

May 23, 2011 • An Advertising Supplement to the Los Angeles Business Journal

# WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

# 2011



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## WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE 2011

# The Los Angeles Business Journal Celebrates L.A.'s Inspirational Women Business Leaders



Clockwise from top: Honorees Lauri Burns, Diana Hendel, Sue Collyns, Karen Dial, and Kathryn Vickers; Keynote Speaker Alissa Finerman; Gail Ives of event sponsor Union Bank; Los Angeles Business Journal Publisher and CEO Matt Toledo.

**T**HE Los Angeles Business Journal held its nineteenth annual Women Making a Difference Awards Reception and Luncheon event at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel in Los Angeles on Wednesday, May 18th, 2011.

Described by attendees as an uplifting and inspirational event, the celebration honored Los Angeles based women who "lead by example," successfully blending effective business vision with a passionate commitment to positively "making a difference," both in the world of business and in the communities they serve.

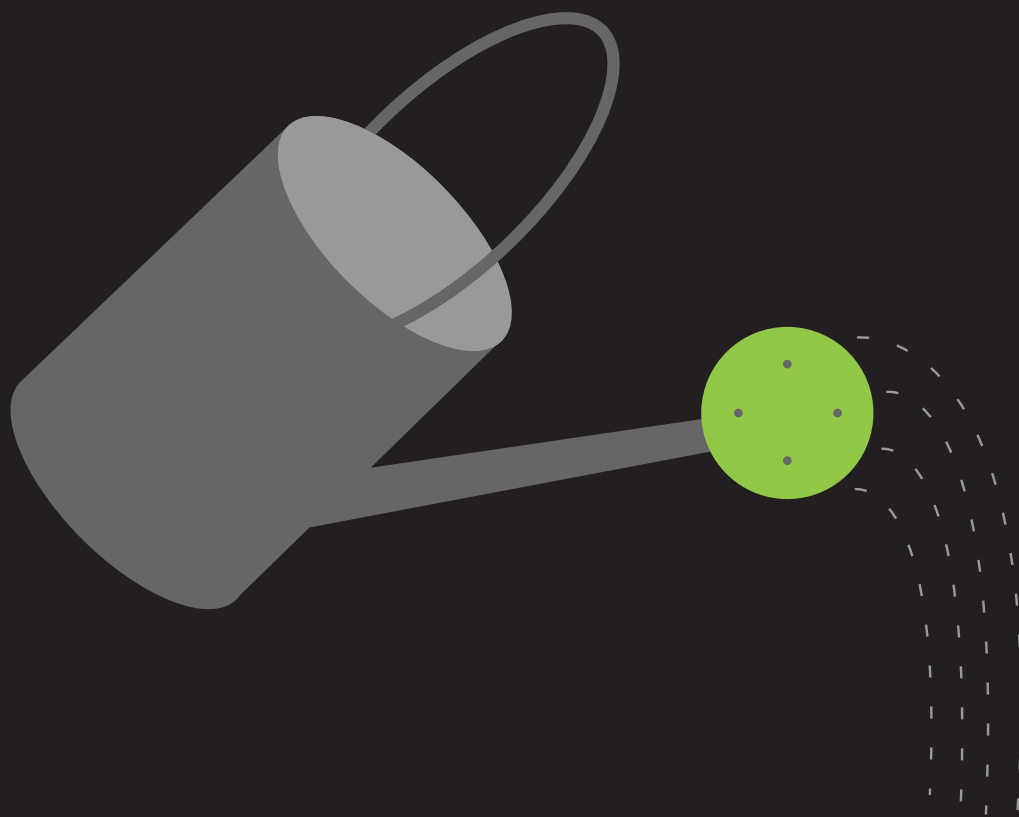
More than 200 prestigious nominees were submitted to the judges this year, who had the unenviable task of narrowing the field down to five honorees for this year's big event.

Matt Toledo kicked off the event by introducing the diverse crowd to keynote speaker Alissa Finerman, Founder and CEO of Finerman Living, who shared some powerful insights.

Specifically categorized Awards of Recognition were presented to a group of women who have truly blazed a path of leadership and inspiration for all Angelenos.

