award from Connected Women of Influence, the 2018 Founders Award from the Institute for Community Impact, and the 2016 Center for Leadership Award for Innovation from California State University Fullerton. Currently, Reese serves on the Board of Directors for OneOC as Treasurer, OC Music and Dance, Passkeys Foundation as Board Chair, and the Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce. Reese is a leading voice for improving nonprofit board governance and board diversity practices.



Caterina Richards, Director of Operations Bracken's Kitchen, Garden Grove

Caterina Richards is director of operations at Bracken's Kitchen, a 501c-3 charity dedicated to fighting food insecurity in Orange County. She manages a comprehensive array of services and programs overseeing all day-to-day operations with a staff of 24 and 600 volunteers. She works closely with Founder/Culinary Director Bill Bracken to ensure all programs grow successfully while attending to the needs of their agency partners. Richards is instrumental in the development of programs, promotional initiatives, grant writing, and community relations. She also assists the operations and fundraising teams in the planning, organization, and execution of public and private fundraising initiatives. Richards was a volunteer chef in the kitchen for two years before accepting her new role in December 2018.



Paige Riordan, Chef & Owner

Scarlet Kitchen & Lounge, Rancho Mission Viejo

As executive chef and owner of Scarlet Kitchen & Lounge in Rancho Mission Viejo, Paige Riordan pays homage to time-honored family recipes and East Coast classics brought to life with the finesse and flair of West Coast farm-to-table cuisine. An East Coast native, Chef Paige Riordan has cooked in some of New York's most prestigious restaurants including Reynard at The Wythe, widely recognized for bringing farm-to-table cuisine to New York City. She attended culinary school at the Natural



CBRE CONGRATULATES ANYA OSTRY

Anya is an extraordinary professional who leads, inspires and motivates others. We congratulate her on this well-deserved recognition, being nominated for the Orange County Business Journal 2021 Women in Business Awards.



ANYA OSTRY
Senior Vice President

Kurt Strasmann
Executive Managing Director
Orange County & Inland Empire Region
kurt.strasmann@cbre.com

CBRE

2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

Gourmet Institute in New York City, where she honed her skills in holistic, plant-based cuisine guided by whole foods and wellness. Prior to attending culinary school, Riordan was a professional dancer and choreographer. For several years, she owned a dance company that performed all over New York called Scarlet Fever, which inspired the name of the restaurant. Today, Riordan takes to a new stage as chef-owner of Scarlet Kitchen & Lounge.

Maricela Rios-Faust, CEO

Human Options, Irvine

As CEO, Maricela Rios-Faust brings strong strategic leadership, nonprofit management, and fundraising skills to her multifaceted role at Human Options. She oversees the fiscal and programmatic direction, as well as its emergency shelter and 24-hour crisis hotline, transitional housing programs, Center for Children and Families (eight resource centers), a Prevention Education program and all administrative and fundraising functions. Each year, these programs serve approximately 38,000 individuals and more than 3,000 youth through community education and prevention programs. Additionally, Rios-Faust developed a robust Internship Program in partnership with five local universities' "Master's in Social Work" programs. As a leader in supporting survivors of domestic violence, working to educate youth, evolving cultural beliefs away from victim blaming and shaming, training law enforcement and more, Rios-Faust has become a sought-after source of knowledge about domestic and relationship violence. Under Rios-Faust's leadership, Human Options' stellar reputation has been cemented within Orange County.



Robyn Robinson, Real Estate Broker

Compass Real Estate, Dana Point

Robyn Robinson exemplifies the upper echelon of real estate professionals with sales of over one billion and experience spanning over three decades. She is dedicated to serving the public by establishing and anchoring generations in the South Orange County community. Real estate is a profession with high ethical standards and a textbook example of her success comes from numerous referrals. Robinson has a laser-like focus in fighting for and representing her clients' best interests. These principals are reflected in her personal concierge approach. Representing over a dozen Fortune 500 companies, entrepreneurs, and professionals, she has amassed an impressive network of clients. Having started her career as a partner in a boutique company, she understands the cost and dedication in building a company and reputation unparalleled in the industry. Her recent partnership with Compass has allowed Robinson and her team to pivot in a fast-changing industry while maintaining a highly personal approach to marketing and representing her clients. She has achieved record prices in the many communities she has sold in.



Tenny Rostomian-Amin, Co-Owner & Partner

TALG, The Amin Law Group Ltd., Irvine

Tenny Rostomian-Amin is co-owner and partner of TALG, The Amin Law Group, practicing out of the firm's Irvine, California office. The firm was co-founded by Tenny and her husband, Ismail, in 2005. Through true dedication and passion, Rostomian-Amin has helped expand the firm's presence to four states across the nation with offices in Las Vegas, Irvine, Dallas, and Raleigh. The firm prides itself on providing boutique service with nationwide reach. Rostomian-Amin focuses her practice on Family Law as well as General Business Litigation, including Real Estate and Labor and Employment matters. Well-known for her effective and assertive representation, Rostomian-Amin has extensive experience in handling all aspects of family law cases ranging from mediations to trials involving child custody and child support, spousal support, and division of property. In the business realm, Rostomian-Amin has represented healthcare providers in service contract and employment disputes and private investors in joint venture enterprises and partnership dissolutions.



Jillian Sabaugh, Founder & President

Ukropina Sabaugh, Newport Beach

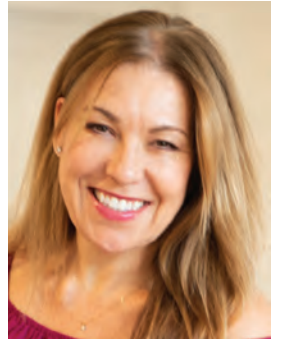
Following a near ten-year career working in house with the most well-respected development players and marquee projects in Southern California, Jillian Sabaugh founded Ukropina Sabaugh and has expanded the firm's services to include both property owner and tenant representation while building a thriving advisory practice dedicated to merchandise planning, brand positioning and market research. Sabaugh has worked for premier developers such as Caruso Affiliated, Westfield and The Irvine Company. Her project work can be seen throughout California at Beverly Center, Lido Marina Village, Runway Playa Vista, Bella Terra, Long Beach Exchange and Fashion Island. The pandemic didn't slow her down as she added three colleagues and added oversees the merchandising for over two million square feet of retail/mixed use projects and notable Tenant clients such as Jean Dousset and Skin Laundry.



Mara Samuels, Founder

Haven Laguna, Laguna Beach

Mara Samuels is the founder of Haven Laguna, a new home furnishing boutique now open in Laguna Beach. As the lead design specialist behind the brand, Samuels brings unique furnishings and one-of-a-kind finds to the Orange County coastline. Throughout her professional career, she's worked in real estate and home design & renovation. With more than a decade of experience in selling, styling, and beautifying custom homes, Samuels was inspired to create a one-stop-shop for people to find items that make their house feel like home. With a background in fine and applied arts, Samuels has a keen eye for style. Much of her inspiration comes from the nature and beauty of California's diverse terrain and landscape. Many of the items at Haven Laguna draw inspiration from nature and its simplistic beauty.



Talia Samuels, Founder & President

Outshine Public Relations, Newport Beach

Named one of the "Best PR Agencies in America" by Forbes, Outshine Public Relations specializes in restaurant, hospitality, and culinary public relations. Founded by Talia Samuels in 2015, her agency represents an all-star roster including James Beard Award-winning and Michelin-starred chefs, AAA Five Diamond-awarded properties, and new-to-market culinary brands. With deep roots in the hospitality industry, she has a passion for supporting hoteliers, restaurateurs, chefs, and food and beverage brands through her creative storytelling verticals. Recognized for her poise, tenacity, and integrity, Samuels is a force in her field. Her company, Outshine Public Relations, is a full-service agency providing public relations, social media management, photography, videography, and digital marketing.



