The Power of Networking

by Susan Beat, CTP, Managing Director, MUFG Union Bank, N.A.

Congratulations to all the 2015 Women in Business Awards honorees. We’re proud to acknowledge you, and the contributions you’ve made to your organizations, employees, and our community. And we applaud you for demonstrating a critical leadership trait that’s essential in today’s world: building a network that extends beyond sales and career opportunities—and advances programs, motivates team members, and improves strategic thinking.

Leverage Your Network Strategically

Everyone knows that networking is key to building business or finding job candidates. But, it’s equally as important for your success in the workplace. Internal networking is key to growing your career, shaping strategies, and developing projects. If you’re part of a team leading change in your organization, executive sponsorship is meaningful, but it doesn’t ensure the change will be embraced. This is where networking can really pay-off—allowing you to reach out to stakeholders who can help influence the change you’re working on at every stage of the project.

When you have a strong network, you can float ideas and solicit input from peers or customers to gain valuable insight on how the change will affect business functions, products, or the end-user experience. And your network will become invested in the initiative—helping shed light on the strategic opportunities and obstacles, as well as contributing ideas for making plan adjustments.

Reap Professional and Personal Benefits

Networking with colleagues and friends is one of the easiest ways to stay up-to-date on what’s happening in your industry and in your world. Whether you’re connecting through business and social events, or sharing news and insights on social media sites like LinkedIn or Facebook, these interactions are undeniably important. Listening and asking questions can enlighten you about new technologies and business trends. And exposure to new information will help you generate your own fresh ideas and contribute to more strategic and global thinking.

Networking also gives you the opportunity to help shape the future by mentoring promising newcomers in your area of expertise. One of the women I mentor has great potential, and I help her make connections by introducing her to colleagues and providing opportunities to share her opinion or present in meetings. The more she interacts with stakeholders and steps outside of her comfort zone, the more she gains confidence, sets herself up for success, and establishes meaningful connections. It’s gratifying for me to be part of her developmental process and watch her grow.

Make It Part of Your Daily Routine

It’s surprisingly easy to maintain a global network—it only takes a few minutes each day to reply to an email, congratulate a colleague on a promotion or achievement, or share an article you think would be helpful to others in your field.

It’s not only easy, it can be rewarding. When you reach out to colleagues and former classmates around the world through social networking sites, you can share your experience and common interests. And you may be surprised where your connections lead—corresponding with a friend from college can turn into a connection or colleague? On the flip side, when you invite someone to join a network and they decline, you may conclude that person isn’t interested or not interested in you. But, when you invite someone to join your network and they decline, you may conclude that person isn’t interested or doesn’t have the time.

Remember, you can limit the information you share. It’s not only easy, it can be rewarding. When you reach out to colleagues and former classmates around the world through social networking sites, you can share your experience and common interests. And you may be surprised where your connections lead—corresponding with a friend from college can turn into a connection or colleague? On the flip side, when you invite someone to join a network and they decline, you may conclude that person isn’t interested or doesn’t have the time.

The richest people in the world look for and build networks. Everyone else looks for work.”

— R. Kyosaki, author

This article is intended to provide general information about networking and is not considered advice from MUFG Union Bank, N.A.

About MUFG Union Bank, N.A.

MUFG Union Bank, N.A., is a full-service bank with offices across the United States. We provide a wide spectrum of corporate, commercial, retail banking and wealth management solutions to meet the needs of customers. We also offer an extensive portfolio of value-added solutions for customers, including investment banking, personal and corporate trust, global custody, transaction banking, capital markets, and other services. With assets of $113.0 billion (USD), as of March 31, 2015, MUFG Union Bank has strong capital reserves, credit ratings and capital ratios relative to peer banks. MUFG Union Bank is a proud member of the Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (NYSE: MTU), one of the world’s largest financial organizations with total assets of approximately ¥27.9 trillion (JPY) of $2.3 trillion (USD), as of December 31, 2014. The corporate headquarters (principal executive office) for MUFG Americas Holdings Corporation, which is the financial holding company and MUFG Union Bank, is in New York City. The main banking office of MUFG Union Bank is in San Francisco, California.

Exchange rate of USD=¥119.78 as of December 31, 2014

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6 Tips for Successful Social Networking

1. Choose the right photo. First impressions are lasting, so make sure your photo reflects the personal brand you want to project—both on business and personal social networking sites.

2. Opt-In. If you’re silent, you don’t exist. Stay up-to-date on connection requests and postings.

3. Consider each Introduction. When you receive a request to connect with someone in your network, think through the implications of making the connection. Do you trust the requestor? Are they credible as a good connection or colleague? On the flip side, when you invite someone to join your network and don’t receive a reply, send a follow-up through a different communication channel like phone or email. If you still don’t receive a reply, let it go.

4. Make each connection request personal. Avoid canned or generic statements.

5. Protect your privacy. Remember, you can limit the information connections can view.

6. Open new doors. Keep your eyes open for new opportunities like boards of directors, speaking engagements, and other networking or leadership possibilities.

“Meaningful and direct collaboration engages the progressive, global thinking needed for developing customer-focused and innovative solutions. I encourage women to keep learning and make sure their ideas are heard.”

— Ranjana Clark, Head of Transaction Banking, MUFG Americas Holding Corporation

“Beyond advancing your career and making connections, your network can help you achieve a better work-life balance and a higher level of personal success and satisfaction.”

— Robin Narike Preclado, Managing Director, Regional President, MUFG Union Bank, N.A.

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LAURA

AGE: 56
HEIGHT: 5’6”
CURRENT WEIGHT: 150

WEIGHT LOSS: 36 pounds in just 10 weeks—and 202 pounds total.

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LIFESTYLE CHANGE: “At 350 pounds, my idea of exercise was raising a fork from the plate to my mouth. Now, I go to the gym three days a week, and I walk, hike or jog the other four.”

THE BOTTOM LINE: “When I started with Lindora Clinic, I was taking medication for high cholesterol, high blood pressure and Type 2 Diabetes. Today, I’m off all my medications. My doctor is thrilled, and so am I.”

Laura did it. Isn’t it your turn?

Being overweight affects so much more than how you look and feel. It also seriously impacts your health—increasing your risk for heart disease, stroke, cancer and more.

When you’re ready to improve your health—and look and feel your best—call Lindora. We offer America’s leading medical weight control program. With 15 million patient sessions since 1971, we know what it takes to help people lose weight, reclaim their health and change their lives.

You can lose 10% of your body weight—or more—in just 10 weeks with our comprehensive, medically based Lean for Life® system for healthy weight management. And you’ll learn how to keep it off. More than 79% of Lindora patients have kept weight off, five to 15 years after completing their Lean for Life programs.

Whether you want to lose 10 pounds, 50 pounds, 100 pounds or more, Lindora can help you lose weight with a personalized, clinically proven approach that offers structure, support and a roadmap to results. It’s fast. It’s easy. And it works.

Lindora has 42 convenient Southern California clinics, including Newport Beach, Costa Mesa, Irvine, Huntington Beach, Laguna Hills, Orange and eight other Orange County locations. So give us a call today.

We’re ready when you are.

Call or visit us online today!
1-800-LINDORA | lindora.com

*Restrictions apply. Lindora Clinic patients average a weight loss of 10% in 10 weeks.

SPECIAL OFFER for “2015 Women in Business Awards” guests and Orange County Business Journal readers: Lindora is celebrating 44 years of amazing results by offering up to 40% OFF* weight loss programs purchased by July 31, 2015.
Preserving and transferring wealth are goals for many wealthy individuals and families. Yet, while many means are available to preserve assets over multi-generations, human nature, legislation and asset performance can at times create unintended consequences.

By way of example, consider these circumstances and the predicaments they may create, despite all good intentions:

**Grantar Trusts and Realized Gains**
**Predicament:** Granitar trusts are powerful wealth transfer techniques. The creator of the trust pays all the income tax, allowing the assets to grow free of income tax for the beneficiaries. Occasionally realized gains can be more than the granitar wants to pay. An underlying investment may be the subject of a merger, inversion or going-private transaction that will create an income tax liability that the granitar didn’t expect or have the capacity to pay.

**Solution:** Assets considered for a granitar trust should always be assessed for their growth potential and their resulting tax costs to determine their appropriateness in meeting the granitar’s goals. Terminating granitar status prior to an outsized taxable event may be appropriate.

**Charitable Remainder Trusts**
**Predicament:** Charitable Remainder Trusts, or CRTs, can be very effective tools to create an income stream for the granitar, provide tax savings and fulfill a philanthropic goal. Yet they also can be torpedoed when the rate of return falls below the annual distribution amount. The assets must be invested appropriately to preserve principal while providing for the required annual distribution.

**Solution:** It is imperative that the trustor and the investment advisor work together to implement the appropriate investment strategy and react to market conditions as necessary to achieve a CRT’s objective.

**OPRTs**
**Predicament:** The pullback in valuations of second homes during the great recession presented an opportunity to establish Qualified Personal Residence Trusts, or QPRTs. Simply stated, typically a vacation or second home is transferred to a trust at a much reduced gift value for a term of years, say 10, during which the owner continues to use the residence but after which the home is owned by the next generation. For the original owner to stay in the home beyond the 10 years, they would need to pay fair market rent. The success of this transaction is clearly dependent on real estate valuations; the hope is in 10 years the house value is much greater. Unfortunately, sometimes the result can exceed the hope: the value may actually be too great and the fair market rental in 10 years is more than the original owners can afford or want to pay. Rentals in places like New York and San Francisco have skyrocketed in the last few years. In these cases, the next generation can wind up being forced to sell the property—and pay a huge capital gain tax.

**Solution:** Consider in advance the impact of a range of possible property value outcomes to gauge whether this strategy is right for you. Or, be prepared to downsize if the rental cost is too high.

**Private Foundations**
**Predicament:** Private foundations offer an excellent platform to promote a family’s charitable values, but they can often result in inclusion issues. Which family members are directors? How can the mission statement be changed? How are grants determined? Who has veto power? Answers to these and other questions are critical to ensuring the appropriate program and governance structure.

**Solution:** A rational and clearly communicated mission and governance structure is key to starting a private foundation off on the right foot. Inclusive, non-confrontational family meetings that explore the family mission will then help to secure ongoing family harmony.

**LLCs/FLPs**
**Predicament:** Limited Liability Companies (LLCs) and Family Limited Partnerships (FLPs) can facilitate transfers among family members, provide valuation discounts and set out operational frameworks through bylaws and member meetings. But family dissension can lead to members seeking to opt out of the entity. The liquidation of these vehicles or even partial distributions can create complex tax issues. Consider the example of a long-term, family run, real estate partnership that over generations sold all its underlying operating assets and now is almost fully invested in marketable assets. In this case, individual members may be in very different financial situations and have very different views on how funds should be managed. Opting out of the entity may be an expensive proposition and create significant and unforeseen fees and realized gains.

**Solution:** Multi-class asset LLCs can be a solution to meet differing needs of family members. By setting up multiple classes of ownership, each class can be tailored to the financial goals of each owner.

**Silod Thinking**
**Predicament:** One of the greatest risks to successful wealth transfer is failure to consider, both holistically and very specifically, each individual’s circumstances and goals. In fact, no one strategy is typically effective on its own but instead should be applied in concert with other techniques and with full consideration for the donor’s overall wealth and investment strategy. Only by thinking across strategies and aspects of an individual’s assets and goals can the most successful wealth transfer be achieved.

**Solution:** Enlisting the advice of an experienced team is critical. Achieving “consensus validation” across trusted advisors is critical to assuring appropriate strategies are presented, considered then approved.

Wealthy individuals and families will continue to plan for the well-being of spouses and partners, succeeding generations and causes. Fortunately, many structures and strategies can help in accomplishing these goals. However, flexibility in planning is key. Exit strategies should always be considered when structuring an estate plan. In today’s quickly changing world, plans cannot be static. Unforeseen circumstances, personal or family dynamics, government regulation and global considerations all can impact a well thought out plan in advance and unexpected ways. Establishing a team of trusted professional advisors who can strategically plan and consult, assist with ongoing reviews and ensure successful implementation is critical to achieving a successful wealth transfer strategy and avoiding a failed plan.

In modern trust planning, one question must always be asked: If the plan begins to fail, is there an exit strategy and is it sufficient? The answers to these questions are critically important—the family may very likely need to use them.

For more information regarding investment and wealth planning strategies or to learn more about BNY Mellon Wealth Management, please contact Shannon M. Kennedy, Regional President, Southern California at 949.253.5041 or shannon.kennedy@bnymellon.com.

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Shannon M. Kennedy
Regional President, Southern California
Shannon Kennedy is the regional president for BNY Mellon Wealth Management covering Newport Beach and San Diego. In this role, she manages all portfolio management and new business development activities within the region. Shannon joined the firm in 2013 and has more than 28 years of experience in the financial services industry. Prior to joining the firm, she served as global director of sales, marketing and portfolio management for The Northern Trust Company. Shannon oversaw the development of customized financial solutions for exceptionally wealthy families. Shannon received a bachelor’s degree and master of business administration from Loyola University of Chicago. She was named to Crain’s Chicago Magazine’s “40 under 40.” Shannon was nominated as a top 25 Wealth Manager from Private Asset Management. She is a member of the University of California — Irvine’s CEO Executive Roundtable, the Society of Trust and Estate practitioners, as well as the Forum for Corporate Directors. She is a board member of the Girl Scouts Association of Orange County and the South Coast Repertory Theater.
Wells Fargo is proud to sponsor the 2015 Annual Women in Business Awards

When people work together, great things can be accomplished.

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Paul O’Mara • 949-251-4152 • paul.a.omara@wellsfargo.com

Together we’ll go far
Building Your Jewelry Wardrobe by Lugano Diamonds

Confidence. Success. Style. Three qualities a business woman should always exude. Enhance your outfit by building a jewelry wardrobe that is tasteful and professional, and have every impression be a lasting one.

Lugano designs rings in a variety of styles and stones.
The right hand is not only for handshaking; it should be graced with rings that truly make a statement. Lugano Diamonds’ versatile eternity bands can be worn alone or together— with a variety of stones and colors including Tsavorites; Rubies; Pavé Sapphires in blue, pink, yellow or orange; and black, white or cognac diamonds.

Earrings are essential.
Simple diamond studs are perhaps the most versatile earrings for every day, regardless of the occasion. Hoop earrings are another top-contender to the classic diamond stud. Lugano Diamonds has a large selection of diamond studs and hoops in many sizes to meet your style and budget.

Lugano bracelets are so beautiful your wrist will thank you.
With our warm Southern California weather, short sleeves are the everyday norm, and these two stylish bracelets meet the mark. The Tentacle Titanium Bracelet boasts nearly 14 carats of rose cut diamonds set in titanium and the Black Agate Bangle has almost 17 carats of black agate set in 18K white gold.

This Round and Rose Cut Necklace completes your business look.
From boardroom meetings to black tie events – this stunning pendant transitions beautifully from day to night. Lugano Diamonds has a large selection of stunning necklaces that are timeless, professional and exude success.

Visit Lugano Diamonds.
We invite you to experience Lugano’s remarkable collection and unparalleled customer service first-hand. Lugano Diamonds is located at 620 Newport Center Drive, Suite 100, Newport Beach and at Montage Laguna Beach at 30801 S. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach. For more information, please visit luganodiamonds.com, call 949.720.1258 and “Like” Lugano Diamonds on Facebook.
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Business Leadership Starts With Listening

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Morgan Chase & Co. employs tens of thousands of women around the world in roles that range from entry level customer service to the C-Suite. We three are honored to have leadership roles here in beautiful Orange County, where we serve nearly a million clients, including 75,000 businesses.

Bankers have an affinity for numbers, especially those that tell a story. Recently Chase surveyed thousands of business owners around the country to gain insights into their outlook for the year ahead. Afterward, we analyzed the results for women-owned businesses and are pleased to share highlights of our findings with you.

Here are five fast facts from the Chase Business Leaders Outlook Study, and feel free to visit www.chase.com/businessleadersoutlook for more:
1. More than half of women business owners surveyed expect to grow revenue this year.
2. Business confidence about the local and national economy – among both genders – is trending upward, with women business owners more optimistic about the global economy than men.
3. More than half of women business owners surveyed said they will explore financing this year for the top three reasons: working capital, purchase of capital equipment and software/IT system upgrades.
4. Women who run companies are embracing mobile technology to manage their finances, conduct transactions and make payments.
5. Women business owners are significantly more apt to view social media as being important for their business.

Our takeaways? We are encouraged by the trending optimism about the economy, as well as plans for business growth. We are not surprised to see women embracing technology as an efficient way to get things done. And the power of social media as a business tool is not lost on us @Chase either. Seriously, women business owners are juggling personal, professional and community roles at a faster pace than ever. That’s not to say men aren’t, but to be honest, we are often doing it in high heels.

Supporting our women colleagues at JPMorgan Chase is both a leadership opportunity and obligation. We are proud to have very active employee networking groups that promote leadership development among women at every level. In fact, Emilie McMurray was just named Senior Vice President and Market Manager for Chase Business Banking in Orange County.

We appreciate that our Orange County business owners welcome Chase into their companies to help manage their financial lives, so we are stepping up our investments in technology, since we know digital solutions are a priority. Recently we launched www.chase.com/wayyoubankbusiness to put our business solutions in an easy-to-find spot.

Chase also wants to add strategic value, so we have www.chase.com/executiveconnect, a site that includes industry trends, white papers and more.

We don’t want you to think a website replaces the personal touch, but we know that sometimes accessing information online is the fast and easy way to get the job done. Striking that balance is a daily focus of everyone on the Chase team, including our colleagues in the 100 Chase branches in Orange County. Together we were extremely honored to receive – for the second year in a row – J.D. Power’s top rank for small business banking customer satisfaction. That tells us we are on the right track, and we have our clients to thank for the fabulous feedback.

Another important point of pride for us at Chase is our #1 status as the nation’s top SBA lender to women- and minority-owned businesses. We’ve earned that top rank for the past three years, and we’re working hard to keep it.

We want to build lasting relationships with the amazing business owners – both women and men – that make Orange County such a vibrant place to live and work. We think we have the best jobs in all of JPMorgan Chase: working here, working with you. If you are not banking with Chase, will you allow us the opportunity to get to know you and see how we can help?

Here’s to your success,
Alice, Elli and Emilie

Alice Rodriguez
Alice Rodriguez is the Business Banking Executive responsible for Chase business clients in the state of California. She manages more than 500 employees, $12.5 billion in business deposits and $3 billion in business loans for clients with annual sales up to $20 million. Alice has 28 years of extensive banking experience with JPMorgan Chase and it predecessors, starting in her native Texas. Alice holds a BBA in Management from the University of Texas at Brownsville. Active in the community and as an established leader at JPMorgan Chase, Alice has been recognized with awards and in the press, including:

▶ Hispanic Lifestyle 2014 Latina of Influence
▶ “Inspiring Women of the Southwest” Award, Southwest Jewish Congress
▶ Academy of Women Leaders Award from the YWCA of New York
▶ Minority Business Leader Award from the Dallas Business Journal
▶ Named 2007 Corporate Elite by Hispanic Business Magazine
▶ Featured twice in Working Mother’s Magazine
▶ Distinguished Women’s Series Award from Northwood University

As part of her commitment to leadership and her community, Alice serves on the board of directors for the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Previously she served on the New America Alliance board and Hispanic 100 of Dallas. Alice and her husband live in Orange County and have a blended family of seven children.

Elli Thermos
Elli Thermos is a division manager in Chase’s Middle Market Banking & Specialized Industries group, serving Orange County and the Inland Empire. A 15-year banking veteran in Southern California, Elli leverages her business development and relationship management expertise to provide financial solutions to local companies with annual sales ranging from $20 million to $500 million. Elli joined Chase in 2009 as a senior banker and became division manager last year. Before joining Chase, she spent a decade providing treasury solutions to large corporations in Southern California. Elli began her career as a financial analyst in The Walt Disney Store division of The Walt Disney Co. Elli graduated from the University of Southern California with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration.

Emilie McMurray
Emilie McMurray is the Senior Vice President and Market Manager for Chase Business Banking in Orange County. She is responsible for the banking and finance needs of clients up to $20 million in annual sales. Emilie has spent the past 19 years in progressively responsible roles in the financial services industry. She assumed her new role in May 2015 after serving as head of Business Banking Cash Management for California, based in Los Angeles. Emilie began her career with Chase Business Banking 10 years ago in Chicago as a Business Banker and then Area Manager. In late 2009, she relocated to California and as a Greater Los Angeles Area Manager before becoming Northern Los Angeles Market Manager. An Iowa native, Emilie earned her Associates Degree from North Iowa Area Community College and continued studies at Buena Vista University and DePaul University majoring in Finance and Management. Emilie and her husband have two daughters who are active in competitive sports and drama.
Go Red For Women is the American Heart Association’s national campaign to increase awareness of heart disease - the leading cause of death for women - and to inspire women to take charge of their heart health.

Circle of Red is an elite group of women and men who have the passion and resources to significantly impact the community by providing a personal commitment to help stop heart disease. A Circle of Red Member is an individual who can provide an annual gift of $1,000 or more and is willing to be an advocate of the Go Red For Women movement.

Become a Member: Kim Scott, Go Red For Women Director, 949.885.1526 or Kim.Scott@heart.org

2015 Circle of Red, Orange County Division

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BANK OF THE WEST IS PROUD TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL WOMEN BANKING LEADERS

Mary Borg
Mary Borg is the Executive Vice President and Division Executive of the Southern California Division for Bank of the West. The Division consists of 100 branch locations covering Southern California, Fresno, Modesto and Southern Nevada.

Ms. Borg has achieved professional success at various top-tier financial institutions during her 25-year career. Ms. Borg was promoted to her current role in January 2015 and has been with Bank of the West for 16 years.

Over the past 14 years, Ms. Borg has overseen the fundraising efforts for Bank of the West for the annual March of Dimes Walk for Babies, as well as for the Junior Achievement Bowl-a-thon in the Division.

Ms. Borg is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the California Bankers Association and the Alzheimer’s Association of Orange County.

Her academic background includes an undergraduate degree in Communications, Arts and Sciences from the University of Southern California. Graduate education completed includes a Juris Doctorate of Law from the University of La Verne.

Renee Griffiths
Renee Griffiths is a Senior Private Client Advisor in Bank of the West’s Wealth Management division. As part of a comprehensive team, Ms. Griffiths provides holistic solutions that align with her high-net-worth clients’ financial goals and priorities.

Ms. Griffiths has more than 25 years of experience in the financial planning and life insurance industry. She began her career at Aetna Life & Annuity in 1989. After which, she joined Centrelink which was acquired by Marsh & McLennan Companies, where she provided estate planning, business succession planning, and risk mitigation strategies for high-net-worth individuals and businesses.

Ms. Griffiths graduated Magna Cum Laude from Vanguard University. She also holds the designations of Certified Financial Planner (CFP®), Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU) and Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC). Ms. Griffiths enjoys spending time with orphan teenage girls who live in a nearby group home.

Debra Sandford
Debra Sandford is a Vice President and Market Leader in Bank of the West’s Newport Beach business banking office. As part of a comprehensive team, Ms. Sandford provides consultative financial solutions to medium-sized businesses located in Orange County.

Ms. Sandford has more than 25 years of experience in business banking with an emphasis on establishing, growing and maintaining long-standing relationships with companies utilizing lending, depository, cash management and other banking products and services relied on every day.

Ms. Sandford earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business with an emphasis in Finance from California State University Fullerton and an MBA from Pepperdine University’s Graziadio School of Business.

Missy Stern
Missy Stern is a Director and Senior Relationship Manager for Bank of the West in Newport Beach. Stern joined 27th-billion-asset Bank of the West in their National Banking Group nearly five years ago. A 30-year veteran of middle market business banking in Southern California, Stern focuses her efforts on developing new relationships with companies with revenues of $25 million and up.

Ms. Stern is an MBA graduate of Pepperdine University. She is affiliated with the Association for Corporate Growth, Professionals Orange County United Way and the Jewish Federation of Orange County. She takes particular pleasure in mentoring young college graduates and contributing to their career success.

Since joining Bank of the West in 2010, Ms. Stern has been instrumental in identifying opportunities and fostering the strong connections that define her approach to doing business. Her ability to help great companies grow and prosper has made her a trusted advisor in Southern California’s business community and beyond.

About Bank of the West: Bank of the West is a regional financial services company chartered in California and headquartered in San Francisco with $72.7 billion in assets. Founded in 1874, Bank of the West provides a wide range of personal, commercial, wealth management and international banking services through more than 600 offices in 22 states and digital channels. Bank of the West is a subsidiary of BNP Paribas, which has a presence in more than 75 countries with 195,000 employees.

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Feeling self-conscious about your weight and appearance? Worried about your health? Ready to make big changes in your body and your life—but feeling a little hesitant because your previous efforts may have fallen short?

Cynthia Stamper Graff knows how you feel. As CEO of Lindora Clinic and author of four weight loss books—including the recently-published The New Lean for Life—she has made a career out of building a business that helps people lose weight and reclaim their health.

Headquartered in Costa Mesa, Lindora operates 42 Southern California locations (including 14 in Orange County), Graff, a recipient of the Orange County Business Journal 2012 Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award and 1998 Women in Business Award, says that understanding, employing and serving women has given Lindora a competitive advantage in a fiercely competitive market. Nearly 85 percent of the company’s clients—and 95 percent of their employees—are female.

We talked with Graff about her new book, her company’s popular weight loss program, and the challenges of change.

Your first book, Lean for Life, was published in 1997 and has sold more than a million copies. How did you go from running a regional weight loss company to being an author and running a company with a national profile?

Cynthia Stamper Graff: “I wrote Lean for Life because people were hungry for guidance on how to lose weight safely—and how to keep it off. Several of our patients, including one woman who lost 144 pounds on our program, had appeared on national TV shows and in national magazines. Their success stories really resonated with people, and many of them would call and literally beg us to share the details of our program.