The 2011 Women Making a Difference honorees included: Diana Hendel, Long Beach Memorial Medical Center and Miller Children's Hospital (Owner/CEO of the Year Award); Sue Collyns, California Pizza Kitchen (Executive of the Year Award); Kathryn Vickers, Concern Foundation for Cancer Research (Rising Star of the Year Award); Lauri Burns, Northrop Grumman (Volunteer of the Year Award); and Karen Dial, H.B. Drollinger Co. (Philanthropist of the Year Award).

Congratulations to all the finalists and nominees!



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## WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE 2011 HONOREES



### Owner/CEO of the Year

**DIANA HENDEL**

**Long Beach Memorial Medical Center  
and Miller Children's Hospital**

**I**F you were to ask one of the 5,300 employees, or 1,300 physicians that she oversees on a daily basis, you would hear the words 'inspiration,' 'dedication,' and 'natural leader' used to describe Diana Hendel, PharmD, CEO of Long Beach Memorial Medical Center and Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach. Hendel oversees the health care services in Southern California's most diverse region with grace, using her platform as CEO to help guide one of Los Angeles' most beloved – and most needed – institutions to new levels. Some describe Long Beach Memorial Medical Center and Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach as one of the most complex health care businesses in Southern California; requiring a special set of skills to run each of the separately licensed institutions, plus a Center for Women and clinics across county lines. As CEO of the largest hospital campus in the West run by a woman, an accredited teaching facility, and a business that tops \$500 million in annual revenues, she has made invaluable contributions to the health, wellness and medical care of men, women and children in Southern California. Hendel began her career at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center as a Clinical Pharmacy Resident. She then completed a one year Management Residency before undertaking several progressive leadership roles at the hospital and throughout the entire health system, coming full circle by returning to the origin of her career and fulfilling the CEO role at Long Beach Memorial Medical Center and Miller Children's Hospital Long Beach. Whether it's executing innovative initiatives for both the community and employees or ensuring continued access to health care for residents through Southern California, Hendel's leadership has – and will continue to influence – the future of the Southern California community for years to come.

### Executive of the Year

**SUE COLLYNS**

**California Pizza Kitchen**

**S**UE Collyns is the Chief Operating Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Executive Vice President and Company Secretary of California Pizza Kitchen. Collyns joined the company in 2001, serving her first three years as Controller, followed by a series of quick promotions. Collyns is responsible for operations for CPK's 201 full service restaurants and 14,000 employees in thirty-one states. She is directly involved in leading all aspects of this \$630+ million enterprise. She is a tireless, yet efficient performer, driven to continually raise the bar for herself, her team and her entire organization. To achieve the company's objective, Collyns has built a world-class finance and planning team who maintains a state-of-the-art financial system with processes and procedures that are SOX compliant. She has had a major impact on the CPK organization, its culture and share holders. She is directly responsible for revenue creation of \$16.5 million and a cost reduction of \$23 million. Collyns is not just a hard-charging corporate executive. She believes that companies can be environmentally responsible and make money at the same time. Creating a win-win situation, Collyns established a relationship in 2008 with Advantage IQ to help evolve CPK's green initiatives. Collyns set energy reduction goals which led to CPK reducing energy costs by approximately \$2 million in 2009 and 2010, also reducing greenhouse gases by the equivalent of 143 cars in the first quarter of 2011 alone. Collyns also leads CPK's close relationship with the Starlight Foundation, having CPK donate \$1 million over the past four years to help sick children and their families. In addition to the Starlight Foundation, CPK, under Collyns' stewardship, has donated \$1.2 million per year to more than 3000 charities as they strive to make a difference.





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## WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE 2011 HONOREES

### Rising Star of the Year KATHYRN VICKERS Concern Foundation for Cancer Research

**S**INCE graduating from Cal State Long Beach, Kathryn Vickers' professional career has been dedicated to non-profit management focused in cancer research and related issues. Not long after making a notable mark on the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network straight out of college, she was contacted and then recruited by Concern Foundation, an organization focused on raising funds for cancer research worldwide. In Vickers' first year at Concern Foundation for Cancer Research, she initiated, implemented and executed a complete overhaul of Concern Foundation's website, managed the basic bookkeeping, kept the organization's entire donor database structured and functional, got Concern involved as an official charity of the Los Angeles Marathon, was one of only a few sets of hands planning the "Block Party", Concern's largest fundraising event, grossing roughly \$1.3Mil a year, and was responsible for the revamp of "Concern 2": a subdivision of Concern Foundation, focused on young professionals raising funds for pediatric cancer research. In just over a year with Concern Foundation, and just two years after college graduation, Vickers was sitting in the Director's seat. In this current role as Director of Donor Relations at Concern Foundation, Vickers is responsible for overseeing the organization's donor-base development, seeking out and fostering community partnerships with companies such as Save the Ta-tas and Los Angeles Magazine. Kathryn maintains an active management role in all of the organization's fundraising events including Concern's signature Block Party fundraiser, and she is in charge of further developing the organization's Concern 2, the next generation of young adult philanthropists.



