IT'S hard to think of an industry-leading company that could survive without a great CIO. These important individuals and their teams play vital roles in making Los Angeles businesses, institutions and nonprofit groups successful. Their decisions often impact all aspects of a business, including their company’s growth, profitability, functionality and competitiveness in the marketplace.

This is our third year of celebrating the cream of the proverbial crop among Los Angeles’ finest IT leadership minds with an awards event for those who have their hands on the steering wheels of new technology. Our annual Los Angeles Business Journal CIO of the Year Awards, held Wednesday, June 11th at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza, gave us the opportunity to stop for a moment and applaud the IT inventiveness and technological achievements of the corporate space’s hi-tech men and women - the often unsung architects and enablers of our companies’ operational successes.

Indeed, it’s the CIOs who are often charged with providing the operational tools required to match a CEO’s vision for a company. So for all the great CIOs celebrated by our awards this year, we say thank you and congratulations!

Your tireless contributions to the companies you serve and ultimately, our business community as a whole, are appreciated. This year’s list of superb finalists (all profiled in these pages) - each an example of excellence in the field of corporate technology stewardship - made it even more difficult to arrive at the honorees. We are particularly excited to shine a light on eight particularly outstanding honorees announced in eight categories - “Enterprise CIO of the Year” (500+ Employees), “Corporate Business CIO of the Year” (100 - 500 Employees), “Emerging Business CIO of the Year” (less than 100 Employees), “Government CIO of the Year,” “Non-Profit CIO of the Year,” “Cybersecurity Leader of the Year,” “IT Team of the Year,” and “IT Service Partner of the Year.” We applaud each of the honorees and the terrific finalists!

Best regards,

Matthew A. Toledo
Publisher & CEO
WASH Congratulates Our CIO, John Buccola, on This Honor!

2014 CIO of the Year Finalist

As CIO of WASH, John is leading the way in transforming laundry room operations through technology and innovation.

We celebrate John, his IT team and all the other Los Angeles Business Journal CIO of the Year nominees on their achievements.

www.washlaundry.com

JUNE 16, 2014 AN ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT TO THE LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL 23

CIOs OF THE YEAR 2014

Honorees

ENTERPRISE CIO OF THE YEAR (500+ EMPLOYEES)

JONATHAN SEE

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

Jonathan See is committed to aligning IT initiatives with the business of Pepperdine University. Given that Pepperdine's business is education, See has actively promoted many initiatives to enrich that business. First he aggressively expanded the Technology and Learning department which partners with faculty members to enhance teaching and learning by effectively using today's ever-burgeoning tools. In addition, he has expanded the University's Business Intelligence department. This department conducts high-end data analytics in order to help University departments and executives make more informed decisions.

Further, See is currently leading the enterprise-wide CRM initiative. This is a high-risk effort that requires collaboration, detailed project planning, resource sharing, and executive buy-in. He has achieved institution-wide consensus on the importance of this implementation, obtained the funding, is leading the CRM project, and remaining transparent in the communication thereof.

See has recreated the IT division of Pepperdine University to be proactive rather than reactive. As such, he has charged his staff to carefully listen to constituents by undertaking a “listening tour,” and then apply their creative technology skills in redesigning business processes to save the institution time, money, and energy. One such example is the electronic signature initiative that See spearheaded, which not only implemented currently available software, but had it integrated with encryption and knowledge storage so that documents at Pepperdine may be electronically sent, tracked, signed, routed for approval, stored, archived, audited, and reported upon.

See’s “people focus” is sharp and effective as well. He has designed the administration department of the IT division to actively develop talent within the division. In response, IT administration has allocated significant funding to professional development, created a transparent process for applying for those funds, and convenes a committee to review the applications. In addition, he supported the creating of a career advancement program through which employees may actively climb the career ladder and/or receive mentoring on how to expand their skills and grow their careers.

TridentUSA Health Services

www.TridentUSAHealth.com

TridentUSA Health Services congratulates the CIO/CTO award finalists for advancing technology and innovation.

TridentUSA Health Services is the leading national provider of bedside diagnostics, mobile clinical and hospice services at post-acute care facilities, including Skilled Nursing, Assisted Living and wherever the patient calls home.

www.TridentUSAHealth.com
CORPORATE BUSINESS CIO OF THE YEAR
(100-500 EMPLOYEES)

MARK SMITH
CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
NIGRO KARLIN SEGAL FELDSTEIN & BOLNO, LLC

Mark Smith is the Chief Information Officer for Nigro, Karlin, Segal, Feldstein & Bolno. He has been the head of their IT department since 2007. He is responsible for managing all IT initiatives for NKSFB and manages a team of twelve IT professionals. He has led strategic IT initiatives in the Business Management, Sports Management, Family Office, Family Law, and Publishing industries. He is known for his ability to execute M&A projects with tight timeframes and manage projects on budget.

The NKSFB infrastructure has been designed by Smith and his team for agility and growth. The adoption of the Office 365 platform, Thompson Reuters GoFileRoom document management system and numerous other cloud based services enables NKSFB to scale quickly and maintain uniform standards across the organization. By utilizing cloud based services for Mobile Device Management, Secure Web Gateway and other core services, the TCO is lowered dramatically for ongoing infrastructure management.

He led a Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity program that is well ahead of any other competing Business Management firm. The strategy is based on implementing NetApp Storage Area Network with replication to a recovery site in Arizona for the server and data infrastructure, coupled with backup workstation seats in Cypress, California. This provides usually expedient recovery time and point objectives. Regular reviews of the business units’ needs insure the plan meets the business continuity objectives.

In order to provide access to 8 TB of data to nearly 300 employees, while keeping costs under control, and maintaining high levels of systems performance as required by L.A.’s largest independent Business Management, Tax and Audit firm, Smith and his team have implemented a virtualized server infrastructure for over 90% of the firm’s application and data servers, highly leverages V-Motion for redundancy and maximum availability and WAN acceleration devices between all sites to optimize application performance and minimize file access times, among other innovative features.

