

Meet the Judges:



Michael Aceves - Managing Director & Group Manager, Flagstar Bank

Michael Aceves is the managing director & group manager for Flagstar Bank's Southern California Regional Commercial & Corporate Banking division. With over 26 years of experience and leadership roles at Union Bank and U.S. Bank, his expertise spans commercial banking, corporate solutions, environmental services, and Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) lending. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Finance from San Diego State University and has served on the Board of the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation – Orange County Chapter.



Margita Blattner - Senior Director, 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 Senior 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. Blattner earned an MBA in Marketing and a Bachelor of Arts.



Victor Guerrero - President & Chief Operating Officer, Infinity Bank

Victor Guerrero has dedicated over 35 years to serving the Los Angeles/Orange County communities in banking. Starting out as a teller at Bank of America in 1988, he's worked in many roles in the industry, from operations to sales, credit, and finance. Since 2018, Guerrero has been the founding executive at Infinity Bank, where he serves as president and chief operating officer, and previously served as the founding CFO of Orange County Business Bank. Guerrero finds his greatest joy in helping people achieve their dreams and goals as a banker, advisor, and partner. With 33 years of marriage and two adult sons, Guerrero's family keeps him humble and generally grounded, but never quiet!



Matt Klingbeil - Senior Vice President Relationship Manager, PNC Bank

Matt Klingbeil is a senior vice president relationship manager with PNC Bank's Commercial Banking Group in Orange County, CA. Klingbeil has over 18 years of industry experience working in commercial banking and lending in Southern California, and he holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Throughout his career, he has consistently been recognized as a top-performing banker who continuously prioritizes his clients' needs, which has helped him earn numerous awards and promotions over the years. Klingbeil was born and raised in Northeastern Wisconsin, where he still has family that he visits frequently. He has been a resident of Huntington Beach since 2006, where he lives with his wife and two daughters. Matt is an avid sports fan (of all Wisconsin-based teams) and a live music enthusiast, and he is actively engaged in giving back to the community by volunteering his time to local non-profits and community events.



Chang Lee - Relationship Manager, PNC Bank

Chang Lee is a relationship manager at PNC's Commercial Banking Group. Lee is responsible for delivering credit products and cash management services to companies and nonprofit organizations throughout Orange County and Inland Empire. Lee works closely with C-suite professionals while advising clients on appropriate credit structures, cash flow efficiency and providing PNC's world class treasury management products and services. Lee worked at Union Bank for 18 years before joining PNC in 2024. He has been a middle market banker for over 23 years and have gained extensive experiences in credit structuring and providing value-add solutions with cash management, working capital facilities, term/equipment/real estate/acquisition and recapitalization loans to businesses in Orange County and Inland Empire. Lee holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from University of California, Irvine and a MBA in Finance from Chapman University. In his free time, Lee enjoys surfing, swimming, fishing and sometimes golfing.



Gordon S. MacLean - Audit Partner & Director, RJI International CPAs

Gordon S. MacLean, CPA is an audit partner and the director of audit services at RJI CPAs. MacLean 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.



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.



Ivo Tjan - Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer, 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. 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. 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. Tjan holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration from California State Fullerton University.



Jeffrey M. Verdon - Partner & Chair of Asset Protection, Falcon Rappaport & Berkman LLP

As a partner at Falcon 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.



David Warren - Co-Founder & Chairman of the Board, Bridgeford Trust Company

David Warren is president and CEO of Bridgeford Advisors and co-founder and chairman of Bridgeford Trust Company, a sister company. He is an attorney with over 20 years of professional experience practicing law and working in the financial services industry serving the trust and wealth management needs of high and ultra-high net worth families across the globe. Warren leads all planning and business development activities and brand development, working directly with families, family offices, and financial services professionals on sophisticated trust planning solutions including powerful asset protection, privacy, and state tax planning strategies. Prior to establishing Bridgeford Trust Company, Warren was recruited out of a prestigious law firm, to join the Wealth Management/Trust Department of a large regional bank as a vice president/senior trust administrator. Warren subsequently transitioned his career to Bank of New York Mellon where he worked exclusively with ultra-high net worth families on various wealth management issues.