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Welcome to the Los Angeles Business Journal's third annual Fashion Awards special supplement, in which we celebrate the outstanding work performed by the remarkable individuals and companies that make up one of the most exciting and dynamic sectors of industry today – the apparel industry!

The world of fashion, garments, apparel manufacturing and style design as a whole is unique in many ways – and here in Los Angeles, where we have some of the most fashion-forward and stylish people in the world, there's perhaps an even more finely tuned set of rules for success.

In the following pages we hope to shed additional light on some of the premier examples of companies that make the fashion world tick. Be they retailers, manufacturers, wholesalers, makers of denim, couture, activewear, swimwear, footwear, accessories, or innovative methodologies or online applications for getting the latest fashions to the people that seek them, these are the finalists and honorees we singled out for achievement across the full spectrum of this ever-evolving industry.

Our celebration of these examples of excellence took place at our 2016 Fashion Awards event on November 30 at Casa del Mar.

The list of prestige finalists – each an example of excellence in the industry – made it particularly difficult to arrive at the honorees. Nine honorees and two additional finalists are presented in this section under nine different categories – “Trendsetter Award,” “Supplier of the Year,” “Professional Service Provider of the Year,” “Direct to Consumer Award,” “Rising Brand Award,” “Made in California Award,” “Technology Innovation Award,” “Philanthropy Award,” and the “Social Responsibility Award.” We applaud each of the finalists and honorees – all of whom are described in these pages.

It should be noted that each of the finalists and honorees featured in these pages has played a key role, not only in the success of the apparel industry, but in the success of the Los Angeles economy as a whole. So to all the great organizations profiled in this volume we say thank you!

Best regards,

Matthew A. Toledo
President and Publisher
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TRENDSETTER AWARD HONOREE

ADRIANO GOLDSCHMIED
Designer

Adriano Goldschmied, the Italian fashion designer, is known as “the Godfather of Denim” and is the originator of the very concept of “premium denim” that is so popular today. Among the many great brands he created are Diesel, Replay, Gap 1969, and AG Adriano Goldschmied. With initial dreams of becoming a competitive skier, he opened up a store in Cortina d’Ampezzo in 1970. This was a springboard for beginning his own denim company.

Goldschmied’s first link to the denim industry was a pair of jeans he bought from an American soldier for $15. He was 14 and living in Trieste, where his mother moved him from his birthplace in Turin after World War II, following his father’s death. In the Italian port city, Goldschmied was influenced by the mix of cultures from his homeland, as well as Greece, Turkey, Yugoslavia and Austria.

By the end of 1972, he decided to make his own jeans. The jet setters in Cortina loved Goldschmied’s designs. Even better were the exclusive prices, going up to $700 for five-pocket jeans.

Goldschmied’s experimentation with washes started with a big bowl of bleach and water heated over a fire in his yard. Around 1974, he founded a label called Daily Blue. Later, he became instrumental in the formation of Diesel, A Gold E, Gap’s 1969, AG Adriano Goldschmied and GoldSign.

In 2013, he left Citizens of Humanity, which had acquired GoldSign six years earlier. Once his non-compete clause with Citizens of Humanity expires at the end of the year, Goldschmied aims to groom the next generation of Genius Group.

Fineman West & Company is a people-focused accounting, tax, and business advisory firm located in the heart of Downtown LA. We provide a full spectrum of financial and consultative services to a variety of industries – backed by our unrivaled expertise, an unsurpassed passion for understanding our clients’ stories, and a commitment to helping our clients achieve and maintain financial success. Beyond the Numbers.
Booth Moore has been a continual one-woman cheering squad for Los Angeles fashion for decades, while, at the same time, commenting on and analyzing the global spectrum of the fashion world for Los Angeles. Her insights are sought after by retailers and fashion producers alike. She possesses the unique blend of the “eye” of a fashion maven with the mindset of the Los Angeles public.

As the former fashion critic of the Los Angeles Times, Moore logged tens of thousands of miles covering the runways from New York to Paris and interviewing style leaders such as Karl Lagerfeld, Tom Ford and Donatella Versace. The world has been her runway since she was a little girl in New York City, on through a career that found her expert writings featured in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, Town & Country, C Magazine, Metropolitan Home and many other publications.