Tricia Sanchez, Principal & Founder

C3 Tech, Santa Ana

Tricia Sanchez is the driving force behind C3 Tech. From her friendly, welcoming charm to her flawless business acumen, her vision has led our company to develop hundreds of successful relationships across Orange County. Sanchez grew up in Santa Ana, CA where her humble beginnings sparked her hard work, ambition, and determination to make her own way. Sanchez attended USC on full scholarship and after graduation, began working at Xerox. There she met Tony Sanchez (her now-husband and business partner) and the two of them became top sales representatives in Southern California. During this time, they gained valuable experience and meaningful relationships, yet they saw an opportunity to put service back into the industry. So in 1994, they founded C3 Office Solutions to do just that.



Corinna Seiler, Managing Director & Product Manager

MUFG Union Bank, Irvine

Corinna Seiler (Cori) is managing director, product manager for the Investment Management & Trust division of Union Bank's Wealth Management Group and chief operating officer for HighMark Capital Management, Inc., a registered investment advisor and wholly-owned subsidiary of Union Bank. Seiler joined Union Bank in 1991. She has been responsible for opening and closing trust funds and mutual funds, and has led the investment management workstreams for 13 strategic, high-profile initiatives, including acquisitions and divestitures for the Wealth Management group. In the past year, she led the work-from-home initiative for the bank's Investment Management & Trust division, ensuring more than 400 employees had the right equipment and access, and that the bank had the correct procedures in place for a remote workforce.



Mona Shah, Founder

Moxxe PR, Tustin

Named as one of Orange County's most influential people to watch in 2016 by the Orange County Register, Mona Shah, founder of Moxxe PR, is regarded as one of OC's most successful hospitality publicists. While committed to being a hands-on mom to three beautiful children under the age of seven, Shah has managed to create a reputable name for herself by working with some of the area's top restaurants, including The Winery Restaurant & Wine Bar, Driftwood Kitchen, Knife Pleat, Fable & Spirit, ADYA, Puesto, Haven Craft Kitchen, Portola Coffee Roasters, Hendrix, and Sushi Roku Newport Beach. In addition, Shah sits on the Board of Directors for the Orange County Restaurant Association and promotes OC's largest culinary event, Orange County Restaurant Week. Her PR experience comes a wide range of positions, from being the PR Director for the Miss Universe Organization and coordinating initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa with the Harvard Aids Institute, to working on the annual Golden Globes and Academy Awards telecasts, which she continues to do today.



2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

Traci Shirachi, CEO/President

The Mark USA Inc., Irvine

Traci Shirachi is the president/CEO of The Mark and oversees all of the company operations, finances, and business development. She bought The Mark in September 2017 and came in with a vision of how to use her business background to grow the company. The Mark has been around for 12 years and has primarily worked in the education sector. Through Shirachi's vision and networking she has helped grow the business to include nonprofit and corporate clients. Shirachi has over 17 years of work experience with consulting companies of various sizes, including PricewaterhouseCoopers. She received a B.A. in political science at the University of California, Davis, and an M.B.A. from Vanderbilt University.



challenges but have continued to support essential business such as logistic, warehouse, food and beverage companies fill open positions and put those in need of steady income back to work.

Courtney Siegel, President & CEO

Oakmont Management Group, Irvine

Courtney Siegel is president & CEO of luxury senior living operator Oakmont Management Group, a recognized industry leader since 2012. Based in Irvine, Siegel leads the company's rapidly growing portfolio of 46 Oakmont Senior Living and Ivy Living communities across California and Nevada with five additional communities opening in the coming year. Siegel oversees a dedicated team of 3,500 senior living professionals serving nearly 4,500 residents. She has managed Oakmont's impressive growth with an unwavering commitment to excellence in resident services, amenities and care backed by a winning team culture. Siegel is a champion of the Alzheimer's Association and joins her team members, residents and their families to fundraise and participate in its annual Walk to End Alzheimer's. She enjoys helping team members and their dependents through the Oakmont Family Fund and Scholarship Program and volunteers as an active member on the Board of Directors for the California Assisted Living Association and American Seniors Housing Association.



Carol Shumway, VP Reporting & Compliance

KBS Realty Advisors, Costa Mesa

When she started in commercial real estate more than 30 years ago, Carol Shumway was one of the few trailblazing females in the industry. A 15-year veteran with KBS, one of the largest investors in premier commercial real estate in the nation with \$7.7 billion in AUM, Shumway has worked for international, national, and regional real estate firms with a focus on technology, finance, reporting and compliance. Currently, as VP reporting & compliance, she is focused on her passion for finding and implementing the best enterprise technology solutions internally and for all of KBS' client portfolios, which are made up of multiple REITs, sovereign wealth, and pension funds.



Aimee Siemianowski, SVP

Driver SPG, Anaheim

As senior vice president, Aimee Siemianowski leverages two decades of commercial real estate experience to oversee all Driver SPG projects, while managing the company's budget, operations, business development efforts and long-term business strategy. She works alongside C.W. Driver Companies' executive management team and Driver SPG's leadership team to deliver excellent work while continuing to grow the company. Over the past five years, she has overseen all aspects of the construction process, including contract negotiations, safety, quality, scheduling, subcontractor support and project management. Key Driver SPG projects under Siemianowski's leadership include the full tenant improvement build-out of Chapman University's Swenson Family Hall of Engineering; ground-up construction of Newport Beach Country Club; full tenant improvement build-out of Dacor's Showroom, full tenant improvement build-out of Anduril Industries' headquarters in Irvine; renovations of Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach and the ground-up construction of St. Junipero Serra Catholic School's chapel and student



Suzanne Sibel, Owner

Action Resource Management, Fullerton

Suzanne Sibel and Action Resource Management (A.R.M.) is dedicated to providing professional recruitment services, reducing the time and stress of finding employment, helping to find the right fit the first time for both companies and applicants. Her commitment is to providing an opportunity for gainful employment for individuals in safe settings where respect for hard work is appreciated and rewarded and upholding the integrity of the staffing industry by providing ethical and superior service with dedicated associates and service professionals. With the difficulties of the pandemic, she and her company have faced unusual



CONGRATULATIONS MICHELE CORTES

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, VINCOR CONSTRUCTION, INC.

2021 Women in Business Awards Judges' Shortlist

Your charisma and leadership continues to shine on those around you. We value your compassion, resolve, and selflessness.

- The Vincor Family



As a Full-Service General Contractor, Vincor provides value-added solutions with measurable time and cost savings.

2651 Saturn Street, Brea, CA 92821 | (714) 528-2900 | www.vincorinc.com | CA Lic.: 763743

2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

creation center in Rancho Santa Margarita.

Kristine Smith, CMO

Surterre Properties, Newport Beach

Kristine Smith joined Surterre Properties in 2017, bringing more than two decades of marketing expertise to the brokerage. A visionary who is respected for her leadership style and business approach, Smith thrives in leading organizations through fast-paced massive disruption, spearheading business development, and creating as well as implementing effective digital strategies. In her role as chief marketing officer for Surterre, Smith leads the brokerage in implementing its transformative technology platform, comprehensive training program, and several growth initiatives. These programs powerfully illustrate Surterre Properties' commitment to evolving through innovation and empowering its industry-best agents with the most effective, cutting-edge tools and solutions that benefit their clients and their practices.



