

Meet the Judges:



Julie Beckley, Wells Fargo

Julie Beckley is a tenured SVP - director of business development on the Southern California Commercial Banking team at Wells Fargo. She is responsible for the business development of new middle market relationships, targeting companies with sales in the range of \$25 million to \$5 billion in revenues with a focus on developing business in Orange County. Beckley's primary responsibilities include working closely with prospective clients to thoroughly understand their short- and long-term financial and strategic objectives and to provide appropriate thought leadership. Beckley provides an insightful understanding of the full range of credit and non-credit suite of products and services at Wells Fargo and her client centric approach is an asset to help meet the financial needs of OC companies across various industries. She has held multiple positions in her 35-year banking career, including over 23 years in the OC market.



Margita Blattner, Orange County Community Foundation

Margita Blattner is a forward-thinking, strategic leader with over 20 years of experience in organizational growth, business development, digital transformation and philanthropy. Her achievements have spanned developing market strategies, developing new products and services, launching new business models and technologies, enhancing business value and services, diversifying revenue streams, increasing profitability, and improving internal business systems and operations for Fortune 500 businesses and non-profits. As sr. director of philanthropic strategy, Blattner partners with individuals, families, corporations, nonprofits, and the professional advisor community to craft strategies for amplified charitable giving in Orange County. She leads a development team who provide guidance on current and planned giving options, handling of illiquid assets such as real estate and private business holdings, and support the establishment of charitable funds for enduring philanthropic impact.



Ben Buskey, Enterprise Bank & Trust

Ben Buskey leads a commercial banking team focused on helping guide middle-market companies to reach their financial goals at Enterprise Bank & Trust. In his role as senior vice president, relationship manager team lead, he leverages the bank's highly successful commercial banking model to build and execute team strategies to ensure team and regional growth. An industry veteran with a banking career spanning more than 20 years, his vast experience in commercial banking and in building long-term relationships is what allows Buskey and his team to deliver tailored financial solutions to help their clients reach their next financial milestone. Buskey is native to and based in Orange County, California.



Tony Kallingal, Mechanics Bank

Tony Kallingal is the executive vice president and chief banking officer at Mechanics Bank, an independent, full-service bank with approximately \$18 billion in assets, a best-in-class deposit franchise and 112 branches across California. An accomplished banking executive with more than 20 years of leadership experience, Mr. Kallingal has led numerous client-focused, value-added initiatives in retail banking, private banking, commercial banking, small-business banking and treasury management. Active in his community, he serves on a number of non-profit boards. He holds an undergraduate degree from Saint Mary's College and is a graduate of the Pacific Coast Banking School. He was named "Banker of the Year" by the Western Bankers Association in 2018.



Gordon S. MacLean, CPA, RJI CPAs

Gordon S. MacLean, CPA is an audit partner and the director of audit services at RJI CPAs. Gordon joined RJI in 2011 and specializes in audits of publicly traded and privately held businesses in the manufacturing, technology, medical device, real estate, distribution and professional services industries. MacLean has been in public accounting for over 37 years and spent 20 years at KPMG LLP's Orange County office, including seven years as an audit partner. In addition, he spent five years as an audit partner for a large regional accounting firm located in Irvine, CA. MacLean's extensive experience includes interaction with corporate BOD's and Audit Committees. He has been involved in numerous SEC public offerings and filings, including initial public offerings, secondary offerings, spin-off transactions, public debt offerings, and private placements. He has navigated various clients through business acquisitions and divestitures and has performed due diligence for both buy-side and sell-side transactions, including quality of earnings. MacLean's background includes performing audit services for companies ranging from start-up to international, multi-billion-dollar corporations.



Ivo A. Tjan, CommerceWest Bank

Ivo A. Tjan is the founder of CommerceWest Bank. He is currently the chairman, president and CEO of CW Bancorp and CommerceWest Bank. Founded in 2001 and headquartered in Irvine, CA, the Bank caters to businesses throughout the state of California with our digital banking platform. The Bank offers a wide range of commercial banking services, including remote deposit solutions, online & mobile banking, M&A / working capital loans, commercial real estate loans, SBA loans and treasury management services. Mr. Tjan previously held a wide range of management roles at Eldorado Bank, Home Savings of America and Great Western Bank. He was named among Orange County's Most Influential Business Leaders on the "OC500" List and as both a 2023 and 2022 Orange County Visionary by the Los Angeles Times. He was honored as the Robert Ross Founders Award Recipient from the MDA. Mr. Tjan was recognized as one of Vivid Magazine's Annual Top 10 Asian American Entrepreneurs and was also named one of OC Metro's Hottest 25 People of Orange County, California. Mr. Tjan holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration from California State Fullerton University.



Jeffrey M. Verdon, Rappaport & Berkman

Rappaport & Berkman, Jeffrey M. Verdon is Chair of the Asset Protection Practice Group, headquartered in Newport Beach, CA. For over 30 years, Verdon and his team have provided specialized taxation and estate planning services to Orange County's wealthy families and business owners, pioneering the integration of risk mitigation with advanced estate planning. Verdon authored "Estate Planning for Women Only", numerous business articles on Kiplinger's Wealth Creation column, and is a sought-after speaker at financial conferences worldwide.