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**Volunteer of the Year**  
**LAURI BURNS**  
 Northrop Grumman

**B**y day, Lauri Burns runs the Benefits IT department at Northrop Grumman, which supports over 200,000 employees and retirees. She plays another role that is significant to the community, but she is very humble about it to the point that few of her coworkers are even aware of the tremendous work she does for at-risk youth. Burns knows first-hand the challenges of being a youth without a support system – having spent much of her own youth living in group homes and juvenile hall due to childhood abuse. Since that time, she has fostered 28 of the county’s most difficult-to-place foster teens and she serves on the Foster Care Advisory Board. In 2007, she founded The Teen Project which provides sober college housing to emancipated foster youth, street outreach to homeless youth and a national online shelter database for system youth aging out to homelessness throughout the nation. Just last month, she went one step further by applying her IT knowledge by launching a free nationwide cell service for abused women and children. Because of her efforts, today homeless youth all over the nation can text the word SHELTER and their ZIP CODE from their cell phone to the number 99000 and receive a response with the closest shelter within 30 seconds. In addition to homeless youth, Burns has also created an application for abused women wherein abused women can text ABUSED and their ZIP CODE to 99000 and receive a local domestic violence shelter or resource within 30 seconds. All funds she receives from donations are directly provided to The Teen Project, serving homeless youth. She is now also a sought-after public speaker, regularly educating and empowering audiences on the subjects of homeless and abused women and youth.



*Congratulations Sue!*  
*You are an important*  
*ingredient to our business.*



**Congratulations and many thanks to**  
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**Caroline Mankey and Cypress, LLP**



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## WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE 2011 HONOREES

**Philanthropist of the Year**  
**KAREN DIAL**  
 H.B. Drollinger Co.

**A**s president of H.B. Drollinger Co., the area's largest developer and property management firm, Karen Dial is a local philanthropist with few peers. Through the Drollinger Family Charitable Foundation, of which she is the managing director, nearly \$2 million has been given since 2007 to local organizations in need. These donations are the lifeblood of such significant local organizations as Friends of Ballona Wetlands, Westchester Family YMCA, and the LAPD Pacific Area Boosters Association. She has funded organizations that help send children with cancer to camp, promote HIV/AIDS prevention programs, fight cancer, protect the environment, and provide mental health services to those in need. Thanks to Dial, underprivileged children have learned how to swim. The homeless have been connected to vital services that provide them with healthcare, food and shelter. Those with physical and developmental disabilities have received the modern, assistive technology they need to live a better life. When Dial saw the need to improve Westchester's central business district, she spearheaded the creation of the Westchester Town Center Business Improvement District. The BID has become enormously successful in repairing streets and sidewalks, picking up trash and beautifying the gateway to Los Angeles millions of visitors see as they leave LAX. Dial also fought for the creation of a bicycle ambassador program to patrol the area; and last month, that ambassador saved the life of an elderly woman who had passed out in her car by calling paramedics and stabilizing her until help could arrive. Karen Dial's philanthropy goes far deeper than writing a check. She truly cares about the personal story of those she helps and takes seriously her role in improving the lives of those who live in the community where she grew up – a community that is sure to applaud her being named the LABJ's Philanthropist of the Year!



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We congratulate and salute our very own

*Stacy D. Phillips*

on her nomination for the  
**2011 Women Making A Difference Award**  
 presented by the Los Angeles Business Journal

We applaud all the nominees who, with open hearts and open hands,  
 have made a positive impact in our communities.



