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Rocket Pharmaceuticals
Gaurav Shah, M.D., Co-Founder and CEO

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LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Welcome to the 2022 edition of the SD 500. This annual issue of the San Diego Business Journal, published near the close of the year, focuses on San Diego County’s most influential business leaders. They are the people who make such a significant impact on our business community and the community at large.

Each year our editorial team researches and updates this list. Paging through this issue, you will find people representing the diverse array of businesses that defines our great city. We feel it is important to highlight the great work that leaders are doing to keep our Community of Business healthy, strong and together.

Many of the executives we have named you will already know, but you will also be introduced to some new faces. We are confident the SD 500 edition will inspire, intrigue and spark conversations.

This issue is the culmination of a sizable group effort. I want to thank the entire San Diego Business Journal team for all of their hard work in producing this edition.

Congratulations to each member of this year’s SD 500. Thank you for all you do for our region and a special thank you goes out to all of the businesses who continue to support the San Diego Business Journal.

Best Regards,

Barb Chodos
President and Publisher
ALFREDO ANGELES
CEO, Tijuana Economic Development Corporation

Alfredo Angeles’ involvement with the Tijuana EDC goes back to 2015 when he served as innovation manufacturing executive. After brief stints in leadership roles at ICON Aircraft and Bolt Media Internacional, he returned to the Tijuana EDC in 2018 as a foreign trade specialist and in July of this year took the helm as CEO. Angeles is an enthusiastic economic development and investment agent of Baja California, focused on executing strategies for diverse projects and sizes.

GARY ACOSTA
CO-FOUNDER & CEO, THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HISPANIC REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS

Gary Acosta is co-founder and CEO of The National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals, the largest Latino business organization in the nation. Acosta is also co-founder of LATITUDE, a major event he produces with international business executive Soll Trujillo, former United Airlines CEO Oscar Munoz and music superstar Emilio Estefan. Acosta is an entrepreneur, public policy advocate and investor. He is also a general partner of LATITUDE Ventures, the nation’s largest venture capital fund exclusively focused on Latino-led start-ups.

SCOTT ASHTON
CEO, Oceanside Chamber of Commerce

Scott Ashton is the leader of the Oceanside Chamber of Commerce, one of the most politically influential business associations in San Diego County. Ashton works to ensure the Oceanside Chamber has an active voice on policy issues impacting the Oceanside business community. The chamber has successfully supported development projects that will bring need workforce housing to Oceanside. He has been instrumental in creating the Oceanside Chamber’s workforce development initiative and moving it forward to serve the talent pipeline needs of local businesses. He is a leader in the SOCAL workforce collaboration with Tri-City Medical Center, San Diego North EDC, and the Carlsbad and Vista chambers of commerce.

BETSY BRENNAN
PRESIDENT & CEO, DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO PARTNERSHIP

Betsy Brennan heads the Downtown San Diego Partnership, a privately funded and member-based nonprofit that promotes and supports downtown’s business community. Brennan previously worked as a counsel and policy representative and later chief of staff for then-council member Scott Peters. A graduate of the University of San Diego School of Law, she has held executive-level positions at the Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina, Tahoe Forest Health System, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and San Diego State University. She serves on the boards of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation and USD School of Law Board of Visitors.

W. ERICK BRUVOLD
CEO, San Diego North Economic Development Council

Erik Bruvold is CEO of the San Diego North Economic Development Council and has responsibility for all council operations, including programming, economic development services, and regional economic research and analysis. He previously was the Chief Economist with the National University System and the President of the National University System Institute for Policy Research. He was also formerly vice president for public policy and research for the San Diego Regional EDC. He has taught at college level courses in political science, urban economic development, urban planning and international relations and holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Denver and a master’s from UCSD.

KAREN BURGES
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NAIOP SAN DIEGO

Karen Burgess leads the San Diego chapter of the NAIOP Commercial Real Estate Development Association, where she has been since 1987. NAIOP represents the real estate industry with legislative representation, networking opportunities, educational programs and mixers. The San Diego chapter has more than 750 local members including owners, developers, investors, managers, consultants and brokers. Burgess is known in the industry as a trusted, proactive and informed advisor is always striving to give back to the community.

MARK CAFFERTY
PRESIDENT & CEO, SAN DIEGO REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Mark Cafferty has spent more than 20 years working to advance economic opportunities for American workers. As CEO of the EDC, he sits at the epicenter of a collaboration of business, trade, community and education leaders who have redefined the San Diego’s economic development strategy and cemented the region as a global economy powerhouse. Under his leadership, the EDC transformed into a privately funded, data-driven organization providing direct assistance to more than 300 companies annually.

JULIE COKER
PRESIDENT & CEO, SAN DIEGO TOURISM AUTHORITY

Julie Coker has been president and CEO of San Diego Tourism Authority since 2020. Coker oversees SDTA’s efforts to promote San Diego as a top spot for meetings, conventions and visitors. Coker serves on several boards including California Travel Association, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Regional EDC and the Downtown San Diego Partnership. She was previously president and CEO of the Philadelphia Convention and Visitors Bureau for nearly a decade and was with the Hyatt corporation for 21 years. She is a magna cum laude graduate of Johnson & Wales University in hospitality management.

DONNA DeBERRY
CEO, CENTRAL SAN DIEGO BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Donna DeBerry is CEO of the County of San Diego Black Chamber of Commerce. DeBerry was previously Director of Inclusion at Indeed, the online job site, and was responsible for leading, developing and embedding innovative global inclusion strategies throughout the organization. DeBerry was also formerly vice president of global diversity/consultant for Nike, consulted for Starbucks in the areas of global inclusion and diversity, and was executive vice president of global diversity and assistant to the chairman of the board at Wyndham Worldwide based in Dallas-Fort Worth.

LISA EASTERLY
PRESIDENT & CEO, SAN DIEGO CYBER CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Lisa Easterly is president and CEO as well as chief operating officer and strategic advisor at San Diego Cyber Center of Excellence, where she has been since 2014. Easterly was a founding member of the board of directors and chair of education and outreach committee for CleanTech San Diego. She was vice president of marketing and senior advisor with the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation and previously spent more than seven years as business development manager for Latham & Watkins. She is a University of Florida alumna, with a B.S. in business administration, finance and economics and an MBA in entrepreneurship, marketing, corporate finance and operations.
First Citizens Bank congratulates Jason Paguio on his selection as one of The San Diego Business Journal’s Top 500 Most Influential People of 2022. We are proud of his dedication in serving our region’s small businesses as President and CEO of the Asian Business Association San Diego.

JENI BURGESS, SR.
Senior Vice President
Manager of Business Banking & Chair
Asian Business Association San Diego
GREAT LEADERS INSPIRE GREATNESS IN OTHERS

MATTHEW FEHLING
PRESIDENT & CEO, THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU SERVING THE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST
Matthew Fehling has been president and CEO at the Better Business Bureaus Serving the Pacific Southwest since 2006. Fehling previously was executive vice president of the BBB of Central/Northern Arizona and vice president of operations at the Denver/Boulder BBB. He started with the Council of Better Business Bureaus, Inc. in 1995. Fehling has been a board member of the Arizona Coyotes Foundation since 2014 and is a past president of the Kiwanis Club of Valley of the Sun Phoenix. He has a degree in mass communications from Virginia Commonwealth University.

HASAN IKHRATA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SANDAG
Hasan Ikhrata leads the San Diego Association of Governments, developing public policy initiatives for elected officials from each of the region’s 19 local governments. He is considered one of the nation’s foremost experts in transportation planning and prior to joining SANDAG in 2018, brought more than 30 years of experience with organizations like the Southern California Association of Governments, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and South Coast Air Quality Management District.

CARLOS HIGUERA ESPRITU
PRESIDENT, TIJUANA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Carlos Higuera Espiritu is CEO of Trevé Corporativo in Mexico as well as president of the Tijuana EDC (DEITAC) since 2018. DEITAC promotes business opportunities in Mexico and the investment in Tijuana. As CEO of Trevé Corporativo, he oversees the company’s three divisions; Feedback (IT development and consulting); Qortex (aerospace contract manufacturing); and HAATS (talent and human resource services for the manufacturing industry). He is also administrative advisor at Trevé Corporativo, providing financial and fiscal advising as well as talent acquisition and executive services and business intelligence for advanced IT services.

MIKE KRENN
PRESIDENT & CEO, CONNECT W/SAN DIEGO VENTURE GROUP
Mike Krenn has been president and CEO of Connect w/San Diego Venture Group since 2019. Connect was founded in 1986 as one of the nation’s first startup accelerators, born out of UC San Diego. The group has transformed San Diego’s research capabilities into a powerful innovation economy. Connect merged in 2019 with SD Venture Group to help connect companies to capital. From 2014-19, Krenn was president and CEO of San Diego Venture Group. Previously, he was president and CEO at The Beachhead for almost six years. He is a SDSU graduate with a B.S. in business administration and master’s in mass communication/marketing.

ABDUR-RAHIM HAMEED
CEO, NATIONAL BLACK CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
Abdur-Rahim Hameed was the lead carpenter on the construction of Bayview Baptist Church. Hameed was the framing contractor at Christian Fellow and also worked on St. Paul’s United Methodist Church at 30th and Clay streets. Inspired by Malcolm X and Muhammad Ali, at the age of 16, he joined the Nation of Islam and ultimately changed his name from his birth name of Donald Ware. Hameed has 10 children, five of whom are in the construction trades. Four of his sons are carpenters and a daughter is a construction manager and architect.

GREAT LEADERS INSPIRE GREATNESS IN OTHERS

MATTHEW FEHLING
President & CEO of
Better Business Bureau®
Serving the Pacific Southwest

Congratulations on your recognition as one of the most influential people in San Diego!
Congratulations!

MIKE MERCURIO
CEO, GREATER SAN DIEGO ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS
Mike Mercurio has led the Greater San Diego Association of REALTORS (GSDAR) since 2006. GSDAR has served the region’s realtors for over 100 years and today is one of the largest realtor associations in California and the United States with 20,000 members. The GSDAR adheres to a code of ethics and professional standards above and beyond the norm and supports its members with a variety of tools and programs to help them succeed.

MIGUEL MOTTA
VICE PRESIDENT, STRATEGIC OPERATIONS & SAN DIEGO HEAD, BIOCOM CALIFORNIA
As vice president of strategic operations and San Diego head, Miguel Motta is responsible for customizing and delivering the Biocom California benefits to its San Diego members, including policy issues, as well as supporting the implementation of the organization’s strategic plans across California. Prior to joining Biocom California, Motta held executive positions in Fortune 500 companies, and has been chairman, president, chief executive officer, chief financial officer or chief operating officer of growth-stage, venture capital-backed companies.

MARK NEVILLE
CEO, SAN DIEGO BOWL GAME ASSOCIATION
Mark Neville has been with the San Diego Bowl Game Association for more than 30 years, starting as an intern in 1991 and now as CEO since 2015. He recently led the association through a series of significant changes to ensure that the bowl game continues to benefit the San Diego region, including negotiating the largest media rights contract in the association’s history and solidifying conference contracts with the Pac-12 and ACC that extend through 2025.

On behalf of the San Diego Regional East County Chamber of Commerce, “Congratulations” to President & CEO, Rick Wilson

Celebrating our 110th year, the San Diego Regional East County Chamber of Commerce is the respected voice and advocate for business opportunities, policy and education throughout San Diego County.

Become a member and see how the East County Chamber is here to support, connect, & grow your business.

Check us out and see for yourself!

“Rick’s leadership has inspired and engaged our business community, leading to record event turnout and new membership growth.”
- Chairman, Nick Zundel

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DEBRA ROSEN
CEO, NORTH SAN DIEGO BUSINESS CHAMBER
Debra Rosen has been president and CEO of the North San Diego Business Chamber for 13 years, lobbying for businesses and community members while also focusing on job growth, retention, expansion, equity in the workplace and military transition. She was previously CEO of the Downtown Business Association of San Diego. Rosen is credited with turning around two underperforming nonprofit organizations with strategic revenue strategies that restored program profitability and gained market share in competitive regions. She has a B.A. in public administration with an emphasis in business and marketing from San Diego State University.

BRET SCHANZENBACH
CEO, CARLSBAD CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Bret Schanzenbach has been CEO at the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce, the largest chamber in North San Diego County, since 2019. He is also executive in residence at Cal State San Marcos in the school’s college of Business Administration’s Business Professional Development Program, which brings real-world applications to help student develop skills and tools for their future. Schanzenbach is a founding member of San Diego Tech Hub and was CEO with the Vista Chamber of Commerce for nine years. He has master’s degrees in Theology and Theological Studies from the University of Dallas.

JASON PAGUO
CEO & PRESIDENT, ASIAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION SAN DIEGO
Jason Paguio has been president and CEO of Asian Business Association San Diego and Asian Business Association Foundation since 2019. Paguio is also a commissioner with the California Commission on Asian Pacific Islander American Affairs, appointed by Gov. Gavin Newsom. He was also appointed to the city of San Diego’s Small Business Advisory Board and the Asian Pacific Islander Advisory Group by San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria. Paguio has helped grow the SDABA to its largest membership in more than 30 years and tripled the group’s office size, providing free cultural coworking hubs to local Asian and Pacific Islander nonprofits. He is also political director of the California Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce.

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JEREMY WILSON  
**PRESIDENT & CEO, SAN DIEGO EQUALITY BUSINESS ASSOCIATION**  
Since 2019, Jeremy Wilson has been president and CEO of the San Diego Equality Business Association, which was founded in 1979 as the Greater San Diego Business Association. The group is the second oldest LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce in the U.S. The group advocates for and supports LGBTQ-owned businesses throughout the region and empowers its members through workforce equality, business ownership, supporting equality, diversity and inclusion. Wilson was former vice president and branch manager at Banner Bank in downtown San Diego and spent 18 years with Union Bank as vice president and cluster branch manager.

RICARDO VILLA  
**PRESIDENT, SAN DIEGO COUNTY IMPERIAL VALLEY HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
Ricardo Villa has been president and chairman of the board at the San Diego County Imperial Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce since 2021. The group was formerly the San Diego Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and Villa recently connected with colleagues in the Imperial Valley to merge organizations. Villa is also president and CEO of SimpleTime, a payroll company he founded after years working as a general manager in the hotel industry, then moving to human resources and payroll. He worked as director consultant for BNI San Diego for three years previously. Villa has a B.S. in accounting from the University of San Diego.

JAMES SLY  
**CEO, SAN DIEGO EAST COUNTY EDC**  
James Sly has been with the San Diego East County Economic Development Council since 2012. He has been president and CEO of the group since 2020 and was previously vice president and chief operations officer for eight years. As head of the EGDCC, Sly implements the group’s project portfolio, including education, industry, workforce and government and also leads many of the organization’s strategic partnership and business development efforts. Sly previously worked as a management consultant, helping startups and midsize businesses in the private sector. He has a B.S. in business management from San Diego State University and a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certification from UCSD as well as a leadership certification from Harvard Business School.

RICK WILSON  
**PRESIDENT & CEO, SAN DIEGO EAST COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
Rick Wilson is community leader with 26 years of experience in leadership, supervision, fiscal management, fundraising, philanthropy, program development and operations. He has led the San Diego East county Chamber of Commerce since 2019. Prior to that, Wilson served as executive director of the Liberty Station Community Association and has also held leadership roles at the YMCA and the National Football League.

HOLLY SMITHSON  
**CEO, ATHENA**  
Holly Smithson has been CEO of Athena since 2017. Smithson is a women’s leadership advocate, fast tracking women in STEM through leadership development. She supports global STEM companies with the development of their female leaders and in the advocacy of gender equality. She has led the launch, merger and financial turnaround of three member-based California companies in the cleantech, biotech and STEM sectors. Previously in Washington, D.C., she was appointed by President George W. Bush to advance his legislative agenda inside the EPA and State Department. She holds a B.S. in broadcast communications from East Carolina University and is a graduate of the leadership for senior executives program, business administration and management at Harvard Business School.

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CONGRATULATIONS JERRY SANDERS  
On being recognized as one of this year’s SD500! Thank you for your leadership and dedication to making the San Diego region the best place to live and work.
JASON ANDERSON
CEO, CLEANTECH SAN DIEGO
Jason Anderson has led Cleantech San Diego since 2010. With more than 120 stakeholders, the nonprofit seeks to position San Diego and Imperial counties as a leader in the cleantech economy. In 2022 the group worked with other organizations on a pilot program that put electric school buses to work serving San Diego's Lincoln High School and its feeder schools.

STEVEN BROWN
CEO & FOUNDER, THE ROSIE NETWORK
Stephanie Brown is the CEO of the Rosie Network, which she founded in 2011. The Rosie Network empowers and advocates on behalf of veteran and military spouse business owners and budding entrepreneurs. Brown was also co-founder of the California Veterans Chamber of Commerce, is CEO and founder of Rosie's List, the nation’s largest free search tool featuring veteran and military spouse-owned businesses. She is editor and publisher of Military Entrepreneur Magazine and is a member of the advisory boards of the State of California and Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise.