At that time, our program was offered exclusively to patients in our Southern California clinics. We realized there was a need and we set out to address it. The book was a real game-changer and it accomplished exactly what I hoped it would—it inspired many people to lose weight and improve their lives. It also introduced our company and our program to a national, even international, audience. The book led to an online version of our program, telephone coaching, and other resources designed to help people succeed.”

How is The New Lean for Life book different?

“The new book includes the latest science on how the body, brain and gut interact—either to help you stay healthy or to stockpile more and more excess fat—depending on the food and activity choices you make. The neuroscience of the brain has evolved rapidly over the 18 years since my first book. Many new findings are featured, including current research on the gut, which really is the new frontier of science. It plays host to ten percent of your body’s neurons and to the trillions of bacteria that make it hard to lose weight.”

How does Lindora’s Lean for Life program differ from other diets?

“Our program offers much more than a diet. It’s a comprehensive system, complete with medical supervision, and it specifically addresses the physical, emotional and psychological factors that lead to weight gain. We teach people to become healthier by changing the behaviors and habits that contributed to their weight gain in the first place. We offer structure, support and cutting-edge science in a nurturing environment, and we also offer a maintenance program that helps people keep the weight off once they lose it. Research shows that five years after completing our program, 79 percent of people have kept weight off.”

“We’ve found that people get really excited when they experience the rapid weight loss that our program is designed to produce. They see significant improvements in their health, such as lower blood pressure, cholesterol, and glucose levels, which motivates them to maintain the focus required to make lasting changes. This kind of change is often difficult to make on one’s own.”

How fast can a person lose weight on the Lean for Life program?

“Clinical studies show that our patients often lose ten percent or more of their starting weight in ten weeks. A three to five-pound weekly weight loss can be achieved with our meal plan, which features three meals and three snacks a day, eating fresh foods you can find in grocery stores and restaurants. We encourage people to eat fruits, vegetables, and lean proteins, and to reduce their reliance on processed foods.”

What does the future look like for Lindora?

“A number of demographic and political trends are converging in ways that we expect will increase demand for Lindora’s services. The rates of obesity, pre-diabetes and diabetes continue to drive up the cost of health care. At the same time, more employers are offering only high-deductible health plans, so consumers are becoming much more aware of the price they’re paying—both physically and financially—for being overweight. We expect these trends to fuel the demand for our programs and services from both individuals and employers. We’ve been helping people become Lean for Life for 44 years, and it’s something I anticipate we’ll continue doing for many years to come.”

ABOUT LINDORA

Lindora Clinic is America’s leading clinical weight management provider. Since 1971, clients have experienced rapid, safe weight loss with Lindora’s unique, comprehensive system. The Lean for Life program emphasizes lifestyle changes that result in lasting weight loss. It’s designed to reverse insulin resistance and inflammation, improve blood pressure and cholesterol, and address other health conditions caused by being overweight.

IN THE NEWS

Lindora’s stories and “success stories” have been featured on Good Morning America, Fox & Friends, The CBS Evening News and in such publications as People and the Los Angeles Times.

42 LOCATIONS

Lindora has locations throughout Orange County, Los Angeles, Ventura County, Inland Empire and Palm Desert. Their Orange County clinic locations include Costa Mesa, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, Irvine, La Habra, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Newport Beach, Orange, Rancho Santa Margarita, San Juan Capistrano and Tustin.

SPECIAL OFFER

Lindora is celebrating 44 years of helping people become Lean for Life by offering up to 40% off weight loss programs. This special offer, for attendees of the “2015 Women in Business Awards” and readers of the Orange County Business Journal, ends July 31, 2015. To learn more and to schedule your free consultation, call 1.800.LINDORA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more, call 1-800-LINDORA or visit www.lindora.com.
The biggest industry myth:
Most wealth managers actually manage money.

Contrary to popular belief, most wealth managers don’t actually manage their clients’ investments. BNY Mellon does. With a combination of wealth management expertise and global asset management resources, we remain fully accountable for what’s in your portfolio. So if you don’t know who’s managing your money, maybe you should get to know us.

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What would the future look like if ALL girls developed the confidence and skills to take on the tough business challenges of tomorrow?

Orange County’s business community knows that preparing our girls to be tomorrow’s leaders is an absolute imperative – and that Girl Scouts is leading the charge.

Business and community leaders are standing behind Girl Scouts because it has the reach and experience to transform girls into strong, capable women who will change the world.

A Voice for All Girls
Orange County business and community leaders came together with local girls at the Pacific Club on May 8 for an important conversation about how fear of failure can prevent girls from achieving their potential. Girl Scouts of Orange County’s fourth annual Voice for Girls forum featured a keynote address by acclaimed developmental psychologist and author Dr. JoAnn Deak. Guests also heard from panelists who shared their unique perspectives on so-called “failure”: Jerry Dipoto, General Manager of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim; Dr. Michelle Khine, Associate Professor of Biomedical Engineering at UCI; and Kim Shepherd, CEO of Decision Toolbox. Guests used the information they gleaned to write an “Open Letter to All Girls” that will be shared with local Girl Scouts and left with new perspectives on how they can advocate for and encourage girls within their own spheres of influence.

Celebrating Female Leaders
Girl Scouts will recognize six Girl Scout alumnae who are making a difference in our community, and raise funds for Girl Scout programs at Celebrate Leadership on Friday, October 30 at The Island Hotel in Newport Beach. Honorees will be announced soon!

Your business can empower, educate and prepare girls to become leaders by sponsoring or attending Celebrate Leadership - find out more at www.GirlScoutsOC.org/CelebrateLeadership.

For more information about Girls Scouts of Orange County’s upcoming events or to volunteer or make a donation, visit www.GirlScoutsOC.org.
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Women and the Middle Market
by Patty Juarez, Regional Vice President, Wells Fargo Commercial Banking

I look forward to the Orange County Business Journal’s annual tribute to Women in Business for several reasons: It’s a reminder to reflect on and express gratitude for my own personal career journey; it affirms my passion for helping women business-owners achieve their dreams; and it gives me a chance to share the story of my company’s growth with the hard-working, job-growing sector of middle-market companies in the U.S. economy.

Women are a growing contributor to the country’s economic growth, and our contributions are equally important in the middle market. While the definition of “middle market” varies, from Wells Fargo’s perspective, it’s companies with at least $20 million in annual revenue—ranging from smaller, local businesses to companies big enough for a credit agency rating. Middle market includes family-owned, private equity-owned and smaller public companies.

Many factors contribute to the growth and success of the middle market. Middle market businesses are growing more rapidly than the U.S. economy as a whole. The market might be “middle,” yet its impact on the U.S. economy is huge:

- 200,000 middle-market companies employ more than 30 million Americans.
- That’s more than one-third of the nation’s jobs and about $9 trillion in annual gross revenue.
- If the U.S. middle market were a country, its gross domestic product would rank as the world’s fourth-largest economy.

Within the middle market, women-owned businesses are a crucial and fast-growing segment. In working with middle-market women leaders, I have witnessed their substantial contributions in business and admire their approach to problem-solving and conflict resolution. Women are adept at finding solutions to the problems that their companies face, and implementing them quickly and effectively.

In terms of financial services, owners prefer leading financial institutions with broad capabilities that can expand their businesses with capital, private equity, equipment financing, and top-notch treasury products. Owners want a bank with a strong balance sheet and capital position — one that lends consistently through all market conditions. Owners also prefer banks with industry expertise. A dedicated team or relationship manager that understands the owner’s or CEO’s objectives is paramount. At Wells Fargo, we are a strong partner to all our middle-market clients. Wells Fargo Commercial Banking is the No. 1 middle-market bank nationwide and here in Orange County.

Wells Fargo has supported diversity, including women-owned businesses, since its founding in 1852. Co-founder Henry Wells donated property in 1868 and a portion of his fortune to establish the Wells Seminary for Higher Education of Young Women, later renamed Wells College. Based in Aurora, New York, it was one of the first American colleges for women to offer bachelor’s degrees.

Today, Wells Fargo has been a staple of American commercial banking for more than 40 years, with a track record of strength and stability for middle-market lending. Wells Fargo is also a committed supporter of women and diverse business owners. This is a value that all Wells Fargo team members share and take pride in.

Congratulations to all of the Women in Business nominees. Wells Fargo salutes you!

Patty Juarez
Patty Juarez is a senior vice president and regional manager for the Wells Fargo Regional Commercial Banking Office (RCBO) in Orange, Calif. Patty oversees a team of commercial banking professionals that develop business relationships with middle-market companies in the North Orange County region.

Patty earned her bachelor’s degree in business with an emphasis in accounting from the University of California, Berkeley, and her M.B.A. in business administration from St. Mary’s College of California in Moraga.

Active in a variety of professional and community organizations, Patty is chairwoman for the Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, which represents the interests of Orange County’s 30,000 Hispanic-owned businesses. She also sits on the board of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Orange County and heads up its board development effort. CASA is a nonprofit organization that trains community volunteers to serve as powerful mentors and advocates for our community’s abused, abandoned, and neglected children. Patty is also on the Leadership Council for THINK Together, an organization that provides high-quality academically-oriented out-of-school programs for students in disadvantaged communities.

Lastly, Patty sits on the Dean’s Board of Counselors for Chapman University’s school of business and economics. Internally, Patty mentors team members throughout Wells Fargo, assists with the company’s diverse candidate recruitment, and is part of the Women’s Leadership and Diversity Councils for Commercial Banking.

As a result of her dedication to the community and her Board service in Orange County, Patty was honored with One OC’s 2013 Spirit of Volunteerism Awards by the OC Volunteer Chapter of Wells Fargo. In 2014, Patty was named “Women of the Year” by the National Hispanic Business Women Association for her work in the corporate sector. Additionally, The Orange County Business Journal has recognized Patty with Women in Business Nominations for 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Patty lives in South Orange County, Calif., with her husband, daughter, and son. She can be reached at juarezp@wellsfargo.com.
What would the best of medicine look like?

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Allergan is a multi-specialty health care company established more than 60 years ago with a commitment to uncover the best of science and develop and deliver innovative and meaningful treatments to help people reach their life’s potential. We have highly dedicated and talented employees, global marketing and sales capabilities with a presence in more than 100 countries, a rich and ever-evolving portfolio of pharmaceuticals, biologics, medical devices and over-the-counter consumer products, and state-of-the-art resources in R&D, manufacturing and safety surveillance that help millions of patients see more clearly, move more freely and express themselves more fully. From our beginnings as an eye care company to our focus today on several medical specialties, including ophthalmology, neurosciences, medical aesthetics, medical dermatology, breast aesthetics, and urologics, Allergan is proud to celebrate more than 60 years of medical advances and proud to support the patients and physicians who rely on our products and the employees and communities in which we live and work.

To find out more about Allergan, visit www.allergan.com

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Hiring Employees that Fit Your Business Vision

by Susan Levinstein, CPA, Partner, HMWC CPAs & Business Advisors

As a woman business owner, you likely have multiple responsibilities not only in your business life, but also in your personal life. It is common to feel that you are pushed to the limit to do it all, which is exactly why you need an effective management team to help share the load. Further, it is critical to hire supervisors and line employees who understand what you are trying to achieve and can help you get there.

What is your vision?

Finding the right people starts with your goals and objectives for the business. For example, are you “growth-oriented,” aimed at a high growth rate in sales and profitability, perhaps expanding to new locations and constantly developing new products and services? If so, this will likely require highly devoted and motivated personnel who are willing to work long hours year-round. Or are you “lifestyle-oriented,” establishing a business so that you can make the key decisions (vs. being an employee), better serve clients and control your daily life, which might mean flexibility in meeting family needs? Or are you a hybrid of these two scenarios?

Regardless, it is important to identify your vision for the company and communicate it to employees. An effective way to start is by developing a strategic plan. A strategic plan is aimed at evaluating where your company is now, where you want it to go and how to get there. Through this process, you’ll be forced to answer numerous questions that address key functional areas of your business – research/development, production/operations, finance/accounting, sales/marketing, customer service, human resources and technology.

While you may not share the entire strategic plan with all employees, you can take critical elements from it and communicate it. As such, possibly the greatest end-result of the planning process (from a human resources perspective) is that it creates a shared vision and long-term goals toward which everyone in the firm can work.

Culture is key

Your vision should tie in directly with your company’s culture. A company’s culture can have a major impact on its performance. It can bind the organization together and be a competitive advantage. Happy employees typically work faster, are more loyal and serve customers better. A high-performing company will often embody the following core value traits in its culture: integrity, a positive outlook, accountability, a performance-focus, enjoyment in the work process, adaptability to change, collaborative decision-making and openness to innovation. Overall, in order to attract employees for the long-term, you’ll want to develop a culture that encourages productivity and happiness.

Selecting the right employees

To ensure that your business is successful, you’ll need the right personnel to make it happen. Your vision and culture should directly impact the qualities that you look for in hiring new employees. It is important to look beyond typical qualifying criteria in a resume; you’ll want to share your core values and vision with candidates and determine whether each is an appropriate fit. For those employees already in your work force, communicate regularly to boost organizational morale and productivity. Keys to communicating your vision include: share your company’s rationale and expectations; hold regular employee meetings and communicate business successes, failures and financial updates; and encourage dialogue through top-down, bottom-up and cross-department approaches.

Susan Levinstein, CPA, is a partner with HMWC CPAs & Business Advisors (www.hmwcpa.com) in Tustin. She heads the firm’s Women Owned Business practice and the Complete Financial Office Solutions department. Susan can be contacted at 714.505.9000.
Championing the Spirit of the Independent Hotelier
by Jada Jackson, Vice President of Strategic Development, Preferred Hotels & Resorts

In a time when it seems as if every hotel company is introducing new brands that target specific demographics, our company made the bold decision to do quite the opposite.

On March 4, 2015, Preferred Hotel Group announced its shift from a multi-branded business model to one master brand. All of the company’s member properties are now represented by the Preferred Hotels & Resorts brand on one website (PreferredHotels.com) and aligned with one of five collections – Legend, LVX, Lifestyle, Connect and Preferred Residences. These collections provide a more intuitive way for consumers to book their lodging based on the type of luxury experience they are seeking, thereby creating stronger positioning for its independent hotel members and creating more opportunities for those hotels to expand their market share.

50 Years of Expertise in Independent Hotel Branding
Preferred Hotels & Resorts does not own, manage or operate any hotels. Rather, the company is a flexible and cost-effective option for hotel owners and operators that want to be unique in their positioning and make decisions independently while having access to global connectivity and other support services. The Preferred Hotels & Resorts business model is highly effective, centered on mutually beneficial terms. Member properties receive as much support as they need from a team of experts who look after their best interests, providing individualized solutions in areas ranging from global sales and global online distribution to revenue account management.

A First of Its Kind Drives Loyalty for the Long Term
Preferred Hotels & Resorts has always taken an innovative approach to supporting independent hotels. In 2013, the company launched iPrefer— the first points-based guest loyalty program available to independent hotels globally. The program’s model drives incremental revenue to independent hotels without lowering the room rate, while giving them a competitive advantage in attracting travelers away from the chains. Post-launch statistics prove iPrefer’s strength on behalf of the independent market. In the first quarter of 2015, the program saw a 40% increase in member enrollments and increased engagement with members booking 32% more stays and spending 75% more upon each visit, compared to the same time period in 2014.

The Preferred Advantage
Throughout its 11 years of strategic expansion under ownership by the Ueberroth Family, Preferred Hotels & Resorts has attracted great interest from owners and management groups looking to create personalized visions of hospitality and to maintain control of their investments. Today, Preferred Hotels & Resorts is the world’s largest independent hotel brand, representing 650 of the finest independent hotels, resorts and residences across 85 countries, including 11 hotels on the Forbes Five Star List and 43 hotels on the Forbes Four Star List. Supporting the company’s efforts is a network of 250 associates who are based in 31 offices around the globe, including an Executive Office in Newport Beach.

Forecasting a Profitable Future
To learn more about how a partnership with Preferred Hotels & Resorts can drive profits to your hotel investment, please contact me via email at development@preferredhotels.com or by phone at 949.719.3314, or visit PreferredHotels.com/Join.
Summer Road Trip Tips
from The Auto Club

Checklist:
- Auto Club/AAA membership card in your wallet (card can also be loaded on your iPhone via the AAA app and Passbook feature)
- Blanket (handy for picnics and naps)
- Cell phone and car charger
- Extra prescribed medications
- First aid kit
- Food
- Tire pressure gauge
- Fire extinguisher, flares, warning triangles or reflectors
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Jack for tire changing
- Jumper cables
- Paper towels
- Pencil/pen and notebook
- Umbrella
- Enough water for everyone in the car (at least a couple of gallon jugs for a long road trip)

What navigational system should I use?
Whatever system you use, the most important rule you should establish is to have a passenger operate it and change it if necessary to avoid distracting the driver. If you are on a solo road trip, program your system before you leave and make sure the voice directions are safe place.

The AAA app has a great navigational system with options for turn-by-turn directions by voice. It will also display nearby gas stations with recent prices, give you the ability to book AAA Diamond-rated hotels right from the app with your AAA discount, and also show you all the interesting attractions along your route just like the original AAA TripTiks.

What are the common mistakes people make before going on a long journey?
Not having their car checked by a mechanic or doing it themselves before leaving. In the summer, and particularly during days when the temperature is over 90 degrees, AAA emergency calls for road trip breakdowns will skyrocket. Many of these breakdowns could have been prevented if the driver had gotten the car checked ahead of time. The list of items to check includes:
- Coolant level
- Belts and hoses
- Tires – both pressure and tread. Check tire pressure at a gas station when tires are cold.
- Engine oil
- Batteries – typical battery life is now 3-5 years
- Transmission fluid
- Brake fluid
- Power steering fluid
- Windshield wiper blades and windshield washer fluid

Another common mistake is not planning for enough activities on the road, especially with kids. Most families now have cell phones and other electronic devices which can provide entertainment, but you may want to consider a DVD player for the passengers or books on tape.

How do you recommend handling traffic jams and road rage?
It’s always a good idea to try to plan your trip to avoid traffic whenever possible. If you’re not traveling on a holiday weekend or a Friday, you can probably leave either before or after “rush hour” and avoid traffic. If you are in a traffic jam and the passengers are getting cranky, try to play a license plate game or “I Spy” to pass the time. You can also pull off the road to a restaurant for a break until it gets better.

Road rage does happen occasionally, but it’s rarer than it seems to be based on media reports. If someone seems to be furiously trying to engage you on the road, don’t respond. Try to pull off an exit and go to a public place like a shopping center.

Do you have any tips for getting out of a ticket?
Prevention is the best cure. A good rule of thumb to avoid getting pulled over is to really observe the speed limit when driving through smaller towns on your route, even if you’re on the highway. Arizona does have speed cameras placed on certain highways that can send you a ticket in the mail (although it has cut back on them), so be careful traveling through the Phoenix/Mesa area in particular. And it never hurts to be very courteous to the officer if you do get pulled over.

How can AAA help me?
AAA is the best resource you can have on a road trip, and the ways you can access our services have evolved to include the free AAA app for your smartphone, available for iOS and Android at AAA.com/mobile. Not only does it have map and navigation services, you can also use it to contact roadside assistance if you need it. It also shows you where to get AAA discounts near you and incorporates all the travel information you would find in paper TripTiks and TourBooks.

We also have a number of other travel planning tools:
- Fuelcostcalculator.aaa.com – A great gas budgeting tool that allows members and non-members to use. Plug in your make, model and year of car, your origin and your destination, and the calculator will use real-time gas price averages to estimate your gas cost for the trip. This is also a great way to figure out if it would be cheaper to fly or drive.
- Paper maps – These can be great tools for planning your road trip as well as navigation because everyone in the family can look at them together and figure out what they want to see and do. Maps are available as a member benefit in AAA branches.
- TourBooks – This AAA member benefit is a complete paperback guide to any given geographic area in the U.S. It provides an overview of what to see and do in each area, as well as complete listings of AAA Diamond-rated lodgings (with average room rates) and restaurants. The TourBooks are available at AAA branches for members and I highly recommend getting one at least for your destination.
- Travel planning – Whether you prefer in-person help, online tools, or talking to someone on the phone, AAA can assist. We can book hotels, travel packages, rental cars, cruises, flights and more at AAA.com, at any AAA branch, or by calling 888.874.7222.
Thanking the women who LEAD OUR COMMUNITY

As a provider of the most advanced communication solutions, driving our community forward is something we strive for. That's why we're congratulating the influential women who are working hard to advance Orange County today. Thanks for setting an example that is leading our businesses forward.

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Custom Comfort Mattress

Custom Comfort Mattress was founded in 1986. It all began with one made-to-order mattress. Since then, it has evolved into eight Southern California locations in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Custom Comfort Mattress remains a family-owned business, and proudly cherishes the art of upholstery.

Our mattresses are made with quality in mind every step of the way. We use natural materials because they are safer, longer lasting, and economically responsible. The padding we use is cotton, wool, and natural latex. There are also options for certified organic materials. When we do use foam in a mattress, it is a natural, soy-based foam. It’s important to us to deliver a product we can stand by. Not only do we strive to only use quality materials, we choose to use American-derived materials. All of these elements go into each of our mattresses for one simple reason: wanting everyone to have their most comfortable sleep.

We believe in providing the best night’s sleep possible. We believe in honest, genuine craftsmanship. We believe in transparent, simple shopping experiences, while providing competitive, factory direct pricing. All of these beliefs translate to quality you can rest on for years to come.

For more information, visit CustomComfortMattress.com.

Eight store locations:

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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brea</td>
<td>443 South Associated Road, Brea, CA 92821</td>
<td>714.485.1250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Mesa</td>
<td>1741 Newport Blvd, Costa Mesa, CA 92627</td>
<td>949.357.2878</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mission Viejo</td>
<td>24002 Via Fabbricante, Mission Viejo, CA 92691</td>
<td>949.205.7452</td>
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<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>211 West Katella Ave., Orange, CA 92867</td>
<td>714.332.3054</td>
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<td>Pasadena</td>
<td>414 South Lake Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101</td>
<td>626.225.0359</td>
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<td>Westminster</td>
<td>14990 Goldenwest St., Westminster, CA 92683</td>
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<td>8819 Beverly Blvd, West Hollywood, CA 90048</td>
<td>310.651.2122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Huntington Beach</td>
<td>7777 Edinger Ave, Huntington Beach, CA 92647</td>
<td>714.485.1177</td>
</tr>
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Store hours: Mon-Fri 10 am - 7 pm | Sat-Sun 10 am - 6 pm
Webster University’s Business Degrees Are Accredited by ACBSP!

Our name represents quality, integrity, affordability and professional education for more than 97 years. In the heart of Irvine’s Spectrum Area, Webster University, offers innovative business degree and counseling degree programs that expressly meet the needs of busy working professionals. The Irvine Campus, established in 1979, offers several master’s degree program options: the Master Business Administration (MBA), the M.A. in Management & Leadership, the M.A. in Human Resources Management and the “dual major” M.A. in Human Resources & Management/Leadership and the Master of Arts in Counseling with MFCC. Additionally, we offer the B.A. degree completion program in Management.

At Webster University you will enjoy a top education at affordable tuition. Webster University is ranked as a Tier 1 school in “America’s Best Colleges” by U.S. News & World Report.

Webster University, a private, nonprofit university was founded in 1915 and has been continuously accredited since 1925. In 2008, the University’s regional accreditation was reaffirmed with commendations for 10 years, the maximum time awarded. Additionally, ALL business degree programs are accredited by Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP). The ACBSP accreditation team named Webster “Best in Class” for outcomes assessment. The latter confirms our commitment to academic quality and student learning. Additionally, our students are eligible for invitation to Delta Mu Delta, the international honor society in business administration.

All graduate and undergraduate courses are offered weekday evenings (from 6 pm-10 pm) in an accelerated (9) nine-week format, allowing degree completion at an accelerated pace. New terms begin in January, March, May, August and October each year — so you can begin your Webster degree at a convenient time.

Finally, 11 graduate degree programs, including: the MBA, MA-Human Resources, MA-Management/Leadership, MA-Teaching, MA-Public Relations; as well as four certificate programs - government contracting, decision support systems, web services/development are completely online coursework programs for the busy traveler. You can complete your degree program completely online, in-class or combine the two options for most Webster degree programs.

Call Webster University at 949.450.9066 for a personalized consultation or visit our website at www.webster.edu/irvine. We are conveniently located just off the I-5 or I-405 freeway, near the Irvine Spectrum at 32 Discovery, Suite 250 in Irvine, CA 92618.
Hotel Irvine: A Lifestyle Hotel

What do we mean by lifestyle hotel? It means we’re independent, modern and free to do as we please, just like you. We’re all about upping the best of OC business and pleasure with bold pops of color, complimentary Wi-Fi, free “Everyday” Breakfast and fresh ways to indulge—like our 24/7 Marketplace, gastro pub-inspired restaurant EATS Kitchen & Bar, and the sleek and modern Red Bar and Lounge. Not to mention our iPrefer® program rewards you with points and VIP benefits every time you stay at select hotels. You can redeem points for cash-value reward certificates valid for room charges or hotel amenities like dining or spa services.

With over 50,000 square feet of event space, we have a perfect fit for every meeting from corporate retreats and awards banquets, to industry conferences and trade shows. Our thoroughly updated and transformed collection of venues include indoor and outdoor rooms, one of the largest ballrooms in OC, a stunning theater and The Backyard—a stylish yet relaxed outdoor event space. Throw in a team of some of the most experienced meeting planners and catering options any foodie would rave about, and you have all the makings of a monumental meeting.

When it comes to taking care of our guests, we pride ourselves on friendly service that always puts the focus on you. Our staff is trained to anticipate your every need and offer unexpected surprises, whenever possible. It’s our job to make your visit one to remember.