Kevin Chen has been an innovator in fashion businesses as well as a visionary for the real estate development of the Arts District. His next foray into wholesale and retail fashion is the re-invention of the iconic brand Frankie B. The high-end line launched with a full-scale fashion presentation in New York last October, with the first freestanding retail store opening this year. The merchandise will all be produced in and around Los Angeles. While Frankie B Hollywood will be offered as a more moderately priced collection, the two concepts will be aimed at the “trendsetters” of the fashion industry at different price levels; identifying the “democracy of fashion.”

Chen is no stranger to fashion. With over 30 years of experience in the fashion and garment industry, he is credited for the multi-million dollar relationship he established between Hyundai Department Stores (South Korea) and Juicy Couture, a multi-million dollar brand, now owned by Authentic Brands Group.
SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR AWARD HONOREE

BRIAN WEITMAN
Chief Executive Officer
STC-QST

Brian Weitman is the Chief Executive Officer of the newly combined offices of Security Textiles and QST, and is an expert in assisting designers, manufacturers, and contractors for all areas of production. The new entity, known as STC-QST, has become a major service for the global apparel marketplace. The company has successfully met the challenge of delivering its products to other points of production outside the U.S. through new techniques and technologies for global delivery.

STC-QST has fast become known as the leading supplier of inner garment construction products on the west coast. The company is centrally located in the heart of the Garment District in Los Angeles and has over 85,000 square feet of general warehouse space, a fleet of delivery trucks and a team of experts in order to provide unparalleled customer service.

As globalization becomes more of a part of everyday business, STC-QST has positioned itself to help North American Brands ensure supply chain transparency and global consistency for commercial products no matter where they are produced. STC-QST’s team can work with a wide array of designers, pattern makers, and tech pack writers during the product development phase to provide apparel industry organizations with the right products for their garment needs.

Weitman is a third generation member of the fashion industry—something of a rarity in the industry. He can be called upon for any charitable benefit and professional service. His insight is sought after by many new entrepreneurs, and he can always be counted upon for professional advice.
SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR AWARD
FINALIST

ANGELO GHAILIAN
President
Astrologie California

Astrologie/AJG, Inc. is a domestic knit and woven apparel manufacturer that has established its operation to have all design and manufacturing produced in Los Angeles. The company, led by SoCal native Angelo Ghailian, maintains a mission to provide customers with trend right design, unsurpassed quality, affordable pricing and dependability all as a derivative of products and attributes from Southern California. Astrologie is equipped with its own in-house sampling/design team and has established manufacturing alliances of supreme quality throughout Southern California. Through its internal departments, Astrologie/AJG, Inc. is able to provide customers with styling direction, concept developments, sourcing strategies, and ultimately a sound quality product. This coupled with the fact that Astrologie presents a Los Angeles lifestyle and vibe is the pride of Astrologie California. Being able to deliver months faster than other import factories while providing designs that represent a sought-out lifestyle takes the company to the next level.

SUPPLIER OF THE YEAR AWARD
FINALIST

BILL TENEBLATT
Founder
Antex Knitting Mills

Antex Knitting Mills is a vertical knitting, dyeing, printing and finishing company established in Los Angeles in 1973. The company produces approximately 1.5 million yards of fabric per week. Its traditional business is to provide fashionable knitted fabrics to the junior, contemporary, and children’s markets. The Antex Premier Performance division provides technical fabrics to the outdoor and active wear markets. Founded by Bill Teneblatt, Antex prides itself on its flexibility in servicing its customers’ needs in providing competitively priced, high quality fabrics and quick deliveries. It is the company’s goal to service the needs of the apparel industry by offering fabrics that appeal to the fashion, lifestyle, and performance driven consumer. Antex’s highly trained staff is up to date on the latest advances in the industry and constantly strives to maintain and improve its level of expertise. The company’s R&D department can analyze and duplicate any fabric submitted. Antex also has an extensive knit and print line and are constantly creating new and exciting fabrics.

CONGRATULATIONS
MARK BRUTZKUS
AND ALL OF THE OTHER FASHION AWARDS NOMINEES

Crowe Horwath LLP congratulates Jay Mangel on his 2016 Los Angeles Business Journal Fashion Award nomination and his continued leadership in the Southern California apparel industry.

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RONALD FRIEDMAN  
Partner  
Marcum LLP

Ronald Friedman, CPA, is the national leader of Marcum LLP’s Retail & Consumer Products practice. With this leadership role at the firm’s National Retail/Consumer Products Industry group, he provides consulting services for closely held and emerging businesses in the apparel, manufacturing, distribution and retail industries.

