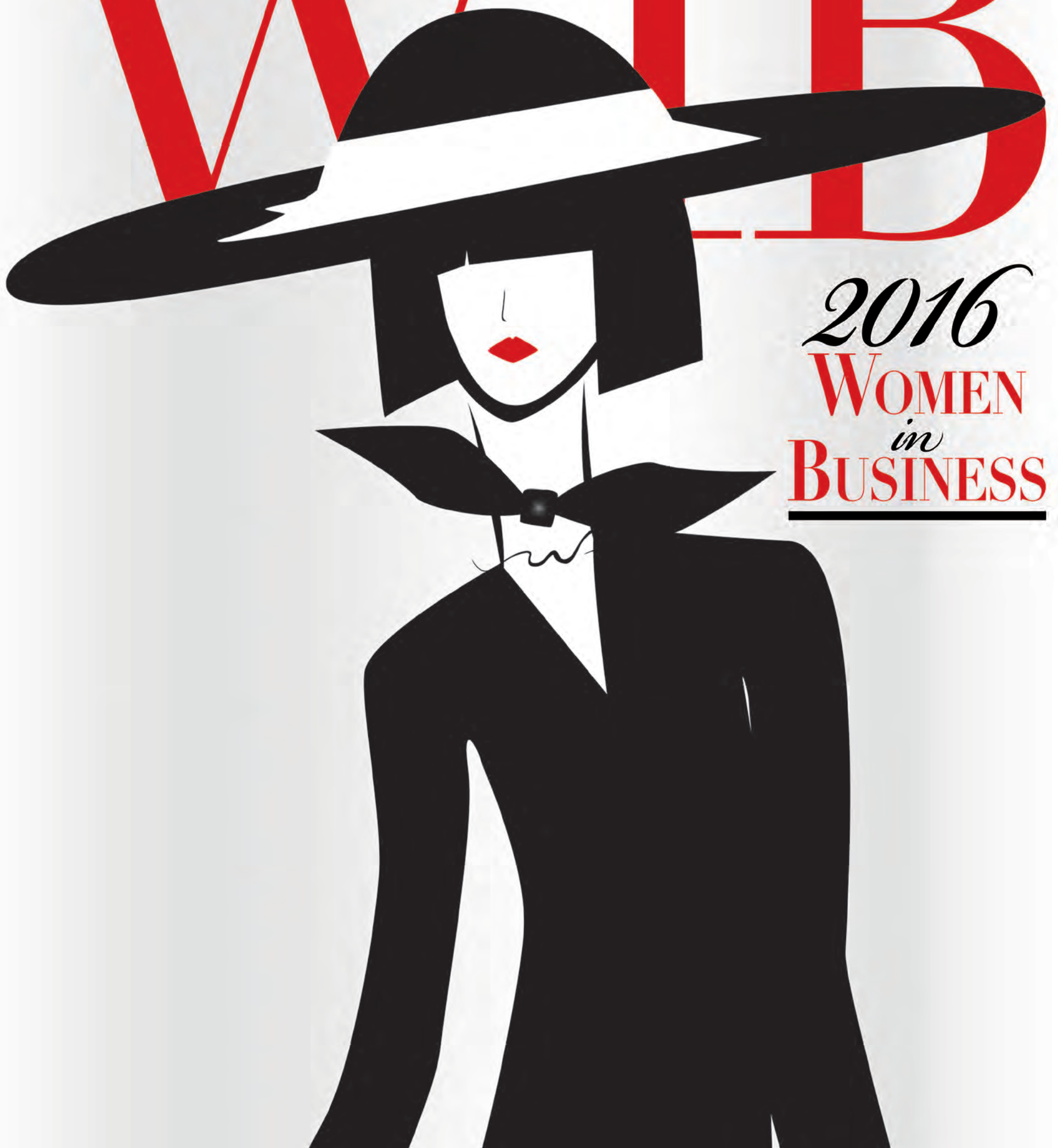


W I T E B



2016 WOMEN *in* BUSINESS

An Advertising Supplement to the Orange County Business Journal ■ April 11, 2016

Diamond Sponsor



A member of MUFG, a global financial group

Platinum Sponsors



WINSTON'S CROWN JEWELERS



CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY
ARGYROS SCHOOL OF
BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS



HOTEL IRVINE
A LIFESTYLE HOTEL



girl scouts
of orange county



T-Mobile



energy
upgrade
CALIFORNIA

Silver Sponsors



girl scouts
of orange county



T-Mobile



energy
upgrade
CALIFORNIA

Orange County women support nonprofits through board leadership

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

Congratulations to the *Orange County Business Journal's* Women in Business Awards honorees. Thank you and our local business leaders for your contributions to the growth of the Orange County economy. Orange County residents are known for civic pride and a willingness and generosity to support local nonprofits. This culture of giving supports the needs of our residents and the region—including schools, park space, clean beaches, and the arts. This helps our business community attract employees looking for a stable and growing environment to live and work and also helps support tourism.

As leaders, you have the unique opportunity to extend your giving and serve as role models for future leaders by contributing to nonprofits as board members.

"Our employees proudly partner with Orange County nonprofits to provide financial support as well as time and leadership to make a significant difference in the community."

—Rossina Gallegos, Director, MUFG Union Bank Foundation

I began serving on nonprofit boards because a colleague shared that board service is a great way to develop skills to help advance your career while contributing to a cause. I have always been passionate about health-related causes because they directly impact so many in our community by improving quality of life. I have served as a board member of the Arthritis Foundation, the MUFG Union Bank Foundation, and other organizations.

These years of board service have been gratifying. I found that board members gain not only the satisfaction of knowing they are supporting an organization they believe in, but also a learning experience that opens doors to valuable networks and relationships.

Nonprofit Board Responsibilities

Each nonprofit's board of directors provides an important part of the infrastructure for the organization's management, as well as strategic planning for current and future success.

Aside from being an ambassador of the nonprofit and contributing some funding either through donations or fundraising, you can expect to apply your professional skills. Board member responsibilities include:

- Fiduciary guidance on operations, resources, fiscal accountability, as well as legal and compliance issues
- Strategic planning, including setting priorities and measuring plan progress
- Critical thinking by probing assumptions and logic, as well as assessing values behind strategies
- Human Resources management of organization leaders

Board Opportunities

You or your employer may already participate in events or contribute funds and volunteer hours to organizations that might need your leadership. Consider board invitations from organizations that support causes that are meaningful to you.

If you are looking for a new board role, tap into your professional and personal network and, if available, your employer's community outreach department about volunteer organizations and opportunities. When volunteering, look for occasions to meet the executive director, key staff, and board members so that you can learn more about the nonprofit's approach

and structure. Board members are always recruiting the next board member, so they are generally willing to talk about the organization and board roles and potential positions.

Review profiles and posts within your professional and personal social network to learn about board experiences. Add your own interests to online profiles.

Your banker and advisors are well connected with both the business and nonprofit communities and can make mutually beneficial introductions.

Evaluating the Board Position

When you consider taking a board position, assess the nonprofit and its board carefully.

- Attend a meeting and meet with the executive director or CEO to gain an understanding of the board functions. Ask yourself: can I work well with the other board members and executive director?
- Evaluate the stability of the organization by reviewing annual reports, by-laws, and financials. A reputable nonprofit is willing and able to provide this information to a prospective board member.
- Confirm that the organization has Directors and Officers (D&O) liability insurance.
- Assess the commitment to determine if it is a fit for you. Board members generally meet at least once each fiscal quarter, but also work outside of meetings, including serving as committee chairs. Consider that in crisis situations or when working with smaller organizations, you may be required to provide more support. Be cautious of a board invitation requiring only a minimal commitment.
- Review the position to determine whether it fits with your personal and/or professional goals as well as your employer's goals.

"I am grateful to work at a company that actively supports the communities it serves and makes time for its employees to volunteer and serve in board roles. Your company may also have resources to help you find new board opportunities."

—Susan Beat, CTP, Managing Director

Serving as a board member of a nonprofit can be rewarding professionally and personally. Assess your interests and strengths as well as the nonprofit and the board member position to find a situation that benefits both the nonprofit and you.

The foregoing article is intended to provide general information about board leadership and is not considered advice from MUFG Union Bank, N.A.



Susan L. Beat, CTP

Susan Beat is Managing Director for Commercial Treasury Services for MUFG Union Bank, N.A. Her team serves clients throughout the region with depository and transaction banking solutions. Susan's support for the community includes serving on the boards of the MUFG Union Bank Foundation and the Arthritis Foundation. Susan can be reached at susan.beat@unionbank.com or 949-553-7024.

About MUFG Union Bank, N.A.

MUFG Union Bank, N.A., provides an array of financial services to individuals, small businesses, middle-market companies, and major corporations. MUFG Union Bank, N.A., is a proud member of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (NYSE: MTU), one of the world's largest financial organizations. Visit unionbank.com for more information.

Commitment to Our Communities

MUFG Union Bank, N.A., has worked toward making a positive impact and been committed to making our marketplaces healthier and more prosperous as a result of our being there. Our investment in our broad corporate social responsibility mission includes continued financial support for nonprofit organizations and significant resources for community reinvestment in the markets we serve.

MUFG Union Bank, N.A.

A member of MUFG, a global financial group





At Cox Business we give you all the tools to make your vision a reality. Explore our advanced suite of voice, Internet and TV services.

BUSINESS REQUIRES VISION

You want a provider whose business solutions can grow with your success. Our dedicated local team offers 24/7 response. There's never been a better time to switch to Cox Business.

coxbusiness.com | (844) 203-0027

Since 1971
LINDORA® CLINIC
 weight loss and wellness

For 45 Years, Helping People Lose Has Proven to be a Winning Formula

Ready to make big changes in your body and your life—but feeling hesitant because your previous efforts may have fallen short?

Cynthia Stamper Graff knows how you feel. As Chief Programs and Science Officer at Lindora Clinic and author of four weight loss books—including *The New Lean for Life*—she has made a career out of helping people lose weight and reclaim their health.

Headquartered in Costa Mesa, Lindora operates 41 Southern California locations (including 12 in Orange County). Graff, an *Orange County Business Journal* 2012 “Excellence in Entrepreneurship” and 1998 “Women in Business” Award winner, says that understanding, employing and serving women has given Lindora a competitive advantage in a fiercely competitive market. Nearly 85% of the company’s clients—and 95% of their employees—are female.

We talked with Graff about Lindora’s Lean for Life program, the company’s 45th anniversary, and the challenges of remaining relevant in the eyes of consumers.

Your first book, *Lean for Life*, was published nearly 20 years ago and has sold more than a million copies. How is *The New Lean for Life* 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 is rapidly evolving. My co-author, Dr. Reginald Allouche, is a French researcher and one of the world’s foremost nutrition experts. We’ve included new 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. Dr. Allouche’s research confirms that the Lean for Life program helps shrink the size of your fat cells twice as much as conventional diets.”



Cynthia Stamper Graff (center) and weight loss contest winners at Fox & Friends interview in New York City.

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

“Our program offers much more than a diet. 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.

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.”

Diabetes is a hot topic in the news. What are the risk factors—and what can people do to address them?

“When 30 million Americans have type 2 diabetes and one in three adults is pre-diabetic, it’s an important conversation. Achieving and maintaining a healthy weight is one of the most important ways to avoid or even reverse type 2 diabetes. That’s why we’re pleased to be recently recognized by the Centers for Disease Control as a Diabetes Prevention Program provider.

We offer a free pre-diabetes screening, and many who take it are surprised to learn their risk factors. The good news is that through weight loss and increased activity, healthy improvements can be achieved quickly.”

It’s challenging for any company to thrive over decades. How has Lindora done it?

“From day one, our mantra has been ‘Meet the patient’s needs.’ When I joined the company in 1989, my mission was to make our program more accessible to more people. Through our books, online program, and customized program options, we’ve made it easier than ever for busy people to make healthy changes in their lives. Our first clinics were typically located in medical settings. Today, our clinics are primarily in retail spaces. We’ve anticipated the needs of

consumers and have been committed to making our services accessible and convenient, always delivering the results they expect. Our first patient from 45 years ago still visits periodically for a weight check and a hug.”



Cynthia Stamper Graff signs a copy of her most recent book, *The New Lean for Life*.

What’s next for the company?

“This is a big year for Lindora. We recently moved into new corporate headquarters. We’re launching an exciting rebranding campaign that will impact every aspect of our business—a new company logo, new website, new product packaging, new TV commercials, and a new look and feel inside our clinics.

We’re opening new clinics in Southern California, and we have Northern California in our expansion plans beginning in the third quarter. We’re also augmenting our online and mobile program options to meet the anticipated demand resulting from the national diabetes prevention initiative.

In five years, how do you anticipate Lindora will celebrate it’s 50th anniversary?

“With 65% of American adults being overweight or obese, the need for our Lean for Life solutions will continue to grow. We’ll continue to innovate and offer new concepts and approaches that will make it easier for people to manage their weight and improve their health. By doing this, I expect we’ll be even more relevant and successful than we are today.”

ABOUT LINDORA

Lindora Clinic is America’s leading clinical weight management provider. Since 1971, clients have experienced rapid, safe weight loss with Lindora Clinic’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 clinicians and “success stories” have been featured on *Good Morning America*, *The CBS Evening News* and in such publications as *People* and the *Los Angeles Times*.

41 LOCATIONS

Lindora Clinic has locations throughout Orange County, Los Angeles, Ventura County, Inland Empire and Palm Desert. Lindora’s Orange County locations

include Costa Mesa, Fullerton, Huntington Beach, Irvine, La Habra, Laguna Hills, Laguna Niguel, Newport Beach, Orange, Rancho Santa Margarita, and San Juan Capistrano.

SPECIAL OFFER

Lindora Clinic is celebrating 45 years of helping people become Lean for Life by offering up to 45% off weight loss programs. Schedule a free consultation and bring a copy of our ad from this issue into any Lindora Clinic and you’ll receive a free copy of *The New Lean for Life*. This special offer ends June 30, 2016. For details, call 1-800-LINDORA.

PHONE

1.800.LINDORA

WEBSITE

www.lindora.com

**WELLS
FARGO**

Wells Fargo
is proud to
sponsor the
2016 Annual
Women in
Business
Awards

When people work together, great things can be accomplished.

Orange County Commercial Banking Office

Patty Juarez • 714-712-2500 • juarezp@wellsfargo.com

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

Together we'll go far





Why Women Leaders Need to Help Develop the Younger Generation

by Patty Juarez, Wells Fargo

Millennials have been a hot topic of discussion, and it's easy to see why. Recent data shows that by 2020, millennials will represent nearly 50% of the workforce. Women have historically had a keen ability to engender trust and build relationships, two important qualities in a financial service professional. Moreover, there is a clear correlation between more women in leadership positions and the improved performance of companies they lead. So the imperative is clear, let's get these young women ready to assume increasing levels of responsibility.

The importance of how women leaders can help develop younger generations of future leaders came to me in my role as co-chair of the Women's Leadership Group at Wells Fargo. In Orange County, I work with a team of diverse financial professionals, and mentor high potential women. As I began working with millennials, from what I had read, implied that millennials feel entitled, their work ethic is not great and they need lots of flexibility. However, as I started working with three young women, I immediately learned that these millennials are fantastic! In fact, they all worked incredibly hard, set very aggressive career goals and they value opportunities for advancement.

Many of my mentoring revolved around compensation discussions, make no mistake, millennials expect to be paid for their good work! Consequently, companies that are progressive in providing promotions and pay increases will fare much better in terms of retaining talent. As leaders, we must speak up and advocate for these women or we risk losing them because millennials want to feel valued and appreciated.

In working with Orange County middle market businesses, I see local businesses struggle with similar issues. They often cite talent management and motivating their workforce as the most pressing challenges they face in their companies along with regulatory pressures or finding funding sources. Finding and retaining talent is a crucial priority for most middle market companies. Businesses of all sizes struggle with finding the right people for their companies. Owners have to create a culture appealing to millennials beyond casual days, free food, or nap rooms. They want flexibility, opportunity, meaning, positive impact, and good pay. This list is in order of priority, in fact, over half of the millennials will take a cut in pay to work somewhere where they find meaning and opportunity.

Companies need to listen to what the younger generations are clamoring for: flexibility. A recent study by PwC found that 66% of millennials want flexible hours. This supports millennials work/life balance priority. Even though many wait to have children until their mid-thirties, they still enjoy the flexibility to work from home at times, flexible hours, and empowerment to make decisions without fear of repercussion.

Another important thing we as leaders need to offer women millennials is consistent and thoughtful feedback. As a mentor, I am often asked for my opinion as to how a certain issue or situation was handled by my mentees. The more candid the feedback I give, the better. For this type of interaction they prefer face-to-face meetings instead of email or phone calls. Lastly, behind lack of career progression, millennial women leave jobs because they don't find their work interesting or meaningful. We as leaders have to be aware of the level of engagement our future leaders feel. Annual surveys on empowerment

and engagement, as we do at Wells Fargo, are a great way to find out how connected and engaged employees feel.

To develop the next generation of leaders, we need to provide flexibility, adequate incentives, and nurturing environments where young people feel their development and growth is a priority. Millennials are team players, diverse, optimistic, active in their communities and socially conscious. We as leaders need to facilitate opportunities for them to thrive and find meaning in what they do, and if we do that, we will have their loyalty.

Patty Juarez

Patty Juarez is Senior Vice President and Regional Manager at Wells Fargo's Commercial Banking Office in Orange, CA. Patty earned her bachelor's degree in business from the University of California, Berkeley, and her MBA in business administration from St. Mary's College of California in Moraga where she graduated with honors. Active in a variety of professional and community organizations, Patty sits on the board of CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Orange County and heads up its board development effort. CASA is an organization that trains community volunteers to serve as powerful mentors and advocates for our community's abused, abandoned, and neglected children. She is also a board member at The Prentice School. The Prentice School is a private, nonprofit school that provides specialized programs to students with learning differences. Patty is also on the Leadership Council for THINK Together, an organization that provides high-quality academically-oriented after school programs for students in disadvantaged communities. She sits on the Dean's Board of Counselors for Chapman University's school of business and economics. Lastly, she is immediate past chair and board member of the Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, an organization that represents the interests of Orange County's 33,000 Hispanic-owned businesses. Internally, Patty mentors team members throughout Wells Fargo, assists with the company's diverse candidate recruitment, and chaired the Women's Leadership Group and is active in the Diversity Council for Commercial Banking. In terms of recognition, the National Latina Business Women Association selected Patty as the Corporate Leader of the Year for their 2015 Women of Excellence Awards. In 2014, Patty was named "Woman of the Year" by the National Hispanic Business Women Association for her work in the corporate sector. As a result of her dedication to the community and her Board service in Orange County, Patty was honored with One OC's Spirit of Volunteerism Award in 2013 and was recently named 2016 Volunteer of the Year by the OC Volunteer Chapter of Wells Fargo. Patty was also recognized by the Orange County Business Journal with Women in Business Nominations for 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016. Patty lives in South Orange County with her husband Manuel and her children Isabella and Max. Contact Patty at juarezp@wellsfargo.com.



About Wells Fargo Middle Market Commercial Banking

With more than 140 offices in 38 states and four Canadian provinces, Wells Fargo Middle Market Commercial Banking provides local service and decision-making for businesses with annual revenues of greater than \$20 million. Asset-based lending, traditional secured loans, and capital markets provide access to working capital for day-to-day operations and growth. Expertise and services are available to specialty industries, including food

and agribusiness, healthcare, government, higher education, clean technology, and environmental services. Wells Fargo has the highest market share of middle-market company relationships in the U.S., according to the 2013 TNS Commercial Banking Momentum Monitor.

Winner of the 2015 TNS Choice Awards, Wells Fargo is the No. 1 preferred bank by companies in the U.S. with annual sales of \$50 million to \$2 billion.

Leona changed her life. *Are you ready?*

Now

Leona

Age: 37 Height: 5'5" Weight: 157

Half My Size.

"With Lean for Life, I lost 35 pounds in 10 weeks and a total of 168 pounds. At 325 pounds, I wore a size 26. Today, I'm a size 8."

Living Like I Mean It.

"My self-esteem suffered for years. It was physically and emotionally exhausting to be so heavy. Losing weight changed more than my body and my health. It changed my entire life. I'm loving how the world sees me—and how I see the world."



Then

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 20 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 41 convenient Southern California clinics, including Newport Beach, Costa Mesa, Irvine, Huntington Beach, Laguna Hills, Orange and eight other Orange County locations. No matter where you live or work, there's a Lindora Clinic near you, so give us a call today.

We're ready when you are.

Since 1971
LINDORA® CLINIC
weight loss and wellness

Call or visit us online today!

1.800.LINDORA | lindora.com

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

Welcome "2016 Women in Business Awards" guests and *Orange County Business Journal* readers: Lindora Clinic is celebrating 45 years of helping people become Lean for Life with a special anniversary offer: **45%* OFF** Lean for Life programs purchased by June 30, 2016.

*Restrictions apply.



WINSTON'S CROWN JEWELERS

NEWPORT BEACH SINCE 1969



CROWN JEWEL COLLECTION
UP TO 30 CARATS

LARGEST JEWELRY SELECTION IN ORANGE COUNTY
LARGE & RARE DIAMONDS PURCHASED

100 West Coast Highway, Newport Beach, CA | 949-642-5000

www.winstonscrownjewelers.com



WINSTON'S CROWN JEWELERS

NEWPORT BEACH SINCE 1969



NOW ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS

ESTATE BUYERS OF DIAMONDS & FINE JEWELRY

ROLEX/CARTIER/PATEK PHILIPPE
100 West Coast Highway, Newport Beach, CA | 949-642-5000

www.winstonscrownjewelers.com



The Argyros School: Taking bold steps. Leading the way.

The AACSB-accredited Argyros School of Business and Economics at Chapman University offers students extraordinary access to integrated business education taught by deeply engaged faculty. Master's level programs include:

- ▶ Master of Business Administration
 - Full-time, Executive, or Professional
 - International
 - Integrated (4+1)
- ▶ Master of Science in Accounting
- ▶ Master of Science in Economic System Design
- ▶ Joint MBA programs with:
 - MFA Film & Television
 - MS Food Science
 - Juris Doctor (JD)

Students who graduate from Argyros do so with a strong understanding of how American business operates in the world and how they can contribute to it.

Executive MBA

In business, there is only one constant: Things will change. That's why a growing number of forward-thinking mid-career managers and professionals are turning to the Executive MBA (EMBA) program at the Argyros School of Business and Economics.

Ranked among the top 100 business schools in both *Bloomberg Business* and *U.S. News and World Report*, the Argyros School at Chapman University offers an EMBA that helps executives gain the skills and confidence to excel in a competitive marketplace. The Argyros program features a practical yet dynamic curriculum that offers opportunities to network with top executives, cultivate lifelong friendships and business partners, learn from renowned faculty, and gain first-hand knowledge and experience in a global market.

Argyros EMBA students are immersed in both experimental and real-world business settings, connect theory to practical applications, and participate in hands-on learning with high-achieving peers, enabling them to build a strong foundation in every key business discipline.

The Argyros EMBA is a full-time program, specifically designed to accommodate full-time working executives. Classes meet twice weekly in the evenings and on weekends for 21 consecutive months. The program does require residential experience trips to San Diego; Washington, D.C.; and Asia. These trips provide students with opportunities to meet with and learn from business leaders in diverse global environments. Other highlights of the program include tutors, catered pre-class meals, textbook delivery, and one-on-one executive coaching.

Argyros EMBA Program highlights include:

- ▶ Three residential courses
- ▶ 21-month program
- ▶ Textbooks and case studies for all classes
- ▶ Private sessions with an executive coach
- ▶ Meals before class
- ▶ Tutors for quantitative courses

Professional MBA

In addition to its Executive MBA program, the Argyros School offers a part-time Professional MBA for career-minded individuals. This highly regarded program is offered in a flexible format, and allows students to customize their path. For



example, working professionals who want to maintain momentum in their career may complete the program with evening courses. On the other hand, emerging professionals can opt for daytime courses and the Professional Development Program, which provides personal brand development and an active assessment of career options.

Students may also take advantage of leadership roles in the MBA Association and Argyros Ambassador programs, attend national conferences, participate in case competitions, and engage with top executives both inside and outside the classroom. The Professional MBA can be earned at a flexible pace in 21 to 28 months.

Highlights of the Professional MBA include:

- ▶ Fall or Spring start
- ▶ Flexible course offerings in the day or evening
- ▶ Optional travel course to South America or Scandinavia
- ▶ Merit scholarship and graduate assistantship opportunities

Master of Science in Accounting (MSA)

This practical program is designed to qualify graduates to sit for the California CPA exam while earning a master's degree. Students enjoy a highly personalized learning environment that offers:

- ▶ A keen understanding of the strategic role of

accounting in business organizations

- ▶ The ability to apply ethical principles and responsibilities in accounting
- ▶ Expertise in the field using relevant academic and professional research
- ▶ The ability to communicate effectively and persuasively

The MSA program may be completed in 10 months, but the program length may vary depending on unfinished prerequisites. Classes meet in the evening. Students may also complete business courses offered in our AACSB-accredited and nationally ranked MBA program.

For complete information about all Argyros School programs, please visit Chapman.edu/Business.

Honoring Members of the Chapman Family

The Argyros School joins with the Orange County Business Journal in saluting the accomplishments of women involved in the OC business community. Their expertise, energy and determination continue to further the county's reputation as a welcoming home for businesses that range from local to global.

Our warmest congratulations go out to members of the Chapman Family who were nominated for this special recognition this year:

Sheryl Bourgeois, Ph.D., Executive Vice President, Chapman University
 Rebecca Hall, CEO, Idea Hall (BA 1996, Business Communications)
 Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks, CEO, Earth Friendly Products (EMBA candidate, 2016)
 Melany Koenig, President, M2 Marketing + Management (BS 2009, Business Administration)
 Robin Follman-Otta, CEO, RA Industries LLC /Markall Inc. (EMBA, 2015)





Swimwear's Leading House of Fashion

RAJ Swim (www.rajswim.com) is the swimwear industry's leading house of fashion, supplying all major segments of the women's and children's market. **RAJ** is one of few vertical manufacturers in the U.S. that designs, manufactures, and markets designer and private label swimwear and coverups. With three out of four suits made in the U.S., their portfolio of globally recognized brands sets them apart as the voice of swimwear.

Contemporary brands include Ella Moss, Basta and Splendid. Active and athleisure brands include Oakley, Hurley, Reef, NEXT. Athena and LUXE by Lisa Vogel cater to the luxury woman.

For 49 years and counting, **RAJ** has set the industry standard in design innovation, quality-consciousness and production flexibility. Throughout its

history, **RAJ** has attracted the best retailers, the best brands and the best talent in swimwear.

In 2009, **RAJ** opened its retail doors to **SwimSpot** (www.swimspot.com). With more than eight locations across the U.S., **SwimSpot** is the quick, easy and fun shopping destination for the modern sun lover. **SwimSpot's** team of **Fit Specialists** can help you find the best swimsuit or beach accessory to compliment your body type and personal style! Visit a location near you at Fashion Island or Irvine Spectrum.

For more information, please visit www.swimspot.com.



Congratulations!

Congratulations to the 2016 Women in Business honorees and nominees.

Orange County's more than 21,000 Girl Scouts thank you for demonstrating courage, confidence, and character and for inspiring them to become the next generation of female leaders!

Invest in Girls.
Change the World.
www.GirlScoutsOC.org



girl scouts
of orange county



2015 Celebrate Leadership Honorees with Girl Scouts: (back row from left) Sydney Fredette, Sumiko Katayama, Priya Mistry, Deborah Proctor, Sue Graham-Sparks, Tanya Domier, Jacqueline Akerblom, Corinne Burton, (front row from left) Rylee Bell, Samantha Reyes, Cadija DePaepe, Cayman Wurth



Business Leaders and Girl Scouts Stand Up for Girls

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.

Building Our Next Generation of Female Leaders

Now under construction in Newport Beach's Marina Park is the Girl Scouts of Orange County Leadership Center, a first-of-its-kind interactive facility that will address the shortage of women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) by providing Orange County's more than 21,000 Girl Scouts a place to embrace challenges, understand the role STEM plays in *all* careers through virtual interactions with extraordinary women spanning diverse careers, and learn to take action that leads to positive sustainable change in their community— all while enjoying waterfront activities and creating lifelong memories.

Scheduled to open in early 2017, the Girl Scouts of Orange County Leadership Center will also offer girls opportunities to apply their learning as they explore the Balboa Peninsula. Outdoor activities will include kayaking, sailing, and—building s'mores on the patio as the sun sets over the ocean. Returning home, girls will continue their career exploration and take action initiatives in their communities.