For more information about Hotel Irvine call 866.396.4201 or visit www.hotelirvine.com.

LEADING ADVANTAGE

We congratulate our outstanding nominees for the 2015 Orange County Business Journal’s Women in Business awards. Thank you Bethany Bailey, Martha Bayer, Sara Rollins and Carol Trapani for your leadership and commitment to delivering exceptional outcomes that transform real estate into real advantage for everyone who touches CBRE.

BETHANY BAILEY  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

MARTHA BAYER  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

SARA ROLLINS  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

CAROL TRAPANI  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

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Grow your potential in your own backyard.

Your next big move could be right here in Southern California. At University of Phoenix, we shape our curriculum around the skills employers are actively seeking, so your studies can prepare you for a brighter future. Get started at our local campus and see how far you can go.

Let's get to work:

Visit phoenix.edu/southerncalifornia or call us at 800.473.4346.
At Vanguard University in Costa Mesa, we’ve got the perfect mix – unbeatable academic training, world-class arts and entertainment programs, a beautiful campus and a strong spiritual foundation. Our alums are executives at Disney, Nike and Buck Knives (including CEO Chuck Buck), to name just a few.

“Vanguard was an important part of helping us start Wahoo’s Fish Taco,” says Vanguard alum Ed Lee ’87, co-founder and CEO of Wahoo’s Fish Taco. “The theories and work ethic I learned in the financing and marketing courses helped us, and the professors were instrumental. Unlike at a bigger school, Vanguard gives you a one-on-one experience.”

Small class sizes and professors who care make the difference at Vanguard. We believe learning goes beyond the classroom and happens in the context of relationships with faculty and other students. Our professors serve as mentors inside and outside the classroom, giving students the knowledge they need and the wisdom to apply it in the real world.

Vanguard’s faculty is simply outstanding. Our professors advise U.S. presidents, win national theater awards, pioneer scientific research in China, perform at Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl, and much more. Seventy percent of our professors hold doctorates in their field from some of the most prestigious universities in the world. Those same professors teach every course and mentor students at Vanguard. No one gets lost in the back of a lecture hall, and at Vanguard, graduate students never teach our classes.

For 90 years, this personalized approach has yielded a distinguished list of alums – leading scientists, best-selling authors, network television producers, high-level military leaders and world-changing business leaders.

“I fell in love with Vanguard,” says Kristina Kuzmic-Crocco ’01, host of Kristina’s Fearless Kitchen on the Oprah Winfrey Network. “My time there helped me become more confident being in front of people, and I made lifelong friends.”

Larry Mantle, founder and host of AirTalk on NPR affiliate KPCC, and winner of multiple Golden Mic awards, says his experience at Vanguard shaped his life and career.

“I love Vanguard,” says Mantle. “I have such positive feelings about the university. It’s a very important part of my life. The professors had a profound impact on me. I wouldn’t be the person I am without my years at Vanguard.”

With more than 30 majors and concentrations to choose from, Vanguard University has a path for everyone. Best-selling author and brain scan pioneer Dr. Daniel Amen ’78 says his undergraduate education at Vanguard put him on course to become a leader in the medical profession.

“I really love Vanguard. My whole experience there was wonderful,” says Amen. “I had incredibly good teachers and got a terrific education.”

Two thousand miles away in Washington, D.C., Nathan Gonzales says Vanguard helped launch him into his career as a nationally-known political analyst. Gonzales is the political editor of the Rothenberg Political Report, which gives in-depth analysis of congressional, senatorial and gubernatorial races across the country. He is frequently quoted in the Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times and USA Today, and has appeared on Fox News Channel, CNN and more.

“Att Vanguard, I discovered that there is more to learning than sitting in a classroom,” says Gonzales, who discovered his passion for politics when he spent a semester as an intern at the White House press office in the West Wing.

No matter the area of study, Vanguard gives students the understanding they need to think critically, communicate clearly and interact intelligently – taking them places they never thought possible.

Visit vanguard.edu and see why at Vanguard University, we go beyond the classroom, beyond scholarship, beyond the expected. At Vanguard, your story matters.

Vanguard University is located at 55 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, 92626. Call 714.556.3610 for more information.
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www.opusbank.com
Over the course of United Way’s 91-year history in Orange County, tens of thousands of donors, volunteers, and advocates have demonstrated the power of caring. United Way’s Women’s Leadership Council exemplifies this power through one of the most successful philanthropic networks of its kind. With a membership of 500 strong and growing, more than $16 million has been invested in targeted areas of need in our community over the past decade.

Two groups comprise the Women’s Leadership Council—the Women’s Philanthropy Fund and Women Looking Forward. Members of the Women’s Philanthropy Fund invest $10,000 or more annually, and Women Looking Forward members invest $1,000 or more annually. Both groups harness their passion in the pursuit of creating a stronger community.

**Improving the Lives of Local Women and Children**

“Philanthropy is essentially about change, about making the world a better place for future generations. With United Way, we are helping to lead change in the community by banding together to improve conditions for local children and families,” said Karen Conlon, Sequoia Grove Consulting, Women’s Philanthropy Fund member and board member of Orange County United Way. Women’s Philanthropy Fund members transform their talent, intellect, and dollars on behalf of others to create a multiplier effect.

According to Women’s Philanthropy Fund Co-Chair, Jackie Kelley of Ernst & Young, “We engage donors who allocate a portion of their investment to programs that benefit women and children right here in our community.” Women’s Philanthropy Fund members select programs that align with this priority and infuse approximately $300,000 into the community annually. Women have been, and will continue to be, the leaders and influencers in philanthropy, volunteerism and social change. For nearly a century, women have been drawn to non-profit work to exercise public influence and to strengthen community responsibility.”

Each spring, approximately 700 people convene to attend the ultimate ‘power breakfast’—the annual Women’s Philanthropy Fund Breakfast that, since 2004, has raised more than $2 million for local programs and services that empower women and their families. Monica Timpe-Godfrey and Rochelle Karr, a dynamic duo who attracts and inspires like-minded women, chaired the 2015 event. Through the Breakfast, the Women’s Philanthropy Fund is able to grant significant resources to the community.

**Leaders on the Rise Locally and Nationally**

Founded in 2005, Women Looking Forward is the perfect accompaniment for emerging philanthropists ready to volunteer and advocate for change. Today, more than 400 women participate in the LIVE UNITED movement to advance United Way’s goals in Education, Income, Health and Housing. Chair Haunani Nakabara of KPMG leads the group with Vice-Chair Shirin Forootan of Call & Jensen.

Both groups are part of United Way Worldwide. Community champion Artyn Gardner sits on the National Women’s Leadership Council board, a committed group of women from across the country who convene to support United Way’s local efforts through a focus on leadership, resource development and advocacy. With a diverse network of 62,000 passionate women in 143 communities across the country, the council has raised more than $1 billion in contributions in 12 years—more than any other women’s group of its kind.

“We are so grateful for their passion and leadership,” adds Sue Parks, Founding Women’s Philanthropy Fund Chair and CEO of iCount™ Wellness. “We believe that when a network of caring women unite their passion, purses and the power to change lives, anything is possible.”

To become part of the Women’s Philanthropy Fund or Women Looking Forward, please contact Meghan Vu at 949.263.6163 or meghanv@unitedwayoc.org.
Scott’s Restaurant & Bar

Scott’s KJazz Sunday Jazz Brunch is now every Sunday from 11 am—3 pm. Each week, KJazz On-Air Personality Bubba Jackson and Scott’s General Manager Robert Redaelli host renowned jazz artists and trios creating a vibrant atmosphere that blends perfectly with brunch specialties.

To celebrate Scott’s instant live jazz popularity, a full weekend of jazz performances are slated, starting with two exclusive evenings with internationally acclaimed jazz singer and pianist Carol Welsman on Friday, May 29 and Saturday, May 30, from 8 – 11 pm. “At a time when female jazz singers have been arriving in waves, she is that rarity – an authentic vocal/instrumental artist who brings an irresistible blend of musicality and lyrical insight to everything she touches,” says International Music Critic Don Heckman of the Los Angeles Times. Scott’s popular dinner menu will accompany these special evening performances. Then, join Bubba Jackson and Robert Redaelli on Sunday, May 31 for the Scott’s KJazz Sunday Brunch.

For the weekly Sunday Jazz Brunch, Executive Chef Mike Doctulero presents a three-course menu with beginnings that include wood-fired shrimp, shigoku oyster quartets on the half shell and lacinato kale and beet salad; main events that feature a shrimp cake Benedict, Maine half lobster tail, pulled pork pancakes and braised beef short ribs. For dessert, select from four delectable options, which include Scott’s famous cheesecake stuffed beignets and honey crisp apple torte. Also, there are a la carte options, too: Hokkaido scallops, Scott’s calamari, seared ahi and the succulent akuaushi foie gras burger. Brunch is $39 per person; a la carte options range from $13 - $35; endless mimosas $11; custom tableside bloody Mary $9; kid’s menu $12.

Guests can make reservations for these extraordinary evenings with The Carol Welsman Trio May 29 and May 30 and for the Scott’s KJazz Sunday Brunch on Sunday, May 31 featuring George Kahn at 714.979.2400 or www.scottsrestaurantandbar.com.

Scott’s is considered South Coast Metro’s best seafood restaurant. Last year, it proudly celebrated 25 years at South Coast Plaza. If you are looking for extraordinary seafood, steaks and an impressive wine menu, Scott’s is where to eat and meet-up in Orange County. This stylish, yet warm and friendly, atmosphere is popular for quick power-lunches, pre-theater dinners, special occasions, Sunday brunch and happy hour. The restaurant also boasts impressive private dining rooms; the perfect solution for executive meetings, wedding receptions and dinner parties.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2015 VANGUARD UNIVERSITY OCBJ WOMEN IN BUSINESS NOMINEES:

Trine Fleming ’03
Vice President of Marketing and Communications at WHV (Women Helping Women/Men/Work)

Mary Wickman, PhD
Director of Nursing

VANGUARD UNIVERSITY

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NEWPORT LEXUS
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Newport Lexus congratulates the 2015 Women in Business Award nominees for their outstanding achievements in business.

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AIRPORT CONCIERGE SERVICES
We’ll shuttle you to John Wayne Airport and store your vehicle in our covered, secure garage. Upon your return, we’ll pick you up and return your vehicle freshly washed. Vehicle storage valued at $30 per day.

COMPLIMENTARY VEHICLE WASHES
Your vehicle will always look its best with our on-site complimentary vehicle wash, designed to offer luxury vehicle care, with no appointment necessary. Interior and exterior wash included, valued at $25. For car wash details and wait time, please refer to our Complimentary Car Wash page.

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10% SIGNATURE REWARDS MEMBER SAVINGS
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Kellie Aamodt, Vice President of Sales, UPS West Region

Kellie Aamodt joined UPS in 1991 in Minnesota as an international account executive and was promoted to area sales manager in 1994. After multiple special promotions and being promoted across the country, Aamodt was promoted to director of sales in 1998 in Houston, Texas. She then transferred to Ontario, Calif. in 2003 as the director of sales. In 2007, she relocated to the corporate office in Atlanta, GA as the enterprise growth coordinator. In 2010, Aamodt returned to Southern California as the managing director of sales for Southern California, Hawaii & Nevada. In Nov. 2011, Aamodt was promoted to vice president of retail accounts in the west region. In July 2012, she accepted the assignment of vice president sales in the central region and relocated to the Chicago area. In April 2013, Aamodt accepted the assignment of vice president sales in the west region and returned to California. She has responsibility for 25 states and over 1,200 sales people. UPS is the world’s largest package delivery company and a leading global provider of specialized transportation and logistics services.

Betsy Aasland, Owner/Director

Beach Kids Therapy, San Clemente

Betsy Aasland is a pediatric occupational therapist with over 16 years of experience working with children and their families. She started Beach Kids Therapy Center after recognizing the need for a family centered pediatric therapy clinic in South Orange County. Beach Kids specializes in sensory integration, autism spectrum disorders and developmental delays using occupational therapy, speech-language therapy and physical therapy. Her holistic approach to the health and well-being of children is at the heart of the work. In 2008, Beach Kids Kids, Aasland is committed to supporting and educating families in an environment that is safe, inviting and nurturing. Over the last eight years, Aasland has grown a unique multi-disciplinary organization that now has two locations and employs over 40 therapists and administrative staff who share her vision and goals. Beach Kids Therapy has provided services for over 1,500 children, and currently accommodates the therapy needs of more than 330 clients.

Tina Aldatz, Chief Executive Officer/Entrepreneur

Savvy Traveler, Newport, Irvine

Tina Aldatz is the CEO and co-founder of Savvy Traveler, a premier lifestyle brand dedicated to the health and wellness of the on-the-go traveler. Savvy Traveler is launching a revolutionary line of products intended to make the life of a jetsetter more clean and convenient. The entire line was recently picked up by the Home Shopping Network. Just released this year, Aldatz authored her first book, From Stilettos to the Stock Exchange, an autobiography telling of her treasured upbringing, and how she was able to defy the odds and establish a multimillion dollar company from concept to creation. Along with her best friend, Margie Floris, Aldatz is able to take her knowledge of the business world and experience from the previous company she founded and successfully sold, Foot Petsals, to begin her next endeavor with Savvy Traveler.

Deborah Allen, Fine Artist & Rendering Artist/Designer

Deborah Allen Art, Corona del Mar

Deborah Allen is a fine art painter, an architectural rendering artist and a high-end cabinetry designer who draws all designs for her custom cabinetry company. She worked alongside Joe Worland, owner of H Resort of Hualalai that sold for $20 million in 2008. Allen collaborated on a 10,000-square-foot estate at the Four Seasons Resort of Hualalai that sold for $20 million in 2009. Allen has continued to work alongside many of Orange County’s top architects and interior designers. Today, Deborah Allen Art, a fine art and design consultancy, is the realization of her vision to provide an inviting and nurturing environment to her clients. Her design firm has a comprehensive client list that includes national brands, top corporate and advertising agencies. Deborah Allen Art has provided design services to clients such as the Waldorf Astoria, Four Seasons, Four Star, the Royal Oak and The Fairmont. Deborah Allen Art has traveled the globe from the United States to France, Italy and Germany. She has been commissioned to design homes for the likes of Sir Elton John and the fashion world’s most prominent designers.

Chadia Almeddin, President

Betinnis Fashions, Brea

After 11 successful years in the retail industry, Chadia Almeddin started fashion show productions to help charities raise funds, and thus far, the multiple special productions throughout the country, Almeddin has promoted to director of sales in 1998 in Houston, Texas. She then transferred to Ontario, Calif. in 2003 as the director of sales. In 2007, she relocated to the corporate office in Atlanta, GA as the enterprise growth coordinator. In 2010, Almeddin returned to Southern California as the managing director of sales for Southern California, Hawaii & Nevada. In Nov. 2011, Almeddin was promoted to vice president of retail accounts in the west region. In July 2012, she accepted the assignment of vice president sales in the central region and relocated to the Chicago area. In April 2013, Almeddin accepted the assignment of vice president sales in the west region and returned to California. She has responsibility for 25 states and over 1,200 sales people. UPS is the world’s largest package delivery company and a leading global provider of specialized transportation and logistics services.

Sally Anderson, Director of Marketing & Communications

Toshiba America Business Solutions, Irvine

With Toshiba since 1996, Sally Anderson manages the company’s marketing communications including brand, digital and social marketing, advertising, public relations, training/education and corporate events for both the United States and Latin America. Under her direction, the company has received a myriad of awards including four American Business Award Gold Stevies. Anderson’s accomplishments include pioneering the company’s foray into social media, initiating an overarching brand audit and developing Toshiba’s first integrated brand platform, among many other achievements. Anderson is also the recipient of Toshiba’s Humanitarian Award for her efforts in supporting foster children, and received a certificate of acknowledgment from Toshiba America Chairman and CEO Masaaki Osumi for her contributions to Toshiba’s CSR programs. Toshiba America Business Solutions Inc. is home to the California and Digital Signage Masters. An independent operating company of the Toshiba Corp. The company’s innovative technology and creative solutions help clients work more efficiently in today’s ultra-competitive business environment.

Paula Ansara-Wilhelm, Co-Founder/President

Surterre Properties/Bask Magazine, Newport Beach

Many describe Paula Ansara-Wilhelm as a “serial entrepreneur,” able to identify emerging trends and create solutions for industry challenges. Ansara-Wilhelm has developed Surterre Properties in 2006, another luxury residential real estate company. In 2010, she also launched and has had the creative vision for Bask Magazine, a luxury lifestyle publication, and continues to lead the “publication of the president.” To make the real estate transaction even experience more seamless, Ansara-Wilhelm has also developed Sandstone Financial, Blue Water Escrow, Surterre Property Management and Surterre Migration and Habitat.

Janice Arrigo, Real Estate Agent

Surterre Properties, Newport Beach

Having sold more than 300 homes in Orange County over the course of her career as a real estate professional, Janice Arrigo offers a seasoned approach to her craft—and has resided in the Newport Beach area for nearly 35 years, she holds a definitive passion for the area and the exquisite communities and homes that comprise it. One of the most experienced agents in the local marketplace, Arrigo has amassed countless awards and accolades for her consistent ability to deliver results. But it’s her penchant for outstanding personalized service—highlighted by attentive, one-on-one guidance and a knack for simplifying the complicated processes that buying and selling property entail—that’s made her a favorite among the area’s most discerning clients.

Suzy Arriola, Realtor

Surterre Properties & Bask Magazine, Newport Beach

As past OCBJ Women in Business nominee, Suzy Arriola has continued to grow and succeed in her real estate business. In 2013, she and her team were recognized as No. 1 for closed transactions in Orange County, and No. 2 for all of San Diego County. The majority of her business is made up of women who are working moms. Her team motto is “Family First.” Arriola is a mentor of Keller Williams and, as a teacher in the company’s business growth classes, she donates her time to help others grow to succeed in their own businesses. In 2014, she and her team generated over $23 million in closed sales. Arriola is consistently recognized by the national Keller Williams company as a top-producing award winner. Her real estate business has taken her from San Diego to the world, including the Vietnam and Thailand in 2014. The Vietnam KW has recognized her as the face of Southern California on its website.
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combining both naturopathic and allopathic medicine. The clinic’s success comes from not focusing on the “business of medicine,” but rather quality, efficient, personalized patient care by founders Dr. Bales and Dr. Florie, and The Hydration Room’s staff of doctors and nurses.

Eileen Bartholy, Director of Accounting Services
Hall & Co., Irvine
Hall & Co. is a full-service accounting firm based in Irvine that provides a wide range of accounting, tax and consulting services for privately held companies, individuals, estates and trusts. Eileen Bartholy oversees the firm’s client services and deliverables, as well as internal staff development. She has extensive experience ranging from planning and supervising financial audits, reviews and compilations to providing practical solutions to improve a client’s business profits and cash flows. She specializes in creating policies and procedures to reduce the risk of fraud and abuse, minimize the overall tax liability and is highly experienced in serving the real estate, construction, manufacturing and professional service industries. Bartholy is a member of the California Society of CPAs, the Employee Benefit Plan Quality Center and ProVisors networking group. She also is actively involved with Women Looking Forward, a giving circle within United Way OC.

Helen Lao Baxter, Founder/Chief Talent Officer
ClearPath Solutions, Irvine
Since being formed in 2011, Helen Baxter and the ClearPath Solutions team have built a team of 15 located across the country and have worked with dozens of restaurant, retail and franchise industry clients. These clients range from privately held to Fortune 500 companies. ClearPath Solutions is now the nation’s premier executive search firm for restaurant/retail, and has introduced an executive sourcing advisory firm, to help Orange-County-based companies and successful individuals realize their philanthropic mission by finding causes that are authentic to their values, skills and passions.

Bethany Bailey, Senior Vice President
CBRE, Newport Beach
Bethany Bailey specializes in multifamily loan originations. Over the course of her career, she has focused on agency execution and management of the loan process. She is responsible for coordinating the borrower, lender, council, third-party vendors and all of the deliveries from initial loan seasoning to closing. Along with her partner, Troy Tegeler, she currently executes an outstanding average of 70 deals per year and has completed more than 450 transactions since 2007. In 2012 and 2014, they earned the title of CBRE’s National Top Overall Multifamily Production Team of the Year. Since 2007, Bailey has originated in excess of $7 billion, comprised of nearly 100,000 units. In the current market, she has had average annual loan originations exceeding $1.3 billion for the past three years. Over the course of her career, Bailey has been responsible for processing and closing more than 150 commercial real estate loans. Bailey is a veteran of the consumer-marketing strategist. Baker oversees an arsenal of consumer-facing, branded social media profiles including pages on Facebook with more than 4.72 million fans and accounts on Twitter with more than 42,000 followers. Named one of the “100 Greatest Women in Social Media,” Baker positions companies on the first pages of Google. She’s an Elite Member of Yelp, a “Top 50 Tweep to Follow,” an official Huffington Post “Female Geek,” and an inaugural keynote speaker for the Social Media Summit. As a new media correspondent she’s covered events for the Cameron Siemers Foundation, HomeAid Orange County, Irvine Public Schools Foundation, Operation Smile, Saddleback Church, Style Week OC and Warrior for Freedom. Social media is a powerful tool that Baker has used and continues to use in various ways to attract, inform and promote ideas, places and things.

Ellen Bartholemy, Director of Accounting Services
Hall & Co., Irvine
Hall & Co. is a full-service accounting firm based in Irvine that provides a wide range of accounting, tax and consulting services for privately held companies, individuals, estates and trusts. Eileen Bartholy oversees the firm’s client services and deliverables, as well as internal staff development. She has extensive experience ranging from planning and supervising financial audits, reviews and compilations to providing practical solutions to improve a client’s business profits and cash flows. She specializes in creating policies and procedures to reduce the risk of fraud and abuse, minimize the overall tax liability and is highly experienced in serving the real estate, construction, manufacturing and professional service industries. Bartholy is a member of the California Society of CPAs, the Employee Benefit Plan Quality Center and ProVisors networking group. She also is actively involved with Women Looking Forward, a giving circle within United Way OC.
a wandering boutique that is liberated, inspired and on the go. This mobile fashion truck was inspired by the food truck trend, bohemian style and nomadic adventurers. Stepping onto GypsetMermaid is an unmatched experience – it is creating a new channel of retail. With each piece personally selected by Belcher and Cueti, the inventory and display is sophisticated, edgy and representative of a true GypsetMermaid. GypsetMermaid was recently the Fashion Feature in LOCALE Magazine with an interview of owners Cueti and Belcher as style and beauty experts.

Julia Bendis, Owner/Matchmaker
Match By Julia, Rancho Santa Margarita

Julia Bendis founded Match by Julia after many years of fixing people up for fun and enjoying the satisfaction of seeing people happy and in love. Bendis started bringing people together as a teenager and continued until she got married and had her own kids. Matchmaking has not only been her life’s work, but a part of her daily life. Bendis has always taken the time to make a deep connection with every person she comes in contact with, making it a priority to remember everyone. With every new client, Bendis gets to know them on a personal level, their needs, wants and desires for their future mate. After the initial meeting, she starts researching, interviewing, and screening people that are either in her database or by meeting and recruiting new clientele. Match by Julia is a traditional and personalized matchmaking service that caters to anyone wanting to find their other half.

Kimberly Bernatz, Senior Vice President/Director of Wealth Management, Advisory Services
First American Trust Co., Santa Ana

A dynamic leader with more than 20 years of financial services experience, Kimberly Bernatz has worked with high-net-worth individuals, families and foundations in the areas of estate and charitable planning, investment management, retirement planning and real estate. In her current role as senior vice president & director, Wealth Management Advisory Services at First American Trust, a wholly owned subsidiary of First American Financial Corporation (NYSE: FAF), Bernatz oversees an organization that administers approximately $3 billion in assets. She has remained a steady leader for her clients during periods of economic uncertainty. She is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ and an Accredited Estate Planner®. Bernatz also serves as a member of First American Trust’s Officer’s Trust and Investment Committee and its New Business Acceptance Committee. A proud member of the community, she also serves the Philharmonic Society of Orange County, Hoag Hospital Foundation, the Pacific Chorale, UCI and the Assistance League of Newport-Mesa.

Victoria Betancourt, President/Owner
Coneybeare Cleantech, Santa Ana

Since 1990, Victoria Betancourt has met the needs of companies and jobseekers in various markets and ever-changing economies, navigating each recession with grace and reinventing her business several times over. In 2014, she created Coneybeare Cleantech, a full-service recruitment leader in the sustainable technology and renewable energy industries. Betancourt not only provides exceptional recruiting services for cleantech businesses, she immerses herself in the industry with the goal of finding solutions to some of today’s biggest environmental challenges, such as climate change and the current drought. This year, she launched the Coneybeare Cleantech Leaders Conference, an annual event where innovators and industry leaders from around the nation discuss a sustainable path forward. Outside of Coneybeare, Betancourt assumes leadership roles in the green building, city planning, business development and vocational technical training communities in Orange County. She also developed an eco-friendly resort in Colombia, where she used to live.

Suzanne Beukema, Owner/Event Coordinator
Suzanne’s Catering & Event Planning, Huntington Beach

Suzanne’s Catering is a full-service catering and event planning company. As Orange County’s premier caterer, Suzanne Beukema brings remarkable dedication, inventive cuisine and nearly three decades of fine dining catering experience to the planning of her clients’ unique and memorable events. Over the years, Beukema has built a reputation for her commitment to integrity and quality, as well as her keen flair for turning an ordinary room into a magical environment, one that reflects the individuality and vision of each of her clients. Always on the cutting edge of the latest industry innovations, Suzanne’s is also committed to protecting the environment and is a member of the Global Green Village and Slow Food U.S.A, self-policing organizations dedicated to using only eco-friendly products.

Congratulations goes out to Terri Reid on her nomination, and Pacific Hospitality Group thanks her for her leadership and support throughout the year!