Friedman works very closely with his clients, providing assistance with many aspects of their businesses. His services include forecasting and budgeting, profit enhancement, succession planning, exit strategies, preparation for sale of a business, assistance in procuring financing, and workout and reorganization consulting. Friedman’s expertise also includes assisting in the negotiations for the purchase or sale of a business.

For more than 30 years, Friedman has served as an expert witness in numerous apparel industry cases, ranging from valuations in divorce proceedings to disputes between partners in business dealings. He is often quoted in the media for his industry expertise with retail, manufacturing and distribution-driven companies in the retail/consumer products sector.

He is also dedicated to maintaining and enhancing his firm’s trademark service. Foremost among this service is the commitment to look beyond the numbers and see the opportunity, challenges and solutions in every engagement. Creativity, innovation and teamwork are important facets of his approach to business.

Friedman exemplifies Marcum’s mission, which is, as an organization of professionals, to understand the business of its clients, to help those clients identify their business and financial needs, and to provide the services that will help them achieve their business and personal financial goals. Friedman is committed to providing the most efficient and expeditious services, while always maintaining the highest ethical standards.

MARK BRUTZKUS  
Partner  
Brutzkus, Gubner, Rozansky, Seror & Weber, LLP

For almost 30 years, Mark Brutzkus has successfully represented apparel, footwear and retail industry clients facing unique, industry-specific issues that only a seasoned attorney can efficiently address. From trademarks, copyrights, e-commerce and sourcing to distribution, labor compliance, mergers and acquisitions and regulatory concerns, Brutzkus, year after year, brings his wealth of legal and industry knowledge to every deal and dispute his clients face. In addition, he continues to build strong relationships with apparel, footwear and retail professionals so he can employ every tool possible to achieve the best results for those who hire him.

Brutzkus has significant experience defending apparel industry manufacturers in wage and hour claims, including AB 633 issues and joint liability matters, before the California Department of Industrial Relations, Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) and the U.S. Department of Labor. He is also a recognized leader among apparel and garment professionals and in educational programs within the professional community.

JAY MANGEL  
Partner  
Crowe Horwath, LLP

The story and history of Jay Mangel, a partner and CPA at Crowe Horwath, are synonymous with that of the past 30 years of the apparel industry in Los Angeles. Mangel’s father was an apparel manufacturer and by the time he was 14 years old he was already working in the business. From a young age, Mangel knew that he wanted to work in the family business but also do something different than what his father did, not just manufacturing but rather focusing on the business side. Mangel is a CPA with real hands on apparel industry experience.

Over the years, Mangel has advised several of the companies that make up the fabric of the Apparel industry. He has also been instrumental in advising several of his clients in the sale of their business. Some of the more prominent transactions that he has advised on include Juicy Couture, Toms Shoes, Velvet and Junk Food, among others.
**DIRECT TO CONSUMER AWARD HONOREE**

**LAUREL BERMAN**

Designer
Black Halo

**S**ince its launch in 2002, Black Halo has expanded from its Los Angeles roots, becoming an internationally renowned brand. The collection debuted domestically in 2003 and grew rapidly into the national market. By 2008 it had developed relationships with international partners and now can be found at 1500 stores worldwide. It is important to both designer Laurel Berman, and her partner, Sean Pattison, that the company remains an authentic American brand located in the downtown Los Angeles hub of apparel manufacturing.

With a philosophy of empowering women, much of Black Halo’s continued success has come from the creation of the Jackie O dress. Necessity being the mother of invention, Berman created this dress after sewing a blouse and skirt together, and with that stroke of creativity The Jackie O was born. Since its debut, a decade ago, the Jackie O dress continues to be a wardrobe staple; not just in everyday women’s lives, but in the lives of celebrities such as Blake Lively, Scarlett Johansson, Kelly Ripa and more.

With the desire to reach a new audience, and broaden their existing appeal, in 2012, the brand premiered an eveningwear collection, Black Halo EVE by Laurel Berman with great success. Further making its mark in Hollywood, long-time admirer of the brand and costume designer Janie Bryant of critically acclaimed series Mad Men, collaborated with Berman on a Black Halo capsule collection which debuted in February of 2015. As a hands-on designer, Bryant said it was important for her to work with a local brand, giving the access she would have to samples in a timely manner.