PETER CALLSTROM
CEO, SAN DIEGO WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP
Peter Callstrom is a nationally recognized leader in workforce and economic development and has led San Diego Workforce Partnership since 2012. A sought-after speaker and thought leader, Callstrom leads efforts to transform the public workforce system with innovative programs and services, bold thinking, action and results. He has helped SDWP build a diverse budget of public, private and philanthropy to deliver programs to empower job seekers of all ages. SDWP manages a countywide network of full-service career centers, emphasizing underserved populations but available to all job seekers and reaching thousands annually. He has led nonprofits in San Diego County since 1986.

JOHN CASTILLO
CEO, JACOBS & CUSHMAN SAN DIEGO FOOD BANK
Casey Castillo has been with the Jacobs & Cushman San Diego Food Bank since 2008 and was named CEO in April 2022 after 14 years as vice president of finance and administration. Castillo has provided oversight for the Food Bank’s financial, administrative, human resources and information technology operations for 15 years. He previously served on several nonprofit boards including the board of directors for the El Futuro Credit Union. A graduate of BYU with an MBA from Cal State San Bernardino, Castillo is also a graduate of LEAD San Diego’s Impact Program and the Fieldstone Foundation’s Emerging Leaders Program.

CAROL DEDRICH
CEO, GIRL SCOUTS SAN DIEGO
Carol Dedrich has been CEO for Girl Scouts San Diego for six years. Dedrich is responsible for the vision and direction of the council in partnership with a board of directors. The group oversees 23,000 girls in San Diego and Imperial counties as well as 12,000 volunteers, 120 full-time employees, 150 season staff members and a $12 million budget. She was previously chief external relations officer for Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles. Dedrich was also vice president of development at the John Wayne Cancer Institute. She also served as a captain, air defense artillery in the U.S. Army and has an MBA from the University of Arizona.

STEVE DINKIN
PRESIDENT, NATIONAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION CENTER
Steve Dinkin has been the president of the National Conflict Resolution Center since 2003. He has secured federal contracts with the U.S. departments of Homeland Security, Navy and Treasury. He has also expanded the organization’s programming outside the USA to Europe, Asia and Latin America. Before arriving at NCRC, Dinkin was Program Director at the Center for Dispute Settlement in Washington, D.C. where he designed a mediation program with the U.S. Attorney’s Office as well as mediated workplace and employment cases under contract with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Federal Reserve System.

PAUL DOWNEY
PRESIDENT AND CEO, SERVING SENIORS
Since being appointed to the top job in 1995, Paul Downey has guided Serving Seniors’ efforts to provide supportive services focused on keeping low-income seniors healthy and independent. Under his leadership, Serving Seniors has grown to serve 1.5 million nutritious congregate and home delivered meals annually. The agency owns/operates 412 units of affordable senior housing with more on the way.

SHARON CLOWARD
PRESIDENT, SAN DIEGO WORKING WATERFRONT
Sharon Cloward runs San Diego Working Waterfront, renamed in spring 2022 and formerly known as the San Diego Port Tenants Association. The group was formed in 1989 and represents major port tenants, including shipbuilders, manufacturers and hospitality businesses. Cloward, whose introduction to the waterfront was a job washing boats, has run the organization since 2004.

LISETTE ISLAS
CHIEF IMPACT OFFICER, MAAC
Lisa Islas has been executive vice president and chief impact officer at MAAC (MAAC Project) since 2014. MAAC has been providing programs and advocacy in health, education, housing and workforce development throughout the county. She was previously director of learning and programs at San Diego Grantmakers and for 14 years was vice president of civic engagement and programs at Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation. Recognized by other for her ability to build strategies and develop innovative programs, Islas works on engaging hard-to-reach populations and driving organizational change. Islas has a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Berkeley and a master’s in city planning from UCLA.
We are grateful to the many leaders in San Diego who are working to help our communities and everyone in them to reach their full potential.

- Grant Oliphant, CEO

**DARRAH DIGIORGIO JOHNSON**

CEO, PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF THE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST

Darrh Johnson has been president and CEO at Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest for nearly 17 years. Since 1963, Planned Parenthood of the Pacific Southwest has provided confidential medical services in San Diego, Riverside and Imperial counties. Johnson earlier this year was awarded “Woman of the Year” by California Sen. Toni Atkins for the 39th Senate District and later stated, “In the face of pandemic-related challenges and unrelenting political attacks, we have been able to stay true to our mission and our work to ensure that everyone has access to the care they need – no matter who they are or where they live.”

**RUDOLPH JOHNSON**

CEO, NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE ASSOCIATION

Rudolph Johnson has been president and CEO of Neighborhood House Association for nearly 17 years. NHA was established in 1914 as a settlement house assisting immigrants transitioning into San Diego. The group supports individuals and families with social services. During his tenure, Johnson has helped the $80 million agency in managing operations, programs, resources and systems, overseeing 800 employees and many outreach and services programs. Johnson was previously general manager of the San Diego Convention Center Corporation and was an assistant project director with the City of San Diego, assigned to the Convention Center.

**REGINALD JONES**

PRESIDENT & CEO, JACOBS FAMILY FOUNDATION & JACOBS CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD INNOVATION

Reginald Jones has been the president and CEO for the Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation and the Jacobs Family Foundation since 2012. Jones is responsible for overseeing policies, budget and strategic direction of philanthropic efforts in southeastern San Diego. Jones guides work that engages the community stakeholders, informs neighborhood development and addresses community quality in education, jobs and overall livability. He was previously the president and former executive director of the Steans Family Foundation and program officer for The Joyce Foundation (both in Chicago).

**LARRY KESSSLIN**

CHIEF CONNECTOR & CONFERENCE DIRECTOR, CAUSE SAN DIEGO

Larry Kesslin is an author, entrepreneur and business development expert who now directs the annual San Diego Cause Conference, which focuses on connecting area nonprofits and socially conscious projects with corporate supporters. As Chief Connector at Cause San Diego, Kesslin is focused on making San Diego a better place to live, work and play. He is also Chief Connector at SPIRE, a community of purpose-driven business leaders.

**CHERYL KILMER**

CEO, TERI, INC.

Cheryl Kilmer has been CEO of Training Education & Resource Institute (TERI) since September 1980. TERI works to improve quality of life for children, adults and seniors with autism, developmental challenges and learning disabilities through support, advocacy, dedication, innovation and resolve. Kilmer, who graduated from the University of Michigan and holds a master's degree in counseling psychology, said she established TERI to raise the quality of life and supports available to people with significant disabilities. Kilmer said that since she was 17, she has committed herself to making a positive difference in the lives of those with developmental disabilities.

**KATHRYN LEMBO**

PRESIDENT AND CEO, SBCS

During three decades at the helm of SBCS (formerly South Bay Community Services), Kathryn Lembo has transformed the agency from a tiny drop-in center for at-risk youth into one of the largest social service agencies in the county, one that serves 50,000 people annually. 2021 was a milestone year. Under Lembo’s leadership, SBCS and partner agencies served more than 3,000 unaccompanied migrant youth at the San Diego Convention Center.
Congratulations

Julie Lowen

San Diego Business Journal’s SD500
One of San Diego’s Most Influential Business Leaders
Mazel Tov to Betzy Lynch for the honor of being nominated as one of San Diego’s Most Influential Leaders!

In a challenging world, people need community.

We welcome everyone to be part of ours!

LFJCC.ORG
Father Joe’s Villages

Congratulations!
San Diego’s Top Business Leaders

Deacon Jim Vargas

“We believe in better for our neighbors who are unhoused. Through our pillars of care, we help them on their journey out of homelessness.”

Believe in better. Donate now.
We believe in helping people help themselves. Your ongoing support shows you do too. Sign up for monthly donations this holiday to fund life-changing housing, meals, and more for 450+ families every year.

Help our neighbors leave homelessness behind.

Visit neighbor.org to make your contribution.
Thank you San Diego Business Journal for this honor.
Phil, Mel, Peter and their colleagues are working to build our workforce.
We share this recognition with them.

Grant Oliphant joined the Conrad Prebys Foundation as the organization’s new leader in March. He previously was president of the prestigious Heinz Endowments family foundation in Pittsburgh for nearly a decade. In its inaugural year of grant making in 2021, the Conrad Prebys Foundation awarded more than $90 million to a variety of local organizations and Oliphant, who has assembled a top executive team in San Diego, says that he is deeply committed to community programming that delivers “real and lasting impact.”

Tad Parzen has dedicated 30 years of his career to partnerships and innovation across a broad range of public and private sectors. In 2021, he became the founding president and CEO of the Burnham Center for Community Advancement, a “think-and-do tank” founded by philanthropist Malin Burnham. An attorney, Parzen previously served with organizations including Price Philanthropies and the San Diego Unified School District.

Chéri Pierre has been CEO, organization management and sustainability consultant at Computers2Kids for more than 15 years. Computers2Kids assists qualified children and their families in obtaining computers, software, training and support. Pierre helped grow the group by 200% during the pandemic, helping provide more than 85,000 computers to kids being taught remotely. Pierre also owns Pierre and Associates, a consulting firm specializing in helping under-resourced nonprofits, small businesses and entrepreneurs find sustainable solutions. She is a LEAD San Diego Graduate and serves as board treasurer for Lamp of Learning, a charitable entity of the University Club atop Symphony Towers.

Elizabeth Schott has been CEO at Accessity for nearly nine years and was previously its executive director for five years as well as director of operations and onsite leader, operations coordinator and marketing coordinator. Accessity, formerly known as Action serving Southern California, is a group that provides access to capital up to $100,000 as well as a community of support resources to Southern California entrepreneurs. Schott has a bachelor’s in communication and Spanish from the College of Charleston, is a graduate of LEAD San Diego Influence Program. She is a board member and volunteer with Friends of Franklin Foundation, supporting STEAM learning at Franklin Elementary School.

Liz Ramirez took the lead role at the Chicano Federation of San Diego County in March of this year, she brought with her a decade of business experience in the nonprofit sector, and the life experience of growing up on both sides of the border. She is a committed advocate of serving and improving the lives of children, youth, and families in San Diego County and leading movements that support equity and justice for marginalized communities.

Manpower and the Workforce Partnership want you to have the right job, at the right time, with the right pay
If you are ready to go to work contact Manpower at manpowersandiego.com
If you need career guidance or new training (many options), contact the Workforce Partnership at workforce.org
Congratulations

ARNULFO MANRIQUEZ
President & Chief Executive Officer

LISETTE ISLAS
Executive Vice President & Chief Impact Officer

ON BEING RECOGNIZED AS PART OF SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL’S SD500.

Your leadership and commitment to the communities MAAC serves has been instrumental to ensuring individuals and families across San Diego County have the opportunity to thrive.
CHRIS SICHEL
PRESIDENT & CEO, RANCHO SANTA FE FOUNDATION

Chris Sichel has been president and CEO of the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation since 2021. For more than 37 years, the Rancho Santa Fe Foundation has been a community partner in philanthropy, offering individuals, families and organizations simple and effective ways for charitable giving. Sichel was previously president and CEO of Make-A-Wish Foundation of San Diego for 16 years. He has a bachelor’s degree in recreation administration from Cal Poly SLO and attended the Harvard Business School. He has been a committee member since 2005 with the San Diego Bowl Game Association, was president of the Rotary Club of San Diego and was a board member at the Better Business Bureau of San Diego.

BETH SIRULL
PRESIDENT & CEO, JEWISH COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF SAN DIEGO

Beth Sirull has been president and CEO of the Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego for nearly six years. The Jewish Community Foundation of San Diego works with clients to leverage philanthropy and investments to make a difference in the region. Sirull has more than doubled the assets under management at the JCF during her tenure. She previously served as president and CEO of Pacific Community Ventures, a hybrid for-profit/nonprofit organization that drives investment in underserved communities. Sirull earned a B.A in politics and women’s studies at Brandeis University and a master’s in public policy at Boston University.

SEAN SPEAR
PRESIDENT & CEO, COMMUNITY HOUSINGWORKS

Since 2020, Sean Spear has been president and CEO of Community HousingWorks, an organization that develops affordable housing communities, and provides resident services to low-income working families, seniors and those with disabilities in San Diego County and throughout California. Spear was previously assistant GM for housing development at the City of Los Angeles Housing and Community Investment Department. He has a B.S. in science, urban and regional affairs from Cornell University, with a minor in architecture with course work in urban design and quantitative methods. He earned a master’s in regional planning at Cornell.

MARK STUART
PRESIDENT & CEO, SAN DIEGO FOUNDATION

Mark Stuart has been president and CEO of San Diego Foundation since 2019. Stuart leads the group which since 1975 has partnered with donors, nonprofits and civic and community leaders, managing and investing charitable funds for individuals, business and agencies. Stuart was previously chief development and membership officer with the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance and its foundation president for 13 years. He was also associate dean, development and alumni relations for University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. Stuart has a B.A. in English and political science from Albion College and an M.S. in education administration from McDaniel College.

AKILAH TEMPLETON
PRESIDENT & CEO, VETERANS VILLAGE OF SAN DIEGO

Akilah Templeton has been president and CEO of Veterans Village of San Diego since 2020. Veterans Village in 2021 helped nearly 800 families remain housed. Veteran homelessness is down 30% in San Diego in part because of the financial assistance, rent payments, childcare payments, and supportive services provided by Veterans Village and other service providers. Templeton was previously the director of U.S.VETS Initiative in Inglewood. She was recognized by U.S. Vets as Executive Director of the Year in 2018. Templeton earned B.A. in sociology from Cal State East Bay, a Master of Public Administration from Cal State Northridge and a master’s in social work from USC.

TONY TERAVAINEN
CEO & CO-FOUNDER, SUPPORT THE ENLISTED PROJECT (STEP)

Tony Teravainen is Support the Enlisted Project’s CEO and co-founder, launching the group in 2014. STEP provides junior military and recent veteran families financial grants in times of crisis and works with those in need to help them achieve financial self-sufficiency. Teravainen was previously a lead associate with Booz Allen Hamilton for five years and was president of Restoration Supply Company for more than seven years. He has a B.S. in business management from the University of Phoenix, a master’s in executive leadership from USD and is studying for a Ph.D. in public policy at Liberty University.

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CONGRATULATIONS!
Simona Valanciute
President & CEO | San Diego Oasis

Selected as one of San Diego’s Most Influential business leaders!

San Diego Oasis is an award-winning nonprofit organization serving people 50+ throughout the San Diego region. Our mission is to promote successful aging through a three-fold approach: lifelong learning, healthy living and intergenerational community service.

Now, more than ever, it is important that we keep older adults active and healthy as they age. San Diego Oasis is strategically positioned to serve our community with opportunities that are increasingly understood as social determinants of health, critical to the wellbeing and vitality of older adults in this community.

EXPANDING TO RANCHO BERNARDO IN MAY 2023!
Our North County location in Rancho Bernardo will be an intellectual, fitness, creative, and social hub that brings each of these elements together in a beautiful, safe, and convenient location:
250-Person Lecture/Banquet Hall | Health and Wellness Center
Oasis Innovation Center | Demonstration Kitchen & Social Lounge
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Learn more on our website!
www.sandiegooasis.org

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LIFELONG LEARNING
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through volunteer opportunities

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through health promotion
MEGAN THOMAS
PRESIDENT & CEO, CATALYST OF SAN DIEGO & IMPERIAL COUNTIES

Meghan Thomas has been with Catalyst of San Diego and Imperial Counties for seven years, the last 1½ years as president and CEO. Thomas is charged with guiding Catalyst toward a vision of a social change ecosystem that improves the lives of all San Diego and Imperial county residents. She guides the $7 million organization that once was known as San Diego Grantmakers. The group works to increase equity-driven, impactful solutions to regional issues. Thomas was previously with San Diego Coastkeeper for nearly seven years, the last 3½ as its executive director. Thomas earned bachelor’s degrees in international business and Spanish at Georgetown University and has an MBA in nonprofit management from the Yale School of Management.

CHRIS THORNE
CHAPTER PRESIDENT, GARY SINESE FOUNDATION SAN DIEGO

Chris Thorne has been president of the local chapter of the Gary Sines Foundation for nearly two years. The Gary Sines Foundation helps amplify the actor’s mission of helping military veterans and their families. Thorne is also owner and president at Chris Thorne Consulting, which provides human resources solutions to industry helping businesses maximize veteran and military family engagement and retention processes and other needs. He is a member of the board of directors for SDMAC Foundation, a nonprofit that supports and empowers San Diego military and veteran communities.