Celebrating Female Leaders

Girl Scouts of Orange County's annual Celebrate Leadership event will recognize six Girl Scout alumnae who are making a difference in our community and raise funds for vital Girl Scout programs. Celebrate Leadership will take place on Friday, November 4 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 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.

Girl Scouts Works!

- ▶ 52% of all businesswomen in the United States were Girl Scouts
- ▶ 53% of female business owners were Girl Scouts
- ▶ One in two Girl Scout alumnae says Girl Scouts contributed to her success

She can always count on you.



You can always count on us.

- Child Passenger Safety Programs
- Teen Driver Safety Programs
- Senior Mobility Programs
- Identity Theft Monitoring*
- Member discounts on dining, shopping, entertainment and travel



We're always with you.®



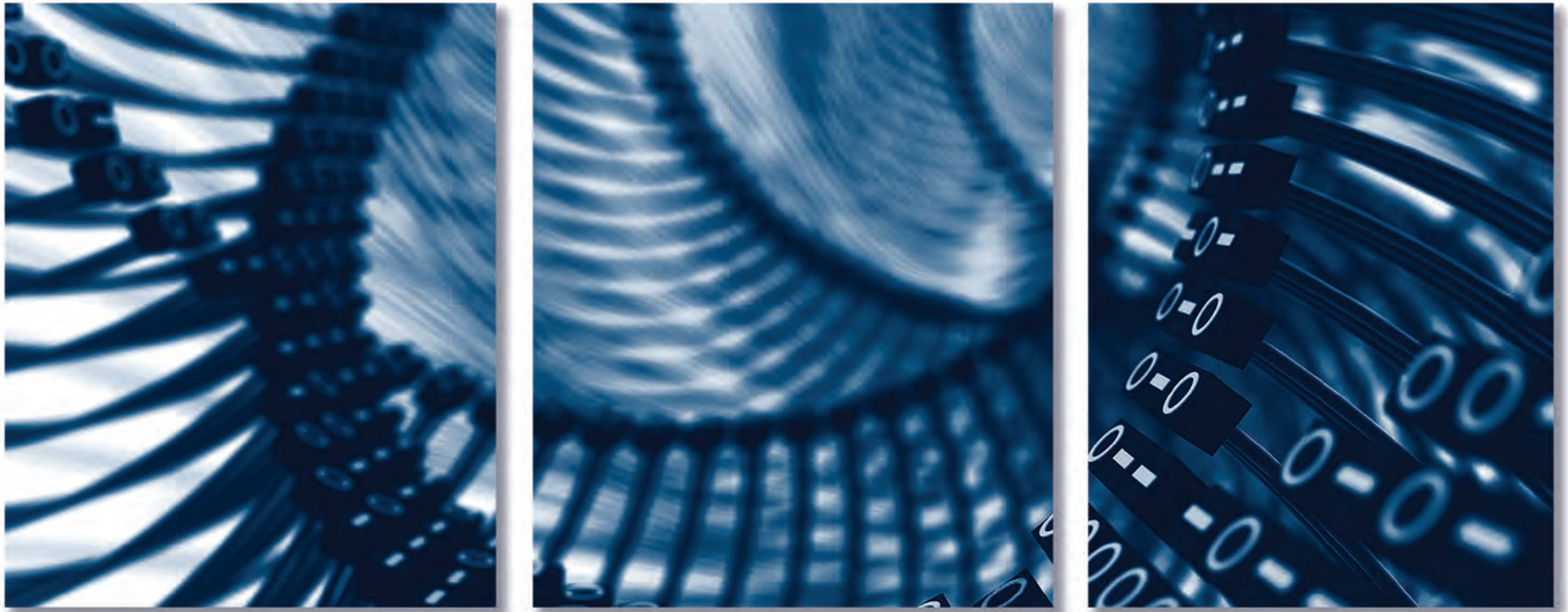
*AAA's Identity Theft Monitoring products are provided by ConsumerInfo.com, an Experian® company. For information, including terms and conditions, visit AAA.com/creditcheck. Copyright © 2016 Automobile Club of Southern California. All Rights Reserved.

AAA.com



**Mayer
Hoffman
McCann P.C.**
An Independent CPA Firm

MAYER HOFFMAN MCCANN P.C. | ATTEST SERVICES
CBIZ MHM, LLC | TAX | CONSULTING
www.cbiz.com | www.mhmcpa.com | 949.450.4400



*Experience How Everything We Do
Has A Single Focus - **Your Success***

Providing **attest** and **tax services** to a wide variety of **public companies, early-stage** and **growing private companies.**

We are one of the leading providers of accounting services to Southern California's **Technology & Life Sciences** industries - focusing on **private companies** preparing to **go public** or **be acquired.**

Contact: James Borella
jborella@cbiz.com



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.



Our *Women-Owned Business* practice is led by partner Susan Levinstein, who along with fellow partners Jodi Ristrom and Sheila Ashrafi, provide key leadership roles within our firm and the OC business community.

As your trusted business advisors, HMWC offers the services that you need to help improve productivity and profitability. Talk to us about how we can make a difference for your business.

Women-Owned Business Practice
Complete Financial Office Solutions
 Accounting • Tax Consulting
 Business Advisory Services
 Corporate Finance • Mergers & Acquisitions
 Estate & Financial Planning

(714) 505-9000 • www.hmwccpa.com

**Women in leadership
 is our practice, too!**



More Than A Bank

Powering your potential.

You built your successful business on late nights, sacrifice, and a vision. When it comes to growing that business, you need more than financing. You need a strategic partner who combines capital with game-changing ideas and tailored solutions. Opus Bankers make your vision a reality.

More Than A Bank. A strategic partner for growth.

Commercial | Retail | Merchant | Correspondent Bank

Commercial Banking | Commercial Real Estate Banking | Treasury Management | Fiduciary Banking | Escrow & Exchange | Healthcare Banking

Technology Banking | Media & Entertainment Banking | Business Banking | Personal Banking | Corporate Finance | Private Equity | Advisory



855.678.7226 | OpusBank.com

Power Pieces by Lugano Diamonds

Exude confidence and style with one-of-a-kind power pieces by Lugano Diamonds. Their remarkable collection of jewelry will help you achieve any look and occasion, from a high-stakes business meeting to entertaining clients, and everything in between. Lugano Diamonds' exquisite pieces are designed to be as brilliant as you are.

The World is Your Oyster; Conquer it in Pearls



Lugano Diamonds' Gray Spikey Diamond and Pearl Earrings offer a perfect balance of elegance and edge. Over 11 carats of uniquely textured gray diamonds contrast smooth white pearls set in 18 karat rose gold, encrusted with round brilliant diamonds.



Grand in size and luster, Lugano's signature Pearl Necklace features 25 rare 14 MM South Sea Pearls. Showcasing their natural beauty, the pearls' unique shape paired with a stand-alone bead studded with round brilliant diamonds and seed pearls, give this classic strand a distinctive look.

Visit Lugano Diamonds

Set an appointment 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, visit www.luganodiamonds.com, call 1.866.584.2666 or email susan@luganodiamonds.com.

Flower Power



Whether blossoming on a lapel or ring finger, Lugano Diamonds' Sliced Diamonds Ring/Brooch is truly a statement accessory. A 1.56 carat cushion cut cognac diamond is surrounded by gorgeous petals crafted from over 8 carats of white diamonds sliced to showcase the stone's natural beauty. The piece is set in black gold and outlined with a mix of 2.73 carats of round brilliant, yellow and cognac diamonds.



Lugano Diamonds' Pink Diamond Flower Pendant adds a delicate touch to every ensemble with its soft shape and pretty hue. Suspended from an 18 karat rose gold chain, the pendant blooms with round brilliant and rose cut diamonds in a variety of pink shades.

Color Outside the Lines



Red and purple are power colors associated with strength, ambition and passion, and speak volumes about those who wear them. Artistically designed, Lugano Diamonds' Purple Sapphire Free Form Earrings emanate a royal hue through a mix of pink, black and round brilliant diamonds set in black gold.

The color red symbolizes strength and the wearer is sure to radiate the same quality. Lugano Diamonds' Oval Ruby Drop Earrings 'wow' with 9.30 carats of richly-colored unheated oval rubies set in 18 karat white gold.





The Power of Section 1031 Exchanges for Tax and Estate Planning

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

For those women business owners who own highly appreciated business or investment real estate, there's an effective tax and estate planning strategy at your disposal: the Section 1031 "like kind" exchange. It can help you defer capital gains taxes on appreciated property indefinitely — and even eliminate them permanently.

Sec. 1031 allows you to exchange one or more pieces of business or investment real estate for other business or investment real estate without recognizing capital gain. Despite the term "like-kind," you can exchange, for example, an apartment complex for a strip mall. The only limitation is that the value of the new properties should be equal to or greater than the value of the existing properties. If you receive any cash or other non-real-estate property, it'll be currently taxable.

Few Sec. 1031 exchanges involve a direct exchange of one property for another. Most are structured as "deferred exchanges." In other words, you sell your property (the "relinquished" property) and then use the proceeds to acquire new property (the "replacement" property).



Susan Levinstein

Safe harbors to be aware of

The key to avoiding capital gains tax in an exchange is to ensure that you never possess or control the sale proceeds. And the best way to do that is to use one of several IRS safe harbors. With a deferred exchange, you sell the relinquished property (or properties) and engage a qualified intermediary (QI) to hold the proceeds and buy replacement property (or properties). If you identify replacement property within 45 days and complete the purchase within 180 days after the relinquished property is sold, the capital gain is deferred.

With a reverse exchange, you engage a QI to acquire replacement property *before* you sell relinquished property. To defer capital gain, you must identify the relinquished property within 45 days and complete the sale within 180 days. To avoid holding title to

relinquished and replacement properties at the same time, you must "park" replacement properties with an "exchange accommodation titleholder" until the transaction is completed.

These and other safe harbors (such as trusts and qualified escrow accounts) aren't the only way to complete a Sec. 1031 exchange. But if you do an exchange outside the safe harbors, the IRS may challenge it and treat the transaction as taxable.

Harnessing the power of estate planning

Although a Sec. 1031 exchange is best known as a tax-deferral technique, it's also a powerful estate planning tool. Ordinarily, when you sell appreciated real estate you must pay taxes on the gain at rates as high as 20%, leaving less to pass on to your children or other heirs.

If you hold onto property for life, however, the capital gains disappear. Your heirs receive a "stepped-up basis" in the property equal to its fair market value on your date of death, erasing any previous appreciation in value and allowing them to turn around and sell the property tax-free.

Exchanging properties for TIC interests

A tactic to consider is exchanging a single property for several tenancy-in-common (TIC) interests. TIC interests are fractional, undivided interests in larger properties. Exchanging real estate for TIC interests not only defers capital gains taxes, but also gives you access to professionally managed, institutional-grade real estate. And it provides some interesting estate planning opportunities, such as passing on TIC interests equally to heirs.

Susan Levinstein, CPA, is a partner with HMWC CPAs & Business Advisors (www.hmwccpa.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.

Where Personality Stays.

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 50,000 sq. ft. of bold meeting space—including one of the largest ballrooms in the area—all located right in the heart of Orange County.

EATS Kitchen+Bar | Red Bar & Lounge | 24/7 Marketplace | Pool & Cabanas



LIFESTYLE[™]
Preferred
HOTELS & RESORTS

Located at the
405 FWY & Jamboree

HOTEL IRVINE
A LIFESTYLE HOTEL

hotelirvine.com
866.554.1907



swim spot

Designer Swimwear. Better Suited.



shop
24/7

swimspot.com

Hamptons
Solid scalloped
one piece,
\$108 USD:
SP33566BLU

877-684-7946 | FitSpecialist@swimspot.com



Visiting a National Park for the NPS Centennial? The Auto Club Can Help

Southern Californians are now busily planning their trips to celebrate the centennial of the U.S. National Park Service (NPS), which officially occurs on Aug. 25 but is being commemorated throughout 2016. The Automobile Club of Southern California has a variety of services enabling parks visitors of all ages to enjoy their trips and return home with a renewed appreciation for America's natural wonders.

New National Parks "mini map" for kids

This Auto Club map of the U.S. displays all 57 national parks in the 50 states and provides facts, educational games and road trip activities to keep youngsters busy on the drive. It's available free to Auto Club members and costs \$1.95 for non-members.

Paper maps and AAA TourBooks

Paper maps are great planning tools for vacations of all types, and they don't need battery power or cell phone service to work in remote areas. AAA maps are free to members and available for non-member purchase at Auto Club branches, and include maps that cover all regions of the U.S., in addition to separate guides/maps for national park areas that include:

► **Yosemite National Park Commemorative Edition** – This limited-edition map celebrates the centennial of the NPS with historical photos and maps of the park from the Auto Club's archives, as well as the latest information on points of interest, campgrounds and nearby lodging.

► **Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Guide Map** – These two adjacent national parks in Central California are often visited together and include majestic giant sequoia forests, breathtaking waterfalls, opportunities for river rafting, the world-famous General Sherman tree, and miles of hiking trails including part of the Pacific Crest Trail running from the Mexico to the Canada borders. The map provides details on attractions, activities, camping facilities and lodging.

► **Public Lands Campgrounds Southern & Central California** – This comprehensive guide to campgrounds in national and state parks is a must for RV and camping enthusiasts. It provides details on amenities at each facility, contact information for reservations, regulations on maximum RV/trailer sizes and other vital details.

Another popular print travel planning tool is AAA TourBooks. They are a complete do-it-yourself guide for national park trip planners, listing nearby AAA Diamond-



rated lodgings and restaurants, local attractions, AAA discounts, and points of interest. AAA TourBooks are a member benefit, cover every U.S. state and are available at AAA branches.

Custom travel planning

Visit any Auto Club branch and let the experts plan your trip for you, at no cost to you (excluding airline ticket processing fees for some transactions). Some of the most popular national park guided vacations available for booking at Auto Club branches include:

► **National Parks of America** tour offered by AAA Member Choice Vacations: This 12-day trip covers five national parks – Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce Canyon, Yellowstone and Grand Teton – plus other famous points of interest in Arizona, Utah, Colorado, Wyoming and South Dakota.

► **Western Discoverer** by Trafalgar Tours – Grand Canyon and Yosemite national parks are included in this two-week tour of California, Nevada and Arizona.

► **Wonders of the American West** by Insight Vacations- Visit seven national parks in 10 days in Arizona, Colorado and Utah, along with trips to Las Vegas and Lake Powell.

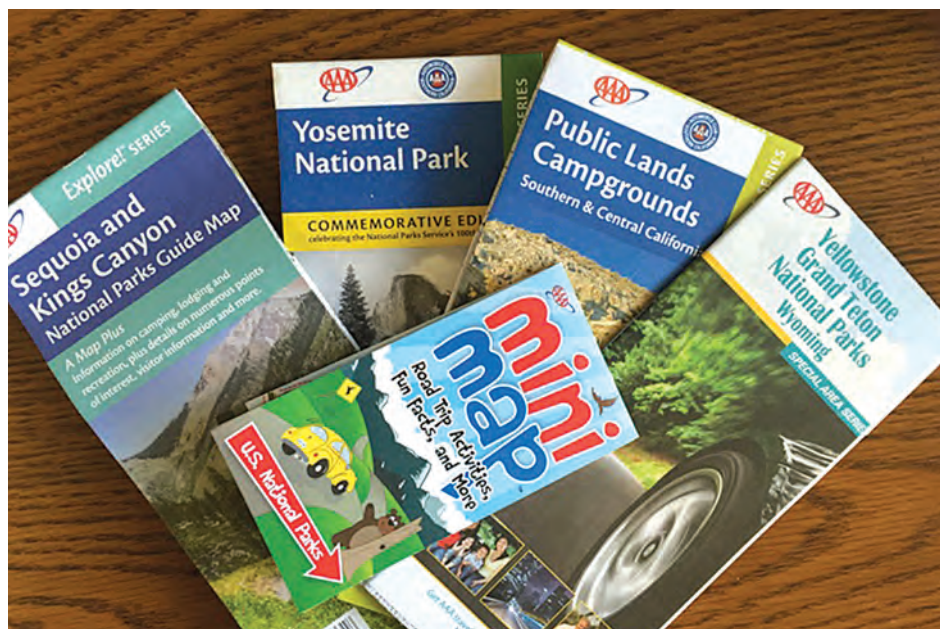
Numerous cruise lines also offer trips highlighting the sensational views and majesty of Glacier Bay and Denali national parks in Alaska.

The most popular self-driving vacation booked in Auto Club branches is the "Rails to the Rim" trip on Grand Canyon Railway, which whisks you on vintage train cars from accommodations in Williams, AZ to Grand Canyon Village to experience the world-famous natural phenomenon.

AAA.com and AAA Mobile app

Visit the Auto Club's website, AAA.com/NationalParks, to research your trip with Westways magazine articles on national park adventures and a unique interactive map showing how the original routes to the Western national parks were developed in the early 1900s.

The free AAA Mobile app available for iOS and Android can be used by both members and non-members (except for member-only roadside assistance and discounts). It provides maps, turn-by-turn directions, AAA TourBook information about destinations, flight/hotel/car rental reservations, nearby current gas prices, parking lot information/prices for major cities, and nearby AAA branches, AAA discount locations, and Approved Auto Repair facilities. *More information is available at AAA.com/mobile.*



T-Mobile®

Don't let your wireless carrier stop your business at the border.

Get unlimited calls and texts to and from the U.S., Mexico and Canada at no extra charge.



T-Mobile® is extending coverage across the U.S., Mexico and Canada at no extra charge. Use your 4G LTE data, and call and text just like in the U.S. without fear of overages. Your plan works the same, no matter what side of the border you're on.

Speak to an @Work specialist at your T-Mobile store



T-Mobile.com/AtWork

Globe does not depict coverage. Device, network & coverage impact experience and speeds, which vary. Limited time offers; subject to change. **Unlimited talk and text features for direct communications between 2 people.** Charges apply for calls and texts to other countries. Qualifying plan and capable device required. **Not for extended international use; you must reside in the U.S. and primary usage must occur on our U.S. network.** Service may be terminated or restricted for excessive roaming. Communications with premium-rate numbers not included. **Coverage** not available in some areas; we are not responsible for our partners' networks. See brochures and **Terms and Conditions (including arbitration provision)** at www.T-Mobile.com for additional information. T-Mobile and the magenta color are registered trademarks of Deutsche Telekom AG. © 2016 T-Mobile USA, Inc.



Cigna and St. Joseph Hoag Health Are Making Health Care More Connected, Personalized AND Cost Effective

At Cigna and St. Joseph Hoag Health, we rolled up our sleeves and designed integrated health care benefit plans, bringing you the products Southern California employers and employees have been asking for.

A different approach to health care

We offer plans with the service you are looking for, starting with trusted names in health care. You know the service provided by Cigna. And St. Joseph Hoag Health hospitals and physicians are the ones offering trusted care to your employees and their families.

We also developed a new model for working with employers that starts with getting to know them as partners. We work with employers to deliver solutions

tailored to their employees' needs. St. Joseph Hoag Health physicians and other health care experts collaborate with the Cigna team, so employers and their broker consultants can assess each business' potential for improving employee health and reducing costs. Then we design innovative health and wellness programs that help prevent serious health care issues in the future and better manage current concerns.

And we continue to add those services employers and employees really want. For example, our plans will include *eVisit from St. Joseph Hoag Health*, a telemedicine program that provides a virtual physician visit via computer or mobile phone at the same cost as an office visit. Information about the visit is also connected to the patient's electronic medical record so doctors have a complete and up-to-date picture of the patient's care.

"This is health care at the right time and the right place," states Richard Afable, MD, president and CEO of St. Joseph Hoag Health.

According to Gene Rapisardi, president and general manager of Cigna Sales in Southern California. "We're creating the health care ecosystem business model, centered around your employees – our customers. They want a better, more cost-effective health care experience, and we're ready to deliver it."

To learn more, contact Sasha Yamaguchi, vice president of Sales at Cigna, at 855.210.5765. Or visit Cigna.com/sjhh.

The St. Joseph Hoag Health network includes:

- ▶ CHOC Children's (Orange, Mission Viejo)
- ▶ Hoag (Newport Beach, Irvine)
- ▶ Mission Hospital (Mission Viejo, Laguna Beach)
- ▶ St. Joseph Hospital (Orange)
- ▶ St. Jude Medical Center (Fullerton)

Additionally, there are eight St. Joseph Heritage Healthcare medical groups and physician networks and 20+ urgent care centers*

*Counts of facilities in the St. Joseph Hoag Health network as of 1/1/16. Subject to change.

The health care professionals and facilities that participate in the Cigna network and provide services for St. Joseph Hoag Health are independent practitioners solely responsible for the information, treatment and advice provided to their patients. They are not agents of Cigna.

All health plans and health insurance policies have exclusions and limitations and may not be available in all areas. For costs and complete details of coverage, contact your Cigna representative.

All Cigna products and services are provided exclusively by or through operating subsidiaries of Cigna Corporation, including Cigna HealthCare of California, Inc., Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company, Connecticut General Life Insurance Company, and Allegiance Benefit Plan Management, Inc. The Cigna name, logo, and other Cigna marks are owned by Cigna Intellectual Property, Inc.

892222 03/16 © 2016 Cigna. Some content provided under license.

PRIVATE DINING

CANALETTO
FASHION ISLAND

Il Fornaio
CUCINA ITALIANA

545 Newport Center Drive
FASHION ISLAND • NEWPORT BEACH • 92660
949.640.0900 • ilfornaio.com/canalettonb

18051 Von Karman Ave.
IRVINE • 92612
949.261.1444 • ilfornaio.com/irvine



greater good

The Argyros School salutes Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks, CEO of Earth Friendly Products, and recipient of the OCBJ's Family Owned Business Award. As an Executive MBA student in the Argyros School, Kelly seeks real-world solutions to the challenges of running a global business. Her knowledge and expertise add dimension to one of Orange County's most dynamic Executive MBA programs.

REAL

in a word:

in a word: **CHAPMAN**



CHAPMAN
UNIVERSITY

ARGYROS SCHOOL OF
BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

chapman.edu/business

Vanguard University Alums Lead in Entertainment, Medicine and More

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



Vanguard believes learning goes beyond the classroom and happens in the context of relationships with faculty and other students.

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.

"At 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.

CUSTOMIZED HEALTH CARE FOR ORANGE COUNTY.

Cigna and St. Joseph Hoag Health

We're building something new in Southern California. It's a health care delivery model that's local – developed in Orange County just for your community.

Our local solution offers integrated health care products designed to improve access, enhance the patient experience and deliver savings. All with the common goal of improving health.



Doctors and hospitals you trust

The St. Joseph Hoag Health network includes trusted hospitals, including

- CHOC Children's
- Hoag
- Mission Hospital
- St. Joseph Hospital
- St. Jude Medical Center.

Care is offered at 9 hospitals and 20+ urgent care centers.*



St. Joseph Hoag Health
Hoag • Mission • St. Joseph • St. Jude
In alliance with CHOC Children's

To learn more, contact Sasha Yamaguchi, Vice President of Sales at Cigna, at 855.210.5765. Or visit Cigna.com/sjhh.

*Counts of facilities in the St. Joseph Hoag Health network as of January 2016. Subject to change.

The health care professionals and facilities that participate in the Cigna network and provide services for St. Joseph Hoag Health are independent practitioners solely responsible for the information, treatment and advice provided to their patients. They are not agents of Cigna. All health plans and health insurance policies have exclusions and limitations and may not be available in all areas. For costs and complete details of coverage, contact your Cigna representative.

All Cigna products and services are provided exclusively by or through operating subsidiaries of Cigna Corporation, including Cigna HealthCare of California, Inc., Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company, Connecticut General Life Insurance Company, and Allegiance Benefit Plan Management, Inc.. The Cigna name, logo, and other Cigna marks are owned by Cigna Intellectual Property, Inc.

892248 03/16 © 2016 Cigna. Some content provided under license.

DO YOU HAVE A BANKER OR A LENDER?

THERE IS A DIFFERENCE!

By Kittridge Chamberlain, EVP/Chief Banking Officer, Pacific Mercantile Bank

Starting a Business in the Digital Age Is Easier Than Ever Before

In some ways, starting a business is very easy. You can form a corporation online. You can market your products and services through a multitude of digital platforms, and sell them with devices as ubiquitous as smart phones.

Sustaining and Growing a Business Is Another Story

Increasing regulation complicates the business landscape. Competition has intensified because information flows so freely, making pricing and other data far more transparent. The pace of change is so fast that strategic planning and decision-making are nearly full-time pursuits for entrepreneurs who want to grow faster than their competitors and the overall economy. And in addition to traditional forms of capital, newer methods like peer-to-peer lending and crowd funding create another decision point.

With these factors and others in play, how can an entrepreneur best position a company for success? It takes a strong team within and around your company. Your outside team should include accounting, insurance, legal, and banking professionals.

If you're starting or running an emerging company, you might see these advisors as overhead that your business can't afford. Here's why they're so important: it's a lot easier to get into trouble than out of it. Good advice in these areas will save you time and money, as well as headaches that you don't need as you grow your business.



Choosing the Right Banking Partner Should Be High on Your List

You need a bank that can support your company over the long term. You need a bank that understands – and likes – your market segment. You need a bank that has built a team of bankers, not lenders.

A banker is a skilled professional who will really get to know you and your company -- not just your sales and profits, but your near-term goals, long-term strategy, aspirations and what keeps you awake at night. Good bankers know that every company is unique. They want to understand what makes yours distinctive.

A banker will help you decide how to fund your company's growth. He or she will consider your company's financial condition, stage of development, revenue model, customer base, and other factors. Not all financing is created equal; a good banker can show you the advantages and possible disadvantages of various types of capital.

A banker understands that managing your company's cash can be just as important as financing its growth. Good bankers will make sure that you're using up-to-date tools for monitoring your cash, keeping it safe, and managing your receivables and payables to optimize your cash position.

Most important, a banker will build a relationship with you based on mutual trust and respect. Regardless of your company's size, he or she will take you seriously. You'll be a client, not just a customer, through good times and challenging times.

On the other hand, a lender will simply ask you how much you want to borrow.

A Banking Partner Cares About Your Goals, Your Strategy and Your Success

No matter what size your company is, no matter what business you're in, you need a banking partner who cares about your goals, your strategy, and your success. It's one of the most important choices a business owner can make.



Kittridge Chamberlain is EVP and Chief Banking Officer at Pacific Mercantile Bank. With over 30 years of experience in sales, relationship management, and risk management, she is responsible for commercial banking activities in the Bank's seven regional offices as well as the Bank's marketing programs. Prior to joining Pacific Mercantile Bank, Kittridge was a consultant to banks and other capital providers. Previously, she was a Senior Credit Officer and Senior Relationship Manager at Silicon Valley Bank. Kittridge also held positions at Tokai Bank of California, First Interstate Bank of California, and Bank of America. To explore how Pacific Mercantile Bank could be the right banking partner for you, email Kittridge.Chamberlain@pmbank.com.

INNOVATIVE BANKING SOLUTIONS FOR CUTTING-EDGE CLIENTS



PACIFIC
MERCANTILE
BANK

BUSINESS BANKING BEYOND THE OBVIOUS



PMBANK.COM





From left: Women's Philanthropy Fund Members Janie Merkle, Donna Schroeder and Victoria Collins



From left: Women's Philanthropy Fund Member and Orange County United Way Board member Karen Conlon and Women's Philanthropy Fund Member Shelley Thunen

Women Empowering Women

Orange County is without a doubt, one of the most beautiful places to live in the nation. It combines the coast with the mountains, nature with culture and great resources with leisure, all with a sunny year-round Mediterranean climate. Feeling blessed to live in this great county comes natural.

While numerous Orange County residents thrive, far too many struggle to get by. In fact, one in four of our neighbors live in poverty and more than 32,000 of our children are homeless or housing insecure. Enter: **Orange County United Way**, an organization with a unique ability to bring passionate influencers in the community together to support positive change. This passion can be witnessed through one of the most successful philanthropic networks of its kind—United Way's **Women United**.

Members of Women United invest \$1,000 or more annually while a subset of the network, called the **Women's Philanthropy Fund**, invest \$10,000 or more annually. Far from just fundraisers, this network of 400 strong members serves as a change agent in the community helping local women and children gain self-sufficiency while contributing toward a stronger Orange County.

The success behind Women United lies in the passion of its members. Each year, Women United and Women's Philanthropy Fund continue to energize and inspire women to make a difference by taking on a leadership role in advancing its programs and initiatives.

Women's Philanthropy Fund members, in particular, are targeting their support to programs that align with United Way's priorities, and infuse hundreds of thousands of dollars into the community on an annual basis. Through awareness, collaboration, education and advocacy, these leaders are breaking barriers and helping build brighter futures for local families.