Jessica Spaulding, President

The Spaulding Agency, Aliso Viejo

As president of The Spaulding Agency Public Relations and Marketing, Jessica Spaulding leads business development, brand strategy, media relations and strategic development of multi-layered campaigns. Since its founding in 2009, The Spaulding Agency has specialized in representing firms, individuals and agencies in the commercial real estate and community and economic development sectors. Spaulding leads strategic and creative direction for clients, and manages virtual and highly-creative teams, both large and small, as needed. She has continued to grow her client base through an emphasis on helping firms to build upon their strongest qualities, differentiate their message from the competition and leverage the best of all communications tactics, from media to video to social.



Nancy Stack, Founder & President

Cystinosis Research Foundation, Irvine

Driven by the determination to find better treatments and a cure for her daughter Natalie's rare and life-threatening genetic disease, Nancy Stack founded the Cystinosis Research Foundation (CRF) to support bench, clinical and translational research for people living with cystinosis. Since 2003, Stack and her team have worked hard to raise awareness of cystinosis and garner worldwide support for research, funding 206 multi-year research grants in 12 countries with 88 final research study results published in prestigious scientific journals. CRF's research grant funding efforts have resulted in one of their researchers, Dr. Stéphanie Cherqui at UCSD, being awarded with FDA-approval for a stem cell gene therapy clinical trial to test a potential cure for cystinosis. To-date, the trial has been a remarkable success, with all three trial patients no longer in need of cystinosis medications.



Julie Stark, Partner & President of Design

CDC Designs, Costa Mesa

After beginning as an intern at CDC Designs over 35 years ago, Julie Stark today is a majority partner and business owner. Her entire career has been dedicated to CDC Designs and taking over the creative reigns from the original founder of the firm. The firm which today ranks in the top 50 of the top 100 interior design firms speaks to the growth and contribution Stark has made to the company. Her dedication, hard work and amazing design talents have served as an example to literally hundreds of designers throughout her tenure at the firm. With countless awards bestowed for her designs by various industry associations, Stark is seen as an icon and leader in the industry. She works closely with her share of extensive client base to develop the conceptual design vision for numerous model homes, sales environments, clubhouses and apartment communities throughout the United States and abroad. She collaborates with prestigious architects and project consultants within the industry to stay on the forefront of trends in design, products, lifestyle and sustainability while overseeing the design process for each project she leads through to the final installation.



Shana Starr, CEO

Bastion Elevate, Newport Beach

Using her unparalleled leadership, vision and pure determination, Shana Starr has tripled the size of her full-service marketing and public relations agency during the COVID-19 pandemic and recession. By shifting its approach, Bastion Elevate offered superior counsel for a changing economy, including new service offerings such as SEO, Social Listening and Development. Starr has expanded her team to 15 in Orange County, two in Los Angeles and a new office in Boston for work obtained as a state contract holder for Massachusetts. She added "Cotton Candy" grape breeder IFG International, MerchSource, and the Ontario Auto Center to her growing client roster - all while providing exemplary



client service, which has garnered Bastion Elevate the No. 1 spot of all Orange County PR firms on an industry ranking service based on client feedback.

Paula Steurer, President & Founder

Sterling Public Relations, Corona Del Mar

Paula Steurer founded Sterling Public Relations in 2008 as a Publicity, Branding, and Marketing hybrid and has scaled her company's services nationally. Known for her personalized approach to cultivating connections and curating brands, her innovative vision, and forward-thinking philosophy have become her clientele's secret ingredient for success. With a passion for building brand identities and her innate ability to connect, engage and drive brands to the next level, Steurer has become a trusted authority among entrepreneurs and executives. She can often be seen as the keynote speaker and workshop leader for nationally recognized brands such as Mindbody Inc, Vizio, and Oracle. Sterling Public Relations celebrates its 13 year anniversary this year and has become the in-demand firm for brands who desire a competitive edge.



Commie Stevens, Chief Practice Officer, Managing Director of Wealth Planning

Beacon Pointe Advisors, Newport Beach

Upon joining Beacon Pointe in 2008, Commie Stevens quickly became an integral member of the leadership team. Over the course of the last 13 years, Stevens has been instrumental in many initiatives including serving as one of the founders of Beacon Pointe's Women's Advisory Institute in 2011, a contributing co-author for the international bestselling book, "Your Dollars, Our Sense: A Fun and Simple Guide to Money Matters," which has ranked #1 in six different business and finance categories since being published, and as the innovator behind Beacon Pointe's allWEALTH® custom approach to strategic and financial planning. allWEALTH® is a value-driven program that helps advisors dig deeper with their clients, allowing them to live more holistically wealthy lives, aligning their money, time and talents. Stevens is an equity partner in the Newport Beach based \$19+ billion registered investment advisory firm with a leadership team of over 50% women.



Nichole Story, Realtor

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, Newport Beach

As seen on HGTV, Nichole Story possesses various professional skills with more than 16 years of experience in real estate, having sold over \$200 million in homes. Since 2005, Story has been passionate about real estate economics and has worked in a variety of financial markets. She brings an extensive background and experience in teaching courses to junior agents, being part of a national level of governing, mentoring junior agents, and leading marketing master focus groups for her colleagues to advance their skills. Story has grown her business into a full-service real estate enterprise that offers tailor-made design, staging, branding and marketing solutions for her clients and their properties. Now, as the curator of one of the most recognizable personal real estate brands, Story teaches agents how to grow their business and build their own personal brands. By teaching other realtors the fundamentals of home staging, business practices and brand development, agents are learning how to market themselves along with their properties.



Victoria Strombom, Realtor

Surterre Properties, Newport Beach

A resident of Laguna Beach and a coastal REALTOR® since 1985, Victoria Strombom is a coastal real estate specialist. Clients and colleagues admire Strombom's remarkable ability to stay focused and calm - a skill honed through years working as a pediatric/neonatal ICU and Life Flight nurse. Always seeking a positive and professional result for all parties involved in a transaction, Strombom has earned the respect of her peers in all communities. Specializing in areas from Newport Beach south to San Clemente and inland to San Juan Capistrano and Coto de Caza, Strombom's commitment to her clients is shaped by the time-honored traditions of personal relationships and responsibility. Strombom has represented the Laguna Board of REALTORS® as a member of the Grievance Committee and is a member of the Surterre Properties® Charity Committee. Drawing on her medical background, she is also one of the first members trained for the Laguna Beach Community Emergency Response Team.



Mary-Christine "M.C." Sungaila, Shareholder and Chair of Buchalter's Appellate Practice Group

Buchalter, Irvine

Named more than a dozen times to the Daily Journal's Top Women Lawyers and Litigators Lists, M.C. Sungaila in August 2020 became the first chair of Buchalter's appellate practice group, which was founded 30 years ago by retired California Supreme Court Justice Marcus Kaufman. She is one of a handful of female and Hispanic appellate practice leaders nationwide. Building on her decade of adjunct

2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

teaching at law schools and work as the founder and Dean of the OCBA's Summer Appellate Academy (designed to train the next generation of appellate lawyers online, through the pandemic), she and the firm immediately established the Kaufman Appellate Fellowship, a first for BigLaw - an apprenticeship training ground for the next generation of appellate lawyers designed to catapult new lawyers into appellate clerkships and appellate practice. In 2020-2021, she won six appellate cases and served as counsel of record in four separate U.S. Supreme Court cases.