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**DIRECT TO CONSUMER FINALIST**

**YAEL AFLALO**

Founder & CEO
Reformation

**A**fter a successful run with her fashion line Ya-Ya that she started at 21, Yael Aflalo began customizing vintage dresses, selling them out of a small storefront called Reformation. This led to a second store in New York. The stores were more successful than Aflalo could have dreamed. Soon she was doing dresses and tops for Urban Outfitters. Things were going well, and Aflalo was content to run her small label as it was.

A trip to China changed all of that. Witnessing the amount of pollution fashion manufacturing had created there, Aflalo returned galvanized with a new mission. She would create conscious fashion that didn’t take a toll on the environment. She began developing a model based on limited-edition collections, a shift away from the reworked vintage pieces of her first two stores. The majority of the garments Reformation now offers are manufactured in Los Angeles, mostly in-house. Reformation sources sustainable materials, using about 65% eco fabrics, 20% repurposed vintage clothing and 15% dead stock fabrics.

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**DIRECT TO CONSUMER FINALIST**

**ALLISON BEAL**

Co-Founder & CEO
StyleSaint

**A**llison Beal is the CEO and co-founder of StyleSaint, a position she has held since 2001.

With StyleSaint, she has forged a genuine next generation designer label, a company driven by a belief in making products that matter and pieces that last. By focusing on quality over quantity – and designing timeless collections that are meant to be worn year-round, StyleSaint stands firm in its belief that fashion should be neither fast nor disposable.

Beal and the team at StyleSaint believe that by taking a “creator-to-closet” approach to fashion, prioritizing quality, sustainability, and the humanity behind clothing, they can change the market for the better. The goal is to do this while eliminating bloated retail costs for customers, creating a win/win opportunity that will forever revolutionize the fashion industry. By selling Beal’s design collections directly to customers online, markups have been avoided and a revolutionary, affordable year-round affordable pricing model is achieved.
BRUCE GIFFORD
Founder
NAKEDCASHMERE

Cashmere is the story of Leslie and Bruce Gifford who share a passion for the product and the industry that surrounds it. Bruce brings four generations of knowledge about global sourcing and fashion marketing, having begun his executive career as a menswear buyer at Denver Dry Goods; soon after that he joined his father’s N.Y. sportswear company, which was sold to Hart Schaffner & Marx. He remained, as manager, for 5 years when he and his wife moved to L.A. in 1987.

In March, John Elliott + Co was named one of GQ’s “Best New Menswear Designers of America” and together, Elliott and Lavee have managed to grow a small initial investment of $30,000 into a fledgling business that is likely to have generated revenues in the seven-figure range by year’s end.

What attracted Lavee to the opportunity to lead the company is that what it reaches beyond trends. The garments that John Elliott + Co makes were relevant ten years ago and will more than likely continue to be relevant ten years from now.

The appeal of John Elliott’s clothes is that they are simple, but when worn together, each piece makes the whole look that much stronger. Similar lines that speak to the easy-wearing Californian lifestyle, like James Perse, tout comfort and leisure, but at John Elliott + Co, comfort is ancillary to the aesthetic.

John Elliott + Co is manufactured entirely in Los Angeles. Materials are stocked and supplied by a third party company and “the trigger can be pulled” at a moment’s notice to get the wheels turning so that the company can produce garments that are needed at a relatively quick turnaround time.

JOHN O’DONNELL
Founder
johnnie-O

johnnie-O is a timeless collection of men’s, women’s and children’s Southern California lifestyle essentials. From the Signature 4 Button Polo, to classic button-down featuring the ‘tweener, the johnnie-O brand continues to innovate and define a modern, enduring style.

Founded by John O’Donnell, johnnie-O was established on the strength of a great idea. While on a group golfing trip, O’Donnell wanted to give his buddies more stylish options for their closets by creating preppy-meets-surfer-dude pieces fit for the course, the beach, the bars or even the boardroom. That idea became the successful L.A.-based label Johnnie-O. In the years that have followed, he has used bold colors, classic cuts and one-of-a-kind enhancements to attract a broad consumer base (johnnie-O now produces women’s and kids’ lines) and a dedicated following of celebrities. And he’s got some new ideas, too. johnnie-O has just expanded to include sporty offerings (dubbed “prep-tonance”) and is pushing a trademark on the “tweener button” for button-down shirts.
MIKE FARID
President
Nature USA

Since 1997, Nature USA has been committed to manufacturing apparel, as a full package garment facility, with a reduced impact on the environment. They use eco-friendly fibers, less water, less energy and local manufacturing for an overall smaller carbon footprint.