Pacific Hospitality Group is proud to announce
Terri Reid, Corporate Director of Marketing
nomination for the Orange County Business Journal
2015 Women in Business Award!
Kim Bibb, Co-Founder/Realtor
Villa Real Estate, Newport Beach

Villa Real Estate Co-Founder Kim Bibb’s name is synonymous with luxury real estate on Newport Beach’s Balboa Peninsula. For nearly two decades, Bibb has dominated this market, selling hundreds of fine coastal homes and setting new high-water marks for exceptional properties on the bayfront, the oceanfront and within the interior avenues of this exclusive area — as well as on the surrounding islands. Specifically, Bibb is an unparalleled expert in the high-dollar Peninsula Point submarket, where she transacted more than $83 million in 2012 and over $95 million in 2014. In addition to achieving such records, Bibb is known for setting the gold standards for market intelligence, innovative marketing and client service in coastal Orange County.

Kimberly Bick, Managing Partner
Bick Law Group, Newport Beach

With over 20 years of experience in noninvasive cosmetic procedures, Dr. Bonakdar offers the latest advancements in injectables, laser treatments. Her vision: to artfully restore youthfulness in the aging face and body. A medical professional with more than 20 years of experience in environmental law and focus on one key goal – to create a luxurious, state-of-the-art environment offering the latest noninvasive cosmetic procedures and high-tech laser treatments. Her vision: to artfully restore youthfulness in the aging face and body. A medical professional with more than 20 years of experience in environmental law and regulation. This gave Borella the opportunity to develop an advanced technique that causes no damage whatsoever. The FlatTracs system, used at Addicted to Hair, is based on Borella’s specific application methods and design.

Ashley Boeckle, Owner
Buff Bake, Irvine

Ashley and Brittany Boeckles are cousins who started peanut butter and almond butter company, Buff Bake. They started by doing local farmers markets in the Orange County area. The product quickly gained recognition and in less than a year, is on the shelves of Vitamin Shoppes all over the U.S. (over 650 stores). Whole Foods, GNC and even has international distribution. The idea for Buff Bake was born when Ashley, a fitness guru, approached her baking enthusiast cousin, Brittany, in hopes of coming up with a healthy snack. Brittany came up with a series of protein-infused muffins that the pair referred to as "buffins." With the popularity of buffins, the pair saw there was a demand for healthy baked goods, but also realized that due to their short shelf life and expensive ingredients, mass producing buffins was not an efficient business model. Never discouraged, the girls pressed on, and they eventually landed on all-natural, protein-infused butters made from peanuts and almonds.

Monica Bonakdar, M.D., Medical Director
Bonakdar Institute, Corona del Mar

When Dr. Monica Bonakdar established her Corona del Mar office in 2000, she focused on one key goal -- to create a luxurious, state-of-the-art environment offering the latest noninvasive cosmetic procedures and high-tech laser treatments. Her vision: to artfully restore youthfulness in the aging face and body. A medical professional with more than 20 years of experience in environmental law and regulation. This gave Borella the opportunity to develop an advanced technique that causes no damage whatsoever. The FlatTracs system, used at Addicted to Hair, is based on Borella’s specific application methods and design.

Amber Bonasoro, Director of Marketing
Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices, Newport Beach

Amber Bonasoro oversees the marketing, development and creative direction of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties REALTORS®. With annual sales of $12 billion and 3,000 agents, the company has ranked No. 1 in the network for the past three years. Bonasoro applies more than nine years of experience in the coastal Orange County market to increase brand awareness and consideration. Bonasoro earned an MBA from Chapman University’s George Argyros School of Business and Economics where she received a scholarship for her leadership, strong academic performance and entrepreneurialism. A founding member of OCYPN, she has held various leadership positions and helped grow membership to more than 500. She is a Big Sister with Big Brothers Big Sisters Orange County and part of Big Impact.

Cindy Borella, Owner
Buff Bake, Irvine

Cindy Borella is a Big Sister with Big Brothers Big Sisters Orange County and part of Big Impact. She is an extremely respected and valued agent at Surterre Properties. Brandes closed over $50 million in sales in 2014. She is also an extremely respected and valued agent at Surterre Properties. Brandes closed over $50 million in sales in 2014.

Eve A. Brackmann Esq., Partner
Stuart Kane LLP, Newport Beach

As the only female partner at her law firm, Eve Brackmann serves as a leader in her profession and in her community. For the past 10 years, she has practiced business and real estate litigation for a variety of clients. As an active and successful business developer, Brackmann’s current book of business includes marquis clients such as New York real estate, a national footwear company and an international private jet company. She also handles litigation for clients such as real estate brokers, developers, landowners, banks, emerging growth companies and a national defense contractor. Despite her busy law practice, Brackmann also makes time for work-life balance, family and philanthropy.

Adrienne Brandes, Real Estate Agent
Surterre Properties, Newport Beach

Adrienne Brandes is an Irish immigrant who paid for graduate school at Chapman University by working as a Los Angeles police officer. Her hard work and dedication has led to her career as one of Orange County’s most successful real estate professionals. As a top real estate agent, she has now donated $1 million back to Chapman University. Her track record of satisfied clients, in-depth market knowledge, and ability to negotiate price that are among the top 1% of agents nationwide. She is also an extremely respected and valued agent at Surterre Properties. Brandes closed over $50 million in sales in 2014.

Penelope Bryan, Dean
Whittier Law School, Costa Mesa

Since her appointment as dean six years ago, Penelope Bryan has guided Whittier Law School through the greatest era of change in the school’s 49-year history. She reinforced Whittier Law School’s mission to bring greater diversity to the legal profession, and in 2014, the school was ranked by U.S. News and World Report as the most diverse law school in California, and the third most diverse in the nation. The school
just launched a bold new curriculum to give students more hands-on practical training, and received national acclaim for it. Bryan helped fundraise and build a state-of-the-art courtroom which brings the legal community to campus. She also formed a partnership with Orange County Coastkeeper to give law students environmental law experience while they help keep waterways clean. She has also improved the employment picture for recent graduates, and the number of students who enrolled last year increased.

Jane Buchanan, Chief Executive Officer
PAAMCO, Irvine

Jane Buchanan is co-founder and chief executive officer of PAAMCO, a global investment management firm based in Irvine, Calif. With offices in London and Singapore, along with three co-founders, Buchanan started the firm in 2000 and has grown it to $9.5 billion in assets under management, over $6 billion in assets under advisement and more than 130 employees globally. In addition to her responsibilities for overall business strategy and firm direction, Buchanan remains actively involved in the investment process as a member of the firm’s Investment Oversight Committee. Buchanan has been named to 50 Women in Hedge Funds, published by The Hedge Fund Journal and Hedgeco, in 2013, 2014 and 2015. She is also the recipient of 100 Women in Hedge Fund’s 2014 North American Industry Leadership Award.

Nicole Carrillo, Executive Vice President/Chief Financial Officer
Opus Bank, Irvine

Nicole Carrillo joined Opus Bank shortly after its inception, and in the ensuing four years, Opus has become one of the most dynamic and entrepreneurial commercial banks in the western region. With 58 offices on the West Coast and $5.1 billion in total assets as of Dec. 31, 2014, Opus is now the fastest growing bank in the Western region and amongst the fastest-growing of the nation’s 6,400 banks. While serving as chief accounting officer, Carrillo led teams in completing the valuations of two whole bank acquisitions, contributing significantly to Opus’ dynamic and rapid growth. Carrillo was promoted to chief financial officer in 2013 and led, with Opus’ CEO Stephen H. Gordon, Opus’ successful $80 million IPO in April 2014 and subsequent listing with NASDAQ. Her leadership and expertise have resulted in the creation of one of the nation’s powerhouse financial service brands in fewer than five years.

Paula Clarkson, Partner
Merhab Robinson, Jackson & Clarkson, Santa Ana

Paula Clarkson left a career with a reputable firm to develop her own line of business at Santa-Ana-based law firm, Merhab Robinson, Jackson & Clarkson in June 2013. She ventured into building her own business with the support of Mara Merhab Robinson to lend assistance with administrative office matters. Since that time, Clarkson has built an impressive business implementing technology tools and good business practices to manage and care for clients and their assets. Most of her clients are business owners and require unique care for their assets and appreciate the professional aspect and solid business principals of Clarkson’s office. She has created and documented processes and procedures to make sure that each client receives the time and attention detail required for handling a project as serious as estate planning. Her skills and her rapport with clients have been key factors in Clarkson building her practice by client and advisor referrals.

Rochelle Veturis Coles, Chief Executive Officer/Public Relations & New Media Strategist
Sister Act Media, Lake Forest

Rochelle Veturis Coles is the creator of the O.C. Social Media Summit and co-owner of Sister Act Media. Her consultancy works with entrepreneurs, high-level communicators, business and government organizations to get them up to speed with the “socialmediasphere” through seminars and private coaching. She’s been recognized as a Twitter Powerhouse by the Huffington Post, a Social Media Pioneer by the Orange County Register, and Orange County’s Queen of Twitter by OC Metro Business. Together with her sisters, Haley and Chelsey, she co-produced and hosted Entertainment Tonight, as well as various programs on ABC, CBS, FOX and CNN. Cullen decided to go back to her lifelong passion of painting after moving to Orange County. She turned her talents and ambitions into creating her art and making it a full-time career. Cullen’s work has been exhibited in many galleries and countless private collections in Orange County and across the country.

Tammi Sue Cooper, Vice President of Human Resources/Controller
Technologent, Irvine

Tammi Sue Cooper has been successful in helping build Technologent from 35 employees to more than 170, with over $200 million in sales. The company was founded in 2002 by The Gallaway Family. When Cooper arrived at Technologent in 2004, it was a startup; in her role, she has developed policies and procedures for the company to thrive and has acquired the talent to move it forward. She also has been negotiating with the banks for a line of credit, insurance carriers for liability, and benefit carriers for rates. Technologent is a leading provider of enterprise-class technology solutions for Fortune 1000 companies. The organization’s focus is on the data center infrastructure that forms the core of today’s IT environment, providing solutions and services that make organizations more agile, responsive and competitive.

Kristy Cueli, Founder
GypsetMermaid, Dana Point

Tammi Belcher and her partner, Kristy Cueli, have built a mobile fashion boutique that represents a new movement in fashion. They pioneered an idea to creatively re-invent a retail store front and have successfully done so in less than four months time. They legally established the company, obtained multiple business licenses and seller’s permits, designed the truck (inside and out), curated a collection of merchandise and created a cult following. GypsetMermaid is a wandering boutique that is liberated, inspired and on the go. This mobile fashion truck was inspired by the food truck trend, bohemian style and nomadic adventurers. Stepping onto GypsetMermaid is an unmatched experience – it is creating a new channel of retail. With each piece personally selected by Belcher and Cueli, the inventory and display is sophisticated, edgy and representative of a true GypsetMermaid. GypsetMermaid was recently the Fashion Feature in LOCALE Magazine with an interview of owners Cueli and Belcher, as style and beauty experts.

Nina K Cullen, Owner/Artist
Nina K, Aliso Viejo

Award-winning fashion designer turned artist Nina K Cullen is business born in Croatia. At an early age, she knew her passion was art and fashion. Cullen studied in Switzerland and in London at the American College of Design, earning a bachelor of fine arts degree. After completing her studies, she moved to New York and started her own clothing company. She became a known label after winning the Rising Star Award from the National Fashion Association. Her creations have appeared in films and on Entertainment Tonight, as well as various programs on ABC, FOX and CNN. Cullen decided to go back to her lifelong passion of painting after moving to Orange County. She turned her talents and ambitions into creating her art and making it a full-time career. Cullen’s work has been exhibited in many galleries and countless private collections in Orange County and across the country.

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2015 Women in Business Nominees

Cindy Galardi Culpepper, Chief Executive Officer/Chairman
Galeri Group Inc., Irvine
Cindy Galardi Culpepper began her role as chairperson and CEO of Galeri Group Inc. (GGI) in 2013, upon the passing of John Galardi, Culpepper’s relationship with the company was established in 1980 when she married John Galardi and spent nearly three decades living very closely to the brands that he was driving. During this time, Culpepper, who was a silent partner in the company until Galardi’s passing, had the unique opportunity to learn from and experience Galardi’s passing, challenges and triumphs firsthand. Early on, it had been decided that Culpepper would carry on the family legacy and lead the company in the event of Galardi’s passing. Galardi chose Culpepper as his successor of the 54-year-old company because he was confident in her ability as a leader, admired her hard-work ethic and dedication, and trusted that she would uphold the brand’s core values.

Jenn Curtis, Owner/Consultant
FutureWise Consulting, Irvine
Jenn Curtis is co-owner and a consultant at FutureWise Consulting, Orange County’s premier source for college counseling, test prep and tutoring services. She earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology from UCLA and her master’s degree in social work from USC. Curtis earned her Certificate in College Counseling from UCLA’s College Counseling program and is a member of the Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA). Her work in ADHD treatment research makes her well-qualified to assist students with disabilities in identifying numerous available resources. Curtis developed and teaches a college readiness program, and her research and writing have appeared in the Journal of the Society for the Study of Inclusive Education.

Laura Davick, Founder/Director of External Affairs
Crystal Cove Alliance, Newport Coast
When a planned luxury resort was scheduled to take over Crystal Cove in 1999, Laura Davick spearheaded the campaign to protect the park and founded the Crystal Cove Alliance (CCA). Today, CCA has become one of the most successful public-private partnership models in the history of California State Parks. This partnership has led to the renovation of 29 historic beachfront cottages and the development of historic education programs designed for the public. As director of external affairs, Davick continues to fight for sustainability of the Cove through the nonprofit’s mission of education, conservation and restoration. Her dedication and perseverance has brought remarkable success to Crystal Cove as she continues her legacy – remaining passionately committed to seeing that the final 17 cottages are restored for future generations.

Kina De Santis, Co-Founder/Director of Marketing
MotorMood, Orange
Kina De Santis is the co-founder of MotorMood car accessories. She is an advocate for the Orange County startup ecosystem and launched OC Tech HQ in March 2015. Kina De Santis is working on her own business and advocating for innovation and entrepreneurship. In addition, she married John Galardi and spent nearly three decades living very closely to the brands that he was driving. During this time, Culpepper, who was a silent partner in the company until Galardi’s passing, had the unique opportunity to learn from and experience Galardi’s passing, challenges and triumphs firsthand. Early on, it had been decided that Culpepper would carry on the family legacy and lead the company in the event of Galardi’s passing. Galardi chose Culpepper as his successor of the 54-year-old company because he was confident in her ability as a leader, admired her hard-work ethic and dedication, and trusted that she would uphold the brand’s core values.

Laura DeSoto, Senior Vice President, Products & Marketing
Experian, Costa Mesa
Laura DeSoto’s career with Experian began in 1997, and since that time she has had the opportunity to lead teams in a dynamic organization that values strategic thinking, innovation and leadership. In her time with the company, she has held seven different roles leading product management and marketing, synergy and innovation, strategic initiatives, sales, and is currently senior vice president, products and marketing for Experian’s Business Information Services. The variety of roles has kept her career challenging, as every one of these roles has entailed taking on key strategic positions with new teams of people and different operating cultures. However, all these businesses have had several common threads – high expectations from senior management for over achieving financial targets, demonstrating innovation in product development, outperforming competitors and creating client loyalty. Experian is a leading global information services company, providing data and analytical tools to clients around the world. The company helps businesses to manage credit risk, prevent fraud, target marketing opportunities and automate decision making.

Michelle Devine, National Account Director
Visit Newport Beach Inc., Newport Beach
Michelle Devine, national account director, at Visit Newport Beach has an extraordinary background in the hospitality industry, with a career that has spanned more than 20 years, including 10 years of leadership at two Newport Beach luxury properties. Devine is responsible for strategically positioning Newport Beach as the leading destination for meetings, conferences and events. She generates revenue for Newport Beach hotel properties and assists in creating memorable and successful events for her clientele. Devine has a proven track record managing multimillion dollar budgets, developing and managing effective business plans, as well as strategic plans to consistently generate new business.

Lauren Galo, Director of Marketing
Balboa Brands Inc., Irvine
Lauren Galo joined Juice It Up!’s parent company, Balboa Brands Inc., in 2008 at a time when Juice It Up! was primarily known as a smoothie concept. The past seven years, Galo has led the company’s comprehensive brand refresh that repositioned Juice It Up! as a healthy lifestyle brand and the first major chain to offer a full line of functional fresh-squeezed raw juices designed to fuel an active lifestyle. Through the calculated brand transition and the execution of a strategic marketing plan, Juice It Up! has achieved over 50% sales revenue increases in the last 24 months alone. Currently, Galo manages a marketing team that works continually to support sales initiatives which aim to ensure success at the more than 80 Juice It Up! locations nationwide. Last year, Juice It Up! was recognized as one of this year’s “Next 300 Franchise Chains,” ranked by Franchise Times.

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Tamara Devitt, Partner
Haynes & Boone LLP, Costa Mesa
Tamara Devitt joined the law firm Haynes & Boone LLP from a national labor and employment boutique, where she exclusively represented management, and also served as a regional managing partner. In her two years with Haynes and Boone, Devitt has represented numerous companies in wage and hour class actions, obtained partial decertification in a meal and rest period case, obtained summary judgment on behalf of a retail company in a disability discrimination and failure to accommodate case, and has advised and counseled employers on compliance, including hiring, leaves of absence and employee agreements. In addition, Devitt was recognized as a “Best Lawyer in America in Labor and Employment” for 2015 in an annual referral guide listing outstanding attorneys throughout the United States.

Lindsay Dickhout, Chief Executive Officer
Million Dollar Tan, Huntington Beach
Lindsay Dickhout started her company, Million Dollar Tan (MDT), right out of college. With a commitment to offering the highest-quality sunless tanning products available, Dickhout designed MDT’s own professional spray tanning system and sunless tanning solution. Within the first year, 100 salons and spas offered MDT professional spray tanning services, and by 2009, that number had grown to 2,000 locations in 10 countries. Dickhout soon expanded the business further to offer a full line of retail sunless tanning products available directly to the consumer. In March 2015, the complete Million Dollar Tan retail line will be sold in Nordstrom stores and on Nordstrom’s website.

Deborah Dickson, President
Smith Dickson, an Accountancy Corp., Irvine
As an accountant in the 1970s, Debbie Dickson was one of few women in the profession. Not letting that hold her back, Dickson went on to become one of the Big 5 firms for many years and then started her own CPA practice in the 1980s. While a risky endeavor, Dickson’s hard work and dedication paid off and led to the substantial firm that she
JOAN of HEART.

Joan Marcus-Colvin has spent most of her career, spanning nearly 25 years, helping individuals and families find their way into a home, or in the case of abused women and children, with her support of Interval House, helping to find their way out of a home, and into a safe one. Last year, despite a deeply tragic personal set-back, Joan was elected President of the Orange County Building Industry Association and launched several key initiatives including Complete Streets, Women in Home Building and Next Gen. We know what lies at the core of her existence, and we wish to share it with you – Joan gives more than she receives, and in that spirit, she is successful. This is our Joan of Heart, a selfless, fearless, beautiful leader of men and women, who inspires us everyday – to reach deeper, go further, to build what matters, and inspire the world around us.

Congratulations Joan!!
Your Fearless Leadership Inspires Us Every Day,
In Every Way.

Joan Marcus-Colvin
Senior Vice President, Sales, Marketing & Design, The New Home Company

NWHM.com
 owns today. As the founder and owner of Smith Dickson, Dickson has grown her CPA firm from a one-person practice with no formal office to a thriving company with high-level CPAs and accountants on staff. She grew the company to be a preeminent market leader in corporate tax, audit and trust/estate tax. In addition, she shaped one of the most well-known forensic litigation support and expert witness accounting teams in Southern California.

Diane Dillon, Senior Catering Manager
Hotel Irvine Jamboree Center, Irvine
Diane Dillon has been an integral member of the catering team at Hotel Irvine for more than 16 years. She has an undeniable enthusiasm for her job, a consummate focus and attention to detail when it comes to event planning, and her commitment to her guests is unwavering. Her clients return year after year knowing they can whole-heartedly depend on Dillon to take charge and make their event a success. Dillon’s passion for the industry is often not only by the hotel, but in her mentorship and relationships with her team members. Anyone who knows or has being near her can tell you that she is an exceptional personality. She creates an atmosphere of excellence that each of us can only hope to achieve and is known by her peers to have a heart of gold.

Catherine Doll, Chief Executive Officer
The Gilson Group, Irvine
Catherine M. Doll has over 20 years of corporate finance and accounting experience in both publicly and privately held companies. Doll has built a solid reputation as a valuable, trustworthy resource, helping clients with obtaining quantitative supporting data so they can make calculated, informed business decisions. Doll helps business clients remain knowledgeable about best practices in accounting by creating training programs. Over the past several years, she has worked with over 30 progressive businesses and propelled them to the top in business growth with shareholder value. The Gilson Group is known for providing best practices in finance and accounting, as well as a multitude of successful Sarbanes-Oxley compliance projects.

Jessica Dorman-Davis, Partner
Freeman Reeser & Haley LLP, Irvine
Jessica Dorman-Davis is a prominent leader in the Orange County estate planning community, consistently recognized by the industry and her peers. Since joining the law firm Freeman Reeser & Haley LLP’s Estate Planning Department in 2001, her leadership earned her an appointment as a member of the executive management committee (2012-2014). Her leadership extends beyond the firm both in the estate planning industry and Orange County community. She is the current president of the Orange County Estate Planning Council and serves on several non-profit organizations’ board of directors and committees. Dorman-Davis lectures frequently on estate and tax planning issues at conferences and for National Public Radio. She also teaches estate and tax planning techniques at the American Institute for Professional Studies at California State University, Long Beach and has taught for the Orange County Community Foundation. She is certified by the State of California as a specialist in Estate, Probate and Trust Law.

Antonia Edwards, Owner
Antonia Edwards Fine Art, Laguna Beach
Antonia Edwards has been curating galleries and procuring fine art for residential and commercial clients in the U.S and abroad since 1996. Having worked with some of today’s most respected artists and galleries throughout California, Edwards has developed a distinct eye for where art is, and where it is going next. Her passion for fine art is fueled by her infectious personality. She creates an atmosphere of excellence that each of us can only hope to achieve and is known by her peers to have a heart of gold.

Barbara Eidson, Community Relations Manager
Island Hotel Newport Beach, Newport Beach
Barbara Eidson has been a pillar in the Newport Beach community for more than 20 years. She is currently the dedicated community relations manager for Island Hotel Newport Beach. In her role, she directs all communications for the luxury property, monitoring community activities and maintaining crucial relationships with the local nonprofit, social and civic leaders. Over the years, Eidson has been associated with countless organizations, including Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation’s board of directors and advisory board, corporate advisory board for American Cancer of OC, Irvine Chamber board of directors, Children’s Bureau OC board, Girls Inc. Guild, American Heart Association, Working Wardrobes, and countless others. She was also featured in Sheri Geoffreys’ On Purpose book, with proceeds funding the On Purpose Scholarship, a fund of The Orange County Community Foundation.

Shannon Eusey, President
Beacon Pointe Advisors, Newport Beach
Starting at the ground floor in the financial services industry, Shannon Eusey’s hard work, tenacity and emphasis on her clients catapulted her through the ranks. Eusey structured a firm with a clear objective, prompting her to found Beacon Pointe Advisors. Thirteen years, six affiliate offices, 80 employees, 65 institutions, hundreds of high-net worth members and over more than $8 billion in assets under management, Beacon Pointe Advisors is consistently ranked as one of the largest independent advisory firms in the nation. In an industry heavily skewed toward the male gender, Beacon Pointe Advisors has become an exemplary firm in both its gender diversity and its mission of empowering female financial independence. Under Eusey’s guidance, Beacon Pointe Advisors is now more than 65% female, with women holding senior or executive positions in all departments of the firm. Eusey is also currently the top-ranked female advisor in the county according to Barron’s Top 100 Independent Wealth Advisors list for 2014.

Zareen Faiz, Chief Executive Officer
Arcadian at Also Assisted Living Memory Care, Aliso Viejo
Zareen Faiz has a passion for taking care of mentally disabled individuals and those with Alzheimer’s disease and dementia. In 1998, Faiz acquired her first home with six beds each for mental disability care. It was so fulfilling that later she acquired another 18-bed facility. As Faiz’s elderly mother began to need assistance, Faiz’s thoughts turned to care of the elderly and she acquired a six-bed center in Mission Viejo and later, an 84-bed assisted living dementia care facility in Aliso Viejo. Faiz’s believes that standing up for rights of people who are mentally challenged due to disability from birth or acquired later in life is the duty of all human beings. She believes that treating individuals with dignity and respect, and providing the quality of life everyone deserves should be the primary goal when you are in the assisted living field. Faiz is also the founder of the Downey Breast Diagnostic and Medical Clinic Inc., which she opened in 1986.

Massy Farzine, Founder/President
ESDI Inc., Newport Beach
Massy Farzine founded ESDI in 1987. Initially, Farzine specialized in set-up and management of turnkey executive suite operations for building owners as a means to alleviate vacant space in difficult markets. Over the years, she developed a strong track record of profitable operations and therefore of profitable real estate investments. Having created a niche in the industry, she is now recognized as an uncontested authority in the executive suite field by landlords and operators alike. She has worked with developers and executive suite operations nationwide, as well as internationally. Today, Farzine’s company has expanded its portfolio of activities to include divisions such as executive suite consulting, tenant representation, property management and leasing, as well as the purchase and sale of commercial real estate investments properties. She is also one of the co-founders of eTenantCare, a web-based tenant portal solution that supports commercial properties throughout the United States.