EMERGING BUSINESS CIO OF THE YEAR
(LESS THAN 100 EMPLOYEES)

ADAM DURO
TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR
ZEHNERGROUP

Adam Duro is an example of a professional that is both a highly intelligent “techie” and a terrific communicator. He has the rare ability to thoroughly understand, and clearly communicate complicated roadmaps to ZehnerGroup’s clients, which often span across multiple industries, product lifecycles and initiatives. He does this by understanding the client, their business goals as well as knowing clients’ current and target users’ needs. Add to this his tenacity for breaking down technological boundaries, working around budget constraints and aggressive timelines, and you can see why ZehnerGroup and its clients are so fond of him.

Before rolling out a new DevOps tool, Chef, Duro personally executed a deep-dive research of the platform to create a best practice guide for ZehnerGroup to help the team master the tool. He did this for his colleagues, before introducing the new program, to ensure that they had the support needed to make it a success. Implementing DevOps drastically reduced the time the team required to ramp up new resources on a project. And, it’s helped to reduce the time taken to deploy new work. The result is a happy team that is able to focus more on adding value to clients’ products and less on the once timely task of deploying new code, or briefing new team members.

Duro is also well versed in a wide variety of project methodologies and best practices. An evangelist of Agile project management, one of his first initiatives at ZehnerGroup was to pioneer the use of this cutting edge process rolling out across the organization. He ensured that adoption of the tools would be an easy and seamless process for the team.

By introducing (and effectively and empathetically communicating) new technologies and leveraging best practices, while remaining flexible to experiment and discover more effective solutions, Duro has constructed a creative environment where the company, and its people, can develop into the best possible versions of themselves.
Discover it for yourself with the 2014 Technology Salary Guide.

rht.com/salary-center

The Robert Half Technology 2014 Salary Guide is the industry’s most respected resource for attracting and retaining top IT talent. With compensation data for more than 60 IT positions, this is the must-have resource, whether you’re looking for your next big hire or for your next big role. You can’t afford to make a move without it.
Jim Green, CIO for the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is primarily focused on managing the IT organization and its people to ensure delivery of IT infrastructure, applications and related services across Public Health at the desired risk, service levels and within budget.

He reaches out to co-workers to help them feel more comfortable around technology, providing solutions and building consensus. He has succeeded in reducing redundancies while creating an efficient and IT-centered environment.

Green has effectively aligned Public Health IT efforts with its various business units to deliver value, enable growth, and unlock the potential of information technology. He has accomplished this alignment by restructuring the organization, instituting a winning strategy pertinent to key performance indicators and implementing proven business methodologies.

Under Green’s leadership, a new section was added to the IT organizational structure that never existed before, Business Solutions. The in-house business/technology experts serve as “consultants” to the Public Health business process owners, helping them to evaluate their operations and to listen and understand their business challenges and opportunities and then subsequently make improvement recommendations to these business leaders. If the improvements have technology implications, these analysts are responsible for ensuring that the technology changes or additions are planned and implemented correctly.

Green is increasingly working with non-IT colleagues, addressing issues such as business strategy, business process design and management, new product or service development, and compliance. He is also managing business processes, such as shared services, product development, and operation. He has implemented development processes, including prioritization and continuous deployment to add structure to software change requests and the order in which they’re processed. These processes concentrate on those efforts the organization believes will have the greatest value to Public Health and its clients, the public.

Under Green’s leadership, Public Health IT has moved from being viewed as merely infrastructure to a strategic business partner that drives innovation, fuels growth, and initiates change.
CIOs OF THE YEAR
2014

Honorees

NON-PROFIT CIO OF THE YEAR

DAVID LAM
CIO/CISO
STEPHEN S. WISE TEMPLE AND SCHOOLS

David Lam, CIO/CISO for the Stephen S. Wise Temple and Schools is a strong advocate for coaching and mentoring others, both within and beyond his team. He is willing to take the time to work on solutions for the entire organization, regardless of whether or not it involves any technology elements. He is someone that people on his team and on his peer team trust, and that skill through issues and problems in a strategic way.

Lam is constantly looking for ways to improve the organization's operation and works closely with executives to implement their programs in a way that supports multiple missions. For example, using a Six Sigma Black Belt methodology, Lam has worked with the organization's Accounting, Communications and Center for Youth Engagement departments to work on business improvement projects that don’t necessarily involve technology. He constantly strives to be empathetic to the needs of other departments and to meet their needs in the best possible way.

He communicates his strategic vision by meeting regularly with members of the leadership team. By gathering information on needs and culture, he works to tailor the technology roadmap to specifically meet the needs of the organization. Most recently, he has been working with the elementary school to reduce the total cost of IT systems and create ubiquitous wireless networking in preparation for 1:1 / bring-your-own-device computing.

He is also constantly looking for innovation in both managing his team and in working with others. Two years ago, he installed a $750,000 phone system at zero net cost to the organization by creatively looking at the budget and working with the vendor. Additionally, Stephen S. Wise was one of the first religious schools in the country to offer remote learning, and is constantly implementing new and cutting-edge systems. More recently, Lam has been exploring the use of cloud technologies to lower our cost of computing.
IT TEAM OF THE YEAR

JAMES CRAWFORD (TEAM LEADER)

REGIONAL CIO AND VICE PRESIDENT,
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
KAISER PERMANENTE

As Kaiser Permanente’s Southern California Regional CIO and Vice President, Jim Crawford and his executive team are responsible for serving technology to more than 3.7 million members in Southern California. Crawford leads the delivery of information technology to more than 6,000 physicians and 61,000 employees who work in 14 medical centers and nearly 200 medical offices across Southern California. The team is responsible for delivering value for almost $1 billion dollars in operating and investment spend.

Crawford cultivates leadership through his team by empowering and grooming his management staff for executive level roles. As regional CIO, Crawford leads a team of Area Information Officers (AIOs)—very similar role to CIOs, but at local facilities who oversee the Kaiser Permanente local hospitals and medical office buildings. From this team of 11 AIOs, Crawford has provided two AIOs with interim Executive Director opportunities that resulted in the promotion of both candidates after serving in the interim role.