Making Connections that Count

"As a working mother of four, helping women and children in our community achieve their greatest potential truly speaks to my heart," said member Rochelle Karr, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility and Alumni Relations at O'Melveny & Myers LLP. "Touching just one life for the better and sparking a compassionate and giving spirit in the lives of our children and those around us – at the end of the day, that's what inspires me.

Karr, alongside fellow members of Women United, is dedicated to helping build economically self-sufficient lives for women and their children. But what these



From left: Women's Philanthropy Fund Breakfast Co-Chair Monica Timpe, Women's Philanthropy Fund Founding Chair Sue Parks and Women's Philanthropy Fund Breakfast Co-Chair Rochelle Karr

women give via their time, money and talents they get back tenfold. "Women United not only allows me to give back to local children and families, but also provides me with the opportunity to network with strong like-minded women and grow as a leader both professionally and personally," said Shirin Forootan, an employment defense attorney with Call & Jensen.

The Ultimate Power Breakfast

One such occasion where these like-minded women come together is at their largest annual event. Now in its 13th year, the **Women's Philanthropy Fund Breakfast**, Orange County's premier fundraising event serves as a forum for nearly 700 people to discuss the county's most pressing issues facing families in need and the initiatives that can best serve them. Each year, members select non-profit organization partners to provide education and financial empowerment programs that address key issues facing families. By supporting the breakfast, attendees help transform lives today and the future of Orange County's next

generation. Proceeds from this signature breakfast event are coupled with members' personal investments.

Keynote speaker Ramaa Mosley, a filmmaker and vocal advocate for girls' and women's rights around the world, is thrilled to be a part of this year's fundraising event. "It's a true honor to be surrounded by such powerful giving women who are united together to make a profound difference in peoples' lives." Mosley will share her personal journey of empowering women through film and explore how we can each harness the power of caring globally while taking action locally.

Since 2004, the Women's Philanthropy Fund has raised more than \$4.5 million for local programs and services that empower women and their families. Monica Timpe and Rochelle Karr, who chaired the 2015 breakfast fundraiser, will again chair the 2016 event on Wednesday, April 27, 2016 at the Hotel Irvine.

Women United members transform their talent, intellect and dollars on behalf of others to create a multiplier effect. These female powerhouses are sparking change in the community through collaboration in order to improve conditions for local children and families. Because when women empower women, that is where the magic happens and lives are truly changed.

The Women's Philanthropy Fund Breakfast is on Wednesday, April 27 from 7:30-9:30 a.m. at Hotel Irvine (17900 Jamboree Blvd, Irvine, CA 92614).

To become part of the Women's Philanthropy Fund or Women United, please contact Meghan Vu at 949.263.6163 or meghanv@unitedwayoc.org.

Why Join Women United

1. It's the single most successful organization of its kind
2. A global network of more than 60,000 women in 155 communities across six countries
3. You have the power to change local lives and create stronger communities
4. Connect with prospects and future employers
5. Make friends for life
6. Shake things up in your community
7. Advocate for policy change that will impact your children and our neighbors in need
8. Get inspired and feel even more empowered
9. Pay it forward by mentoring a young professional woman
10. Have an amazing time



LIVE UNITED



Orange County United Way

WOMEN'S 2016 PHILANTHROPY FUND MEMBERS



KELLIE AAMODT VP Sales, West Region, UPS
BONNIE ABATE Community Volunteer
JONI ALTER Vice President Sales & Marketing, Seaview Investors
GINA ANDRUKAITIS Division President, L-3 Interstate Electronics Corporation
TARA BALFOUR President & CEO, Cranbrook Capital Advisors
DAWN TRAUTMAN BEHNKE SVP Product & Strategy Mgmt., Pacific Life Insurance Company
LAURA BENZ Community Volunteer
DEBBIE BOLAR Partner, Bolar Hirsch & Jennings LLP
SHERRI BOVINO President & Owner, Global, A 1st Flagship Company
ANNE BRAFFORD Partner, Law Offices of Anne M. Brafford
CAROL AND REBECCA BURCH The Burch Family
LEE ANN CANADAY Owner/Broker RE/MAX Fine Homes, Canaday Group
CAROL CARLILE Managing Director, HCVT LLP



BJ CHANDLER VP/Owner, Premier Transportation & Warehousing, Inc.
WENG YEE CHUNG Shareholder, Mayer Hoffman McCann P.C.
CINDA CHURM Community Volunteer
VICTORIA COLLINS Founder/CEO, Your Legacy Project
JANET TOLL DAVIDSON Retired Partner, Paul Hastings LLP
SUZANNE DEJONG Partner, Ernst & Young LLP
CELINA DOKA Partner, KPMG LLP
DIANE DRAKE Community Volunteer
TRICIA ESSER CEO, KTG Group, Inc. Architecture & Planning
SUZANNE FRADETTE Partner, PwC
NANCY FRENCH Community Volunteer
ROBIN GALLIGAN Community Volunteer
ARTYN GARDNER National Women's Leadership Council



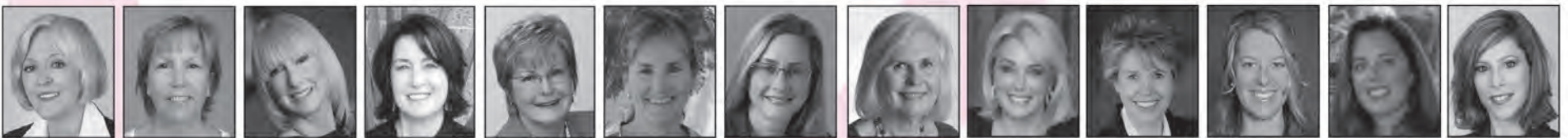
LOREEN GILBERT President, WealthWise Financial Services
CYNTHIA STAMPER GRAFF Lindora, Lean for Life
LOLA GREEN Community Volunteer
BONNIE GREGORY Partner, Gregory & Piper LLP, Certified Public Accountants
DONNA HANSEN Partner, HCVT LLP
JO HODGETTS Community Volunteer
MICHELE D. JOHNSON Partner, Latham & Watkins LLP
LAUREN JOHNSTON Community Volunteer
CHRISTY D. JOSEPH Partner, Snell & Wilmer LLP
ROCHELLE KARR Director of Corporate Social Responsibility and Alumni Relations, Talent Development, O'Melveny & Myers LLP
GINA KAY President, In Home Care Solutions/Health Care Academy
JACQUELINE KELLEY Partner, Ernst & Young LLP
JOAN PATRONITE KELLY Corporate Director of Environmental Services, Psomas



KIM LETCH Partner, Ernst & Young LLP
LISA LOCKLEAR SVP & CFO, GSN Games
MELINDA MASSON Co-Founder & CEO, Scripsense, LLC
PAULA MATHIS Community Volunteer
CHERYL MCCARLEY Community Volunteer
DIANA MCCUTCHEM Partner, Deloitte.
ROSE MERGELMEYER Community Volunteer
JANIE MERKLE Real Estate Consultant, RE/MAX Fine Homes International
BARRIE MEULMESTER Community Volunteer
JULIETTE MEUNIER Partner, Ernst & Young LLP
NANCY B. MEYER Community Volunteer
PAULA E. MEYER Attorney/Principal, Paula A. Meyer & Associates, A Professional Law Corporation
RENITA MOLLMAN Vice President, Burns & McDonnell



ANN MORRIS Community Volunteer
CORINNE MYRE President, Corinne Myre & Associates
SUE PARKS CEO, iCount™ Wellness
TAMI PARROTT Community Volunteer
LAILA PENCE President, Pence Wealth Management
LISA PERRINE CEO, Cibola Systems
BECKI PROCSAL Partner, KPMG LLP
SHIRLEY QUACKENBUSH SVP, Private Wealth Advisor, Merrill Lynch Private Bank & Investment Group
KALPANA RAMAKRISHNAN Partner, KPMG LLP
MICHELLE A. REINGLASS Mediator, ADR Office of Michelle A. Reinglass & Judicate West
KIMBERLY ROUSH Executive Career Coach, All-Star Executive Coaching
ERIKA SAVLOWITZ Chief Operating Officer, Competitive Analytics
JOY SCHAEFER SKAGGS President, Golden Eagle Advisors LLC



CHRISTINE SCHEUNEMAN Partner, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP
MARY SCHINDLER Community Volunteer
DONNA SCHROEDER Founding Partner, Schroeder Investment Partners Inc.
RENEE SIMONIS Community Volunteer
PATRICIA M. SOLDANO GenSpring Family Office Consultant, GenSpring
TEENA SPINDLER Community Volunteer
TINA STOLIAR Partner, KPMG LLP
MARY "MUFF" TENNYSON Community Volunteer
SHELLEY THUNEN Chief Administrative Officer, Calhoun Vision, Inc.
HELEN TIMPE Senior Vice President, The Timpe Group - Morgan Stanley
MONICA TIMPE Vice President, The Timpe Group - Morgan Stanley
KIRSTEN VALENTA Community Volunteer
CARLA VARGAS Senior Vice President, Community Impact, Orange County United Way



NELLA WEBSTER O'GRADY Palo Capital
KRISTI WILLETTE Community Volunteer
GABRIELLE WIRTH Partner, Dorsey & Whitney LLP
LISA WOOLERY Vice President Corporate Communications, Wells Fargo
LISA YELLOTT Fine Artist, ORENDA Orange County
MERYL L. YOUNG Partner, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
CINDY ZOFREA Community Volunteer

MEMBERS NOT PICTURED:
 NANCY HANDEL MARIANNE KAY JOYCE KURTZ
 MELISSA SHOKRGOZAR SANDRA A. STONE

Learn more about joining this community of philanthropic leaders by contacting Meghan Vu at 949.263.6163 or MeghanV@unitedwayoc.org



Enjoy authentic cuisine paired with regional wines at Il Fornaio.



Il Fornaio aspires to bring its guests closer to Italy with each visit to the restaurant.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR VANGUARD UNIVERSITY

2016 WOMEN IN BUSINESS AWARDS NOMINEES

JESSICA MCLEISH '97

Founder, Sourced Conscious Cuisine

TRINA FLEMING '03

COO, Women Helping Women/Men2Work

DR. SANDRA MORGAN MA '09

Director, Global Center for Women and Justice, Vanguard University

DR. DORETHA O'QUINN

Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Vanguard University

DR. MARY WICKMAN

Director of Nursing and Professor of Nursing



**AUTHENTIC ITALIAN
RESTAURANT AND BAKERY**

Transport Your Events to Italy at Il Fornaio

When you are searching for the ultimate Italian dining experience, step inside Il Fornaio in Irvine and take a culinary journey through Italy. Early mornings bring rustic, crisp crusted bread hot from the oven accompanied by the scent of fresh-brewed espresso. During lunch and dinner hours, pastas and flavorful sauces simmer while meats and vegetables roast over hot coals. Bottles of wine from small, regional wineries are uncorked to complement the dishes, which have been crafted in the custom of Italy's chefs, bakers and homemakers.

The authentic food, bread and wine will transport you to Italy and the beautiful private dining room space will create the ultimate event experience for you and your guests. Ask to speak with the on-site event coordinator when planning your next business meeting, family gathering, rehearsal dinner or wedding.

Enjoy happy hour daily with complimentary antipasti or hold a bocce ball tournament/ happy hour with friends or colleagues using Il Fornaio's very own bocce ball court.

Festa Regionale celebrates regional selections

Il Fornaio aspires to bring its guests closer to Italy with each visit to the restaurant. In addition to the core menu, Il Fornaio features a different region of Italy each month as part of its *Festa Regionale* celebration. Dine from this special regional menu and receive a monthly stamp on the *Passaporto* and a reward: a complimentary loaf of fresh baked Il Fornaio bread or Il Fornaio's specially pressed olive oil, for example. At the end of six consecutive stamped months, *Passaporto* holders receive a hand-painted authentic Italian ceramic plate and will be entered for a chance to win the ultimate Italian experience: a trip for two to Italy.

Il Fornaio is located at 18051 Von Karman Avenue in Irvine. For reservations, please call 949.261.1444 or learn more about Il Fornaio at www.ilfornaio.com.



Congratulations Cyndi and Kelsey
on your nomination for
**Orange County
Business Journal's 2016
Women In Business!**



Cyndi Karapogolian

*District President, Robert Half
Professional Staffing Services*



Kelsey Flewellen

*Metro Market Manager, Robert Half
Technology Staffing Services*

At Robert Half, we help professionals find meaningful careers, and companies find the talent they need to be successful. Under Cyndi's and Kelsey's leadership, the Professional Staffing and Technology Staffing Services teams have established themselves as the leading providers of highly skilled professionals in the Orange County area.

Call us today – we can't wait to hear from you!

1.800.803.8367

roberthalf.com/los-angeles



2016 Women in Business Nominees

Kellie Aamodt, Vice President of Sales, UPS West Region UPS, Anaheim

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 projects throughout 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 and Las Vegas. In November 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 more than 1,200 sales personnel. United Parcel Service Inc. is the world's largest package delivery company and a provider of supply chain management solutions.



Anne Albertine, Director of Research & Development Del Taco Restaurants Inc., Lake Forest

From tennis shoes to tacos, Anne Albertine has made an indelible mark over the course of her career in the field of research and development (R&D). Today, Albertine leads the evolution behind the menu of Del Taco, one of Orange County's most iconic brands. With more than 25 years of experience in product and culinary development, Albertine's portfolio ranges from product development of footwear for Nike to menu ideation for familiar restaurant brands such as Taco Bell, Pick Up Stix and IHOP. Attracted to Del Taco for its fresh prep approach to operations not typical of quick service restaurants, Albertine joined the team in 2014 with the responsibility of reinvigorating the menu and making the brand's "UnFreshing Believable" promise come to life through food. Since then, she has improved the restaurant's core ingredients and supplier relations, introduced new processes that create symbiosis between operations, marketing and R&D initiatives, and innovated several of Del Taco's top performing new menu items.



Gina Alshuler, President & CEO Rauxa, Costa Mesa

Gina Alshuler and Rauxa have come a long way together. What began as a small direct-mail house in Seal Beach in 1999 is now a fast-growing, full-service marketing agency with 200 employees coast to coast and an impressive roster of Fortune 500 clients. And Alshuler, a receptionist when she joined the company 13 years ago, is now president. With a passionate, energetic and infectious personality that defines the company, Alshuler has led Rauxa's expansion—opening offices in New York, San Francisco, Chicago and Atlanta—and evolution, overseeing the acquisition of digital firm ThoughtMatrix while making major inroads into all-things digital and technology. Her commitment and ability to attract and empower the industry's strongest talent has helped the agency to forge an average year-over-year growth rate of 23%. During her tenure, Rauxa has been consistently ranked as one of the top women-owned businesses in Orange County.



Jennifer Anaya, Vice President, Marketing Ingram Micro Inc., Irvine

Jennifer Anaya is responsible for the leadership and direction of all marketing activities across the U.S. for Ingram Micro, the world's largest technology distributor. With nearly two decades of marketing experience, Anaya is regarded as one of the "Most Powerful Women in the IT Channel" by *CRN Magazine*. Her career accomplishments include the leadership and development of Ingram Micro's award-winning marketing and events agency, fostering a global marketing community of country and business unit-specific marketing leads, and the ongoing guidance of the company's brand and value proposition. Anaya departed Ingram Micro in 2009 to take on an entrepreneurial role as an independent channel communications strategist under the brand iD8 Marketing, where she assisted Ingram Micro in a number of strategic projects. From there, she went on to serve as vice president of marketing for NetEnrich, a Silicon Valley-based provider of remote IT operations and cloud services. In 2012, Anaya rejoined Ingram Micro as vice president of marketing for North America.



Kay Anderle, Managing Partner Keller/Anderle LLP, Irvine

As managing partner of Keller/Anderle LLP, Kay Anderle has led the firm to accomplishments well beyond its size. Keller/Anderle is a 100% women-owned, thirteen lawyer bet-the-company business litigation law firm in Irvine. In the last seven years, Keller/Anderle has won cases and settlements in excess of \$85 million and has successfully defended national and multi-national corporations. For its efforts, the firm has been recognized as one of California's best boutique law firms. Anderle's awards and honors are both national and statewide in scope, including: Litigation Counsel of America, *The Best Lawyers in America*®, National Trial Lawyers, *Southern California Superlawyer*, and *California Lawyer Magazine* "Lawyer of the Year."



Paula Ansara-Wilhelm, Co-Founder & Chief Marketing Officer 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 created a "virtual ad agency" to service businesses that couldn't afford the traditional model—which allowed her the freedom and flexibility to raise her son. She co-founded Surterre Properties in 2006, the leading luxury real estate firm headquartered in Newport Beach

with offices in Laguna Beach, Corona del Mar, Monarch Beach, San Clemente and Irvine. Ansara-Wilhelm has developed and managed the company's branding efforts and works closely with Surterre's top agents throughout the competitive Orange County luxury marketplace. Under her leadership, Surterre Properties has grown to more than 400 agents and \$10 billion in sales in one of the most challenging real estate markets in history. In 2010, she also launched and had the creative vision for *Bask Magazine*, a luxury lifestyle publication.



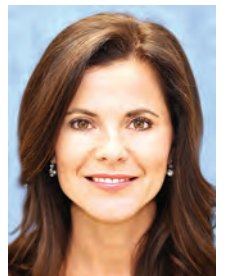
Dawn Antis, Founder & Owner Mom & Tot OC, Irvine

Dawn Antis launched Mom & Tot OC out of necessity. After joining a mommy and me group with her twins in 2014, she realized there were no options for toddlers in Orange County. There are a handful of mommy and me groups for newborns in Orange County, but Mom & Tot OC is the first and only group to cater to moms with toddlers. Since opening its doors in February 2015, the classes have doubled in size. Mom & Tot OC is recognized by *OC Family* and the *Orange County Register* as a local resource that helps connect parents. Antis holds the classes in her home for a safe and relaxed environment. Each week, a local expert is brought in to educate the moms on CPR, car seat safety, toddler swimming, nutrition, holistic health, sleep, marriage, family, relationships, photography, music, literature, local parks and more. There are also crafts and sing-a-long songs for the toddlers. Antis arranges play dates at local parks and zoos, and mom's night out events for current and past members once a month.



Patty Arvielo, President New American Funding, Tustin

In 2003, Patty Arvielo and her husband Rick launched New American Funding as a 40-employee, refinance call-center. Starting the business from scratch, their vision of a mortgage company that would operate as a proficient call center focused on good pricing, fast home loan closes and excellent customer service came to fruition. By 2006, New American Funding had grown by more than 300%. In these past 13 years, Arvielo has worked tirelessly to transform the mortgage banker into a national mortgage lender and servicer that funds more than \$900 million in home loans each month. Under her guidance, the company has brought the entire loan process in-house—origination, processing, underwriting, funding and servicing. She continues to actively contribute to the bottom line, originating and booking nearly \$3 million in home loans each month on her own, all while managing operations and sales for New American Funding's headquarters, 100+ branches and 2,000+ employees.



Charlotte Augustine, IT Technician Trainer New Horizons Learning Group, Anaheim

Charlotte Augustine joined the New Horizons Learning Group (NHLG) family in 2015 and has been a key performer ever since. She came to NHLG highly recommended by another New Horizons in Chicago. Her career with New Horizons has totaled more than 13 years of information technology training and experience. Early in Augustine's career, she was recognized as the top applications software instructor across the nation, as rated by her students. Augustine has empowered her students to grow, pass certifications, and gain expertise and confidence in their new found IT positions. She exemplifies the values of NHLG, consistently showcasing her Gratitude, Respect, Accountability and Simplicity, and always putting People First. New Horizons Learning Group provides a wide variety of information technology courses via combinations of eLearning and worldwide classroom-based training.



BB Maboby Bahadarakhann, Founder & CEO SmileOnU, Newport Beach

BB Maboby Bahadarakhann was born in a refugee camp in Thailand from parents of Pakistani and Cambodian descent. At ten months old, Bahadarakhann and her family moved to the United States, where she grew up in Chicago, IL. Bahadarakhann graduated from California State University Long Beach with a BA in Rhetoric (2009) and went to work as an oral surgery representative before creating her dream—SmileOnU, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization connecting foster youth and former foster youth with dentists who are willing to volunteer their time along with materials donated by dental-supply companies and laboratories. Bahadarakhann is now dedicating her life to SmileOnU's mission in hopes to put on smiles all over the world one day.



Geeta Bansal, Owner Clay Oven, Irvine

With husband and family in tow, Geeta Bansal regularly travels the globe meeting with world-famous chefs to learn the secret of the trade. Her entry into the restaurant business occurred while she was attending Rutgers and met her future husband, who had been working in food and hospitality. She ultimately transformed from a college professor and urban planner into a contemporary Indian chef. This decision came at a steep price, for in India, preparing food is a job performed by servants, not someone who hails from a respected family of exalted stature. Her father issued her an ultimatum: give up her new-found passion or suffer being ostracized from her family. She chose to follow her dream and has not been in touch with her family since. The cuisine at the Clay Oven is all about transforming tradition and old techniques while retaining the flavor profile to make them relevant to the present times and lifestyle.



BOLD FOR LIFE

We are a bold, global pharmaceutical company and a leader in a new industry model – Growth Pharma. Our world-class team develops, manufactures and commercializes innovative branded pharmaceuticals and biologic products for patients around the world.

We are one team of dedicated employees, carving new paths, taking bold, decisive actions to deliver results and better outcomes for patients and providers.

www.Allergan.com

 Allergan™

2016 Women in Business Nominees

Kelly Yukihiro Barba, Associate Director of Business Development, West Coast K&L Gates, Irvine

Kelly Barba joined K&L Gates in 2011 to help the international law firm grow its practice in Southern California, and has been a big part of the company's success in this market. She has helped lead and contribute to countless proposals and RFP responses, network with key industry organizations and referral sources to improve K&L Gates' visibility, help the firm structure and execute on integral sponsorships, and conduct client feedback interviews, among other important initiatives. Barba leads a team of business development managers and specialists to coordinate the delivery of strategic marketing and business development services across K&L Gates Western Region of the U.S. including the California offices, Portland, Seattle and the Texas offices. K&L Gates represents leading global corporations, growth and middle-market companies, capital markets participants and entrepreneurs in every major industry group, as well as public sector entities.



Katie Bayliss, Creator & CEO Katie B Cosmetics, Irvine

In 2006, entrepreneur, beauty expert and attorney Katie Bayliss along with her husband, Shaun Bayliss combined their passion for makeup and law, and set out to revolutionize the cosmetics industry. Their mission was to advocate for the beauty industry by developing innovative, on-trend products that are safer and have more natural, beneficial, skin-loving ingredients. Their products are free of or have fewer artificial ingredients and toxic chemicals. Their message has connected with thousands of women who want to look beautiful, but do not want to sacrifice their skin. Under Katie's vision and her understanding of the new Social Era, the company has harnessed the power of social media, digital marketing and multi-channel distribution to profitable success. Katie was able to outgrow the business from a bedroom out of her parents' home to a large warehouse and distribution center in Irvine, shipping worldwide to more than 20 countries.



Margaret Bayston, CEO & Executive Director Laura's House, Ladera Ranch

Since joining Laura's House in 2001, Margaret Bayston has helped more than 50,000 women and children escape domestic violence. Under Bayston's superb direction, the organization has expanded its focus, creating greater awareness of teen dating violence through its innovative program called H.E.A.R.T (Healthy Emotions & Attitudes in Relationships Today). By providing expert guidance, unique start-to-finish legal services, hospitable emergency shelters and educational programs, Bayston has been instrumental in the success of the nonprofit. Bayston's position requires relationship building to achieve high-level fundraising and she has excelled in that arena as the face and heart of Laura's House. She has spearheaded valuable partnerships with major local enterprises, including Urban Decay, Verizon, The Robin McGraw Revelation Foundation, Tilly's and Wet Seal. She oversees the popular Laura's House Annual Gala and has been instrumental in bringing social enterprise to the organization, with the opening of two resale stores that have raised significant funds to help the nonprofit pursue its mission to end domestic violence.



Jacqueline Beaumont, Shareholder Call & Jensen, Newport Beach

Jacqueline Beaumont is an experienced litigator who has been repeatedly recognized for her work representing corporate clients in all aspects of employment law and legal advising. She is a shareholder at Call & Jensen, where she has built a practice defending employers in high stakes employment lawsuits, handling a range of matters including state and federal anti-discrimination, unfair competition, trade secrets and wage laws. She has successfully represented clients in hundreds of legal matters, obtaining trial verdicts, settlements and victories in and outside the courtroom. Beaumont is a leader outside the office as well, co-chairing the Orange County Bar Association's Mommy Esquire Committee, and serving the community through her involvement with Girls Inc. and student moot court competitions. She was selected as a Super Lawyers' Southern California "Rising Star" from 2012 through 2015 for excellence in the practice of law, and has been repeatedly awarded for her pro bono accomplishments.



Melissa Beck, CEO

Big Brothers Big Sisters of OC & the Inland Empire, Santa Ana

As CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County & the Inland Empire, Melissa Beck has a profound impact on youth in the community. In 2013, after completing her MBA at UC Irvine, Beck joined the agency as COO to support its mission of providing youth facing significant challenges with one-to-one mentoring relationships. Six months later, she was named CEO; under her leadership, revenue has doubled and the number of children served annually continues to grow. The programs also continue to yield impressive results: 3,000 children served in 2015, a 98% on-time graduation rate, and 90% college enrollment. Beck's dedication and passion for the cause are reflected in the agency's major successes, including a top-three ranking among 350 affiliates; a national Board of Directors of the Year award; and relocating the agency into a 52,500-square-foot building, allowing for expansion of services and the ability to increase the quality of programs.



Suhein Beck, Founder ELAJ LLC, Laguna Hills

Suhein Beck inherited an all-natural medicinal formula from her grandfather – who was a surgeon – to treat extreme skin conditions such as eczema, psoriasis and wounds. Upon the real estate market crashing in 2007, she hung up her RE Brokers and Appraisal License and gathered the courage to finally launch her family's original formula at the Orange County Marketplace in Costa Mesa. Within six years, Beck built such a loyal following of customers from Orange County to Palm Springs that she was able to obtain a licensing deal for mass distribution. As of January 2016, ELAJ debuted in every Bed, Bath & Beyond store, as well as Walmart stores and many medical supply stores and catalogs internationally. She is currently looking to expand even further, working with Mexico, Canada, and Dubai for Mideast export.



Ruth Bedi, Co-Owner Prego Ristorante, Irvine

Ruth Bedi, along with her husband, Tony, took ownership of Irvine's Prego Ristorante in an effort to return the restaurant to its original status as a top restaurant in Orange County. After taking ownership, she remodeled and refurbished the entire space, from replacing the floors and changing the upholstery, to adding a sports bar and new restrooms. Bedi graduated from Colorado State University (CSU) and completed a graduate program at the University of San Diego. While attending CSU, she attended La Varenne – the famed cooking school in Paris, France during a semester abroad. While at La Varenne, she had the opportunity to learn cooking techniques and have lunch with Julia Child. Bedi's goal is to make Prego among the finest Italian restaurants in Orange County, with an elegant, yet comfortable atmosphere, attentive service and cuisine that strikes the perfect balance between traditional authenticity and innovative preparations.



Pazit Ben-Ezri, Founder & CEO LulyBoo LLC, Lake Forest

Pazit Ben-Ezri is an Israeli-born, momma-visionary whose story embodies everything that is the "American Dream." Shortly after settling down in Orange County in 2005, Ben-Ezri gave birth to her second child, Ronnie, and she realized the only place he slept was in the comfort of his own crib. After struggling to find an answer to Ronnie's sleeping issues, Ben-Ezri rolled up her sleeves and created a solution of her own. The final product was her Lulyboo baby lounge, a versatile, portable solution that mimics the comfort and feeling of the womb for baby, while seamlessly and in one-click, transforms into a backpack for parents on the go. Lulyboo's whimsical charm and uniquely convenient features soon captured the hearts of fashionably active mommies and some of the biggest retailers in country, such as Babies R US, Amazon, FAO Schwarz, Wal-Mart, Sears, Target and many more.



Lisa Beres, CEO Ron & Lisa LLC, Newport Coast

Lisa Beres is a healthy home expert, baubiologist, published author, certified Green Building Professional, professional speaker and Telly Award-winning TV media personality. Through Ron & Lisa LLC, she and her husband Ron, educate people on how to improve their health by eliminating toxins in their home and life with simple step-by-step solutions. She is a recognized consultant in the green movement and, as a healthy spokesperson, has become a media darling championing the cause of all-natural products that nourish the body. Beres is the co-founder of The Healthy Home Dream Team®. She is also the author of the children's book, *My Body My House* and *The 9 to 5 Greened: 10 Steps to a Healthy Office*, as well as the co-author of many other titles. Beres's TV appearances include, *The Rachael Ray Show*, *Dr. Oz*, *Nightly News with Brian Williams*, *TODAY*, *The Doctors*, and *Fox & Friends*.