Trina Fleming, Vice President of Marketing & Communications
Women Helping Women, Men2work, Santa Ana
As vice president of marketing and communications for the nonprofit organization, WHW, Fleming directs the development and implementation of WHW’s strategic marketing and public relations activities. She oversees the shaping of WHW’s brand message, and she saw a way to bring a new approach to some standard PR practices. Eusey’s idea for Beyond Fifteen arose from her desire to break the silos between archaic PR methodologies and new social media. Eusey and Licano built the agency by bringing client awareness through transparency and education; and thus, establishing trust and more effective level of communication between clients and the agency. The growth of Beyond Fifteen can be attributed to Eusey’s client-first approach. While most agencies only report once a month to their clients, Beyond Fifteen clients receive weekly progress updates. While most agencies remain strictly tied to client scope of work, Eusey continues to offer services above and beyond initial scope—making sure clients are consistently happy with results.
management of WHW’s retail store, Déjà New. An active member of NAWBO-OC since 2007, Fleming brings a unique business perspective to her non-profit work. By thoughtful cultivation of resources, Fleming enables WHW to effectively leverage its non-tangible assets helping the organization to move toward their vision of seeing every client break the cycle of poverty and achieve long-term economic self-sufficiency through employment success.

**Melissa Fontes, President**
A&M Biomedical Inc., Laguna Beach
Melissa Fontes founded A&M Biomedical in 1994. A&M Biomedical provides process development, manufacturing, supply chain management and distribution services to a wide range of clients and industries including respiratory devices, sterilization process indicator devices, dental devices and ophthalmic devices. As president, Fontes has developed a knowledgeable and experienced team that shares her commitment in building quality into every stage of the manufacturing process. Fontes’s experience in the medical industry, both contract manufacturing and devices, provides a deep understanding of the regulatory responsibilities and liabilities faced by device makers. This experience has equipped A&M Biomedical to create production solutions that are not only efficient, but also meet or exceed the regulatory and quality requirements for customers. Fontes also formerly served as president of Passy-Muir; there, she built a successful team of RA/QA, operation specialists, clinical technicans, and executive management professionals and was responsible for production and regulatory compliance.

**Ashley Forman, Co-Founder**
Rusty Bear Media, Costa Mesa
Rusty Bear Media, a full-service marketing, event and public relations agency, was founded in 2012 by Ashley Forman and Katie Jongeward in Forman’s home in Corona del Mar. Fast-forward three years and they have a team of five with offices in Costa Mesa. With over 12 years combined experience in the communications industry, Forman and Jongeward are truly grateful to be where they are today. Their hard work is paying off as they now have clients in a wide range of industries from real estate, lifestyle, health, fitness and nonprofit to Fortune 500 companies. The passion they have for what they do is evident in their work. From throwing events for over 1,000 people, obtaining key coverage in local Orange County publications for their clients, running successful social media and advertising campaigns to designing marketing collateral, they have turned their agency into a one-stop shop for all things marketing.

**Shirin Forootan, Associate (Attorney)**
Call & Jensen, Newport Beach
For several years, Shirin Forootan has represented corporate clients in lawsuits filed by their employees. Her dedicated commitment to her clients has yielded excellent results both inside and outside of court. She has had class actions dismissed, individual actions dismissed and class certification denied. Outside of court, she has negotiated favorable settlements for employers and has convinced the Labor Commissioner to dismiss wage claims. Because she has demonstrated excellence in the practice of law, Forootan has been selected to Super Lawyers’ 2015 Southern California “Rising Stars” list, which is a distinction reserved for just 2.5% of attorneys in California. She currently serves as co-chair of both the Orange County Bar Association’s Mommy Esquire Committee and the Community Outreach Committee. She also serves as vice chair of Orange County United Way Women Looking Forward.

**Elyssa Fournier, Pastry Chef/Owner**
Mixed Bakery, Corona del Mar
Elyssa Fournier logged thousands of hours in the company of commercial ovens stretching from New York City to Southern California before deciding that the one kitchen she really wanted to bake out of was her own. Fournier trained for her career at the French Culinary Institute (now known as the International Culinary Center) in New York City, where she earned a degree in pastry arts. Following a stage under the watchful eye of Le Cirque’s pastry chef, Jacques Torres, and professional stints at New York bakeries Musette, Café Indulge and Le Pain Quotidien, Fournier and her husband, chef Yves Fournier, packed their bags and headed for Southern California. After designing and decorating gourmet wedding cakes for two years, she would spend five years as head pastry chef at Andrei’s Conscious Cuisine before launching her own bakery. Mixed Bakery draws on Fournier’s experience with French and American baking, specializing in tarts, muffins, cookies and French pastries.

**Sharon Friend, President/Mytotonologist**
Sharon Friend Myotonology LLC, Mission Viejo
In her boutique studio, Myotonologist Sharon Friend, takes years off of her clients’ appearances without surgery or injections by tightening and toning facial muscles. Over the past 20 years, Friend has earned national recognition for her

The Western National Group of companies proudly congratulates our own Laura Khouri, President of Western National Property Management, on her nomination for the 2015 Women in Business Award!
expertise in myotonology. She combines her health care training with esthetics to bring her clients cutting-edge facial rejuvenation services. Friend is often referred to as “the fitness trainer for faces.” In addition, she is certified in paramedical esthetics and is a board-certified physician with Southern California Permanente Medical Group. She works with law firms on a contract basis for a year, and in early 2010, they began to add Montage Legal Group is a nationwide network of experienced freelance attorneys. Frances Gadbois, former designer and co-founder of JudeFrances Jewelry, has partnered with her fashion forward, 21-year-old daughter, Charlotte, to form a classic, chic, multi-generational 14k and 18k gold jewelry line. Frances’s business savvy started at a very young age. Beginning with her modeling career at the age of 16, she has parlayed her love of fashion, design and creativity into three successful ventures. The thought of starting a company together had been on the forefront of Frances and Charlotte’s minds for many years. The relationship between this mother-daughter duo is truly admirable. Through Charlotte’s eyes, her mom is her role model exercising what it means to work hard and believe in yourself. With the loss Frances’s mother in March 2014, it seemed like an opportune time to create something in their loved one’s remembrance. The duo collaborated during their time in England and in turn, Sloane Street was born.

Eulynn Gargano, Head of Test Prep & Tutoring FutureWise Consulting, Irvine

Eulynn Gargano earned her dual bachelor’s degrees in English and philosophy from UCLA and pursued her master’s degree in education policy at NYU. As a mother of three, she understands the importance of college readiness as a lifestyle and is firmly committed to treating the test preparation process as a partnership among the student, parent, tutor and college counselor—all working toward the same goals of empowerment and success. Gargano is engaging and eloquent in her ability to empower students to achieve their best. She upholds the values of community and volunteerism serving on the board of directors for the Junior League, Career Advice Advisory Board of the Academy of Orangewood and looks forward to serving on the executive board of Tustin Memorial Academy. She also dedicates time to the admissions office, alumni programming and student mentorship programs for UCLACalifornia Lutheran University. Gargano is Orange County’s premier source for college counseling, test prep and tutoring services.

Erin Giglia, Co-Owner/Founder Montage Legal Group, Irvine

Montage Legal Group is a nationwide network of experienced freelance attorneys, all with impressive credentials from top law schools like Harvard Law School, Georgetown Law, and Columbia School of Law, and trained in prestigious law firms. Montage’s freelance attorneys opted out of the traditional law firm model in favor of career/life flexibility, and now use their training to assist law firms with high-level, substantive legal work on a project basis. Montage Legal Group was co-founded by Erin Giglia and Laurie Rowen. Giglia and Rowen met at Snell & Wilmer LLP, where they worked together as associates. After their daughters were born, the two decided to go out on their own and form contract attorneys. Giglia and Rowen worked for several law firms on a contract basis for a year, and in early 2010, they began to add similarly situated attorneys to their group. In just six years, Montage Legal Group has hand-picked approximately 100 freelance attorneys out of over 3,000 applicants.

Nancy Gin, M.D., Area Medical Director Southern California Permanente Medical Group, Anaheim

Dr. Nancy Gin has more than 23 years of medical expertise and leadership experience. She has been a board-certified physician with Southern California Permanente Medical Group-Orange County (SCPMG) since 1997 and served in many roles including director of internal medicine and physician leader at Kaiser Foundation Hospitals in Anaheim and Irvine, outpatient surgery centers, and 23 outpatient medical offices. She is responsible for quality of care, patient safety, budgets, service, access, strategic planning and regulatory compliance. Under Dr. Gin’s leadership, the SCPMG-Orange County delivers the finest healthcare in the world.

Lori Gladstone, Owner/Personal Shopper/Stylest Gladstone LC / Lifestyle + Concierge Services of Corona del Mar

Gladstone LC Lifestyle + Concierge caters to men and women who desire guidance with their styling, shopping, gift giving and wardrobe organizing needs. Founded by philanthropist Lori Gladstone in 2012, the company was designed to save people time while assisting them in looking and feeling their best. Based in South Orange County, Gladstone LC has become the partner of choice for busy executives, time-pressed stay-at-home moms and celebrities alike. Both Gladstone and her company have been featured in a variety of publications including Coast Magazine, Newport Beach Magazine, Laguna Beach Magazine, the OC Register and FabFitFun by Giuliana Rancic.

Cindy Goss, President Propel Business Solutions Inc., Missions Viejo

Cindy Goss is president of Propel Business Solutions Inc., a full-service branding and marketing business and came to it in 2007. After a successful, executive-level career in the technology, staffing and nonprofit sectors, Goss’s vision was to form an innovative marketing firm, with an emphasis on business development. In just over seven years, the firm now operates throughout California and specializes in corporate branding and messaging, website strategic and design, eMarketing and social media, and product launches for both profit- and nonprofit organizations. Under Goss’s leadership the firm has consistently achieved a 20% year-over-year growth for 20% and most notably continued this growth, during one of the nation’s most challenging economic climates. Propel Business Solutions “distills the essence of a company, creatively converging their unique competitive advantages and value and consistently drives new business opportunity.

Kathryn Grant, Chief Executive Officer CASA, Santa Ana

Kathryn Grant was a volunteer for 10 years, then a board member for four years before assuming the role of CEO of CASA four months ago. She was sought out for her strong business leadership, strategic thinking and passion for the cause. Grant was in the medical device business for over 20 years. She has managed international divisions for some of the world’s largest laser companies. While traveling the globe, she found time for her passion to volunteer on behalf of foster children. After a gap in leadership for many years, CASA was in need of a strategic business leader who could propel the organization to the next level, serve more children, be more visible in the community and show donors that CASA was the place to invest in. After four short months as CEO, Grant has helmed two fundraisers that have raised over $1 million for CASA and reenergized her staff.

Sue Grant, Founder/CEO OC Public Relations & The Literacy Project, Corona del Mar

Sue Grant founded OC Public Relations in 1996, but her vision and passion are beyond a charismatic leader and successful publicist. Carving one niche in nonprofits, she created the county’s authority on charity-event listings online and founded The Master Calendar of OC. The MCCOC was distributed nationwide earning her the “2001 Business Woman of Distinction Award” from the American Business Women’s Association. In 2001, Orange Coast magazine featured her in the “11 of The People Who Really Run The OC – The Power of PR” story. In 2009, after working on a new reading program with The Regents of the University of California, she founded The Literacy Project, serving over 3,500 at-risk kids by raising reading scores to 20% and most notably continued this growth, during one of the nation’s most challenging economic climates. Propel Business Solutions “distills the essence of a company, creatively converging their unique competitive advantages and value and consistently drives new business opportunity.

Jeanne Graves, Vice President – Human Resources Del Taco, Lake Forest

Building on the existing foundation, Jeanne Graves has led the charge to revitalize and further strengthen the human resources function at Del Taco. In her first year with the company, Graves and her team implemented and automated the employee benefit processes. She has been the driving force behind cloud-based technology. Along with continuous process improvement and streamlining of virtually all HR-related processes, Graves is currently working on a new project for Del Taco – People Matter HIRE. When completed, this new system and its associated processes will change the face of employee hiring and
onboarding at Del Taco, moving from the current paper process to a completely automated process with significant cost and time savings to the company. In addition, Graves has completely restructured the Human Resources Department, creating field-based HR positions which will spend 95% of their time in the field to support corporate locations.

Risa Groux, Holistic Nutritionist
Risa Groux Nutrition, Newport Beach

Risa Groux CN has built a holistic nutrition private practice from scratch, and sees people of all ages with a wide array of health concerns including, Crohn's disease, IBS and ulcerative colitis to a myriad of other health issues such as candida and cancer. Groux also works with all different types of people, from those looking to lose weight to professional athletes. Whole food cleansing is something that Groux believes in, and she even produes her own custom cleanse called The Newport Beach Cleanse. Groux also writes and produces a nutrition show featured on ChazzLive and authors articles in local magazines.

Jamie Gwen, TV Chef/Radio Host/Certified Sommelier/Lifestyle Expert
Tastebud Entertainment Inc., Newport Beach

Jamie Gwen is a celebrity chef, certified sommelier, lifestyle expert and four-time cookbook author who can be seen stirring up something delicious on television, on her syndicated radio show and in print from coast-to-coast for more than a decade. Her victory on the Food Network’s Cutthroat Kitchen and her recent role as a judge for Fox TV’s Master Chef has brought recent acclaim to Gwen’s place in the culinary world. Gwen can be seen on LA’s number one morning show on KTLA Channel 5 and on HSN, and her recipes are featured on Microsoft’s worldwide Food & Drink app, seen by over 200 million Windows 8.1 users. Gwen’s most recent cookbook entitled Good Food For Good Times 2 is now available as an eBook and has been featured on The Talk, E! News Live with Harvey & Sonny and her sizzling restaurant reviews can be found in Modern Luxury’s Riviera magazine.

Cynthia Hackler, Owner/Partner
Cynthia Hackler Law, San Clemente

Cynthia Hackler is the founder and managing partner of Cynthia Hackler Law, a business law firm. She launched her practice with the goal of giving the highest-quality personalized legal advice to clients who own small businesses — in both their personal and professional lives. In just the 12 months since opening its doors in March 2014, Cynthia Hackler Law has grown to be a five-attorney law firm, with over 150 clients. Small business owners are group that has historically been in the greatest need of legal advice — as they navigate the complex legal world of launching a new business and growing it. However, because of the costs of starting a new business, it is a group that needs to get great value from their legal counsel. Cynthia Hackler Law provides excellent legal work that is personalized for small business owners at rates that small business owners can afford.

Nicole Hanriot, Founder/Designer
Beach Riot, Costa Mesa

Nicole Hanriot launched Beach Riot in 2012 after moving on from her successful licensed business with Tavik Swimwear. Within the first year, Beach Riot made a significant impact in the swim world, placing goods with nearly 200 accounts from stylish swimwear boutiques to leading fashion retailers such as Neiman Marcus, Nasty Gal, Revolve and Free People. Along with the major retail placements, Hanriot’s designs were featured by many of the most respected fashion bloggers, leading fashion magazines such as Elle and Vogue, showcased in the Mercedes Benz Swim Fashion Week, and received prominent placement the Sports Illustrated Swimwear Issue. The year 2015 has been another exciting year for Beach Riot, with the company recently winning the coveted Surf Industry Manufacturers Association’s “Swim Brand of the Year” Award.

Sima Hassani, Managing Principal
Westgroup Designs, Irvine

In 1989, Sima Hassani founded Westgroup Designs, a multi-disciplinary architecture, planning and interior design firm. Her original vision was to build a design firm with a focus on enriching the lives of the people it serves. Just over 25 years later, with several million square feet of buildings and interior environments created, this vision has continued to bloom, along with her innovative development style and commitment to excellence. The firm continues to provide progressive, responsive and sustainable design to the educational, civic and corporate sectors. Hassani has successfully navigated through an industry, dominated by male leadership, for more than 25 years, building the firm with diligent and purposeful action to gain long-term relationships with both staff and clients. Her commitment to excellence in leadership led to her receiving the first OC Global “Woman of the Year” Award in 2013.

Amanda Heer, Professional Floral Designer
Fantasy Floral Design, San Juan Capistrano

Amanda Heer’s brooch bouquets are an everlasting piece of art, created with treasured memories and family heirlooms. Heer is the original creator of the Brooch Bouquet and formed her first bouquet for her own wedding. Brooch Bouquets have become a worldwide hit since her wedding bouquet was featured in The Talk, E! News Live with Harvey & Sonny, Real Housewives of Beverly Hills, Access Hollywood, and her sizzling restaurant reviews can be found in Modern Luxury’s Riviera magazine.

Rebecca Hall, Chief Executive Officer
Idea Hall, Costa Mesa

Sensing a convergence in marketing disciplines in 2003 with the digital revolution, Rebecca Hall sought to establish a fully integrated marketing agency that would combine creative design, interactive web and mobile services, and public relations under one roof. In doing so, her firm Idea Hall is now one of the most in-demand branding, marketing and public relations firms in Orange County, ranked No. 2 on the Orange County Business Journal’s Best PR Firms List in 2014. Now 12 years old, Idea Hall has a prestigious client list including: The Irvine Company, Sabal Financial Group, Kaiser Permanente Orange County, StorQuest Self Storage, Cox, Castle & Nicholson, Buchanan Street Partners, Bixby Land Company and many more.

Monica Z. Hanna, Managing Partner
Michelman & Robinson LLP, Irvine

Monica Z. Hanna has been managing partner of Michelman & Robinson LLP’s (M&R’s) Orange County office for 15 years. As a key shareholder, and the only woman on M&R’s executive committee, she plays a pivotal role in helping to implement M&R’s long-term policies, strategies and goals. She has been integral in M&R’s maturation from a two-person partnership to a national law firm with 65 attorneys in California and New York. She is chair of the Women Attorneys of Michelman & Robinson initiative and is a member of the firm’s Recruiting and Diversity Committees. Hanna has served as lead counsel in numerous high stakes class action matters, obtaining several precedent-setting victories and landmark published decisions. She is a foremost authority on class action defense matters. This past year, she led a team that took the Daily Journal’s Top Litigation Verdict for averting $270 million in damages for her client in Orange County Superior Court.

Webster University Congratulates our Alumnus
Trina Fleming, Women Helping Women/Men2Work

Trina Fleming, Women Helping Women/Men2Work
photographed and displayed on the web. Brides from Brazil to London and Australia have sent her their most cherished family heirlooms to create the bouquet of their dreams for their big day. The bouquets are handmade and designed with love and each one tells a unique story. Brooch Bouquets are also completely eco-friendly, being made from repurposing old brooches, rings, pendants, jewelry and anything else close to a person’s heart. Whether it’s a grandfather’s watch, mother’s locket or grandmother’s necklace, anything can be used to create an everlasting bouquet.

Marla Brower Hemmel, President
BHE Management Corp., Laguna Niguel
Marla Hemmel founded BHE Management Corp. in 1993 to provide professional, personalized association management. BHE Management now manages approximately 35 prestigious, high-end communities in Orange County and works with some of the county’s most respected builders. Hemmel designed and implements numerous proprietary programs and systems to ensure the most effective management of Class A properties. Hemmel, a licensed real estate broker, is deeply involved in the industry and has received numerous awards and accolades for her work from CACM, CAI, BIA, and IREM.

Heidi Hendy, Managing Principal
H. Hendy Associates, Newport Beach
Heidi Hendy, along with her business partner, Anna Holt, has turned a small accounting practice into what is now ten business entities, including founding the financial services company, Five Star Companies, Irvine. Hendy leads as president. In Holt’s position, she helps set the strategic direction of the firm, which has expanded into a multimillion dollar entity. This includes transforming their initial financial services company and life insurance into a multimillion dollar entity. This company is now 36 years of experience in Orange County and a passion for keeping firms ahead of the curve when it comes to constructive innovations in office design. Hendy is passionate about mentoring up-and-coming leaders at H. Hendy Associates, sharing how actions turn into results to empower an entrepreneurial spirit in each employee.

Dana Heyde, Partner
Cottle, Keen, Lopiccolo & Heyde, Orange
Dana Heyde is a partner and owner of Cottle Keen Lopiccolo & Heyde in 2014. She has expanded the practice that Cottle and Keen began in Orange more than 25 years ago through her commitment to serving the Orange County community. Heyde is devoted to assisting families through family law issues such as dissolution, child support and custody, division of assets, Heyde prides herself on providing personalized attention to each client and tailoring each case to suit their needs. Heyde is an active participant in NAWBO, and is a member of the marketing committee. Heyde also holds a position on the board of the Orange County Women Lawyers Association and is a member of the Orange County Chamber of Commerce.

Anna Holt, Chief Operating Officer
Five Star Companies, Irvine
Along with her business partner, Anna Holt has turned a two-person financial services company specializing in health and life insurance into a multimillion-dollar entity. This includes transforming their initial financial services company into what is now ten business entities, including founding the AAAFL - A Professional Football League, for which she also acts as president. In Holt’s position, she helps set the tone for all of the organization’s activities, not just as the players on the field, but their financial and personal education off the field as well. The average career life of a professional football player is 3.5 years. It is Holt’s vision to make sure that during that time, all players in the AAAFL get a firm education in personal finance, are fully insured to protect themselves and their families and that they spread their goodwill throughout the communities they serve.

Mitra Hooshmand, Chief Executive Officer/Founder
Mixx Yoga, Newport Beach
Mitra Hooshmand is an author and CEO of Mixx Yoga. Combining her passion for yoga with her expertise in neuroscience, Hooshmand developed a unique exercise routine and experience called Mixx Yoga. Hooshmand started offering Mixx Yoga while working weekdays and weekends at her neuroscience lab at University of California, Irvine. She later founded the company Mixx Yoga in 2012, and extended the classes to UCI Chancellors’ Club Event Center, inspiring even more people to cultivate their health. In less than one year, she grew the company to offer four packed classes at UCI, and have an active presence in a number of CrossFit boxes across the LA area, and entered a collaboration with Australia’s leading active wear company, Lorna Jane. She opened the first Mixx Yoga studio in 2014 to share the experience with everyone outside the UCI community.

Shay Hughes, Chief Operating Officer
Hughes Marino, Irvine
As chief operating officer of Hughes Marino, Shay Hughes manages the day-to-day operations of the firm and plays a key role in all aspects of business strategy, including human resources, marketing and client relations. Hughes’s creativity and family style approach to business management have been integral in shaping Hughes Marino’s corporate culture during the company’s expansion throughout California, and growing the firm into the industry leader that it is today. In addition to her intuitive direction that the Hughes Marino brand remains free so everyone can have access, and its purpose is to serve as a catalyst for change and an inspiration to its readers.

Jo-E Immel, Vice President
Snyder Langston, Irvine
Jo-E Immel is vice president, business development, for Snyder Langston, one of Southern California’s largest and most-respected builders. She brings a passion for developing and managing relationships with her clients to this role, as well as direct responsibility for the public relations, marketing and business development functions of the company’s three divisions that include Snyder Langston, Optym and SL Residential. She is a significant part of the company’s succession planning having been named on one of the three next owners of the company. As an organization, Snyder Langston’s notable projects/clients include Irvine Apartment Communities, Shea Properties and Hoag Health Center, among others.

Michele D. Johnson, Office Managing Partner
Latham & Watkins, Costa Mesa
Michele Johnson plays a lead role advising clients in high-stakes cases, including the closely watched hostile bid for Allergan Inc. In an unfolding during the past year, a go-to litigator for numerous companies, boards of directors, executives and financial institutions, Johnson advises on cutting-edge issues of critical corporate and financial significance, as well as serves as a trial leader roles within Latham and in the community. Johnson is also a rising star – named to firm’s global executive committee in 2015, she recently served as the office managing partner’s Orange County office. She is deeply involved in numerous community, including the United Way, Tocqueville Society, and is
dedicated to providing pro-bono legal services to the underserved in both the Los Angeles and Orange County communities.

Katie Jongeward, Co-Founder
Rusty Bear Media, Costa Mesa

Rusty Bear Media, a full-service marketing, event, and public relations agency, was founded in 2012 by Katie Jongeward and Ashley Forman in Forman's home in Corona del Mar. Fast-forward three years and they have a team of five with offices in Costa Mesa. With over 12 years combined experience in the communications industry, Jongeward and Forman are truly grateful to be where they are today. Their hard work pays off as they now have clients in a wide range of industries from real estate, lifestyle, health, fitness and nonprofit to Fortune 500 companies. The passion they have for what they do is evident in their work. From throwing events for over 1,000 people, obtaining key coverage in local Orange County publications for their clients, running successful social media and advertising campaigns to being a driving force in the community, they have turned their agency into a one-stop shop for all things marketing.

Linda Joseph-Turek, Owner
Silver Moon Photography, Huntington Beach

Linda Joseph-Turek founded Silver Moon Photography in 2009, moving to her first love after 10 years in the corporate world as a relocation specialist. As a former nature and wildlife photographer, she taught through the Yellowstone and Glacier to focus. Joseph-Turek spoke at conferences hosted by the Fuji Talent Team, the New England Camera Club Council and the North American Nature Photography Association. Silver Moon specializes in commercial photography, helping business owners connect with their target audience by giving them a face the world can see. Joseph-Turek continues to tutor individuals in photography and teach business owners how to shoot better photos for their blogs. In the community, Joseph-Turek belongs to the Orange County chapter of NAWBO and the Make It Happen chapter of BNI. As NAWBO-OC’s member services committee chair, she writes marketing materials, committee reports and fills in wherever needed.

Patty Juarez, Regional Vice President
Wells Fargo Commercial Banking, Orange

Patty Juarez started her 18-year career at Wells Fargo joining the company right out of college. She was accepted to the bank’s highly regarded Credit Management Training Program. Upon graduation, she joined the Santa Clara Valley office, which focused on doing business with technology companies in the Silicon Valley. After four years, she was promoted to credit manager of her office, which was over $1.2 billion in commitments. Juarez’s hard work resulted in her promotion to senior vice president and lined her up to run her own office in the near future. Juarez embarked upon this journey in 2010. She was asked to run a new commercial banking office in Anaheim. She has staffed and grown that office at unseen rates in the industry. Juarez also promotes and celebrates diversity in her workplace by ensuring her office environment is inclusive and welcoming. She also supports her community through her comprehensive involvement and extensive board service in several community organizations.