TONYA TOROSIAN
CEO, PROMISES2KIDS

Tonya Torosian has been CEO at Promises2Kids for 11 years. She was previously executive director of the Commission on Children, Youth and Families. Promises2Kids was founded more than 40 years ago as the Child Abuse Prevention Foundation of San Diego County. Since 1981, it has responded to the needs of foster children and provides support to children removed from their homes. She has been a board member with LEAD San Diego for nearly three years and is on the board of directors for The San Diego Women’s Foundation. Torosian earned a B.A. in social welfare from the University of Arizona and a master’s in social work from the University of Arizona. She currently holds a certificate in nonprofit administration from Arizona State University.

SIMONA VALANCUICTE
PRESIDENT AND CEO, SAN DIEGO OASIS

Simona Valanciute has led San Diego Oasis since 2012. San Diego Oasis is a nonprofit organization focusing on lifelong learning, healthy living and volunteer community service. It enriches the lives of older adults by keeping them active and engaged to prevent social isolation and sedentary behavior. Offering classes in La Mesa and Escondido, the organization plans to expand into Rancho Bernardo in 2023.

DEACON JIM VARGAS
PRESIDENT & CEO, FATHER JOE'S VILLAGES

Deacon Jim Vargas has been president and CEO of Father Joe’s Villages since 2015. Founded in 1950, the agency is considered the largest homeless services provider in Southern California. He previously oversaw human resource operations for 5,000 employees across a chain of newspapers across the U.S. and into Mexico. Vargas also previously worked for Citicorp/Citibank in various director and vice president positions of human resources within its bank card, private bank, real estate information systems and investment systems. He is also past board chairman of the Red’s Children’s Hospital of San Diego Foundation. He serves as a deacon at Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic church in La Jolla.

SIDD VIVEK
PRESIDENT & CEO, JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

Sidd Vivek has been president and CEO of Junior Achievement of San Diego County since January 2019. Established in 1950 in San Diego, Junior Achievement seeks to empower youths to achieve future economic success. Vivek was named the San Diego Business Journal CEO of the Year in 2022. He is a member of the board of directors for the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation and The Public Good Projects. Vivek was formerly with the YMCA of San Diego County for 11 years. Vivek earned a bachelor’s in political science from George Washington University and this past July finished executive education, strategic perspectives in nonprofit management from Harvard Business School.

GREGG WARD
FOUNDER & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE CENTER FOR RESPECTFUL LEADERSHIP

Award-winning author, speaker and executive coach Gregg Ward founded The Center For Respectful Leadership in 2019 with a vision of building a better workplace through the development of respectful organizational cultures. The Center for Respectful Leadership is an educational organization committed to supporting leadership and organizational transformation through active research, public dialogues, development programs and executive coaching. Ward is also CEO of the Gregg Ward Group which specializes in using live, experiential learning as training and development tools.

BETZY WEINBLATT-LYNNCH
CEO, Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center

Betz Weinblatt-Lynch has been CEO at the Lawrence Family JCC (Jacobs Family Campus) and the San Diego Center for Jewish Culture for five years. The mission of the center is to connect the community to Jewish heritage, identity, experiences and values to ensure the continuity and vibrancy of the Jewish community. She was previously executive director of the Levite Jewish Community Center in Birmingham, Alabama. Weinblatt-Lynch was the San Diego Business Journal Businesswoman of the Year in 2019. She studied exercise science at Indiana State University and earned a bachelor’s of business administration from Goucher College.
As San Diego's population of older adults grows, St. Paul’s Senior Services is creating new and innovative ways to enrich the lives of seniors through transformative services, community collaborations and strong employee engagement. That is our commitment to you - our city, our employees, and the seniors we serve.

- Michael McHale
Ashanti Hands has been president at San Diego Mesa College since June 2002 and was previously vice president of student services. Hands was also dean of student affairs at UC San Diego for nearly nine years. She is a member of the Association of California Community College Administrators and has served as a faculty member on several institutes within the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators. She received her Ph.D. in educational leadership and administration at San Diego State University.
Sharp HealthCare is building the next generation of health care.

Our comprehensive ENVISION campaign is bringing new technology, innovation, facilities, and more of the best and brightest clinicians to San Diego.

Opening in 2024, the Sharp Grossmont Hospital Neurosciences Center will be a first-of-its-kind in San Diego County for patients needing advanced neurosurgical, neurological and comprehensive spine care — featuring progressive care and rehabilitation units, a 16-bed neuro-intensive care unit, and physical and occupational therapy gymsnasiums.

Learn more at sharp.com/envision.
CONGRATULATIONS
DR. ELLEN NEUFELDT

Congratulations to Dr. Ellen Neufeldt, president of California State University San Marcos, on being named one of the most influential leaders in the San Diego region!

A visionary leader, each day Dr. Neufeldt works toward making CSUSM a national model for student success while also meeting the diverse workforce needs of the San Diego region.

Under Dr. Neufeldt’s leadership, CSUSM recently launched a new strategic plan – The Power of CSUSM – and emerged as a national leader of student success and social mobility. CSUSM recently ranked No. 1 in the nation on the 2022 Social Mobility Index by the online publication CollegeNET.
Congratulations!

At the University of San Diego’s Knauss School of Business, we’re empowering students to reinvent the future of business – a future where business is a force for good. Thank you to President James T. Harris, Dean Tim Keane, Associate Dean Rangapriya (Priya) Kannan and BMC Executive Director Stath Karras for leading the way, and congratulations on being named among San Diego’s SD500 Leaders.
Cal State San Marcos congratulates Dr. Bennett Cherry, professor of management and entrepreneurship, on being named one of the most influential leaders in the San Diego region!

Dr. Cherry brings an unwavering commitment to our students’ success in and out of the classroom, and across our region in partnership with our business community.

CONGRATULATIONS
Cal State San Marcos congratulates President Emerita Karen S. Haynes on being recognized as one of the most influential leaders in the San Diego region!

Dr. Haynes boldly led CSUSM for over 15 years (2004-19), overseeing tremendous growth of the physical campus, its programs and student enrollment. Her legacy lives on.

CONGRATULATIONS
Cal State San Marcos congratulates Dr. Ricky Shabazz, president of San Diego City College, on his continued leadership and dedication to the region.

As San Diego City College’s president and CEO, Shabazz provides executive leadership at one of the most innovative and socially active community colleges in the nation. He is active on numerous boards in the community. Shabazz earned an Ed.D. in educational leadership and a master’s degree in educational administration from CSU San Bernardino, and a bachelor’s degree from UCD.

CONGRATULATIONS
Mark Sanchez, superintendent and president at Southwestern College since 2020, has more than 20 years of experience in community college leadership, teaching and instruction, and workforce development. Sanchez has a passion for social justice and has been successful in the development and implementation of comprehensive race-conscious, equity-focused instruction, student services and online programs designed to increase student access and success, student outreach and student personal development. He has a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Fresno State.

SEAN M. SCOTT
DEAN AND PRESIDENT, CALIFORNIA WESTERN SCHOOL OF LAW

Sean M. Scott joined California Western School of Law as dean and president in 2020 following a long tenure at Loyola Law School. She has charted a new strategic vision in collaboration with various stakeholders, resulting in a modernized institution with a deep commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. In June 2022, Dean Scott stewarded the largest gift in California Western history, of $3 million.

DENISE WHISENHUNT
PRESIDENT, GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Denise Whisenhunt, J.D., was named Grossmont College’s president in 2021. Whisenhunt, an innovative leader with nearly 20 years of administrative and leadership experience in the community college system, was previously vice president of student services at San Diego City College. She began working for City College in 2001. She was also interim president of San Diego City College for 14 months. She started her career in higher education in 1991, serving for almost three years as an Outreach Officer at UCSD. Whisenhunt earned her juris doctorate degree at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

NANCY ROHLAND-HEINRICH
VICE CHANCELLOR, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Nancy Rohland-Heinrich, Ed.D., has been an administrator in the National University System since 1979. She has dedicated her professional career to encouraging educational opportunities for diverse populations of students with a focus on increasing access and services to all learners. She is involved in the local education community, civic activities, schools and charitable organizations.

MARK SANCHEZ
SUPERINTENDENT & PRESIDENT, SOUTHWESTERN COLLEGE

Mark Sanchez has been the superintendent and president at Southwestern College since 2020. With more than 20 years of experience in community college leadership, teaching and instruction, and workforce development, Sanchez has a passion for social justice and has been successful in the development and implementation of comprehensive race-conscious, equity-focused instruction, student services and online programs designed to increase student access and success, student outreach and student personal development. He has a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership from Fresno State.

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ESHEL BAR-ADON
EXECUTIVE VP, AXOS FINANCIAL INC. AND AXOS BANK

Eshel Bar-Adon has been executive vice president and chief legal officer at Axos Bank and Axos Financial Inc. for nearly 12 years. Bar-Adon was named to the SD 500 Most Influential People in San Diego by the San Diego Business Journal in 2003 and 2004. He received a “ Damien of Attorneys” award from The Daily Transcript in 2014. In 2021 he became a member of the Board of Advisors at Design Thinking at UC Riverside Extension Professional Studies.

PAUL BARBER
CHAIRMAN, JMI EQUITY

Paul Barber is Chairman of JMI Equity, a private equity firm managing $7 billion investing in growth software businesses. He has been with the company since 1998. He has served on more than two dozen private, public and nonprofit boards. He has been a board member at Applied Systems for nearly 10 years and a board member of Ultimate Kronos Group for nearly 16 years. A graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Business School, he served on the Stanford Board of Trustees from 2000 to 2005.

RICK BENITO
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, NATIONAL SBA LENDING, BANK OF AMERICA

Rick Benito is a senior vice president and business banking market executive and leads the West Region Small Business Administration real estate sales team for Bank of America. Benito joined Bank of America in 1995 serving in a variety of assignments. Before joining Bank of America, he spent six years at Wells Fargo as a vice president and manager in the mortgage loan center and as a consumer branch manager. He was previously sales and operations for Xerox Corporation and served in the U.S. Navy.

BILL BIRNIE
PRESIDENT/CEO, FRONTWAVE CREDIT UNION

Bill Birnie has more than 30 years of work for credit unions, starting as a volunteer on the Supervisory Committee at Pacific Marine Credit Union in 1988. Birnie has logged decades of service to local and military communities through the Defense Credit Union Council, Armed Forces Financial Network, Oceanside Chamber of Commerce, Camp Pendleton Historical Society and Moonlight Cultural Foundation. He holds an MBA with an emphasis in International Business from National University. Birnie retired from the U.S. Marine Corps as a sergeant major in 1997.

GORDON BOERNER
SVP AND WESTERN REGIONAL PRIVATE BANKING MANAGER, U.S. BANK

Gordon Boerner, a USD High School and SDSU alum, has been Western U.S. Private Wealth Banking Manager at U.S. Bank since 2015 and Private Wealth Regional Banking Manager Western U.S. Region for U.S. Bank for nearly 13 years. He has a 30-year local banking career at First Interstate and San Diego National Bank. Boerner is chairman of the board at ACCESSITY and at the San Diego Kiwanis Club Foundation and is on the board of Just in Time for Foster Youth and SD Local Initiatives Support Corporation.

RICK BREGMAN
MARKET PRESIDENT, SAN DIEGO, BANK OF AMERICA

Rick Bregman has served as Bank of America Market President in San Diego since 2008. Bregman coordinates the efforts of executives running businesses to maximize business, civic and philanthropic impact. Past chairman of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and currently on the boards of BIOCOM and the National Conflict Resolution Center, he was a member of the San Diego Chairman’s Competitiveness Council and served on the boards of CONNECT, the Zoological Society of San Diego, the YMCA of San Diego and the United Way.

KELLY BURGER
WEALTH MANAGEMENT ADVISOR, PARNTER, WEATHERLEY ASSET MANAGEMENT

Kelly Burger has been a Wealth Management Advisor and Partner at Weatherley Asset Management for nearly 12 years, joining the Weatherley Asset Management team in 2011; the partnership in 2018. Burger works primarily with high-net-worth families on planning initiatives and with a team to build custom portfolios tailored to individual needs and goals. Her expertise is in complex estate and tax planning. She also oversees the firm’s marketing initiatives, is a member of the Investment Committee and provides education and mentorship to the company’s team and clients.

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DAVID DIAMOND
MANAGING DIRECTOR, CBIZ

David Diamond has been the national life sciences and technology practice leader for Mayer Hoffman McCann P.C. as well as managing director for CBIZ for nearly 18 years. Diamond has more than 40 years of experience in public accounting and industry, with an expertise in wealth management assisting in financing, strategic business planning and implementation. He is a CPA certified in California, Connecticut and Israel, as well as a chartered accountant in South Africa. Diamond was one of the founders of the UCSD Connect Technology Financial Forum.

ERIC ELLINGSEN
PRESIDENT & COO, CALIFORNIA BANK & TRUST

Eric Ellingsen has been CEO at California Bank & Trust for nearly 11 years, overseeing the growth of the firm across the state, including direct oversight of its commercial banking division. Ellingsen holds a seat on the Zions Bancorp executive committee. He was previously president and COO for five years and before that CFO for four years at California Bank & Trust. He has served on the board of directors for the Western Bankers Association. Ellingsen earned an MBA in general finance from the UCLA Anderson School of Management.

DEBBIE ESCOBEDO
PRESIDENT & CEO, BALBOA THRIFT & LOAN

Debbie Escobedo has been Balboa Thrift and Loan president and CEO for 32 years. She was the first female Latina named as president and CEO since the company was founded in 1981. Escobedo was one of 11 employees who joined Balboa Thrift and Loan in 1990. Under her leadership, the company has grown to about 120 employees across four locations in California – its headquarters in Chula Vista and branches in Claremont, La Quinta and Fresno.

STEVE ESPINO
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, DIVISION MANAGER, BANNER BANK

Steve Espino has been senior VP and division manager for Banner Bank in greater San Diego for nearly seven years. Espino was previously senior VP, commercial market manager at AmericanWest Bank for 10 years and was executive VP and senior lending officer at Security Business Bank for 10 years. In 2002, Espino and other veteran bankers formed a community bank that eventually merged into Banner. Espino, who organized his first band when he was 13, has been playing the guitar for more than 50 years.

KIM FOLSOM
CEO, FOUNDERS FIRST CAPITAL PARTNERS

Kim Folsom is founder of Founders First Community Development Corporation and founder and CEO of Founders First Capital Partners, the largest minority- and women-owned direct investor of revenue-based funding and advisory support. Folsom also founded FUUSE.CMNTY.com, the first online community for fueling underserved small business expansion. She has raised more than $30 million in institutional venture financing. She was an adjunct professor at National University for six years, teaching graduate MBA level courses in strategic business management, global marketing strategy, operational management and financial management.

STEPHEN FRIEDMAN
REGIONAL PRESIDENT, PACIFIC PREMIER BANK

Stephen Friedman has been regional president for Pacific Premier Bank for four years. He was previously regional president and executive vice president at Regents Bank as well as senior VP at both CommerceWest Bank and Discovery Bank. He was also president and owner for five years of Joey’s Baking Company, a wholesale bakery providing baked goods across San Diego County. He is on the board of directors at the nonprofit ACCESSIBILITY. Friedman earned an MBA in finance from Boston College Carroll School of Management.

JUSTIN FRAME
MARKET DIRECTOR, MARKET HEAD, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, UBS FINANCIAL SERVICES

Justin Frame has been managing director, market head in Southern California for UBS since June 2020. He was previously a financial advisor for 14 years and focuses in management advisory practice management, advisor productivity, change management and social media marketing. Frame was senior VP and branch manager at Morgan Stanley in Orange County and was with Morgan Stanley in West Los Angeles as complex manager; and was in the Mountain States Region as regional COO and branch manager at the downtown Denver site.

STEPHEN GAMP
DIRECTOR, BANC OF CALIFORNIA

Stephen Gamp has been with Banc of California for nearly five years, the last year-plus as the director. He was previously a VP and branch manager. Gamp has also worked for Citibank, as VP/branch manager for nearly eight years and was an innovation catalyst with Citi Ventures during his time at CitiBank. A Store Manager II with Wells Fargo Financial for eight years, he also is a board member with the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and is treasurer of the board of directors for the La Jolla Music Society.

DELANEY GALLAGHER
MANAGING DIRECTOR, NORTHWESTERN MUTUAL

Delaney Gallagher has been managing director at Northwestern Mutual for three years and a financial advisor at the firm for nearly six years. Gallagher oversees the recruiting, training and development of financial representatives and creates systems to enhance, track and measure results of recruiting and developing financial representatives on running a personal practice. He was previously director of corporate relations for FOX Sports in L.A. and was director of football operations at UC Berkeley. He was also project manager for nearly six years at Berkeley Cement, Inc.

GREGORY GARRABRANTS
PRESIDENT & CEO, AXOS FINANCIAL

Greg Garrabrants has been CEO at Axos Bank for 15 years. Before joining Axos in 2007, Garrabrants was a senior vice president and the head of corporate business development at the nation’s seventh largest thrift, focusing on entry into new business segments, mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and strategic alliances. He was also an investment banker at Goldman Sachs, specializing in advising management and directors on strategic planning, capital and liquidity management, balance sheet management, asset and liability management and enhancement of shareholder value.