This remarkable IT organization repeatedly demonstrates its ability to deliver large, multi-year investment programs on time and on budget. One example is Kaiser Permanente’s general laboratory implementation. The $64 million dollar replaced the Kaiser Permanente Southern California (KPS) legacy general laboratory system, which processes more than 60 million laboratory tests annually. With roughly two-thirds of its 3.7 million KP members having laboratory-based information in their electronic medical record, the team was tasked with top-notch collaboration and execution among IT, the Southern California Permanente Medical Group, and Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals. This collaboration included system configurations, standardizing test menus, designing and building interfaces, testing, training, user adoption, ensuring proper billing interfaces, and deployment. The medical informatics team on the business side working in tandem with IT professionals is an example of Crawford and his team’s ability to help blur the lines among business and IT professionals in the name of delivering ‘best-in-class’ technology.

CIOs OF THE YEAR

2014 Honorees

CYBERSECURITY LEADER OF THE YEAR

DAN MEACHAM
DIRECTOR, IT SECURITY
TRIDENT USA HEALTH SERVICES

Director of IT Security for Trident USA Health, Dan Meacham is a highly accomplished information security leader with more than 15 years of experience protecting information assets, risk management, incident management and compliance management. He is recognized as a top contributor to the information security community through support and advisory board membership at the University of Dallas, Texas A & M University, UCLA Extensions and VHA.

Meacham’s enterprise-wide security and risk management strategies set the standard for enterprise security operations in large public, private and not-for-profit organizations. Meacham has managed domestic and international investigation teams and budgets. Some of his career highlights include developing a national information security architecture model for healthcare, CISO finalist for the United Nation’s World Health Organization (2006) and transforming a 32% PCI compliance program to 97% compliance in less than 12 months.

Moving to the Los Angeles area from Dallas in early 2010, Meacham began building on his legacy of community and industry involvement and quickly became engaged with the Los Angeles cybersecurity community. In 2010, Meacham was one of four founding co-hosts to the Evanta Southern California Chief Information Security Officer Summit. This year’s 2014 CISO summit will be Meacham's 5th year serving as a co-host and governing body member.

At Trident USA, he communicates his security programs to the leadership team quarterly and leverages dashboards and metrics to help communicate his messages. Meacham also supports Dr. Varaz Shahmirian and the UCLA Extension as an advisory committee member for the UCLA Extension Certificate in Information Security program. He also contributes time supporting Dr. Dan Manson of Cal Poly Pomona with CyberWatch West as a National Visiting Committee member and the CyberDefense competitions. Leveraging Meacham’s connections, community engagement, and position as the Director of Education for the local Information Systems Security Association Los Angeles Chapter, he supports the expansion of the CyberDefense competitions, mentoring, and coaching of cybersecurity teams.

IT TEAM OF THE YEAR

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Congratulations

Molina Healthcare congratulates Rick Hopfer as an honoree for the Los Angeles Business Journal’s CIO of the Year Awards.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to growing the success of our organization through technology.
Ray Austad has been involved in the technology field since 1996. He joined the Stephen S. Wise Temple and Schools team in 2005, and has recently been named Digital Communication and Information Systems Manager. Since 2010, he has been involved in numerous aspects of the Stephen S Wise Temple information security program and works to make programs and systems both usable and as secure as possible. He also enthusiastically brings security awareness to the IT team, staff, the school and the synagogue community.

Austad is currently an active member of the Information Systems Security Association Los Angeles, currently fulfilling the role of Security Evangelist, having previously served on its board for one year. He’s consulted for the association and provided his expertise with web and digital marketing and communication for their monthly meetings and annual summit. Ray is also a member of OWASP Los Angeles, and regularly attends Infotoc meetings and conferences.

Kevin Bowman has been with Celluphone for nearly 10 years, during which time he has risen through the ranks to his current position of CIO. As CIO, he manages infrastructure and business application systems of the $150 million company. He implemented the companywide ERP system (Microsoft Dynamics AX), which helped to increase productivity and ease of access to information for all employees as well as the Point of Sale as the business expanded from being a wholesale business to a retail business. Bowman’s implementation of Microsoft Dynamics AX increased efficiency by 50 percent. Employees no longer needed to manually reconcile sales, inventory, and shipping records across various nonintegrated systems. He also worked to enhance dealer and customer service; Celluphone provides a great value in managing rebates and responding to individual customer requests thanks to Bowman’s involvement in ensuring employees are happy with and able to use the ERP system.

Ray Austad
Stephen S. Wise Temple and Schools

Kevin Bowman
Celluphone

John Buccola has been with WASH in 2013, the privately owned laundry company was exploding with growth and in dire need of an IT leader with the vision and skills to keep pace with the company’s break-speed success. Just a mere 30 days prior to the close of the largest international acquisition in the company’s 67-year history, Buccola took the reins as CIO of WASH. The timing was critical because, without strong IT leadership, growing pains could have crippled WASH.

Buccola brought in process where there was none. He swiftly assessed the talent, upgraded where necessary and rebuilt WASH’s IT infrastructure to successfully handle massive expansion and international integration. In the short time that Buccola has been CIO of WASH, he has demonstrated phenomenal leadership by successfully scaling the IT organization and infrastructure for tremendous growth, while significantly improving operational efficiencies and functionality. All of this has dramatically strengthened WASH’s competitive market position.

John Buccola
WASH Multiplex Laundry Systems

Charles Carmichael has been tasked with providing a vast array of technology products and the attendant training and services to implement value for NAI Capital as an enterprise. His leadership has been felt in all of the organization’s business operations. He has successfully refocused NAI Capital’s technology strategy while positioning the company for growth with improved and new technology services over the coming years.