Lynn Tanattanawin, Head of Corporate Strategy & GM of Semantik Ephesoft Inc., Irvine

Lynn Tanattanawin joined Ephesoft in 2018 as head of corporate strategy but has filled roles for almost every department in the company. On top of her primary responsibilities in managing the board, leading investor relations, collecting market intelligence and building strategy, she has also tackled various senior roles in finance, marketing, business development and product management. Ephesoft's CFO, Naren Goel, often refers to her as a 'CxO'. "Chief of Everything/Anything. You can parachute her into any situation, any department and she will accomplish the mission." Tanattanawin's ability to think strategically while driving operational rigor, combined with inherent traits of tenacity and positive energy result in widespread achievement and impact. Her influence truly spans across the organization, making sure the teams are running in lockstep with strategy and especially with an executive team that depends on her acute insight and guidance.



Judy Tang, Controller at Allied Universal, Santa Ana

As controller, Judy Tang oversees the finances of seven business units totaling more than \$300 million, identifies opportunities in increasing revenue, profitability and cash flow as well as partners with the company's leadership team to lead management control process and compliance. Her top priorities as controller is to help grow the business while expanding margins and growing the talent on her team. As a financial leader and business partner to Allied Universal's "Ancillary Businesses", Tang's main initiatives are to drive profitability and raise business insights in order to drive key business decisions. Although they represent a smaller share of total company sales, the margins are significantly higher and helps contribute to a diversified product and service offering for customers.



Kara Taylor, EVP of Marketing, ATTOM, Irvine

One of two female members on ATTOM's leadership team comprised of seven executives, Kara Taylor's influence has had a significant impact on the company's strategic vision, rapid growth, and data expansion initiatives. As EVP of Marketing for ATTOM, Taylor has helped guide the property data provider in the proliferation of its portfolio offerings, advanced technology developments, and partnerships attained through mergers and acquisitions, which have solidified the company's unique position earned as the one-stop-shop for premium property data. Taylor has played a key role in accomplishing the company's objective to bring more comprehensive real estate data to the marketplace, and provide new data delivery solutions that make the data more widely available to a broad spectrum of companies. Through a string of successful acquisitions, ATTOM has further extended its data footprint - not only demonstrating the company's commitment to investing in data elements, but also its commitment to investing in people elements, with the integration of numerous talented teams.



Mimi Taylor, CFO at Roth Staffing Companies, Orange

Mimi Taylor is a role model for women in finance across Orange County. Her past professional success has earned her the award for private company CFO of the year in 2007. In 2014 she joined Roth Staffing and continued her successful career, having led the company through record topline and margin growth - even through the COVID pandemic. Taylor performed all of this while raising three children. Her effective leadership within Roth and her mentorship of women across the industry highlight her fortitude and altruism. Too often in the financial sector, women of similar successes as Taylor tend not to consider guiding and helping other women up the ladder of achievement, yet Taylor does so naturally and without second thought. She is an exemplary leader and all financiers, male and female alike, could do well to look at her example.



Susan Taylor, President & CEO of Juice It Up!, Newport Beach

Susan Taylor joined the Juice It Up! leadership team in 2019 and was soon elevated to the role of president and CEO the following year - an obvious choice to lead the

25-year-old brand with nearly 30 years of progressive experience in the restaurant franchise industry to her credit. In the two years following Taylor's arrival - and strategic application of countless best practices pulled from an extensive franchise system background - Juice It Up! has soared to record sales and experienced impressive franchise momentum. Taylor's considerable company contributions and successes have led to well-deserved industry recognition and acclaim. Earlier this year, Juice It Up! was ranked 26th on Fast Casual's Top 100 Movers and Shakers list - jumping 47 spots from its 2020 position. Moreover, Taylor was named among the nation's top 25 fast casual executives for her extraordinary leadership, steady guidance and consummate support to franchise owners.



Cristina Terrasini, VP Marketing at Stretto, Irvine



In her role as vice president of marketing at Stretto, Cristina Terrasini spearheaded a complete company rebrand and multiple brand integrations in tandem with the company's aggressive M&A activity. Transitioning the company from its former name as Bankruptcy Management Solutions to a new identity as Stretto required an overhaul of the company's visual and verbal systems, as well as the company's service architecture. For these efforts, Stretto received the MarCom Platinum Award for Branding, the top branding prize as part of the annual MarCom Awards, an international creative competition that recognizes outstanding achievement by marketing and communications professionals. Terrasini directs Stretto's branding and media relations efforts, leveraging the company's position as a market-share leader across multiple business units and promoting the company's stakeholders as industry experts and thought leaders. She built a concierge-service, multi-faceted marketing team from the ground up which includes marketing, digital communications, business development, and event professionals.



Emylee Thai, CEO of Artemis DNA, Irvine


Emylee Thai is a serial entrepreneur who started her first business at the age of 16 and has led five different e-commerce startups to profitability. She is currently looking to revolutionize the world of healthcare as the founder and



2021 Women in Business Awards Nominee

Congratulations to KBS Executive VP of Reporting and Compliance, **Carol Shumway**, for your leadership, service and dedication.



KBS is one of the leading commercial real estate investment advisors in the United States | kbs.com

2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

owner of Artemis DNA, an innovative and full service, Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) certified, College of American Pathologists (CAP) accredited, high-complexity clinical diagnostic laboratory that provides cutting-edge laboratory services, with emphasis on genetics, that promote precision medicine.

Lillian Thai, CEO

California Properties Experts & Mortgage Inc., Westminster

Lillian Thai has more than twenty years management and customer service experiences. In addition, she has more than seven years human resources executive manager/director experiences with a demonstrated history of working in retail & health care industry. Thai also has more than fifteen years experience in real estate areas including real estate laws, escrow laws, and lending laws. Her expertise includes employment law, recruitment, training, employee & labor law relations, payroll, A/R, A/P, audit, sales & marketing, accounting, human resource development, and networking. Thai is a strong human resources professional with an honor AA Degree in Accounting and a Bachelor's Degree focused in Business Management.



Jin Thatcher, VP of Operations and Administration

TGR Foundations-A Tiger Woods Charity, Irvine

Jin Thatcher is an Orange County native with a passion for helping underserved communities through her role as the vice president of operations and administration for Tiger Woods' nonprofit, TGR Foundation. With a mission to empower youth through education, the foundation's education programs have reached more than two million youth around the world. During her 18-year career with the foundation, Thatcher has led the organization with expertise and leadership in human resources, financial management, policy, corporate culture, program and business development and fundraising. One of her greatest achievements is the launch of the 35,000 square foot TGR Learning Lab in Anaheim, CA, which serves as the hub of the foundation's education programs.



Jacqueline Thompson, Realtor

Jacqueline Thompson Group, Newport Group

REALTOR® Jacqueline Thompson is setting records from Canyon to Coast. Regarded as one of the most respected and influential luxury REALTORS in Orange County, Thompson's relationship driven approach is what sets her in a league of her own. Her relentless commitment to serving her clientele has set a new standard for what excellence should embody. Furthermore, she's passionate about elevating opportunities for women and minorities who share her passion to make a true difference in the lives of others. Achieving over 1.4 billion in career sales, Thompson specializes in estates within the coveted enclaves of Newport Coast, Newport Beach, Laguna Beach and Shady Canyon. Known for her unparalleled market knowledge and unsurpassed first class service, Thompson curates relationships and delivers results.