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# WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE 2011 FINALISTS

*There were so many excellent contenders for the Women Making a Difference Awards this year, we couldn't let these honorable finalists slip by without recognition. Congratulations to each of the following women listed below who have made a tremendous difference to our business community and society at large!*

## CEO OF THE YEAR AWARD FINALISTS

### Celia Ayala Los Angeles Universal Preschool



For more than 35 years, Celia Ayala, Ph.D. has worked tirelessly as a teacher, administrator and advocate for the children of Southern California. Her passion and unwavering dedication have raised educational standards and expanded educational opportunities for thousands of our region's young people. Dr. Ayala is now CEO of Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP), a non-profit organization created in 2004 that provides high-quality preschool education to the children of Los Angeles County at little or no cost to their families. She spearheaded the development of more than 330 high-quality preschool programs that have served over 50,000 four-year-olds in Los Angeles County. Most of these programs are located in lower socioeconomic areas, making quality affordable preschool accessible to many families for the very first time.

### Saskia Chiesa International Checkout Inc.



An immigrant single mother with less than \$1500 in the bank, Saskia Chiesa launched an e-commerce solutions site in 1997 with no investors or capital. From there, the now President and CEO of International Checkout Inc. single-handedly developed a global e-commerce solution unlike any that had existed before, which effectively removed the obstacles of fraud risk, global fulfillment, and customer service which had previously kept US retailers from entering the global marketplace. Today, more than 450 major US retailers enjoy the benefits of selling globally without risk or difficulty by partnering with International Checkout. The innovative solution guarantees its retail partners against fraud, ships to every deliverable address in the world including APO/FPO addresses, and provides a level of customer service that is counted on worldwide.

### Molly Forrest Los Angeles Jewish Home



As the CEO of the largest non-profit elderly continuing care community in the Western United States, Molly Forrest is responsible for \$80 million annual budget and leadership of 1100 staff to provide all Home programs and services; extensive fundraising and public relations. The Home's continuum of care includes independent living, residential care, assisted care, skilled nursing, Alzheimer's and short-term rehabilitation care services as well as an acute psychiatric hospital providing capacity to serve

970 in-residence. As the Jewish Home turns 100 next year, Forrest has been responsible for ensuring that the Home stays vibrant for at least the next 100 years. Her vision allowed the Home to expand and grow in a time where others were downsizing. She has an innate ability to visualize opportunities, joint ventures, partnerships, donor opportunities and raw talent which brings people, businesses and resources together to combine rare and creative opportunities.

### Frances Moreno VACO



Frances Moreno is not only helping create jobs in Los Angeles, she's also helping people to build more balanced lives with meaningful, challenging careers that fit their family and personal priorities and responsibilities. She is the founder of VACO Los Angeles, the fastest-growing consulting boutique firm in the nation that specializes in the placement of accounting, finance, and technology professionals in both full-time and contract/consulting positions. Her vision as managing partner and CEO is to help people build careers that allow growth, an excellent income, a long-term career path, and the flexibility and freedom to meet their goals for their personal lives. Frances began the firm with two other partners and now has over 1,000 completed projects and over 100 employees at any given time. She has grown the firm from zero to \$20 million in revenue since 2006.

### Therese Tucker BlackLine Systems



BlackLine Systems CEO & Founder Therese Tucker built her business from scratch and has managed to continue to grow the company amidst a challenging economy. She also has experienced and overcome the trials and tribulations of being a woman in two male-dominated industries, and gotten beyond the stereotypes and stigma. BlackLine is the first company to provide enterprise-wide software applications that automate the entire financial close process. With 75 employees now on staff, Tucker boasts a client roster that includes such household names as AT&T, Boeing, Costco, Cox Communications, eBay, Northrop Grumman and United Airlines. In Q1'2011, BlackLine reported its strongest quarter on record, with revenues up by more than 50 percent in both 2009 and 2010. Under her stewardship, BlackLine has also tripled its head count in the last year and a half, adding jobs in the local community.

## EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR AWARD FINALISTS

### Terri Haack Terranea Resort



Terri Haack is responsible for creating and ensuring magical moments for hundreds of guests each day who visit Terranea Resort, located on the former Marineland site in Rancho Palos Verdes. After overseeing every minute detail of the property's launch in June 2009, Haack

defied the odds by leading the property to an AAA Four Diamond rating in its first year of operation despite facing a severe economic downturn. As the Executive Vice President and Managing Director for Terranea Resort, Terri brings nearly 30 years of hotel and resort operations experience to her position, including 16 years spent solely in resort community development, operations and real estate. After overseeing the resort's launch, Haack's job transitioned to inspiring and motivating the more than 850 associates employed at the resort, working to instill a culture that reflects the casual California lifestyle.