Carmichael’s revitalization program over the past year has successfully brought technology further to the forefront of the business. The company’s brokers and staff know their requests, needs and desires are not only appropriately addressed but also embraced. This improves the overall working environment and acts as a recruiting tool to attract top-notch seasoned brokers and retaining staff members. By delivering personalized service quickly and efficiently, Carmichael has established a reputation for competence and efficiency among the 300 consumers of technology services within the organization.

Charles Carmichael
NAI Capital

Christian Case
Bunim-Murray Productions

Bunim-Murray is a unique environment with a production schedule that drives tight timelines, sends people across the world to film shows, and creates huge ebbs and flows in staffing. Christian Case, the company’s CIO, is able to establish strong ties with the different stakeholders in his different divisions and with the executives in the organization, by understanding the unique needs of the business and delivering solutions that make their lives easier.

Case is constantly communicating what projects are ongoing and where projects are with both his IT team and with the entire company. He truly views IT as an enabler and competitive advantage for Bunim-Murray and is constantly looking for ways to improve systems and process. Whether it is workflow solutions, scalable telephone systems, or an infrastructure that support a distributed network of production specialists. He has internalized the unique requirement of Bunim-Murray’s business and is continuously architecting the IT infrastructure to address it.

Christian Case
Bunim-Murray Productions

Pablo Da Silva has worked hard to create an environment where his employees are comfortable, happy and most importantly, growing personally and professionally. All New Horizons of Southern California IT team members have free access to all of New Horizons’ training offerings, and are encouraged to take advantage of them to develop themselves. As CIO for a technology training company, Da Silva strongly believes in being on the cutting edge of technology. In addition to leading a successful business unit, he is a highly personable leader.

In 2013, Da Silva made the decision in conjunction with his team to switch the organization from traditional phone systems entirely over to a Microsoft Lync environment. In addition to saving money for the company, this has helped employees across the board by linking their phone systems with their email and Outlook calendars to help keep better organized and more mobile.

Pablo Da Silva
New Horizons Computer Learning Centers

This year’s esteemed CIO of the Year finalists are arranged alphabetically by last name. Congratulations to all of the finalists!
GINNY DAVIS
TECHNICOLOR

Ginny Davis manages Technicolor’s worldwide information technology services. She and her team support 15,000 users at 153 sites in 29 countries. In her role as Senior Vice President, Davis serves all of Technicolor’s business units, including entertainment services, which includes Home Entertainment, Post Production, Digital Cinema and the Digital Production – Visual Effect businesses. In addition to the Entertainment Services business group, she also supports the Set-top Box & Gateway business as well as the robust Intellectual Property & Licensing business divisions. She supports more than 100 Technicolor customers, including all of the major studios and the combined cable, satellite and telecommunication industries.

More than a manager, Davis is an innovative leader. She excels at “big picture” challenges like strategic clarification and the combined cable, satellite and telecommunications businesses. She supports more than 100 clients, peers and management in collaborative win-win-win ways.

LORI GETZ
CYBER EDUCATION CONSULTANTS

Since 2004 Lori Getz has worked as an Instructional Technologist in Los Angeles. She has a Master of Arts in Educational Technology from San Diego State University and is certified by isafe.org as an Internet Safety Specialist. In 2008, she founded Cyber Education Consultants and began speaking to students, parents, and educators about Internet safety, security and ethics. Since that time she has reached out to Internet users across the world. Her mission is simple—to help bridge the gap between a young generation of digital natives and their parents and teachers.

Today, Cyber Education Consultants provides workshops, professional development and consulting services to more than 100 schools across the country. Getz often lectures live, speaking to parents, teachers and students. She has been published in several areas including as an online expert for momlogic.com, kidsinthehouse.com and most recently was featured in Rachel Simmons’ new edition of “Odd Girl Out” and Lucie Hemmen’s, PhD “Parenting a Teen Girl.”

RICHARD GREENBERG
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Richard Greenberg had a vision for an application security management solution, and a training solution to provide ongoing training for the Application Development and the Security Office personnel. This project was part of his larger initiative to implement a Secure Application Development Lifecycle in PH that would result in robust and compliant DPH software applications. The first component of his solution was to work closely with the Project Management Office and Application Development Division to integrate a Security Review Process into the project conceptualization process and all subsequent phases of the software development lifecycle process. After processes were put in place, Greenberg purchased and deployed both a static and dynamic scanner to scan source and compiled code.

CREIGHTON GRENOBLE
ASCENDANT SERVICES, INC

Creighton Grenoble has developed a remarkable track record of being able to formulate and understand business objectives and strategy, and then deliver technical organizations and solutions that meet those objectives. He has expertise managing large client engagements and building quality relationships with clients and is a seasoned program manager and systems architect, with a broad background in information security, enterprise infrastructure and application development. He’s a successful consultant, executive and entrepreneur who has repeatedly demonstrated his ability to grow a practice, build long-term client relationships, lead teams, and operate a small business.

In 2002, he founded and began to lead Ascendant, a successful, information technology focused consulting firm. Clients are consistently satisfied and the firm thrives on follow-on work. Typically, engagements involve Grenoble and Ascendant acting as an “extension arm” of the CIO or IT Director, and often leading major initiatives, such as enterprise-wide programs, large projects and improvements in the management of innovation and operations.

VIC HERRERA
DTT SURVEILLANCE, INC

As soon as Vic Herrera assumed leadership of the DTT II team, he not only transformed it, but established key management standards within the department that have proven to be significantly successful. The team’s productivity has increased both quantitatively and qualitatively. His management success is attributed to the fact that he has achieved an unparalleled balance of stringency and empathy when dealing with his team.

Herrera is adept at deciphering and comprehending the current (and assessing the future) technological needs of the business. This is accomplished through numerous meetings and Q&A sessions with not just his own department, but with other departments within the company. He meticulously crafts technological blueprints and roadmaps and when presenting these to the rest of the organization, resolutely solicits feedback and input and never fails to implement viable proposals and solutions from the company, assuring everyone that their needs are met and their ideas are not falling on deaf ears.