Paula Tomei, Managing Director

South Coast Repertory, Costa Mesa

Paula Tomei has been a member of SCR's staff since 1979 and the company's managing director since 1994. During her 27-year tenure as managing director, she implemented a succession plan with the founders after their 47 years of leading the theatre and successfully transitioned them into founding artistic director roles while bringing on new leadership. She has also balanced artistic initiatives and risks with responsible fiscal management, including commissioning and developing new plays to support the artistic mission. Tomei has continued to attract and recruit the highest level of community leadership to the board of trustees and worked to meet fiscal objectives and balance the budget. The challenges of managing a company during the pandemic did not outweigh the opportunity for evaluation and innovation, which resulted in new collaborations with artists and institutions as well as exciting new ways to reach, engage and grow audiences in the future.



Anh Tran, Managing Partner & Founder

SageMint Wealth, Orange

Anh Tran is the managing partner and founder of SageMint Wealth, a wealth management firm for high-net-worth individuals, families, and business owners with a passion for supporting women, the LGBTQ+ community, and individuals in the technology space. As a certified financial planner and estate planning attorney, Tran is in a unique position to advise her clients on a wide variety of wealth management and estate planning issues. Tran is one of the brightest stars in her industry and has earned consecutive spots on Forbes' list of "Top Women Wealth Advisor" and Working Mother's list of "Top Wealth Advisor Moms". She has also been selected as a Super Lawyer Rising Star for consecutive years. Tran is actively involved in her community and currently serves on the board of directors for Impact Giving, LPL Financial Advisor Inclusion Council, and UCI Undergraduate Success Advisory Committee.



Kara Trebs, Chief Human Capital Officer

Sunwest Bank, Irvine

Kara Trebs is the EVP, chief human capital officer at Sunwest Bank. Ms. Trebs joined the bank in early 2016 and held positions as AVP, corporate recruiter and SVP, director of human capital. Over the past 15 years she has had a variety of HR roles within the retail and financial services industries for companies such as Nordstrom and Boot Barn. Ms. Trebs has had an instrumental hand in the exponential growth of Sunwest Bank. Her unique skillset allowed her to leverage her HR experience to build the bank's new competitive Health Savings Account platform SelfcareHSA. Trebs' progressive approach to leadership focuses on the empty chair philosophy, and believes management is more effective when engaging with their team within their own environment.



Megan Varga, Realtor

Compass, Newport Beach

For nearly two decades, Megan Varga has successfully represented clients in the purchase and sale of homes in Coastal Orange County. Varga's vast knowledge of the area, extraordinary work ethic, and winning negotiation style has solidified her place as a top producer in the OC marketplace. Her excellent reputation, integrity and loyal client base ensures you are working with a professional you can trust. Varga specializes in the areas of Newport Beach, Newport Coast, Costa Mesa, Irvine and Laguna Beach. However, she often jokes that she has sold a home in every city in Orange County, and is happy to help her valued clients where she is needed. Varga's transactional experience includes traditional sales, investment properties, distressed sales, flips, and helping clients manage their entire real estate portfolios. As an active real estate investor herself, Varga is intimately familiar with remodeling, designing, and positioning homes to maximize their value and loves to share this knowledge with her clients. Varga is a graduate of the University of San Diego with a B.S. in business administration. She also holds a Masters Degree in Real Estate Development from the University of Southern California.



Jennifer Vasquez, VP, Business Development & Corporate Communications

C.W. Driver Companies, Anaheim

As a member of the executive team, Jennifer Vasquez guides the company's marketing strategy and ensures business development goals are met. With nearly 20 years of experience in the A/E/C industry and 17 years of experience at C.W. Driver Companies, Vasquez serves as the primary strategic advisor to the firm's executive leadership and develops annual business and marketing plans and oversees the alignment of all corporate strategies. In her business development role, she champions the expansion into new markets, develops strategies to build the firm's client base, identifies potential partners, and leads the execution of sales initiatives. What sets Vasquez apart from her peers is her passion for mentoring young professionals and educating the next generation. As a senior, female leader of a company with 300+ employees, Vasquez leads by example and actively mentors and advocates not only for her teams, but effectively champions a collaborative environment across departments and regions for C.W. Driver Companies.



Ellie Vilendrer, Founder

Vilendrer Law, PC, Irvine

Ellie Vilendrer is a creative problem-solver with a distinguished ability to optimize outcomes and build relationships. She has extensive experience serving healthcare, software, and technology companies, ranging from start-up to publicly-traded, in roles including outside general counsel, intellectual property counsel, and privacy counsel. She is a Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP/US) and is co-author of the privacy law chapter in the Representing the Ongoing Business Deskbook, 3rd Edition (2019, Minnesota CLE). Vilendrer is co-chair of the Early Dispute Resolution Committee of the American Bar Association's Dispute Resolution Section. She is a Qualified Neutral, Rule 114 Minnesota General Rules of Practice, and serves as a neutral on several panels. She has spent hundreds of hours studying and training in the field of negotiations and mediation (and related fields of influence, psychology, neuroscience, and economics). Demonstrating she can put theory to practice, Vilendrer achieved the best outcome in a scored negotiation among 60 professional negotiators from around the world in 2015.



Danielle Voloshin, Investment Advisor

Miracle Mile Advisors, Newport Beach

After 10 years of experience in the industry, Danielle Voloshin joined as a partner to lead the financial planning group at Miracle Mile Advisors. As a first-generation American, born of Russian immigrants, she has always had a strong entrepreneurial instinct. At the age of 15, she opened her very own piano studio and over the coming years, she grew her business to 30+ clients, quickly learning that running her own practice allowed her to embrace self-determination, thrive in the face of challenge, connect passion with accomplishment, and make a positive impact in the world. Just as she built a



2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

business around music, she's now been able to build a successful business around her passion for building client relationships and financial planning. Within her team, she's developed a client base of younger business owners who share similar values, thrive to learn how to best drive their "entrepreneurial wheel", and want to feel confident about stewarding their wealth longer term. By providing educational empowerment that is tailored to each client, constructing financial plans that integrate all aspects of their financial livelihoods, and developing a culture that encourages collective decision-making, she's been able to guide her clients towards long-term success.

Sarah Webb, Project Manager

Howard Building Corporation, Costa Mesa

Throughout an impressive career spanning 40 years, Sarah Webb has managed over 1.5 million square feet of tenant improvement projects across Southern California. From technology buildouts to premier showrooms, Webb's expertise has been leveraged for companies such as Houzz, Air New Zealand, The Bouqs Co., and LoanDepot, to name a few. In 2017, one of Webb's projects, Home Franchise Concepts, was nominated for a Commercial Real Estate Women-Orange County (CREW-OC) SPIRE Award. Her projects have also been recipients of the International Interior Design Association (IIDA) Calibre Awards and CoreNet Global REMmy nominations. Despite setbacks from COVID-19, Webb completed projects for American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, Appfolio, Pacific Life, Pacific Premier Bank, and TP-Link. Her ability to thrive in difficult situations is a testament to her strength and resilience not only as a project manager, but also as an individual. It is with fortitude that she has, and continues to, lead a successful and inspiring career as a woman in construction.



