



Meet the Judges:



Rita Al-Silhi - Senior Vice President, U.S. Bank

Rita Al-Silhi is the senior vice president and commercial relationship manager at U.S. Bank. Al-Silhi is responsible for managing and cultivating relationships with middle market size corporations with annual revenues between \$25 million - \$1 billion. She builds and maintains strong relationships with clients, acting as the primary point of contact for their banking needs. Al-Silhi prioritizes understanding clients' financial goals, challenges, and industry dynamics to offer tailored banking solutions.



Julie Beckley - Senior Vice President - Business Development, Wells Fargo Commercial Banking

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.

Katherine Collins - Vice President, Treasury Management Officer, PNC Bank

Katherine Collins is a treasury management officer for PNC Bank's Orange County and Inland Empire market. Collins consults for and manages a middle market and corporate banking portfolio, develops treasury proposals for current and prospective clients, conducts an annual assessment of client treasury needs and works with internal partners on client deposit strategies. Collins helps companies drive efficiency in their business by leveraging technology to address challenges faced in corporate treasury. She works with clients to understand their businesses at a micro level to identify ways to optimize working capital and mitigate risk in an ever-changing treasury landscape. Collins has nearly two decades of experience with a diversified background in retail banking, sales and operations across segments including commercial banking, business banking, life sciences, property management, retail, and auto finance. Collins leads PNC's local Women in Business program including engagement and support for women financial decision makers. Collins enjoys connecting with women-led businesses and accelerating women's financial equality as a Certified Women's Business Advocate. Collins is a graduate of California State University, Los Angeles where she received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance and a minor in management. She resides locally with her husband and dog.



Hugh Connors - Senior Vice President & Regional Manager, BMO Emerging Middle Markets

Hugh Connors is a seasoned 37-year banking professional who has held a variety of roles in the regulatory, financial analysis, credit and relationship management environments. He is currently a senior vice president and regional manager for BMO's Emerging Middle Market team in Orange County, a role he has held for the past five years. Connors leads a team of a dozen professionals who seek to serve and grow the financial services needs of privately held businesses in Orange County. He supports a variety of charitable causes locally, and currently serves as treasurer of Orange County United Way. Connors lives in Huntington Beach with his family where he has resided for the past 28 years.



Yudit Freda - Senior Manager, State & Local Tax, RSM US LLP

Yudit Freda, partner, tax services at RSM US LLP (RSM), brings over 17 years of public accounting experience and expertise in unclaimed property matters. She advises clients on multi-state voluntary compliance agreements, including Delaware's program, and has successfully mitigated multi-state unclaimed property audit assessments. Freda leads the local STAR (Stewardship, Teamwork, Advancement, Retention.) network group, advocating for the advancement and retention of women at RSM in Orange County. Dedicated to fostering an inclusive community, she supports female professionals in balancing career and family. Freda holds affiliations with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) and the Unclaimed Property Professionals Organization (UPPO). Her expertise spans various industries, including industrial products, consumer products, financial services, manufacturing, entertainment, gaming, and utilities.



Adelle Infante - Associate Vice President Global Corporate Communications, Allergan Aesthetics

Adelle Infante, the associate vice president of Global Communications at Allergan Aesthetics, an AbbVie company is an integrated communications professional with 20+ years of experience across aesthetics and healthcare and leads a team responsible for elevating the Company's internal and external corporate reputation, mission, and communications strategy. Prior to Allergan Aesthetics, she was head of media relations at AbbVie and held communications and finance roles at Abbott and Cigna, respectively. Adelle earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of the Pacific and an MBA from the University of Notre Dame.



Meet the Judges:



Tara I Netherton - Senior Vice President, U.S. Bank

Tara I Netherton is a senior vice president and commercial banking relationship manager at U.S. Bank. Netherton provides sales and relationship management for a diverse portfolio of companies in Southern California with annual revenue up to \$1 billion. Product offerings include treasury management services, investments, lending, equipment/technology financing, capital markets, merchant processing and corporate card programs.