Nature USA is one of only vertical apparel manufacturing companies in California, handling its products – from growing its own cotton, to designing, manufacturing, and shipping everything from its facilities in the Los Angeles region. As a leader of this family owned business for almost twenty years, President Mike Farid has been an outspoken devotee of the “Made-in-USA” banner, and is an exemplary philanthropic member of the apparel community. While many garment manufacturing operations have moved offshore, Nature USA has stayed committed to its cause of producing eco-friendly and socially responsible products, made right here in the USA.

As citizens of the planet, Nature USA believes that it is everyone’s responsibility to protect and preserve our natural resources for this generation and many more to come. And, with the support of a growing number of conscious clients, Nature USA is committed to continuing to do its part.

Nature USA, with over 250 employees, is a fully integrated vertical operation; with a flexible manufacturing process creating a variety of production lines for individual projects. Services include developing yarn, fabric, first sample, duplicates, cut & sew, and full package manufacturing. Commitment to superior quality, on-time delivery and excellent customer service has enabled Nature USA to work for some of the best-known brands in the United States.

ROBIN CHRETIEN
President
Robin’s Jean

Robin Chretien, Founder and Designer of Robin’s Jean was born in Lyon, France where he grew up immersed in a creative environment. At age 14, he wore his first pair of jeans, which were vintage patchwork flared jeans that he bought in St. Tropez. It was then that his passion for denim was born. Chretien arrived in Los Angeles in 1996 where his skills combined with talent and charm, caught the eye of the best denim companies in LA. Chretien’s attention to new fabrics, innovative washes and nuanced details made him a rising star in the industry.

In 2005, he created Robin’s Jean, which is symbolized by a set of wings. Today, the brand is renowned for its biker-chic aesthetic and innovative denim washes. Great attention is taken with each detail from hand embroidery to crystal studding and leather appliqué. The collection has quickly grown from a line of denim jeans to a range of leather jackets, t-shirts, belts, hats and footwear for men, women and children.

DAVID WEINSTEIN
CEO & Founder
CP Shades

CP Shades is a California based company that has been manufacturing garments out of its Sausalito headquarters for over 30 years. Proudly keeping the manufacturing process in America, CP Shades has mastered the art of mass-producing a hand-made product. What makes its pieces special is the uncomplicated, classic tune top shapes in garment-dyed cotton and linen. Using natural and sustainable fabrics, CP Shades makes simple and elegant clothing available online for everyday comfort and style.

Led by CEO & Founder David Weinstein, who moved to California from his native New York in 1972, an important part of CP Shades’ product development is that everything is garment washed, dyed and produced domestically – so that the products “feel like home” to the consumer, sort of like it just came out of the washer and dryer. CP Shades continues to design, cut and sew 100% natural, sustainable clothing at its California-based facility, something of a rarity in 2016. Check out the company’s flagship store in Santa Monica.
Tukatech is the garment and apparel industry’s leading provider of fashion technology solutions. Founded in 1995 by garment-industry veteran Ram Sareen, Tukatech offers award-winning 2D pattern making, grading, and marker making software, automated marker making software, 3D sample making/digital development software, as well as garment plotters, and automatic spreaders and cutters for production. All systems include unlimited training, consulting, process engineering, and implementation. The capabilities of Tukatech’s technology remain unparalleled in the fashion industry, and all of its products are offered at affordable prices, with some systems available for rent.

Ram Sareen, CEO at Tukatech, has been at the forefront of product development technology for more than 20 years, and has been the primary mover of 3D display and virtual reality availability within the PLM (Product Lifecycle Management) discipline. Since the inception of apparel industry usage, Tukatech has seen the greatest innovations and has the largest “international” reach for design and product development interaction between the companies in Los Angeles and their global suppliers.

