The San Fernando Valley Business Journal will be proud to present our Women’s Council Awards event. At this special annual ceremony, top businesswomen in the Valley area will be honored for their achievements. The luncheon is filled with inspiration and recognition as we honor women who have made a difference throughout the San Fernando, Conejo, Santa Clarita and Antelope Valley area. Award categories include CEO of the Year, Executive of the Year, Volunteer of the Year, Rising Star, Not-For-Profit Leader of the Year, Business Owner of the Year, and our annual Lifetime Achievement Award. The following pages contain background information about this year’s remarkable nominees. If you’d like to attend the luncheon, please visit the SFVBJ website and click on “Events.”

AWARDS LUNCHEON
Wednesday, April 17 | 11:30AM - 1:30PM
Hilton Woodland Hills | 6360 Canoga Ave. | Woodland Hills, CA 91367

Tickets available at sfvbj.com/bizevents

PRESENTING SPONSORS

CSUN | WELLS FARGO

PLATINUM SPONSOR

MISSION VALLEY BANK

GOLD SPONSOR

Mazirow Commercial, Inc. | Valdez Wealth Management Group
Brianna Ancel’s 18+ years of experience representing talent is rooted in her own career in the world of entertainment. She began as a dancer at the age of five in Northern California. By eighteen, she was performing, teaching, and choreographing across the United States. After earning her Bachelor’s in Fine Arts from the University of California, Irvine, Ancel worked as an Assistant Director for a major talent competition. In 1999, she joined Kazarian/Spencer & Associates as an assistant agent and was promoted to Assistant Director of the Dance Department in 2000. Equipped with several years of experience and a life-long passion for the fine arts, she created the Theatrical Department at Clear Talent Group in 2003, which continues to thrive. She is currently Vice President of Clear Talent Group as well as the Director of the Theatrical Department. She also helped establish “CTG Gives,” a program that Clear Talent Group has created as a way of giving back to the community.

Rosa Arevalo, owner of Southland Reglazing, has been in the construction industry for 4 years and is already making a significant impact. With a strong background in the customer service realm, as well as education, auto repair and human resources, she brings a unique combination of skills and knowledge to the table. At Southland Reglazing, Arevalo takes customer service to heart by making sure she can consistently deliver great service she can stand behind. As a business owner, she has also taken on promotion and marketing tasks. She is also committed to taking every incoming call – no matter what time one reaches out.

Paula Bahamon is a Vice President and Business Banker at Mission Valley Bank in San Diego. She is responsible for acquiring and retaining influential large- and small-business entities in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys. She provides consultancy to current as well as prospective clients at the local and regional levels. Bahamon has spent her career specializing in the support and growth of small to mid-sized businesses. She has extensive commercial banking experience, specializing in small business, business development and client relationship management. As a results-oriented banker with broad-based management skills, she has earned a solid reputation as a skilled and knowledgeable business banker. She possesses a depth of experience and clear vision of our local area business climate. Coupled with her personal approach to identifying unique financial solutions, tailored to the needs of each client, she is an enduring asset to her clients, her community and Mission Valley Bank.

Susan Barilich has started and run law firms in both Texas and California. Today, her primary office is in Glendale, which she built up over the last 10 years, starting with a very small client base. She previously practiced in Dallas, Texas for over 25 years, where she built a substantial client base as well. When Barilich came to Los Angeles county, she joined the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce and she went through and completed the Southern California Leadership Program. Barilich then joined the Pasadena Tournament of Roses and was accepted as a member in 2014. Her future goals are to add more attorneys to her firm and continue to expand her litigation practice. In addition, another important goal is to be invited to serve on the board of a private company.

Rachel Cosgrove, 2012 IDEA Personal Trainer of the Year, co-owns and has operated Results Fitness, a fitness center in Southern California, for the past 16 years. Results Fitness was named one of the top ten gyms in the United States by Men’s Health Magazine three years in a row and was voted a Best Gym by Women’s Health Magazine in 2011. Cosgrove earned her Bachelor of Science in Physiology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and holds her CSCS with the National Strength and Conditioning Association. Throughout her career, she has also been certified by several organizations including the International Society of Sports Nutrition, USA Weightlifting, Functional Movement Systems, and Precision Nutrition. She is the best-selling-author of the book “The Female Body Breakthrough,” published in 2009. Her second book, “Drop Two Sizes: A Proven Plan to Detox the Scale, Get the Body You Want & Wear the Clothes You Love,” was published in 2013.

