

MEET THE JUDGES!



Addison K. Adams - Attorney, Founder, Adams Corporate Law Inc.

Addison K. Adams is the founder and principal attorney of Adams Corporate Law, a boutique law firm specializing in mergers and acquisitions and corporate dealmaking. With three decades of legal experience, he is a trusted advisor to business owners, executives, and investors navigating complex corporate transactions. His practice focuses on M&A, finance, corporate structure, compliance, and major commercial contracts. Adams was a founding equity partner of a nationally recognized securities boutique representing public and private businesses. He has served as outside general counsel to companies throughout California, advising on growth strategies, exit planning, and risk management. Known for his practical, solutions-oriented approach, Adams is committed to helping clients close deals efficiently—true to the firm's reputation as Lawyers Who Close Deals. Adams holds a B.S. in Finance from the University of Arizona and a J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law.



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, Commercial Banking, 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 20 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. Klingbeil assists his clients with their commercial lending and banking needs by offering customized solutions to help them meet their financial goals. 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. Klingbeil 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.



Margita Labhard - Senior Director of Philanthropic Strategy, Orange County Community Foundation

Margita Labhard is a forward-thinking, strategic leader with over 20 years of experience developing innovative business plans, models, and operational capabilities to help organizations achieve their growth objectives. Labhard is a proven visionary with the ability to motivate staff and drive organizational change. Her roles have spanned business development, business and product management, and management consulting across the higher education, retail, and the nonprofit sectors. In her current role as senior director of philanthropic strategy, Labhard builds awareness of OCCF's charitable services with individuals, families, corporations, nonprofits, and the professional advisor community in Orange County. She leads a development team who advise donors on their charitable and planned giving options, accept complex appreciated illiquid assets, and establish charitable funds for long-term strategic giving. Labhard's favorite part of her role is matching donor passions to solutions in the community through OCCF's services. Labhard earned an MBA in Marketing and a Bachelor of Arts. She is a certified Foresight Specialist from the Institute for the Future and a certified Lean Six Sigma White Belt. Labhard grew up in Minneapolis, Minnesota and now lives in Dana Point, California. When not working she can be found outrigger canoeing on the southern California coastline, swimming, biking, gardening, and exploring new cultures and cuisine when traveling. Labhard is fluent in Greek and French.



Gordon S. MacLean - Partner, RJI International CPAs

Gordon S. MacLean is a partner and the Director of Audit Services at RJI International CPAs. He joined RJI in 2011 after a 20-year career with KPMG LLP, including seven years as a partner, and 4 years with a large regional CPA firm in Orange County. He specializes in audits and reviews of privately held and publicly traded businesses in the hospitality, manufacturing, technology, medical device, real estate, distribution, not-for-profit and professional services industries. MacLean also has significant experience managing clients with multiple locations and clients with international reach. Some of MacLean's specific clients over the years have included: CKE Restaurants, Winchells Donuts, Santa Barbara Restaurant Group, In-N-Out Burger, Bacara Hotel, American Honda Motor Co., United States Filter Corporation, Discount Tire Centers, JSerra Catholic High School, St. Anne School, BAX Global, In-N-Out Burger, Surftrider Foundation, Taller San Jose, Birtcher Development, Sybron Dental, and Taller San Jose Hope Builders.



Ryan Milne - Partner, Conexus

Ryan Milne is a partner at Conexus. With over 20 years of experience placing high-impact executives in fast-growing and emerging companies across the United States, Milne has dedicated his career to the art of identifying leadership capable of scaling complex enterprises. A specialist in human capital, he is deeply passionate about partnering with business owners who embody the relentless work ethic that defines Orange County's unique business landscape. Milne maintains that true success is measured far beyond the P&L; he advocates for a leadership philosophy that prioritizes family values and the fundamental responsibility of advocating for one's employees. As a seasoned entrepreneur, Milne launched an executive search and consulting firm in 2020. After successfully scaling the organization, he orchestrated its sale three years later to Conexus, a national firm backed by private equity partner MidOcean. Beyond this recent exit, Milne's sales and personnel leadership has been instrumental in three other strategic sales within the industry, providing him with a profound understanding of the founder's journey from inception to acquisition.



Richard Reisman - Publisher & Chief Executive Officer, 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 A. Tjan - Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer, CommerceWest Bank

Ivo A. Tjan is the Founder, Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer of CW Bancorp and CommerceWest Bank, a publicly traded full-service commercial bank with a distinctive vision and culture dedicated exclusively to serving the business community. Tjan founded the Bank and successfully led its Initial Public Offering in 2001, making it one of the few banks in California to go public under founder-led leadership. Headquartered in Irvine, CommerceWest Bank partners with businesses across California, providing strategic banking solutions with a digital-first, relationship-driven approach. Tjan's banking career began with leadership roles at Eldorado Bank, Home Savings of America, and Great Western Bank, where he gained broad expertise across commercial banking disciplines before launching CommerceWest Bank. He has been widely recognized for his leadership and entrepreneurial achievements, including being named a 2025 LA Times CEO Honoree, one of Orange County's Most Influential Business Leaders on the OC500 and OC50 Lists by the Orange County Business Journal, and recipient of the Robert Ross Founders Award from the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA). He was also recognized as one of Vivid Magazine's Top 10 Asian American Entrepreneurs and listed among OC Metro's "Hottest 25 People in Orange County." Tjan earned his Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from California State University, Fullerton. Beyond his corporate leadership, he is deeply engaged in community and industry organizations. He currently serves on the Board of Working Wardrobes and is an active member of the Young Presidents' Organization (YPO), CEO Affiliation Group, American Bankers Association, Bank CEO Network, and The Pacific Club. His prior board service includes California State University, Fullerton; New Majority; Marconi Foundation; The Children's Museum; CASA Advisory Board; and the ABA Government Relations Committee. A strong believer in giving back, Tjan actively supports a wide range of charitable and nonprofit organizations throughout Southern California, combining his entrepreneurial success with a commitment to community impact.



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

Jeffrey M. Verdon is the Chair of the Asset Protection Planning Group of Falcon Rappaport & Berkman, LLP, a NY based full-service laws firm. Verdon is based in the Newport Beach, CA office, whose practice is focused on integrated estate planning with asset protection for affluent families and successful business owners. Verdon is the author of Estate Planning for Women Only, now in its 4th edition; a regular speaker to professional organizations and financial conferences and have published over 25 articles with Kiplinger.com and a regular contributor to the Orange County Business Journal.