### Alison Lima DreamWorks Animation



Alison Lima is Head of Motion Picture Business and Legal Affairs of DreamWorks Animation, a position she has held since 2001. In this role, she oversees all business and legal affairs for animated motion picture projects, and is the company's primary negotiator for rights acquisitions, writers, producers, directors, actors, and other development and production-related matters. Managing a team of 25 attorneys, paralegals and support professionals, Lima works closely with DreamWorks Animation's executive team to negotiate and secure deals with Directors, Producers and Voice Talent. In 2010, Lima negotiated a number of critical deals that required effort, creativity and collaboration with studio executives and talent representatives. In a year with unprecedented growth, Lima's critical role helped DreamWorks Animation release 3 full-length, animated features in 2010; the first animation studio in history to release 3 feature films in one year.

### Laurie Lustig-Bower CB Richard Ellis



Laurie Lustig-Bower is an Executive Vice President at CB Richard Ellis, a title shared by only 30 out of 3,000 professionals in the global company. She is the founder and leader of her team, a group of five professionals specializing in the marketing and sale of multi-family properties from the Westside to Downtown Los Angeles and the Greater San Fernando Valley. As a top multi-family professional in Los Angeles for nearly two decades, Lustig-Bower has handled over \$3.7 billion in multi-family properties in the Los Angeles area in the past seven years alone. As a testament to her commitment to helping women excel, Lustig-Bower is a founding member of the CB Richard Ellis' Women's Network and has served on its Board of Directors for several years. The goal of the Women's Network is to help women succeed in commercial real estate through recruiting, mentoring, training, networking and career development programs.

### Caroline Nahas Korn/Ferry International



Caroline Nahas is Managing Director of the Southern California offices of Korn/Ferry International and a member of the Firm's CEO and Board Services Practice. She specializes in recruiting Presidents, CEOs and board members for clients rang-

ing from multinationals to start-ups across a wide variety of industries. Despite the demands of her professional career, Nahas is active in many civic groups. She is nearing the end of her 2-year term as Corporate Board Chair for United Way of Greater Los Angeles, successfully leading United Way through the toughest economic situation in recent history. In her time as Chair, she secured a \$1 million match fund, founded the Emerging Leaders program to develop the next generation of philanthropists in LA, and led the Corporate Board of Directors through organizational and strategic planning processes.

## RISING STAR AWARD FINALISTS

### Dana Brody-Thaw Grubb Ellis



Dana Brody-Thaw, Associate Vice President - Multi-Housing for Grubb & Ellis, focuses on the exclusive listing and sale of multi-housing investment properties ranging in size from \$2,000,000 to \$20,000,000 across the Los Angeles Area, from Downtown to Santa Monica and from the San Fernando Valley to the South Bay. Recently, she sold 62 units as part of a three-property portfolio, a total sale valued at just under \$6,000,000, located in the heart of the Hollywood re-development zone. Hired as part of the exclusive listing team, her responsibilities included creating all marketing materials, soliciting offers, negotiating with buyers and handling all aspects of the transaction from start to finish.

### Elizabeth Le Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi LLP



Elizabeth Le practices in the Business Litigation and Property Insurance groups at Robins Kaplan. She demonstrates her legal leadership by representing large corporations in a variety of business litigation matters, including class actions, antitrust, fiduciary duties, and breach of contract actions, and individual and class claims under California's Unfair Competition Law and False Advertising Law. Never forgetting her roots as a Vietnamese refugee, Le is extremely dedicated to the Asian American community. She is actively involved in various organizations such as the Asian Pacific American Legal Center ("APALC"), the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association, and the Vietnamese American Bar Association of Southern California. She also handles pro bono matters with APALC on behalf of her firm, focusing on immigration and consumer protection.

### Amanda Massucci Ernst & Young LLP



In 2010, Amanda Massucci became Ernst & Young's West Region Community Engagement Leader. In this role, she oversees and manages all of the volunteer efforts, board memberships, corporate fundraising initiatives and sponsorships for 13 EY offices and nearly 3,800 people, spanning from Seattle to San Diego and Honolulu to Salt Lake City. Under her

leadership, 2010 was the year of community engagement in EY's West region. This is due in large part to her championing and overseeing the West region's participation in a mass volunteer effort called EY Connect Day. More than 1,675 people volunteered in one of the 14 West EY Connect Days, donating a combined 6,620 hours of human capital to non-for-profit organizations spanning the entire West geography.