NATE HO
RBZ, LLP

Nate Ho’s philosophy on leadership comes in two parts. First and foremost, leading by example is non-negotiable. He feels he could never ask anyone to do anything that he would not do himself, all of which roots in humility. It may not necessarily be worth his time to clear something as simple as a paper jam, but there is certainly value in morale, social equity and however slight reduction in administrative overhead by just taking care of it himself.

Ho believes it is important for an IT leader to allow room for failures and mistakes. He believes that “failures” may be an overly harsh word for what are essentially “teachable moments.” Allowing people to learn from their mistakes is one of the easiest and best ways to help them grow. Outside of his role at RBZ, Ho is also a member of the ISSA’s Los Angeles chapter and participates in the monthly meetings to promote security awareness.
HOWARD MILLER
MOLINA HEALTHCARE, INC.

Howard Miller is the Director of the Tech Secure Division at L/B/W Insurance & Financial Services. He provides risk management solutions, including complete insurance programs for a wide range of organizations. He provides additional expertise in the area of technology related risks such as intellectual property, information security, professional services, technology products, and executive exposures. He is a Community Outreach Advisory Board Member for the Information Systems Security Association of Los Angeles and helped found a ProVisors Technology Group.

RICK HOPFER
MOLINA HEALTHCARE, INC.

Rick Hopfer, CIO of Molina Healthcare, is responsible for establishing the company’s strategic technology directions by leading the IT Organization to align technology objectives, operations, programs, and investments around Molina business objectives. Improving quality and efficiency of IT delivered services reduces annual operational expenses leaving more of the annual budget to provide for members. Along with establishing Molina’s new Service and Enterprise Architecture programs, Hopfer reorganized other aspects of his leadership team. Core IT services across the company have been consolidated, gaining operational efficiencies while creating tighter alignment with each of Molina’s unique lines of business.

RAFI KHARDALIAN
META CLOUD

Metacloud’s business is technology, so its CTO is the chief officer of a majority of what the company does. Rafi Khardalian is constantly engaged with the president, CEO, sales organization, and product organization to make sure all of them are working synergistically to reach the organization’s goals. He was the thought leader who first defined Metacloud’s product offering and the one who has continually worked to refine what that product offering is and what Metacloud does as a business.

CHRIS MULLEN
RETIREMENT HOUSING FOUNDATION

Chris Mullen, Retirement Housing Foundation’s Director of Information Technology Services, is one of those rare individuals who came up through the ranks, learning every aspect of the business as he rose from both a technical perspective and a business perspective. He has experience in all areas, from clerical to management, and is able to apply that experience to help him relate to the various departments within the RHF culture, bringing together groups with different priorities and agendas.

KEN KWN
ENGAGE: BDR

Kenneth Kwan is one of the co-founders of Engage: BDR. He dedicates himself to building the technology and business parts of the company from the ground up, so he understands very well that the tie between business and technology is critical. He always carefully evaluates the feasibility, risk and cost of every project from the business side, and schedules with the team to ensure the execution to meet business objectives and budget. He loves critical thinking, which is required during the planning of every major technical project.

Dr. Shahzad Munawwar is a strong advocate of keeping pace with industry innovation, and as such, he ensures that his team has a clear understanding of team and company goals, as well as the overall direction of the industry. Clear communication, efficient decision-making and defining accountability/ownership for assigned tasks define Dr. Munawwar’s leadership style. He is a mentor who believes in enhancing the skill set of his team, in order to not only benefit the organization, but also foster individual growth. The divisional managers at En Pointe look up to Dr. Munawwar for career counseling and advice on how to excel in their respective roles.
Join us as we honor the 2014 Nonprofit and Corporate Citizenship Award Nominees