Sue Berkompas, Theatre Department Chair, Producing Artistic Director Vanguard University, Costa Mesa

Sue Berkompas came to Vanguard University 18 years ago – at the time, there was no theatre program and only eight majors at the university. She was charged with building a program from the ground up. Under her direction, the department of theatre arts at Vanguard has received the prestigious National Association of Schools of Theatre Accreditation for past five years – one of only two Christian universities that have such accreditation. Berkompas has produced five major shows per year, in addition to Vanguard's student showcases each semester. She has petitioned for and received five full-tuition scholarships each year for top-talent theatre students, who have changed the talent of Vanguard's renowned theatre department. Under Berkompas, the theatre faculty provides a solid curriculum that can challenge any professional BFA program. During her tenure, Berkompas also created the critically acclaimed American Coast Theater Company, the professional arm of the Vanguard's Theatre Arts Department, which is going into its 10th season this year.



Clare Bielecki, Business Development Manager Kitchell, Costa Mesa

In her position at Kitchell – a construction firm with offices in Arizona, California, Tennessee and Texas – Clare Bielecki identifies and develops new project opportunities. She searches out and establishes initial contact with targeted leads for new business, develops client and project-related information to allow



2016 Women in Business Nominees

strategy formulation for a successful marketing and pre-positioning approach. In addition, she coordinates follow-up with clients and business contacts in pursuing specific project opportunities. Ten years after Kitchell's doors opened in 1950, founder Sam Kitchell pioneered the construction management approach in the Western United States and quickly established a reputation for successfully managing complex commercial, industrial and institutional building projects. Kitchell CEM has grown and responded to changing market conditions, embracing all construction delivery methods. The company also oversees a thriving Engineering & Architectural Services Division and the growing Kitchell Facilities Management Inc. practice.

Lauraine Bifulco, President & Owner

Vantaggio HR Ltd., San Juan Capistrano

Lauraine Bifulco's deep expertise in human resources makes her a sought-after industry author and speaker. In 2008, Vantaggio HR was named a top 25 woman-owned business in the U.S. by *Working Mother Magazine*. Bifulco was nominated in 2007 for Ernst & Young's Entrepreneur of the Year Award and Vantaggio was honored as the 2006 Small Business of the Year by California Senate Minority Leader, Senator Dick Ackerman. Bifulco is a member and lecturer for the Professionals in Human Resources Association, Society for Human Resources Management, and is a founding member of a Women Presidents' Organization chapter. She also sits on the board of several other organizations. Vantaggio HR was founded in 1994 to offer small to medium-sized companies a valuable alternative to managing human resources. Today, the company works with clients in a variety of industries of all sizes across the country from its offices in Southern California, Northern California and Hawaii.



Monica Bonakdar, M.D., Medical Director & Physician

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 non-invasive 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 non-invasive cosmetic procedures, Dr. Bonakdar offers the latest advancements in injectables, laser surgery and high-technology treatments with personalized and professional patient care. She has been a part of the BOTOX Cosmetic Physician's Network since 2000 and is trusted by many leading medical manufacturers, including Allergan, Zeltiq, Merz and Thermi. Dr. Bonakdar involves her patients with her charitable "Look Good, Feel Good" program, where she donates a portion of her revenues to various local charities.



Sheryl A. Bourgeois, EVP, Advancement

Chapman University, Orange

A seasoned development professional, Dr. Sheryl A. Bourgeois has 25 years of experience in fundraising, advancement and marketing for nonprofit and educational organizations. Currently executive vice president and chief advancement officer for Chapman University, Dr. Bourgeois oversees all external affairs including strategic marketing, communications and development. Dr. Bourgeois has helped to grow Chapman from a liberal-arts college of 2,200 students to an increasingly comprehensive university with a student body of more than 7,000. Her fundraising efforts support 85% of Chapman's students with scholarships that help them to get a high-quality education, while generating professorships that employ an increasingly outstanding faculty. Dr. Bourgeois also oversaw Chapman University's first \$200 million capital campaign – the most successful campaign effort in the university's history. Her doctoral work – *The Relationship Between Alumni Presence on the Governing Board and Institutional Support* – was selected as the Outstanding Dissertation winner for the 2014 CASE-John Grenzebach Award for Outstanding Research in Philanthropy for Educational Advancement.



Karie Boyd, Lead Trial Attorney & CEO

Boyd Law, Irvine

Karie Boyd is a local business owner, attorney and a selected member of the National Association of Distinguished Counsel, representing only the top 1% of U.S. Attorneys. Boyd founded Boyd Law in San Diego as a solo practice more than eight years ago. Today, she leads a multi-practice firm with four locations throughout California. Each location offers full services and has a full-time staff. The newest office in Downtown Sacramento opened in early 2016. She is an active member of the Orange County Bar Association and a participant in the local community.



Adrienne Brandes, Real Estate Agent

Surterre Properties, Newport Beach

Adrienne Brandes has been helping clients find and sell luxury coastal homes for more than 25 years. She has brought to the industry her vast business knowledge and negotiations skills, utilizing her master's degree in counseling psychology and her experience running both a cosmetics business and a PR firm to help her close some of the biggest real estate deals in Orange County. Brandes has closed more than \$85 million in sales in the last two years, selling homes worth on average between \$5 million and \$7.5 million, and she has done it all on her own. She doesn't have a team helping



The Western National Group of companies
proudly congratulates our own

Laura Khouri,

President of Western National Property
Management, on her nomination for the
2016 Women in Business Award!



WESTERN NATIONAL GROUP

8 Executive Circle, Irvine • (949) 862-6200 • www.wng.com

2016 Women in Business Nominees

her, as she prefers to give each client her individual attention and stay with them throughout the entire process. This is why she is considered one of Southern California's premier luxury real estate experts.

Francesca Braniger, Vice President & Senior Relationship Manager Sunwest Bank, Irvine

Francesca Braniger has been a part of the Sunwest Bank team for almost three years. During that time, she has worked on both commercial/industrial loans and on commercial real estate loans. Recently, she was a part of the team that made the largest loan that Sunwest has ever done, and is the only woman in the commercial real estate department at the bank. Braniger is also currently the 2016 CREW (Commercial Real Estate Women) president for Orange County, where she leads a group of 170 professional women within the commercial real estate industry. She has been a member of CREW for seven years, starting with the CREW Baltimore chapter, and then once she moved to Orange County in 2013, joined that chapter. Sunwest Bank was founded 45 years ago in Tustin. Today, Sunwest has expanded to include banking offices in Arizona, California, Idaho, Utah and Washington.



Judy Burlingham, President

Coast Benefit Consultants, Costa Mesa

Judy Burlingham has spent more than 30 years in the benefits/insurance industry, and never misses an opportunity to invite people to support the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. As the founder and leader of Coast Benefits Consultants, Burlingham helps clients secure the medical insurance they need. Coast Benefit Consultants Inc. (CBC) is a full-service employee benefits consulting firm. The company provides benefits solutions to employers in a broad range of industries, enabling clients to achieve maximum value from their investment in employee benefits. Burlingham also founded Pipeline to a Cure for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and has been honored as advocate of the year and given the Breathe of Life Award from the Foundation. She has raised millions of dollars to help the CF Foundation find a cure.



Caroline Callaway, President

Bolt Public Relations, Irvine

Caroline Callaway is president and founder of Bolt Public Relations, an independently owned, national, award-winning public relations, marketing communications, events and social media management agency with offices in Irvine, Calif.; Raleigh, N.C.; and Dallas, Texas. Following PR positions at major corporations and national agencies, Callaway ventured out on her own to fill a need: bring big agency experience and contacts to small businesses and startups. The plan worked. Callaway signed her first client before leaving her corporate job. She then signed her second, third and, fast-forward to seventh, when she realized it was time to hire staff and lease an office space. What began as a consulting practice quickly grew in to a full-service company. Just nine years later, Callaway's work on behalf of her clients has resulted in high-profile media placements in outlets such as *Forbes*, *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Good Morning America* and *ABC World News Now*, to name just a few.



Valisa Carney, Partner

Freeman Freeman & Smiley LLP, Irvine

Valisa A. Carney has successfully developed a prominent role in the Orange County estate planning community and within her firm. Since joining Freeman Freeman & Smiley's Estate Planning Department in 2003, her expertise, responsiveness and caring manner have increased her client base from one couple to being responsible for more than 700 ongoing client relationships and counting. In less than four years, Carney was elevated to partner. A representative of the firm's Orange County office in a firm of 47 attorneys, she now serves on the Retirement Plan Committee to ensure a diverse growth strategy, positively impacting the lives of her colleagues even upon and after their departure. Carney's leadership extends beyond the firm both in the estate planning industry and the Orange County community. She is frequently invited to lecture on estate and tax planning issues at conferences and industry events throughout Southern California.



Nicole Carrillo, EVP & CFO

Opus Bank, Irvine

Nicole Carrillo serves as executive vice president and chief financial officer of Opus Bank, the fastest-growing bank in the Western Region of the United States. Carrillo joined Opus in January 2011 as senior vice president, chief accounting officer. Carrillo was promoted to executive vice president, chief financial officer and appointed to the bank's seven-person executive committee in August 2013. During Carrillo's tenure as CFO, Opus has grown from approximately \$3.2 billion to now over \$6.6 billion in total assets, representing a 108% increase. Since Carrillo joined Opus, the bank has grown from approximately \$700 million to now over \$6.6 billion in total assets, representing growth of over 800%. Carrillo oversees all of Opus's accounting and finance functions including, but not limited to, financial reporting, investor relations, liquidity management, investment portfolio positioning, interest rate risk management, and development of the annual operating and capital budgets.



Jody Chapman, Real Estate Agent

Surterre Properties, Newport Beach

Jody Chapman's sales have ranked her in the top 1% of all Orange County REALTORS® for the past five years in a row. This is even more impressive since she only began her career in real estate in 2002, servicing areas with a notably high income per capita, such as Newport Beach and Corona del Mar. She has been able to achieve this phenomenal success through a combination of utilizing her entrepreneurial background and building a huge referral base. Chapman previously co-founded an international apparel manufacturing company with her husband, and spent five years selling her products on the QVC network. She has been able to leverage the skills she learned during that time to become one of the top ranking REALTORS® in Orange County.



Hyun-Sook "Juliette" Chung, Owner

Juliette Kitchen and Bar, Newport Beach

Juliette Chung is a restaurant industry veteran. Chung, along with her husband, owned and operated The Filling Station in Old Towne Orange for 12 years. The sought-after pastries and pies were made by Chung herself, as she doubled as the restaurant's pastry chef until the restaurant was sold in 2010. Juliette Kitchen and Bar in Newport Beach opened in 2012. The casual-fine dining restaurant serves modern European small plates with Asian influences. Farm-to-table cuisine is reflected in the rustic, yet elegant decor. From the crystal chandeliers, industrial wall lamps, vintage artwork and bar top made from recycled wine barrels, Chung designed the restaurant from top to bottom. In 2015 and 2016, renowned food and travel journalist, Brad A. Johnson, named Juliette Kitchen and Bar as one of the 75 Best Places to Eat in Orange County.



Dr. Amy Osmond Cook, CEO

Osmond Marketing, San Clemente

Dr. Amy Osmond Cook started Osmond Marketing in 2012. Osmond Marketing is a woman-owned, full-service content marketing organization specifically designed to meet the needs of small businesses and health care companies. The company's innovative model allows companies to operate on retainer, but with the oversight to have all contracted hours available for their perusal at all times. With unsurpassed quality and customer service, Osmond Marketing experienced 148% growth in 2015, and is on track to experience the same levels of growth this year.



Gail Courtney, Executive Director

The First Tee of Orange County, Anaheim

Gail Courtney, the executive director of The First Tee of Orange County – a nonprofit providing young people with character-building and life skills lessons using golf as the platform, has an impressive professional background that spans the consumer and nonprofit sectors. Her vast skill set includes sales, marketing, strategic program development, and philanthropic campaign building and execution – a perfect blend for any nonprofit executive director. Since its inception in 2013, The First Tee of Orange County has reached more than 5,000 county youth, greatly expanding and serving even more participants each year. Courtney oversees the organization's ongoing growth and leads efforts to get even more children involved in the nonprofit's valuable life skills program. She also spearheads fundraising campaigns to help provide scholarships for children unable to afford the program and steers initiatives to expand to even more golf facilities throughout the county.



Cindy Galardi Culpepper, CEO & Chairperson

Galardi Group Inc., Irvine

Cindy Galardi Culpepper began her role as chairperson and CEO of Galardi Group Inc. (GGI) in 2013, upon the passing of company founder 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 developed. 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 passions, 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. Galardi Group franchises the world's most wanted restaurant brands including Wienerschnitzel, Hamburger Stand and Tastee Freez.



Jenn Curtis, Founder

FutureWise Consulting, Irvine

Jenn Curtis is co-founder of FutureWise Consulting and is the director of college counseling. FutureWise Consulting is Orange County's premier source for college counseling, test prep and tutoring services. Curtis developed and teaches a college and career-readiness program for first generation students. She is the expert college counseling guest contributor for several blogs. In addition, she is the editorial assistant for an academic journal, has edited several books, and works with graduate and doctoral students in developing effective writing skills. Such experience allows her to help her students to grasp all aspects of the college-going process and to develop their own unique voice as they present themselves to colleges. Her passion



2016 Women in Business Nominees

lies in helping students navigate the often difficult transition from high school to college and in empowering them to find the motivation to reach their potential.

Kristin Daher, President & Founder

Powerhouse Public Relations LLC, Santa Ana

After just five years at Morgan Marketing and Public Relations, Kristin Daher was promoted to vice president of Morgan Marketing, the first VP appointment in the company's 25-year history. Once owner Melinda Morgan Kartsonis decided she was ready to pursue her other life passions, she knew that the agency would be in good hands with Daher. At 32 years old, Daher purchased Morgan Marketing effective January 2016, and rebranded as Powerhouse Public Relations LLC. Powerhouse Public Relations, a creative agency providing a wide range of media relations, communications strategy and social media services, has opened its doors in Santa Ana. With a specialized focus in franchised restaurant public relations, Powerhouse PR's current client roster includes Del Taco, Wienerschnitzel, Pieology Pizzeria, Juice It Up!, Lugano Diamonds, Philly's Best Cheesesteaks and Hawaiian Host. Within only three months of opening, Powerhouse has already taken on two new clients, including Boudin Bakery.



Ladan Davia, President

Excelerate Test Prep, Newport Beach

Excelerate Test Prep is the only SAT/ACT software on the market that targets the specific concepts being tested by every question answered incorrectly on a practice exam. Factoring in fatigue and other variables that could interfere with each student's performance, this technique helps students achieve their ideal scores after completing just three tests—at no cost to the students. In contrast, most modern, high-quality test prep courses cost an average of \$2,400 and take six weeks to complete. By making elite test preparation a feasible option for all students, Excelerate Test Prep is aiming to revolutionize the American education system. Since winning the Business Plan Competition at Chapman University, Excelerate has provided its software to school districts in Oakland, Los Angeles and Berkeley as a supplement to their college preparation programs. In the past two years, these schools have reported that their students have improved their overall scores by an average of 300 points after their first practice tests.



Laura Davick, Founder & Interim President

Crystal Cove Alliance, Newport Coast

When Laura Davick discovered that a luxury resort was planning to take over Crystal Cove in 1999, she spearheaded a campaign to protect the area and founded the

Crystal Cove Alliance (CCA). The rest is history: CCA has become one of the top public-private partnership models within the California State Parks system, and the citizens of Orange County, and beyond, are benefiting from her vision and passion. Davick served as president of the organization during its early growth, stayed onboard as director of external affairs, and in 2015, as interim president, continues to steer the group. CCA's work has included renovation of 29 historic oceanfront rental cottages and tremendous growth of environmental education programs for the community. Whatever her official title is, Davick continues to further the organization's mission of education, conservation and restoration. Currently the organization's goal is fundraising and the renovation of the final 17 cottages for the community to enjoy.



Roxana Davidoff, CEO

Big Purple Dot, Irvine

Big Purple Dot is an affordable customer relations management system. The company offers lender and real estate agent collaboration on its cutting-edge technology platform. Roxana Davidoff navigated Big Purple Dot from a fledgling startup to a key competitor within the mature space of real estate technology. In 2014, Big Purple Dot acquired its first dozen customers for its newly completed collaborative lead management platform. Since then, Davidoff has grown the customer base to thousands of users, all while having to go head-to-head with established and well-funded companies. Big Purple Dot was named one of the Top 50 Mortgage Service Providers in America for 2014. Davidoff's product vision and domain knowledge has made Big Purple Dot the go-to tech trusted by billion-dollar mortgage and real estate corporations to run their daily lead management processes.



Brittany Davis, Real Estate Agent

Surterre Properties, Newport Beach

Brittany Davis is one of the biggest names in Orange County real estate under 30 years old. This rising star has proven her competence by handling luxury sales with the most savvy buyers, sellers and investors in Southern California. She's done this not only by building a name for herself, but by purchasing and remodeling three properties of her own, two of which she uses as investment properties. Her combination of extensive knowledge of Orange County neighborhoods gleaned from being a lifelong resident and personal experience in residential investment, has led Davis to close more than \$30 million in sales in the past year alone with the help of her team within Surterre Properties®, Davis Luxury Homes.



Congratulations!

Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks

President and CEO
Earth Friendly Products™

Nominated for the
2016 Women in Business Award!

Kelly's passion for safer green cleaning products and sustainable business practices has made her a influential voice in the green movement. She continues Earth Friendly Products' legacy as the leader in affordable, innovative green cleaners and in corporate social responsibility.
Congratulations Kelly!

From the Earth to Your Home™ • ecos.com

2016 Women in Business Nominees

Renee M. Dee, President

Black, Starr & Frost, Newport Beach

Renee Dee's role within Black, Starr & Frost, a fine luxury jeweler, involves bringing the vision of the chairman to life by re-imagining the brand with a new look, new jewelry collections, an innovative marketing plan and a strategic roadmap for global expansion. During the last 18 months, the company has experienced a 180-degree review of systems, accountability and processes to most effectively take this iconic luxury brand to its prior prominence. Dee has insisted on a team of the best and the brightest and has brought great discipline, accountability and strategy to the company to achieve the most efficient path for growth. Today, the brand has a distinctive look paired with a well-defined target for optimal marketing and sales results. Last year, Dee led the publishing of the 200-year anniversary book, which resulted in a stunning historical account of the Black, Starr & Frost brand in a beautiful, professional presentation. In October 2015, Black, Starr & Frost proudly opened its highly anticipated second location in Phoenix, Arizona.



thing that never changes is her infectious personality and constant desire to create an atmosphere of excellence. 2015 wasn't the only year of success for Dillon. She has been an integral member of the catering team at the hotel for more than 17 years. Her clients return year after year knowing they can whole-heartedly depend on Dillon to take charge and make their event a success.

Marie DiSante, Firm Managing Partner

Carothers DiSante & Freudenberger LLP, Irvine

As a founding partner of Carothers DiSante & Freudenberger LLP (CDF), a premier California employment law firm that has tirelessly protected thousands of businesses, Marie DiSante has overseen the firm's considerable statewide expansion, including five offices from Sacramento to San Diego, and more than 70 employees. For more than 20 years, DiSante's leadership has helped make CDF a top labor, employment and business immigration law firm serving small businesses and Fortune 500 companies alike. Her legal acumen blends with her experience as a California business owner to afford her unique and valuable insights into the challenges CDF clients face. DiSante encourages CDF attorneys to pursue niche areas of law to keep the firm at the forefront of evolving and often complex legal trends, and she also advocates for corporate philanthropy, evidenced by the firm's strong support for military veterans.



Betsy Densmore, Founder & Managing Director

Academies for Social Entrepreneurship, Newport Beach

Betsy Densmore is founder and managing director of the Academies for Social Entrepreneurship (ASE), an educational organization dedicated to linking the passion of social purpose with sustainable business practices and principles. ASE provides training, peer learning, mentoring and seed capital funding guidance for social entrepreneurs. She has worked with more than 200 not-for-profit organizations, catalyzing approximately \$10 million dollars in new revenue for innovative charitable ventures. She is also an adjunct professor at Pepperdine University's School of Education and Psychology, where she teaches in their Social Entrepreneurship and Change Masters Program. Densmore is an entrepreneur herself, having founded three hospitality businesses, an insurance agency and two nonprofit organizations. In addition to running ASE, she is part owner of two Mexican restaurants.



Christa Duggan, Owner & CEO

Portola Coffee Lab, Costa Mesa

Christa Duggan, along with her husband Jeff, own the award-winning Portola Coffee Lab. Portola was created in 2011 with the goal to create a quality-centric coffeehouse that re-focused on the most important ingredient – coffee. Within a year of bringing a never-before-seen concept and style of coffee to Orange County, Portola Coffee Lab began creating a distinct brand that revolves around producing an artisanal culinary product, Craft Coffee. Portola Coffee Lab prides itself on having access to some of the highest-quality coffee beans in the world. While it usually takes a coffee company several years to establish direct trade relationships to start sourcing coffee at origin, Portola was able to do it within two years. By 2016, Jeff and Christa Duggan will own and operate six locations within Orange County. Their focus will remain on empowering the community with quality, traceable, fresh-roasted and fresh-brewed coffee, presented in an artful context – one cup at a time.



Tamara Devitt, Partner

Haynes and Boone LLP, Costa Mesa

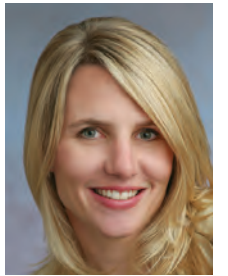
Tamara Devitt joined Haynes and Boone LLP from a national labor and employment boutique, where she exclusively represented management and also served as a regional managing partner. Haynes and Boone LLP is one of the American Lawyer top 100 law firms, with more than 575 lawyers in 14 offices and 40 major legal practices. In her three 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 has been recognized as a Best Lawyer in America in *Labor and Employment* for the past two years, an annual referral guide listing outstanding attorneys throughout the United States.



Laurie Eastman, Real Estate Agent

Surterre Properties, Newport Beach

Laurie Eastman has quickly become one of Newport Beach's most trusted real estate professionals. After teaching for several years, Eastman decided to make a career switch to real estate. She began her career with little experience and no contacts in the industry, but didn't let that deter her. She held open houses every weekend and made herself accessible 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Since the start of her career in 2011, she has closed more than \$130 million in sales of luxury Newport Beach homes. A lifelong Newport Beach native, Eastman uses the knowledge she has gained about Southern California's coastal communities to help her clients find the perfect home. Her skills in negotiations, online marketing, customer service and fiscal knowledge have even garnered her national acclaim. For three years in a row, the International Real Estate Summit has asked Eastman to be a main panelist, enabling her to share her wealth of expertise.



Lindsay Dickhout, CEO

Million Dollar Tan, Huntington Beach

In 2004, Million Dollar Tan (MDT) was founded by Lindsay Dickhout exclusively for spa professionals to offer Million Dollar Tan's professional spray tanning service. Within the first year, 100 salons and spas offered MDT spray tanning services, and by 2009, that number had grown to more than 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. Million Dollar Tan is currently sold in more than 10,000 locations worldwide including Nordstrom and Planet Beauty stores. The brand will debut on QVC early next year. Million Dollar Tan's projected revenue for 2016 is \$10 million.



Neda Eaton, President & CEO

Irvine Public Schools Foundation, Irvine

Neda Eaton is a visionary leader with a passion for serving the community. As president and CEO of the Irvine Public Schools Foundation (IPSF), one of the leading educational foundations in the nation, she is entrusted with ensuring that high-quality enrichment programs in critical areas such as the arts, music, sciences, health and wellness, and math are sustained in public schools. In her role, she is responsible for guiding the strategic vision and direction of the foundation, program and social enterprise development, day-to-day operations and implementation of various fundraising campaigns and initiatives. Since she joined the foundation, IPSF's total annual amount raised has increased by 183%. In 2014-2015, IPSF raised more than \$2.9 million for the Irvine Unified School District.



Deborah Dickson, President

Smith Dickson, an Accountancy Corp., Irvine

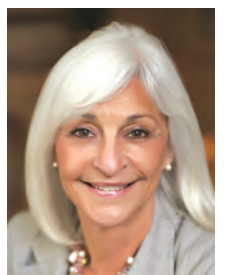
As the founder and owner of Smith Dickson, Accountancy Corp., Deborah Dickson has grown her CPA firm from a one-person practice with no formal office to a thriving company with high-level CPAs and accountants on staff. She grew the company to be a preeminent market leader in corporate tax, audit and trust/estate tax. In addition, she shaped one of the most well-known forensic litigation support and expert witness accounting teams in Southern California. As an accountant in the 1970s, Dickson was one of few women in the profession. Not letting that hold her back, she worked in the Big 8 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 owns today. Dickson has also provided leadership in the business community for more than 25 years as president of professional and service organizations.



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, where she directs all community outreach 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, but not limited to Chapman University, Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation, American Cancer of OC, Irvine Chamber, American Heart Association and Working Wardrobes. She was also nominated by Children's Bureau for the 2013 Outstanding Volunteer for the OC Spirit of Volunteerism Awards.



Diane Dillon, Senior Catering Manager

Hotel Irvine, Irvine

If you have planned an event in Orange County, there's a good chance you know—and love—Diane Dillon. In 2015, Dillon planned more than 80 events at Hotel Irvine, which means she was responsible for serving more than 50,000 guests who dined on more than 150,000 culinary courses, spending nearly 400 hours watching events come to life, and hundreds more hours behind the scenes planning and preparing. Through it all, the one



Lauren Ellermeyer, Co-Founder & President (Odd Days)

Beyond Fifteen Communications Inc., Newport Beach

Since 2009, Beyond Fifteen Communications co-founder Lauren Ellermeyer has leveraged her progressive business style, keen eye for new talent, and rock-solid

2016 Women in Business Nominees

public relations and social media expertise to grow a small startup into a flourishing, nationally acclaimed communications powerhouse that has virtually increased in size year over year since 2010. Because of Ellermeyer's vision and commitment to excellence, Beyond Fifteen goes beyond the norms of traditional PR and brings the highest level of media and market attention to its clients' brand propositions. By skillfully tying entrepreneurial ideas to results-driven strategies, the agency is setting new standards of PR execution, while redefining the agency/client relationship.



Shannon Eusey, President & Founder

Beacon Pointe Wealth Advisors, Newport Beach

Starting on the ground floor in the financial services industry, Shannon Eusey's hard work, persistence and emphasis on putting her clients first catapulted her through the ranks in a heavily male-dominated industry. Eusey pictured a firm with a clear objective, prompting her to found Beacon Pointe Advisors. 14 years, six affiliate offices, 90+ employees, 70+ institutions, thousands of high-net-worth families and more than \$8 billion in assets later; Beacon Pointe is consistently ranked as one of the largest independent advisory firms in the nation. Under Eusey's guidance, Beacon Pointe Advisors is now more than 65% female, with women holding senior or executive positions in every department of the firm. Eusey is also currently the top-ranked female advisor in the country according to Barron's "Top 100 Independent Wealth Advisors" List for 2015.



Mary Watson Fisher, Co-Managing Partner

Walsworth (WFBM LLP), Orange

Mary Watson Fisher joined Walsworth in 1992 in its Orange, California headquarters and became co-managing partner of the firm in 2004. Since assuming that position, Fisher has been instrumental in leading the growth of the firm and shaping its future in a way that is unique to law firms and underscores the firm's longstanding commitment to diversity. Walsworth was recently recognized as a certified Women's Business Enterprise (WBE) by the Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC) and by the California Public Utilities Commission. The national standard for certification is a meticulous process, which includes an in-depth analysis of the business structure and management, designed to confirm the business is at least 51% owned, operated and controlled by women. Walsworth is proud to be the largest certified WBE law firm in the United States.



Trina Fleming, Chief Operating Officer

Women Helping Women/Men2work, Santa Ana

The mission of WHW is to provide the unemployed and underemployed the skills and resources they need to get and keep a good job. Trina Fleming oversees all back office operations of the 23-year-old nonprofit, helping the organization to deliver measurable and cost-effective results that make this mission a reality. Her wide range of responsibilities include human resources; the shaping of WHW's brand message; development and implementation of WHW's strategic marketing and communication activities; purchasing; organizational policies; and management of WHW's technology infrastructure and facilities; as well as special projects designed to increase the organization's capacity, efficiency and awareness in the community. By thoughtful cultivation of resources, Fleming enables WHW to move toward its vision of seeing every person in Orange County who wants to work gainfully employed.