Dana White, Chief Communications Officer

Hyundai Motor North America, Fountain Valley

Dana White joined Hyundai in April 2020 as the chief communications officer. She is responsible for leading all communications and public relations strategy for Hyundai Motor North America, Hyundai Motor America, Genesis Motor America and Hyundai Motor Manufacturing Alabama as well as the office of Corporate Social Responsibility, Diversity and General Affairs in coordination with other affiliates including Hyundai Capital, Glovis and the Hyundai Washington D.C. office. She previously led a consulting firm specializing in geopolitical risk and strategic communications, where she was an advisor to CEOs of Global Fortune 500 companies, U.S. senators, governors and senior U.S. military officers. She also served as the assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs and the chief Pentagon spokesperson for the Department of Defense and Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis. She provided strategic guidance to all branches of the U.S. Armed Services, Combatant Commands and senior civilian leaders.



Charlotte Wiederholt, President

Studio Other, Newport Beach

Charlotte Wiederholt has been with Tangram for over 20 years, beginning as a designer in a team of three people that brought in \$1-2 million annually in sales. Today, Wiederholt is the president of Studio Other, leading an over 20-person team that has achieved over \$20 million a year in sales. Once a division of Tangram Interiors, Studio Other is now an independent company working with large scale organizations across the nation, including Saatchi & Saatchi Dallas, Boston Consulting Group, JustFab, Procore, Fuse Media, Imagine Entertainment, Too Faced, and many more. Within the last 10 years, Wiederholt has grown Studio Other over 400% and has achieved national expansion.



Tangerine Wiggs, Director of Strategic Growth

Compass Real Estate, Huntington Beach

As a director of strategic growth, Tangerine Wiggs has made a huge impact at Compass since arriving in 2018. She is a dynamic sales leader and has played an essential role in the strategic growth plan for Compass across Southern California. Wiggs is a driven, self-motivator dedicated to never-ending improvement. She is a passionate leader that excels at both strategy and hands-on implementation with proven abilities in hiring and mentoring strong teams.



Anika Wilson, Financial Advisor

Spinnaker Investment Group, Newport Beach

Anika Wilson is a financial advisor at Spinnaker Investment Group, LLC. In this role, she provides personalized financial plans and investment management to individuals, families and businesses. Recognized by the OC Business Journal among the fastest-growing privately owned small business in 2020 and for the past three straight years, Spinnaker Investment Group currently has over \$420 million in assets under management. Since joining the team in January 2021, Wilson has launched a new initiative for Spinnaker Investment Group, a YouTube series called Spinnaker University, geared towards educating Millennials and younger generations on the basics of wealth management and preparing for financial success. The Spinnaker Investment Group YouTube channel has received nearly 20,000 views in the past year.



Jeri Wilson, Executive Director

Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation, Irvine

As the executive director for the Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation for the last 11 years, Jeri Wilson brings over 25 years of experience in the field of non-profit management and gift planning. Her extensive fundraising expertise and strategic planning at CHOC Children's and MemorialCare helped launch two successful multimillion-dollar capital campaigns. After years of volunteering with pediatric oncology families, Ms. Wilson knows firsthand how valuable funding research is to families. Prior to joining the Memorial Medical Foundation, Ms. Wilson served as senior director trust and estates at Children's Hospital Orange County (CHOC) and worked with other notable charitable organizations as the Alzheimer's Association Orange County Chapter and the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation as Chair of the Race for the Cure.



Deborah Wondercheck, CEO & Founder

Project Access, Orange

Coming from humble beginnings as the youngest of seven children, Founder Debora Wondercheck, saw the life-changing impact that music had on her family. Through hard work, and dedication, she and her siblings were able to attend the universities of their choice as string musicians. Recognizing the profound effect that high-quality arts opportunities had on her own life and those around her, Wondercheck used her passion to establish the Arts & Learning Conservatory (ALC). What began as a summer camp for just thirteen string musicians and eight actors, has now grown to serve over 1,000 children every year, reaching over 10,000 in audiences annually. Wondercheck's dream of "paying it forward" through creating arts opportunities to help children see and fulfill their potential, was realized and has become the heart of ALC.



Dr. Tammy Wong, CEO

Fostering Executive Leadership Inc., Irvine

Fostering Executive Leadership, Inc. was founded by Dr. Tammy Wong in 2006. Fostering Executive Leadership is an international business results executive coaching firm. The firm consists of over three hundred leadership coaches worldwide. The coaches work with leaders by improving leadership capability, capacity, and have established a proven record with a ROI through our coaching engagements. The team works with individual leaders at all management levels and are skilled in helping leaders understand the benefit in building leadership competencies within the organization, understanding team integration, and the creation of solid succession planning methodology to create strategic leaders within your company. Organizations we serve will benefit with our focus on building leadership, team performance, communication, accountability, and strategy through a proven track record of experience, certification, and research.



Jessica Word, President

Word & Brown Orange

Jessica Word grew up in the insurance business. Her father, John M. Word III, and partner Edward J. "Rusty" Brown, Jr. established Word & Brown General Agency in 1985. Word recalls working for the company during high school and college, and learning the business from the inside out - gaining exposure to different facets of the company and industry. The mother of two young children, Word is the first woman to lead Word & Brown. She attributes her success to understanding how each department contributes to the company. She represents a new breed of leader, one who recognizes the importance of technology and analytics, diversity in ideas and people, and customer service - a Word & Brown hallmark. It is with this mindset that Word and her team pioneered a digital transformation at Word & Brown, helping the company - and industry - become more relevant to future generations of employees and customers.



Kimberly Wright, Founder & Managing Partner

Revolve Law Group, Irvine

Revolve Law Group's Kimberly Wright was taught to be vigorously honest, endlessly curious, and immensely resourceful. She relentlessly embodies a commitment to finding the answers and solutions each client needs and will work tirelessly to do so. Making a difference in the lives of others is not what she does, it is who she is. Wright was a driving force in the development of Revolve Law Group's core principles which guide their every move. The firm leads with determination, civility, curiosity, integrity, compassion and a dose of humor. Based in Irvine, the firm focuses on areas of practice such as taxation, civil litigation, appeals and writs, asset protection, business law, and real estate law. However, the firm and its partners specialize in building relationships through concierge support. Revolve Law Group is home to trusted counsel who focus on the solutions of tomorrow, with unparalleled commitment, for clientele valuing convergence of ingenuity and foresight.



Alyson Yarberry, CEO & Founder

Modera Inc., Irvine

Alyson Yarberry is the CEO and Founder of Modera Inc., an award-winning marketing