ERIC GASSER
FOUNDBER PARTNER, SEED SAN DIEGO

Eric Gasser in 2015 was a founding partner in SEED San Diego, which invests in early-stage companies with disruptive technology that need capital and additional business insight. He is currently a private investor who works with portfolio companies, looking for new opportunities to help in early-stage businesses. He also assisted in forming Ad Astra Ventures, supporting female founders. He was previously director of sales for Tarasida Hotels in Los Angeles and San Mateo for nearly eight years and was a national account executive for GRN Networks.

SALLIE GIBLIN
PRESIDENT, LOCKTON SAN DIEGO AND IRVINE

Sallie Giblin has been with Lockton Companies for 16 years and has been president for more than four years. She also served nearly 12 years as executive VP. Giblin was previously director of membership development at the San Diego HR Forum and also held positions at USI and Barney & Barney. Giblin was named in Business Insurance’s “Women to Watch” in 2011. She also was recognized by Employee Benefit Advisor among the Most Influential Women in Benefit Advising and Risk & Insurance named her an Employee Benefits Power Broker.
Congratulations to Frontwave President/CEO Bill Birnie for being named one of San Diego’s most influential business leaders!
Congratulations, President & CEO Greg Gargarabants and EVP, Strategic Partnerships & Chief Legal Officer Eshel Bar-Adon
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Congratulations to Cal Coast Credit Union’s President & CEO Todd Lane, recognized as one of San Diego’s most influential and impactful leaders!
Congratulations
Steve O’Connell

For Being Recognized as
One of San Diego’s
500 Most Influential Executives
Congratulations to Ashish Masih, President and CEO of Encore Capital Group, on being recognized among the San Diego Business Journal’s SD500

With more than 6,600 Values-driven colleagues around the world, we help make credit accessible by partnering with consumers to restore their financial health.
From your Mission Fed Family

Congrats to you, Debra!
We're inspired by you every day. Thank you for your leadership and generosity in giving to the community.
From your Mission Fed Family
NATHAN ROGGE
PRESIDENT & CEO, FRIENDLY HILLS BANK

Nathan Rogge has been president and CEO at Friendly Hills Bank for nearly a year. Friendly Hills Bank is a community bank focused on serving businesses in southern California. He was previously president of the Bank of Southern California for 13 years. He was also EVP and COO at First Business Bank and senior VP, business banking at First Republic Bank, Senior VP, business banking at First National Bank of San Diego, and VP at Wells Fargo Bank.

AARON RYAN
REGION MANAGER, COMMERCIAL BANKING, JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

Aaron Ryan, a graduate of Vistsa High, has been managing director/region head/San Diego Middle Market Banking at JPMorgan Chase for three years. Ryan previously worked as SVP/relationship manager for six years in Irvine at Wells Fargo, the company where he was employed for nearly 20 years. Ryan was also VP Area Manager in Orange County and VP Senior Relationship Manager in Long Beach for Wells Fargo.

DANIEL SCHROEDER
MANAGING DIRECTOR, FIRST REPUBLIC BANK

Daniel Schroeder has been managing director at First Republic Bank for a decade. He is on the board of advisors for Life Science Cares San Diego, hosts a BioTech and Breweries podcast and is a former member of Girls Inc. of San Diego County. Schroeder was vice president at VA Compass in La Jolla, worked for Bank of America for nearly three years and at Wells Fargo for nearly seven years. He has worked in the banking industry since 2002.

DEBRA SCHWARTZ
CEO, MISSION FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Debra Schwartz has been CEO of Mission Federal Credit Union for over 15 years. Schwartz has been a board member of NAFCU for nearly 11 years and is a board member on the executive committee at Junior Achievement of San Diego County. She was previously CFO at First Future Credit Union and EVP at San Diego County Credit Union. She is a graduate of State University of New York at Buffalo and earned an MBA in finance from USC Marshall School of Business.

STEVEN SEFTON
PRESIDENT, ENDEAVOR BANK

Steven D. Sefton has been president of Endeavor Bank for more than five years and was previously president and CEO of Regents Bank and SVP/manager of the Inland Empire Commercial Banking Group. He serves as regional VP of Metro First Business Bank in the Inland Empire for nearly 15 years. Sefton is on the advisory board and finance committee for The Salvation Army and is a former board member of California Bankers Association and San Diego Foundation. He was a founding member of Inland Empire’s City of Hope.

JASON SHIDLER
DEPUTY REGIONAL MANAGING DIRECTOR, FIRST REPUBLIC BANK

Jason Shidler has been senior managing director at First Republic for nearly two decades and also has been deputy regional banking managing director at First Republic for the past four years. He was previously VP Senior Commercial Lender at First National Bank of San Diego and was VP Senior Commercial Lender at Wells Fargo for eight years. He was also a trustee at the San Diego Natural History Museum and at Second Chance.

ADAM STETTNER
FOUNDER AND CEO, FUNDCANN

Adam Stettner is CEO and founder of FundCanna, which since September 2021 has provided flexible capital solutions for the cannabis industry. Stettner and his team bring more than 20 years and $20 billion in funding experience. He previously was CEO and founder in 2008 of Reliant Funding, was president/CMO of co-founder of National Lending Associates and was senior VP for CIT Group/Student Loan Xpress. He is an advisor at Dingman Center for Entrepreneurship and was a volunteer with the San Diego Food Bank.

PAUL THIEL
REGION PRESIDENT, NORTHERN TRUST WEALTH MANAGEMENT

Paul Thiel has been president of Northern Trust Wealth Management in the San Diego Region for nearly five years. Thiel also works part time as an angel investor for NuFund Venture Group, is on the board of directors and chairman of finance for the La Jolla Institute for Immunology and an advisory board member for Second Chance Beer Co. He is a member of the board of directors for the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation and is major and planned gifts chair with the Challenged Athletes Foundation.

AARON RYAN
REGION MANAGER, COMMERCIAL BANKING, JPMORGAN CHASE & CO.

Aaron Ryan, a graduate of Vista High, has been managing director/region head/San Diego Middle Market Banking at JPMorgan Chase for three years. Ryan previously worked as SVP/relationship manager for six years in Irvine at Wells Fargo, the company where he was employed for nearly 20 years. Ryan was also VP Area Manager in Orange County and VP Senior Relationship Manager in Long Beach for Wells Fargo.

CAITLIN WEGE
PRESIDENT, NUFRUND VENTURE GROUP

Caitlin Wege is managing partner at MooDoos Investments, a family owned investment that invests in early-stage companies throughout the U.S. and Canada. Wege also is the first president at NuFund Venture Group (formerly Tech Coast Angels San Diego chapter). She is also chair of the Wege Foundation, an environmentally focused family foundation based in Grand Rapids, Michigan; vice chair of Startup San Diego; and a board member of The Zahn Innovation Center at SDSU.

MARK WERNIG
LEAD ADVISOR, PRINCIPAL, DOWLING & YAHNKE WEALTH ADVISORS

Mark Wernig has been with Dowling & Yahnke Wealth Advisors for nearly eight years. He has been co-CEO since March 2022 and was previously principal, lead advisor and associate advisor at the firm. Wernig was a surface warfare officer with the U.S. Navy for 11 years and is currently a U.S. Navy reservist. He is an ambassador on the workforce development advisory group CFPBoard and a board member of the San Diego Military Advisory Council, Cancer for College and Armed Services YMCA Camp Pendleton.

VANESSA WIELICZKO
CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER & PARTNER, HOYLECOHEN, LLC

Vanessa Wieliczko has been with HoyleCohen, LLC for 14 years and has been Chief Investment Officer (partner) for nearly two years. She oversees $2.74 billion in assets under management and more than 50 employees. She was previously the company’s director of investments, investment analyst and client relationship manager. Wieliczko is director and past president (sponsorship) of San Diego Society of Security Analysts and also a mentor with the group. She is a society leader representative with Collaborative WIM Initiative, a global alliance furthering inclusion and diversity.

DALE YAHNKE
CEO, DOWLING & YAHNKE LLC

Dale Yahnke is CEO and founding principal at Dowling & Yahnke, LLC. The company started in 1991 and is an independent, fee-only registered investment advisor that manages nearly $4 billion for more than 1,000 clients, primarily individuals, families and nonprofit organizations, providing customized solutions in investment management, retirement planning and charitable giving. Yahnke, who started his career as a financial analyst with Shearson Lehman Brothers in 1986, holds the Chartered Financial Analyst, Certified Financial Planner designations. Yahnke earned an MBA in finance from SDSU.

PETER N. TOWNSHEND
MANAGING PARTNER, TOWNSHEND VENTURE ADVISORS LLP

Peter N. Townshend has been managing partner at Townshend Venture Advisors, LLP for nearly six years. Townshend is CFO of Shop My Porch and managing partner at Ambix Venture Capital, which invests in medical device and other types of life science startups. He is a board member of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation and Family Proud Inc. He earned an MBA from Berkeley’s Haas School of Business and a JD from Berkeley School of Law.

DAN YATES
CO-FOUNDER & CEO, ENDEAVOR BANK

Dan Yates co-founded and has been CEO of Endeavor Bank since 2017. Yates helped start Endeavor Bank, a publicly traded, community-focused business bank, to serve needs of privately held businesses and the personal banking needs for executives with those companies. Yates was previously president and CEO of Neighborhood Bancorp, was a member of the board of directors of National Technical Systems, was president of Townshend Bank, and was president/CEO and founder of Regents Bank (2001). Yates is president and a board member with The Conrad Prebys Foundation.
CONGRATULATIONS JENNIFER BARNES!

FOR BEING NAMED ONE OF SAN DIEGO’s 500 MOST INFLUENTIAL BUSINESS LEADERS!

JENNIFER BARNES
FOUNDER & CEO
OPTIMA OFFICE

We believe that behind every successful business is an “Optimal” Accounting, HR, and Operations team.
Congratulations to Francis deSouza, CEO, for winning Top 500 Most Influential Executives in San Diego award. You lead by example with every act, and everyone at Illumina is so happy to see you recognized.
Sarah Vidal, Sr. Director, Head of Corporate Responsibility, has been honored with this award. Your teammates at Illumina could not be more proud of you.
DAWN BARRY  
**PRESIDENT & CO-FOUNDER, LUNADNA**

Dawn Berry is a longtime leader in genomics. Before co-founding LunaDNA, Berry was the vice president of Applied Genomics at Illumina building pioneering teams from health screening to nutritional security. LunaDNA is a Public Benefit Corporation that connects individuals and communities of people with shared conditions with researchers to better understand health and drive new breakthroughs together.

**CHRIS BARRY**  
**CEO, NUVASIVE**

Chris Barry has extensive experience leading healthcare and medical device companies. Before taking the leadership role at NuVasive, he served as senior vice president and president of surgical innovations at Medtronic and was president of Advanced Surgical Technologies at Covidien before it was acquired by Medtronic. He has led NuVasive to over $1 billion in revenue, operations in 50 countries and over 3,000 employees.

**LUKE BERGMAN**  
**DIRECTOR, SAN DIEGO COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Luke Bergman has almost two decades of experience in public health, much of it leading or working in departments in some of the nation’s largest metro areas. As director of the county’s Behavioral Health Services, Bergman is in charge of nine county-operated programs, over 300 contracts, and 800 individual fee-for-service providers serving around 111,000 residents with mental health or substance abuse disorders.

**KIM BLICKENSTAFF**  
**EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, TANDEM DIABETES CARE INC.**

Kim Blickenstaff has been a leader of Tandem Diabetes Care in one form or another since 2003, first serving as president and CEO until 2019, then as executive chair until 2020 before transitioning to his current role. Before leading Tandem, he led Biosite Inc. as CEO and held leadership positions at Medivation, Inc., which was acquired by Pfizer, and Deaccon, Inc.

**KATE BRODERICK**  
**SENIOR VP, TRI-LINK BIOTECHNOLOGIES**

Kate Broderick has extensive experience leading multidisciplinary groups from discovery and R&D to engineering and clinical teams. She has expertise in gene delivery, medical devices, gene therapies for the treatment of various infectious diseases, immuno-oncology and vaccine development. Before joining Tri-Link, she led R&D at Invivo Pharmaceuticals. She was a post-doctoral research scholar at UC San Diego and holds a Ph.D. from the University of Glasgow.

**JOE BURNETT**  
**PRESIDENT & CEO, CLEARPOINT NEURO, INC.**

Joe Burnett has extensive experience leading therapy-enabling platform companies. Before taking the helm at ClearPointNeuro in 2017, he held leadership roles at Philips and prior to that at Volcano before that company was acquired by Philips. Under Burnett’s leadership, ClearPoint successfully rebranded from MRI Interventions, Inc. to better represent the company’s latest direction into delivery of biologics, gene and stem cell therapies to the brain.

**DAVID BRENNER, M.D.**  
**PRESIDENT & CEO, SANFORD BURNHAM PREBYS**

David Brenner, M.D. has a long history of leading, founding and collaborating top research institutes in San Diego. This year, Brenner stepped into a new role in the San Diego research ecosystem as president and CEO of Sanford Burnham Prebys. Prior to taking the helm at SBP, he served as vice chairman for Health Services at UC San Diego for the last 15 years, guiding nearly $2 billion in expansions.

**DOUGLAS BRYANT**  
**CEO, QUIDEL CORPORATION**

Douglas Bryant leads Quidel Corporation, a leading diagnostic healthcare provider headquartered in San Diego with commercial and manufacturing operations around the world. For the last few years under Bryant’s leadership, Quidel has been a leading provider of at-home COVID-19 test kits. Before taking the leadership role at Quidel in 2009, Bryant held leadership roles at Luminex Corporation and Abbott.

**AARON BYZAK**  
**CHEF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER, TRI-CITY MEDICAL CENTER**

Aaron Byzak leads marketing, communications, government affairs and community engagement at Tri-City Medical Center. In 2022, Byzak secured approval for the Tri-City Psychiatric Health Facility project and served as chair of the San Diego North Economic Development Council. He was recognized as Outstanding Social Responsibility Executive of the Year by the SDBJ and his team earned 23 Finest Awards from the Healthcare Communicators of Southern California. He is a graduate of UC Irvine’s Paul Merage School of Business.

**JAMES CALLAGHAN, JR.**  
**PRESIDENT & CEO, MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS**

James Callaghan, Jr. leads Mental Health Systems, a company which employs 950 people throughout California with annual revenue of $130 million that provides behavioral health, substance abuse, criminal justice, housing and veteran services. Callaghan is an expert in multiple industries including social services, technology, real estate acquisitions and lease negotiations. He has 10 years of nonprofit governance experience, over 20 years of development and entitlement experience, and 20 years of construction experience.

**CARIN CANALE-THEAKSTON**  
**FOUNDER & CEO, EVOKE CANALE**

As leader of Evoke Canale (previously Canale Communications), Canale Canale-Theakston works closely with client teams, having provided senior level strategy to more than 500 life science companies of all shapes and sizes ranging from pre-series A financing to billion-dollar public companies such as Amgen and Johnson & Johnson. Throughout her career, she advised a diverse range of firms in biotechnology, biopharmaceuticals, medical devices, diagnostics, research and providers of enabling technologies.

**DEVON CAYER**  
**CO-FOUNDER & CEO, 1859, INC.**

Devon Cayer co-founded 1859, Inc. in 2018 to build a platform that will lower cost and reduce time for researchers in drug discovery. Before leading 1859, Cayer co-founded MYI Diagnostics and Discovery in 2015. He was a principal investigator at Singular Genomics, a senior scientist at Omnimice and a scientist at The Scripps Research Institute working with Weian Zhao of UC Irvine to develop novel microfluidic detection technologies – the basis for 1859, Inc.’s platform.
On your nomination as one of San Diego’s SD500 Leaders.

SD500 Leaders are the most influential business leaders shaping a better tomorrow for San Diego. Through your fearless leadership and generosity, Rady Children’s drives discoveries that benefit children’s lives every single day. Our recent U.S. News and World Report rankings reflect your commitment to this excellence. Because of your support and dedication, Rady Children’s is considered among the nation’s best children’s hospitals. On behalf of our entire Rady Children’s family, congratulations on this well-deserved honor.
Lou Cooperhouse, a leading global authority in food business innovation and technology commercialization, leads BlueNalu in its mission to be a global leader in cell-cultured seafood. This year, BlueNalu secured partnerships with global food companies and expanded into a 40,000-square-foot innovation center. During his more than three-decade long career in the food industry, Cooperhouse has led cross-functional teams at multinational corporations, foodservice and retail operations, new business startups and university entrepreneurship and innovation centers.

Stephen Davis has extensive experience leading life science companies, going all the way back to 1994 when he was president and CEO of Neuronet Corporation. Today he leads ACADIA, a pharma company that has developed and commercialized the first and only approved therapy for hallucinations and delusions associated with Parkinson’s disease. Previously, Davis served as executive vice president and chief operating officer at Heron Therapeutics, Inc., where he still serves as a board member today.