Pamela Jung, Healthcare Talent & Workforce Solutions Group Leader
Workforce Solutions Group, Foothill Ranch

Pamela Jung, and a partner, created Workforce Solutions Group in 2001 with a primary focus on direct hire placement across all business sectors. A few years later in response to the high demand for healthcare employees, she created HealthCare as a separate brand dedicated to the health care market. HCT operates as its own entity under the WSG group of companies. The years 2001 to 2007 saw tremendous growth for the organizations with an all-time revenue high of $3.5 million. Then, the economy took a downturn. Jung cut operating expenses, re-organized loans with banks, and was forced to survive on a cash-only basis as all credit lines and credit cards were cut or frozen. In order to turn around the company, Jung decided to focus primarily in the health care market as she felt it was recession proof. The company has now grown to over $19 million with a 60+ employees and offices in OC, LA and Northern California.

Melinda Morgan Kartsonis, Agency Principal
Morgan Marketing & Public Relations, Irvine

Melinda Morgan Kartsonis has grown Morgan Marketing & PR, founded in 1991, to an amazing team of tenured public relations professionals. Today, Morgan Marketing has built a stellar reputation as a PR leader in the consumer space, specializing in luxury, retail, restaurant and hospitality. In the office, Kartsonis has created a creative and energetic work environment for her employees who she supports with generous bonuses, excellent benefits, such as a 401K program and a fully-funded employee profit-sharing program. Under Kartsonis’s leadership, the agency has developed a competitive position with a roster of stellar local, regional and national long-term client relationships including Wienserschnitzel, which Morgan Marketing has represented for 20 years. The impressive agency roster also includes clients Del Taco, Lugano Diamonds, Juice It Up!, Pleiogy Pizzeria, Hawaiian Host, Mauna Loa and Philly’s Best Cheesesteaks.

Pamela Jung, Chief Executive Officer
Manna Kadar Cosmetics, Laguna Niguel

Manna Kadar, a story of beating the odds. Having been raised in a community of drive-by shootings, home invasion robberies, and where the prospect of college and success were remote, Kadar rose beyond all of this and began her entrepreneurial career by opening her first cosmetics store at the Brea Mall. Over six years, Kadar expanded this to a chain of seven stores while going to USC full time. Ultimately, she sold the chain in 2002, but her passion for the beauty industry did not wane and she later opened a chain of salon and spas, which she still owns today. In 2011, Kadar pursued her dream of starting her own cosmetics line, Manna Kadar Cosmetics (MKC). Some of the highlights of MKC include being featured on Good Morning America and The Ellen Show. MKC has received countless awards and has been chosen as one of 10 brands to be featured at the prestigious Cosmoprof Discovery Beauty.
Lyn Kennedy, Chief Executive Officer/Administrator/Founder OC Hospice, Tustin

Four years ago, Lyn Kennedy’s dream of owning a hospice company was almost shattered. Having spent the prior couple of years finding an investor, her first investor abandoned her midstream. Undaunted, she went right back to the search for a replacement investor. Despite these setbacks, Kennedy overcame these obstacles to form OC Hospice in 2012. OC Hospice would not be the reality it is today if it wasn’t for the drive, dedication, and ambition to excellence that Kennedy has single-handedly brought to the project, which is now a fully operating hospice company. Kennedy founded OC Hospice with a history in hospice and 15 years of experience in senior housing, where she won the Pinnacle Award with Marriott Senior Living.

Shannon Kennedy, Regional President – Southern California BNY Mellon Wealth Management, Newport Beach

Shannon Kennedy was named president of BNY Mellon Southern California Wealth Management, Newport Beach. Kennedy oversees $3 billion in assets under management and manages 41 staff supporting clients with diverse needs and goals. Kennedy has grown brand awareness by promoting her staff and herself in community involvement. She has nominated her portfolio managers for local not-for-profit investment committees and contributed to the company’s Southern California Wealth Management Community Involvement Program.

Maureen Khamsi, Vice President of Marketing & Operations Strategic Medical, Newport Beach

Maureen Khamsi is vice president of marketing and operations at Strategic Medical. In this capacity, she oversees marketing and operations for three medical imaging facilities. Khamsi was a key contributor in helping the company redefine its position. She’s been part of the sea change Strategic Medical recently underwent as it found ways to stay in business, and ultimately emerge a market leader. Under her direction, in less than 18 months, Khamsi’s efforts have resulted in the addition of $2+ million in incremental revenue for the company. Her nearly 10-year career in and knowledge of the radiology sector has contributed to Khamsi’s success at Strategic Medical. Khamsi is also a mother, wife, and athlete, who earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in social science from Chapman University. She is a native of Orange County and engaged in community involvement efforts, always seeking ways to enhance and give back.

Laura Khouri, President Western National Group, Irvine

Laura Khouri began her work with Western National Group in 1985 as a “Gail Friday,” and has held management positions of increasing responsibility with the firm during her 30+ year tenure. Prior to taking on her current role as President of Western National Property Management in March 2010, Khouri created the Risk Management Department and founded the ancillary income company, NAWBO-OC, which served as its first president and previously held positions with the company as senior vice president; vice president, human resources; and vice president, operations. Western National is among the largest multifamily property management companies in the Western United States, with more than 24,500 apartment units in more than 171 locations throughout California, Nevada and Utah. As president, Khouri is responsible for leading a team of over 800 real estate professionals supervising a portfolio of assets owned by Western National Group, as well as third-party clients.

Debbie Knight, Director of Business Development Platinum Resource Group Inc., Irvine

After a long and successful career as a finance executive, Debbie Knight switched gears to director of business development at Platinum Resource Group, a professional-level boutique staffing firm based in Irvine. Knight started at Platinum Resource Group with no previous sales or account management experience, yet she has been able to help PRG grow exponentially since joining the team in 2011. Knight has gained 38 clients, and helped place well over 100 candidates in her position. She has made these remarkable strides, despite a lack of experience, through an in-depth hands-on and collaborative approach to interim staffing. In her spare time, Knight is an active volunteer in the Orange County community. She serves on the boards of Financial Executive International (FEI) as vice president of professional development and board president of WISEPlace.

Layla Lameijer, Co-Founder/Marketing/Operations Director MySlate, Costa Mesa

Layla Lameijer is a marketer with an entrepreneurial heart. Currently, she oversees marketing and operations at MySlate, the student job matcher that matches student career profiles with criteria set by employers. Before moving to California to attend Chapman University, Lameijer lived in the Netherlands and Spain. Eager to get started in her career, she took on an internship in The Netherlands where she sharpened her skills by completing the Google Adwords Certification, the Facebook Studio Edge program and the Hubspot Inbound Marketing Certification. Her grit pushed herself to learn C++, HTML, JavaScript and Adobe Indesign simply for enrichment. While working on her bachelor’s degree, she began looking for a method to apply her marketing knowledge, and co-founded MySlate in Jan. 2014. MySlate matches students to employers, allowing for an immediate connection between qualified and interested candidates. Lameijer is quickly being recognized as an entrepreneur to watch.

Enlia Lawal, Principal E-Legal Document Preparation Inc., Irvine

Enlia Lawal is a registered legal document assistant for E-Legal Document Preparation Inc., providing affordable support to the public for a range of services including the preparation and filing of divorce and related documents to wills and trusts. Lawal is a notary public and also provides overflow support to attorneys. In the developmental stages of E-Legal, Lawal was invited to a NAWBO-OC event by Marcia Evans of Farmers & Merchants Bank. It proved to be a pivotal occasion and the resulting membership has yielded immediate involvement and the opportunity to contribute with preserving the important bond between NAWBO-OC, its affiliates and corporate partners. NAWBO-OC affiliates and supporters revered at the Annual Affiliates Mixer, encouraging community connectivity, networking and rewarding interaction.

Lindsay Lawrence, Senior Vice President Commercial Deposits Executive Umpqua Bank, Newport Beach

Lindsay Lawrence has served as the senior vice president, commercial deposit executive for Umpqua Bank (through their acquisition of Sterling/Argent Bank) since 2013. She has driven strategic change for the bank and is responsible for the design and build-out of the specialty deposit, public funds and commercial deposits production and operation departments at the bank. Under her vision and leadership, and amidst a merger, she has put together an incredible team that has experienced unprecedented growth and has become a real player in this market segment, responsible for over $2.2 billion of deposits. Lawrence operates out of the bank’s Newport Beach location and has worked tirelessly to establish Umpqua Bank’s presence in the Southern California market, all while playing wife and mother to two kids under three.

Susan Levinstein, Partner HMWC CPAs & Business Advisors, Tustin

After being in a leadership position in her university’s accounting honor fraternity, Beta Alpha Psi, Susan Levinstein was persuaded to join the tax department at PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC) in Los Angeles. After meeting her husband, she relocated to South Florida and continued to work for PWC. In 1993, Levinstein moved back to California and joined the Orange County firm, HMWC CPAs & Business Advisors, as the department manager of tax. In 1997, she was asked to head up the new HMWC CPAs & Business Advisors, as the department manager of tax. In 2010, she was asked to head up a new Complete Financial Office Solutions (CFOS) department, which doubled in size under her leadership. In 2011, Levinstein was promoted to partner at the firm. She has helped grow HMWC from a company with only 12 employees to the 50-plus employee organization it is today, driving it to rank as the No. 14 accounting firm in Orange County.

Jenna Lobos, Founder/Owner BeautyMark Organics, Corona del Mar

Taking a leap of faith and following her heart, Jenna Lobos left her successful career as a mortgage representative in order to discover her true passion and talent. Lobos gained a new path when she re-signed with a modeling agency at the age of 35. This sparked a newfound feeling of empowerment, motivating her to share this feeling with other women and start an organic airbrush tanning business. Simultaneously, Lobos went on to get her nutritionist license under the umbrella of holistic health. This eventually inspired her to create a tangible product combining her two passions of beauty and health, BeautyMark Organics. BeautyMark is a skincare line that is 100% all-natural, paraben-free, vegan and can be found at her boutique and online. She authored her first book, Love Your Body, Love Your Life, in 2014, furthering her message of health and beauty from the inside out.

Pernille Lopez, Co-Founder/Life Designer Good Life Designed, Long Beach

Pernille Lopez is the former CEO of IKEA North America and chief HR officer of the company’s 130,000 employees worldwide. After a 20+ year executive career with one of the world’s most well-known brands (including two years of commuting between the U.S. and Denmark) Lopez realized that her dream career had a price, and she...
Marcus-Colvin has provided an integral senior leadership role in taking The New Home Co. from a privately held company to a publicly traded homebuilder in Jan. 2014. She helped grow The New Home Co.’s revenue in 2014 to $150 million, an increase of 80% from the previous year. Having recently been installed as president of the Building Industry Association/Orange County Chapter in Nov. 2014, Marcus-Colvin is only the third woman to hold this influential position in the homebuilding industry organization. In 2012, Marcus-Colvin was named the honoree of the prestigious B.J. Stewart Women’s Achievement Award by the BIA OC.

Kathryn Marino, President of HAUTEOC Inc./OC Fashion Week, Monarch Beach

Kathryn Marino is president of Orange County Fashion Week, a division of luxury travel agency and destination management group HAUTEOC Inc. that focuses on the development, production, and distribution of fashion shows, television shows, travel incentives and digital video offerings. In 2013, Marino founded the OC Fashion Council and its advisory board comprised of buyers and industry retail owners. Prior to becoming the owner of OC Fashion Week, Marino launched HAUTEOC TRAVELER in January 2010. As president of destination management group, she was responsible for all aspects of the agency’s incentive tours and corporate travel efforts which later expanded to financing Orange County Fashion Week from three days to seven twice a year. Before OCFW, Marino served as an analyst for organizations such as Freedom Communications; Walt Disney; Anaheim Angels; Mighty Ducks; Fox; UPN; Unvision and San Diego news station, KUSI television.

Doris Mattingly, Director of Engineering at Lantronic’s Irvine office has been a leader in Lantronic’s engineering team for nearly 10 years, currently serving as director of product and test engineering. In this capacity, she provides leadership, management, technical vision and direction, guidelines and process management functions for the company’s complete M2M/IoT (Internet of Things) offerings — products, services and solutions. Mattingly is an integral part of Lantronic’s cross functional engineering, product development, operations and marketing teams. She plays a critical role in ensuring every new product, feature and function match the defined product and market requirements, from initial scope through detailed design and production.

Alicia Maciel, Executive Director at The Prentice School, Santa Ana

Since May 2013, with the introduction of Alicia Maciel as the new executive director of the Prentice School, the school has undergone unprecedented change. The new energy and expertise that Maciel has introduced to Prentice, coupled with the wealth of experience and strong legacy that has been built at Prentice over its 29-year history creates excellent, fertile ground for the school to thrive. Maciel’s unwavering commitment to education and strong leadership abilities have enabled her to garner the support of the 40 faculty and staff members to engage in process and program improvements that are positioning the school for operational efficiency and long-term sustainability. Maciel served a two-year term on the Brea Olinda Unified School District Board of Education where her leadership contributions enabled the district to carry out some of the most notable actions in its history, such as the largest sale of a real estate property for $25 million.

Azucena Maldonado, Founder/President at Latina Golfers Association, Anaheim

“Life dedicated to golf” is not typically how nominations for the Orange County Business Journal Women in Business Awards begin. However, Azucena Maldonado’s dedication to the sport is actually a way to open up a world of opportunity to women. Maldonado founded the Latina Golfers Association (LGA) in 2008 after attending a charity golf event and realizing that women, particularlyLatinas, were completely missing and not realizing the significant business benefits of the golf culture. From that day, she has single-handedly grown the LGA to more than 1,200 members — all of whom enjoy the LGA’s lessons, clinics and outings — and started Golf in the Park for inner city youth. She is now expanding the business by forming a nonprofit dedicated to young women, Latina Links, and responding to intense interest, starting the Latino Golf Club for men as well as women.

Joan Marcus-Colvin, Senior Vice President, Marketing & Design at The New Home Co., Aliso Viejo

Joan Marcus-Colvin currently serves as the senior vice president of sales, marketing and design for The New Home Co. She directs all marketing efforts, sales management and design studio operations and is responsible for brand management throughout the organization. Since its founding six years ago, Marcus-Colvin has provided an integral senior leadership role in taking The New Home Co. from a privately held company to a publicly traded homebuilder in Jan. 2014. She helped grow The New Home Co.’s revenue in 2014 to $150 million, an increase of 80% from the previous year. Having recently been installed as president of the Building Industry Association/Orange County Chapter in Nov. 2014, Marcus-Colvin is only the third woman to hold this influential position in the homebuilding industry organization. In 2012, Marcus-Colvin was named the honoree of the prestigious B.J. Stewart Women’s Achievement Award by the BIA OC.

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testing and analysis. In short, the role embodies the mantra “the buck stops here” – senior management relies on Mattingly and her team to ensure every product out the door meets exceptionally high quality standards, both for the company and according to regulatory bodies and global certification standards. Lantronix Inc is a global provider of smart networking and communications solutions for machine-to-machine applications.

Jennifer McCasland, Managing Partner
Vaco Orange County, Irvine

Although Jennifer McCasland began her career as a certified public accountant, it wasn’t until she launched Vaco Orange County nine years ago, that she knew she had found her true passion. Jacksonville-based Vaco LLC involved in the day-to-day operations of regularly placing more than 100 senior executive consultants in accounting and finance projects, but she also manages the business in the technology, financial, and administrative divisions of the firm. In the last year, the team has doubled in size and the company has expanded to introduce new lines of business. Through McCasland’s leadership, Vaco Orange County has also introduced a mentoring program at the firm to guide young, new talent to long-term success within the company. McCasland now watches the strongest accounting, financial, IT and administrative professionals with the unique project and permanent needs of clients.

Nicole McMackin, President
Irvine Technology Corp., Irvine

Nicole McMackin has been with the Irvine Technology Corporation (ITC) for more than 11 years. Under McMackin’s strong leadership, ITC opened eight new offices on a national level. She established and developed new business relationships and grew key accounts by providing quality, cost-effective contract staff and in-house solutions to support the end client. She is also credited with the establishment and development of a strategic sales and delivery plan that increased revenue and net profits by 92%. After working with the company for four years, McMackin was promoted to managing partner and is now in the office as president. She is now responsible for overall management and operations of providing customized business solutions to both internal and external clients. Furthermore, she oversees all internal operations, brand strategy/development, strategic planning and implementation, negotiates all new contracts, and oversee all hiring of sales and recruitment staff to include ITC’s India operations. She also currently holds total P&L responsibility in the United States and Canada.

Janet Michels, Division Vice President/General Manager
Computerized Vehicle Registration (CVR), Huntington Beach

Janet Michels has spent more than 25 years running various businesses within ADP, managing businesses during periods of growth and shrinkage, and always leaving them better in terms of associate engagement, profitability and client satisfaction. She approaches running large organizations as a servant leader, being of service to her employees, clients and the community. Most recently, she joined CDK Global to run CVR, a $100-million business which provides vehicle registration and title services to automotive dealers in 23 states. Throughout Michels’s career, she has also focused on mentoring others as they navigate their career “lattice” and led ADP’s Executive Women’s Leadership Network as a better representation of women in the senior ranks of the organization. The strategy to accomplish this was threefold: networking with peers and senior executives for exposure, mentoring to develop the next generation of leaders and philanthropy with a focus on women’s issues.

Yuri Mikulka, Partner
Manatt, Phillips & Phillips LLP, Costa Mesa

Yuri Mikulka has nearly 20 years of experience representing Fortune 500 companies to startups in litigation nationwide. She leads high-stakes patent, trademark and copyright trials and arbitrations in the fields of technology, medical devices and action sports. She also counsels domestic and multinational companies on intellectual property protection, brand protection and online legal issues. She frequently authors and speaks on intellectual property and litigation strategies at national CLE conferences and has served as guest lecturer on IP at UC-Irvine’s Henry Samueli School of Engineering. Mikulka’s recent successes include securing a jury verdict of willful patent and copyright infringement, obtaining judgments of noninfringement and invalidity in patent infringement actions between competitors, and prevailing in a Ninth Circuit appeal and obtaining sanctions and attorneys’ fees in favor of her clients.

Debbie Millar, Chief Executive Officer/Owner
VIVI, Tustin

With her strong background in direct selling and dedicated desire to collaborate with inspiring women, Debbie Millar takes fashion and technology to a whole new level as the owner and CEO of VIVI. VIVI – which stands for vision, inspiration, value, and integrity – is the newest brand from The New Cookie – the well-known jewelry and accessory company that revolutionized the direct-selling business by offering women a lucrative compensation package. In her leadership role, Millar continues to maintain the company’s founding principles of growing a community of successful women. A seasoned leader in the direct-selling and accessories business, Millar is implementing new technology and a social selling platform for VIVI, targeting a younger demographic, and following an aggressive growth strategy that will help the company grow 20% by the end of 2015.

Celin Miller, President
GGG Demolition Inc., Orange

Celin Miller is the president of GGG Demolition Inc. In GGG, Miller has created a ground-up, woman-owned business that specializes in full-service demolition and hazardous waste remediation. Miller started in the construction industry 18 years ago working in demolition and mechanical contracting. She has established a seasoned team of construction professionals that generate positive results in the demolition and remediation industries. She manages day-to-day activities such as business development, bid schedules, sales, strategic planning, inventory control, and managing. Miller started with the business a year ago and is now doing $15 million a year in business with 200 employees and offices in Orange County and San Diego.

Debra Miller, Founder/Chief Executive Officer
CureDuchenne, Newport Beach

Twelve years ago Debra Miller’s son was diagnosed with an incurable, deadly disease. It was a death sentence she refused to accept, and Miller unleashed her business skills gained from a successful career in publishing and attacked the disease head-on. She founded CureDuchenne, a nonprofit in search of a cure for Duchenne muscular dystrophy, which impacts 1 in 3,500 boys, claiming their lives by their mid-20s. Miller has worked tirelessly to raise awareness and funds for this mission. The foundation uses a venture philanthropy model that has enabled the nonprofit to leverage $100 million in investments with biotech and pharmaceutical companies to fund promising research. As a direct result, the first drugs to stem the devastating effects of Duchenne are close to FDA approval.

Ashley Mulcahy, Owner
Tutor Doctor, Laguna Niguel

Ashley Mulcahy is a ground-breaking individual in education management. She first became a part of Tutor Doctor as a tutor herself. Immediately after receiving raving client feedback – the previous owner promoted Mulcahy to Global Director. She then became a national level consultant, where she serviced hundreds of families across Orange County to assess and coordinate a tutoring program for them. Within the first year, the business won “Rookie of the Year” at Tutor Doctor’s Global Conference due to Mulcahy’s efforts to satisfy Orange County’s educational needs, while growing the business exponentially. After another year of growing Tutor Doctor over 160%, Mulcahy acquired the business and became the youngest Tutor Doctor Franchisee at age 24. Quickly, she became the Top 10 Franchisee in the United States and among top 10 globally. She continues to exceed expectations and has become the inspiration for Tutor Doctor to create a Young Entrepreneurship Scholarship program.

Kathryn Murrel, Administrator
Surterre Properties, Monarch Beach

Kathryn Murrel is recognized as a results-oriented business executive with more than 25 years of experience in construction management, investment management and implementation of strategies securing profitable building practices. As director of the Investment Advisory Services division of Surterre Properties, Murrel focuses efforts in sectors of the real estate beyond that of traditional residential brokerage by sourcing, evaluating and developing investments opportunities for both public and private sectors encompassing commercial and residential real estate portfolios. She provides expertise to buyers and sellers ranging from individual clientele to large-scale land developers, investors and public builders, often achieving large and complex objectives. Surterre Properties and Murrel are known for representing the most discerning clientele. Surterre Properties sales and market expertise encompasses alliances with Rancho Mission Viejo and The Irvine Company.

Mary Jo Mursa, Assistant Medical Group Administrator
Kaiser Permanente, Irvine

Mary Jo Mursa has worked for Kaiser Permanente in Orange County since 1981 when she was recruited from Pittsburgh, PA during the nursing shortage. She began her career as a staff nurse in the hospital and worked in various departments and leadership roles, including 10 years as the assistant hospital administrator of Continuing Care Services. As the assistant medical group administrator of Women and Children’s Health Service Line since 2011, she oversees ambulatory Women’s Health Services and the Pediatric Infusion Center, in addition to the inpatient Perinatal Services, Neonatal Intensive Care Units and Pediatrics at Anaheim and Irvine Medical Centers. Under her leadership, her departments have received several internal and external agency recognitions for quality, service and teamwork. Mursa has been honored
Laura Noid, Vice President of Employee Experience, Human Resources
New Horizons Computer Learning Centers of Southern California, Anaheim

Laura Noid has implemented a company-wide open door policy where everyone is encouraged to share and increase creativity. New Horizons encourages career and personal development and Noid has excelled in the development and implementation of these paths. Noid is passionate about ensuring each employee is provided the opportunity to succeed and advance their career. Since her employment, New Horizons has been voted “Best Places to Work” in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Diego counties. New Horizons Computer Learning Centers offers a wide range of technical, application and business skills courses. As the world of computer technology continues to evolve at light speed, New Horizons helps the world’s workforce stay proficient with the latest technologies and achieve their career goals.

Laura Oatman, Founder/President
Whole Earth Wellness, Newport Beach

Laura Oatman is an entrepreneur, the author of the bestselling book, Whole Earth Diet, and the founder of the Whole Earth Wellness. Her thought-provoking book, Whole Earth Diet, is much more than a diet book, it is a holistic lifestyle guidebook that begins with simple ideas for transitioning to a plant-based diet, expands into simple ways for creating a happy life and ends with simple steps towards a more peaceful world. Her company, Whole Earth Wellness, offers one-to-one holistic coaching, group programs and amazing wellness retreats around the world. In the five years since Whole Earth Wellness was founded, Oatman has personally helped thousands of people lose weight, overcome chronic illnesses, get off meds, and grow into their healthiest, happiest self. She is leading a revolution for change in how we eat and live, and quickly becoming the thought leader behind a growing tribe of wellness warriors for a healthier, more peaceful world.

Ellie Tipton Ortiz, President
Laguna Beach Legai, Laguna Beach

Ellie Tipton Ortiz is an experienced mediator whose firm specializes in both document preparation and divorce mediation. As a mediator, Ortiz has a 99% success rate. Her client list includes celebrities and CEOs of major corporations. Laguna Beach Legal assists clients with documents related to divorce, child custody, corporations, credit repair, estate planning and special needs trusts. Ortiz is a board member and past president of The Woman’s Club of Laguna Beach and a member of Soroptimist International of Laguna Beach. Ortiz is very involved in Laguna Beach and donates services regularly to numerous community organizations.

Anoosheh M. Oskouian, President/Chief Executive Officer
Ship & Shore Environmental Inc., Signal Hill

Anoosheh M. Oskouian launched her pollution control business in the fall of 2000, when the opportunity arose for her to reinvent what had been a metal fabricating company. Since then, Oskouian’s company has developed a comprehensive array of engineering and manufacturing capabilities. Geographically, growing industrial pollution abatement demand has resulted in new Ship & Shore locations across Canada, satellite sales/service offices in Europe and new offices in Singapore and China. With more than 50 professionals in the Long Beach headquarters and nearly 50 other professionals working at other locations, Ship & Shore has an impressive portfolio of repeat customers. Each of Ship & Shore’s engineering solutions is custom-designed to not only help clients meet their respective environmental obligations, but also factor in how each facility’s unique manufacturing practices and requirements will be integrated into the design and operation of the best pollution abatement solution.

