

Meet the Judges



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!



Steve Krenik - Senior Vice President, Relationship Manager, *U.S. Bank*

Steve Krenik is a senior vice president / relationship manager in the Orange County Commercial Banking office of US Bank. He has been with US Bank since April 2005. Krenik has more than 30 years financial services experience in commercial lending, commercial real estate, consumer lending, mortgage lending, merger/acquisition financing, and ESOP transactions. Prior to joining US Bank, he held similar positions with Mellon 1st Business Bank, City National Bank, Home Savings of America and Household Bank. His focus is working with companies with revenues between \$25 million and \$1 billion and providing a wide array of solutions those companies will require from their bank. Krenik earned his Bachelor of Science in Finance from California State University Northridge.



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.



Danielle Suakjian - Senior Vice President, Group Director, *Customers Bank*

Danielle Suakjian is a seasoned banking professional with more than 25 years of experience delivering strategic financial solutions to mid-sized and large businesses. As a senior vice president and group director at Customers Bank, Suakjian leads, directs, and coordinates key partners in designing integrated credit and liquidity strategies for clients with \$25 million to \$1 billion in annual revenue. Known for her client-centric approach, she serves as a trusted advisor and advocate, ensuring tailored solutions that support business growth and financial stability. Prior to joining Customers Bank, Suakjian held senior leadership roles at Signature Bank, City National Bank, and Bank of America, where she consistently managed complex client portfolios and drove results through collaborative execution. Her expertise spans relationship management, credit structuring, and asset quality oversight. Suakjian earned her Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing from California State University, Fullerton. Based in Newport Beach, she is deeply committed to helping clients succeed through thoughtful financial guidance and long-term partnerships.



Ivo A. 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.