Francis deSouza leads Illumina, Inc. — the leading provider of genomic sequencing services worldwide. DeSouza shepherded the company during the COVID-19 pandemic as the need for genomic testing and surveying grew across the globe. Under his leadership, Illumina has developed new technologies that have lowered cost sequencing while also increasing the company’s revenue, which reached over $4.5 billion in 2021. In addition to leading Illumina, deSouza is also an Audit Committee member for the Walt Disney Company.

Steve Dietlin has helmed Tri-City Healthcare District since 2016 after joining the organization three years earlier as CFO. With over three decades of experience, Dietlin leads one of the area’s largest healthcare organizations, which is consistently recognized for clinical excellence and positive community impact. In 2021, Dietlin received CEO of the Year honors from the SDBJ and proudly serves on a number of influential nonprofit boards including the California Hospital Association, The Hospital Association of San Diego & Imperial Counties – Immediate Past Chair, The District Hospital Leadership Forum - Board Executive Committee and the Boys and Girls Club of Oceanside.

George DeVries co-founded American Specialty Health (ASH) in 1987 and guided the company’s growth as it became one of the nation’s largest health services organizations. DedVries led ASH to develop its own national provider group supported by other ASH subsidiaries including a national insurance carrier, a specialty health plan in California, an IPA in New York and other organizations currently covering 33.6 million Americans.

Rob Douglas began working at ResMed in 2001 as vice president of corporate marketing and has since served in roles of increasing responsibility for the company. In addition to his role at ResMed, Douglas also serves as co-vice chairman on the Board of Directors of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, as well as vice chairman on the Board of Directors of EvoNexus, a nonprofit technology incubator.

Eric Dube leads Travere Therapeutics – a company focused on rare disease – with a passion born of his own experience battling two diagnoses of two rare cancers. Prior to joining Travere, Dube was head of ViiV North America and also held various leadership roles at GlaxoSmithKline. In addition to leading Travere, Dube is also an independent director at ReNew Pharmaceuticals and is a recognized leader in the LGBTQ+ community.

Mick Farrell is chief executive of ResMed – the global leader in the development, manufacturing and marketing of medical diagnostic and therapeutic products and digital health solutions for the treatment and management of respiratory disorders. Prior to taking the chief executive job in 2013, Farrell was president of ResMed Americas, where he ran ResMed’s commercial operations for the U.S., Canada and Latin America. He also was previously senior vice president of the global sleep apnea business for ResMed, including diagnostic and therapeutic products and solutions.

Jane Finley is senior vice president and area manager for all the Kaiser Permanente facilities in San Diego, including its hospitals and 24 medical offices and its more than 7,700 employees and 1,100 physicians who care for nearly 600,000 patients throughout the county. Finley’s responsibilities include oversight of all health care delivery, financial operations, business strategy, health plan and hospital support. She previously served as chair of the Hospital Association of San Diego and Imperial Counties.

Patricio Frias is president and CEO of Rady Children’s Hospital and Health Center - a 651-bed pediatric care facility providing medical services in San Diego, Riverside and Imperial counties. Frias took the lead role at Rady in 2018 after serving as chief operating officer at Children’s Healthcare in Atlanta. He is a pediatric cardiologist and electrophysiologist who transitioned from patient care into administrative leadership with increasing levels of responsibility at Children’s Healthcare before coming to Rady.

Rusty Gage is president of Salk Institute. Rusty Gage is a professor and Vi and John Adler Chair for Research on Age-Related Neurodegenerative Diseases in the Laboratory of Genetics. His work concentrates on the adult central nervous system and unexpected plasticity and adaptability to environmental stimulation. In 2020 he received the International Society for Stem Cell Research Achievement Award and in 2018 was named ARCS Foundation Scientist of the Year.
Congratulations to our President and CEO, Diane Hansen, on being selected as one of the most influential people in San Diego.

Diane Hansen is leading the charge in Reimagining Healthcare

Under Diane’s leadership, Palomar Health is reimagining the entire healthcare experience. The initiatives she has developed with her team at Palomar Health are propelling healthcare into the future through innovation and technology, the expansion of service lines and the extraordinary level of care every patient receives.
We would like to congratulate, 
James Mackay,  
CEO and Founder at Aristea Therapeutics, 
for being recognized as one of San Diego’s 
Most Influential Leaders in 2022 

STRIDING TO THE FOREFRONT OF INNOVATIVE THERAPEUTIC OPTIONS FOR INFLAMMATORY DISEASES
Congratulations to our leaders recognized among the San Diego Business Journal’s SD500.

Their commitment to service and dedication to excellence help make Sharp San Diego’s health care leader.

Melissa Hayden-Cook  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Sharp Health Plan

Christopher D. Howard  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Sharp HealthCare

Stacey Hrountas  
Chief Executive Officer  
Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group

Brett McClain  
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Sharp HealthCare
Dave Hazelback is an innovator in the field of biofuels. This year, Global Algae Innovations received a $1 million X Prize for its solution to use algae farming at scale to produce alternatives to palm oil, which will save carbon-sequestering rainforests. Hazelback began his research into algae-derived oils and fuels while working on a DARPA-funded project when he was employed by General Atomics.

Molly He oversaw the commercial launch of the company's genomic sequencer, the AVITI System, which was designed to be a more affordable way to do genomic sequencing, allowing more clinics and researchers access to genomic science. He has over 20 years of experience in biotechnology and healthcare and previously held roles at Foresite Capital as well as Illumina, where she served as director of scientific research.

Carl Hull co-founded and has led Maravai since 2014. Maravai is a leading life sciences company providing critical products to enable the development of drug therapies, diagnostics, and novel vaccines. Maravai’s companies are leaders in providing products and services in the fields of nucleic acid synthesis and biologics safety testing to many of the world’s leading biopharmaceutical, vaccine, diagnostics, and cell and gene therapy companies.

John Higgins leads Ligand – a biopharma firm focused on developing or acquiring technologies that help pharmaceutical companies discover and develop medicines. Prior to joining Ligand, Higgins served as chief financial officer at Connetics Corporation, and also served as executive vice president of Finance and Administration and Corporate Development at Connetics until its acquisition by Stiefel Laboratories in 2006. Before joining Connetics, he was a member of the executive management team at BioCryst Pharmaceuticals.

Frederick Howe founded and leads MedImpact Healthcare Systems, Inc., the nation’s largest privately held full-service pharmacy benefit manager, with 47 million covered lives. Howe has been a leader in bringing technology to pharmacy claims for over 30 years. Howe’s philanthropy supports the American Red Cross, Rady Children’s Hospital of San Diego, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of America, March of Dimes and the Make-A-Wish Foundation, among many others.

Our passion is personal. Ask Kayon.

KAYON / DIR. PAYER RELATIONS & REIMBURSEMENT

Foundation Medicine is a pioneer in molecular profiling for cancer, working to shape the future of clinical care and research.

Learn how to join our team: www.careers.foundatio...
The boards of directors for our family of companies congratulate Henry Tuttle for being selected as one of San Diego’s top business leaders in The San Diego Business Journal’s SD500 Special Edition!
Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the well-being of Kaiser Permanente’s more than 630,000 members throughout San Diego County, and for your passion for improving the health of the communities Kaiser Permanente serves.

Congratulations on being honored as one of San Diego’s 500 most influential people!

kp.org/sandiego
Thank you for your selfless leadership of San Diego County’s largest independent medical group, with more than 1,400 physicians in more than 90 specialties and subspecialties.

Congratulations on your well-deserved recognition as one of San Diego’s 500 most influential people!
Will Tseng, MD, MPH
Area Assistant Medical Director and President of the Professional Staff
Kaiser Permanente
San Diego

Thank you for your tireless efforts to educate and inform San Diegans throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Your dedication to the well-being of your patients, and the San Diego Community, made a difference.

Congratulations on being recognized as one of San Diego’s 500 most influential people!

kp.org/sandiego

Kaiser Permanente.
Behavioral Health Services congratulates Chief Encouragement Officer, James C. Callaghan Jr., for being selected as one of San Diego’s top business leaders in The San Diego Business Journal’s SD500 Special Edition!

In 2022, Mr. Callaghan embarked on a multi-day 600-mile bike ride beginning in San Jose and ending at the TURN Family Recovery Center in Oceanside to raise awareness and celebrate recovery. In 2023, we plan to do it bigger and better! Please visit our website for information on dates, times, and how to donate.

Eric Ostertag, M.D.
CEO, Neighborhood Healthcare

Saundra Pelletier leads Evofem Biosciences, a company revolutionizing women’s healthcare with products addressing unmet needs. Under her leadership, Evofem launched Phexxi, the first and only FDA-approved non-hormonal, on-demand birth control. She was named one of SDBJ’s 2019 Business Women of the Year. As founding CEO of Woman Care Global, Pelletier developed a sustainable value chain to register and launch products to women in over 100 countries.

Jami Debrango-Palumbo
Senior Vice President of Lab Operations & Client Services, Foundation Medicine

As a SVP at Foundation Medicine, Jami Debrango-Palumbo leads a passionate and mission-engaged client services, operations and supply chain team focused on quality molecular insights and customer experience that put patients first. Before joining Foundation, she was vice president and global head of sequencing operations at Roche. She is also a founding partner and board member of Kristin’s Fund, an organization dedicated to raising awareness and funds for education with the sole mission of eradicating domestic violence.

Barry Quart
CEO & Board Chair, Heron Therapeutics

Dr. Barry Quart has led Heron Therapeutics since 2013. Dr. Quart has more than 25 years of experience serving in leadership positions in biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies and developing innovative pharmaceutical products. In 2006, he co-founded Ardea Biosciences, Inc. and served as its president and CEO through its acquisition by AstraZeneca in 2012. Previously, he was with Pfizer Inc. as SVP of global R&D and the director of Pfizer’s La Jolla Laboratories.

Cindy Salas
Founder & CEO, WithHealth, Inc.

In 2017, Cindy Salas founded WithHealth, Inc., the first precision care tele-based company in the U.S. with a vision to provide personalized healthcare at a genetic level, available to patients whenever and wherever they need it. Before founding WithHealth, Salas was vice president of healthcare strategy and performance excellence at Accumen, Inc. Previously, she worked in leadership roles for 13 years at Sharp HealthCare.
Congratulations!

STEVE DIETLIN & AARON BYZAK

of Tri-City Medical Center

SD500

THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN SAN DIEGO

Photo by Aaron Chang

STEVIE DIETLIN & AARON BYZAK

Congratulations!

THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN SAN DIEGO

Photo by Aaron Chang
Despite the macroeconomic conditions, the global precision nutrition market is projected to grow at a CAGR of 15% to nearly $17B.

We see that as people taking their health seriously and opting for personalized solutions.

-Sunny Jain

Founder, CEO
Floré by Sun Genomics
SDBJ Top 500 Executives in San Diego of 2022

Made with love in San Diego, California.
MARK BALMERT
PRESIDENT AND CEO, SAN DIEGO MILITARY ADVISORY COUNCIL
Retired Rear Adm. Mark Balmert has led the San Diego Military Advisory Council (SDMAC) since 2018. The council brings military leaders together with elected officials and business leaders in support of the U.S. military. Balmert commanded the destroyer USS Chandler as well as Expeditionary Strike Group 3. He received his master's degree in financial management from the Naval Postgraduate School.

ERIC BASU
CEO, HAIKU CYBER RANGE
Eric Basu is CEO of Haiku Cyber Range. His company's software teaches real-world cybersecurity skills in a videogame-like environment with a cyberpunk storyline. For 20 years, Basu ran Sentek Global, a defense contractor working in cybersecurity. He sold the business to Deloitte in 2021. Basu is a former U.S. Navy SEAL commander who holds an MBA from UCLA Anderson Graduate School of Management.

CAPT. AMY BAUERNSCHMIDT
COMMANDING OFFICER, USS ABRAHAM LINCOLN
Capt. Amy Bauernschmidt is the first woman to command a nuclear aircraft carrier. The San Diego-based USS Abraham Lincoln conducted a Western Pacific deployment from January to August 2022 under her command, operating in the South China Sea and training with allies. Bauernschmidt is a helicopter pilot with more than 3,000 flight hours and a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, Naval War College and nuclear power school.

KIMBERLY J. BECKER
PRESIDENT AND CEO, SAN DIEGO COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
Some 15.6 million passengers passed through San Diego International Airport in 2021. Kimberly J. Becker oversees this major gateway and is responsible for the annual budget of its parent agency as well as a staff of 400. She chairs the San Diego Tourism Authority board and serves on the boards of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and the San Diego Regional EDC.

COL. THOMAS BEDELL
COMMANDING OFFICER, MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR
Col. Thomas Bedell is a military pilot who oversaw the reopening of MCAS Miramar to its neighbors for the September 2022 air show. Prior to his current assignment, Bedell oversaw safety and risk management for the Marines. He attended the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies on a fellowship, earning one of his master's degrees. Earlier in his career he commanded VMR-1, The Roadrunners.

NEAL BLOOM
CEO, RISING TIDE PARTNERS
A mechanical engineer who worked in the space program, Neal Bloom is better known as a company builder and a fixture on San Diego's startup scene. Bloom had a home run with Portfoliam, a business he co-founded that helps new college graduates promote themselves. Following his exit, he dove into investing (Interlock Capital) and media and communications (Rising Tide Partners, Fresh Brewed Tech).

LINDEN P. BLUE
CEO, GENERAL ATOMICS AERONAUTICAL SYSTEMS
The Blue family owns General Atomics and affiliates such as its Aeronautical Systems business. Linden P. Blue, son and nephew of the company's owners, has run the aviation affiliate since 2014. The enterprise designs and builds its Predator family of military drones behind the fences of the Poway Business Park. As the company makes more international deliveries, its engineers continue to refine the product line.

STEVE BRASS
PRESIDENT AND CEO, WD-40 COMPANY
Steve Brass assumed the role of president and CEO of WD-40 in September, following the retirement of longtime CEO Garry Ridge. Brass, a native of the United Kingdom, has been with the company since 1991 and most recently held the role of president and COO. Prior to joining WD-40, Brass worked as an export sales executive at Tercno, BICC Electronics where he managed Swiss, German and Austrian regions.

JENNIE BROOKS
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, BOOZ ALLEN HAMILTON
Jennie Brooks drives strategy and operations for the San Diego office of defense contractor Booz Allen Hamilton. She oversees the firm's business across the nation for the U.S. Navy's IT and cybersecurity command, NAVWAR. Brooks runs company-wide diversity, equity and inclusion programs and serves on multiple boards, including the Dean's Advisory Council at the San Diego State University College of Engineering.

PETE CAMPBELL
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, WSP
Pete Campbell is senior vice president of WSP, one of the world's leading engineering and professional services firms. WSP provides technical expertise and strategic advice to clients in transportation and infrastructure, property and buildings and other vertical markets. Campbell served in the U.S. Navy Civil Engineer Corps. He received his master's degree from Stanford University and his bachelor's degree from Duke University.

DAVID CARVER
PRESIDENT, GENERAL DYNAMICS NASSCO
David Carver became president of General Dynamics NASSCO in 2019. The Barrio Logan shipyard builds auxiliary ships for the U.S. Navy, including the expeditionary sea base auxiliary support ships and the John Lewis-class fleet replenishment oilers. The business has the distinction of being the only major shipbuilder on the West Coast. Carver has been with NASSCO since 1987 and is currently VP at parent General Dynamics (NYSE: GD).

RON CHAPMAN
CEO, CORONADO BREWING COMPANY
In 1996, before craft beer was fashionable, Ron Chapman and his brother Rick opened their Coronado brewpub. Today, Coronado Brewing is branching into hard cider and working to make the profession more diverse and inclusive. In October 2022, it renewed a partnership with San Diego State University; as part of the university's Professional Certificate in the Business of Craft Beer Diversity Award, Coronado Brewing offers a paid internship.

RON COUGHLIN
CHAIRMAN AND CEO, PETCO
Ron Coughlin is based in Petco's National Support Center in Rancho Bernardo. A former executive with HP, Coughlin has been Petco's CEO since 2018 and is responsible for driving its strategy, direction and overall performance. Petco is increasingly focused on pet health and wellness. The corporation returned to public ownership in early 2021; its ticker symbol is WOOF. Coughlin is frequently pictured with his yellow Lab, Yummy.

CHRIS CRAMER
CEO, KARL STRAUSS BREWING
1989 was the year that Chris Cramer and Matt Ratner co-founded the region's original craft brewery in downtown San Diego. Consulting on the project was Cramer's cousin, Karl Strauss, who grew up brewing beer in Germany and later worked for Pabst Brewing in Milwaukee. Since then, Karl Strauss Brewing has won numerous industry awards; its Aurora Hoppyalis was named one of the top three IPAs in the world at World Beer Cup in 2022.
ACE PARKING congratulates Keith B. Jones on his selection as one of the San Diego Business Journal’s most influential people in 2022-23.