Kathleen Owens, Financial Advisor/Partner
Alta Pacific Wealth Management, Mission Viejo

Kathleen Owens is a registered investment advisor and principal with Alta Pacific Wealth Management where she provides conflict-free advice on a fee-only basis. Owens previously worked as a financial advisor for the global wealth management firm, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management. In addition to active investment management, Owens and her team perform detailed financial planning and are a resource for all financial issues that a client may encounter. Upon joining Alta Pacific Wealth Management in 2004, Owens set up a communications program to better articulate the firm’s experience and expertise. The goal was to clearly define how clients would benefit from a large-firm experience merged with a personalized “concierge” service. The client is getting the best of both worlds by working with advisors with very highly developed trading experience, and the delivery of that expertise on a fee-only basis.
Diane Palumbo, Owner/Partner Palmero Bergstrom LLP, Aliso Viejo
Diane Palumbo has dedicated her career to being an excellent lawyer, but that’s only a part of her larger life vision. Palumbo is committed to building a woman-owned law firm that balances talent, ability, excellent results and quality service with family, community and the needs of people who are a part of her business. In her more than 20-year effort to build her own firm, Palumbo has demonstrated the ability to represent a diverse clientele ranging from Fortune 500 companies and the world’s largest insurance companies and major public entities. Her firm has grown to five offices in four states, with plans to expand further. Palumbo demonstrates that a woman-owned firm can compete and be successful in the legal industry. Her clients value her legal services, business acumen and her commitment to her community, schools and family.

Amy Jo Pedone, Chief Executive Officer/Certified Master Chocolatier Valenza Chocolatier Inc., Costa Mesa
Amy Jo Pedone made a 180-degree change from a successful 13-year career in commercial real estate lending into the confectionary and confection business. Shortly after the passing of her cousin to ovarian cancer, she was inspired to live life with no regrets, and subsequently pursued her dream of becoming a certified master chocolatier to then form her own company, Valenza Chocolatier, an award-winning, Italian-inspired artisan chocolates and confections business. In just short of two years following the launch of her business, Pedone has developed a loyal and growing national consumer base, designed her website and online store, built critical new relationships within the food industry and won numerous local and regional awards for the quality of her products. She has also received the highest honor for a Star Grand Master Award for 2015 Best Chocolatiers & Confections in America by The International Chocolate Salon.

Cynthia Harris Perazzo, Senior Vice President, Strategy & Business Development Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian, Newport Beach
Cynthia Harris Perazzo leads organizational strategic planning and business development in support of Hoag’s mission to provide the highest quality health care services to the communities of Orange County and beyond. She oversees all physician development activities aimed to build lasting and mutually beneficial relationships with the medical staff and providers in the community. She is providing strategic guidance in the development of Hoag’s emerging strategy to support patients across the continuum of care, including the development of outpatient facilities and partnership relationships with health care providers in the community. As Hoag positions for success in the era of health care reform, Perazzo is leading the effort to develop strategies, relationships and capabilities for Hoag.

Christina Pham, President/Chief Executive Officer JMAC Lending, Irvine
Christina Pham is the founder and CEO of JMAC Lending. She has grown her business to one of the 30 largest wholesale lenders in the industry. Pham has been in the lending business for over 15 years and is a leading expert where the majority of the organizations are Fortune 100 companies. Pham is a trusted professional and is known for his expertise on industry trends. Pham is usually the lone female representative in a male-dominated industry. Pham has been featured in multiple publications and distinguished as a leader in her industry for innovative strategies that cater to clients needs and world-class production. JMAC has been certified by multiple wholesale lending institutions as a correspondent lender, due to its ability to produce high-quality loan packages and client retention. JMAC is one of a few wholesale lenders that self imposes above-standard quality control restrictions.

Melissa Pollard, Vice President - Western Market Comerica Bank, Costa Mesa
Melissa Pollard has been in middle market lending for 27 years, her first 10 years with Bank of America and the last 17 years with Comerica Bank in Orange County. Pollard’s technical expertise is lending and she has structured and delivered credit facilities ranging in size from $1 million to $100 million. Pollard works with companies across a variety of industries from manufacturers, distributors, service providers and nonprofit organizations. She coordinates the bank’s resources to deliver customized solutions to her clients and her efforts have been instrumental to their business’ success including managing growth, managing cash, managing risk and managing wealth. In addition to her commercial lending responsibilities, Pollard co-founded the Women’s Initiative for Comerica Bank’s Western Market. She also created an event called the Comerica Bank Women’s Business Symposium which benefits Girls Incorporated of Orange County where she serves on the board of directors.

Stephanie Pollaro, Founder International Sanctuary, Irvine
Founder, visionary, jewelry designer and didi (sister) are a few names that describe Stephanie Pollaro. Living in India from 2006-2013, Pollaro not only founded International Sanctuary, a nonprofit social enterprise serving human trafficking survivors through their fashion jewelry brand Purpose Jewelry, but she lived it. Serving survivors of human trafficking in Mumbai, India, Pollaro has come to understand the real life challenges survivors face on a daily basis. Through these experiences serving more than 300 women and girls, International Sanctuary has built its philosophies: focusing on the individual survivor by providing a sanctuary, a safe place where she can thrive. Pollaro’s sacrifice has provided a pathway to allow others the opportunity to contribute to a cause beyond themselves. Her dedication not only directly inspires the women and girls she serves, but also those who are impacted by her story.

Debbie Porter, Vice President Marketing Pieology Pizzeria, Rancho Santa Margarita
With nearly two decades of marketing experience in the restaurant industry, Debbie Porter joined Pieology Pizzeria, a key player in the first custom pizza category, as the company’s first vice president of marketing. An industry expert, Porter has created successful local, regional and national programs for a variety of full service and fast casual restaurant concepts, including Bravo Brio Restaurant Group, Veggie Grill and Fox Restaurant Concepts where she launched True Food Kitchen in Fashion Island, Newport Beach. At Pieology, Porter is responsible for leading brand, marketing, digital, menu and communications efforts for Pieology as it continues to evolve and grow in the emerging fast casual, build-your-own-pizza segment. Since joining Pieology’s skilled leadership team in 2014, Porter has already contributed to the brand’s successful and strategic national growth, which has doubled in size from 25 to more than 50 restaurants.

Sunny Rajab, Chief Executive Officer Business Communications Solutions, Irvine
Sunny Rajab has created a business model that focuses on selling a solution rather than a product. BCS is a solution provider and not just a product reseller. The company does not sell one single manufacturer, and instead strives to find a true solution for customers’ needs. If that means reevaluating offerings, BCS is always willing to be certified for new products and services. Normally, a client would have to buy their technology from one place, coordinate and get voice, video and internet service from another, and hire engineers and technicians to install and maintain their technology. Rajab has positioned BCS to be a true one-stop-shop for its customers. A customer only deals with one vendor, which greatly reduces time spent by the customer and improves the end product.

Mima Ransom, Chief Executive Officer/Executive Director Khan Academies, Costa Mesa
After watching the challenges of several friends and family member’s children with autism, Mima Ransom was determined to create a unique foundation for the special children to help them learn, live and love to the fullest. In 2014, she brought her years of experience as a strong entrepreneur and president of several successful businesses, as well as her expertise in teaching at universities to create Khan Academies. Khan Academies offers state-of-the-art individual education and therapy programs for children and teens with autism and special needs, seamlessly integrating education, learning, assessment and neurodevelopment with proven science-based therapies. These special programs currently serve Orange County utilizing music, art and science to successfully connect the dots and bring out the “shining stars” within each child. In 2012, Mima founded FIDM Museum Fashion Council. This committee’s passion and love for education, preserving history and fashion has been instrumental in raising substantial funds to support FIDM Museum programs and acquisitions.

Dawn Reese, Executive Director/Co-Chief Executive Officer The Wooden Floor, Santa Ana
Since joining The Wooden Floor in 2009, Dawn S. Reese has created organizational clarity by aligning priorities with delivering impressive programs, increasing visibility and driving results. Reese has 25 years of experience working in business, education and the arts within the for-profit and nonprofit sectors. With The Wooden Floor’s board of directors, she set an ambitious, 10-Year Strategic Plan in 2012 that focused on building organizational capacity and exploring ways to impact more under-served youth, locally and nationally. Reese is passionate about transforming the lives of youth in low income communities through the power of dance and access to higher education. Under her leadership, the organization has grown due its mission-driven, business-minded staff, its impressive board and the support of the community of supporters. The Wooden Floor is propelling forward in order to meet the needs of students today and in the future. Reese was named Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce’s “2015 Small Nonprofit Person of the Year.”
Dereeza Purcell Reid, Chief Executive Officer
Hoag Orthopedic Institute, Irvine
In 2011, nine months after opening Hoag Orthopedic Institute LLC (HOI), Reid was appointed the COO of Hoag Orthopedic Institute, a hospital and two ASCs that are jointly owned by a faith-based nonprofit and a group of physicians. Reid was charged with the task of managing and leading the institution’s transition from early start-up to, scaling up operations in order to handle increased demand and volume. Her unwavering commitment to ensuring that HOI achieve the highest quality standards and patient satisfaction scores with a continual eye for driving value has become a part of HOI’s core DNA. In her tenure, Reid has helped develop a highly collaborative, empowered team of health care professionals, which has resulted in HOI becoming one of the leading orthopedic institutions in the world. Recently, Harvard Business School published a case study on Hoag Orthopedic as an innovative model for value-driven health care.

Terri Reid, Corporate Director of Marketing
Pacific Hospitality Group, Irvine
Terri Reid is the corporate director of marketing at Pacific Hospitality Group, a full-service strategic marketing, architecture and project management firm. Over her 19-year tenure with the full-service strategic marketing, architecture and project management firm, Reid continues to create and direct all marketing initiatives for the hotel company, including online and social media marketing, advertising, public relations and a dynamic Customer Relationship Management program.

Laura A. Reilly, Chief Executive Officer
Starfish Signs & Graphics Inc., Santa Clemente
Laura Reilly founded Starfish Signs and Graphics in June 2012. In the three years since that time, Reilly has built a strong brand, based on quick, excellent design and responsiveness. The company now has an established base of over 700 customers, with a significant volume of repeat business. More importantly, Reilly has established Starfish Signs as a values-based business, with a significant emphasis on people, the community and environmental sustainability. Starfish Signs has won the business of significant regional, national and multi-national customers, and industry awards for design, sales and a learning organization. Reilly has set the vision, laid the foundation, and built the Starfish team. Reilly has also been actively involved with NAWBO-OC, National Association of Women Business Owners, and has significantly benefited from their mentoring.

Rochelle Reiter, Agency Principal
Orange Label Art + Advertising, Newport Beach
A Southern California native, Rochelle Reiter joined Orange Label in 1996. As a creative director, Reiter spearheaded Orange Label’s growth trajectory by diversifying the agency’s client mix from predominantly a single industry to a strong mix of verticals including business to business, education, health care, retail and cause marketing. Additionally, Reiter received her MBA in International Business from Cal State Fullerton in 2000 and remains active with the university through several programs including “Professor for a Day” and as a member of the Marketing Advisory Council.

Suzanne Richards, Chief Executive Officer
Integrated Healthcare Holdings Inc., Santa Ana
Suzanne Richards is an accomplished health care executive with a diverse background in management and direct patient care, spanning more than 25 years. She is now providing innovative leadership and a strategic vision to Integrated Healthcare Holdings Inc. (IHII) and its system of community hospitals. IHII funds approximately $47 million in Medi-Cal/Medi-Cal Managed Care, and another $40 million in hospitals. IHII funds approximately $47 million in Medi-Cal/Medi-Cal Managed Care, and another $40 million in hospitals.

Annette Richardson, Managing Director/Managing Partner
One Medical Group, Orange County LLC, Newport Beach
After 17 years in the beauty and medical aesthetics industry, Annette Richardson found her calling after she helped build over a dozen successful medical spas and schools from the ground up. She decided to create a special place where she would have the opportunity to implement the knowledge she had gathered from her 360-degree education and evaluation of what worked in the medical aesthetic and medical industry. Richardson launched One Medical Group, Orange County LLC (OMG OC Aesthetics) in 2010. The organization provides the latest non-invasive, anti-aging and rejuvenation procedures with a highly experienced team of doctors, registered nurses and clinical estheticians. Richardson was also named one of Orange County’s “Dynamic Women in 2012”.

Annette Richardson is the Managing Director/Managing Partner of One Medical Group, Orange County LLC, a full-service strategic marketing, architecture and project management firm. Her responsibilities include lead generation, lead tracking, development and management of new and existing national and international real estate and hospitality account relationships, and regularly contributing to management meetings for strategic planning. Prior to that, she spent 18 years of experience in commercial real estate and development, and has worked with Orange County’s finest. An active supporter of philanthropic organizations such as United Way, Habitat for Humanity, Community Service Programs and National Kidney Foundation, Richardson tries to give all the support and energy she can to the community she works and lives in.

Marcela Rios-Faust, Associate Executive Director/Chief Operating Officer
Human Options, Irvine
Marcela Rios-Faust provides vital leadership, support and vision to the continued growth and success of Human Options, a nonprofit providing a safe haven and life-changing programs to help abused women, their children and families rebuild their lives. Since 2006, Rios-Faust has capitalized on her 20-year experience working with vulnerable populations and been a key player in Human Options becoming the most comprehensive domestic violence service provider in Orange County. Her commitment comes from a desire to raise her daughter in a world where domestic violence isn’t tolerated. Recognized as a leader in the field, she is the president of the board of directors for the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence and co-chairs its Southern Region Public Policy Review Committee. Rios-Faust was also named one of Orange County’s Most Influential of 2014 for her leadership on increasing awareness of health impacts of domestic violence.

Denise Roberson, President/Chair Executive Officer/Co-Founder
Jadi Communications, Laguna Beach
Denise Roberson is president, CEO and co-founder of Jadi Communications (Jadi), a global leader in advertising, marketing and strategic services. Jadi, under Roberson’s charge, represents a broad range of clients, including Fortune 500 and world-class brands such as National Geographic, Mazda, Costco, Sony Pictures, NASA/Skull Base Institute, Procter & Gamble, Epson and MemorialCare Health System. Jadi, under Roberson’s charge, represents a broad range of clients, including Fortune 500 and world-class brands such as National Geographic, Mazda, Costco, Sony Pictures, NASA/Skull Base Institute, Procter & Gamble, Epson and MemorialCare Health System. Setting a leadership tone that is strong and clear, Roberson ensures her team is focused on quality, integrity and the highest level of professionalism. Jadi has an extremely visible management style and creates an innovative work environment that supports a commitment to excellence in everything Jadi does.

Lori Robertson, Clinical Director/Owner
Ajills Medical Aesthetics, Brea
In 2014, Lori Robertson was asked to take over a very small floundering medical aesthetics clinic in Brea. She accepted the position knowing that her education and experience could make a difference. Business ownership is something very new to her, back-office financials, cost of goods, hiring staff, inventory, insurance, equipment, various laws and regulations, OSHA, HIPPA, etc. The challenge loomed large, but Robertson was ready for it. After one year in her own clinic, Ajills Medical Aesthetics has increased revenue over 100%, increased the patient base from 225 to more than 1,300 and purchased over $200,000 in equipment. This amazing growth has been very organic, with the majority of the new patients being referrals. She has also been instrumental in training and educating her brand new nursing staff to help them learn and grow as specialty practitioners.

Betsy Rodriguez, Vice President of Operations
Global Language Solutions, Irvine
Betsy Rodriguez is one of the first Global Language Solutions employees. Her hard work and dedication to the firm has resulted in a succession of promotions from administrative assistant to managerial positions to today’s C-level role of vice president of operations. Rodriguez has worked her way up from answering phones to executing key business decisions.
Rodriguez manages and develops a culturally and geographically diverse team of professionals. She is a professional woman who is responsible for overseeing GLS’s global operations — from resource development and contracts to quality assurance and IT.

Dr. Kelly Rogers, Social Entrepreneurship Faculty Chapman University, Orange

Dr. Kelly Rogers is a force for good. As an educator at Chapman University, Rogers teaches social entrepreneurship and personal finance. She transforms students into change-makers for their community, and also prepares students to be financially capable for the real world. Rogers encourages students to pursue passions that initially seemed impossible. Her strength, unbroken by her recent battle with cancer, has fueled every student in her class to make positive changes in their lives and the community. Rogers’s personal passion is for youth-based financial literacy, and she is a published author of a children’s financial literacy book, Aron with one A. Recently, she partnered with Union Bank to provide personal finance education to 1,000 students in the Anaheim City School District on National Teach a Child to Save Day.

Sara Rollins, Managing Director CBRE, Newport Beach

As managing director of the Financial Consulting Group, Sara Rollins is responsible for providing sophisticated financial and analytical corporate advisory services required by tenants in the market. With more than 16 years at CBRE, Rollins combines her 30 years of experience and knowledge of capital markets, corporate real estate and strategic planning to develop innovative financial solutions which provide CBRE clients to make fully informed real estate decisions. CBRE is the world’s largest commercial real estate services firm serving owners, investors and occupiers. Rollins is an active member of the CBRE Women’s Network, mentoring many women within the company. She is also a member of the Dean’s Leadership Circle at the Paul Merage School of Business, University of California, Irvine.

Judy Rose, President Custom Writing & Writing Repair Services, Santa Ana

Judy Rose has been providing custom writing and editing services since 2006. Her specialties include blogging, website content, brochures, and other marketing and PR materials. Rose comes from a long career with international firms where she took on a voluntary role assisting colleagues with writing. She uses her talent and experience to help clients find the right words to convey a message or impart information. Services include original writing, writing repair (strategic editing), collaboration and continued training at every stage of text creation from blank page to finished piece. Rose is the author of the blog, Writing English, which has received over 1.6 million hits from people in dozens of countries since its start in 2006.

Barbara Roth, Director of Membership/Past President Association for Women in Technology, Irvine

Barbara Roth has been on the board of directors of Advancing Women in Technology (AWT) since 2008. Her first role was director of public relations, and she became the vice president over 300 chapters and clubs in 10 countries. Since that time, she has been a key contributor to fundraising efforts, which to date, have raised a grand total of more than $85,000. Roth’s diligence, leadership and persistence in acquiring sponsors and donors for the AWT Quarterly Forum events and the Annual Wine Tasting Fundraiser helped to produce those results. AWT is Southern California’s premier nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering women in all fields of technology through the endowment of educational scholarships and the creation of opportunities to enhance personal and professional growth, working closely with the business community to facilitate diversity and proficiency.

Kristina Roth, Chief Executive Officer Matilda Consultants, Irvine

Kristina Roth founded Matilda Consultants in 2006 after spending years working at the big four consulting firms and growing frustrated with how much time was being spent on developing plans for clients without implementation. Roth brings more than 15 years of experience in business intelligence and strategy to lead and support companies in change management to build and sustain high productivity business processes and supporting information systems. Since its launch, Roth founded Matilda to double-digit growth year over year and projected revenue at $62 million for 2015. Roth’s extensive knowledge and experience allows her to work closely with key management Fortune 500 companies across across technology, health care and insurance industries to implement strategies for driving sales, profit and growth. In less than 10 years, Roth has built one of the fastest-growing businesses in the Northwest with over 165 employees and offices in Seattle and Orange County.
Kim Shepherd, Chief Executive Officer
Decision Toolbox, Irvine

Shepherd is CEO of Decision Toolbox (DT), an unconventional recruiting company with a single focus: to provide cutting-edge and affordable recruitment solutions. Since 2000, Shepherd has led the 100% virtual organization to provide businesses of all sizes nationwide with smarter recruitment solutions. Shepherd’s innovative vision resulted in the organization’s successful virtual business model, which allowed DT to flourish amid a recession when other recruitment firms struggled. Shepherd’s innovative vision resulted in the organization’s successful virtual business model, which allowed DT to flourish amid a recession when other recruitment firms struggled.

Linda Spencer, President
Mattson Resources/Lulu Costa Mesa

Spencer arrived in Southern California with only $1,000 and a paid off Nissan B210. After repeated attempts getting a staffing company to hire her, one organization gave her 30 days to prove herself, which she did. Spencer became the top recruiter for the firm, was given a partnership, sold the firm to a national firm and was later an owner. Many of those original customers and employees have worked with Stylesource through its long history and remain loyal to her to this day. Spencer is a driven and adapted, meeting the economy and changing business landscape to create one of the largest contract interiors firms on the west coast with five offices from Seattle to San Diego. Under Smith’s leadership Systems Source has built a strong and growing business with a long list of clients that include household names like Microsoft, Toyota, Bank of America, Southern California Edison, Red Bull and DirectTV to name a few.

Michelle Stiegel, Vice President, Regional Sales
Premier Business Centers, Irvine

Stiegel joined Premier Business Centers in 2007 as regional manager, overseeing 20 centers, primarily in Orange County. In 2010, Stiegel was promoted to her current position, overseeing over 650,000 of rentable square feet with centers in Orange County, San Diego, Northern California, Washington, Hawaii, Florida, Colorado and Ohio, where she is responsible for overall profitability of these centers, sales activities and provides operational leadership. Most recently, Premier added business centers in the Denver and Honolulu markets and is expanding to Miami in late summer 2015. Stiegel is active with NAWBO-OC and has worked with NAWBO to help provide members a professional environment to help individuals and business. Premier Business Centers currently operates the largest privately owned executive suite operation in the United States with over 70 locations across the nation.

Autumn Strier, Founder/Chief Executive Officer
Miracles for Kids, Tustin

Autumn Strier is the founder of Miracles for Kids. She designed the mission, vision and values that launched the organization into the community and built all programs and services from concept to operation. Autumn has over a decade of experience as an investment banker and policy and political analyst, combined with an entrepreneurial vision to achieve social change in the community. Strier structured the organization from an internal employee fundraising program to a thriving nonprofit. During times of both recession and growth in the economy, Strier successfully diversified revenue sources, reduced expenses and increased support networks in order to maintain steady organizational growth. Today, Miracles for Kids is a robust $2 million organization in its 11th year of operation, with offices in Tustin and Santa Monica, supporting the needs of hundreds of families each year who have children in treatment for a life-threatening illness.

Victoria Strombom, Real Estate Agent
Suterra Properties, Laguna Beach

Victoria Strombom has been one of the coastal community’s top real estate agents throughout her career. Strombom’s in-depth knowledge of real estate contracts and skills pertaining to complex transactions have shaped her understanding of the industry as a whole. Her expertise and commitment to her clients’ privacy have garnered clientele ranging from celebrities and professional athletes to corporate leaders, and an impressive accumulation of return clientele. As a valued agent at Suterra, Strombom stays involved in the community beyond her role as an agent by participating in Suterra’s Charity Matching program, eWaste Drives, and mentoring and recruiting moms have access to high-quality, in-person support and education at birth and continuing as their children grow. Helping over 450 moms in just two years, Spitz is quickly realizing her goal of changing the culture of motherhood in OC to one where moms support and empower one another. Spitz is also an active philanthropist, helping many local charities. She is not only a great business woman, but an inspiring role model for all women.

Missy Stern, Director/Sr. Relationship Manager, National Banking Group Bank of the West, Newport Beach

Since joining Bank of the West in 2010, Missy Stern has been instrumental in identifying opportunities and fostering the strong connections that define her approach to doing business. Her ability to help great companies grow and prosper has made her a trusted advisor in Southern California’s business community and beyond. Stern’s decades of experience and deep ties to the local community mean that the companies she calls on often know and trust her long before becoming clients. Her consistent, persistent approach to relationships has been a strong driver in developing new business. Stern’s keen understanding of her clients, leveraging her knowledge and experience to win numerous new, lead bank relationships. She has a unique enthusiasm that, when combined with her financial knowledge and savvy, consistently places her in the upper echelon of productivity. Clients are willing to place their trust and confidence in Stern because of her skill.

April Stewart, Director of Respite Services
24/7 HomeCare, Orange

April Stewart started her career with 24/7 HomeCare in 2013 as an account manager for its Torrance office. In this role, Stewart seamlessly assisted clients with their evolving needs, earning the company’s “G.E.M.” award for going the extra mile for her clients. In 2014, Stewart became the company’s second director of respite services, leading the company’s first office in Orange. Faced with significant challenges in building the office from the ground up, Stewart transformed the disorganized new office with fewer than 100 clients into a fast-growing branch serving over 1,000 clients, building a brand synonymous with quality care giving. The office’s growth can be attributed to two of Stewart’s major contributions: coordinating the translation of hundreds of documents into the company’s written, physical language and establishing and implementing an innovative new CPR program for care providers. 24/7 HomeCare is the industry-leading provider of affordable, quality in home care and companion care giving services throughout California and Arizona.

Alexandra Spitz, Founder
OC Mommy and Me, Newport Beach

Since the inception of OC Mommy and Me, Founder Alexandra Spitz, has devoted her life to helping new moms in Orange County with OC’s premier educational support program for new moms. As a certified parent educator, newborn specialist, certified postpartum doula and international board-certified lactation counselor, Spitz is always looking ahead and has a big vision for the community. She is constantly developing new programs so...
new Surterre partners and agents. Strombom has also been awarded the National Association of REALTOR®’s Green Designation – the only NAR confered real estate designation looking to learn about issues of energy efficiency and sustainability in the various facets of real estate. Through this designation, Strombom has gained unparalleled industry awareness of green issues and resources.

Mary Christine Sungaila, Partner  
Snell & Wilmer LLP, Costa Mesa

M.C. Sungaila joined Snell & Wilmer in Dec. 2010. Since that time, she has been a key contributor to the firm’s women’s initiatives, co-headed numerous seminars and served as a positive ambassador to the firm through her many speaking roles, publications and community activities. She has consistently briefed and argued cutting-edge appeals that raise core business issues and has helped secure important rights for women and girls, nationally and internationally. Sungaila received a 2015 California Lawyer Attorney of the Year (CLAY) Award from California Lawyer Magazine and the 2015 Attorney of the Year Award from the OC Hispanic Bar Association for her longtime pro bono appellate work. In 2014, Sungaila simultaneously led appellate practice and amicus curiae committees at the local (OCBA), national (ABA), and international levels (ADC), and continues to lead on the national and international level in 2015.