Kelsey Flewollen, Metro Market Manager

Robert Half, Irvine

Kelsey Flewollen is the metro market manager for Robert Half, the world's first and largest specialized staffing firm. In her role, she manages operations for the Robert Half Technology and The Creative Group divisions, specializing in placing technology and creative talent throughout the Orange County region. Flewollen joined Robert Half in 2013, and has since held roles of increasing responsibility in the company. After joining the company, Flewollen saw the incredible opportunity to grow the global, respected brand throughout Orange County. She began with a small, but dedicated team which she soon developed into a team of exceptional individuals tripling in size. Flewollen and her teams placed more than 1,600 individuals in jobs last year alone. Flewollen is committed in helping businesses thrive by building lasting partnerships and leaving a mark as a true leader throughout the Orange County landscape.



Robin Follman-Otta, CEO & COO

RA Industries LLC/Markall Inc., Santa Ana

As CEO of Markall Inc., Robin Follman-Otta leads the privately held, woman- and minority-owned small business, along with its manufacturing arm, RA Industries LLC, a full-service engineering and fabrication completion center that has operated in Santa Ana for three generations, spanning more than 60 years. Follman-Otta has positioned Markall to pursue existing and new global markets in select industries: aerospace and defense, commercial, energy, entertainment (animatronics) and medical. The Markall team



**Congratulations to Kaaren Hall,
CEO/Founder of uDirect IRA
Services, on this year's Women In
Business nomination**

uDirect IRA Services helps you invest your retirement savings outside of Wall Street.



uDirectIRA.com
info@uDirectIRA.com
866-447-6598

2016 Women in Business Nominees

provides 100% on-time delivery and 99.85% (five-year average) quality ratings. Follman-Otta has leveraged Markall's Best in Class and Supplier Self-Release status to increase volume sales and build on new global business opportunities. Through her cohesive vision of being the manufacturing solution for the companies' most difficult machining and assembly challenges, Markall has expanded its global presence in Norway, Brazil, Germany and Singapore.

Shirin Forootan, Attorney

Call & Jensen, Newport Beach

For several years, Shirin Forootan has defended companies in employment litigation. Her dedicated commitment to her clients has yielded excellent results both inside and outside of court. She has had class actions dismissed, lawsuits filed by individual employees 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 and 2016 "Southern California Rising Stars" List, a distinction reserved for just 2.5% of attorneys in California. She currently serves as co-chair of Orange County United Way's "Women United" leadership group. She recently served as co-chair of both the Orange County Bar Association's Mommy Esquire Committee and the Community Outreach Committee. She practices law at Call & Jensen in Newport Beach.



Jennifer Friend, CEO

Project Hope Alliance, Costa Mesa

Project Hope Alliance (PHA), a Costa Mesa-based nonprofit organization, is committed to ending the cycle of homelessness, one child at a time. Jennifer Friend first joined PHA as the president and secretary of its board of directors, while she continued her successful career as a partner at a large law firm. Friend's past as a former Orange County "motel kid" and extraordinary passion for helping families experiencing these same hardships motivated her to turn her avocation into her vocation. Under Friend's fearless leadership, PHA has moved 738 parents and children out of homelessness since 2012. The breakdown is as follows: 391 children, 347 adults, 157 families. In 2015 alone, PHA ended homelessness for 100 kids and guardians—63 of which were children. PHA also lowered the cost per child to end homelessness, which will allow the organization to uplift and empower more families in need going forward.



Peggy Fu, Founder

Focus Business Law Group, Irvine

Peggy Fu is a corporate attorney who focuses on advising middle-market companies in mergers and acquisitions and corporate financing transactions. Fu has successfully negotiated and closed a multitude of transactions ranging from \$1 million to \$500 million in a variety of industries. In addition, Fu acts as outside general counsel to growing businesses. She works closely with owners, investors and the management team to proactively address critical legal and business issues. Fu is honored to be considered by the many satisfied clients of the firm as a valued partner to their businesses. Formerly a senior associate with a leading multinational law firm and a certified public accountant (CPA) with Ernst & Young, Fu founded Focus Business Law Group to provide results-oriented, value-added and personalized service to each client. Fu has also served on the board of the National Association of Women Business Owners-Orange County (NAWBO-OC) for the last six years.



Carla L. Furuno, SVP & Manager of Private Client Services Orange County

City National Bank, Irvine

Carla Furuno oversees City National's Private Client Services in the San Diego and Orange County region, leading a team of highly skilled professionals who provide holistic wealth management and banking solutions to high-net-worth individuals and their families, professional firms, real estate investors and nonprofit organizations. Furuno has more than 30 years of experience in the financial services industry. Prior to joining City National in 2000, she spent 20 years with Union Bank of California in San Francisco as a private banking relationship manager and a commercial loan officer. She earned a master's degree in business administration from Pepperdine University. Furuno holds a Certified Investment Management Analyst designation and certificates in Personal Financial Planning and Advanced Portfolio Management. She is an advisory board member with the University of California Irvine's Center for Investment and Wealth Management. She is also a member of the Investment Management Consultants Association, as well as the Financial Planning Association of Orange County.



Donna Gallup, President & CEO

American Family Housing, Midway City

Donna Gallup, president and CEO of American Family Housing (AFH), has taken a relatively obscure nonprofit out from the shadows and into the spotlight in a short time. Since her appointment to her position in 2014, Gallup has significantly increased awareness of a troubling and worsening predicament in Southern California—chronic homelessness—and has made it her mission to elevate AFH on a national scale. Her efforts have paid off in increased media attention, with published articles, features and coverage of AFH's special events and projects. Always seeking likeminded partners and forging new private, public and governmental



relationships, Gallup has been instrumental in securing major donations and millions of new dollars in funding for the organization's critical services and innovative new housing project for homeless veterans, called Potter's Lane. Her compassion and dedication is exemplified through her work and relationships within the organization, as well as throughout the community.

Eulynn Gargano, Head of Test Prep and Tutoring

FutureWise Consulting, Irvine

Eulynn Gargano has built the test prep and tutoring branch of FutureWise Consulting from the ground up, including research and development, marketing and execution of the business plan. She has not only seen incredible success with her students, she has also eased the college application process for so many clients. Gargano 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 began her tutoring career in 2006 and is an expert at identifying areas where a student can improve, enabling them to bring their scores to the next level. FutureWise Consulting is Orange County's premier source for college counseling, test prep and tutoring services.



Loreen Gilbert, President

WealthWise Financial Services, Irvine

Loreen Gilbert is the founder and president of WealthWise Financial Services. She has a passion for helping people to be financially independent, which stems from her own experience growing up. She was 13 when her parents divorced and her mother, who had been a stay-at-home mom, had to rejoin the workforce. Gilbert's family had a very tough time making ends meet and she vividly remembers one Thanksgiving when her family could not afford a Thanksgiving meal. That period of time instilled in her the desire to be financially independent, as well as to help others towards self-sufficiency. Gilbert started her own practice in 1997 after being told there was no opportunity for advancement in the financial services firm in which she was working. She incorporated WealthWise Financial Services in 2005 when she started clearing securities through LPL Financial. Since then, she has focused her practice on helping key executives and business owners achieve their financial goals.



Cindy Goss, President

Propel Business Solutions Inc., Mission Viejo

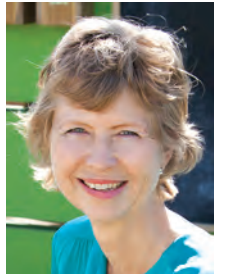
Cindy Goss is president of Propel Business Solutions Inc., a full-service branding and marketing firm she founded in 2008. After a successful, executive-level career in the technology, staffing and nonprofit sectors, Goss's vision was to form an innovative marketing firm, with an emphasis on new business development. In just over seven years, the firm now operates throughout California and specializes in corporate branding and messaging, digital marketing, website strategy/design, social media, videography and product launches for both for-profit and non-profit organizations. Under her leadership, the firm has consistently achieved year-over-year growth, and most notably, during one of our nation's most challenging economic decades. Propel Business Solutions "distills the essence" of a company, creatively conveys their unique competitive advantages and value, and consistently drives new business opportunity.



Michelle Greenwood, Director of Investment Programs

Slowmoneysocal.org, Dana Point

Michelle Greenwood is a financial services professional who holds leadership roles in the local economy movement. Her 20+ year career has spanned both sides of the balance sheet, giving her a cross-disciplinary vantage point. In 2010, Greenwood read Tasch's *Inquiries into the Nature of Slow Money* and was deeply struck by its vision. Slow Money SoCal is a nonprofit network that connects farmers, entrepreneurs, investors, thought-leaders and everyday people interested in developing alternatives that help strengthen and diversify our local food system. Towards the end of 2012, disappointed with the response of stakeholders to a cause marketing campaign she had created for the OC Food Bank-related charity, Canstruction, Greenwood focused on curating a deeper personal theme and mission for her business-related charitable work. She chose to concentrate on food and food insecurity. Today, working at the intersection of food and finance, Greenwood is proud to serve Slow Money SoCal as director of investment programs.



Huma Gruaz, Founder, President & CEO

Alpaytac Public Relations, Irvine

Huma Gruaz founded Alpaytac PR in 2004 with the cards seemingly stacked against her as a single mother, new to the country. Since then, Gruaz has expanded the agency to multiple office locations across the country in Orange County, Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C. Alpaytac PR is a full-service integrated marketing, public relations, communications and digital agency providing strategic results a wide range of global clients from housewares, technology, fitness and beyond. As a resident of Irvine, Gruaz has a passion for the Orange County area and helping businesses develop with Alpaytac's PR and digital support. Through her leadership, Alpaytac was instrumental in moving Bellator, a major multi-million dollar business purchased by Viacom, to the OC area. The company also recently added Lindora to their client roster, handling Lindora's PR and social media initiatives to bring enhanced awareness to the clinics not only in the California market, but also across the nation.



2016 Women in Business Nominees

Jamie Gwen, President & Chef

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 the radio and in print from coast-to-coast. She brings the best to radio with her weekly syndicated radio show, filled with delicious conversation on all things culinary. Most recently, Gwen served as a judge for Fox TV's *Master Chef* and her victory on the Food Network's *Cutthroat Kitchen* proved her culinary aptitude. Gwen can be seen on LA's KTLA Channel 5, on HSN and on national television news shows sharing her seasonal lifestyle approach and her passion for food. Her most recent cookbook, co-authored by Lana Sills, entitled *Good Food For Good Times 2* is now available as an eBook and has been featured on *The Talk*, *Emeril Live* and *Martha Stewart*.



Carol Halesworth, Advertising Account Executive

Stampington & Co. Publishing, Laguna Hills

Founding and operating her own auto glass business for 10 years, Carol Halesworth returned to her advertising roots two years ago, selling advertising for Stampington & Co. in 30+ crafting and hobby enthusiast niche publications. Stampington & Co. publishes 30+ luxury artful living, mixed-media and craft magazines made to inspire creativity in every facet of life. She continues to build relationships that have consistently made her sales over and above target numbers. She leads the advertising department in the new applications online and web platforms, along with print placements. A five-year cancer survivor, Halesworth raised her son by herself and is proud of his amazing accomplishments as a corporate executive. Juggling the continuous deadlines and multiple publications has proven to be a challenge that Halesworth relishes every day.



Kaaren Hall, CEO & President

uDirect IRA Services, Irvine

After 20+ years of experience at Bank of America, Indymac Bank and her own mortgage brokerage experience, Kaaren Hall saw the recession take hold and the mortgage market collapse. Rather than folding up her tent, Hall took her real estate and finance knowledge in a promising new direction – self-directed IRAs. Hall has helped thousands of Americans invest their IRA into real estate, notes and other assets outside of the stock market to improve their financial future. Now, Hall is a passionate educator and facilitator for better retirement through highly diversified and individually controlled IRAs. She has taught tens of thousands through live events, podcasts and webinars. Presently, she is working on her first book to be released in 2016. She is recognized as an expert in her field and has been nominated to the board of directors for the Retirement Industry Trust Association.



Rebecca Hall, CEO

Idea Hall, Costa Mesa

Rebecca Hall has made being ahead of her time a driving career principle. Beginning in 2003, when she founded Idea Hall – the first of its kind hybrid PR/marketing firm – in the opening days of the digital revolution. Today, she remains one of the first and only female heads of an agency and one of the most successful female marketing and PR entrepreneurs in Orange County. Being three steps ahead of her industry, her category and the demographics of the boardroom have earned her unprecedented success. Today, Idea Hall is one of the fastest-growing and most sought-after integrated creative firms in Orange County, ranked No. 2 by the *Orange County Business Journal's* "Best PR Firms" List in 2015. Now in its 13th year, Idea Hall partners with some of county's most highly respected brands and institutions, including The Irvine Co., Bixby Land Co., StorQuest Self Storage, Chapman University, Sunwest Bank, CU Direct, Cox, Castle & Nicholson, and Buchanan Street Partners.



Kristin Halton, Broker Associate

Teles Properties, Newport Beach

Kristin Halton is in the top 1% of agents nationwide, and is a top producer at Teles Properties, focusing on luxury, high-end real estate for sale in Newport Beach. In 2015, The Halton Group closed \$63 million in volume. Halton truly sets herself apart from the competition. She came to California not knowing anyone, and grew her business from hard work and consistency. Not only is she a successful business woman, but she is a loving mother and wife. Halton also developed a way to contribute to the community through every real estate deal. She created The Halton Heart, which gives back to local charities. Her clients are given the opportunity to pick a charity of their choice to donate to at the end of each transaction, and she gives a portion of her commission to the charity of choice.



Mona Z. Hanna, Office Managing Partner

Michelman & Robinson LLP, Irvine

Since joining law firm Michelman & Robinson LLP (M&R) in September 2000, Mona Hanna has quickly risen to hold leadership positions in both firm and practice management, including Orange County office managing partner; chair of the firm-wide litigation department; and member of the executive committee; recruiting committee; and diversity, multiculturalism



and inclusion committee. The first female partner at M&R, Hanna founded Women Attorneys of Michelman & Robinson (WAMR), an internal forum committed to the advancement, empowerment and support of women in the legal profession. Hanna's highly regarded reputation as a tenacious and versatile litigator contributed greatly to M&R's top tier ranking as a "Best Law Firm in America for Commercial Litigation" in 2016 by *US News & World Report/Best Lawyers*. Clearly, Hanna stands as a recognized leader in the firm, a respected leader in her profession and a role model for women everywhere.

Kelly Hart, Program Manager

Orange County Transportation Authority, Orange

As Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) project manager, Kelly Hart is dedicated to enhancing transportation infrastructure. She has managed the OC Streetcar project from its infancy, when the idea was just plans on paper. Today, her astute leadership of a multi-disciplinary team of staff and consultants has achieved major milestones for a project that will transform the way people move in Orange County. The \$289 million project received approval in the first phase of a federal grant program in 2015 and recently, President Barack Obama approved \$125 million towards the project in the proposed federal budget for the next fiscal year. Hart is excited that the rail line is expected to start construction in 2017 and be operational by 2020. As a young, talented professional, Hart is not only a great project champion at OCTA, but she is a new mother, demonstrating that you can achieve a work/life balance if you are willing to work hard at it.



Madeline Haydon, Owner

Nutpods, Newport Beach

Madeline Haydon launched Nutpods, an award-winning dairy-free creamer company, into Seattle-area retailers and on Amazon in May 2015. In a mere eight months, she secured more than 240 retail accounts along the west coast, including Whole Foods Markets, and Nutpods has become the highest reviewed dairy-free creamer on Amazon. Recently selected as the creamer of choice for Holistic Holiday at Sea (cited by *National Geographic Traveler* as "one of the 100 best worldwide vacations to enrich your life") and named one of the innovative beverages of 2016 by the Specialty Food Association, Nutpods has a passionate consumer following with a 34% repurchase rate. Nutpods is the first unsweetened creamer of its kind made from almonds and coconuts and is backed by the following quality organizations: The Vegan Society, the Gluten Intolerance Group (Gluten-Free), Orthodox Union (Kosher) and the Non-GMO Project.



REAL ADVANTAGE, RECOGNIZED.



Allison Schneider
First Vice President

CBRE congratulates Allison Schneider on being recognized as a nominee for "2016 Women in Business Awards" by *Orange County Business Journal*. How can we help transform your real estate into real advantage?

For more information contact or visit:

Jeff Moore, Senior Managing Director
+1 949 725 8600

Kurt Strasmann, Senior Managing Director
+1 949 725 8660
+1 714 371 9320

@CBRESoCal
cbre.com/orangecounty

CBRE Build on
Advantage

2016 Women in Business Nominees

Heidi Hendy, Founding Principal

H. Hendy Associates, Newport Beach

Heidi Hendy launched H. Hendy Associates, an interior architectural firm, in 1979. With 37 years of experience in Orange County and a passion for meeting business objectives, Hendy is a leader in interior architecture and planning, delivering exceptional results and setting an industry standard for design and planning that drives business success. H. Hendy Associates' roster of recently designed Orange County workplaces includes: Mark IV, Yokohama Tires Corp., Kawasaki, OluKai and GE. In a county that the country looks to for leadership in commercial real estate, Hendy is instrumental in keeping firms ahead of the curve when it comes to constructive innovations in workplace 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. Continuing to grow, H. Hendy Associates reported a 23% growth in 2015.



Susan Hensey, Senior Partner & National Studio Principal of FM Strategies

Little, Newport Beach

Over the past 31 years, Susan Hensey has influenced Little's traditional architectural practice to adopt service models that reach beyond the profession's conventional realms of design to include data-driven occupancy planning solutions. With Hensey's insight, Little developed a technology service offering, FacilitiesManager.com, years before the advent of Internet Space Management tools. This technology allowed clients to connect to their facility information through an online portfolio – aiding in productivity and informed decision-making. Hensey also authored a service model to articulate the services best fulfilled by architects to support corporate real estate executives and facility managers beyond the project process – from conception to on-going management. With the goal to grow and diversify the Orange County office, Hensey incubated Little's Workplace Interiors Studio in 18 months and notably won the IIDA-OC Haute Couture Fashion Show charitable event two consecutive years.



Samantha Hoffman, Office Managing Principal

Jackson Lewis P.C., Newport Beach

In 2012, at the age of 37, Samantha Hoffman became the youngest managing partner in all of Jackson Lewis's 55 locations. Since she assumed that role, her office has grown in attorney headcount by more than 50%, attracting lateral candidates from competitors. Hoffman has had a speedy rise at Jackson Lewis – she started in 2004 as an associate, made partner the first year she was eligible in 2009, and then became managing partner of the Orange County office when she had been practicing for 12 years and a partner for three. Throughout her legal career, she has amassed a very impressive client roster. Significantly, she has directly originated and is responsible for managing Jackson Lewis' relationships with several important clients including BDS Marketing, Corvel Corp. and St. John Knits. She was also elected to the law firm's board of directors in 2015. She is the youngest member of the firm's board of directors.



Susie Hopson-Blum, Owner, Founder & Director of Admissions

New Method Wellness, San Juan Capistrano

Susie Hopson-Blum is an owner and founder of New Method Wellness, and currently serves as the director of admissions. Having been in recovery for more than 25 years, Hopson-Blum has been an active and vital member in the recovery community ever since she went to treatment in 1988. Hopson-Blum's experience managing and directing a behavioral health treatment facility began in 2006 when she opened a sober living house, Sober Pacific Living. As clients continued to come in the door with a passion for treatment and recovery, Hopson-Blum used her professional expertise and personal experience to create New Method Wellness, a substance abuse treatment center that takes a holistic approach to recovery. As an intern level-certified alcohol and drug abuse counselor, Hopson-Blum has years of experience directing and guiding families in assisting their loved one from active addiction to the safety of treatment.



Marin Howarth, Owner & CEO

DirtySexyHappiness Hospitality Group, Costa Mesa

Marin Howarth possesses tremendous experience in the restaurant industry. Howarth and her husband began to conceptualize restaurant concepts, the first of which, Shuck Oyster Bar, they opened in August 2012 in Costa Mesa. With the rave reviews and accolades pouring in, they opened their next concept, ARC. After only being open for six weeks, ARC was referred to as one of the "most important restaurants to open in America this decade" by renowned food and travel journalist, Brad A. Johnson. In spring 2016, the DirtySexyHappiness Hospitality Group is set to expand with the additions of Restaurant Marin and The Guild. Restaurant Marin is a Southern California concept serving breakfast, lunch, dinner and dessert from 7 a.m. to midnight daily. At The Guild restaurant, simplicity is the ultimate sophistication. The restaurant, which shares walls with sister concepts ARC and Marin, will present a more exclusive, reservation-only dinner experience, complete with classic butler service until 2 a.m. daily.



Susan Howington, CEO

Power Connections Career Services, Irvine

Susan Howington started Power Connections Career Services with the intention of making a difference in people's lives. Power Connections' business is generated from

corporate customers who sponsor career transition services (outplacement services) to all outgoing employees. Being jobless is a tremendously challenging time for most people, for the personal and professional dynamics can be very complicated. Howington devised an outplacement model that places a great deal of emphasis on giving individual attention and program customization, so each out-of-work client is treated with respect and provided practical job search support that is relevant to their situation and line of work. Through business relationships, knowledge of the business landscape, creativity and insightful intuition, Howington has built an outplacement business service with heart. Starting the business in 2006, Howington and her team offered their unwavering support to the many, many people in Orange County who became jobless during the ensuing recession.



Jo-E Immel, Vice President, Business Development

Snyder Langston, Irvine

Jo-E Immel has more than 15 years of experience in the architecture and construction industry, and continues to bring her drive for successful relationship management into her projects. With a passion for developing and managing relationships with her clients, Immel has direct responsibility for the client relations, public relations, marketing and business development functions at one of Southern California's most-respected construction firms, Snyder Langston. Over the course of her 10 years at Snyder Langston, she was most recently named vice president, business development and is considered one of the prime executives now leading the firm's succession planning. Snyder Langston has a proud 55+ year history and has earned its client work and relationships by maintaining its commitment to being a trusted advisor. Immel understands the value and measure of this commitment, and is dedicated to ensuring that all client relationships are based on this foundation.



Michele D. Johnson, Partner

Latham & Watkins, Costa Mesa

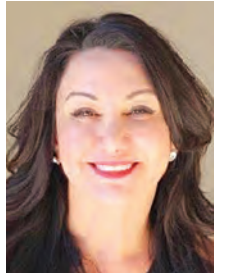
Michele Johnson plays a lead role advising clients in high-stakes cases, including the closely watched hostile bid for Allergan Inc. that unfolded last year. A go-to litigator for numerous companies, boards of directors, executives and financial institutions, Johnson advises on cutting-edge issues of critical corporate and financial significance, as well as serves in leadership roles within Latham & Watkins and in the community. A rising star in the law firm, Johnson was named to the firm's global executive committee in 2015 – the nine-partner governing body of the firm's 2,200+ lawyers around the world. She previously served as the office managing partner of the firm's Orange County office. Johnson is deeply involved in numerous Orange County community charities, including the United Way Tocqueville Society, and has led on pro bono legal initiatives to serve the underrepresented in both the Los Angeles and Orange County communities.



DeAnna Jordan, Clinical Director & Board Member

New Method Wellness, San Juan Capistrano

DeAnna Jordan serves as the clinical director at New Method Wellness, where she supervises a team of caring, well-trained clinicians who provide continued support throughout a client's stay at New Method Wellness – a substance abuse treatment center. Jordan has more than 20 years of experience working with clients in recovery, and is a marriage and family therapist (MFT), specializing in the maintenance of healthy relationships. As a result of her expertise, Jordan has been featured on *Dr. Phil*, *Jane Valdez-Mitchell*, National Geographic's *Taboo*, and has been published in *Elle*, as well as The Huffington Post. As a recovering addict, Jordan brings a breadth of personal recovery experience to her clinical leadership and believes a comfortable, structured and supportive environment is an essential part of maintaining long-term sobriety.



Patty Juarez, Regional Vice President

Wells Fargo Commercial Banking, Orange

Patty Juarez has an impressive 18-year career at Wells Fargo. She joined the company right out of college and was accepted to the company'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 of being a very successful producer, 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. In 2010, Juarez was asked to run a new Commercial Banking office in Anaheim. She has staffed and grown that office at unseemingly high rates in the industry. Juarez also promotes and celebrates diversity in her workplace by ensuring her office environment is inclusive and welcoming of the many contributions of each member of her team.



Pamela Jung, CEO & Founder

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 health care 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



2016 Women in Business Nominees

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 more than \$30 million with 60+ employees and offices in OC, LA and Northern California.

Manna Kadar, CEO

Manna Kadar Cosmetics, Irvine

Manna Kadar is truly a story of beating the odds. Having been raised in a community where drive-by shootings and home-invasion robberies were the norm, the prospect of a college education and success were remote. Kadar rose above her circumstances and began her entrepreneurial career by opening her first cosmetics store at the Brea Mall. Over the next six years, Kadar expanded this to a chain of seven stores in two states, while going to USC full-time. Kadar ultimately sold the chain in 2002. Her passion for the beauty industry did not wane, and Kadar later opened a chain of salon and spas, which she still owns today. In 2011, Kadar pursued her ultimate dream of starting her own cosmetics line, Manna Kadar Cosmetics (MKC). In the fiercely competitive world of cosmetics, Kadar managed to secure solid footing in the industry in only two short years. MKC has been featured on *Good Morning America*, *The Ellen Show* and *The Talk*, as well as headlined in Fashion Weeks across the country.



Cyndi Karapogolian, District President

Robert Half, Irvine

Cyndi Karapogolian is the district president for Robert Half, the world's first and largest specialized staffing firm overseeing operations for the Southern California region. She joined the company in 2008 as a senior regional vice president and has held progressive leadership roles within the company. As an executive team member, Karapogolian is a key contributor to local market strategies and operating initiatives for the Accountemps, Salaried Professional Services, Officeteam, Robert Half Management Resources and Robert Half Finance and Accounting divisions. With 20 years of experience in the staffing industry, Karapogolian has a true passion for helping local businesses grow while finding highly skilled professionals rewarding job opportunities.



Hilary Kaye, President

HKA Inc. Marketing Communications, Tustin

Hilary Kaye is founder and president of HKA Inc. Marketing Communications, an award-winning agency providing strategic counsel and implementation of communications services. She provides overall vision and direction for the agency's integrated communications strategies created to elevate visibility, strengthen credibility and promote business growth. She spearheads HKA's business development and works with staff to develop strategies that enable clients to reach their business objectives. Kaye is proud to have built an agency known for both personalized attention and excellence. She also particularly enjoys finding innovative ways to unite HKA clients with each other, and with deserving nonprofits, to yield win-win results. Kaye and her agency received the 2015 National Philanthropy Day Award in the Small Business Category and a silver 2015 Stevie Award in the Community Involvement category. Kaye serves on the boards of Crystal Cove Alliance and Laura's House; she is an Alzheimer's Visionary Woman, founding member of NAWBO's Women's Business Institute and member of Women Presidents' Organization.



Shannon Kennedy, Regional President – Southern California

BNY Mellon Wealth Management, Newport Beach

Shannon Kennedy was named president of BNY Mellon Southern California in June 2013. In the role as president, Kennedy oversees \$3 billion in assets under management and oversees 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, supports the involvement of her staff on community and professional boards including South Coast Repertory, Girl Scouts of Orange County, Entrepreneur Organization, Goodwill and Habitat for Humanity, among others. Since Kennedy joined BNY Mellon, she has hired more than 17 people, opened an office in San Diego, and added 70 new relationships. Throughout her career in financial services and wealth management, Kennedy has been committed to delivering excellence. BNY Mellon Wealth Management provides wealth management, private banking, investment management, wealth and estate planning and other services to individuals, families, family offices and more.



Rani Khetarpal, CEO & Co-Founder

Global Transitional Care, Newport Beach

Five years ago, seeing a gap in care follow-up leading to increased hospital readmission, Rani Khetarpal began to explore programs that were solving the problem. Khetarpal began to follow and study the only clinical program being developed at the time, the Naylor Model at the University of Pennsylvania. Over the course of two years, her efforts sparked the support of Dr. Hisham El-Bayar, an Orange County surgeon and the two founded Global Transitional Care (GTC), creating the first commercialized clinical transitional care organization in the country. In addition, GTC is the only approved clinical transitional care provider organization approved by Medicare for reimbursement – commercializing a new category of care in the evolving health care



landscape, all with the end benefit of helping to improve population health and reduce cost waste.