His leadership and dedication continue to support ACE’s mission to be the premier parking and mobility organization in North America.

ACE PARKING was founded and is headquartered in downtown San Diego, California since 1950. With thousands of ACE associates focused on exceeding our client’s needs as well as parking customers objectives, ACE has a proven track record of innovation and success. We are proud to partner with some of the most iconic business and destinations within in the San Diego County region. Thank you to those that partner and park with us.
Eric DeMarco has led Kratos Defense as CEO since 2004 and in recent years has spearheaded the corporation’s efforts to become a producer of high performance, jet-powered unmanned aerial vehicle systems. The business works to give U.S. forces increased capabilities at an affordable cost. Kratos’ other focus areas include space and satellite communications, microelectronics, cybersecurity/ warfare, rocket, hypersonic and missile defense systems, and turbine technologies.

Scott Dennis is CEO and co-founder of D&K Engineering, an engineering and manufacturing services firm which has been acquired by Michigan-based Burke Porter Group. Dennis and his co-founder, Alex Kunczynski, will remain with the company. Before launching D&K Engineering, Dennis spent several years at Hewlett Packard in various technical and leadership roles. He is also a partner (with Kunczynski) at FusionX Ventures.

Marc Duval is operating partner with AE Industrial Partners, LP, a private equity firm specializing in aerospace, defense and government services, space, power and utility services and specialty industrial markets. Previously he served as president of the Aerospace division of Collins Aerospace/Raytheon Technologies. Formerly Goodrich Aérostructures, the Chula Vista-based business builds the housings for jet engines, called nacelles.

Kimberly Herrell is a businesswoman, a travel enthusiast and a fixture at Carlsbad’s McCallian-Palomar Airport. She has owned charter jet company Schubach Aviation since January 2020. She began her aviation career in Salt Lake City, joined Schubach in 2005 and was appointed president in 2018 by company namesake and founder Henry Schubach. As CEO, Herrell drives Schubach's overall vision and corporate values.

San Diego-based Ace Parking continues to expand outward. Working with European partners, it took over management of 150,000 parking spaces at 34 airports in Spain in early 2022. Private ownership helped drive the quick-turnaround deal. Keith B. Jones, a third-generation member of Ace Parking’s founding family, is owner and managing partner, responsible for corporate vision and strategy, business development, finances and operations.

Peter Kelly has led operations at National Pen, a maker of personalized promotional products (think pens and mugs with a company logo), since 2016. Kelly prepared National Pen for its acquisition by Cimpress (Nasdaq: CMPR) in 2016 and established a new team to lead the business as a Cimpress brand. National Pen’s international operations are as close as Tijuana and include Ireland, Tunisia and China.

Joe Kudla, a former model for Dolce & Gabbana and a former CPA at Ernst & Young, launched his athleisure apparel company in 2015. He opened its first store in Encinitas in 2016. Six years later, there are stores by the dozen. VUORI recently brought its apparel and its coastal California vibe to stores in London’s Covent Garden district and to SoHo in New York City. The goal: 100 stores by 2026.

Eric Demarco
PRESIDENT AND CEO, KRATOS DEFENSE & SECURITY SOLUTIONS

Scott Dennis
CEO AND CO-FOUNDER, D&K ENGINEERING

Marc Duval
OPERATING PARTNER, AE INDUSTRIAL PARTNERS, LP

Kimberly Herrell
CEO, SCHUBACH AVIATION

Keith Jones
MANAGING PARTNER AND OWNER, ACE PARKING

Peter Kelly
PRESIDENT AND CEO, NATIONAL PEN

Joe Kudla
FOUNDER AND CEO, VUORI

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The San Diego County Regional Airport Authority congratulates
President & CEO Kim Becker,
and Board Member James Sly
for their recognition as
San Diego’s SD 500 Leaders!
THANK YOU TO ARTEM SHAROSHKIN FOR HIS FEARLESS DEDICATION TO HIS STAFF, MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY AT LARGE.

CONGRATULATIONS ON BEING RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF SAN DIEGO’S TOP 500 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE! YOUR TEAM IS INCREDIBLY PROUD OF YOU AND HONORED TO HAVE YOU AS A LEADER.
MARTHA GILMER  
CEO, SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Martha Gilmer has been CEO at San Diego Symphony Orchestra since 2014. Since San Diego since November 2014. Gilmer helped create the strategic plan that has been guiding the Symphony since 2016 and initiated the Symphony’s annual festival that includes partnerships with many organizations throughout the city. She was previously VP for artistic planning and audience development at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

ROBERT GLEASON  
PRESIDENT & CEO, EVANS HOTELS

Robert Gleason has been president and CEO at Evans Hotels since 2014. Evans Hotels, founded in 1993, include The Lodge at Torrey Pines, Bahia Resort Hotel and Catamaran Resort Hotel and Spa. Gleason was previously CFO and general counsel for Evans Hotels. He is on the advisory board for the L. Robert Payne School of Hospitality & Tourism Management at SDSU, served as a board member for the California Travel & Tourism Commission, and is chair of World Trade Center San Diego.

KEITH GUILBAULT  
CEO, ODBBA RESTAURANTS

Keith Guilbault has been CEO at Odbba Restaurant Corporation for nearly five years and was brand president for the corporation for two years previously. Guilbault led Odbba, a $1B, 7,000-employee private equity-owned brand through a sale and new direction as a standalone. He also worked for Jack in the Box for 10 years, including two years as EVP and chief marketing officer. Guilbault sponsors pet adoption fees at the San Diego Humane Society and matches restaurant donations for No Kid Hungry and K9s for Warriors events.

DARIN HARRIS  
CEO, JACK IN THE BOX, INC.

Since 2020, Darin Harris has been CEO of Jack in the Box Inc., one of the nation’s top fast-food burger chains, with more than 2,200 sites in the U.S. and Guam. Harris previously served as the CEO of CiCi’s Pizza, was senior VP of Arby’s Restaurant Group Inc. and was a franchise operator for Papa John’s Pizza and former Jack in the Box subsidiary Odbba Mexican Grill. He earned a master’s degree in business administration at Xavier University.

ROBERT HOEHN  
PRESIDENT, THE HOEHN CO., INC.

Robert A. Hoehn is president of The Hoehn Co. The Hoehn family has been in the automobile business since 1928. The original Hoehn Chevrolet started in Memphis, Tenn. Hoehn followed his father and grandfather into the automobile dealership industry. His father founded Hoehn Motors in San Diego in 1975. He moved to California with his parents after graduating from Bowdoin College with a dual bachelor’s degree in English and art history. He served on USD’s Board of Trustees starting in 1996 and is now Chair Emeritus.

EARL KIGHT  
FOUNDER, CUTWATER SPIRITS

Earl Kight is the founder of Cutwater Spirits, where he is also head of sales. Kight was previously at Ballast Point Brewing and Spirits for nearly eight years, including serving as chief commercial officer for nearly three years. He also worked as VP of sales for Mesa Distributing, distributor sales manager for Miller Brewing Company and in various jobs at Ballast Point Brewing & Spirits. Kight earned his MBA at Pepperdine Graziado Business School.

JIM LAKE  
PRESIDENT, SEAWORLD & SEMPANCE PLACE

Jim Lake has been president at SeaWorld and Sesame Place in San Diego since November 2021. Lake is also an adjunct professor at Cal State Fullerton in the School of Management (focus on hospitality and tourism). He has more than 30 years of theme park experience and was also GM for Disneyland Park East and worked in other areas for Disney and Disneyland Resort starting in 1989. Lake was also director of operations for Palace Entertainment. He has a master’s degree in organizational leadership from Biola.

BRIAN LEE  
GENERAL MANAGER, UNIVERSITY CLUB ATOP SYMPHONY TOWERS

Brian Lee has been GM at The University Club Atop Symphony Towers for more than two years. Under Lee’s guidance, the downtown San Diego club was awarded the 2021 City Club of the Year by ClubCorp. Lee was previously GM at Herb & Wood, director of operations for Hakkasan Group and managing partner at Roy’s Hawaiian Fusion Cuisine. He has been a corporate trainer at Fleming’s Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, opening new locations when he was a manager with the company.

MICHAEL A. MORTON JR.  
CEO, BRIGANTINE FAMILY OF RESTAURANTS

Michael A. Morton Jr. is president of family-run Brigantine Restaurant Corp., which operates nine locations around San Diego County. The company’s upscale signature seafood fare and nautical décor has earned legions of loyal customers. Brigantine branched out in 1982 with the launch of Miguel’s Cocina, which now has six locations, and has added Ketch Grill & Taps, Ketch Brewing, Portside Coffee & Gelato and Topsal Portside Pier. Morton’s early career included stints at Ruth’s Chris Steak House and Jack in the Box.

SHANNA MISSETT NELSON  
PREZIDENT, JAZZERCISE, INC.

Shanna Missett Nelson guides the group fitness industry leader in global and local markets while managing strategic direction of the brand. Her mother, Judi Shappard Missett, created Jazzercise, which has become the largest dance fitness company in the world. Nelson began as an instructor and later transitioned into the company’s international brand consultant and then franchise owner. Nelson leads the corporate management team and steers the direction of the company. She is also a media spokesperson and motivational speaker.

ARTEM SHAROSHKIN  
CEO, THE BXNG CLUB

Artem Sharoshkin has been CEO at The BXNG Club since 2014. A board member with the East Village Association and member of Sage Executive Group, Sharoshkin was named CEO of the Year in 2022 by the San Diego Business Journal, which also honored him as one of the top 40 next top business leaders under 40. Sharoshkin, a native of Russia, started his career as a janitor/custodian at The BXNG Club. The club also offers Pilates, kickboxing, jiu jitsu, muay thai, spin classes and yoga.

ROXANA VELÁSQUEZ  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE SAN DIEGO MUSEUM OF ART

Roxana Velásquez has been executive director at The San Diego Museum of Art for more than 12 years. She was previously executive director at El Palacio de Bellas Artes, Mexico and at Museo Nacional De Arte, Mexico. Velásquez earned her MBA in business administration from Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México. She is a member of multiple boards, including Association of Art Museum Directors; International Council of Museums; American Alliance of Museums; Asociación Mexicana de Profesionales de Museos; and San Diego Tourism Authority.

BRAD WISE  
OWNER/CHEF, TRUST RESTAURANT GROUP

Brad Wise grew up along the shores of Cape May, N.J., spending time at the Washington Inn, a popular restaurant where his mother waited tables. He found his passion for grilling along the central coast of California and his restaurant resume includes rust, Fort Oak, Rare Society, Cardellino, Mr. Trustee and The Wise Ox. Wise, who attended the Academy of Culinary Arts in Atlantic City, N.J., was previously executive sous chef at JDRN Restaurant at Tower23 Hotel.
BEN AGUILAR
OWNER & FOUNDER, LAW OFFICES OF BEN AGUILAR

Ben Aguilar has been a family law attorney at the Law Offices of Ben Aguilar for 10 years. He is also an adjunct professor of law at California Western School of Law and a County Hearing Officer with the County of San Diego. Aguilar is career development committee co-chair with the San Diego Bar Association, on the board of directors at San Diego La Raza Lawyers Association, the No Silence No Violence group and with Tom Homann LGBT Law Association.

JOHN ALESSIO
MANAGING PARTNER, PROCCOPIO, CORY, HARGREAVES & SAVITCH LLP

John Alessio has been a partner at Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP for nearly 16 years and managing partner since 2018. Alessio was previously a partner with Thompson & Aguilar LLP and an attorney with Neil, Dymott, Perkins, Brown & Frank LLP. Alessio focuses on complex class action, business and employment litigation with particular experience in trade secret misappropriation, unfair competition, real estate, shareholder and contractual disputes to include cross-border issues. He earned his JD at USD.

QUENTIN ANDERSON
CEO, BLACKOWNED.COM

Quentin Anderson has been CEO of BlackOwned.com for nearly 22 years and is also founder of Black Talent Community. BlackOwned.com focuses on technology and innovation and is the parent company of SKRRT.com, BlackTalentCommunity.com and BLOPURT.com. Currently a real estate broker with Dream Homes California, Anderson founded Black Owned Institute to encourage youth to know their own worth with an entrepreneur’s mindset.

MICHAEL ATTANASIO
PARTNER, COOLEY

Michael Attanasio has been a partner at Cooley LLP for nearly 19 years. Attanasio was previously a trial attorney with the United States Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Public Integrity Section in Washington, D.C. He acted as co-trial counsel for baseball legend Roger Clemens in the obstruction of Congress and perjury prosecution brought against Clemens by the United States Attorney’s Office. The jury returned not guilty verdicts on all six counts. Attanasio took the lead in debunking DNA evidence that prosecutors claimed linked Clemens to the use of performance-enhancing drugs.

JENNIFER BARNES
FOUNDER & CEO, OPTIMA OFFICE

Jennifer Barnes is founder and CEO of Optima Office. Barnes sits on the boards of The Better Business Bureau, Tech Coast Angels and Junior Achievement of San Diego County. She is a partner of Social Venture Partners, which supports nonprofit organizations. She volunteers as a mentor at SDSU and Miramar College and is a member of a Rotary Club, the San Diego Circle International, Young Entrepreneurs Council, Collective 54, Entrepreneurs Organization, Connected Women of Influence, National Association of Women Business Owners and the San Diego Chamber of Commerce.

ERIC BESTE
PARTNER, BARNES & THORNBURG LLP

Eric Beste has been a partner at Barnes & Thornburg LLP for four years. He spent 16 years in the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the majority as Chief/Deputy Chief of Major Frauds, Criminal Chief, Assistant U.S. Attorney. An adjunct professor at USD, Beste spent two decades prosecuting white collar crimes in federal courts. He now represents individuals and businesses facing domestic and international investigations and enforcement actions. Beste prosecuted more than a dozen senior executives at publicly traded companies and secured numerous insider trading convictions.

BARBARA BORDEN
PARTNER, COOLEY

Barbara Borden has been a partner with Cooley LLP for nearly 26 years. Borden is co-chair of Cooley’s mergers and acquisitions practice and focuses on public and private M&A, cross-border transactions and joint ventures. Borden represents strategic and financial buyers and sellers in public and private acquisitions. She is experienced in counseling boards of directors in connection with M&A and anti-takeover matters. Recent transactions include TenderPoint Therapeutics (a $4.8 billion agreement to sell to Bristol Myers Squibb) and Horizon Therapeutics public limited company ($2.1 billion acquisition of Viela Bio).

KEVAN BRADSHAW
CLIENTS & MARKETS LEADER, PWC CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

Kevan Bradshaw is the clients and market leader of the PwCewaterhouseCoopers Centers of Excellence. He has been with the company for more than 33 years and has been a partner since 1989. Bradshaw is a member of PwC’s Assurance Innovation Leadership Team with primary responsibility for leading Change Management for PwC’s U.S. Assurance innovation practice. He has served on the boards of Junior Achievement of San Diego and Imperial Counties, BYU’s School of Accountancy and CommNexus.

JUANITA BROOKS
PRINCIPAL, FISH & RICHARDSON

Juanita Brooks is an attorney providing legal services covering intellectual property litigation and business litigation at Fish & Richardson. Throughout her 41-year career, Brooks’ wins include the Federal Circuit unanimously affirming a 2018 decision in which Brooks successfully wiped out a $200M damages award. In defense of Microsoft in 2017, Brooks scored a jury win in which the plaintiff originally demanded $69M in damages. In 2016, she led a team that defended one of the largest mass tort/wrongful death cases in the U.S., which included 12,000 cases.

INNES A BURROLA
CEO & PRESIDENT, BOUTIQUE RECRUITING

Innesa Burrola has been CEO and president at Boutique Recruiting for more than eight years. Burrola has previously a business development leader at EastEdge Workforce Solutions and an account executive team lead at Ultimate Staffing. With more than 13 years of expertise in business development, Burrola is experienced in all aspects of the staffing industry, including business formation, operation, full-cycle recruitment and management. She was named the San Diego Business Journal Business Woman of the Year in 2021 and was one of the top business leaders Under 40 in 2020.

REID CARR
PRESIDENT, EXECUTIVE CREATIVE DIRECTOR & CEO, RED DOOR INTERACTIVE

Reid Carr has been president and CEO at Red Door Interactive for nearly 21 years. He has been CEO and Executive Creative Director at Red Door for nearly five years. He gave a Ted Talk in 2014 as part of TextAmerica’sFestinCity about “100% perk-free workplace” and hosts The Marketing Remix Podcast. Carr is a board member at Benefunder, Voice of San Diego, San Diego Sport Innovators, The One Club for Creativity San Diego and University of Oregon Alumni Association.

