

Meet the Judges:



Julia Arora - Executive Director, Strategic Services, City of Hope Orange County

Julia Arora is Executive Director of Strategic Services for City of Hope Orange County, bringing 15 years of experience in quantitative analysis to inform strategic healthcare decision-making. Since joining in 2018 as one of the earliest OC team members, she played a key role in developing the business case for the organization's expansion into the region. In her current role, Arora leads data analytics, market assessments, and business case development for new programs, advancing key growth initiatives aligned with City of Hope Orange County's strategic plan. Her work earned her the Greater Irvine Chamber's "40 Under 40" recognition in 2021. Previously, she worked in strategy at St. Joseph Health in Irvine and as a healthcare consultant with CannonDesign. She holds a bachelor's degree in Earth Systems from Stanford University.



Julie Beckley - Senior Vice President, Southern California Sales Manager, Columbia Bank

Julie Beckley is Senior Vice President, Southern California Sales Manager for Commercial Banking at Columbia Bank. In this role, she leads business development efforts across Southern California, working with companies ranging from emerging middle market businesses to larger middle market/corporate banking clients with revenues from approximately \$5 million to several billion dollars. Beckley partners closely with business owners, CFOs, management teams, and professional advisors to understand their strategic and financial objectives and connect them with Columbia Bank's comprehensive commercial banking capabilities. She works across the broader Columbia platform to deliver tailored credit, treasury management, deposit, and specialty banking solutions that support client's growth and long-term success. With over 35 years of banking experience, Beckley has held leadership, relationship management, and business development roles spanning corporate banking, middle market banking, specialty lending, and strategic business development. She has spent more than 25 years serving the Southern California business community and is recognized for her extensive network, relationship-focused approach, and commitment to helping clients achieve their business goals.

Katherine Collins - 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.

Christine Sanchez Dittmer - Chief Philanthropy Officer, Orange County United Way

Christine Dittmer is Chief Philanthropy Officer at Orange County United Way, where she leads The OC Way campaign, a transformational effort to strengthen and modernize Orange County's 211 system of care. In this role, she oversees major and principal gifts strategy and works with local philanthropists and business leaders to raise funds to advance innovative solutions that help Orange County residents access housing, food, healthcare, financial stability, and other essential services through a more connected system of care. With more than 30 years of experience in philanthropy and nonprofit leadership, Dittmer has held senior fundraising roles with nationally recognized organizations including the American Heart Association, Pancreatic Cancer Action Network, and Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute. During her tenure with the American Heart Association, she served as National Chair of the Individual Giving Task Force and helped lead the creation of a national major gifts roadmap for the organization. Throughout her career, she has built a reputation for creating high-performing fundraising strategies, cultivating transformational donor relationships, and helping mission-driven organizations achieve ambitious growth and impact. Dittmer holds bachelor's degrees in Communications and American Studies from California State University, Fullerton. A longtime Orange County resident, she lives in Huntington Beach with her husband Ted and enjoys boating, traveling, reading, and spending time with family and friends.

Natalie Dundas - Partner, Rutan & Tucker LLP

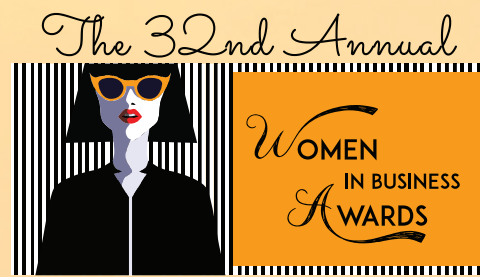
Natalie Dundas supports private and public companies in a wide array of industries with a focus on mergers and acquisitions, including auction processes and international carve-out transactions, private equity, corporate governance and other general corporate matters. She also represents public companies in periodic reporting review and compliance matters as well as in registered public offerings and private placements of equity and debt. Additionally, she represents foreign private issuers in listings on U.S. stock exchanges and U.S. securities matters.

Victor Guerrero - President & Chief Operating Officer, Infinity Bank

Victor Guerrero has dedicated more than 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!

Alice Hsu - Senior Vce President, Private Wealth Advisor, U.S. Bank

Alice Hsu is a Private Wealth Advisor and Senior Vice President at U.S. Bank Private Wealth Management, where she provides comprehensive wealth management strategies tailored to high-net-worth clients. Her expertise spans investment management, private banking, trust and estate services, and holistic financial planning. Hsu began her career in private banking and investments in 2002 and previously held roles at HSBC Private Bank and Bank of America Private Bank in San Francisco. She has extensive experience advising corporate executives, business owners—particularly in the technology sector—and real estate investors on both personal and business financial matters. She holds an MBA from Babson College's F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business and a B.S. from the University of San Francisco. Hsu is also an active community member and nonprofit volunteer, supporting organizations focused on youth and animal welfare.



Meet the Judges:



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 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, Labhard 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. 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.

Kristen McCarthy - Assurance Market Managing Principal, Southern California, BDO USA, P.C.