Laura Khouri, President

Western National Group, Irvine

Laura Khouri began her career with Western National Group in 1985 as a "Gal Friday," and has held increasingly responsible management positions with the firm during her 31+ year tenure. Prior to her appointment as president of Western National Property Management in March 2010, Khouri founded the ancillary income company, MAG, and served as its first president. Western National is among the larger multifamily property management companies in the Western United States with more than 24,500 apartment units in more than 162 locations throughout California and Nevada. As president, Khouri is responsible for leading a team of about 800 real estate professionals supervising a portfolio of assets owned by Western National Group, as well as third-party clients. She is a licensed real estate broker in both California and Utah and is a sitting member on Western National Group's executive committee, the board of directors, as well as on the Western National Group investment committee.



Robin King, Director of Media & Account Strategy

Zip2Media, Irvine

Robin King takes a very strategic and systematic approach to managing media campaigns while simultaneously managing client expectations. Zip2Media is an advertising and media buying agency specializing in TV, radio, print, digital marketing, outdoor, events and sports sponsorships. King manages and negotiates the most cost-effective, targeted advertising campaigns that generate the highest return-on-investment (ROI) for clients. In the year that King has been with Zip2Media, she has helped to guide the agency towards stronger revenue growth by adding new clients to the company's roster, setting up new templates and processes, hiring new talent and spearheading Zip2Media's website redesign. As a result of her insight and leadership, Zip2Media is poised for significant growth in 2016 and beyond.



Melany Koenig, President

M2 Marketing and Management, Santa Ana

In six short years, Melany Koenig has managed 20+ television advertising campaigns, including a number of brand-sensitive campaigns, such as Breville, Rubbermaid, Contour, Cuisinart and Conair. Of all the campaigns that she has managed, her leadership and innovation were pivotal in the successful television advertising campaign for Metamorphosis by Tracy Anderson. Not only was this a hugely successful DRTV campaign, but Koenig was also responsible for the client's oversight and daily management of retail, home shopping and international distribution. M2 Marketing and Management is a service provider, and as such, the close relationship with its clients is of the utmost importance to the ongoing growth of the company. Koenig is an outstanding ambassador for the company and projects a warm, cheerful attitude to all clients.



Alyssa Lahham, Vice President, Operations, Marketing, Advertising

Sparkhouse, Santa Ana

Alyssa Lahham started with Sparkhouse – a video production and online marketing agency – in 2015 and has re-organized the company's internal procedures and marketing plan. She has implemented a creative brief, post-production quality control procedures, client timelines, a post-production schedule, project profitability tracking, and an SEO and content marketing initiative. Since Lahham has joined Sparkhouse, both client satisfaction and internal efficiency have increased. With Lahham handling operations, the organization has been able to focus on delivering the highest quality creative videos to clients. Sparkhouse was also able to sign on MetLife, one of its largest clients to date. Sparkhouse will continue to grow and be more and more profitable due in large part to Lahham's diligence and attention to detail.



Shelly Larrimore, Operations Process Specialist

NextGen Healthcare, Irvine

Shelly Larrimore joined NextGen Healthcare in December 2013, just two months after NextGen acquired Mirth Corp., which was focused on health information exchange and data interoperability. Larrimore's role in sales operations on the Mirth product team included inside and outside sales support and projects to integrate SugarCRM, Salesforce, and SAP billing and business processes. Her personal experiences mentoring at-risk girls with Awaken Arts helped her approach challenges from different perspectives and develop leadership skills. This background, along with her cross-functional project experience, prepared her well for a new role as an operations process specialist. Larrimore's recent work includes examination of help desk processes for her Lean Six Sigma Green Belt certification and leadership of the change control project, creating an automated process workflow in Atlassian JIRA and SugarCRM. NextGen Healthcare provides EHR, financial and HIE solutions for hospitals, health systems, physician practices and other health care organizations.



Leann Lawson, Assistant Vice President

First American Title Insurance, Irvine

Leann Lawson was the first woman to be hired in the commercial sales department for First American Title's Orange County branch. Her entry to the industry began in June 1989, which was the start of a long and rewarding career with First American.

2016 Women in Business Nominees

Over the past 17 years, she has served as vice president in sales for the National Commercial Services Division (NCS), and is among the top in sales performance. In the community, Lawson has served as past president of CREW-OC and she is currently involved with the KidWorks Golf fundraiser event. She is also a 10-year committee member of the Gentlemen's Haberdashery event, which raises money for the Heart of Jesus Retreat center. First American Title Insurance Co. facilitates and streamlines real estate transactions by providing comprehensive title insurance protection and professional settlement services.



Holly Lopez, Managing Partner Bryan Cave LLP, Irvine

Holly Lopez is the first woman to serve as managing partner of Bryan Cave LLP's Irvine office since its founding in 1990. Bryan Cave offers business and corporate legal services from offices around the world. Lopez has devoted herself to championing diversity, eliminating bias, and fostering inclusion over the course of her 16-year career with Bryan Cave. She is co-chair of Bryan Cave's Women Lawyers Affinity Group, working to increase the number of women partners and leaders, provide meaningful development opportunities, and elevate the profiles of the 350+ women lawyers firm-wide. Dedicated to recruiting and retaining diverse talent, Lopez is a former chair of the Irvine office's recruiting committee and a dynamic leader within both the firm's and office's Lawyers of Color affinity group. Lopez handles a wide variety of real estate transactions and projects involving the acquisition and development of real property for shopping centers, movie theaters, business parks and industrial buildings in Orange County and nationwide.



Stacy Lax, Vice President Financial Operations & Internal Audit Microsemi Corp., Aliso Viejo

Stacy Lax's leadership at Microsemi has provided the company with the financial discipline necessary for success in the highly competitive semiconductor industry. Since joining the company in 2006, Lax has played an integral role in leading the complex compliance and audit processes for Microsemi's 21 global acquisitions during the past 10 years. By incorporating these companies into the Microsemi fold, they have the resources of a larger corporation that can support the roll out of technological developments, which might not have otherwise reached the marketplace. Furthermore, Lax's creative approach to centralizing the processes and procedures in finance and IT has successfully led Microsemi to achieve profitability, improved margins, a strong balance sheet, and cost-cutting consolidation plans for facilities both domestically and abroad. Microsemi offers a comprehensive portfolio of semiconductor and system solutions for communications, defense and security, aerospace and industrial markets.



Barbara Layton, Owner Babette's, Newport Coast

Barbara Layton is the owner of both Babette's East Hampton and Babette's Newport Beach, making her not only bi-coastal, but a force to be reckoned with. Opened in June 1995, Babette's East Hampton began from a dream and evolved out of sheer desire. The restaurant prides itself in serving up deliciously clean food in a lively, sensual and visually beautiful space, making each and every meal an event. 20 years later, Babette's Newport Beach opened 3,000 miles away on the scenic Newport Coast, proudly earning the title as one of the most strikingly, health-conscious dining concepts in Orange County. The menu consists of a variety of dishes, all of which are made with only the finest in organic, local and seasonal ingredients supporting farmers and growers who support sustainability. It also appreciates herbivores and carnivores alike infused with flavors from around the globe.



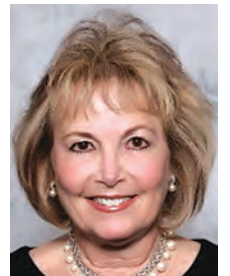
Joyce Lee, EVP of Legal & Business Affairs Alorica, Irvine

In June 1999, Andy Lee founded Alorica, the Irvine-based business process outsourcing company that posted more than \$1 billion in revenue for 2015. Joyce Lee, Andy's wife and an accomplished lawyer in her own right, served as Alorica's legal counsel and assisted in a variety of other roles from office manager to human resources. It was a "Jill-of-All-Trades" position she held for several years, leading the company's early legal and special projects functions. After the company began to grow at increasingly faster rates, Joyce pared back her roles to take time off to start a family and raise her two children. She returned full-time to Alorica in August 2015 to help launch "Making Lives Better with Alorica," a nonprofit dedicated to providing assistance to Alorica employees, their families and the people, organizations and communities who support them.



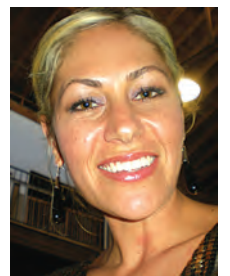
Luann McElroy, Owner & CEO Voyagers Rentals Inc., Newport Beach

Luann McElroy is a true entrepreneur who has a natural ability to create and realize her visions. She has been a successful business owner for more than a decade. She launched and currently runs, Beau Branding, a full-service public relations agency. McElroy also launched Voyagers Rentals Inc. in Newport Beach in 2014. Voyagers introduces a new approach to the boat rental business in Newport Beach. Providing a personalized experience with a human touch at all times, the company makes it easy to book reservations on luxury electric boats that are well-maintained, clean and comfortable. Voyagers offers an upscale and luxury electric boat experience.



Karen Diamond Markovich, Realtor Coldwell Banker Previews International, Newport Beach

With an impressive background in accounting, marketing and finance, Karen Markovich brings more than 18 years of real estate knowledge to the table. She works for one of the world's most-recognized real estate brokerage companies in the world, Coldwell Banker Residential International. Prior to entering real estate in the mid '90s, Markovich owned and operated the largest beauty salon in Huntington Beach. Markovich has been recognized throughout her decades-long career for her achievements in real estate and has had more than 100 sales transactions. She concentrates her considerable sales, internet and marketing skills to the full gamut of residential sales, including relocation, foreclosure and short sales. A firm believer in giving back to the community, she is involved with a variety of charitable and professional associations that include, but are not limited to, the Breast Cancer Angels and the Susan G. Komen Foundation.



Jessica McLeish, Founder Sourced Conscious Cuisine, Laguna Beach

Sourced Conscious Cuisine is the creation of Chef Jessica McLeish. The company was founded to offer people access to chef-prepared gourmet meals made with ingredients sourced from farms in Orange County. It is the only meal delivery service in Orange County sourcing the majority of its produce from farms within a 15-mile radius of its kitchen. Its clients get the optimal nutrient density in their food, as it is freshly picked and grown without chemicals or pesticides. Sourced Cuisine's meals are made gluten-free, low-glycemic and naturally delicious. Sourced has been in business one year and continues to grow.



Nicole McMackin, President Irvine Technology Corp., Irvine

Nicole McMackin is president of Irvine Technology Corp. (ITC), a national technology solutions and staffing firm with two local Orange County offices. McMackin is a partner in ITC and has led the company for the past 14 years. McMackin is attributed to making Irvine Technology Corp. one of the most successful firms in the industry, not only in Orange County, but in the country. When McMackin took over ITC, the company had 15 employees locally and now boasts more than 200 in Orange County alone. ITC is proud to service accounts such as AT&T, Molina Healthcare, USC, Trader Joe's, CHOC, Xerox, Konica Minolta, Nike and many others throughout the country. McMackin oversees all internal operations, brand development, strategic planning and implementation. She also currently holds total P&L responsibility for the company in the United States.



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 accounting and audit. In 2010, she formed the Complete Financial Office Solutions (CFOS) department, which has grown to 10 employees. In 2011, Levinstein was promoted to partner at the firm. She has helped grow HMWC from a company with only 12 employees to the nearly 60-employee firm it is today, driving it to rank as the #15 accounting firm in Orange County.



Joyce Logrono, Director of Global Production Global Language Solutions, Irvine

Joyce Logrono began her tenure at Global Language Solutions (GLS) as the administrative assistant in January 2009. During her tenure at GLS, Logrono has worked diligently to move from an administrative assistant to a global director position. She has managed with grace and endurance, ensuring that the focus of her team is on managing a work life balance for everyone involved. Recently, she was tasked with finding solutions to low profitability projects and rose to the occasion by using creative and client-relationship enhancing solutions that increased profitability by such a significant amount, no staff reductions were forced to be made. Global Language Solutions provides professional translation services in 100+ languages for the pharmaceutical, medical device, financial and legal industries.



2016 Women in Business Nominees

Anne Marie McNeill, M.D., Ph.D., President & CEO

Newport Beach Dermatology and Plastic Surgery, Newport Beach

Dr. Anne Marie McNeill has grown Newport Beach Dermatology and Plastic Surgery into one of the most highly regarded medical practices in Orange County. The company was originally incorporated as McNeill Dermatology in 2009, during a period of economic uncertainty in the global economy and an upheaval in the national health care system. In spite of these obstacles, Dr. McNeill was able to create an independent private practice delivering medical care of the highest quality with a special emphasis on providing individualized comprehensive dermatologic care to her patients. Dr. McNeill grew the practice over time through quality additions to her team. Now known as Newport Beach Dermatology and Plastic Surgery, Dr. McNeill and her team pride themselves on delivering a quality medical and cosmetic health care experience for all of their patients in a luxurious 4,000-square-foot office space.



and management company with offices in Atlanta, Dallas, Denver, Houston and Los Angeles. Since 1991, Granite Properties has acquired or developed more than 24 million square feet of commercial real estate totaling \$3.7 billion.

Jena Minnick-Bull, CEO & Director

South Coast Conservatory, Laguna Niguel

Jena Minnick-Bull, at the age of 24, created a corporation to build a positive dance education enterprise in her community. Minnick-Bull believes that dance is powerful mix of athleticism and artistry with tremendous benefits for youth. However, the dance industry has been wrought with business challenges. She has been determined to change that. At age 25, she acquired an existing dance school with revenue of \$86,000 and 167 students. In 14 years, she has grown her company by 2700%, founded a nonprofit company, Dance Discovery Foundation, and has affected the lives of over 11,000 students. In 2015, South Coast Conservatory reached the benchmark revenue of \$2.4 million, making it one of the largest privately owned dance schools in California. She has been able to create a sustainable and prosperous business and foundation to provide dance education and its powerful benefits to youth for many decades to come.



Shachi Mehra, Executive Chef & Owner

ADYA, Anaheim

Indian-born Chef Shachi Mehra has a passion for creating innovative and thoughtful menus that tastefully balance a variety of flavors to create unique and inspired dishes. Her early family experiences helped to develop and shape her love of food and appreciation for balance, in flavors and in life. Mehra blends Western and Indian cultures to create artful dishes that successfully marry tradition with modernity. Mehra has become known for bringing a unique global perspective to her work. This can be attributed to an extended culinary journey through India, Japan and Australia. She has strengthened her skills in some of the most demanding kitchens in this country before opening ADYA locations in Anaheim and Irvine. With an education from The University of Texas at Austin, this culinary ingénue has set herself a place in history as one of the premier Indian-born chefs in Orange County.



Ruchi Mitra, Founder & CEO

Changefindr, Irvine

More than \$10 billion worth of gift cards go unused every year and Ruchi Mitra thought that it was an outrage that so much money goes to waste when it can be put to good use. With this concept she founded her company, Changefindr, in 2014 to help worthy causes and charities get donations. Converting gift cards to cash was not easy, so she partnered with Blackhawk Networks – one of the largest gift card providers – to let people conveniently donate their unused gift cards online. Currently, about 100 causes and charities are listed on the Changefindr platform, and people can easily donate their unused and unwanted gift cards and get a donation receipt. She has successfully raised funds for charities such as South County Outreach, Planned Parenthood, Boy Scouts of America, CoderDojo of Orange County and Irvine Temple to name a few. She is currently working with Irvine Prevention Coalition to raise funds to support its year-round drug prevention in schools and community.



Stephanie Meier, Property Manager

Granite Properties, Orange

Although Stephanie Meier has only technically been an employee of Granite Properties for seven months, she has served as property manager of Orange City Square (acquired by Granite in December 2012) since 2010. As property manager, Meier oversees all property operations at the four-building, 386,167-square-foot office development. This includes the oversight of her administrative staff and engineering team, as well as the security personnel and janitorial staff serving the building tenants. Granite Properties is a privately held commercial real estate investment



Darlynn Morgan, Founding Attorney

Morgan Law Group, Newport Beach

Darlynn Morgan is the founder of Morgan Law Group, a local law firm specializing in estate planning for the entire family and helping families through probate or administer a trust after experiencing a loss. The firm was started in 2005 shortly after Morgan lost

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS!
DEADLINE APRIL 28, 2016

ORANGE COUNTY BUSINESS JOURNAL presents

The Seventeenth Annual



2016 Keynote Speakers



Alexis Schulze
Co-Founder & Chief Visionary Officer

Steve Schulze
Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer



For Nomination or Reservation Information

visit www.ocbj.com/bizevents

or contact Jayne Kennedy, Senior Events Manager, at 949.833.8373 x 209 or kennedy@ocbj.com.

Luncheon & Awards Program

Tuesday, June 21, 2016
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Hotel Irvine Jamboree Center
17900 Jamboree Road, Irvine, CA 92614

<p>Diamond Sponsor</p>	<p>Platinum Sponsors</p>	<p>Gold Sponsor</p>	<p>Silver Sponsor</p>
-------------------------------	---------------------------------	----------------------------	------------------------------

2016 Women in Business Nominees

a loved one to cancer. Falsely believing she was “too young to plan,” she learned the hard way why every adult should have some form of estate planning in place so that their family is properly protected should the unthinkable happen. She graduated from Loyola Law School and has been practicing law in Orange County for 20 years. Her straightforward and easy-to-understand legal advice has been featured in a number of publications including *Forbes.com* and the *OC Register*. Most recently, she was named a top OC estate planning attorney by *OC Metro Magazine* in 2013 and *Coast Magazine* in 2015.



Dr. Sandra Morgan, Director, Vanguard University's Global Center for Women & Justice; Professor, Women's Studies, Family Violence & Human Trafficking *Vanguard University, Costa Mesa*

Sandra Morgan is recognized globally for her expertise on combating human trafficking and working to end violence against women. She began her anti-trafficking work in Athens, Greece where she served on the board of the Athens International Nurses Association. She has also served as the administrator of the Orange County Human Trafficking Task Force before returning full-time to Vanguard in order to extend global impact and build capacity for research, education and advocacy directly related to the exploitation of women and children. For three years, she has produced the bimonthly *Ending Human Trafficking* podcast, which was recognized by The National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth, Dept. of Health and Human Services as a great way to “get up to speed on human trafficking.” As director of Vanguard University's Global Center for Women and Justice (GCWJ), she oversees the Women's Studies minor, as well as teaches Family Violence and Human Trafficking.



Maria Nalywayko, Senior Vice President, HR & Strategic Project Administration *CoreLogic, Irvine*

Maria Nalywayko is senior vice president, Human Resources and Strategic Project Administration for CoreLogic (NYSE: CLGX). Recognized as a leading global property information, analytics and data-enabled services provider, CoreLogic serves markets such as real estate and mortgage finance, insurance and government. The company maintains property records data from public, contributory and proprietary sources, including more than 4.5 billion records spanning more than 50 years. Nalywayko was the human resource leader during separation of CoreLogic from First American Title Co. in June 2010. Since that time, CoreLogic has transformed into a higher performing company with shareholder returns of more than 200%. Through Nalywayko's leadership, CoreLogic has acquired new companies and divested non-core businesses as the company's strategic roadmap has evolved. The current profile of the company is a high-growth organization with greater engagement.



Karen Nguyen, Founder & CEO *Inspired Art Wine, Costa Mesa*

Karen Nguyen is the founder, owner and CEO of the first premier art studio wine bar, Inspired Art Wine. She worked across various industries for more than 10 years before opening her own studio, which is designed to be a place where guests can relax and create their own creativity via art classes. Opening a business that involves alcohol is not an easy feat, and Nguyen was able to navigate various agencies, city, county and state officials to launch her business under a tight deadline and limited budget, while maintaining a demanding corporate role for a Fortune 200 corporation. She opened her business on National Wine Day, February 18, 2016. Today, Inspired Art Wine is a place where people can bond over a shared activity while enjoying their favorite beverage and good music.



Marla J. Noel, President

Fairhaven Memorial Park & Mortuary, Santa Ana

The funeral industry is not for everyone, but Marla Noel has the right combination of empathy and business sense to successfully continue the legacy of Fairhaven Memorial Park, a 100+ year-old Orange County institution. As president of Fairhaven, Noel has overseen the expansion of Fairhaven's historic Orange County footprint, including the 2007 opening of a South County location consistent with the organization's compassionate business model. Under her leadership, Fairhaven continues to be committed to community engagement and welcomes Orange County residents for Easter services, summer movies and concerts and various other events throughout the year. Noel has built an environment where OC residents can mourn, meditate or peacefully stroll. She has guided Fairhaven to embrace a modern outlook on funerals and burials with a newly installed cremation garden providing families even more comforting options when mourning the loss of a loved one.



Doretha O'Quinn, Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs

Vanguard University, Costa Mesa

Doretha O'Quinn has more than 25 years of service in both public and private education and is an ordained minister in the Foursquare Denomination. Prior to joining the administration at Vanguard, Dr. O'Quinn served as the vice provost of Multi-Ethnic and Cross Cultural Engagement at Biola University. Her other administrative experience includes serving as associate dean for the School of Education at Point Loma Nazarene University and program director for Graduate Studies in Education at the



Inglewood satellite campus for Biola University. In addition to her administrative experience, Dr. O'Quinn also held faculty positions in Graduate Education at Biola University and Point Loma Nazarene University. Dr. O'Quinn is author of *Silent Voices, Powerful Messages: The Historical Influence and Contribution of African-Americans to the Foursquare Gospel Movement*, and a contributing author of the book *Our Voices: Issues Facing Black Women in America and Alone in Marriage*.

Anoosheh M. Oskouian, President & CEO *Ship & Shore Environmental Inc., Signal Hill*

Ship & Shore Environmental Inc. is a woman-owned, certified business specializing in air pollution capture and control systems for industrial applications. Anoosheh Oskouian launched her pollution control business in 2000 when the opportunity arose for her to re-invent what had been a metal fabricating company. Since then, Oskouian's company has developed a comprehensive array of engineering and manufacturing capabilities. 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. Ship & Shore helps major manufacturers meet VOC abatement challenges by providing customized energy-efficient air pollution abatement systems for various industries. It's the only company in its industry that offers a true “turnkey” solution and complete project management, including assessment, design, testing, engineering, fabrication, construction, compliance and even coordinates product transportation to the customer site for installation and start-up.



April Palmer, Vice President, Account Manager

Fidelity National Title, Major Accounts Division, Newport Beach

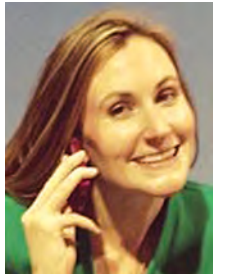
April Palmer has been a notable, award-winning top producer with Fidelity National Title in a combined 21 years of service. Known as an “outside of the box” thinker and business innovator, she is always putting forth the best tools possible to aid her clients. Alongside her keen sense of market fluctuation, ability to help generate company growth and overall business acumen, her sole professed achievement comes down to one simple element: the people. Palmer believes we are all here for a purpose and that everyone has their personal goals and needs. In addition to her corporate accomplishments, Palmer is the banner portrait of the successful working mother. Striking an ideal balance between work and life, Palmer has had a wonderful career that carried her far, while also raising a son from infancy to manhood.



Sara Palmer, Owner & CEO

StaffRehab, Newport Beach

Sara Palmer founded StaffRehab in 2009. At the time, it was just Palmer and her dog, Josie, who came to work with her every day. The mission was to provide great therapists with great opportunities where they can make a difference in the lives of the people they touch. Since then, Palmer has grown her team (internal and contract) to more than 70 people servicing skilled nurse facilities, hospitals, schools, home health services and outpatient facilities throughout the country! StaffRehab has been honored by *INC. 5000* as a company on its “Fastest Growing Companies” List and the SIA as a Diverse Staffing Firm. StaffRehab is a member of the American Staffing Association and Staffing Industry Analysts.



Kelly Parthen, Co-Founder

Bean Sprouts, Orange

Shannon Seip and Kelly Parthen co-founded Bean Sprouts, a nationally recognized café where kids and families participate in a playful eating experience. Bean Sprouts provides healthy, experiential food service inside family destinations (museums, zoos, tourist attractions, theme parks, etc.). Bean Sprouts currently operates four cafés in California. The most recent opened inside Discovery Cube Orange County in June 2015 and replaced a Taco Bell. Its award-winning Imaginibbles™ children's menu – with items like Crocamole and Whoopsie Daisy – is featured on a lower counter to empower kids to make their own healthy choices and to allow Bean Teamers to engage with guests of all ages. Grown-ups are delighted with equally tempting adult choices and an espresso bar. The café menu offers a variety of choices for families with picky eaters, allergies and other dietary challenges. Bean Sprouts adheres to strict ingredient guidelines and features organic and sustainable foods, compostable packaging and eco-friendly design.



Cathy Pavlos, Chef & Owner

Provenance, Newport Beach

Chef Cathy Pavlos is the driving force behind one of Orange County's most unique and dynamic eateries, LUCCA. Though educated as an architect and an art historian, and despite more than 20 years in architectural practice and as a college professor, Chef Pavlos has always been drawn back to cooking. Since opening her doors in 2005, Chef Pavlos has led LUCCA to become among the best in the region for its one-of-a-kind dining, off-site catering and wine bar. Having earned a reputation as one of Orange County's most unique and dynamic chefs in Orange County, Chef Pavlos opened Provenance. The new dining concept delivers elements of California's wine country in Newport Beach's Eastbluff Village Center. The restaurant features a menu of fresh, flavorful ingredients that change by season, and many of which are grown in the restaurant's own 1,300-square-foot, organic, raised-bed garden, which customers can observe from their patio seating.



Thousands of customers recommend us for a thousand different reasons.

If you're ready for something different, make the switch.

"WE CHOOSE TO DO BUSINESS WITH COX BECAUSE THEY PROVIDE US GREAT SERVICE."
LA MESA MEXICAN RESTAURANT

"COX HAS BEEN ABLE TO PROVE THAT THEY CAN PROVIDE THE RELIABILITY AND FLEXIBILITY NEEDED FOR US TO BE SUCCESSFUL."
TRAVEL & TRANSPORT

"THE SPEED HAS BEEN PHENOMENAL. IT'S BEEN FASTER THAN ANYTHING WE'VE EVER HAD. CALL QUALITY IS CRYSTAL CLEAR."
MCQUADE'S ACE HARDWARE

"COX BUSINESS HAS BEEN VERY RESPONSIVE TO OUR GROWING NEEDS AND IS VERY CUSTOMER FOCUSED."
PEPPERJAX GRILL

"WE KNOW WE CAN TRUST THEM TO GIVE US THE TOOLS TO KEEP US UP AND RUNNING... THEY'RE JUST A PHONE CALL AWAY."
DESERT FAMILY MEDICINE

FEATURED PACKAGE
COX BUSINESS INTERNETSM 25 AND VOICEMANAGERSM ESSENTIAL

\$145/mo*
with a 3-year agreement

Reliable Internet speeds up to 25 Mbps
20+ professional calling features
Unlimited nationwide long distance

FREE PROFESSIONAL INSTALL

COX
Business[®]

CALL (844) 203-0027 OR VISIT COXBUSINESS.COM TO SWITCH TODAY

*Offer ends 5/1/2016. Available to new commercial subscribers (excluding government agencies and schools) to Cox Business InternetSM 25 (max. 25/5 Mbps) and VoiceManagerSM Essential with unlimited local and nationwide long distance calling in Orange County/Palos Verdes serviceable locations. Prices based on 3-year service term. Early termination fees may apply. Additional VoiceManagerSM Essential phone lines with unlimited local and nationwide long distance calling may be added, for a total maximum of three (3) lines, at a rate of \$20 per line, per month. Unlimited plan is limited to direct-dialed domestic calling and is not available for use with non-switched circuit calling, auto-dialers, call center applications and certain switching applications. Gateway equipment remains property of Cox and must be returned upon service termination to avoid additional charges. Free installation requires a minimum 3-year service contract and includes standard installation of primary line on one prewired outlet; installation of additional line is not included. Additional costs for nonstandard installation, construction, inside wiring and equipment may apply. Prices exclude equipment, installation, taxes, and fees, unless indicated. Discounts are not valid in combination with or in addition to other promotions, and cannot be applied to any other Cox account. Phone modem provided by Cox, requires electricity, and has battery backup. Access to E911 may not be available during extended power outage or if modem is moved or inoperable. Speeds not guaranteed. Actual speeds may vary. See www.cox.com/internetdisclosures for complete Internet Service Disclosures. Rates and bandwidth options vary and are subject to change. Other pricing and terms available. Services not available in all areas. Other restrictions apply. © 2016 Cox Communications, Inc. All rights reserved.