Susan Abrams, Happy Trails for Kids
Leilicia Aguilar, Union Bank
Christian Ahumada, Clifford Beers Housing, Inc.
Rev. Andy Bales, Union Rescue Mission
Charles Beik, I Will Make You A Star Productions
Daniel Berman, Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman LLP
Ryan Berman & Jake Kaufman, The Guardians of the Los Angeles Jewish Home
Charan Boulakika, Five Acres
Robbie Bremner, Relativity Media
Steve Brockmeyer, Bolton & Company
Lesster Brown, Perkins Cole LLP
Vince Bryson, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southern CA
Marisol Camacho, South East Women’s Organization
Cancer Support Community of Redondo Beach
Hinsberg Foundation & Livestrong, Tour De Pier
Neil Carey, Baker & Hostetler, LLP
Mike Chen, Kaufman, Schmid, Villaluna, Chen & Mullen LLP
Megan Chenrin, The LA Fund for Public Education
Steven Chomran, Esq., Chomran Law
Tamara Craver, The Posse Foundation
Mayer Dahan, Dahan Properties/Dream Builders Project
Roni De La Rocha, AltaMed Health Services Corporation
Dave Dohrmann, Christian Outreach in Action
Seth Elkind, PF Bressee Foundation
Mary Emmers, Children’s Institute Inc.
Lydia Floyd, Hands for Hope
Susan Gales, Alzheimer’s Association, California Southland Chapter
Adam Garone, The Movember Foundation
Arbi Grazarian MD, Glendale Community Free Health Clinic
Patricia Giggans, Peace Over Violence
Jackie Goldberg, Senior Star Power
Jay Goldfinger, Food on Foot
Amy Graf, International Trade Education Programs
Robin Greenberg, Beverly Hills Greater Los Angeles Association of Realtors
Robert Greggs II, DDS & Delwin McCarthy, DDS, The Institute of Advanced Laser Dentistry
Dr. Jay Grossman, Homeless Not Toothless
Daniel Grunfeld, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Michael Hackman, Hackman Capital Partners
Rich Halaszchak, Art Center College of Design/The Design Accelerator
Stephen Henning, Wood, Smith, Henning & Berman LLP
Jason Hill, Young Warriors
Jim Hodgson & Sandra Bales, Down Syndrome Association of Los Angeles
Lee Hutter, JP Morgan Chase
Ryan Iwamoto, 24 Hour HomeCare
Ken Jones, Woodbury University
Stan Kasten, Los Angeles Dodgers
Dan Kearney, KROQ-FM
Michael Kelley, Sidney Austin LLP
Kathy Kellogg Johnson, Kellogg Garden Products
Skye Kelly, Heal One World
Patricia Kennedy, Step Up 4 Vets
Darlene Kiyon, Break the Cycle
Deborah Klar, Klar & Associates
Larry Labove, NewFilmmakers Los Angeles
Victoria Lanier, Education Through Music—Los Angeles
Edward Lodgien Esq., Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Cress LLP
Long Beach Rescue Mission Team, Long Beach Rescue Mission
Karl Lott, Holland & Knight LLP
Maribel Marin, 21 LA County
Steven Markoff, ProCon.org
Iyase Mayberry, Cats at the Studio
Mary McDonnell, Greater Los Angeles Association of Legal Administrators
Steve McFarland, Better Business Bureau
Laura McMahon, NorthStar Moving Company
Ron McVeil, Powered By Youth Foundation, Inc.
Bruce Nelson, Glendale Adventist Medical Center
Robert Newman, Independent Film & Television Alliance
Patrick Nienart, Ernst & Young LLP
Stephen Peck, US VETS
Stacy Phillips, Phillips Lerner, A Law Corporation
Matthew Pichler, Northwestern Mutual Los Angeles
C.N. Frankel Redick III, Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP
Mari Riddle, Centro Latino for Literacy
James Rashwan, Jr., Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman
Stanford & Adrienne Rubin, Leeb & Loeb
James Rushon, Western LA County Council, Boy Scouts
Jane Sacarro, Camp Kesem
Megan Schraed, The Guardians of the Los Angeles Jewish Home
Randy Schwab, Jewish Big Brothers Big Sisters of Los Angeles
Donald Schwartz, RBC Wealth Management, The Tailored Portfolio Management Group
Matthew Sobla, Team AVMTES
Vivan Siegel, Jewish Vocational Services
Marchelle Silver, Mending Kids International
Kim Sentovich, Walmart
Martine Singer, Para Los Ninos
Mark Stagen, Emeral Health Services, Youth Business Alliance
Janean Stein, Learning Rights Law Center
Mary Jane Stevenson, City Year Los Angeles
Brian Tompkins, 360 Degree Solutions/ Weingart Center Association
Joe Torre & Ali Torre, Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation
Thomas Vizzio, Homeboy Industries
Richard Walker, Operation USA
Tony Walker, St. Anne’s
Fred Walt, Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator
Nicole Wenzlau & Nan Amatullah, Housing Corporation of America
Robert Weiss, XPRIZE Foundation, Inc.
Booher White, BTW Productions
Minda Wilson, Affordable Healthcare Review
Claire Wineland, Claire’s Place Foundation, Inc.
John Woods, Ride 2 Recovery
Tony Yanow, Golden Road Brewing
Lisa Young, The Rescue Train
Shane O’Neill
Swagbucks

Shane O’Neill joined Swagbucks in 2013 to effectively organize and commandeer the company’s existing technology and product teams. Arriving to a talented yet somewhat fragmented team structure, he has implemented a diversified engineering strategy allocating well-balanced development resources to each company product and new offering. To maximize efficiency and increase returns on company investment in technical product creation and engineering, O’Neill has overseen technical accountability programs to monitor performance, functionality and intuitive workflow.

O’Neill has worked diligently to not only understand but truly embody the values that make Swagbucks’ technology team an invaluable resource to the company’s overall business — and the culture that drives its inspiration. Responsible for building a team structure and implementing quality leadership, he has sought to refine the team’s work to better serve the company’s advertisers and clients — ultimately increasing bottom line revenue and driving technology to serve overall business interests and growth.

Raj Rajkotia
NextGen TM, LLC

Raj Rajkotia, as a senior IT executive leader, has worked and managed large teams at Toyota, Westfield, Bank of America and General Motors. Learning best practices from these large organizations, he has built NextGen TM and applied lean strategies to help clients leverage technology. His company and team specializes in a new wave of disruptive technologies such as Social, Mobile, Analytics (Big Data) and Cloud.

Rajkotia has consistently provided transformative strategies and consulting services to client companies since 2005. He has a strong background in Finance and Technology Management that has helped companies transform and currently they are an emerging Technology Startup Incubator Company for the Los Angeles region.

NextGen TM have incubated several startups and have successfully launched FundDreamer, a next generation Crowdfunding Company focused on empowering the results of the implementation.

Richard Randle
MSSR

As an outsourced CIO, Richard Randle helps IT technicians communicate in the language of business — costs, benefits, risks, and return on investment. With an internal team of IT consultants, he oversees over 60 IT professionals as his clients. He is chief strategist, coach, and escalation resource. Basically, when IT technicians are stuck, they call Randle.

Randle is particularly adept at achieving collaboration in tense situations where various technical experts present conflicting recommendations. He and his consulting team at MSSR design and support systems in-the-cloud, on-the-ground, and blended. The winds of technology are blowing in the direction of cloud, mobile and security, and Randle helps clients harness these forces and deploy emerging technologies within budget constraints. Randle reminds the IT experts he oversees that just because a technology works and is affordable, does not necessarily mean it is the right answer to underwriting needs of their business. He helps his team understand the reasons behind any new technology.

Navdeep Reddy
Enplug

At Enplug, Navdeep Reddy communicates his technology plans and business value through the organization by constant education. Every member of the company is expected to have a high level understanding of the technology used. Individual project managers are encouraged to perform their own research on technology solutions and suggest superior choices to the incumbent solutions. The process made in making technology decisions is always clearly laid out by Reddy and his team and critiques are not only allowed, but expected.

Creative thinking is promoted and fostered by Reddy via extremely high levels of cross company communication. A high level of understanding of the core product companywide produces a fertile environment for innovation. Processes are improved, new features are developed, and issues are resolved by this persistent collaborative interchange — directly impacting business efficiency positively for increased revenue generation and high levels of agility that is a significant competitive advantage in an industry which adheres to ‘traditional paradigms.’