Stikeleather is a contemporary menswear label that explores the border between streetwear and sportswear with its minimalist style lines, crisp aesthetic, and inventive approach to the closure. Founder Ian Stikeleather’s company is an innovative producer of cutting edge men’s clothing and fashion accessories that explores the border between street wear and sportswear with minimalistic style lines. His designs often incorporate Stikeleather’s patented magnetic closure technology, Magnex, a neodymium magnetic closure, to create seamless designs. By replacing buttons and zippers with its proprietary magnetic closure, it tears down tradition and replaces it with something sleek, functional, and durable. Through rigorous engineering and testing, the Magnex has been calibrated for over 4 lbs. of pull force, ensuring security and efficiency while remaining concealed. Stikeleather will soon be able to offer these seamless closure designs to the hundreds of thousands of loyal women who regularly buy their clothing online from White Plum, the online women’s retailer that Stikeleather purchased earlier this year.
PHILANTHROPY AWARD

PHILANTHROPY AWARD HONOREE
MICHAEL GELLER
President & CEO
Rags for Riches Foundation

Rags for Riches Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, founded in 1986 by several gentlemen in the Apparel Industry in Los Angeles. The organization has been raising money for organizations benefiting children with special needs for 28 years. Since its inception, Rags for Riches has donated in excess of $7 million to children in need.

“Going to rags for riches?” is the consummate question of many a C-level executive who has any sort of background or history in the Textile/Apparel industry of Los Angeles. From its initial conception as a small “club” of guys going to Las Vegas for a party to its current list of more than 200 major industry executives, the organization has donated every dollar raised at its yearly event to local children’s charities, big and small.

Over the years, these worthy charitable organizations have come to depend upon the contributions from Rags for Riches, and with the Foundation’s network of philanthropic-minded fashion industry supporters, the organization has been able to continue to assist those in need, including a wide array of groups that work day in and day out to provide help to children in need.

One such organization that benefits from Rags for Riches is the Children’s Lifesaving Foundation, who have shared that Rags for Riches has been “an incredible source of support and guidance to the Children’s Lifesaving Foundation.” After 23 years of support, the CLF recalls with gratitude that it was Rags for Riches that provided essential seed funding so that the CLF could begin its important work.

PHILANTHROPY AWARD FINALIST
JOHN PAUL BELTRAN
Co-Founder
John Paul Richard

John Paul Richard Inc. (JPR) is an Apparel and Fashion company founded in 1996 by Richard Hirsh, John Paul Beltran and Bertan Kalatchi. The company is headquartered in Calabasas. Since the beginning, the company’s mission has been to design moderate, updated women’s apparel at affordable prices. Fashion minded and customer conscious, John Paul Richard has always made it a priority to put quality at the forefront of its business.

Effective philanthropy is another mission for the company. John Paul Beltran and his wife Lina were Honorary Chairs for the 2016 World of Children Award. JPR CEO Bertan Kalatchi is also on the Board of Governors for the World of Children Award, a global recognition and funding organization for people specifically and exclusively serving the needs of children. Since 1998, World of Children Award has invested $8 million in cash grants and program support to more than 100 Honorees who are the driving force behind programs serving children worldwide. The organization has touched the lives of an estimated 30 million children.

PHILANTHROPY AWARD FINALIST
JOYCE EISENBERG-KEEFER
President
Ben and Joyce Eisenberg Foundation

The Ben B. and Joyce E. Eisenberg Foundation supports organizations in Los Angeles, giving grants to Education & Youth, Health (with a cancer focus), Human Services (with a focus on the elderly), and the Arts. Early in 1986, the late real estate entrepreneur Ben Eisenberg transferred all his properties to the Ben and Joyce Eisenberg Foundation, a charitable trust with the provision that all profits be donated to several pre-selected charities, primarily in the fields of medical research and the care of children and the elderly. When Ben passed away from cancer, Joyce Eisenberg became the president of the foundation, which also owns The New Mart in downtown Los Angeles, a historic building.

The foundation also makes grants in human services, and has been a significant fundraiser of Jewish nursing homes for the elderly, Aviva Family & Children’s Services, and L.A. Food Bank. Grantees also include USC and UCLA, and, in the arts, the Foundation supports Geffen Playhouse and Music Center’s Disney Concert Hall, among others.
LAUNCHED in 2002, cabi provides a designer women's clothing collection and is the nation's largest social selling apparel company. The brand has since become known for its unparalleled quality provided through a unique shopping experience, and network of North American and U.K.-based cabi Stylists who form a tight-knit community of collaboration.