Rachael Cosgrove, 2012 IDEA Personal Trainer of the Year, co-owns and has operated Results Fitness, a fitness center in Southern California, for the past 16 years. Results Fitness was named one of the top ten gyms in the United States by Men’s Health Magazine three years in a row and was voted a Best Gym by Women’s Health Magazine in 2011. Cosgrove earned her Bachelor of Science in Physiology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and holds her CSCS with the National Strength and Conditioning Association. Throughout her career, she has also been certified by several organizations including the International Society of Sports Nutrition, USA Weightlifting, Functional Movement Systems, and Precision Nutrition. She is the best-selling-author of the book “The Female Body Breakthrough,” published in 2009. Her second book, “Drop Two Sizes: A Proven Plan to Detox the Scale, Get the Body You Want & Wear the Clothes You Love,” was published in 2013.

Kristine Anne Chatari has more than 30 years of experience in the legal field. She began as a legal secretary at a large law firm in Anchorage, Alaska, where she worked for 15 years until her move to California. She continued in the field at the largest law firm in Ventura County where she worked for 17 years, becoming one of their senior secretaries. Chatari held a dual role as a public official, serving four commissions as a California Notary Public. Due to her acute attention to detail, she served as Lead Notary, in charge of training and ensuring the compliance of a team of a dozen notaries. She has held her current position at LightGlider as the firm’s sole administrative assistant since 2013. She takes great pride in her work, and as the voice of LightGlider, she often is the first contact clients have with the firm when they call in on the telephone.

Martine Colette built Wildlife Waystation from the ground up through decades of blood, sweat and tears. Through nearly five decades, she has inspired thousands of people by creating comfortable, safe living environments for animals that were abused, abandoned and orphaned. She was the very first person in the United States to provide homes for chimpanzees from biomedical research laboratories; they would have perished otherwise. Then she built the largest chimpanzee sanctuary ever west of the Mississippi River. She has saved animals from performance acts and backyards, everything from parakeets to grizzly bears. She has scraped together funds – for decades – to feed a large, diverse population of native and exotic wildlife. Her commitment to animal husbandry takes into account the specific needs and personality of each individual animal, so that abused or frightened animals have safe, protected environments to live.

Rachel Cosgrove, 2012 IDEA Personal Trainer of the Year, co-owns and has operated Results Fitness, a fitness center in Southern California, for the past 16 years. Results Fitness was named one of the top ten gyms in the United States by Men’s Health Magazine three years in a row and was voted a Best Gym by Women’s Health Magazine in 2011. Cosgrove earned her Bachelor of Science in Physiology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and holds her CSCS with the National Strength and Conditioning Association. Throughout her career, she has also been certified by several organizations including the International Society of Sports Nutrition, USA Weightlifting, Functional Movement Systems, and Precision Nutrition. She is the best-selling-author of the book “The Female Body Breakthrough,” published in 2009. Her second book, “Drop Two Sizes: A Proven Plan to Detox the Scale, Get the Body You Want & Wear the Clothes You Love,” was published in 2013.

Denise Bean-White’s outstanding work focuses on helping local, regional, and national brands resonate with all generations by developing consistent messaging that reaches today’s complex and multifaceted consumers. She has more than 35 years of experience in newspaper, radio, network television and brand strategy background. Her passion for brand work provides the unique aspect of creating and developing brand personalities to build and communicate corporate identities while utilizing trend analysis and strategic media packaging to deliver cost-effective results. As the company founder and leader, she effectively manages, directs and mentors every member of the CM-PR team. The fabric of CM-PR’s culture is woven with a deep commitment to helping nonprofits, as Bean-White donates thousands of professional service hours to raise awareness for causes that speak to her heart.

Rachael Cosgrove, 2012 IDEA Personal Trainer of the Year, co-owns and has operated Results Fitness, a fitness center in Southern California, for the past 16 years. Results Fitness was named one of the top ten gyms in the United States by Men’s Health Magazine three years in a row and was voted a Best Gym by Women’s Health Magazine in 2011. Cosgrove earned her Bachelor of Science in Physiology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and holds her CSCS with the National Strength and Conditioning Association. Throughout her career, she has also been certified by several organizations including the International Society of Sports Nutrition, USA Weightlifting, Functional Movement Systems, and Precision Nutrition. She is the best-selling-author of the book “The Female Body Breakthrough,” published in 2009. Her second book, “Drop Two Sizes: A Proven Plan to Detox the Scale, Get the Body You Want & Wear the Clothes You Love,” was published in 2013.
Since 1988, when she took over the family framing shop where she had worked as a teen, renaming it U-Frame It, Adrianna Cruz has grown her business into one of the most successful and customer-friendly frame shops in the San Fernando Valley. Throughout the years, her hard work and dedication paved the way for her growing relationships with the entertainment industry. Cruz found a niche where she could apply her good business sense and her creative background. She is an active member of the Set Decorators Society of America International. She is also a member of the Greater San Fernando Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Commerce of Encino, Tarzana/Woodland Hills and Studio City, the Valley Industry and Commerce Association and the National Association of Professional and Executive Women. She is a strong believer in giving back to the community. Causes near and dear to her include L.A./American Association of Zoo Keepers, YMCA, Valley Village and youth programs.