Hovig Sapoian
Sada Systems, Inc.

Hovig Sapoian co-founded Sada Systems in 2000 based upon the belief that technology can empower people to transform their world. Sapoian led Sada’s managed IT services practice, which provided both on-site and remote IT support, and oversaw the addition of services and solutions to augment the products that Sada resells today, including Microsoft and Google cloud technologies. Today, SADA Systems is committed to the development of cutting-edge solutions for market-leading technologies.

In accordance with this mentality, Sapoian recently oversaw the revamp of SADA Systems Infrastructure Managed Services practice, which adheres to industry best practices and allows Sada’s on-premises clients to continue to take advantage of a completely modernized managed services offering. The infrastructure, deployment and engineering teams Sapoian manages actively participate in the conception and creation of services and solutions, and are actively engaged in customer deployment projects and the go-to-market process for those tools and services.

Megan Savage
Tech Savage

One of the things Megan Savage of Tech Savage does is encourage clients to think outside of the box in their solutions. Instead of approaching a business issue with a specific solution in mind, Savage challenges them to fully define the problem and business need first, before deciding on a solution. By fully analyzing and mapping a business problem or business processes, Savage and her team are able to uncover more areas where efficiency can be improved than they may have initially focused on, and then brainstorm how a combination of technology and business process changes can address each issue, based on budget and priorities.

Savage has also found that Kaizen sessions can be very useful tools to involve the business in defining their current process and pain points, creatively collaborating on short and long term solutions, and owning the results of the implementation.
STAN STAHL
CITADEL INFORMATION GROUP

Stan Stahl, Ph.D. is the President of Citadel Information Group. A pioneer in the field of information security, Dr. Stahl entered the field in 1980. Earlier in his career he secured teleconferencing at the White House, databases inside Cheyenne Mountain and the communications network controlling the nation’s nuclear weapons arsenal. Dr. Stahl excels at helping his clients develop and implement information security management strategies consistent with their unique information security responsibilities, their business realities and their cultural circumstances. He has that rare gift of being able to describe the complexities of information security in a way that makes sense to real-world non-technical business professionals. Dr. Stahl has served as President of ISSA-LA — the Los Angeles Chapter of the Information Systems Security Association — since 2008 and is the creator of the Chapter’s It Takes the Village to Secure the Village program.

DIKITNY SLABYAK
ECHOTECH GROUP

Dimitry Slabyak fosters an environment of learning and improvement for each member throughout his team at EchoTech Group, where leadership is built with the following principles: leading by example and the principle that every employee is part of the team. Slabyak is passionate about what he does and it shows in how willing he is to strive for his own (as well as his team’s) improvement.

Under Slabyak’s stewardship, EchoTech Group’s close business relationships allow for a very special bond where ideas and communication seem to flow with maximum efficiency. This allows for a tighter project execution and expectations being met, without the excess of unnecessary managerial and accounts staff. The clients that EchoTech Group typically takes on allow them to work within their philosophy and framework, which is “taking a very personal approach to each client in sharing ideas, strategies, and expertise to manage expectations and deliver integrated products for the B2B and B2C landscapes.”

RENEE TRAN
PARSONS

Renée Tran’s leadership has been instrumental in transitioning the Parsons’ IT focus from the back office to the front lines. She has brought a vision for accelerating business line growth through technology-inspired services. These include an increasing emphasis on Parsons’ sales support; facilitating service delivery improvements through automation; applying innovative use of technology to solve client problems; and growing, protecting, and leveraging intellectual property.

Tran’s Business & Technology Solutions group is comprised of an eclectic team of multi-dimensional thinkers and problem solvers. Her vision is for the team to contribute directly to project proposals, demonstrate great client rapport through a willingness to dive into the trenches, and to excel at the fundamentals of project management. She leads by example and focuses on eliminating obstacles for the team to achieve objectives. Her trusted advisers are encouraged to look beyond the norm, take calculated risks, build a network of reach-back talents, and partner strategically to achieve their missions.

Congratulations!

Los Angeles Business Journal 2014 CIO/CTO Awards Winners

Nonprofit CIO
David Lam, CISSP
CIO/CISO, Stephen S. Wise Temple
Vice President, ISSA-LA

Cybersecurity Leader of the Year
Dan Meacham
Director, IT Security, Trident USA Health Services
Former Director – ISSA-LA

CIO/CTO Nominees
Stan Stahl, PhD
President, Citadel Information Group
President, ISSA-LA

Richard Greenberg, CISSP
ISO, LA County Department of Public Health
Vendor Director, ISSA-LA

David Girdner
Network Engineer, Antropy, Inc
Former Director, ISSA-LA

Ray Austad, CISSP
Information Security Consultant, Farmers Insurance
Former Board Member, ISSA-LA

Brad Maryman
President, Maryman & Associates
Community Outreach Advisory Board Member, ISSA-LA

Howard Miller, CRM, CIC
Vice President, L/B/W Insurance & Financial Services, Inc.
Community Outreach Advisory Board Member, ISSA-LA

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CIOs of the Year 2014 Finalists

Carl Trudel
USAMP, INC.

Carl Trudel extends beyond the traditional CTO role. He makes it his mission to not only focus on and solve the key technical problems USamp faces, but he also has a vested interest in building product solutions that will bring value to USamp’s clients. His main mottoes of “How can we do better?” and “What makes us uniquely different from our competitors?” inspire continued success and innovation, and this attitude permeates through to the rest of the executive team.

USamp is first and foremost a technology company, but Trudel’s technology plan extends beyond the needs of the technology side of the organization to the company’s business strategy as well. His plan ensures that the technology systems are set up for major scale and flexibility. Therefore, he supports the collective company vision to not only remain focused on immediate needs but also maintain a forward-looking approach to prepare for where the company may need to be in the next 2-3 years.