ORANGE COUNTY BUSINESS JOURNAL

Presents the 27th Annual



Nicole Accetta / OTACA Tequila
Lisa Ackerman / The Autism Community in Action (TACA)
Brateil Aghasi / WISEPlace
Rochelle Anderson / RBA Builders Inc
Marion Anderson / Channel Bakers
Corinne AndersonSchoepe / Fluidmaster
Paula Aragone / Aragone & Associates
Kahroba Ayazi / J&K Hospitality Group
Zarina Bahadur / 123 Baby Box
Deborah Barlow Taylor / FUSION OF IDEAS
Pamina Barkow / Orange County Pain Management
Amy Bast / SureCo Healthcare + Technology
Katie Bayliss / Bayliss Law Firm
Kenya Beckmann / Providence Southern California
Letitia Berbaum / The Zandbergen Group
Kimberly Dwan Bernatz / CIBC Private Wealth Management
Pooja Bhalla / Illumination Foundation
Kim Bibb / Villa Real Estate
Lisa Blanc / Seven Gables Real Estate
Ashley Bleckner / Ellevest
Olabisi Boyle / Hyundai Motor North America
Eve Brackmann / Stuart Kane LLP
Marcy Brown / Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian
Lauri Burns / Vera's Sanctuary
Dana Butler-Moburg / J.F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center
Jamie Lyn Byerlee / Events by Jamie Lyn
Kristin Byrnes / Project Access
Rashmi Chaturvedi / Kaygen, Inc.
Mary Cheval / Ware Malcomb
Nicole Christopherson / NMC Realty
Jody Clegg / Compass Real Estate
Annie Clougherty / Compass Real Estate
Taylor Coleman / Howard Building Corporation
Amy Cook / Osmond Marketing
Tammy Cooper / Technologist
Michele Cortes / Vincor Construction Inc.
Shawn Covarrubias / Apriem Advisors
Gloria Crockett / Make-A-Wish Orange County and the Inland Empire
Kristin Daher / Powerhouse Communications
Angela Dailey / DAI Partners / WISE
Kathleen Delaney / Kofax
Carol DeNembo / Mountain Mike's Pizza LLC
Mariana Donahue / Compass Real Estate
Samantha Dorey / Everett Dorey LLP
Kimberlee Drake / Compass Real Estate
Rhonda Ducote / Apriem Advisors
Jamie Duran / Coldwell Banker Realty, Southern California
Neda Eaton / Irvine Public Schools Foundation
Lauren Ellermeyer / Beyond Fifteen Communications Inc.
Julia Erdkamp / Slalom Consulting
Sara Fahy / Revance
Jennifer Friend / Project Hope Alliance
Mandy Fry / Z SUPPLY LLC
Charlene Garza / Horizon Personnel Services Inc. and StaffChex Inc.
Erin Genzano / Compass Real Estate
Kimberly Gerber / Excelerate
Shayna Goldberg / Setschedule
Karen Good / Lantern & Scroll
Lisa Greubel / Seven Gables Real Estate
Jill Griffin / Advantage Solutions
Kaaren Hall / UDirect IRA Services

Rebecca Hall / Idea Hall
Alex Head / Compass Real Estate
Heather Heleloa / THE RANCH Restaurant & Saloon
Teresa Hernandez / Lincoln Club of Orange County
Beth Holmes / Cox Communications
Amanda Horton / Surterre Properties
Deeniece Huynh / Howard Building Corporation
Felicia Hyde / H. Hendy Associates
Neda Imbimbo / BigRentz
Shelley Iocona / ON ITS AXIS
Scharrell Jackson / Leadership in Heels
Mara James / Extraordinary Lives Foundation
Jena Jensen / CHOC Children's
Ashley Johnson, CDME / Visit Laguna Beach
Barbara Johnson Bechthold / Clean Energy Fuels
Meghana Joshi / Little Diversified Architectural Consulting Inc.
Manna Kadar / Manna Kadar Beauty Inc.
Olivia Karpinski / Vivera Pharmaceuticals
Sloane Keane / Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County and the Inland Empire
Tiffany Ketterer-Buchanan / CrowdStrike
Diane Kimbro / Stone Kimbro
Robin King / The Shea Center
Kate Klimow / UCI Beall Applied Innovation
Catherine Kooiman / Skin So Sweet
Gina Lara / Smith Dickson, Certified Public Accountants LLP
Julie Laughton / Julie Laughton Design Build
Lindsay Lawrence / First Foundation Inc.
Gloria Lee / Rutan & Tucker LLP
Julie Leffler / Big Hype Marketing & PR
Nicole Lucas / St. John Knits International Inc.
Kate Lyle / Ware Malcomb
Samrah Mahmoud / Troutman Pepper
Colleen Maloy / David Meltzer Enterprises
Joi Mar / Green Street
Dawn Maroney / Alignment Healthcare
Kate Marr / Community Legal Aid SoCal
Jessica Marrow / Revive Concierge
Sumita Mavros / Ephesoft Inc.
Brenda McCroskey / Compass Real Estate
Nicole McMackin / Irvine Technology Corp.
Meghan Medlin / Medlin Workforce & Reentry Solutions LLC
Shachi Mehra / ADYA and Spice Girl Sauces
Maggie Minnella / Howard Building Corporation
Dania Monge / Province West
Jessica Monroe, Esq. / Revolve Law Group
Annette Morgan / City of Hope Orange County
Jennifer Morris / Ajenda Public Relations Agency
Sara Naheedy, Esq. / Revolve Law Group

Luncheon & Awards Program

October 28, 2021

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Tickets*: \$175/Table of Ten \$1,650



Register Here

Please visit ocbj.com/bizevents

Congratulations 2021 Nominees

Robbin Narike Preciado / MUFG Union Bank
Susan Natland / Knobbe Martens
Rachel Nelson / CB Technologies Inc
Marla Noel / OC Growth Advisors
Helena Noonan / Compass Real Estate
Melissa Northway / True Path Financial
Sarah Oberly / The Bascom Group
Sharon Oh-Kubisch / Smiley Wang-Ekval
Jennifer Olson / Apriem Advisors
Anoosheh Oskouian / Ship & Shore Environmental Inc.
Jessica Oslo / Vantis Institute
Anya Ostry / CBRE
Claudia Perez / Marquee Staffing
Kelsey Peterson / Compass Real Estate
Maria Pitol / Montrose Environmental
Lindsey Poker / US Bank
Ladiera Poonian / iBASEt
Mia Prio / Luxury Life Managers
Ashley Proctor / The EMMES Group of Companies
Debra Raddcliff / 5.11 Inc
Allison Rawlins Tift / Land Advisors
Dawn S. Reese / The Wooden Floor
Caterina Richards / Bracken's Kitchen
Paige Riordan / Scarlet Kitchen & Lounge
Maricela Rios-Faust / Human Options
Robyn Robinson / Compass Real Estate
Tenny Christine Rostomian-Amin / TALG | The Amin Law Group Ltd.
Jillian Sabaugh / Ukropina Sabaugh
Mara Samuels / Haven Laguna
Talia Samuels / Outshine Public Relations
Tricia Sanchez / C3 Tech
Corinna Seiler / MUFG Union Bank
Mona Shah / Moxxe PR
Traci Shirachi / The Mark USA Inc.
Carol Shumway / KBS Realty Advisors
Suzanne Sibel / Action Resource Management
Courtney Siegel / Oakmont Management Group
Aimee Siemianowski / Driver SPG
Kristine Smith / Surterre Properties
Jessica Spaulding / The Spaulding Agency
Nancy Stack / Cystinosis Research Foundation
Julie Stark / CDC Designs
Shana Starr / Bastion Elevate
Paula Steurer / Sterling Public Relations
Commie Stevens / Beacon Pointe Advisors
Nichole Story / Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage
Victoria Strombom / Surterre Properties
MC Sungaila / Buchalter

Lynn Tanattanawin / Ephesoft Inc.
Judy Tang / Allied Universal
Mimi Taylor / Roth Staffing Companies
Susan Taylor / Juice It Up!
Kara Taylor / ATTOM
Cristina Terrasini / Stretto
Lillian Thai / California Properties Experts & Mortgage Inc.
Emylee Thai / Artemis DNA
Jin Thatcher / TGR Foundation - A Tiger Woods Charity
Jacqueline Thompson / Jacqueline Thompson Group
Paula Tomei / South Coast Repertory
Anh Tran / SageMint Wealth
Kara Trebs / Sunwest Bank
Megan Varga / Compass Real Estate
Jennifer Vasquez / C.W. Driver Companies
Ellie Vilendrer / Vilendrer Law, PC
Danielle Voloshin / Miracle Mile Advisors
Sarah Webb / Howard Building Corporation
Dana White / Hyundai Motor North America
Charlotte Wiederholt / Studio Other
Tangerine Wiggs / Compass Real Estate
Jeri Wilson / Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation
Anika Wilson / Spinnaker Investment Group
Debora Wondercheck / Project Access
Dr. Tammy Wong / Fostering Executive Leadership Inc.
Jessica Word / Word & Brown
Kimberly Wright, Esq. / Revolve Law Group
Alyson Yarberry / Modera Inc.
Angela Zepeda / Hyundai Motor North America
Andrea Zoeckler / Epson America Inc.
Heidi Zuckerman / Orange County Museum of Art



**Keynote
Speaker**

Patty Arvielo
Co-Founder
and President



DIAMOND SPONSOR
J.P.Morgan



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.