LINDSEY DITCHFIELD
GeoLinks

R. espected for her keen expertise in sales and relationship management, Lindsey Ditchfield’s career first accelerated in 2002 when she became the top sales representative and youngest branch manager for a national bank chain headquartered in California. Throughout the next decade, she held various leadership positions where she focused on conceptualizing and implementing internal company processes and strategies that elevated both employee retention and annual revenue. Parallel to her success in improving company efficiencies across numerous industries, she became passionate about developing initiatives that improved overall workplace culture. Serving as a key consultant since the company’s inception, Ditchfield decided to officially join the GeoLinks team in-house in 2017 to establish GeoLinks’ first health and wellness program. Today, she focuses on fostering collaboration and organizing actionable strategies within GeoLinks’ executive, sales, marketing, public relations and business development teams.

LISA ELKAN
Lisa PR

Lisa PR is Marketing and Public Relations consulting firm founded by veteran Marketing and Public Relations professional Lisa Elkan. At Lisa PR, Elkan and her team work closely with clients to implement effective and creative strategies that produce quantifiable results. Elkan is an expert in current and time-tested marketing strategies such as social media marketing, direct marketing consulting, website design/consulting, public relations, press interfacing, event planning, advertising, and brand and business development. Elkan has over 10 years of experience with prestigious organizations Guthy-Renker Corp. (where clients included Proactiv, Winsor Pilates and Tony Robbins), Los Angeles law firms Feinberg Mundel Brandt & Klein and Rass August & Kabat. She is a UCLA graduate and has volunteered her time on the national board of JNF, a non-profit organization, as well as on the Social Networking Committee of the Beverly Hills Bar Association. She is an entrepreneur at heart and has written several patents.

KATHLEEN M. FELLOWS
LightGabler

Karen Blackwell’s civil litigation attorney for the past seven years. She has defended cases in areas including personal injury, premises liability, contract, landlord-tenant, discrimination and defamation. Ferrill litigates a wide variety of disputed matters and counsels employers in all aspects of employment law, including: wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, breach of contract, wage and hour violations, class action defense, defamation, invasion of privacy, protection of employer trade secrets and confidential information, unfair business practices, 132a claims and serious and willful claims. Ferrill is a member of the Association of California Defense Counsel and Ventura County Bar Association. She also volunteers at the Juvenile Justice Center with members of Women Lawyers of Ventura County. She received her Jdans degree from Ventura College of Law.

CHERI FLEMING
Valencia Acura

Cheri Fleming was raised in Parma Heights, Ohio and moved to Southern California after graduating from Ohio University. She and her husband, Don, have an entrepreneurial spirit and have owned various businesses; however, the car business “hooked” them in 1985. In 1997, Fleming purchased Valencia Acura, and made the decision to put Cheri in the leadership position as Dealer Principal. At that time Valencia Acura ranked dead last nationally in sales and customer satisfaction. With no place to go but up, Cheri and Don began treating customers the way they would want to be treated, and became a vital force in the Santa Clarita community. Today Valencia Acura is one of the highest ranked customer satisfaction dealerships in the country. Their sales penetration in their primary market area and customer loyalty ranks among the highest in the nation.

KAREN L. GABLER
LightGabler

With over 27 years of experience counseling businesses in all aspects of employment law, Karen L. Gabler has earned the reputation for developing proactive and creative strategies to enhance workplace productivity and avoid employment disputes. Gabler co-founded LightGabler in 2011. She was instrumental in the firm’s unprecedented growth, helping to build the firm from seven to 21 people and from 287 to over 3,000 clients today. Clients span the state of California, but most are located or have branches primarily in Los Angeles and Ventura counties. Gabler serves as an employment law expert for over 750 businesses of all sizes and industries, providing counsel to management and conducting training programs for both management and employees. She performs internal audits of clients’ employment practices to ensure strategic compliance with current laws and conducts client investigations of employee allegations regarding harassment, discrimination, employee theft or other misconduct.

DEE FELDMAN
Action Aid Strategies, Inc.

D ee Feldman was born in New York and made the move across country in 1975, compelled by the promise or warmer weather and a calmer lifestyle. She went to work in the garment industry starting at the famous Fredrick’s of Hollywood as a dress buyer for the catalogue division. From there she made many friends in the manufacturing end of the business and made the leap from buying to making dresses. She manufactured dresses for 15 years. Along the way she met her husband and had a son which brought them to the Valley where Feldman got involved in school activities, PTA, T-ball, baseball, reading clinics, after school committees and fund raisers. She decided she wanted to own her own business so that her time was more her own and she didn’t have to travel for work or run downtown every day. She chose to go into promotional products. She started her business from her house and it has since grown dramatically.