**Gina McCleod  
Deloitte Tax**



Gina McCleod is a Principal with Deloitte Tax in Los Angeles. She has 15 years of experience in public accounting and tax law. She serves both public and private media & entertainment, technology and consumer business clients, consulting on a broad spectrum of tax issues. She co-leads the Women's Initiative for the Pacific Southwest region, and is also the Tax regional WIN leader. She is also the founding chair of United Way of Greater Los Angeles Emerging Leaders group. Mcleod responded to a call-to-action to engage the next generation of leaders in philanthropy and volunteered to Chair and guide this new group of young leaders under the age of 40. In the group's inaugural year under her leadership, the Emerging Leaders have defined their focus and grown to more than 100 members giving \$1,000 each to reduce poverty in Los Angeles.

**Carola Ross  
AEG**



Carola Ross is Senior Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG). She has worked for AEG for over 10 years, and in her various positions there has been a part of launching new franchises, opening new buildings and selling and marketing some of the most exciting sports and entertainment events in history. With a staff of over 50 full-time and part-time staff, the AEG Sales and Marketing Department is the central hub for AEG sales and marketing efforts in Los Angeles. Carola's service to AEG has been extraordinary and she serves as a model for many incoming and entry level professionals entering the world of sports and entertainment. She is dedicated to her staff and works tirelessly to develop and motivate her employees with teamwork being at the core of her values.

**VOLUNTEER  
AWARD FINALISTS**

**Christine Deschaine  
Lee & Associates**

As a Principal of Lee & Associates-LA North/Ventura, Inc. Christine Deschaine is a shareholder of the brokerage company and leads its chief retail group. As such, she is a diligent supporter of several industry groups including Commercial Real



Estate Women and the International Council of Shopping Centers. She lends her presence, mentoring and support to these organizations. But it is rare for executives at this level to participate in charitable giving in the hands-on way that she has chosen. For years she has actively assisted the homeless in her home community of Santa Monica and can be seen on Saturdays dropping off clothing and toiletries at a local mission. Last Easter she worked with the Union Rescue Mission and prepared 100 sandwiches and beverages for the group's Ester Sunday service at the Hollywood Bowl. For over two decades, she has participated in the American Lung Association Breathe Easy Ride. Most recently, she has also turned her attentions to the world platform, traveling to Brazil and Africa to provide medical, educational, housing and infrastructure assistance to impoverished indigenous groups in those countries.

**Renee Fraser  
Fraser Communications**



Renee Fraser is more than an outstanding leader in the Los Angeles business community and a star in the world of advertising. She is also a dedicated advocate and mentor for women business owners. With the same tenacity that has driven her to build the largest woman-owned ad

agency in Southern California, she has committed much of her business and volunteer life to a wide array of non-profit organizations and innovative outreach programs. Over the years, Frasier has worked diligently as a role model and an advocate for women in business. She is a past President of NAWBO Enterprise Institute as well as a past President and Chair of NAWBO Los Angeles. She is also currently serving as the volunteer Fundraising Campaign Chair for United Way, responsible for raising \$53 million to help create pathways out of poverty in Los Angeles County.

**Ursula Hyman  
Latham & Watkins**



Ursula Hyman has helped arrange billions in public and tax-exempt financing, and she is busy working on additional creative financings, with more than \$2 billion in public and tax-exempt transactions at various stages of the financing process. Of note, Hyman has participated in a number of transactions in California that involved unique public/private partnership financing plans that utilized federal and state funds, special taxes and exactions. In addition to her practice expertise, Hyman is very active in pro bono work related to the

*Continued on page 34*

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**Diana Hendel, PharmD, CEO**  
The physicians, staff and patients of the MemorialCare family congratulate Diana on her "CEO of the Year, Women Making a Difference" award

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## WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE 2011 FINALISTS

Continued from page 33

devastating wildfires that have spread across Southern California in recent years. She is currently engaged in coordinating teams of attorneys and community organizations to address issues relating to the recent 2008 wildfires, focused on assisting survivors and communities in their rebuilding efforts.