2016 Women in Business Nominees

Kara Poovey, Partner & Owner

Sourcing Solutions LLC, Costa Mesa

Kara Poovey is the co-founder of Sourcing Solutions LLC with her late husband, Will Poovey. Sourcing Solutions is a leader in alternative technology solutions for enterprise and data center operators. The company's Sourcing Division and Advanced Networking Division offer a wide range of products and services designed to extend the lifecycle of IT products and enhance their value proposition. Will was killed in an accident in Africa as he and Kara attended a destination wedding. While Kara was recovering from her own serious injuries from the accident, she made the decision to keep her husband's dream alive and worked closely with the company's management team to foster the organization's growth. Under Kara's direction, the company has earned a spot on the *Orange County Business Journal's* list of largest Women-Owned Businesses in Orange County in 2015 and named as one of the Fastest Growing Private Companies in 2013, 2014 and 2015.



Robbin Narike Preciado, Regional President

MUFG Union Bank, N.A., Orange

Robbin Narike Preciado has had an extraordinary 26-year career in banking. She has risen in the banking world by consistently achieving impressive results. Preciado is now the regional president of Union Bank, and her geographic area covers Orange County, San Diego, Inland Empire, Coachella Valley and Imperial Valley. In that position, Preciado has 1,038 employees, 129 branches and 405,000 retail households. This past year, one of her proudest achievements was the opening of a high school branch in Anaheim that serves low-income students. The value to the student-bankers is that it gives them real-life work experience, coupled with an academic curriculum, as well as \$1,000 in savings towards college. The training they receive puts them on a path of financial fitness, better readying them for the future. Preciado is one of the top Asian Americans in Union Bank and was named among the "2011 Top Women in Retail and Finance" by *Women of Color* magazine.



Jenn Quader, Managing Director

Brower, Miller & Cole, Newport Beach

Jenn Quader leads one of Orange County's most prestigious PR and marketing agencies, Brower, Miller & Cole. Quader spearheads the firm's innovative and industry-leading PR, content and marketing campaigns that deliver bottom line results to many of the most significant commercial real estate and finance companies throughout the U.S. The first partner to founder Judy Brower Fancher in the agency's 22-year history, Quader generates award-winning work for the firm's clients. Brower, Miller & Cole has grown substantially in the past several years, landing the agency a place in the *Orange County Business Journal's* Top 10 "Public Relations Firms" List once again for 2015. Quader has been instrumental in this growth, guiding the account and creative teams toward new heights that have garnered national recognition, including distinctive awards from the Public Relations Society of America, the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) and several Hermes Creative Awards.



Sunny Rajab, CEO

Business Communications Solutions, Irvine

Sunny Rajab has always tackled challenges head-on, regardless of what obstacles she may face. Age did not stop Rajab from starting her own telecommunications and IT business when she was barely out of high school. She now calls herself CEO of one of Orange County's top business networking and IT infrastructure service providers, Business Communications Solutions (BCS). With her experience, expertise, education and passion, Rajab has played a large part in BCS and its leadership being recognized at the forefront of the industry. In 2015 alone, BCS was featured in both *Orange County Business Journal* and *Inc.* magazine as one of the fastest-growing private companies in the country.



Dawn Reese, Executive Director & Co-CEO

The Wooden Floor, Santa Ana

Dawn S. Reese leverages more than 25 years of business and nonprofit management experience to be a life-changer for low-income youth and propel The Wooden Floor forward. The Wooden Floor is a nonprofit which annually gives underserved California youth tools to live fuller, healthier lives through dance. Reese's unique blend of experience working in business, arts, education and technology adds to The Wooden Floor's mission-driven, business-minded focus. During Reese's seven-year tenure, she has increased visibility, impact and budget growth for the \$2.6 million organization. Reese led the efforts to take The Wooden Floor's programmatic model national and signed their first licensed partner in Washington, DC in November 2015. Reese received the 2015 Small Nonprofit Person of the Year Award from the Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce, was a nominee for the *Orange County Business Journal's* 2015 Women in Business Awards and 2014 CFO of the Year Awards.



Kelly Reeves, President & CEO

KLR Communications Inc., Newport Beach

Kelly Reeves launched PR agency, KLR Communications in 2002. Reeves is a seasoned public relations professional known for securing top-tier media opportunities and her strong relationships with key industry influencers and analysts. Reeves has had the opportunity to oversee PR campaigns for major global brands, high-profile celebrities and nonprofit organizations including the Tony Hawk Foundation, D-Link, Kingston, Targus,



Howard Stern and a number of others. Her dedication to the community includes her own nonprofit organization, Paw Prints in the Sand Inc., which is an animal rescue that is dedicated to saving the lives of abandoned, abused and neglected animals. She is also heavily involved in the African ministries with her church and is a part of a youth reconciliation initiative in the Congo called Congo Unites. In addition, she has worked with the Tony Hawk Foundation and its Stand Up For Skateparks events, which is dedicated to supporting and empowering youth in disadvantaged communities.

Kimberly Roush, Founder

All-Star Executive Coaching, Villa Park

Kimberly Roush is dedicated to inspiring and empowering people to tap into their most valuable talents and gifts that allow their unique magnificence to emerge. She is an executive coach, published author, keynote speaker and leadership facilitator. Through her work with senior executives and their teams, Roush has helped thousands discover their individual, values-based authentic leadership, thus paving the way for more meaningful work and greater success, both professionally and personally. Roush is the founder of All-Star Executive Coaching, which specializes in coaching C-Level and VP level executives from Fortune 100 companies to solo-entrepreneurs. As a former national partner with a Big 4 public accounting firm, Roush brings more than 30 years of business experience to her coaching, including extensive work with C-Suite executives, boards of directors and audit committees. She is also the co-author of *Who Are You...When You Are BIG?*



Wendy Sabins, SVP, Marketing, Product Management & Publishing

Automobile Club, Costa Mesa

Wendy Sabins is the key executive responsible for the development and implementation of the corporate vision and high-level goals for Automobile Club's products and services, marketing objectives and strategies, publications strategy, eBusiness strategy and overall brand strategy. Sabins is a strong leader who demonstrates the ability to help others work through specific challenges and educate them in order to develop key business plans. In 2015, her marketing team generated more than 700,000 leads that helped drive the company's Auto Club Enterprise insurance growth. Through these key segmentation strategies, her publications staff currently produces more than 181 different versions of the Auto Club's *Westways* publications. Sabins was also instrumental in developing new television commercials which are producing insurance leads at a lower cost. The Automobile Club offers insurance quotes; travel planning and booking; financial services; and automotive purchasing, ownership and maintenance information.



Tina Sadri, Founder

Newport Mental Wellness, Newport Coast

Tina Sadri is a licensed family therapist who specializes in the new field of social media disorders. She is the founder of Newport Mental Wellness. Her ambition is to care for the community that helped her to become who she is today. Sadri is also the driving force behind an affordable wellness program that caters to those who don't qualify for welfare. Sadri offers programs that benefit women and children. Mind, Body and Balance is a program for women. This program includes therapy that helps women from the inside out by living a balanced lifestyle. Her other program is Teen Talk, which addresses issues with kids in local schools. Tina offers local Orange County high schools low-cost, private counseling for kids that need one-on-one assistance. The first series of Teen Talks focuses on topics such as social media addictions and stress issues that affect kids.



Lucinda Salinas, Wealth Management Advisor

Merrill Lynch, Newport Beach

Lucinda Salinas entered the financial services industry in 1986, working for CIGNA Insurance in Florida. In 2001, she opened her own brokerage life insurance agency, and in 2011 joined Merrill Lynch as a financial advisor. Today, she helps clients implement seamless wealth management strategies designed to help them build, preserve and transfer their assets. Salinas began as a solo startup with Merrill Lynch and today with her team, they expect to manage more than \$100 million in assets and liabilities. While building her practice, she was recognized as being in the top quartile for performance among her peers in 2012, 2013 and 2014 by putting the client goals and objectives first. Merrill Lynch is the wealth management division of Bank of America.



Allison Schneider, First Vice President

CBRE Inc., Newport Beach

Allison Schneider is a first vice president in brokerage services in the Newport Beach office of CBRE. She began her career with CBRE Inc. in 2004. Schneider specializes in the leasing, acquisitions and dispositions of office properties for both owners and occupiers of real estate locally and beyond throughout the Greater Airport Area and South Orange County marketplaces. Since 2006, Schneider has been involved with more than 4 million square feet of transactions, totaling more than \$1.5 billion in consideration. CBRE is the world's largest commercial real estate services firm serving owners, investors and occupiers.



Deborah Schneider, Executive Chef, Partner & Cookbook Author

SQL Cocina, Newport Beach

Dubbed by *Bon Appetit* magazine as "the reigning queen of San Diego chefs" and nominated for a coveted 2009 James Beard Foundation Award for her second (of six)

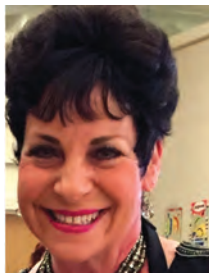
2016 Women in Business Nominees

cookbooks, Chef Deborah Schneider brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her role as executive chef and partner of Mexican restaurants SOL Cocina (Playa Vista and Newport Beach, CA; Scottsdale, AZ; Cherry Creek, CO) and solita Tacos & Margaritas (Huntington Beach and Valencia, CA). Schneider draws upon her rich culinary background and more than 25 years of professional cooking experience to bring the wonderful tastes and relaxing beach vibe of the Baja Peninsula to guests. Chef Schneider began her culinary career while traveling through Europe in the early 1980s. San Diego is where Schneider made a culinary name for herself as the creative force behind some of San Diego's best-known restaurants and hotels, including the acclaimed Jsix/Jbar, Hilton Torrey Pines, Dobson's, Grant Grill and La Gran Tapa.



Vicki Schrimmer, Owner & Chief Tasting Officer *My Favorite Indulgence, Irvine*

My Favorite Indulgence® (MFI) evolved from Vicki Schrimmer's passionate addiction to baking, obsession for granola and the notion that something this delicious must be shared. Her quest to develop the quintessential granola took 10 years. Today, My Favorite Indulgence offers four scrumptious gourmet vegan flavors. MFI embraces everything Schrimmer loves in life: baking, marketing, selling, feeding others, meeting new people, living healthy, recipe development, making new friends and being around food all day. Schrimmer takes tremendous pride knowing she has single-handedly acquired all her accounts – the specialty markets, restaurants, hotels – curated all social media, marketing, self-promotion and manufacturing. She's also established a solid returning client base at all her venues.



Donna Schroeder, Co-Founder

Schroeder Management Co., Newport Beach

Donna Schroeder's career in the ownership and management of real estate properties began in 1970 with the purchase and renovation of single family housing with her husband, Ernie. The couple's portfolio soon grew to garden-style apartment communities in Los Angeles and Orange counties. The need for professional management of the Schroeder family portfolio resulted in the formation of Schroeder Management Co. Schroeder's key involvement in the early years of investing was to work on the renovation projects that would ultimately increase the value and desirability of each apartment building. Later, with added Schroeder family members and outside investor strength, the company continued to grow and expand its portfolio of apartment communities, totaling nearly 3,000 units. Today, Schroeder Management has grown into a highly respected apartment management company with more than 140 employees overseeing nearly \$500 million in property in both Orange and Los Angeles counties.



Rhonda Sciortino, Chairperson

Successful Survivors Foundation, Newport Beach

Rhonda Sciortino founded Successful Survivors Foundation (SSF), a nonprofit organization, to help people who have survived tragedy to mine the lessons found in the adversities they've faced, and to use those lessons to create their own successful lives. She created SSF because she went from being abandoned and abused as a child to an emancipated minor at age 16 struggling to survive, to a real estate investor at age 19, and successful business owner at age 27; and ultimately to now living what she calls a life of significance. Through SSF, Sciortino wants to help anyone who's experienced trauma to assemble the pieces of what she calls their "package of awesomeness" – strengths, talents, abilities, healthy coping mechanisms and characteristics acquired through adversity – and how to use this "awesomeness" to do good for others. Sciortino believes that every person can find and fulfill the purpose and plan for which they were created and perfectly matched.



Kathryn Seebold, CEO

CASA of Orange County, Santa Ana

With Kathryn Seebold's leadership, CASA of Orange County has seen many improvements in a short amount of time, including a diversification of funding, increase in cash, impressive new board members and participation, positive and accountable staff culture, and fundraising event success. CASA of Orange County has been serving the most abused and neglected foster youth in the community for more than 30 years. When Seebold stepped into the role of CEO, there were major financial concerns and internal processes and procedures that needed to be improved immediately to continue to advocate for these kids. With her leadership and the team she has put in place, she has given the organization stability. CASA of Orange County is striving to become the gold standard in the nonprofit sector in the community and is making great progress towards that goal due in large part to Seebold.



Kristall Seidel, Senior SBA Business Development Officer *Kinecta Federal Credit Union, Newport Beach*

Kristall Seidel joined Kinecta Federal Credit Union in October 2014, with no experience as an SBA loan officer – or any type of loan officer. In 2015, Kinecta's SBA department had a goal of \$8 million. Seidel's own goal was \$6 million. In essentially her first year in the industry, she did almost \$20 million, tripling her quota and beating the entire department goal. As a newcomer to an otherwise male-dominated industry, Seidel hit the ground running and accomplished something in her rookie year that only two or three other women in the entire state may have achieved. Kinecta



Federal Credit Union is one of the nation's leading credit unions, with more than \$3.6 billion in assets and serving over 270,000 member-owners across the country.

Shannon Seip, Co-Founder

Bean Sprouts, Orange

Shannon Seip and Kelly Parthen co-founded Bean Sprouts, a nationally recognized café where kids and families participate in a playful eating experience. Bean Sprouts provides healthy, experiential food service inside family destinations (museums, zoos, tourist attractions, theme parks, etc.). Bean Sprouts currently operates four cafés in California. The most recent opened inside Discovery Cube Orange County in June 2015 and replaced a Taco Bell. Its award-winning Imaginibbles™ children's menu – with items like Crocamole and Whoopsie Daisy – is featured on a lower counter to empower kids to make their own healthy choices and to allow Bean Teamers to engage with guests of all ages. Grown-ups are delighted with equally tempting adult choices and an espresso bar. The café menu offers a variety of choices for families with picky eaters, allergies and other dietary challenges. Bean Sprouts adheres to strict ingredient guidelines and features organic and sustainable foods, compostable packaging and eco-friendly design.



Kimberly C. Sentovich, EVP of Stores & Logistics

Gymboree Inc., Newport Beach

Kimberly Curtin Sentovich is the EVP of Stores and Logistics for Gymboree Corp. Gymboree is a specialty retailer operating stores selling high-quality apparel and accessories for children under the Gymboree, Gymboree Outlet, Janie and Jack, and Crazy 8 brands, as well as play programs for children under the Gymboree Play and Music brand. The company has 1,300 stores in U.S. and Canada. Sentovich is responsible for both territories. Previously she was the senior vice president for Walmart's Pacific Division, which includes California, Alaska and Hawaii. She has more than 20 years of experience in retail with expertise in merchandising, purchasing, vendor management, operations and strategic planning. Prior to joining the Walmart team in 2008, she was a regional vice president in the Western Division for The Home Depot where she was responsible for overseeing stores in Southern California, Alaska and Hawaii.



Mona Shah-Anderson, President

Moxxe PR Inc., Santa Ana

Named as one of Orange County's most influential people to watch in 2016 by the *Orange County Register*, Mona Shah-Anderson is focused on making her PR firm, Moxxe, successful – not into the biggest agency in Orange County, but the BEST. She has found her niche as an OC restaurant publicist and has created a reputable name for Moxxe PR. In addition to working with the Orange County Restaurant Association, she works with some of the area's top restaurants, including The Winery Restaurant & Wine Bar, ARC, Provenance, SOL Cocina, Haven Gastropub, Bruxie, Portola Coffee Lab, Slapfish, Driftwood Kitchen, Prego, ADYA and Sushi Roku Newport Beach.



Kim Shepherd, CEO

Decision Toolbox, Irvine

Kim Shepherd, CEO of Decision Toolbox (DT), has spearheaded the company's growth and development since she joined the organization in 2000. She converted DT into a business with a 100% virtual staff and works with companies across the country to recruit the most sought-after candidates for open positions. Shepherd's leadership helped DT survive and thrive while many other recruitment firms were crippled during the recession. Her business model truly is visionary and she has become a sought-after speaker on topics such as leadership, corporate culture and recruitment best practices. She also is a two-time author, having penned the business books *The Bite Me School of Management* and most recently, *Get Scrappy*. Ask any of her nationwide employees or one of her business clients and they will tell you Shepherd's dedication and corporate vision are vital parts of DT's success.



Lisa Soderquist, VP, Human Resources & VP, Global Talent Management

Allergan Inc., Irvine

Lisa Soderquist is a global human resources executive with 20 years of diverse industry experience and a track record of successfully applying HR strategies and innovations to advance business outcomes and strengthen corporate culture. Soderquist currently leads a team of 35 HR professionals. Highlights of her career include the design and implementation of an end-to-end talent acquisition solution and a global e-Learning platform program, in addition to leading key HR aspects of the 2015 transformational merger of Actavis and Allergan – the largest integration (\$69 billion) in the pharmaceutical industry in the past 10 years. In addition, Soderquist conducted the annual performance management and total rewards program, facilitated employee engagement and mentored emerging leaders. Soderquist also co-led the design and implementation of the global sales incentive compensation philosophy and plans. These plans helped drive revenue (~\$4.9 billion) and improved sales force engagement and retention.



Alexandra Spitz, Founder & Parent Educator

OC Mommy and Me, Newport Beach

Since the inception of OC Mommy and Me (OCMM), Founder Alexandra Spitz has devoted her life to helping new moms in Orange County with a premier educational

2016 Women in Business Nominees

support program for new moms. As a certified parent educator, newborn specialist, certified positive discipline parent educator and mom of two, Spitz is always looking ahead and has a big vision for the community. Spitz's primary focus is first-time moms in the first six months of their newborns' lives. Her programs provide moms with access to high-quality, in-person support and education during this very crucial time. In just three years, OCMM has welcomed more than 800 moms to its classes. With numbers doubling each year, Spitz is quickly realizing her goal of changing the culture of motherhood in OC to one where moms support and empower each other. Spitz is also an active philanthropist helping many local charities.



Janet Steiner, President & CEO

FoldedColor Packaging, Corona

Janet Steiner has been president and CEO of Thoro Packaging since her father stepped down in 1982. She is held in high regard as a leader of an innovative and successful folding carton company. Under her leadership, Thoro Packaging has more than doubled its investment in equipment, technologies and facilities needed to set the pace in the industry. Thoro Packaging currently holds the ISO 9001:2008 standard certification. Thoro has successfully been recertified every year since its initial certification due largely to Steiner's collective leadership. Furthermore, her ardent commitment to printing excellence nurtured the creation of FoldedColor, a fully integrated online folding carton manufacturing company, where she also serves as the president.



Stacy Stemen, Director of Marketing

Passco Companies LLC, Irvine

As director of marketing for Passco Companies, Stacy Stemen oversees all aspects of marketing, public relations, special events, conferences and business development. With more than 10 years of marketing experience, she strives to increase the company branding and awareness across the nation. In just three years of being with Passco, she has launched a new corporate website and branding; assisted the company in increasing revenue by 106% over the last three years; increased national presence in the media and gained esteemed recognition by earning a spot on the *Orange County Business Journal's* "Best Places to Work" List for three consecutive years, as well as the "Largest Private Companies" and "Fastest Growing Private Companies" Lists. Passco was also recognized as one of the fastest growing companies by Real Estate Forum. Passco Companies LLC is a national real estate investment firm specializing in the acquisition, development and management of commercial properties.



Anneke Stender, Executive Vice President

TAG, Newport Beach

Anneke Stender is the executive vice president and partner of TAG, an outsourced accounting firm in Southern California. Stender has more than 15 years of experience in the financial industry. She oversees TAG's Corporate Accounting and Family CFO Divisions, mainly focusing on finance functions on a CFO and controller-level to support companies and high-net-worth individuals. Stender has been instrumental in TAG's success. She has helped market and brand outsourced accounting as a mainstream service and feasible option for companies of any size. In 2007, she developed the Family CFO Division, which now serves more than 150 affluent families, as an outsourced family office. TAG Family CFO is an innovative business that focuses on personal finances, and provides world-class family accounting and reporting services to bring financial peace of mind.



Missy Stern, Director, Sr. Relationship Manager, National Banking Group

Bank of the West, Newport Beach

Since joining Bank of the West in 2010, 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. She is a highly skilled banker, 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. Stern is also a four-time winner of the Bank of the West's award for leadership and three-year member of the President's Club.



Jennifer Stewart-Tai, Founder & President

City Girl Prepper, Seal Beach

Jennifer Stewart-Tai is the founder of City Girl Prepper and is changing the way women discuss preparedness. By offering emergency preparedness education and ready-made supplies in a home party setting, women are gathering to prepare for any disruption that comes their way. She has worked with local elementary schools and pre-schools to have supplies in the classroom in case of emergencies. Stewart-Tai has also presented at Home Owners Association meetings, Boy Scout troop meetings and to community organizations. She is a member of West Orange County CERT, the Neighbor4Neighbor Seal Beach team, and was recently nominated for the *Orange County Business Journal* Excellence in Entrepreneurship award.



Susie Storey, Vice President of Sales

DealerSocket, San Clemente

Within six months of joining DealerSocket's sales department as an executive sales manager in 2009, Susie Storey had become the company's top sales representative. In a year, she increased the Pacific Northwest, the area she managed, by more than 40% – outpacing expectations. She was awarded DealerSocket's premier sales award, "Winner's Circle" in 2010. Her strategic contributions led to a promotion to sales director of the Central Region where she continued to thrive. She soon advanced to managing the coveted East Coast Region. There, she earned a second "Winner's Circle" Award for reaching 100% of DealerSocket's sales goals. Today, Storey is vice president of sales. She continues to grow the company's sales more than 30% year-over-year, leading to 91% growth of the team's headcount. She now manages the sales of four major product lines and oversees four sales offices. DealerSocket makes it simple for automotive dealerships to manage opportunities and create processes through proactive software technology.



Eliisa Stowell, Real Estate Agent

Surterre Properties, Newport Beach

Eliisa Stowell is a familiar face in the small community of Corona del Mar. When she is not volunteering in many of the local functions and charity events, she is busy maintaining her title as one of the top three sales people in Corona del Mar. In the past three years alone, Stowell's total sales have exceeded \$166 million. This is due in part to her 13 years of experience in the industry, combined with her previous experience in international wine sales and marketing. In addition to these phenomenal accomplishments, Stowell also started her own team 11 years ago, Stowell and Associates – a real estate team within Surterre Properties®, which aims to cater to sophisticated homebuyers and sellers. Now with her team, Stowell has turned her one-woman show into an experienced squad that can meet any of their customers' needs with speed and efficiency.



Autumn Strier, President & CEO

Miracles for Kids, Tustin

Autumn R. Strier serves as the president and co-founder of Miracles for Kids, as well as the president of the Miracles for Kids board of directors. Under Strier's leadership, the organization has now served more than 850 families through its financial aid programs and other critical programs focused on children battling life-threatening illnesses and the families who care for them. One of the greatest achievements of Strier's professional career is developing Miracles for Kids into a dynamic organization that addresses the challenges faced by families fighting for their child's life – including financial assistance, food, emotional support, health care services, family wellness programs, and most recently, taking on the housing needs of the community through the renovation of a 12-unit apartment complex called Miracle Manor. Strier brings to the organization more than 20 years of experience in the public sector, having held relevant positions in the nonprofit, governmental and private arenas.



Carrie Strom, Vice President U.S. Plastic Surgery Sales & Marketing

Allergan, Irvine

Carrie Strom was recruited to Allergan in June 2011 as a marketing product director for the BOTOX Therapeutic/Urology franchise. After just three months at the company, Strom led the launch for the first BOTOX indication in urology. While she was developing the market for the next indication, Strom was promoted to lead the BOTOX Therapeutic/Neurology Marketing Team as a senior director of marketing. In this role, she drove increased diagnosis and treatment of patients suffering with upper limb spasticity and cervical dystonia. In just two years, Strom was promoted again, this time into the role of vice president of sales and marketing for the U.S. Plastic Surgery business. In this role, she leads a team of approximately 115 sales and marketing professionals across the country who promote breast implants and tissue expanders for breast reconstruction and augmentation, and she serves as a member of the U.S. Medical Aesthetics leadership team.



Krista Thompson Talley, Owner

Dolly's Cotton Candy, Seal Beach

Dolly's Cotton Candy is an on-site cart catering service that was started in 2011 by former advertising design executive, Krista Talley. Dolly's Cotton Candy 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 services all of Southern California and ships custom-designed cotton candy favors nationwide. Talley's clients include A-list celebrities, international event planners, five-star resorts and Fortune 500 companies. In 2014, Dolly's Cotton Candy grew to create a new company, Big Top Carts, a custom cart manufacturer in Orange County. With the success of Dolly's, Talley is creating new 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.



Kimberly Tavares, CEO

PacWest Accounting Inc., Newport Beach

Kimberly Tavares founded PacWest Accounting Inc. at her kitchen table in 2009. With the downfall of the economy and many local businesses laying off accounting staff,

2016 Women in Business Nominees

Tavares was at the forefront of making business owners aware of the many benefits of outsourcing the accounting/CFO function of their businesses with the services she provides. She has grown the firm to seven employees headquartered in Newport Beach and they assist more than 60 businesses in Orange County. She works and mentors business owners by coaching the importance of the accuracy of their accounting data, which often times is the difference between success and failure. She trains her staff with cutting-edge technology when it comes to accounting, providing ways for business owners to achieve real-time reporting. She has a passion for helping new entrepreneurs by listening to their stories and ideas, and she cares for their business as if it were her own.



SETA International is one of the top consulting firms, known for custom software and application development, system integrations and technical consulting.

Mei Tsang, Firm Managing Partner
Fish & Tsang LLP, Irvine

Mei Tsang, managing partner at intellectual property law firm Fish & Tsang LLP, is an accomplished attorney whose business success transcends her own career to include the success of her clients. An acclaimed IP attorney and name partner at Fish & Tsang, she works with inventors, innovators and business leaders to protect valuable intellectual property. Tsang has tried cases in national and federal courts and works with law enforcement to combat counterfeiters. Overseeing the entire F&T operation, Tsang has led the firm to significant growth recently. She spearheaded 2015 expansion efforts, including the Silicon Valley opening of F&T's second office – and with it a robust litigation practice. Last year, Tsang was elected to the board of the Orange County Bar Association (OCBA) and is involved with OCBA's IP and Technology Section, International Trademark Association's Anti-Counterfeiting Committee, and sits on the board of OCBA's Charitable Fund.



Betsy Thagard, Founder

B. toffee LLC, Newport Beach

Founder Betsy Thagard's award-winning B. toffee has won national attention since its inception, and continues to create quite a stir in the candy confection world. With a core audience, strong cult-like following and ever-growing customer base, she has turned a passion into a profitable business. Since the beginning, B. toffee has experienced consistent growth and is on track to continue its pace in 2016, generating more than 300% YTD over last year at this same time. B. toffee, deemed a "crunchy perfection of sweetness, the world can't get enough of" can be found nationwide, with premier placement at the country's most noted gourmet markets, specialty stores and five-star resorts. Thagard has appeared on many television outlets and has been featured in many publications. Thagard has been an active member of her community, extending generous support towards a variety of charitable organizations.



Linda Vanderweel, Franchise Owner

Del Taco, Lake Forest

Linda Vanderweel began her career with Del Taco at a Huntington Beach location in 1979, working nearly every position in the restaurant from preparing food in the restaurants, working kitchens, to serving as general manager. At the time when there were very few female franchisees – even today only 17% of multi-unit operators are women – Vanderweel seized the opportunity to become a franchisee, inspired by Del Taco's commitment to serving fresh, delicious food at a great value, and family-like customer service. Today, Vanderweel has been a franchisee for 27 years, owns five units in the Southern California area with a sixth under construction, and employs more than 125 people. After nearly four decades of weathering the inevitable changes that every company experiences, including the brand's transition into a public entity in 2015, Vanderweel remains dedicated to Del Taco, the well-being of the people she works with and every guest experience.



Jessica Thompson, President

Spaulding Thompson & Associates, Laguna Niguel

As president of Spaulding Thompson & Associates public relations and marketing, Jessica Thompson has built a boutique agency specializing in commercial real estate and economic development. The agency's scope of work includes brand strategy, media relations and strategic development of multi-layered campaigns. The firm proudly represents the City of Tustin and San Bernardino County, providing an opportunity to focus the firm's work on job creation and business expansion. The team also represents Newmark Grubb Knight Frank, Faris Lee Investments, Snyder Langston and NAIOP SoCal, among others. The Spaulding Thompson team prides itself on delivering quality strategy that is focused on results. Underscoring Thompson's commitment to the industry, she sits on the Southern California chapter of CoreNet Global, where she leads communications for the board.