CHERI FLEMING
Valencia Acura

CHERI FLEMING
Valencia Acura

KATHLEEN M. FELLOWS
LightGabler

Since 1991, Kathleen Fellows has been a civil litigation attorney for the past seven years. She has defended cases in areas including personal injury, premises liability, contract, landlord-tenant, discrimination and defamation. Ferrill litigates a wide variety of disputed matters and counsels employers in all aspects of employment law, including: wrongful termination, discrimination, harassment, retaliation, breach of contract, wage and hour violations, class action defense, defamation, invasion of privacy, protection of employer trade secrets and confidential information, unfair business practices, 132a claims and serious and willful claims. Ferrill is a member of the Association of California Defense Counsel and Ventura County Bar Association. She also volunteers at the Juvenile Justice Center with members of Women Lawyers of Ventura County. She received her Jdans degree from Ventura College of Law.

KAREN L. GABLER
LightGabler

With over 27 years of experience counseling businesses in all aspects of employment law, Karen L. Gabler has earned the reputation for developing proactive and creative strategies to enhance workplace productivity and avoid employment disputes. Gabler co-founded LightGabler in 2011. She was instrumental in the firm’s unprecedented growth, helping to build the firm from seven to 21 people and from 287 to over 3,000 clients today. Clients span the state of California, but most are located or have branches primarily in Los Angeles and Ventura counties. Gabler serves as an employment law expert for over 750 businesses of all sizes and industries, providing counsel to management and conducting training programs for both management and employees. She performs internal audits of clients’ employment practices to ensure strategic compliance with current laws and conducts client investigations of employee allegations regarding harassment, discrimination, employee theft or other misconduct.

DEE FELDMAN
Action Aid Strategies, Inc.

Dee Feldman was born in New York and made the move across country in 1975, compelled by the promise or warmer weather and a calmer lifestyle. She went to work in the garment industry starting at the famous Fredrick’s of Hollywood as a dress buyer for the catalogue division. From there she made many friends in the manufacturing end of the business and made the leap from buying to making dresses. She manufactured dresses for 15 years. Along the way she met her husband and had a son which brought them to the Valley where Feldman got involved in school activities, PTA, T-ball, baseball, reading clinics, after school committees and fund raisers. She decided she wanted to own her own business so that her time was more her own and she didn’t have to travel for work or run downtown every day. She chose to go into promotional products. She started her business from her house and it has since grown dramatically.

KATHLEEN M. FELLOWS
LightGabler

KATHLEEN M. FELLOWS
LightGabler
They said you could be anything...

so you did it all!

We celebrate all of the nominees and their remarkable achievements.

CSUN is here to support you and help you move forward.

GO.CSUN.EDU/WHEREWOMENRISE
#WHEREWOMENRISE
Catherine Hood is a powerhouse communications guru who is passionate about building local brands and small businesses. With a Master's degree in Public Administration from California State University, Los Angeles, she has become a public relations maven. For PCL Construction, Hood oversees internal and external communications, public relations, social media, branding, digital campaigns and advertising for the company's Southern California districts. Much of the remainder of Hood's time is spent doing volunteer and community work. She serves on the board of the National Women Political Caucus in Los Angeles as the communications co-chair. Not only does she care about her community, but she also actively engages in helping women get elected to local offices.

Marlee Lauffer was appointed President of the Henry Mayo Hospital Foundation in September of 2015 and also serves as the Hospital's Vice President of Marketing and Communications. Previously, Lauffer was Vice President of Marketing and Communications for Newhall Land, the developer of Valencia and the future Newhall Ranch. A 26-year resident of the Santa Clarita Valley, Lauffer has been deeply involved with the local business and nonprofit community and has volunteered extensively at the Hospital, serving on its Foundation Board and Hospital Board of Directors.

Ruby Jadwet is the CEO and founder of Truly Green Solutions, LLC, a U.S.-based manufacturer of high-efficiency LED lamps and luminaries providing LED retrofit and new construction solutions for the commercial, industrial and government markets. Jadwet established Truly Green Solutions in 2010, where she oversees all aspects of the business. With a focus on high quality, energy efficiency, and competitive positioning in the marketplace, the company has grown year over year. This rapid growth is partially attributable to close attention to customers' needs, timely response, and high rate of novel products brought to market. With the leadership of Jadwet, Truly Green Solutions has provided energy and cost-efficient retrofit solutions for multiple Fortune 500 and Fortune 100 companies, as well as public school districts, city municipalities, international hotel franchises, religious institutions, aerospace, and others.