Giving back to others has been at the core of cabi's business since day one, leading to the launch of Heart of cabi Foundation in 2005. cabi sends clothes to its Stylists in parts of the U.S. impacted by natural disasters that wiped out women's wardrobes, and also sends clothes to the developing world. To date, the Heart of cabi Foundation has donated more than $45 million of clothing to those in need. cabi's team recognized the opportunity for customers to join in giving efforts through rounding up its orders to the nearest dollar. Soon after launching the foundation, cabi initiated the "Make a Change" program, which funds small business loans for women entrepreneurs in developing countries via Opportunity International through the proceeds earned from rounding up its orders. As the business has grown, cabi launched a separate initiative called "W.E. are cabi" to provide a small business loan for a woman entrepreneur in a developing country for each new Stylist who joins cabi. The brand is on track to provide 20,000 loans by 2020, creating and supporting approximately 8,200 jobs. The "Make a Change" and "W.E. are cabi" programs have raised more than $1.5 million for Opportunity International and given more than 7,600 small business loans to female entrepreneurs worldwide.

ROB LOHMAN
CEO
Groceries Apparel

Groceries Apparel owners Rob Lohman and Matthew Boelk strive to redefine transparency and human responsibility by supporting family farms, localized manufacturing, living wages, and GMO-free, organic ingredients.

All of Groceries Apparel’s products are manufactured in its own California-based factory, which employs seventy talented sewers, cutters, designers, and marketers. The company uses 100% organic and recycled textiles including: organic cotton, eucalyptus, hemp, recycled cotton, recycled plastic, and vegetable dye procedures. Groceries uses farm-direct sourcing to ensure that family farms receive the support they need to grow the ingredients without the use of toxic chemicals or GMO seeds. The company has purchased over two million yards of these environmentally conscious and community supportive fabrics since the company started in 2010. The company’s pioneering natural dye house also allows it to bring 100% non-toxic and Made in USA garments to the market for the first time. It is the only production-scale vegetable dye house in Los Angeles. Vertically integrated, local, and traceable production maximizes quality, efficiency, and minimizes redundancy, waste, and carbon footprint.

IAN STIKELEATHER
CEO
White Plum

White Plum is a $9.5 million (annual revenue) online women’s retailer. Stikeleather Apparel Holdings, Inc. of Los Angeles successfully acquired White Plum earlier this year. Founded by Hilary Zwahlen in 2012, White Plum has grown rapidly by offering fashionable and high quality women’s clothing that doesn’t break the bank.

White Plum also has an active “giving back” component. It’s part of Ian Stikeleather’s DNA. He designed a denim line, Skid Row Denim Academy, which will benefit the Skid Row Housing Trust. White Plum is also supporting the Susan G. Komen Los Angeles County affiliate, the country’s largest breast health non-profit whose mission is to save lives and end breast cancer forever by empowering others, ensuring quality care for all and energizing science to find the cures. In March, when Susan G. Komen Los Angeles County held its annual Race for the Cure at Dodger Stadium, White Plum provided 400 pairs of leggings in Komen’s PMS color as part of the swag in the Survivors gift bags.
(1) Henry Cherner (AIMS 360) with Ilse Metchek (California Fashion Association) and Mike Fandel (Nike Inc USA); (2) Intrepid Associate with Sarah Westrock, Ryan Lewis and Presenting Sponsor Marvin-Pallilo (Intrepid); (3) Paige Geller and Michael Geller (Riggs & Norton); (4) Cheryl Higgins and Kate Maloney (Eco); (5) Cash Warren and David Ehrenberg (Pair of Thieves); (6) Ilse Metchek (President of California Fashion Association); (7) Gold Sponsor Ken Gryza with Cristin Arntzepoulos, Halio Antunez, Ben Friedman, Neil Prasad and Lenny Gordon (Marcum Group); (8) Event of Event with Booth Moore (The Hollywood Reporter); (9) Stella Alton and Laurel Berman (Black Halo); (10) Richard Wortman (Tieferd, Bredemus, Neubauer & Klestadt) with Mark Brutzkus (Brutzkus Gubner Rozansky Seror Walker LLP); (11) Gold Sponsor Brian Little (Greenberg Glusker) with Simon Deuffer (Moss Adams), Maria Cantor (Rosenfeld Rosenfeld of California, Inc.), with Dave McGeary (Reified, 60th)