#### PHILANTHROPIST AWARD FINALISTS

##### Taylor Armstrong BeautyTicket.com

Taylor Armstrong is the Chief Creative Director of BeautyTicket.com, and star on BRAVO TV's hit reality show, "Real



Housewives of Beverly Hills." Not only is she a successful businesswoman, wife and mother, she is also heavily involved with local charities. In November of 2010, Armstrong and her husband purchased an equity stake in the Malibu Beach Recovery Center -- a professional and personal decision by the couple to support a business they believe offers a cutting edge treatment program for those who suffer from substance abuse. Armstrong is also heavily involved with the 1736 Family Crisis Center, which is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve safety, long-term survival, and success of runaway and homeless youth, domestic violence vic-

tims and their children. She is a volunteer for the organization and regularly meets with victims to support and share her personal experience with domestic abuse.

##### Dena Jo Hall Ryan LLC



Dena Jo Hall, who is a Principal and Practice Leader of Transaction Tax Compliance in Ryan's Los Angeles office, is the stalwart Sheppard over her flock of Fortune 1000 clients, ensuring the hundreds of tax returns and advice provided to the Firm's clients are of the utmost quality and integrity. Her reputation in the industry of tax outsourcing is beyond reproach and she is a frequent

speaker at trade and tax industry groups. In November 2004, Hall's life took an abrupt and unexpected turn when the results of a routine annual physical revealed that she had breast cancer. She survived very aggressive treatment, and in 2005, was approached by another breast cancer survivor to participate in the Revlon Run Walk, which she gladly did. The next year, she inquired about what would be entailed to establish her own team to participate in the Run Walk, so that she could raise even more money for the initiative. Since establishing her first team, Dena has ranked in the "Top Five" individual fund raisers in the City of Los Angeles every year, raising over \$50,000.

##### Linda Mallut My Bunny and Me



Linda Mallut started her company, My Bunny and Me, as a way to raise money for the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society (LLS). She has been so successful in using her company as a vehicle to raise money for LLS that this year she was offered the position of Campaign Associate for the 2011 Warner Center Light the Night Walk. In the last year, Mallut has expanded the support of My Bunny and Me to other organizations. When she read about the Gwendolyn Strong Foundation, she contacted them and offered to help. Through her efforts, she has raised awareness for GSF and the related Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) disease which is the #1 killer of babies. Now, the foundation has the support of Mallut's friends and family and donations from sales from My Bunny And Me. My Bunny and Me will never make Mallut financially wealthy. But that wasn't the point of the business. She uses her company to create awareness and support for LLS, GSF and other charities that touch her heart.

##### Stacy Phillips Phillips Lerner & Lauzo LLP



Over the years, Stacy Phillips has served on numerous philanthropic boards concerned with issues affecting children and their families. She is on the Board of Directors of Legal Momentum (formerly NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund) and former Co-Chair of the California Leadership Council of the NOW Legal Defense & Education Fund. Currently, she also is a member of both the Chancery Club of Los Angeles and the National Partnership of Women & Families (formerly known as the Women's Legal Defense Fund). She is also on the Board of Ambassadors of Vista Del Mar Child and Family Services, where she was a former member of the Board of Directors, and she currently sits on the Board of Trustees and was the past President of the Board of Directors of Alternative Living for the Aging (ALA).

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[bschool.pepperdine.edu](http://bschool.pepperdine.edu)

Pepperdine's Graziadio School named among top Executive MBA programs for women by *Financial Times* and *PINK Magazine*.

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Graziadio School of Business and Management

## WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE 2011 NOMINEES

The Los Angeles Business Journal received more than 200 nomination submissions this year. With so many worthy contenders for awards, our panel of judges was forced to burn the midnight oil and make tough selections. We are honored to share the list of nominees that made selecting this year's finalists and honorees so difficult. Congratulations are due to each of the inspiring women listed below.