Debbie Laskey has been a dedicated marketing professional for many years and has always found time to serve the community and a variety of nonprofits. She developed her marketing expertise while working in the high-tech industry, the financial services industry, the nonprofit arena, and in the Consumer Marketing Department at Disneyland Paris in France. Her expertise includes brand marketing, social media, employee engagement, leadership development, and customer experience marketing. During 2015, she served as the Marketing Committee Chair for the 95th Anniversary Celebration event for the League of Women Voters of Los Angeles. In that role, she led the creative development of the event’s program and also secured 10 partnerships for the event – organizations that had never had any involvement with the League. From 2014-2017, she served as a board member and chair of the re-branding campaign for the Nonprofit Communications and Media Network.

Precious Mayes has been President and CEO of Pacifica Hospital of the Valley in Sun Valley since May of 2018. She previously served the hospital since 2012 in various positions such as Chief Strategy Officer and Chief Operating Officer, and she reported directly to the sole owner of Pacifica Hospital, As President and CEO, Mayes oversees a 231-bed acute hospital with specialty services for 24/7 emergency care, acute, critical care, subacute, behavioral health and outpatient services. Due to the quality and reputation of a subacute specialty unit within the hospital, Mayes has been able to build relationships with health care providers in the Central Valley and Northern California as a provider of choice for their acute patients. Mayes has more than 25 years of health care leadership experience and is an active member of the California Hospital Association (Leadership Committee), California Association of Healthcare Facilities, American Healthcare Association and National Center for Assisted Living.
We are proud to celebrate all the achievements of women past, present, and future. When women succeed, everybody wins.

Wells Fargo proudly congratulates the recipients of the San Fernando Valley Business Journal Women’s Council Award.

wellsfargo.com

© 2019 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. JHA 24354
Throughout her successful, nearly three-decade career, Sheryl Mazirow has achieved a high level of success in a primarily male-dominated field of business by her sheer talent, hard work and competence. She has served as a role model for other women seeking a career in commercial real estate, proving that the glass ceiling in this male-dominated industry can indeed be broken. She is especially proud of the fact that working with an incubator internet insurance company for multiple transactions over many years, she has leased the business just shy of 210,000 square feet of space. She enjoys sharing her knowledge and experience through her extensive blog, in magazine articles and as a keynote speaker before various groups and community service clubs.

Laura McHolm had an unlikely start as co-founder and marketing director of NorthStar Moving Co. After graduating from UC Berkeley, she worked for Lawrence Hall of Science teaching computer programming and mathematics and was approached by Atari Computer Division in its infancy to work in consumer marketing. Later, encouraged by the Atari legal team to attend law school, McHolm graduated from law school and also obtained an emphasis in computer law from Oxford. In the mid-1990s, she moved away from the Fortune 500 to fulfill her more creative, entrepreneurial spirit and partnered with Ram Katalan to launch NorthStar Moving Co. Today, her growing company has expanded into franchising and continues to be the go-to mover for the Getty, A-list celebrities, and others. NorthStar has redefined the moving industry as the first to offer “eco-luxury” moving services.

Laura McHolm had an unlikely start as co-founder and marketing director of NorthStar Moving Co. After graduating from UC Berkeley, she worked for Lawrence Hall of Science teaching computer programming and mathematics and was approached by Atari Computer Division in its infancy to work in consumer marketing. Later, encouraged by the Atari legal team to attend law school, McHolm graduated from law school and also obtained an emphasis in computer law from Oxford. In the mid-1990s, she moved away from the Fortune 500 to fulfill her more creative, entrepreneurial spirit and partnered with Ram Katalan to launch NorthStar Moving Co. Today, her growing company has expanded into franchising and continues to be the go-to mover for the Getty, A-list celebrities, and others. NorthStar has redefined the moving industry as the first to offer “eco-luxury” moving services.

With a J.D.M.B.A from Rutgers University, Laurel Mintz’s background has uniquely prepared her to run a successful agency. Inspired by the innovative consulting work she executed early in her career with prestigious brands like Le Bec Fin, Public House Restaurant Group, Bassett Furniture and Julie Hewett Cosmetics, she knew she wanted to play bigger. Almost a decade later, Mintz has created an agency family serving both startups and blue chip global brands like Verizon Digital Media Group, PPR Patrol and Zendesk. Heravorite saying is “FIOGID,” as in “Figure it out, get it done.” And that’s exactly what’s brought the agency top talent and accolades since 2009. Mintz sits on the Board of Directors for NFTE (Network for Teaching Leadership), and the UCLA Hall of Science teaching computer programming and mathematics and was approached by Atari Computer Division in its infancy to work in consumer marketing. Later, encouraged by the Atari legal team to attend law school, McHolm graduated from law school and also obtained an emphasis in computer law from Oxford. In the mid-1990s, she moved away from the Fortune 500 to fulfill her more creative, entrepreneurial spirit and partnered with Ram Katalan to launch NorthStar Moving Co. Today, her growing company has expanded into franchising and continues to be the go-to mover for the Getty, A-list celebrities, and others. NorthStar has redefined the moving industry as the first to offer “eco-luxury” moving services.