Cheri Tree, Founder & CEO

BANKCODE, Laguna Beach

Cheri Tree started inventing the methodology B.A.N.K.™ in 1998. B.A.N.K. is a reverse-engineered personality profiling system designed to dramatically improve communication, accelerate negotiations and help close more sales. She was fascinated by other personality assessments, but was frustrated that none of them focused on who your customers are and how they make their buying decisions. She brought B.A.N.K. to market in 2010. She invented a 90-second assessment tool and proved scientifically that B.A.N.K. predicts buying behavior, and by using the methodology, sales will increase up to 300%. BANKCODE, a training company, is in 41 countries around the world and has certified trainers in nine countries. Tree is a featured keynote speaker and has appeared at Harvard University and UC Berkeley. Today, B.A.N.K. is rapidly because expanding due to its simplicity and results.



Twila True, Co-Founder & CEO

True Investments LLC, Newport Beach

Born on the poorest Indian reservation in the U.S., Twila True is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and is now the co-founder, president and CEO of True Investments LLC, a leading woman- and minority-owned real estate private equity firm. In the past 15 years, True has put together an impressive private portfolio of real estate in multiple asset classes in Asia and North America, and has managed the construction and development of residential properties in Thailand, China and the United States. In 2015, True opened multiple prototype nail studios that aim to redefine the nail industry under the Polished Perfect™ by Twila True brand. This year, True also bought Jewelry by Mardo in Newport Beach, which is now Twila True by Mardo.



Thu Truong, WW VP of Operations

SETA International, Irvine

Thu Truong was selected as WW VP of Operations of SETA International for her technology experience that spans more than 15 years. She has a successful track record for building high-traffic websites, large database sizes and real-time mission critical systems in a cost-effective way. As a highly motivated leader, she has impacted SETA's bottom line through ROI-driven and skillful orchestration of strategies to build effective relationship with clients. Key relationships have been developed under her guidance, as a result of being a solid communicator who will institute initiatives and carry them out in order to create positive change, efficiency, increased profitability and productivity. Results include being named official solutions providers for Amazon, Cybersource and Worldpay. Within SETA, she has built, transformed, mentored and motivated teams within high-pressure environments.



Make Your Special Event
A Dream Come True

FLORAL CREATIONS
by Enzo

714.751.2160

2016 Women in Business Nominees

community engagement process to develop 10-year community-level change goals for Orange County in the areas of education, income, health and housing, and released in 2013 the 10-year strategic plan called "FACE 2024," 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. She was recognized by *OC Metro* as one of OC's "40 Under 40."



Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks, President & CEO

Earth Friendly Products, Cypress

As president and CEO of Earth Friendly Products, Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks oversees five manufacturing facilities across the U.S. and a global sales team. Vlahakis-Hanks has been internationally recognized for her highly effective leadership and influential voice in the green movement and in corporate social responsibility. She has implemented sustainable operating practices that have made Earth Friendly Products (EFP) a model for green businesses. EFP is a leading manufacturer and distributor of eco-friendly cleaning products. Under her leadership, EFP achieved carbon neutrality at all five of its manufacturing facilities through a series of major sustainability initiatives, including the switch to 100% renewable electricity. As a primary manufacturer, EFP has received many awards for its innovations in safer green chemistry, including the U.S. EPA's coveted Safer Choice Partner of the Year. In addition, EFP received the prestigious USZWBC Zero Waste Platinum certification at all five of its manufacturing facilities, based on the comprehensive waste reduction programs Vlahakis-Hanks implemented throughout the organization.



Victoria Vu, Creative Director & Lead Designer

Starline.La, Irvine

Victoria Venice Vu joined Starline costumes in 2010 when Starline was a fledgling company that began in a spare room in Newport Beach. Vu soon produced numerous original and innovative designs that quickly marked Starline as one of the sexiest costume and lingerie companies in the Halloween industry. Specializing in sexy women's costumes and lingerie, Vu pioneered the growth of the company that now currently occupies more than 20,000 square feet of Halloween and lingerie merchandise. Starline is now an industry leader and multi-million dollar company that sells to Party City, Spirits Halloween, Spencer's, pop-up Halloween stores and online retailers. As creative director and lead designer, Vu transforms her hand-drawn sketches into real life garments, and uses her creative eye to direct the development of catalogues and branding. Her business mindset has helped Starline become a company that rivals industry competitors.



Annette Walker, EVP, Strategy

St. Joseph Health, Irvine

When Providence Health & Services and Irvine-based St. Joseph Health come together as Providence St. Joseph Health, Annette M. Walker will lead the Southern division of the new organization caring for people in seven states. A visionary strategist, author and public speaker, Walker is a health care executive with an entrepreneur's spirit. She has developed new health care concepts and technologies, all with the intent of making quality health care more accessible. Most recently, she developed an innovative wellness concept that makes health and wellness more convenient for the modern consumer. The Wellness Corners she created focus on "everyday health" for maintaining active lifestyles and preventing chronic disease, and have proved popular in Orange County. She has done all of this while, along with husband Chuck, raising a family that now includes six children and nine grandchildren. Her secret, she says, is faith and a clear focus.



Joele "JoJo" Watson, Real Estate Agent

Surterre Properties, Newport Beach

Joele "JoJo" Watson enjoys a thriving real estate career in Orange County working with the Watson Team within Surterre Properties®. Her team specializes in luxury homes sales in the exclusive enclave of Turtle Ridge, and has consistently maintained the highest gross volume in that territory. Watson began her career in real estate 15 years ago, and since then has closed more than \$250 million in luxury Orange County homes. This number is even more impressive when you consider that at the same time, she was busy raising her five children and volunteering for a number of local charities, including serving on the committee of the Night of Miracles Gala for Miracles for Kids. Recently Watson also launched Qiao, a concierge service which offers white glove customer service to Chinese customers making the potentially stressful transition to America.



Marisa Wayne, President & Founder

Grit Cycle, Costa Mesa

Grit Cycle was founded by Matt Bourne and Marisa Wayne in 2012. Grit Cycle is a premium boutique group fitness and wellness facility, featuring indoor cycling classes. Wayne has successfully built up the business, leading to packed classes and a busy social media following. She has helped to change the way people view workouts and has built a community of people who support and inspire each other. Grit Cycle has raised several hundred thousand dollars each year for the John Wayne Cancer Foundation.



Nella Webster-O'Grady, Principal & Owner

Palo Capital, Newport Beach

Nella Webster-O'Grady joined Palo Capital in 2009, after an illustrious 30-year career in the corporate world with some high-caliber trust and private banking institutions, having risen to the level of regional vice president. Palo Capital is an employee-owned, SEC-Registered investment advisor providing comprehensive wealth management and investment management services to individuals and institutions. Webster-O'Grady's reputation and connections helped grow the firm's assets under management by nearly 800% over the past seven years. Webster-O'Grady continues to work full-time developing and servicing new and seasoned relationships. Additionally, she is a fanatical volunteer, having served on the boards of OC United Way, Girl Scouts of Orange County, Chapman University Board of Counselors, Symphony 100 and on the advisory board for WHW, among leadership roles in numerous other charitable organizations.



Dr. Mary Wickman, Director of Nursing & Professor of Nursing

Vanguard University, Costa Mesa

Mary Wickman has extensive background and experience in nursing education, both administratively and as a faculty member. Wickman comes to Vanguard from California State University, Fullerton where she developed and directed the prelicensure nursing programs. She also served as chair of the Nursing Department at Mount St. Mary's College, and was faculty and directed the RN program at Santa Ana College for 15 years. Her research interests and areas of expertise include nursing education, adolescent risk behaviors, substance abuse treatment and managed care. Wickman served for 21 years in the Navy Reserve Nurse Corps and is a retired captain. In her role as professor and director of nursing at Vanguard University, Dr. Wickman teaches both undergraduate and graduate nursing courses, including Nursing Theory, Approaches to Health Promotion for Older Adults, Theoretical Frameworks of Leadership, and Management Practicum. She also holds the title of president-elect for 2016 and president for 2017 for the Association of California Nurse Leaders (ACNL).



Esther Wildenberg, President

BANKCODE, Laguna Beach

In 2013, Esther Wildenberg became a licensed and certified trainer with BANKCODE, a U.S.-based sales training company that was expanding in Europe. By the end of that year, she had become the number one salesperson in the world and was offered the position of international sales director for Europe. Using her advanced skills in sales, networking and leadership, coupled together with the power of the B.A.N.K.™ methodology, Wildenberg was able to open several regions throughout Europe, and later Asia, Africa, Australia and the U.S. In 2014, she was promoted to vice president of sales worldwide, and then ultimately to the position of president of the entire company. B.A.N.K. is a reverse-engineered personality profiling system designed to dramatically improve communication, accelerate negotiations, and help clients close more sales.



Carrie Williams, Founder

Kitchen Table Marketing & PR, Newport Beach

Kitchen Table Marketing began at a kitchen table in Newport Beach, Calif. when Carrie Williams, a 20-year veteran of Fortune 500 PR, marketing, advertising and branding came to realize that other businesses, large and small, could benefit from her passion and expertise for all things marketing. Over the past four years, Williams has grown the small-but-mighty firm from the literal kitchen table to their Newport Beach headquarters where they service more than two dozen clients across the commercial real estate, retail, interior design, hospitality, lifestyle and consumer industries. Williams has been a tireless champion for Orange County businesses, as well as an advocate for other women-owned businesses in our community.



Robyn Williams, Chief Program Officer

Women Helping Women/Men2work, Santa Ana

Robyn Williams has been a driving force behind the success of Women Helping Women/Men2work (WHW) since she joined the nonprofit three years ago. Williams has served as the catalyst to expand the programs offered to equip the unemployed and underemployed with the skills and resources they need to get and keep a good job. Williams's dynamic personality, compassionate spirit and strong leadership have increased the number of men and women served by 60%. Williams designs and implements all WHW programs, including strategic growth planning, leadership to lead program staff, recruitment, training and evaluation of outcomes. She oversees program curriculum, social enterprises, quality control plans, budget analysis and contract negotiations. With an extensive background in business development, Williams is also a primary liaison to WHW's many corporate partners, affiliates and nonprofit agency partners.



Jennifer Wilson, President

Creme de la Creme Gourmet Foods & Catering, Costa Mesa

Jennifer Wilson began working at Creme de la Creme Gourmet Foods & Catering in 1999 as an office manager and event planner. Faced with losing her job when the founder decided to retire and sell the business, Wilson decided to take the leap and buy the company. As the founder's right-hand woman, Wilson stepped up to the plate

2016 Women in Business Nominees

and officially took over the company in 2013, spurring Creme de la Creme to new heights and ensuring perfection for her high-end Orange County corporate and private clientele. With no previous entrepreneurial experience, she took the reins and instituted changes which raised business 20% in two years, from \$2 million to \$2.5 million. More importantly, she focused on employee engagement and training, taking Creme de la Creme to an even higher level of perfection. Serving much of Orange County's elite companies and families, Wilson strives to grow her business organically.



Diane Wittenberg, Audit Partner

Haskell & White LLP, Irvine

Diane Wittenberg has more than 30 years of experience in attest services, including 17 at a "Big 5 firm." Now she serves as a partner at Haskell & White LLP, one of the largest independently owned accounting, auditing and tax consulting firms in Southern California. Wittenberg is a leading force within the Haskell & White business model, working with public and private middle-market companies, as well as nonprofit organizations to conduct audits and meet compliance requirements. Wittenberg has demonstrated her role as a leader within the financial services community since scoring in the Top 10 on the May 1985 California CPA exam. She goes beyond her management and accounting roles by being a mentor. The flexible work policy she developed ensures that colleagues have the freedom to manage their own time and prioritize both personal and professional endeavors. She also oversees the firm's training program, serving as an invaluable resource for colleagues.



Eva Wolf, Co-Founder

Airwolf 3D, Costa Mesa

Eva Wolf co-founded Airwolf 3D. Together, with her husband, they started making and selling 3D printers from a garage. Today, the company has more than 20 employees and half are women. Wolf's contributions to the success of Airwolf 3D cannot be overstated. With a bachelor of science in business management from the University of Redlands, and 12 years of finance experience, Wolf has managed all of the financial tasks (payroll, taxes, receivables, invoices, etc.) and set up systems for inventory, shipping and staffing. However, her biggest contribution has been the development of the website, which is Airwolf's principal marketing tool. Wolf has spearheaded all major marketing efforts, particularly business relations with educational agencies. Today, Airwolf 3D printers are in thousands of schools worldwide, as well as thousands of businesses. Wolf is also active in the cause to inspire more young girls to pursue careers in STEM fields. She is currently working on her sixth book, *A Girl's Engineering Journal: What is a 3D Printer?*



Janie Wolicki, CEO

Women Helping Women/Men2work, Santa Ana

Janie Wolicki assumed the role of CEO with Women Helping Women/Men2work (WHW) in March 2011. She brought more than 20 years of nonprofit experience to WHW. Today, she leads the organization's fundraising, board and community development and sets the strategic vision for the nonprofit. Since Wolicki joined the team, WHW has increased in size by more than 400%, providing employment-readiness services to more than 8,000 job seekers annually. 91 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to program services. WHW is now seen as the leader in employment-readiness programs in Orange County, with the lowest overhead and richest outcomes. Wolicki was also named the "Nonprofit Person of the Year" in 2012 by the Santa Ana Chamber of Commerce, and received the International Athena Award in 2013.



Lisa Wolter, Executive Director

Susan G. Komen, Orange County Costa Mesa

As executive director of Susan G. Komen Orange County, celebrating its 25th year, Lisa Wolter leads the county's most preeminent breast health organization in its mission to save lives through prevention, education and cutting-edge breast cancer research. The Affiliate was named 2014/15 Komen Affiliate of the Year, the highest honor within the network of 120 affiliates worldwide. Wolter's work is critical: Each day, an average of five Orange County women are diagnosed with breast cancer – of these, one will not survive. Wolter has brought significant research initiatives to Orange County, including the first-ever West Coast healthy breast tissue collection event, which received 200+ healthy breast and tissue samples from ethnically diverse women for use with national and global breast cancer research. In 2015, Wolter was the only Orange County nonprofit executive director to receive a prestigious grant from The Fieldstone Foundation's Clare Rose Sabbatical Program, which strengthens the longevity of high-performing leaders and the health of their nonprofits.



Dr. Tammy Wong, CEO

Fostering Executive Leadership Inc., Irvine

Dr. Tammy Wong started Fostering Executive Leadership Inc. in 2006. Previous to this, she worked for IBM, Xerox and Sun while raising five children. In her first years with her company, she was traveling all over the country, and found she really needed to scale the business. She began adding coaches to



her team. The company now offers executive coaching in every major city in the U.S. and almost every major city outside the U.S. She continues to grow the company's reach and expand the offerings that range from executive coaching, leadership development, team building and numerous speaking events. She is trying to change how executive coaching is viewed, delivered and experienced in corporations around the world. She has also been involved with Girls Inc. for eight years, Leadership CA for six years, Crystal Cove Alliance for six years, Pepperdine University for four years, as well as The Women's Philanthropy Fund, AWT and WITI.

Fenny Yan, Owner

poqetDONUTS, Irvine

Interested in venturing outside the world of style, Fenny Yan decided to take a chance and opened poqetDONUTS in 2015. Dubbed as the first doughnut shop in Orange County to offer custom doughnuts, the shop also offers a line of signature gourmet creations fit for any and every sugar fiend with flavors ranging from the beloved and playful Campfire S'mores, to the adventurous and complex Pistachio Creme Brulee. Every single component of the store's doughnuts are made in-house with production overseen by an incredible team with more than 30 years of doughnut and pastry-making experience. Located in Irvine, this bustling doughnut shop serves up artisan, hand-crafted doughnuts not otherwise seen in this close-knit community. Yan's line of signature creations have been met with praise from both customers and patrons alike, quickly making this small shop a neighborhood staple.



Christina Zabat-Fran, Director of Legal Affairs

St. John Knits Inc., Irvine

A member of the inaugural class of UC Irvine Law School, and a native of Irvine, Christina Zabat-Fran fits in perfectly at one of the oldest Irvine companies, St. John Knits – an upscale American fashion brand that specializes in women's knitwear. In her role, Zabat-Fran manages the worldwide licensing portfolio for the brand. She interacts with the brand's business stakeholders on a daily basis to structure transactions; negotiate and draft contracts; and provide incisive legal advice on a variety of apparel and non-apparel manufacturing, distribution and retail-related issues.



Suzan Zahedi, Owner & Founder

Studio Suzan, Costa Mesa

Suzan Zahedi started making jewelry when she was 15 years old, taught by her father. One of her most vivid memories is bending and hammering brass and silver while her father played classical piano. She loved seeing the metal transform under the heat and the hand of the hammer, and loved the process of forming metal shapes. After college, she pursued a career in graphic design and marketing for the next 23 years. Eventually, her love of metal called her back. After experimenting with lots of jewelry techniques, she found that she loved working with the torch, hammering and forging; and so the seeds of her jewelry collection and business began. Studio Suzan's first collection was debuted at Amaree's in Newport Beach, and she began to mentor young girls from Orangewood Children's Foundation. This year, the organization celebrates its 20th year in business.



Julie Zimmerer, CEO & Founder

My Choice in Home Care, Dana Point

Julie Zimmerer retired from her chiropractic practice after 20 years and created My Choice in Home Care from personal heartache when a caregiver took advantage of her Korean War vet paraplegic father following his last stroke before he passed. My Choice has earned numerous awards, setting its practices and team apart from others. Since 2007, My Choice has grown from one small area in Canyon Lake, Calif. to serving people in Los Angeles to the tip of San Diego and everywhere in between. In addition, there are now two offices – one in Canyon Lake and another in Dana Point – with more than 100 employees working at all times in each location, and a caregiver list that exceeds 400 people combined. Zimmerer also earned the Veterans Homecare Contract of Loma Linda Hospitals serving veterans deemed disabled during time of war with homecare services. She recently renewed this contract for another five years.



Catherine Zinn, Partner

Deloitte Tax LLP, Costa Mesa

Catherine Zinn is a leader in the tax practice in Orange County. She has consistently contributed a significant amount to the Deloitte Orange County office and to Deloitte's West Region, which encompasses 13 offices in California, Nevada, Arizona, Oregon, Hawaii, Washington, Utah and Idaho. She was the first female tax partner promoted in Deloitte's Orange County office in the 14 years she worked at the firm before she was promoted, and has continued to serve her clients with distinction and to grow her contribution to the firm on an annual basis. In the community, Zinn served on the executive board of the YWCA of Central Orange County, and in that role, partnered with Orangewood Children's Foundation to transfer the nonprofit's primary asset, Beverly's House, to Orangewood to be part of Orangewood's sister program, Rising Tides. She actively participates as part of the Rising Tides' advisory board and is also very involved in Orangewood.





ORANGE COUNTY BUSINESS JOURNAL

22nd Annual Women *in* BUSINESS

Kellie Aamodt - UPS
Anne Albertine - Del Taco Restaurants Inc.
Gina Alshuler - Rauxa
Jennifer Anaya - Ingram Micro Inc.
Kay Anderle - Keller/Anderle LLP
Paula Ansara-Wilhelm - Surterre Properties/Bask Magazine
Dawn Antis - Mom & Tot OC
Patty Arvielo - New American Funding
Charlotte Augustine - New Horizons Learning Group
BB Maboby Bahadarakhann - SmileOnU
Geeta Bansal - Clay Oven
Kelly Yukihiro Barba - K&L Gates
Katie Bayliss - Katie B Cosmetics
Margaret Bayston - Laura's House
Jacqueline Beaumont - Call & Jensen
Melissa Beck - Big Brothers Big Sisters of OC & the Inland Empire
Suhein Beck - ELAJ LLC
Ruth Bedi - Prego Ristorante
Pazit Ben-Ezri - LulyBoo LLC
Lisa Beres - Ron & Lisa LLC
Sue Berkompas - Vanguard University
Clare Bielecki - Kitchell
Lauraine Bifulco - Vantaggio HR Ltd.
Monica Bonakdar, M.D. - Bonakdar Institute
Sheryl A. Bourgeois - Chapman University
Karie Boyd - Boyd Law
Adrienne Brandes - Surterre Properties
Francesca Braniger - Sunwest Bank
Judy Burlingham - Coast Benefit Consultants
Caroline Callaway - Bolt Public Relations
Valisa Carney - Freeman Freeman & Smiley LLP
Nicole Carrillo - Opus Bank
Jody Chapman - Surterre Properties
Hyun-Sook "Juliette" Chung - Juliette Kitchen and Bar
Dr. Amy Osmond Cook - Osmond Marketing
Gail Courtney - The First Tee of Orange County
Cindy Galardi Culpepper - Galardi Group Inc.
Jenn Curtis - FutureWise Consulting
Kristin Daher - Powerhouse Public Relations LLC
Ladan Davia - Excelerate Test Prep
Laura Davick - Crystal Cove Alliance
Roxana Davidoff - Big Purple Dot
Brittany Davis - Surterre Properties
Renee M. Dee - Black, Starr & Frost
Betsy Densmore - Academies for Social Entrepreneurship
Tamara Devitt - Haynes and Boone LLP
Lindsay Dickhout - Million Dollar Tan
Deborah Dickson - Smith Dickson, an Accountancy Corp.

Diane Dillon - Hotel Irvine
Marie DiSante - Carothers DiSante & Freudenberger LLP
Christa Duggan - Portola Coffee Lab
Laurie Eastman - Surterre Properties
Neda Eaton - Irvine Public Schools Foundation
Barbara Eidson - Island Hotel Newport Beach
Lauren Ellermeyer - Beyond Fifteen Communications Inc.
Shannon Eusey - Beacon Pointe Wealth Advisors
Mary Watson Fisher - Walsworth (WFBM LLP)
Trina Fleming - Women Helping Women/Men2work
Kelsey Flewellen - Robert Half
Robin Follman-Otta - RA Industries LLC/Markall Inc.
Shirin Forootan - Call & Jensen
Jennifer Friend - Project Hope Alliance
Peggy Fu - Focus Business Law Group
Carla Furuno - City National Bank
Donna Gallup - American Family Housing
Eulyynn Gargano - FutureWise Consulting
Loreen Gilbert - WealthWise Financial Services
Cindy Goss - Propel Business Solutions Inc.
Michelle Greenwood - Slowmoneysocal.org
Huma Gruaz - Alpaytac Public Relations
Jamie Gwen - Tastebud Entertainment Inc.
Carol Halesworth - Stampington & Co. Publishing
Kaaren Hall - uDirect IRA Services
Rebecca Hall - Idea Hall
Kristin Halton - Teles Properties
Mona Z. Hanna - Michelman & Robinson LLP
Kelly Hart - Orange County Transportation Authority
Madeline Haydon - Nutpods
Heidi Hendy - H. Hendy Associates
Susan Hensey - Little
Samantha Hoffman - Jackson Lewis P.C.
Susie Hopson-Blum - New Method Wellness
Marin Howarth - DirtySexyHappiness Hospitality Group
Susan Howington - Power Connections Career Services
Jo-E Immel - Snyder Langston
Michele D. Johnson - Latham & Watkins
DeAnna Jordan - New Method Wellness
Patty Juarez - Wells Fargo Commercial Banking
Pamela Jung - Workforce Solutions Group
Manna Kadar - Manna Kadar Cosmetics
Cyndi Karapogolian - Robert Half
Hilary Kaye - HKA Inc. Marketing Communications
Shannon Kennedy - BNY Mellon Wealth Management
Rani Khetarpal - Global Transitional Care
Laura Khouri - Western National Group
Robin King - Zip2Media

Luncheon &

Awards Program

Wednesday, May 4, 2016
Hotel Irvine Jamboree Center
17900 Jamboree Road
Irvine, CA 92614

Tickets:* \$150

Table of Ten: \$1500

Tickets are non-refundable. Ticket price* includes a one-year subscription to the Orange County Business Journal (*\$30 allocated to the subscription). New subscribers only.

For Reservation

Information

Visit www.ocbj.com/bizevents
or contact Jayne Kennedy,
Senior Events Manager, at
949.833.8373 x 209 or
kennedy@ocbj.com.

Congratulations

2016 Nominees!

Melany Koenig - M2 Marketing and Management
Alyssa Lahham - Sparkhouse
Shelly Larrimore - NextGen Healthcare
Leann Lawson - First American Title Insurance
Stacy Lax - Microsemi Corp.
Barbara Layton - Babette's
Joyce Lee - Alorica
Susan Levinstein - HMWC CPAs & Business Advisors
Joyce Logrono - Global Language Solutions
Holly Lopez - Bryan Cave LLP
Michele Marckesano - Ten-X
Karen Diamond Markovich - Coldwell Banker Previews International
Luann McElroy - Voyagers Rentals Inc.
Jessica McLeish - Sourced Conscious Cuisine
Nicole McMackin - Irvine Technology Corp.
Anne Marie McNeill, M.D., Ph.D. - Newport Beach Dermatology and Plastic Surgery
Shachi Mehra - ADYA
Stephanie Meier - Granite Properties
Jena Minnick-Bull - South Coast Conservatory
Ruchi Mitra - Changefindr
Darlynn Morgan - Morgan Law Group
Dr. Sandra Morgan - Vanguard University
Maria Nalywayko - CoreLogic
Karen Nguyen - Inspired Art Wine
Marla J. Noel - Fairhaven Memorial Park & Mortuary
Doretha O'Quinn - Vanguard University
Anoosheh M. Oskouian - Ship & Shore Environmental Inc.
April Palmer - Fidelity National Title, Major Accounts Division
Sara Palmer - StaffRehab
Kelly Parthen - Bean Sprouts
Cathy Pavlos - Provenance
Kara Poovey - Sourcing Solutions LLC
Robbin Narike Preciado - MUFG Union Bank, N.A.
Jenn Quader - Brower, Miller & Cole
Sunny Rajab - Business Communications Solutions
Dawn Reese - The Wooden Floor
Kelly Reeves - KLR Communications Inc.
Kimberly Roush - All-Star Executive Coaching
Wendy Sabins - Automobile Club
Tina Sadri - Newport Mental Wellness
Lucinda Salinas - Merrill Lynch
Allison Schneider - CBRE Inc.
Deborah Schneider - SOL Cocina
Vicki Schrimmer - My Favorite Indulgence
Donna Schroeder - Schroeder Management Co.
Rhonda Sciortino - Successful Survivors Foundation
Kathryn Seebold - CASA of Orange County

Kristall Seidel - Kinecta Federal Credit Union
Shannon Seip - Bean Sprouts
Kimberly C. Sentovich - Gymboree Inc.
Mona Shah-Anderson - Moxxe PR Inc.
Kim Shepherd - Decision Toolbox
Lisa Soderquist - Allergan Inc.
Alexandra Spitz - OC Mommy and Me
Janet Steiner - FoldedColor Packaging
Stacy Stemen - Passco Companies LLC
Anneke Stender - TAG
Missy Stern - Bank of the West
Jennifer Stewart-Tai - City Girl Prepper
Susie Storey - DealerSocket
Eliisa Stowell - Surterre Properties
Autumn Strier - Miracles for Kids
Carrie Strom - Allergan
Krista Thompson Talley - Dolly's Cotton Candy
Kimberly Tavares - PacWest Accounting Inc.
Betsy Thagard - B. toffee LLC
Jessica Thompson - Spaulding Thompson & Associates
Cheri Tree - BANKCODE
Twila True - True Investments LLC
Thu Truong - SETA International
Mei Tsang - Fish & Tsang LLP
Linda Vanderweel - Del Taco
Carla Vargas - Orange County United Way
Kelly Vlahakis-Hanks - Earth Friendly Products
Victoria Vu - Starline.La
Annette Walker - St. Joseph Health
Joele "JoJo" Watson - Surterre Properties
Marisa Wayne - Grit Cycle
Nella Webster-O'Grady - Palo Capital
Dr. Mary Wickman - Vanguard University
Esther Wildenberg - BANKCODE
Carrie Williams - Kitchen Table Marketing & PR
Robyn Williams - Women Helping Women/Men2work
Jennifer Wilson - Creme de la Creme Gourmet Foods & Catering
Diane Wittenberg - Haskell & White LLP
Eva Wolf - Airwolf 3D
Janie Wolicki - Women Helping Women/Men2work
Lisa Wolter - Susan G. Komen Orange County
Dr. Tammy Wong - Fostering Executive Leadership Inc.
Fenny Yan - poqetDONUTS
Christina Zabat-Fran - St. John Knits Inc.
Suzan Zahedi - Studio Suzan
Julie Zimmerer - My Choice in Home Care
Catherine Zinn - Deloitte Tax LLP

Diamond Sponsor



Platinum Sponsors



Silver Sponsors