STEVE J. COLENGE
MANAGING PARTNER, HIGGS FLETCHER & MACK

Steven J. Cologne has been with Higgs Fletcher & Mack for nearly 38 years and has been a managing partner for more than 12 years. Cologne has been a civil trial attorney specializing in complex tort and business litigation. Since 1985, he has served as primary outside litigation counsel for the San Diego Unified School District. Recently, he has represented businesses and their principals in trademark litigation. He is a panelist with the American Arbitration Association and a Fellow with the Charter Institute of Arbitrators.

STEVEN COOPERSMITH
FOUNDER & MANAGING ATTORNEY, THE COOPERSMITH LAW FIRM

Steven Coopersmith has been managing attorney at The Coopersmith Law Firm for 14 years. He was previously senior counsel at La Bella & McNamara LLP, Stated at Ft. Lewis, Wash., he was captain, trial counsel with the U.S. Army’s Judge Advocate General’s Corps from 1997-2000. He advised brigade- level commanders within units and tried felony cases. He argued numerous cases before juries and dozens of administrative matters to military boards. He also managed a volunteer tax center with nine workers and more than 10,000 tax returns.

ERIK CLAUSEN
MANAGING PARTNER, CG LIFE

Erik Clausen has been managing partner at CG Life for 12 years, leading the content marketing/brand development/ media relations/creative services team that specializes in life sciences, biotechnology, pharmaceutical, healthcare and other areas. Clausen is also founder and CEO of Life Science Network, LLC, a destination for life sciences professionals looking to connect with each other. He was a member and contributor to Forbes Agency Council for two years and was chief of staff and press secretary in the Massachusetts State Senate in the 1990s.
ANNA CROWE
CEO AND FOUNDER, CROWE PR
Anna Crowe is a public relations and marketing expert as well as a best-selling author and speaker. Crowe founded her agency in 2014 and works for iconic brands in San Diego, Los Angeles and New York. She also sits on the board of the San Diego Chapter of the Entrepreneurs Organization, philanthropy-based PEERS Network and digital wellness nonprofit Half the Story. Her first book, “Get Real: The Power of Genuine Leadership, A Transparent Culture and an Authentic You” was an Amazon best seller.

DAMIAN DOLIN
FOUNDING SHAREHOLDER, PETTIT KOHN INGRASSIA LUTZ & DOLIN PC
Damian Dolin has been a shareholder and trial attorney at Pettit Kohn Ingrassia Lutz & Dolin PC for nearly 17 years. He was previously an associate at Klauderst Professional Corporation. Dolin focuses on personal injury, product liability, premises liability and general negligence actions. He is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He has obtained in excess of $30M in verdicts and settlements for clients.

TRAVIS E. DOWNS III
PARTNER, ROBBINS GELLER RUDMAN & DOWD LLP
Travis E. Downs III is a partner at Robbins Geller Rudman & Dowd LLP where his areas of expertise include prosecution of shareholder and securities litigation, including complex shareholder derivative actions. Downs led a team of lawyers who successfully prosecuted more than 65 stock option backdating derivative actions in federal and state courts across the country. That resulted in hundreds of millions in financial givebacks for the plaintiffs and extensive corporate governance enhancements.

DANIEL EATON
SHAREHOLDER, SELTZER CAPLAN MCMAHON VITEK
Daniel Eaton has been a shareholder and partner at Seltzer Caplan McMahon Vitek for nearly 25 years. Eaton is also an instructor at the SDSU College of Business, teaching interactive classes in business ethics and legal issues in human resources to upper-level graduates. Eaton was president of the Harvard Law School Association for two years, ending in 2020, and is president of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association. He was also the chair of the Ethics Advisory Board of the city of San Diego in the 1990s.

BILL EIGNER
PARTNER, PROCOPIO, CORY, HARGREAVES & SAVITCH LLP
Bill Eigner has been with Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP for nearly 34 years. He is also a leading legal advisor, writer and speaker about boards of advisors and boards of directors. Eigner is a member of the board of advisors for Chateauz, a luxury digital real estate platform; Athleteverse, Inc., a Name Image Likeness platform; Sorkylife; Indie Health Inc; NewBlue Inc.; and Greenbutts LLC. He is on the board of directors of EvoNexus.

ROBERT FRANK
PRESIDENT, NEIL, DYMOTT, FRANK, MCCALL, MCCABE AND HUDSON APC
Robert Frank has been president of Neil, Dymott, Frank, McCabe and Hudson for more than 42 years. He joined Neil Dymott in 1980 and has been a shareholder in the firm since 1988. Frank has tried more than 60 cases to jury verdict in state and federal courts and has handled more than 100 healthcare professional licensing matters. He has served as a board member and president of the San Diego Defense Lawyers and is an elected member of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

WAINWRIGHT FISHBURN JR.
FOUNDING PARTNER, COOLEY LLP
Wainwright Fishburn Jr. has been with Cooley LLP for nearly 24 years. A venture capital attorney and global chair of the firm’s digital health group, Fishburn has worked with capital-backed companies including those in the field of genomic medicine. He is vice chairman and chair elect of the Critical Path Institute, created in part by the FDA. He is past chairman of the Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute and a member of the executive committee of the board of the UCSD Moores Cancer Center.

LAURIE FISHER
CEO, FOUNDER & PRESIDENT, LMA WORLDWIDE/LMA MARKETING & ADVERTISING
Laurie Fisher founded LMA Worldwide in 2004. Fisher previously was a producer for KFMB stations and Clear Channel Radio. She has more than 20 years of media experience across multiple platforms with an emphasis on cutting-edge marketing strategies for clients’ success. Focused on the growth and measurable ROI of a wide variety of businesses, LMA’s client roster includes home improvement, financial and legal institutions, medical and dental services, nonprofits, political campaigns and retailers.

MICHAEL GLEASON
MANAGING PARTNER, HAHN LOESER & PARTNERS LLC
Michael Gleason has been managing partner in San Diego at Hahn Loeser & Parks LLC for 15 years. Gleason is founder of the firm’s Proposition 65 defense group and a member of the San Diego Litigation Team. He has presented oral argument before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, as well as the Second, Fourth and Fifth Appellate Districts of the State of California. He is a board member at the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc., and volunteers at the Feeding America warehouse.

ANNEELISE GOETZ
PARTNER, HIGGS FLETCHER & MACK
Anneelise Goetz has been a partner in health care law and real estate law for Higgs Fletcher & Mack for nearly 12 years. She was a tax and business law attorney in Chicago previously. Goetz has experience in health care law, involving transactions between practice groups and hospitals; and in real estate law, represents purchasers and sellers in structuring, negotiating and drafting acquisitions and dispositions of multi-residential and commercial projects. He is a member of the board of directors at Voices for Children, Inc.

BRETT GOOD
SENIOR DISTRICT PRESIDENT, ROBERT HALF
Brett Good is the Senior District President for Robert Half, the world’s first and largest specialized talent solutions firm. He oversees operations for the company’s accounting, finance, administrative and customer service practice groups throughout Southern California, Arizona, Nevada and Utah. He joined Robert Half in 1999 and has three decades of experience in the staffing and consulting industry. Good is the Executive Sponsor of SOMOS Familia, one of Robert Half’s Employee Network Groups, and is active with the Association for Corporate Growth.

GUY HALGREN
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS, SHEPPARD MULLIN
Guy Halgren is Chair Emeritus of Sheppard Mullin, having served as the firm’s Chairman from 2001-21. During his tenure as chairman, Halgren oversaw the strategic growth of Sheppard Mullin to meet the needs of its clients. Under his leadership, the firm grew from 290 attorneys to more than 1,000 across the globe, with new offices that opened in Brussels, Seoul and Shanghai as well as throughout the United States. A resident in the San Diego office, Halgren continues to support the firm’s strategic growth initiatives and client relationships.

JASON HARTLEY
FOUNDER AND MANAGING PARTNER, HARTLEY LLP
Jason Hartley is managing partner at Hartley LLP. He has represented plaintiffs, including Fortune 500 companies, in commercial contingency matters asserting class action, antitrust and unfair competition claims. Hartley has recovered billions of dollars on behalf of victims. He left a larger national law firm to open Hartley LLP in 2018, and Hartley has since grown to 10 attorneys, all of whom handle national antitrust cases. He speaks at the American Bar Association’s Institute on Class Actions each year and is part of its planning committee.

ROD HATLEY
ATTORNEY AND FOUNDER, HATLEY LAW GROUP
Rod Hatley founded Hatley Law Group in 2016. He was previously a partner at Chisholm Law Group, P.C. Hatley specializes in estate planning, tax and asset protection. His most recent published writing is “Spousal Lifetime Access Trust” in “Estate Planning Strategies: Collective Wisdom Proven Techniques,” Hatley is a member of San Diego Nice Guys and the San Diego Downtown Breakfast Rotary. He is a member of the executive leadership team of the Lymphoma & Leukemia Society of San Diego, A U.S. Navy veteran, he serves as a member of its Judge Advocate General’s corps.
NOVEMBER 14, 2022

**DAN HOM**
**PRESIDENT & CEO, FOCUSCOM, INC.**

Dan Hom is president and CEO at Focuscom Inc. where his responsibilities include driving business development as well as managing and providing strategy for clients. He serves on the Board of Interstate Golf Association, is the current advisory board president for the Asian Business Association of San Diego, Political Action Committee Chair for the Lincoln Club of San Diego, and the immediate past board member chair of the San Diego Asian Film Foundation.

**VALERIE GARCIA HONG**
**BUSINESS LITIGATION ATTORNEY, GARCIA HONG LAW**

Valerie Garcia Hong has been a business litigation attorney for Garcia Hong Law for more than four years, dealing with complex litigation, contract disputes and misappropriation claims. After more than a decade at a midsize law firm, she founded Garcia Hong Law to provide a different perspective as a minority-owned and woman-owned law firm. She is the President of Women of Color in Law and has spearheaded the Ubi Retreat for more than 40 lawyers. Hong also is an adjunct professor at Cal Western School of Law.

**RACHEL FORD HUTMAN**
**FOUNDER AND CEO, FORD HUTMAN MEDIA**

Rachel Ford Hutman founded Ford Hutman Media in February of 2020. As CEO she runs a firm that specializes in media relations, thought leadership and executive visibility to biotech, digital health and medtech companies. She previously was director of external relations at IBM and was U.S. and global group communication director for W2O Group. She has counseled well-known healthtech-organizations and led communication strategies to brands including Johnson & Johnson. Best Buy and Takeda. She started her career as a reporter and serves on the board for dbaPlatform.

**PRIYA HUGGETT**
**PARTNER, CGS3**

Priya Huggett earned her law degree from the University of British Columbia and joined CGS3 (Crotsbe Gliner Schiffman Southard & Swanson) as a partner in October. Prior to joining CGS3, she served as an associate for Brain Capital. Her practice emphasizes a variety of corporate, commercial and real estate transactions, particularly private equity, joint ventures and M&A. She also specializes in commercial licensing and vendor contracts.

**MICHELLE JACKO**
**MANAGING PARTNER AND CEO, JACKO LAW GROUP, PC**

Michelle Jacko has been managing partner at Jacko Law Group, PC, for nearly 17 years. She has also been CEO of Core Compliance & Legal Service, Inc., for nearly 17 years and is co-founder of Southern California Compliance Group, which was established in 1999. Jacko specializes in investment adviser, broker-dealer and fund regulatory compliance matters, internal control development, regulatory examinations, transition services and operational risk management. She is a frequent presenter at national financial industry conferences and a regular contributor to industry journals.

**STEFAN JENSEN**
**PARTNER & CEO, MOTIONSTRAND**

Stefan Jensen has been partner and CEO at Motionstrand for more than eight years. He was previously VP Business Development at the company for 13 years. Motionstrand is a digital agency with creative thinkers and technical experts that began as an IT consulting firm in 2003. The company has donated more than $250K to help build the brand and digital experience at Escondido’s Children’s Discovery Museum. Jensen previously was an investment analyst at Avalon Capital Group and a senior sales and marketing engineer at DiCon Fiberoptics.

**STEVEN JONES**
**CEO, JONES**

Dr. Steven Jones has been CEO of JONES for nearly 30 years. JONES is a diversity, inclusion and organizational change consulting and training firm that seeks to develop leaders and organizational systems that counter oppression through diversity, inclusion and organizational excellence. He has previously served as a National Diversity Consultant to Honda, Qualcomm, the NBA, Sony Music, Toyota and the National Association of Independent Schools. He is a board member for the San Diego Economic Development Corporation, LEAD San Diego and Options for All.

**SARA KATZ**
**CEO, KATZ & ASSOCIATES**

Sara Katz founded Katz & Associates in 1986. With a team of 40 communications specialists, Katz manages community relations, public involvement and public affairs strategies for her clients throughout California and across the U.S. Katz’s experience includes public outreach and involvement programs for major public works projects, social awareness programs and controversial public policy issues. Recent clients include the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Omaha and Kansas City divisions, and the Port of San Diego.

**ANDREW KÖHN**
**CEO & SHAREHOLDER, PETTIT KÖHN INGRASSIA LUTZ & DOLIN, PC**

Andrew Köhn has served as the CEO of Pettit Köhn Ingrassia Lutz & Dolin, PC since the firm’s inception in 2006. Köhn has a wide range of civil litigation and trial experience, primarily in the fields of personal injury, business litigation and products liability. He has achieved Martindale-Hubbell’s highest rating for legal ability and ethical standards. In 2014, he was elected to the American Board of Trial Advocates and in 2018, became an associate. He is also a co-founder and mediator with Torrey Mediation LLC.

**ERIC KREMER**
**PARTNER, PILLSBURY WINthrop SHAW PITTMANN LLP**

Eric Kremer is a partner in the Pillsbury law firm’s real estate practice. He represents and counsels clients on real estate-related transactions, including purchase and sale, commercial lease, land use, construction lending and real estate finance. Kremer handled a $408 million sale of a biologics manufacturing facility and $29 million sale by a pharmaceutical client of a biologics pilot manufacturing plant facility in Oceanside. He also advised a solar generation developer about infrastructure and financing issues for a 600-megawatt phased photovoltaic solar electric energy project in Imperial Valley.

**MICHAEL LEES**
**PARTNER, SOLOMON WARD SEIDENVURSM & SMITH LLP**

Michael Lees has been a partner at Solomon Ward Seidenwurm & Smith LLP for eight years. Lees has represented families, individuals and businesses in personal and corporate transactional matters as well as both buyers and sellers in acquisitions and divestitures of businesses, real estate and capital assets. Lees has also formed and advised nonprofits to provide scholarships, build libraries in Africa and undertake community development projects. An adjunct professor of Law at USD, he also volunteers with Jewish Family Service of San Diego.

**ALESSANDRA LEZAMA**
**FOUNDER & CEO, TOOTRIS**

Alessandra Lezama is founder and CEO of TOOTRIS, a technology platform that allows parents affordable access to high-quality childcare, anytime and anywhere. An entrepreneur and private equity-backed CEO, Lezama is an advocate for women pursuing careers in tech and other STEM fields and an angel investor to San Diego-based early-stage companies. Lezama previously was the CEO for multiple technology companies, including Abacusheet, a company she transformed into a disruptive global technology organization with more than 500 employees across San Diego, Canada and the U.K.
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Innesa leads Boutique Recruiting with courage, heart, and hustle. She is a resilient CEO who doesn’t let anything stand in the way of her company’s success or the well-being and progress of her employees and clients.

Her highly transparent and holistic leadership style inspires her team to explore areas of vulnerability and authenticity that are not widely seen in the workplace.

Her success in the staffing industry and leadership has had a significant impact in the San Diego community and on a national level as well.

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MHM (Mayer Hoffman McCann P.C.) is an independent CPA firm that provides audit, review and other attest services, and works closely with CBIZ, a business consulting, tax and financial services provider. CBIZ and MHM are members of Kreston Global, a worldwide network of independent accounting firms.

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Paul Nation &
David Diamond

On being recognized by the
San Diego Business Journal as two of the
Top 500 Executives
IN SAN DIEGO

JULIE LOWEN
FOUNDER, PRESIDENT & CEO, CHILDREN’S PARADISE INC.
Julie Lowen founded Children’s Paradise Inc., an early education managed services company, in 1993. The preschool and infant center’s mission is to provide children with equal access to resources that empower lifelong learning. Lowen formerly worked as a bank teller, then moved into community relations. Children’s Paradise offers transportation, school supplies, clothes, donations from local food banks and financial aid to those in need. She is involved with charities and causes including the Oceanside Promise, Smartly Patch Foundation and is a board member for PACE.

JENNIFER LUTZ
SHAREHOLDER, PETTI KOHN INGRASSIA LUTZ & DOLIN PC
Jennifer Lutz has been a shareholder at Petti Kohn Ingrasia Lutz & Dolin PC for nearly 17 years after working for eight years as an attorney/shareholder at Klinedinst PC. She is also an adjunct professor at UCSD Extension, teaching employee and labor relations in the Human Resource Management certificate program. Lutz focuses her practice on employment litigation and counseling, and represents California’s employees in all aspects of employment disputes in state and federal court, and before administrative and government agencies. She is also a speaker and author on issues including employee privacy.