Carol Monroy serves as Director of Operations and Project Manager for S3 Builders, and her role within the company are as expansive as her title. Monroy’s many attributes and work ethic have contributed to the successful execution of projects totaling over $30.7 million in value. Her core responsibilities include coordination of estimates and field activities. She maintains a significant role as part of the S3 executive team. With her concentrated efforts, the company has grown threefold in revenues over three years. She holds a degree in architecture and an MBA, both from Woodbury University. She is also a member of AIA, ULI, ROMA and several other trade organizations. She is an added asset to the San Fernando Valley, not just through work but also her volunteer activities throughout the community.

Call us today for a no cost, no obligation, direct pricing analysis with Mission Valley Bank. We provide next-day funding when bundling a Business Banking account with Merchant Services. Some conditions may apply. The Mission Valley Bank Merchant Bankcard experience offers competitive pricing with personalized, unrivaled in-house customer service. CALL US TODAY: 818.394.2382

Bank with a trusted source.
NOMINEES

DARCEY OLDHAFER
Intertex Property Advisors Inc.

Darcey Oldhafer is a co-founder of Intertex Property Advisors, Inc. She has managed development projects and managed properties for over 17 years. Oldhafer earned her BS in 1999 with a dual major of Genetics and Mechanical Engineering and her MBA in Management in 2007. She has achieved the Senior Certified Leasing Specialist (SCLS), Senior Certified Design Development and Construction Professional (SCDP) and Certified Retail Property Executive (CRX) designations from the International Council of Shopping Centers. She is also an accredited LEED Green Associate. Oldhafer is licensed by the California Bureau of Real Estate.

GLORIA POLLACK
Gelb Group

Before moving from New York to California, Gloria Pollack had a long resume, from walking door-to-door in her neighborhood collecting donations for different Cancer drives, chairing events for United Way, and also being a leader in combining two hospitals into one modern updated facility. She spent almost 40 years combined as a teacher and then principal. After relocating to the San Fernando Valley, she became employed at Time Warner, where she saw to it that schools had free cable and did workshops for teachers entitled “Teaching Media In The Classroom.” From there Pollack entered the world of nonprofits, serving countless hours with many. After retirement, Pollack spoke to her friend Rickey Gelb about working a few hours a day. It has turned into a 10-year relationship, as she plays a key role in the Gelb Charitable Scholarship Program.

LAURA AZZALINA RIGALI
ILLUMINATE

Laura Azzalina Rigali is an enthusiastic finance leader with two decades of experience building and leading startup and hyper growth companies. She began her career in public accounting as an auditor with Deloitte and moved into private accounting at venture-backed startups. She served in corporate controller, M&A, and CFO roles in startups across various industries, from travel, fashion, and lifestyle to renewable energy and technology. Today Rigali is a strategic advisor, external CFO, and coach to startups, middle market growing companies, and executives, combining her expansive finance career with her love of people to help people and companies achieve their absolute best. She serves in part-time and project-based CFO roles, and coaches entrepreneurs and CEOs in financial empowerment, helping them step fully into their roles as financial leaders.

ARLEEN SCAVONE
Sweet Arleen's

The business-savvy banker-turned-baker, Arleen Scavone, has been a self-starter since the very beginning. At the age of eight, Scavone learned her first lesson in business when she began selling Christmas greeting cards door-to-door. After discovering her niche, she decided to continue setting a series of goals that she wanted to achieve, which carried her entrepreneurial drive to adulthood. Scavone supported her family and herself, and without a bachelor’s degree, became her family’s primary breadwinner by entering the banking industry. In 2008, when she left her role as senior vice president with Washington Mutual, she set her sights on another pursuit – her first love of baking. In 2008, Scavone and her team began the build-out of the boutique bakery, and a year later, Sweet Arleens officially opened its doors – and ovens – baking its now-famous cupcakes and bread puddings.

How did that last lease work out for you?

Landlords lease office space everyday, so they know the ins and outs of crafting a lease that benefits them the most. At Mazirow Commercial, we represent you, the tenant, and only you. With our decades of lease negotiation experience, we make sure you come to an even negotiating table with the landlord and stay out of a leasing bind.

805-449-1945
www.tenantadvisory.com
Lexie Smith’s career in marketing and public relations began concurrent to obtaining her bachelor’s degree from the University of Oregon. Before the age of 20, Smith was representing brands such as Angry Birds, Family Guy, and Cabela’s, to name a few. She decided to move from Oregon to Los Angeles to join a public relations agency most notably known for representing winning Shark Tank brands. She made the switch to telecom in 2017, joining the GeoLinks team as Director of PR. Since joining the GeoLinks team, she has helped propel the company into the national spotlight earning a wide-array of prominent accolades that have proved instrumental in more than doubling the company’s valuation. She currently serves as the VP of Business Development leading public relations, marketing, and business development at GeoLinks.