Kelly Teenor, Water Business Unit Marketing Manager/Corporate Marketing Specialist/Associate, Hall & Foreman, Costa Mesa

Kelly Teenor is water business unit marketing manager and corporate marketing specialist/associate for Hall & Foreman, a division of David Evans and Associates Inc. She is responsible for business expansion and building equity in the firm’s name. Hall & Foreman offers Orange County-based civil engineering, surveying and land planning firm merged with David Evans and Associates Inc. in mid-2014. Teenor has been involved with integrating the firm’s marketing and business development activities as a result of the merge. As an associate of the firm, she assists in the areas of management, strategic planning and development company policy. Teenor is past president of the Orange County Public Relations Society of America and is accredited in public relations, the organization’s professional credential, and she is a member of two Toastmasters Clubs.

Betsy Thagard, Founder  
B. toffee LLC, Newport Beach

With a core audience, strong following and ever-growing customer base, Betsy Thagard has turned a passion into a profitable business. She has been featured on television with KCAL/CBS News and Good Day LA and in publications such as Redbook, Rivera, OC Register, and most recently, Newport Beach Magazine where she was chosen as one of this year’s 10 most Influential People/10 to Watch. B. toffee has experienced consistent growth since the company was founded, and is on track to continue its growth in 2015. Most recently, B. toffee received the top GOLD honors for “Top Toffee” and “Best Packaging.” B. toffee is proud to have created its own B. GIVING A Hand, committed to making a social impact through a variety of causes and nonprofit partners. B. toffee can be found nationwide with premier placement in the country’s most noted gourmet markets and specialty stores, as well as through the company’s website.

Troyce Thome, Founder  
T’ai Chi for Health, Santa Monica

Troyce Thome is passionate about helping individuals retain their independence through mindful exercise programs based on t’ai chi principles. She has served as a master trainer for numerous programs, including the Arthritis Foundation, where she has trained hundreds of instructors throughout the U.S. She has studied closely with some of the most well-known t’ai chi masters of our time, and has led five groups to China to study t’ai chi in its birthplace. Upon seeing a great need, Thome designed a comprehensive Instructors Certification Program to address the common deficiencies found in gait function. She serves as an instructor at Saddleback College and the Ritz Carlton Laguna Niguel, and continues to lead independent workshops throughout Southern California, and across the nation.

Jacqueline Thompson, Real Estate Agent, Jacqueline Thompson Group  
Surterre Properties, Newport Beach

Since she launched the Jacqueline Thompson Group at Surterre Properties in 2008, Jacqueline Thompson has made sales history – and forged one of the most successful luxury residential real estate practices – in coastal Orange County. Thompson has sold nearly $600 million in luxury properties in the exclusive, ultra luxury enclaves. Thompson is especially acclaimed for her expertise and market leadership in luxury estates, and – independent of market conditions – has continued to drive values and set record-breaking sales. Thompson credit her market’s best results by working strategically, and tirelessly, from start to finish on each and every transaction. As her valued clients attest, she is extremely hands-on in her work, never handing off a listing to her assistants. The Jacqueline Thompson Group is fluent in Mandarin, Cantonese, Taiwanese and Shanghainese, and is experienced in international business nuances, negotiating styles and marketing tactics.

Jessica Spaulding Thompson, President/Founder  
Spaulding Thompson & Associates Inc., Laguna Niguel

Jessica Thompson is the founder and president of Spaulding Thompson & Associates, a boutique public relations and marketing firm. Now in its sixth year, the firm has solidified its place as a premier agency for the commercial, residential and economic development industries. The firm has built its reputation on its strategic approach to communications combining multiple mediums and effective relationships. Some of the firm’s more recent work has included the brand and marketing strategy for firms such as Market Inside, Landmark Capital and Cypress West, as well as large scale campaigns for San Bernardino County’s economic development agency and national media campaigns for Farns Lee Investments. As agency of record for NAOP SoCal and board member for CoreNet Global Southern California, Thompson remains at the center point of trends driving CRE.

Krista Thompson, Owner/President  
Dolly’s Cotton Candy, Seal Beach

Dolly’s Cotton Candy is an on-site cart catering service that was started in 2011 and provides a unique food entertainment experience for all ages from a custom-designed cotton candy cart. By providing a detailed and professional service with the highest-quality ingredients available, Dolly’s Cotton Candy has served clients from Santa Barbara to San Diego. Clients include A-list celebrities, four-star resorts and Fortune 500 companies. In 2014, Dolly’s Cotton Candy has grown to begin a new company, Big Top Carts, a custom cart manufacturer in Orange County. With the success of Dolly’s, Krista Thompson hopes to create business opportunities for other individuals who are looking to start their own cart catering business, as well as design carts for corporate companies, trade shows and resorts.

Kathy Tillotson, Executive Director  
Build Futures, Huntington Beach

In 2009, Kathy Tillotson founded Build Futures, a nonprofit addressing a gap in services available to Orange County homeless youth ages 18 to 24. As executive director, Tillotson has helped nearly 600 young adults in crisis find housing, jobs and support services. She leads an all-volunteer staff to provide youth in need the ability to maintain stability and achieve independence. Prior to establishing Build Futures, Tillotson held various national management positions in the corporate arena. She has leveraged this expertise to establish and develop Build Futures into a leading youth-focused organization within Orange County. Tillotson is actively involved with several OC-based nonprofits including Irvine Advisory Council for Civic and Community Engagement, Orange County Commission to End Homelessness and Huntington Beach Interfaith Council. A recipient of California Senator Lou Correa’s “Women Making a Difference” award in 2011, Tillotson also was recognized in 2013 at National Philanthropy Day in Orange County.

Jill Tomac, President  
Leadership Resource Group LLC, Corona del Mar

Jill Tomac founded the Leadership Resource Group in 2001 out of her passion to inspire organizational leaders to create collaborative, high-performance, efficient teams. She works with leaders who are tired of communication being a roadblock to success. They know there is a better way to engage, motivate and get the best out of others, but don’t yet have the tools, knowhow or resources to get there. Over the past 14 years, Tomac has taught techniques and processes that have withstood the test of time and have shifted the mindset of leaders throughout corporate America. Through her one-on-one coaching, corporate culture assessments and highly energetic live events, Tomac has guided thousands of leaders towards a more collaborative approach bringing out the best in those they lead.

Carol Trapani, First Vice President in Brokerage Office Properties  
CBRE, Newport Beach

Carol Trapani has been a highly talented, exceptional leader in numerous roles through her 30-year career at CBRE. She began her career straight out of college in CBRE’s New Orleans, Louisiana office where she was the top office leasing broker before transferring in 1989 to Southern California. Since then, she has specialized in the South Orange County and airport area markets, which encompasses in excess of 80 million square feet of office space. Trapani is well-known and respected among her peers and clients for her ability to strategically source, market and position her clients’ assets. Since 1995, her team has represented some of the country’s most notable development clients including The Related Companies and CBRE Group’s 1, a 1 million-square-foot office project in Aliso Viejo and South Coast Metro Center, a 400,000-square-foot office project for lease and sale. CBRE is the world’s largest commercial real estate services firm serving owners, investors and occupiers.
Congratulations to Renee Dee, President of Black, Starr & Frost, for her 2015 Women in Business nomination.
Katy Triefenbach, Co-Founder/Chief Executive Officer
Stage 1 Financial, Anaheim

Katy Triefenbach, along with her team, has successfully grown Stage 1 Financial from a start-up to a leading provider of outsourced finance and accounting solutions to fast-growing companies, from the ground up. In less than one year, the company has achieved a run rate revenue of over $1 million. Prior to co-founding Stage 1, Triefenbach was a global marketing manager for a large medical device company in Southern California. Triefenbach utilized her strong background in global sales and marketing to create a brand and service offering from scratch that not only met the needs of the young entrepreneur, but also has become an industry leader. Stage 1 partners with some of California’s fastest-growing brands such as Pinkberry, the Drybar and Skin Laundry.

Twila True, Co-Founder/Chief Executive Officer/President
True Investments LLC, Irvine

Twila True, a member of the Ogilva Sioux Tribe, is the co-founder and CEO of True Investments, the award-winning woman and minority-owned real estate private equity firm. True is responsible for the firm’s overall strategy, finances, operations and culture, with a focus on growing assets under management and scaling the growth and capabilities of the business. Under True’s leadership, the management team has collectively deployed billions of dollars in real estate investment strategies throughout their careers. Additionally, True Investments LLC and its affiliated and managed entities, invest in operating companies with a focus on the hotel, medical and management-residential real estate, food and beverage, and finance. In 2015, True plans to open multiple prototype nail studios that aim to redefine the nail industry under the “Polished Perfect” by Twila True brand in Orange County.

Mei Tsang, Partner
Fish & Tsang LLP, Irvine

Mei Tsang is an acclaimed intellectual property (IP) attorney who joined Fish & Tsang LLP (F&T), an award-winning IP law firm, at its inception in 2007. As partner, Tsang represents inventors and companies to patent innovative ideas and protect vital business interests. She oversees F&T’s litigation team and works with state and federal officials to combat counterfeit infringers nationally. Tsang’s responsibilities have increased as F&T continues the substantial annual growth. In 2014, she was added to the firm’s nomenclature and helped F&T open a second office in Silicon Valley. In 2015, she spearheaded F&T’s partnership with the MS Society – Pacific South Coast Chapter as the first OC-based title sponsor of Walk MS in Irvine. Tsang is involved in Orange County Bar Association’s (OCBA) IP and Technology Section, International Trademark Association’s Anti-Counterfeiting Committee, Women Presidents’ Organization and OCBA’s Charitable Fund. She also is president of W3 Women Inc.

Dr. Betty Uribe, Executive Vice President, Greater Southern California Division
California Bank & Trust, Irvine

Dr. Betty Uribe’s values-based leadership inspires her employees, business associates and company partners. From her younger days as a successful entrepreneur to her current role as a bank executive, she has always set the example for her organization and industry. Uribe’s leadership skills have been instrumental in her growth and success. Uribe’s values and a deep compassion in every personal interaction. After successfully rolling out more than 100 branches at two different banks, she brought her entrepreneurial nature to CB&T. Within six months, she developed the TEAM (Tools, Education, Access, Mentoring) initiative, teaming up with nonprofits in California to support women and minority business owners, a program that has now assisted dozens of new businesses around California. Uribe’s consistent leadership style has inspired almost everyone that is fortunate enough to work with her. Between her remarkable business accomplishments, genuine care for colleagues, as well as her community dedication, Uribe is making a significant contribution in Orange County.

Carla Vargas, Senior Vice President, Community Impact
Orange County United Way, Irvine

Carla Vargas has been with Orange County United Way since 1999, and has served in various capacities of increasing responsibility. Now serving as senior vice president of community impact, Vargas spent 24 months working with United Way’s board of directors and community stakeholders on an extensive strategic planning and community engagement process to develop 10-year, community-level change goals for Orange County in the areas of education, income, health and housing. Released in 2013, the 10-year strategic plan called FACE 2024 was based on the model of “Collective Impact.” She led the organization’s work to realign Orange County United Way’s funding, advocacy, convening and public education strategies in support of the new 10-year goals, and now oversees all aspects of the implementation and evaluation of FACE 2024.

Lisa Vogel, Co-President
Raj Manufacturing Inc., Tustin

Lisa Vogel serves as co-president of RAJ Manufacturing LLC, one of the largest women’s swimwear companies in the United States. RAJ Manufacturing LLC designs, manufactures and sells swimwear under many internationally recognized brand names including ATHENA, Next by Athena, Hurley Swimwear, Nautica Swimwear, Luxe by Lisa Vogel, Reef Swimwear, Ella Moss Isla and Splendid Swim. As a graduate of the University of Southern California School of Business, Vogel joined RAJ Manufacturing LLC, a family business founded by her parents, Marta and Raj Bhathal. She has served in various roles throughout the company during her tenure, and currently oversees the marketing/public relations department, licensing and compliance, operations, as well as the design and merchandising departments. Vogel has appeared in numerous fashion and business television segments including Orange County Cable Business Journal, Dialogue with Jim Döt, as well as appearances on CBS, E! Entertainment Television, NBC Inside Couture and the STYLE Network.

Cathy Volpe, President
HB Staffing, Huntington Beach

Cathy Volpe started in the staffing industry in 1976. She has held many roles in staffing firms and spent more than 20 years consulting/training with over 700 staffing companies. She founded HB Staffing, a woman-owned small business, in 2000, utilizing best practices in training and mentoring the mentor to provide exceptional administrative, professional and select labor staffing services to local Orange County companies, nonprofits, public entities and federal government agencies. HB Staffing has placed thousands of people in good jobs since 2000. After surviving the tough recession, the company has grown every year since 2010, and was recently acquired by two public agency contracts and federal agency contracts with Department of Homeland Security, Department of Agriculture and Civilian Job Corps.

Marcy Weinstein, Real Estate Agent
Surterre Properties, Newport Beach

Supported by Orange County’s premier luxury real estate boutique, Surterre Properties Inc., Marcy Weinstein is in the ultimate position to help you attain a luxury, talent, creativity and diligence as a professional take leave stage. In 2010, she created a wide-ranging real estate business that has a top-flight sales team, extensive real estate capabilities, and real estate expertise. In business more than 15 years, Weinstein has become one of the area’s most dominant forces, selling more properties in the custom neighborhoods of Newport Beach than any other real estate professional. Her time-honed negotiation skills ensure lucrative deals for her clients, while her creativity and vision conceive the emergence of many new opportunities.

Kris Wells, Real Estate Agent
Surterre Properties, Newport Beach

Since joining Surterre, Kris Wells’s career has had tremendous growth in all areas of residential real estate. Her investor clientele has tripled and her luxury clientele has grown exponentially. Still true to the integrity of referral service and offering the same service for a first-time buyer to a diversified investor, Wells’s clients are happy and confident to refer her. Among the 3% in the nation to have a CRS (Certified Real Estate Specialist) designation, her commitment to education and knowledge of real estate is a powerful tool to refer to. Wells is also known among peers for her expertise in the Tustin/North Tustin/Tustin Ranch areas. For over 25 years, Wells has made a name for herself as one of the most highly respected real estate agents in Orange County.

Jamie Welsh, Chief Executive Officer/Founders
BendyBack, Dana Point

As an established, successful business woman, Jamie Welsh solved a problem by inventing a solution. In creating BendyBack, a yoga and wellness prop for yogis, fitness buffs and everyone in between, Welsh not only solved her own problem, she brought a new, revolutionary product to the health and wellness market. From yoga instructors to personal trainers, BendyBack is being used across the country and recently received attention in the international market. Welsh’s pursuit of finding an environmentally friendly product that is manufactured in the United States is just one example of her investment in the community. Employing local businesses and nonprofit organizations to produce BendyBack products, Welsh is providing jobs locally. Welsh also committed to return 10% of BendyBack’s profit to help others. Welsh serves on a number of nonprofit boards and provides support to children, homeless individuals, the environment and military veterans.

Tamara Werkmeister, Associate Vice President
HNTB, Santa Ana

HNTB is a dedicated professional with over 25 years of Southern California business development experience. Over the course of 15 years with HNTB Corp., an employee-owned infrastructure solutions firm, she has demonstrated successful leadership and results-oriented characteristics in each of her roles: division marketing director, business development manager, office sales manager, client service leader and project champion. Werkmeister is a champion in every sense of the word — whether winning mega projects or mentoring and supporting her colleagues. As one of a handful of female officers for the firm in the Western Region,
initiatives and local partnerships, Wolter has cemented Komen Orange County’s breast tissue for global research. For more than a decade, Pacific Islander and Latina communities contributed healthy tissue to the predominantly Caucasian and African-American tissue bank program in which Orange County contributed new cardiovascular equipment, throughout the U.S.

Throughout Wolfe’s 25+ year tenure, she adapted to internal and external changes, bringing sauce to the Leadership Community, demonstrating that professionals can achieve a balance between personal and professional commitments. A testament to her leadership abilities, she is responsible for the firm’s training program and is an invaluable resource for those seeking information about the latest regulatory requirements.

Catherine Wolfe, Senior Director, Corporate & Strategic Communications

Cathy Wolfe is one of a select group of women holding a senior-level position and helping to navigate Toshiba’s future. Throughout Wolfe’s 25+ year tenure, she adapted to internal and external changes, bringing Toshiba’s communications into the digital age to meet the changing needs of customers under Obamacare. Wolfe’s proven track record has led to the honor of receiving the 2014 Silver Stevie Award for Women in Business, Female Executive of the Year (Business Products). She is an industry expert speaking at high-profile conferences and writes on leadership communication. Wolfe is focused on listening and adapting to customers’ needs and beliefs to “dialogue with the customer … just for big ideas. But it is even more critical in B2B healthcare. Toshiba markets, sells, distributes and services diagnostic imaging and interventional procedures including CT, PET, MRI, ultrasound, X-ray and cardiovascular equipment throughout the U.S.

Lisa Wolter, Executive Director

Susan G. Komen Orange County, Costa Mesa

In 2014, Komen Orange County was named the Affiliate of the Year by Komen Foundation. The woman behind this remarkable achievement was Executive Director Lisa Wolter. Under Wolter’s leadership, the nonprofit created an innovative tissue bank program in which Orange County contributed new diversity to the predominantly Caucasian and African-American tissue bank. Susan G. Komen Tissue Bank at the Indiana University Cancer Center. Women from the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and Latina communities contributed healthy breast tissue for global research. For more than a decade, Wolfe has led the organization in its mission to save lives in Orange County and fund global breast cancer research. She successfully drives the nonprofit’s signature fundraisers, including the Pink Tie Ball and Race for the Cure. As a result of these initiatives and local partnerships, Wolter has cemented Komen Orange County’s position as the go-to breast health authority.

Dr. Tammy Wong, Chief Executive Officer/President

Fostering Executive Leadership, Irvine

Dr. Tammy Wong’s professional career spans over three decades of sales, marketing and strategy experience in Fortune 500 companies, is known for her demonstrated leadership abilities and her commitment in developing leadership in others. Fostering Executive Leadership Inc. is an international business results executive search firm. The firm connects more than 200 leadership coaches worldwide. The coaches work with leaders by improving leadership capability, capacity, and have established partnerships with a diverse range of clients. Before starting her own company, Dr. Wong worked in the technology industry for companies that included IBM, Xerox and Sun Microsystems. She has brought new leadership into many leadership positions. At Sun, she founded and was the president of the women’s organization that included over 2000 women worldwide. With this achievement, she was recognized by her peers when they selected her for the highly coveted “Making a Difference” Award.

Jennie Wong, Area Chair & Lead Faculty

University of Phoenix, Costa Mesa

As a dedicated faculty member for 22 years, Jennie Wong facilitates several University of Phoenix (UOPX) courses every year and provides University of Phoenix students in areas where she is knowledgeable. Wong strives to support the university and make the students feel proud about their college program. Part of being a UOPX faculty member is to have a profession. Wong is currently a human resources generalist for Potts & Associates LLC. Her duties at Potts & Associates include providing various employment services to clients: representation at unemployment hearings, training on writing policies and procedures, counseling employers, human resources services at employment sites, safety audits, etc. Holding this position enhances Wong’s effectiveness and knowledge at the University of Phoenix.

Cindi Wudyka, Director of Business Development

Platinum Resource Group Inc., Irvine

Given her 20 years of sales and recruiting experience, it was natural for Cindi Wudyka to join Platinum Resource Group and to help expand the company’s clientele with her high energy and positive attitude. Utilizing her previous executive business development positions in high technology and hospitality supporting Fortune 500 companies, Wudyka has introduced a vast and unique range of clientele for Platinum Resource Group. Additionally, her passion for relationships building, combines with her approachable and unforgettable personality, has helped the business create a growing presence in the professional community. Platinum Resource Group is a professional-level, boutique staffing firm.

Dr. Tammy Wong, Chief Executive Officer/President

Fostering Executive Leadership, Irvine

DIFFERENTIATE YOURSELF FROM THE CROWD WITH A CUSTOM KOSHER ICE CREAM EXPERIENCE

Creamistry is made-to-order liquid nitrogen ice cream. Their concept is fresh, unique and has gained loyal customers and stores and have eight more planned to open in 2015 so far. The first store in Irvine, Calif. Since then, the company has opened five stores and have eight more planned to open in 2015 so far. The concept is unique, and has gained loyal customers all across the southland. Dozens of popular publications have praised their product and concept including LA Times, OC Weekly, OC Register, NBC LA and many others.

Katie Yim, Founder

Creamistry, Kirkland, WA

Katie Yim founded Creamistry in 2013 and opened the first store in Irvine, Calif. Since then, the company has opened five stores and have eight more planned to open in 2015 so far. The concept is unique, and has gained loyal customers all across the southland. Dozens of popular publications have praised their product and concept including LA Times, OC Weekly, OC Register, NBC LA and many others. Creamistry is made-to-order liquid nitrogen ice cream. Creamistry utilizes over 50 premium ingredients to prepare customized, handcrafted frozen treats.
Congratulations

2015 Nominees!

Layla Lennihan - MySlate
Enilia Lawal - E-Legal Document Preparation Inc.
Lindsey Lawrence - Unyqua Bank
Susan Levinestein - HAWC CPAs & Business Advisors
Janne Lobo - BeautyMark Organics
Pamela Lopez - Good Life Design
Courtney Luebs - Simply Radiant Events
Ariane MacDonald - Dawson Cole Fine Art
Alicia Maciel - The Prentice School
Asuncion Malinande - Latina Lawyers Association
Joan Marcus-Calin - The New Home Co.
Kathryn Mariano - HAUITEC Inc./OC Fashion Week
Doris Marttingry - Lantrix
Jennifer McClaod - Yuzu Orange County
Nicole McCannock - Irvine Technology Corp.
Janet Michaels - Computerized Vehicle Registration (CVR)
Yuri Miklofas - Merriett, Phelps & Phillips, LLP
Debbie Miller - MRI
Colin Miller - GGG Demolition Inc.
Dolores Miller - CunDechena
Ashley Mulvey - Tutor Doctor
Kathryn Munne - Surterre Properties
Mary Jo Murta - Kaiser Permanente
Debbie Nagel - Orange Label Art + Advertising
Rama Nayar - creations landscape designs
Maon Lee Nessaert - Maon Lee Nessaert Estate & Custom Jewelry
Charlene Nichols - UCI
Marie J. Noell - Frshaven Memorial Park & Mortuary
Laura Nold - New Horizons Computer Learning Centers of Southern California
Laura Oltaen - Whole Earth Wellness
Ellie Tipton Ortiz - Laguna Beach Legal
Anoshree M. Ostkalani - Ship & Shore Environmental Inc.
Kathleen Owens - O'Sullivan Wealth Management
Dione Palumbo - Palumbo Bergstrom LLP
Amy Jo Pedone - Valence Chocolate Inc.
Cynthia Harris Perrazzo - Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian
Christina Pham - JMAC Lending
Melissa Pollard - Comerica Bank
Stephanie Pollaro - International Sanctuary
Debbie Porter - Pecora Pizzeria
Sunny Rajpal - Business Communications Solutions
Mimma Ronsen - Elan Academies
Dawn Rease - The Wooden Floor
Doreasa Purcell Reid - Hoag Orthopedic Institute
Tari Reid - Pacific Hospitality Group
Laura A. Reilly - Starbird Signs & Graphics Inc.
Rochelle Reiner - Orange Label Art + Advertising
Susanne Richards - Integrated Healthcare Holdings Inc. (IHHi
Annette Richardson - One Medical Group, Orange County LLC
Non Richardson - Core States Group
Maricela Rios-Fuertes - Human Options
Dorina Roberson - Jodi Communications
Lori Robertson - Allais Medical Aesthetics
Betsy Rodriguez - Global Language Solutions

Dr. Kelly Rogers - Chapman University
Sara Rollins - CBRE
Judy Rose - Custom Writing & Writing Repair Services
Barbara Roth - Association for Women in Technology
Kristina Roth - Matiasa Consultants
Kimberly Roush - All-Star Executive Coaching
Katie Ruder - MacKenzie Corp.
Cynthia Salto - Wrapapalo
Jennifer Schumann - Tiny Oranges
Kendra Senn - The Fit Life
Kimberly C. Sentovich - Gymboree Inc.
Kim Shepard - Decision Toolbox
Mimi Smith - Portera Concierge
Roxanaire Smith - Systems Source Inc.
Linda Spencer - Molson Resources LLC
Alexandra Spitz - OC Mammy and Me
Missy Stern - Bank of the West
April Stewart - 24/7 HomeCare
Michelle Stagler - Premier Business Centers
Autumn Stier - Hoag for Kids
Victoria Stromboff - Surterre Properties
Mary Christine Sungailo - Snel & Winer LLP
Kelly Tuner - Hall & Foreman, a division of David Evans and Associates Inc.
Betty Taggard - B. Koffell LLC
Troya Thorne - Tao Chi for Health
Jocqueline Thompson - Surterre Properties
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Kathy Tillotson - Build Futures
Jill Tomass - Leadership Resource Group LLC
Carol Trapani - CBRE
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Toria Truax - True Investments LLC
Hai Truong - Fish & Tsang LLP
Dr. Betty Uribe - California Bank & Trust
Cara Vargas - Orange County United Way
Lisa Vogel - Rial Manufacturing Inc.
Cathy Volpe - Hill Swifting
Marty Weinsten - Surterre Properties
Kris Williams - Surterre Properties
Jaimie Walsh - BendyBack
Tommaso Wernimmer - HNTB
Dr. Mary Wickman - Vanguard University
Diane Wittnerberg - Haskell & White LLP
Catherine Wolfe - Toshiba America Medical Systems Inc.
Lisa Wolter - Susan G. Komen Orange County
Jennie Wong - University of Phoenix
Dr. Tammy Wong - Founding Executive Leadership
Cindi Wudyk - Platinum Resource Group Inc.
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