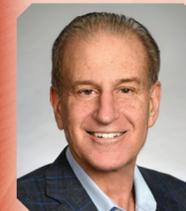
Melissa Pollard - Senior Vice President & Senior Relationship Manager, Fifth Third Bank

Melissa Pollard is a senior vice president and senior relationship manager for Fifth Third Bank's commercial banking practice in Orange County where she brings 37 years of experience to her clients. She has been with Fifth Third for seven years where she is responsible for new business development and ongoing client management. She previously worked for Comerica Bank for 20 years and Bank of America for 10 years. She earned her BS and BA degrees from the University of Richmond in Virginia. An east coast native, Pollard has been married for 34 years with two grown children, and they have lived in Aliso Viejo for the past 27 years. She enjoys spending time with her family, traveling and other outdoor activities. Pollard is a longstanding director on the board of Association for Corporate Growth Orange County and their exclusive Women in Leadership banking sponsor since inception. She also serves on the Associates Board of Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Orange Coast's Women of Greatness Committee. In addition, she is an active member of Orange County United Way's Women United, Financial Executives International, Center for Business Growth, Executive Connections, and ProVisors.



Gloria Preciado - Chief of Staff, City of Hope Orange County

In her role as chief of staff, City of Hope Orange County, Gloria M. Preciado serves as a strategic partner to the president, facilitates effective communication, and spearheads the successful execution of organizational initiatives for the most advanced network of cancer care in Orange County. Preciado plays a pivotal role in ensuring the organization's alignment with its mission to drive innovation and excellent cancer care for City of Hope Orange County employees and will play a key role in helping open Orange County's only cancer specialty hospital in 2025. Prior to her Orange County role, Preciado led an 18-person external relations and visitor experiences team at City of Hope and served on the communications leadership team at Georgetown University. A graduate of Santa Clara University, Preciado considers it an honor to help ensure that people with cancer receive the most advanced cancer care and have access to pioneering research.



Richard Reisman - Publisher, Orange County Business Journal

Richard Reisman is publisher of the Orange County Business Journal. Reisman joined the Business Journal in 1990. Since then, the publication's acceptance by the business community has been dramatic. Paid circulation and advertising volume has grown significantly, making it possibly the top Business Journal in the country. Prior to the business journal, Reisman was director of marketing for the Orange County edition of The Los Angeles Times. Earlier in his career, Reisman practiced law in San Francisco and Washington, D.C. While in private practice in Washington, Reisman served as special counsel to the House Ethics Committee. Reisman holds an MBA from UCLA, where he was awarded the R.C. Baker Foundation Fellowship, and a law degree from George Washington University, where he graduated with honors. Reisman is listed in "Who's Who in America" and has served on numerous boards.



Brenda Rose - Executive Director, Business Banking Market Manager, OC, JPMorgan Chase

Brenda Rose joined Chase for Business in 2009 and has led the Orange County Market since 2021. Her team of 70+ relationship managers offer treasury management solutions, access to capital and full-service financial guidance to business owners. Prior to Chase, Rose's background included commercial real estate lending, large corporate banking and wealth management experience. Active in the community, Rose has served on the Advisory Board of the Orange County Business Council and is an active member of the OC Market Leadership Team at Chase. Personally, Rose grew up in Los Angeles, has a BS in Business Administration from California State University, Northridge and an MBA from University of Southern California, both on full academic scholarships. She also has a graduate degree in banking from Pacific Coast Banking School in Seattle. Rose loves fitness, photography, scuba diving adventures and international travel with her family. She is a proud stepmom to four grown kids and a new grand baby.



Lisa Westhafer - Senior Vice President, Middle Market Banking, Fifth Third Bank

In her role as senior vice president, Lisa Westhafer leads the marketing efforts for Fifth Third Bank's Commercial Banking office in Orange County, focusing on serving clients in the market with revenues between \$20 million to \$500 million. Westhafer assists privately run companies with their financing, treasury management and capital market needs. Lisa has been in the financial services industry for over 25 years. Prior to entering into the banking field, she worked for both the Walt Disney Company and Arthur Andersen. A Southern California native, Westhafer is married, has a 10-year-old son, and lives with her family in Nellie Gail. She earned her degree in business from the University of Washington and holds a CPA designation (currently inactive) and is Series 7 and 24 licensed. When not working or spending time with her family, Westhafer enjoys traveling, scuba diving, interior design and cooking.