Tenina Stevens, also known as “Suga-T,” has created a powerful platform through the art of hip-hop to demonstrate to and inspire women through the positive experiences within hip-hop culture. One of her goals is to work towards headlining a concert for women to see a positive form of Rap and Hip Hop and have the audience of only young girls to inspire them to be classy and consistent in their craft of music. She is a 30-year entertainment veteran who had the best of both worlds growing up in her family record label SWI Records and in a musical family and is admired by many as “The First Lady” of her family rap group The Click. Suga-T has become an entrepreneur, content developer, stage performer and a motivational speaker. She recently released a new book, soundtrack and spa collection, titled “BOSS Up BAYB.”

As president of Princess Cruises, Jan Swartz leads the third largest cruise line in the world, overseeing a global cruise and tour company with a fleet of 18 modern ships that carry 1.8 million passengers annually. As a cruise vacation brand recognized globally, Princess employs more than 28,000 people and operates in more than 60 countries. Princess Cruises is part of Carnival Corp., the world’s largest leisure travel company. Swartz was appointed president in November 2013, after more than 15 years working with the cruise line. Prior to this, she served as executive vice president overseeing the line’s sales, marketing and customer service operations, a position she held since 2009. She has been at the forefront of the industry in developing innovative educational programs.

Dr. Sara Terheggen (“Dr. T”) is the first in her family to go to college and grew up poor. Despite significant obstacles, not only did she go on to receive a Ph.D. from Penn State and a J.D. from Berkeley, she has advised clients on over $100 billion in corporate transactions. After more than a decade as a corporate advisor, she wanted to disrupt the industry and introduce a new paradigm. As a woman founded and owned firm, she wanted to create a new type of business and legal solutions corporation, one where the foundational pillar is innovative client service and a culture rooted in equity where differences are valued. The NBD Group represents this vision. In just the first nine months of the firm’s founding in 2018, The NBD Group handled over 20 transactions for clients with an aggregate transaction value of over $1.5 billion.

“Your business called: it wants a new home where it can breathe, is safe and welcomed, where the traffic is sane and the infrastructure is new and reliable.”

Contact Brian Gabler 805-583-6701 or simibiz@simivalley.org
WITHE three decades of industry experience, Teresa Todd is an award-winning communications professional. She founded Point of View Communications and was recently an adjunct professor of Public Relations graduate studies at the University of Southern California, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. She previously taught undergraduate studies at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, in the School of Communication and Fine Arts. Todd also serves as the 2019 Chairwoman of the Board for the Valley Industry Association. Prior to that position she served as Vice Chair Marketing and was instrumental leading VIA's Strategic Planning Task Force, a two-year endeavor tasked with envisioning the future potential for the business-to-business organization.

WEN Jave Melamed Tripp established J-n-K Services Inc., a Certified Minority Business and a 100 percent woman owned business in 1988, she did what everyone did before the advent of the internet – she pounded the pavement and knocked on doors to find customers for her new business. Her persistence and drive helped develop a thriving commercial printing and graphic design business in the heart of NOHO over the past 31 years. Currently housed in a 4,000 square-foot facility on Cahuenga Boulevard in North Hollywood, J-n-K Services offers graphic design, offset and digital printing services, high-speed copying, mailing services and signage. The design and printing firm also adheres to green business practices using soy-based inks and recycled paper stocks.

WHEN Lucie Volotzky of Blissful Sleep (also known as Beck Unlimited) is known as a significant presence in the business and community aspects of the Valley. She has been an active member in eight Chambers of Commerce throughout the San Fernando Valley. Her boundless energy is demonstrated in her participation with the various Chamber events and her continual support with their fundraising endeavors, providing her time, contributions, and merchandise. She is recognized by community leaders and local government officials for her tireless efforts with CERT, where her efforts led to the development of the OK HELP Emergency Preparedness Sign. In 2013, she supplied Habitat for Humanity with mattresses for their Veterans program and then again in 2015 she helped the San Fernando Mission Shelter by providing 18 bunk beds, 130 mattresses, and 160 pillows for the new facility.