2021 Women in Business Award Nominees

and advertising agency headquartered in Irvine, CA. After over a decade as a working mother in the fast-paced field of marketing and advertising, Yarberry created Modera in 2010 with a vision for a new kind of creative agency - one that would carve out an equitable work environment for women and mothers to build careers within the industry. Yarberry has dedicated herself to developing more women leaders in marketing and providing women with a platform for growth and advancement. Equally fueled by a desire to develop long-lasting client relationships through purpose-driven work, the female-led company has since grown into a thriving integrated marketing communications agency that executes impactful campaigns across healthcare, consumer and nonprofit industries. The agency has been the recipient of a number of industry accolades including top honors from the MarCom Awards, Graphic Design USA and the American Advertising Federation among others.



Angela Zepeda, CMO

Hyundai Motor North America, Fountain Valley

As the first woman in a c-suite office at Hyundai Motor America, Angela Zepeda is an inspiration to many. With more than 25 years of experience, she has built her career on consumer-centric campaigns that build brands and drive business results, and she is an expert in online and digital marketing. She not only leads all of Hyundai's marketing and advertising activities in the U.S., but she is also a mentor to others in the company. She genuinely offers help to those who seek it and empowers them to take risks. Zepeda has made it a priority to make Hyundai's marketing more inclusive and representative. In fact, she recently selected independent, minority- and female-owned Culture Brands as Hyundai's marketing agency of record. Culture Brands will provide strategic marketing solutions for reaching and engaging African American audiences more effectively.



businesses. Throughout her tenure, Zockler has provided leadership to Epson America's comprehensive and integrated finance, service, and operations organization across the Americas, where she is responsible for business in 24 countries, conducted in 11 currencies supported by a team of 1,425 employees in North and Latin America. Most recently, Zockler was appointed executive officer of Seiko Epson Corporation, parent company of Epson America - representing the first woman executive appointed to this position.

Heidi Zuckerman, CEO & Director of Engineering

Orange County Museum of Art, Santa Ana

Since arriving at OCMA in January 2021, Heidi Zuckerman has raised over \$15 million for the Capital and Endowment Campaign and added seven new Board members. She was recently profiled in the Los Angeles Times about her vision for the museum, where she explained, "I believe access to art is a basic human right, it's not a privilege, so our mission and vision is to connect as many people to art and artists as possible." Zuckerman was the CEO and director of the Aspen Art Museum for fourteen years, raising over \$130 million for the Museum's Capital and Endowment Campaign and overseeing the completion of a new building designed by Pritzker Prize winning architect Shigeru Ban. Additionally, she hosts a podcast Conversations About Art, which includes close to seventy interviews with renowned artists, curators, designers and thinkers, including Glenn Kaino, Mary Weatherford, and John Hickenlooper.



Deborah Dickson, President

Smith Dickson, An Accountancy Corp., Irvine

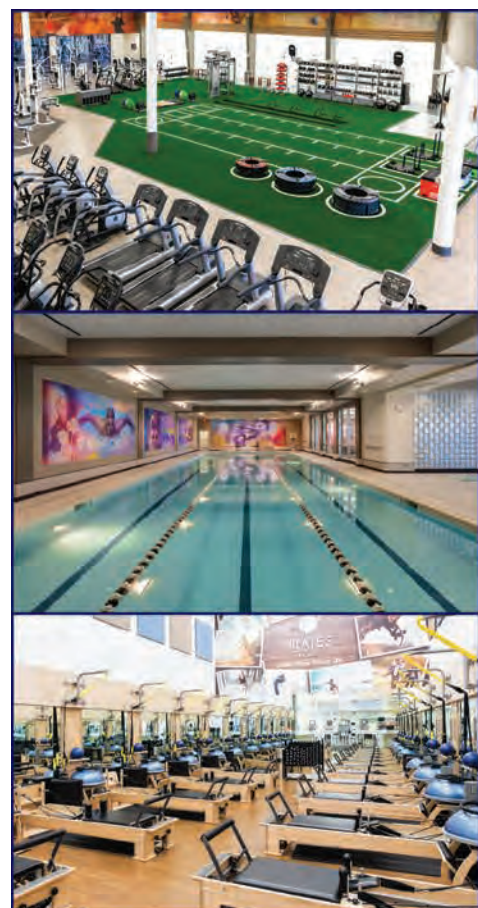
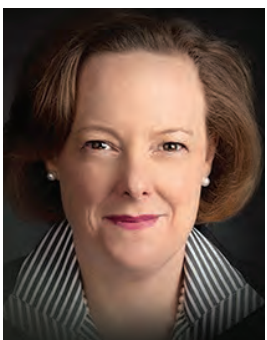
From her beginnings as one of the few women working at the "Big 8" CPA firms, Deborah Dickson, CPA, CFE, CFF, MAFF progressed to form Smith Dickson, An Accountancy Corporation in 1982. Many years later she continues as managing partner of successor Smith Dickson Certified Public Accountants, LLP. Dickson remains the only woman to found and manage a top accounting firm. In the process, Dickson has carved out a niche specialty, a Forensic CPA Litigation Support practice, in a very tough and competitive field. She has shaped this into one of the most well-known and highly-respected forensic CPA and expert witness accounting teams in California. The firm works with leading national and boutique law firms, attesting to Smith Dickson's expertise and success in this field. Dickson has earned CFE (Certified Fraud Examiner), CFF (Certified in Financial Forensics) and MAFF (Master Analyst in Financial Forensics) designations, which are important qualifications for leaders in the forensic CPA field and are only achieved by a small minority of CPAs throughout the USA.



Andrea Zockler, COO, CFO, Executive Officer, Seiko Epson Corp

Epson American Inc., Los Alamitos

Andrea Zockler began her career with Epson in 1994 as manager of financial planning and continued to advance on an aggressive course spanning positions as corporate controller, multiple executive positions across service, support and sales operations and culminating with her existing roles as chief operating officer and chief financial officer. Zockler is responsible for all finance and accounting functions, as well as sales operations, information systems, services, strategy, and standards and controls for Epson's North and Latin American



Exercise More Options®

state-of-the-art equipment / free weights /
functional training / HIIT by LAF* / Pilates by LAF* /
basketball / racquetball* / group fitness classes /
swimming pool / saunas / personal training* /
kids klub (babysitting)* / complimentary wi-fi

*Amenity may be available for an additional fee.

Visit www.lafitness.com for additional clubs near you!

IRVINE – CROSSROADS

3960 Barranca Pkwy.
(949) 502-2777

IRVINE EAST

6400 Irvine Blvd.
(949) 502-2043

IRVINE – JAMBOREE

2880 Michelle Drive
(714) 505-8958

SIGNATURE LOCATION:

IRVINE – MICHELSON DR

3021 Michelson Drive
(949) 988-5372