**Kathy Aaronson**  
CEO  
Sales Athlete Executive Search  
Beverly Hills

**Brooke P. Anderson**  
Co-Owner/Producer, Cordova  
Pictures, Hollywood

**Shajen Joy Aziz**  
Co-Creator  
The Gift LLC  
Los Angeles

**Lisa Nicole Bell**  
President  
Inspired Life Media Group  
Sherman Oaks

**Sherice Bellamy**  
Senior Vice President  
Lagrange Communications  
Los Angeles

**Zina Bethune**  
Founder  
Bethune Theatredanse  
Los Angeles

**Regina Birdsell**  
President & CEO  
Center for  
Nonprofit Management  
Los Angeles

**Michelle Boyer**  
Director of Marketing  
Momentous  
Insurance Brokerage  
Van Nuys

**Brandi Britton**  
Senior Regional Vice President  
Robert Half International  
Los Angeles

**Brianna Brown**  
Founder/President  
The New Hollywood .org  
Los Angeles

**Rickie Byars Beckwith**  
Music Director  
Agape International  
Spiritual Center  
Culver City

**Lori Caden**  
President  
Belly Bandit  
Los Angeles

**Lisa Cafiero**  
Owner  
Write the First Time  
Studio City

**Katie Cameron**  
Marketing Director  
Sizzler USA  
Culver City

**Judy Caruthers**  
Executive Vice President  
Jones Lang LaSalle  
Century City

**Tamara R. Coffey**  
CEO & Founder  
DNA Testing – TRUTH 4 U, LLC  
Los Angeles

**Harriet Cohen**  
Founder/President  
Training Solutions  
Agoura

**Denise L. Cook**  
Owner/Operator  
ORACLE Publishing  
Hollywood

**Jessica Cooley**  
Dress Event Coordinator  
LA's Prom Closet  
Hawthorne

**Liz Davidson**  
Founder and CEO  
Financial Finesse, Inc.  
El Segundo

**Kristen Davis**  
Assistant Pilot in Charge  
Goodyear Tire & Rubber  
Co./Airship Operations  
Gardena

**Clare DeBriere**  
Chief Operating Officer &  
Executive Vice President  
The Ratkovich Company  
Los Angeles

**Allison Deegan**  
Associate Director  
WriteGirl  
Los Angeles

**Victoria Deise Wilson**  
Senior Development Manager  
The Ratkovich Company  
Alhambra

**Karen Michelle Dick**  
CEO  
The P.O.S.H. Studio  
Carson

**Annemarie Dillard**  
Director of Contemporary  
Sportswear  
Dillard's Inc.  
Los Angeles

**Susan M. Dost**  
CEO  
Sheridan In Home Health  
Care, Inc.  
Los Angeles

**Desiree Doubrox**  
Founder/CEO  
An Empowered Woman  
Westlake Village

**Karen Dry**  
Financial Representative  
Northwestern Mutual  
Woodland Hills

**Barbara Dunn**  
Principal  
Gensler  
Santa Monica

**Stacy Durand**  
President  
Media Design Group  
Santa Monica

**Tracey Edmonds**  
CEO  
Edmonds Entertainment  
Group, Inc.  
Los Angeles

**Mary M. Emmons**  
President and CEO  
Children's Institute, Inc.  
Los Angeles

**Toni Erickson Knight**  
Founder and CEO  
WorldLink  
Los Angeles

**Britta Eriksson**  
Founder and CEO  
Euro VAT Refund, Inc.  
Culver City

**Susan Feldman**  
Co-Founder and  
Chief Merchandising Officer  
One Kings Lane  
Santa Monica

**Debra Fischer**  
Partner, Deputy Chair  
Litigation Group  
Bingham  
Los Angeles

**Mónica Gil**  
Senior Vice President, Public  
Affairs  
The Nielsen Company  
Los Angeles

**Lisa Gilford**  
Partner  
Alston & Bird  
Los Angeles

**Breena Gold**  
President and CEO  
Make-A-Wish, Greater Los  
Angeles Chapter  
Los Angeles

**Mia Gorman-Stamps**  
CEO  
MAVEN  
Los Angeles;  
Charitable Business  
Development  
California Community  
Foundation  
Los Angeles

Continued on page 36



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## WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE 2011 NOMINEES

Continued from page 35

- Evelyn Gray**  
Productivity Expert  
Organizing for Success  
Alhambra
- Lisa Greer Quateman**  
Managing Partner  
Quateman LLP  
Los Angeles
- Jacqui Groseth**  
Vice President, Marketing & Development  
Union Rescue Mission  
Los Angeles
- Lisa Haisha**  
President  
Lisa Haisha's Whispers  
Foundation  
Sherman Oaks
- Meloni Hallock**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Acacia Wealth Advisors  
Beverly Hills
- Christie Harper**  
Founder, President  
Brand Endeavor  
Marina Del Rey
- Maureen Hawley**  
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- Andrea Herz Payne**  
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- Bonnie Hill**  
Chief Operating Officer  
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Los Angeles
- Delores Hively**  
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West Coast  
Brand New School  
Santa Monica
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talkTECH Communications  
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Associates  
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WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE 2011

AT THE EVENT



The Los Angeles Business Journal's Women Making a Difference event, held at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza, was attended by over 475 local business leaders.