ALEXANDRA VON TIERGARTEN is a regional vice president for Robert Half, the world’s first and largest specialized staffing firm. She manages staffing, recruitment and business development operations for the company’s San Fernando Valley branch locations and oversees three of Robert Half’s specialized divisions: Accountemps, OfficeTeam, and Robert Half Finance & Accounting. Von Tiergarten and her team are dedicated to placing professionals in rewarding careers with local businesses across the San Fernando Valley. As a 16-year veteran of the staffing industry, she began her career with Robert Half in 2003 as a staffing manager in the Westwood office. After only nine months of joining Robert Half, she successfully ran five million dollars of business and has continually grown her operations 10-15 percent for nine years in a row.
**LYNNE WEST**  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of VC

Lyrene West has been with Big Brothers Big Sisters since 1987. West has served in numerous capacities heading the Ventura County Mentoring Collaborative, President of the California State Association of Big Brothers Big Sisters, on the National Leadership Council for Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, and as a consultant for the California Department of Education. Since 1987, West has overcome the challenges of a changing economic picture in Ventura County, and kept a “can do” attitude and has brought in new sources of funding and kept up outreach to potential volunteers to make sure that the children of Ventura County continued to receive the mentoring services that were needed and sought after by parents across all socio-economic levels.

**GENINE WILSON**  
Kelly Services, Inc.

An experienced business leader and staffing executive, Genine Wilson oversees the staffing and business solutions operations for Kelly Services throughout the Pacific region, consisting of California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii and Alaska, with a focus on engineering, information technology, science, and finance and accounting staffing. She also manages Kelly’s administrative, light industrial and office/clinical recruiting, as well as on-site client staffing and contact center solutions in the region. With more than 20 years in workforce management, talent procurement, and results-driven leadership, Wilson takes a consultative approach to help customers make data driven decisions that embrace all work styles to attract and retain skilled candidates.

**CELESTE YOUNG-RAMOS**  
Restaurant Success Center

Celeste Young-Ramos is the CEO and Founder of the Restaurant Success Center, a restaurant consulting, payroll, HR, and training firm in Los Angeles specializing in improving restaurant operations, profits, and solving problems that keep restaurant owners up at night. She is a 33-year food service veteran with restaurant ownership, and extensive multi-unit restaurant experience in operations, training, and business consulting with Denny’s Inc. as a Corporate and Franchise Area Manager, Regional Training Manager, and Domestic and International Franchise Business-Consultant for Los Angeles, New Zealand, Hawaii and Guam. With Denny’s she reached “exemplar” status and has consistently rallied and supported her teams and consulting clients to top performing results.

---

**From CSUN to D.C.: How Katie Hill Finished Her Master’s and Went to Congress**

Five years ago, Katie Hill was a student in CSUN’s Master of Public Administration (MPA) program. Now she’s a United States Congresswoman.

Hill, who won her seat in 2018’s “blue wave,” is one of many young women – Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez also comes to mind – coloring America’s new political horizon.

To win, Hill took an unconventional approach, dubbing her campaign “the most millennial campaign ever,” due to her age, tireless work for the homeless and focus on LGBTQ rights. Her scrappy, grassroots approach, dubbing her campaign “the most millennial campaign ever,” due to her age, tireless work for the homeless and focus on LGBTQ rights. Her scrappy, grassroots campaign “the most millennial campaign ever,” due to her age, tireless work for the homeless and focus on LGBTQ rights. Her scrappy, grassroots campaign “the most millennial campaign ever,” due to her age, tireless work for the homeless and focus on LGBTQ rights. Her scrappy, grassroots campaign “the most millennial campaign ever,” due to her age, tireless work for the homeless and focus on LGBTQ rights. Her scrappy, grassroots campaign “the most millennial campaign ever,” due to her age, tireless work for the homeless and focus on LGBTQ rights.

At only 31, Hill now represents more than 700,000 residents in California’s 25th congressional district, a large, historically red stronghold.

"It was totally conducive to working people," Hill said of the MPA program. "I knew the program was immediately applicable to what I was doing in my work. I can’t recommend that program highly enough."

As a multigenerational Matador, she said it felt like a natural fit. Her grandmother and dad also earned degrees from CSUN.

The university is one of the nation’s top providers of MPA degrees – alongside Northwestern and Johns Hopkins – and is California’s leading provider.

Dr. Weston Campbell, who teaches in the program, commented: “Our MPA program’s great value is that it transforms employees into professionals. It also shows the importance and shape of the public administration discipline as a central and constantly evolving component of our broader community.”

In early January, Hill – and 125 other newly elected women – took the oath of office, signifying a new, more equitable era in American politics. Hill’s class of new legislators chose her as their “freshman leadership representative.” And, in addition to positions on two other committees, Hill is now the vice chair of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Her spectacular rise – first as executive director of PATH, and now as a member of congress – is a testament to the strength of her character. She continued on in spite of the critical voices. Some said she was too young. Others, too female. But Hill, we know now, was one thing above all: ready.

California State University, Northridge (CSUN) is dedicated to providing advanced learning for working professionals – those seeking education to enhance their careers and personal development. For more information about programs offered to midcareer professionals, please visit: go.csun.edu/professionalprograms