Mike Villegas
K3DES

Mike Villegas is Vice President for K3DES, LLC a Payment Card Industry Qualified Security Assessor (PCI QSA) firm. He is responsible for performing information security assessments for PCI DSS, generating Reports of Compliance and Reports of Validation for PCI assessments and PCI payment applications, respectively. He also provides information security consulting to clients related to security solution, Information Security Due Diligence, FFIEC examinations, ISO-27002, GLBA, and HIPAA.

Villegas brings to K3DES more than 30 years of experience in IT audit, risk management and information security. He is a recognized leader in each of these fields and has been active in local chapters respectively. Villegas is in high demand for lectures at key professional organizations such as Information Systems Audit & Control Association (ISACA), Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), CA-World, OWASP, Vanguard Security Expo, and the Information Systems Security Association (ISSA).

Lincoln Wallen
DreamWorks Animation

Lincoln Wallen is responsible for the design, implementation, successful operation and overall technical direction of DreamWorks Animation technology initiatives. Under his leadership, DreamWorks Animation was named to the 50 Most Innovative Companies list in MIT’s Technology Review by demonstrating creative, effective management in inventing and deploying technology within the company. Wallen was able to accomplish this because of his strategic direction and a world-class technology team. He supports and encourages the generation of ideas and forward thinking from his team, propelling DreamWorks Animation to be at the highest quality of animated content creation.

One of Wallen’s key goals is to make the technology development and innovations at DreamWorks Animation more visible in the wider technology world and to other businesses in other markets. This requires that all employees understand the direction and impact of technology efforts. He is the studio’s technology ambassador and works to determine the most optimal balance between extended capabilities and bottom-line efficiency gains.

Andrew Waage
Retention Science

Andrew Waage has a passion for data and machine learning. He incorporates many cutting edge tools into the Retention Science backend such as Ruby, Rails, PHP, Javascript, MySQL, MongoDB, Cassandra, Amazon Web Services, Rackspace Cloud, machine learning, and data mining, to name a few. He also seamlessly translates the company’s technical structure with outside eCommerce CMO’s that are currently using Retention Science.

One of the reasons why Waage is so effective is that he consistently takes a thirty thousand foot view of what technology is needed by today’s ecommerce retailers. He anticipates what problems Retention Science’s technology can help solve for retailers allowing the company to deliver the best services to its clients. Also, under his technological stewardship, the roadmap for additional features and backend necessary to accomplish a continual build out has been effectively collaborative between the data science team, the engineer team and the needs of Retention Science’s clients.

Phillip Walker
Network Solutions Provider

Phillip Walker is the type of CIO that leads by example. He has a highly skilled team that he works with and he has no problem doing the minutiae tasks to get the job done. Walker understands the importance of detail and instills that in his team working with them on every task from beginning to end. He encourages new and innovative ideas and is encouraging his employees to come up with ideas that are out of the box.

Under Walker’s stewardship, Network Solution Providers, this past year, NSF launched a full-scale turnaround to elevate its business performance and deliver greater value to all of its clients during this time of change. They have actively created a more valued and successful NSF, with a commitment to collaboration, innovative offerings and outstanding service to their customers. This is partly due to Walker’s insistence of giving customers all the info they need to run their business and be successful.

Lincoln Watts
NetFusion, INC.

NetFusion’s CIO, David Watts is very detail oriented and incredibly thorough, and ensures that his clients’ expectations are aligned with his own and those of his team. He places special emphasis on clear communication. He focuses first on clarifying and articulating the client’s business objectives. Secondly, he lays out for the clients how technology can best accomplish those objectives along with the pros and cons of each choice. He works to perform all of this within the context of the client’s specific objectives, infrastructure, budget, and compliance requirements.

Another strength that Watts exhibits is his long-standing business relationships, not only with clients, but with his connections within the industry and outside his industry throughout Los Angeles. Watts supports the growth of other businesses through his involvement in Provisors, a network of business professionals and advisors, and through collaboration with other IT related vendors.
The Los Angeles Business Journal congratulates the 2014 CIO/CTO Awards Nominees:

David Alexander  
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Andrew Anvari  
Fusion Storm

Ray Austad  
Stephen S. Wise Temple and Schools

John Beale  
City National Bank

Kevin Bowman  
Celluphone

John Buccola  
WASH Multifamily Laundry Systems

Cal Net Technology Group

Charles Carmichael  
NAI Capital

Christian Case  
Bunim-Murray Productions

James Crawford  
Kaiser Permanente

Pablo Da Silva  
New Horizons Computer Learning Centers

Ginny Davis  
Technicolor

Adam Duro  
ZehnerGroup

Michael Forsouan  
UNICI

Todd Friedman  
Mattel

Lori Getz  
Cyber Education Consultants

David Girdner  
Antippsy

Jim Green  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Richard Greenberg  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Creighton Grenoble  
Ascendant Services, Inc.

Scott Hennon  
City National Bank

Vic Herrera  
DTT, Inc.

Nate Ho  
RB2 LLP

Rick Hopper  
Malina Healthcare, Inc.

Bernie Howroyd  
Appleone

Rafi Khordalian  
Metadisc

Ken Kwan  
Engage: BDR

David Lam  
Stephen S. Wise Temple and Schools

Richard Randle  
MBBG

Navdeep Reddy  
Enplug

Hovig Safarian  
SADA Systems

Cheryl Santor  
Metropolitan Water District

Megan Savage  
Tech Savage

Jonathan See  
Pepperdine University

Hersel Shoumer  
LA Networks

Dimity Slayback  
Echo/Tech Group

Mark Smith  
Nigro Karin Segal Feldstein & Bolno, LLC

Stan Stahl  
Citadel Information Group

Paul Sunok  
Entsys Solutions, Inc.

Renee Tran  
Parsons

Carl Trudel  
uSamp

Mike Villegas  
IGDES

Andrew Waage  
Retention Science

Philip Walker  
Network Solutions Provider

Lincoln Wallen  
DreamWorks Animation

David Watts  
NetFusion, Inc.
Over 260 attendees were on hand at the event, held at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza in Los Angeles on June 11th.