Kristen McCarthy has more than 37 years of experience in public and private accounting. Prior to joining BDO, she worked at a Big Four accounting firm and in private industry with Hughes Electronics, a Fortune 50 company. She serves public, privately held, and nonprofit organizations across the technology, consumer products, manufacturing and distribution, and real estate industries. McCarthy has deep experience advising publicly traded companies through all stages of the business lifecycle, from initial public offerings to Sarbanes-Oxley Section 404 engagements. She has extensive knowledge of SEC reporting and compliance requirements, including Securities Act of 1933 and Securities Exchange Act of 1934 filings. Her SEC experience also includes initial and secondary offerings, private investment in public equity (PIPE) transactions, debt offerings, M&A transactions, and work with non-traded SEC registrants. As the leader of BDO's Southern California Assurance Practice, McCarthy is responsible for developing and executing strategies that deliver meaningful value to clients. She is a committed and engaged leader who is passionate about building high-performing teams and developing best-in-class talent across the firm. McCarthy's leadership roles at BDO include co-chairing the Women's Initiative and BDO Flex, as well as serving as a mentor within BDO's Leadership Institute. She is also active in the Southern California community and supports a number of philanthropic organizations, including CASA of Orange County, United Way of Orange County, and Christ Life Ministries in Zambia. A proud USC alum, McCarthy enjoys staying involved with the Orange County USC Alumni Chapter.

Jeimy Ortiz - Commercial Banking Relationship Manager, PNC Bank

Jeimy Ortiz is a seasoned Relationship Manager with over 25 years of experience in financial services, known for her strategic relationship management, community focus, and client-first approach. She recently joined PNC Bank as a Senior Relationship Manager III, continuing her commitment to delivering personalized financial solutions that align with her clients' long-term business goals. Before joining PNC, Ortiz served as a Senior Relationship Manager at Bank of America, where she spent four years helping business clients grow and thrive. Prior to that, she built a distinguished 20-year career at Wells Fargo Bank, beginning as a Teller while attending college and rising through the ranks to Vice President, Senior Business Relationship Manager in the Commercial Banking space, supporting businesses with revenues from \$5MM to \$50MM. Her experience also includes managing multiple retail branches, building high-performing teams, and advising clients across lending, depository, and treasury management services. Ortiz is passionate about understanding the full financial picture of each client, managing, monitoring, and educating business owners to make sound financial decisions while assembling the right team of partners to support their growth. Her approach centers on developing long-term, values-aligned relationships that foster stability and innovation. Deeply committed to community service, Ortiz serves on two nonprofit boards: she has been a board member of the RevComm Foundation for three years, and currently serves as Secretary of the Phenix Gateway organization. She is also a dedicated volunteer with The Diaper Bank of Inland Empire and her son's tennis team at John W. North High School. She has also volunteered with Promise Scholars, speaking to youth about financial literacy and the importance of early financial planning. Ortiz earned her Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts from California State University, Riverside, and pursued additional financial studies at the UCLA Extension Center to enhance her financial acumen. She lives in Riverside, California, with her husband and their son, and dog, Henry. Outside of work, she enjoys propagating plants, baking, traveling, and spending quality time with her family.

Melissa Pollard - Senior Vice President, 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. She brings nearly four decades of experience working with middle market \$100MM+ revenue companies. Pollard has been with the Bank for 28 years (including 20 years at Comerica and the last 8 years at Fifth Third), where she has built a strong track record in both new business development and client relationship management. She began her banking career with Bank of America, where she spent 10 years. Pollard earned her BS and BA degrees from the University of Richmond in Virginia. An east coast native, she has called Aliso Viejo home for the past 28 years, where she lives with her husband of 36 years and their 100-pound doberman pinscher. They have two grown children, and outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family, traveling, and other outdoor activities. Pollard is deeply involved in the Orange County business and nonprofit community. She serves as a longstanding board director for the Association for Corporate Growth Orange County and has been the exclusive banking sponsor of its Women in Leadership initiative since inception. She also serves on the Associates Board of Second Harvest Food Bank of Orange County and is a member of the Women of Greatness Committee for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Orange Coast. In addition, Pollard is an active member of Orange County United Way's Women United, Financial Executives International, Center for Business Growth, Executive Connections, and ProVisors.

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.

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

Brenda Rose leads the OC Market for Chase's Business Banking Team. Her team of 70 bankers offers financial solutions to over 7,500 Small Businesses, including treasury management solutions, access to capital and full-service financial guidance. Rose's 40 year career in banking included Commercial Real Estate Lending, Large Corporate Banking, Wealth Management, and 20+ years helping Small Businesses. Rose serves on the Board of the Orange County Market Leadership Team and promotes Women in Business in several initiatives throughout the year. Rose grew up in Los Angeles and earned her BS in Business Administration from CSU Northridge and her MBA from USC, both on full academic scholarships. She also has a graduate degree from Pacific Coast Banking School. She lives in Oceanside with her husband and has four grown kids. Rose loves fitness, photography, scuba diving and has travelled to 50+ countries.