SAM MASCARENO
MARKET LEADER, WEST REGION, RSM US LLP
Sam Mascareno has been at RSM US LLP for more than 21 years, including tax partner and for the past seven years as West Market Leader. Mascareno oversees the execution of strategy, growth and overall results for the firm’s 11-state region. He previously was tax manager at PriceWaterhouseCoopers. He is co-founder of ¡Hola!, the firm’s employee network group for Hispanic and Latino professionals and part of the firm’s Inclusion Council overseeing all of RSM’s network groups. He is also an ordained pastor and co-founder of Lighthouse Church.

RIC MILITI
CEO & CREATIVE DIRECTOR, INNOVISION MARKETING GROUP
Ric Militi has been CEO and creative director at InnoVision Marketing Group for nearly 11 years. He also is CEO and founder of Crazy Raccoons, LLC, a technology think tank, and Pretzel Logic Productions, a video production company. Militi was previously VP of marketing for Valley View Casino & Hotel. Early in his career he conceived, developed and launched a transportation provider for the entertainment industry – Galpin Studio Rental. He has worked with Merv Griffin, Aaron Spelling and a number of iconic national brands including Pennzoil, Domino’s Pizza, DreamWorks/STG and Corina.

DAVID MC CULLOUGH
PRINCIPAL LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT, MCCULLOUGH LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
David McCullough formed McCullough Landscape Architecture as a sole proprietorship in 1999 while he worked for another landscape architecture firm. Now a woman-owned corporation and Small Business Enterprise, McCullough is its principal landscape architect. He is board chair on the city of San Diego Historic Resource Board, is on the San Diego Code Monitoring Team and is event chair of the San Diego Architectural Foundation, where he has been a member for nearly 17 years.

MARISA MILLER
PARTNER, SHEPPARD MULLIN RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP
Marisa Miller has been with Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP for nearly 11 years, and a partner at the firm for more than five years. Miller specializes in complex business litigation with a focus on commercial disputes and energy, trade secret, environmental and construction matters. She is dedicated to gender and diversity issues and is a member of Chief, a private network built to drive women into positions of power and keep them there. Miller also is board member for Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County.

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PARTNER, SHEPPARD MULLIN RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP
Marisa Miller has been with Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP for nearly 11 years, and a partner at the firm for more than five years. Miller specializes in complex business litigation with a focus on commercial disputes and energy, trade secret, environmental and construction matters. She is dedicated to gender and diversity issues and is a member of Chief, a private network built to drive women into positions of power and keep them there. Miller also is board member for Big Brothers Big Sisters of San Diego County.
We proudly congratulate

Regina A. Petty

on 40 years of legal service and being named one of San Diego’s 500 most influential people in 2022!

Regina A. Petty
Chief Diversity Officer & Partner
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Fisher Phillips is a national law firm committed to providing practical business solutions for employers’ workplace legal problems. With more than 500 attorneys in 37 offices across the United States, Fisher Phillips provides employers with innovative solutions to their most challenging workplace matters.
Congratulations to our Founding Partner

MARK SCHECHTER

for being selected as one of San Diego’s Top Leaders.
Pillsbury congratulates San Diego Office Managing Partner Eric Kremer, whose decades of service to both clients and community make him one of San Diego’s most influential people.
Congratulations to David P. Shapiro for being selected as one of San Diego’s most influential leaders.

As a BBB Torch Award for Ethics winner in 2022, and through his leadership, the firm has been able to deliver excellence to its clients and create a positive and lasting impact to the San Diego community beyond criminal defense.

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Sarah Schaffer is a Certified Legal Specialist in Family Law and has a Master of Laws Degree (LL.M.) in Taxation. She is also a certified Collaborative Divorce practitioner and mediator. Her practice represents clients in challenging, high-conflict family law matters, including difficult child custody disputes and complex community property division of businesses and other high net-worth assets. Sarah’s background includes serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, and she is currently serving as Deputy Director, Reserve Legal Support, Headquarters Marine Corps, Judge Advocate Division, Washington, D.C.

One of the hallmarks of the Schaffer Family Law Group is our hands-on, close working relationships with our clients. What sets us apart is our ability to garner great results in every area of family law by aggressively yet compassionately fighting for our clients. We stand beside them every step of the way.

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ROBERT P. ROBINSON
MANAGING PARTNER, HICKMAN ROBINSON YAEGE LLP

Robert P. Robinson has been the managing partner and attorney at Hickman Robinson Yaeger LLP for nearly 14 years. His legal practice encompasses business law, real property law and litigation. He also serves as outside general counsel to many of his business clients. Clients run the gamut, from business owners, landlords, and developers to athletes, artists and doctors. He is an advisory board member at the SDSU Corky McMillin Center for Real Estate and is owner of Pacific Region Real Estate Company.

HEATHER ROSING
SHAREHOLDER & CEO, KLINEINST PC

Heather Rosing has been a shareholder and CEO at Klinedinst PC for nearly 27 years. Rosing is a certified specialist in legal malpractice and a former member of the ABA Standing Committee on Lawyers' Professional Liability. She also served as an appointed advisor to the Rules Revision Commission of the State Bar of California. She frequently speaks on a pro bono basis on issues pertaining to malpractice, ethics and risk management across the country. Rosing was appointed to serve as the co-vice chair of a Civility Task Force.

DENISE SCATENA
FOUNDING PARTNER, SCATENA DANIELS COMMUNICATIONS

Denise Scatena is a founding partner in Scatena Daniels Communications, Inc., an award-winning strategic communications agency founded in 2009. Scatena was formerly CEO of Lemonade Public Relations and the director of client services for c3 Communications, Inc. Scatena is second VP and board member at the San Diego Press Club and is volunteer PR manager for Pug Rescue of San Diego County. She is a former board member of the Public Relations Society of America San Diego/Imperial counties chapter.

MARC S. SCHECHTER
FOUNDING PARTNER, BUTTERFIELD SCHECHTER LLP

Marc S. Schechter is a founding partner of Butterfield Schechter, a law firm founded in 1998 and focused primarily on employee benefit plan matters. Schechter’s areas of practice include benefits, stock ownership plans, pension and profit-sharing plans. Schechter lectures on employee benefit law and has written articles on the subject for periodicals. He has taught the ERISA/Employee Benefits course as adjunct professor at California Western School of Law. He also enjoys playing the guitar and one of his clients is a founding member of The Jefferson Airplane.

SARAH SCHAFFER
FOUNDING ATTORNEY, CEO, SCHAFFER FAMILY LAW GROUP

Sarah Schaffer has been company owner for Schaffer Family Law Group for more than 10 years. Schaffer is a member of the Association of Certified Family Law Specialists and is an empathetic but aggressive advocate for families. She is a certified Collaborative Divorce Practitioner and is involved with Casa Cornelia Law Center, a public interest law firm providing quality pro bono legal services to victims of human and civil rights violations, and Kids Turn, a nonprofit supporting children and parents experiencing family separations or military transitions.

STEPHEN SCHREINER
MANAGING PARTNER, SOLOMON WARD SEIDENWURM & SMITH

Stephen Schreiner is managing partner at Solomon Ward Seidenwurm & Smith. Schreiner represents clients in complex business, commercial and real estate litigation. He has experience as lead attorney in numerous state and federal court judge and jury trials, arbitrations and appeals. Schreiner has expertise in California gaming law and represents gambling establishments before administrative tribunals and governmental regulatory agencies, including the California Gambling Control Commission. He is regent emeritus at the University of California Board of Regents and trustee emeritus at the UCSD Foundation Board.

HAHN LOESER
Congratulates San Diego Office Partner-in-Charge

MICHAEL GLEASON
for being selected as one of San Diego’s most influential people for 2022.

Thank you for your contribution to our firm and community!

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DINA SEGAL
**LEGAL HEAD OF STRATEGIC TRANSACTIONS & FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGIES, GUSTO**

Dina Segal has been a business-minded, practical and inspirational leader in her key roles as legal head of strategic transactions and financial technologies at Gusto and co-president and board member of SunLaw, a nonprofit community that advances, connects and inspires women in-house counsel to maximize their fullest potential and lead. Segal has a diversified background in corporate law, tax and litigation. She has been recognized as one of SDBJ’s 40 Under 40.

RONSON SHAMOUN
**FOUNDER, PRINCIPAL & CEO, RJS LAW**

Ronson Shamoun founded RJS Law nearly 20 years ago. His practice involves federal and state taxation, with an emphasis on criminal tax defense, tax controversy, international tax and estate planning. Shamoun has experience representing individuals and businesses before the Internal Revenue Service, the Franchise Tax Board, the Employment Development Department and the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration. He is also owner of Café Bella and is an adjunct professor of business at USD and former member of the Ocean Beach Planning Board.

DAVID SHAPIRO
**MANAGING PARTNER, LAW OFFICE OF DAVID P. SHAPIRO**

David Shapiro has been the owner and managing attorney at Law Office of David P. Shapiro for nearly 13 years, exclusively practicing criminal defense in San Diego. He is a former associate attorney at Steigerwalt & Associates. Shapiro’s office was recognized as the 2022 Winner of the BBB Torch Award for Ethics in San Diego. Shapiro is a former member of the San Diego Criminal Defense Bar Association since 2007 and board member since 2016. He often speaks as a legal expert on news networks.

TERESA SILES
**PRESIDENT & PARTNER, NUFFER, SMITH, TUCKER**

Teresa Siles has been president at Nuffer, Smith, Tucker, where she oversees strategic planning, marketing communications and public relations initiatives for clients, with an emphasis in food and agriculture sectors. Siles co-manages the firm’s Food Foresight process, a trends intelligence system for the agri-food chain, and leads the firm’s strategic planning practice. She has helped clients including California Dried Plum Board, the Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Program and the Hass Avocado Board. She is a member of the Farm Foundation, a nonprofit that assists farmers.

RANDY SOCOL
**PARTNER, DLA PIPER US LLP**

Randy Socol has been with DLA Piper US LLP for more than 23 years and a partner since 1999. Socol represents established and emerging growth companies in the technology, biotechnology, healthcare, sports, media and entertainment sectors. He counsels founders, management and boards, and handles matters ranging from corporate formation and governance to equity and debt financings, mergers and acquisitions and capital markets transactions. He also represents venture capital and private equity firms, corporate and strategic investors and those who finance and acquire emerging growth companies.

Teresa Siles

San Diego Business Journal’s
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An accomplished open water swimmer and former U.S. Army JAG Officer, Steve Coopersmith enjoys a challenge. The founder of a boutique business litigation law firm, he constantly keeps his team motivated to take on complex cases, to give the wisest counsel and to obtain the best results possible.

The Coopersmith Law Firm’s primary focus is handling corporate and partnership breakups, financial fraud, and executive-level employment litigation, as well as antitrust disputes and selected large municipal and land use matters. From winning a heated arbitration trial on all counts in an internal dispute within a noted medical practice, to successfully changing the way downtown San Diego is permitted and planned, Coopersmith always rises to the challenge.

On the list of San Diego “SuperLawyers” since 2014, Coopersmith was also selected to lists of the Top 50 leaders in Law and Top 50 Veteran Business Leaders in San Diego, and to the list of America’s Top “Bet the Company” Litigators. He is honored to be chosen for the SD500 list for this year.

Steve Coopersmith
The Coopersmith Law Firm
2 Columbia Place | 1230 Columbia Street, Suite 680 | San Diego CA 92101 | T 619 238 7360 | stc@stevecoopersmithlaw.com | stevecopersmithlaw.com
Talon Powers

Congratulations to our Managing Partner and CEO Michelle Jacko, Esq. for being named one of the most influential and impactful leaders in San Diego in 2022

At Jacko Law Group, PC, our team has decades of corporate law and securities experience providing practical and effective solutions with a business-centric approach. As an extension of your team, we provide the tools needed to take positive steps toward meeting your end objectives and goals for your business.

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VICKIE TURNER
PARTNER EMERITUS, WILSON TURNER KOSMO LLP

Vickie Turner is partner emeritus at Wilson Turner Kosmo LLP working at the firm for 23 years. She previously was a partner for 16 years at Luce Forward Hamilton and Scripps. Turner has experience in complex litigation matters filed against corporations, with emphasis in the areas of product liability, warranty and class actions. Turner has defended manufacturers, distributors and retailers in product liability claims throughout California and in 12 other states. She is on the office of general counsel committee and diversity advisory committee for the Ford Motor Company.

BRIAN TSU
PARTNER, HIGGS FLETCHER & MACK

Brian Tsu has been a partner at Higgs Fletcher & Mack for nearly four years. Tsu handles trusts, estates and taxation matters, and advises high-net worth clients on domestic and international estate and charitable planning. He was a visiting lecturer for the University of Illinois at Chicago’s College of Business Administration. He is the chair of the state and gift taxes committee of the American Bar Association and is a member of the YMCA of San Diego County Gift Planning Advisors’ Council.

ROBERT TYSON
STRATEGIC MANAGING PARTNER, TYSON & MENDES LLP

Robert Tyson has been at Tyson & Mendes LLP for more than 24 years and the firm’s Strategic Managing Partner for five years. Known for his trial record and expertise arguing damages in personal injury cases, Tyson’s work on Howell v. Hamilton Meats, won before the California Supreme Court in 2011, has been called the most significant insurance decision in more than 40 years. He is the author of the best-selling book “Nuclear Verdicts: Defending Justice for All.”

MICHAEL UMANSKY
PARTNER, SHEPPARD MULLIN RICHTER & HAMPTON LLP

Michael Umsanky has been a partner at Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP for 14 years. Umsanky, a corporate mergers and acquisitions attorney, chairs the firm’s company/venture capital team. He focuses on mergers, acquisitions, private equity transactions and venture capital financings and served for almost three years as vice president and general counsel for Limpir, Inc. He is active with the San Diego County Bar Association and other organizations, including Connect San Diego, Tech San Diego and the UCSD Rady School of Management.

JERRY VARGA
AUDIT PARTNER, RSM US LLP

Jerry Varga is the Office Leader of RSM’s San Diego office as well as the Assurance Practice Leader. He has over 25 years of experience providing audit and management advisory services to middle-market companies in the consumer products, technology and life sciences industries. In addition, Jerry works extensively with portfolio companies of private equity firms and early-stage companies backed by venture capital firms. As the Office Leader, Varga is responsible for developing and executing strategy, driving growth and maintaining the office’s dynamic culture.

CHRIS WAHL
PRESIDENT, SOUTHWEST STRATEGIES

Chris Wahl has been president at Southwest Strategies for nearly 15 years and with the company for 23 years. Wahl is a public affairs/public relations practitioner who for two decades has helped secure development and infrastructure entitlements worth more than $10B for clients. Wahl has helped approve high-profile projects including Sunrise Powerlink, a revitalized Westfield UTC and the North Coast Corridor Project. He was previously president of Wahl Associates, Inc. and is a member of the San Diego/Imperial counties chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

HECHT SOLBERG ROBINSON GOLDBERG & BAGLEY LLP congratulates Paul Robinson on being named to the Business Journal’s SD500!

HECHT SOLBERG LAND USE TEAM

Paul Robinson

At HechtSolberg, we represent clients, with a focus on land use law, in every county throughout Southern California and beyond.

Michael Umansky has been a partner at Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP for 14 years. Umansky, a corporate mergers and acquisitions attorney, chairs the firm’s company/venture capital team. He focuses on mergers, acquisitions, private equity transactions and venture capital financings and served for almost three years as vice president and general counsel for Limpir, Inc. He is active with the San Diego County Bar Association and other organizations, including Connect San Diego, Tech San Diego and the UCSD Rady School of Management.

We’re extremely proud of Paul and we look forward to continuing his legacy assisting clients as they navigate the often choppy waters of Southern California’s development approval and permitting processes.

HechtSolberg Robinson Goldberg & Bagley LLP
One America Plaza | 600 W Broadway, Suite 800, San Diego, CA 92101 | (619) 239.3444
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CHRIS WILLIAMS
CEO, WEST REGION AND PRINCIPAL, MARSH McLENNAN AGENCY
Chris Williams has been a Principal at Marsh McLennan Agency (MMA) for 17 years, and served as the Bay Area’s Managing Director for 15 years before becoming the West Region’s CEO in 2019. Williams’ 30 years of experience includes employee health and benefits consulting and brokerage strategy, operations and leadership, playing a key role in growing MMA’s footprint in the West. He serves on the board of directors for Playworks and is an active member of the community.

KELLY DU FORD WILLIAMS
FOUNDER & MANAGING PARTNER, SLATE LAW GROUP
Kelly DuFord Williams founded Slate Law Group in February 2020 and is the company’s managing partner. She is also an independent consultant, legal expert on business and employment legislation and law as well as a panel attorney for Appellate Defenders Inc. Her specialties include business law and litigation, sexual harassment and employment discrimination and she also provides legal workshops and classes to entrepreneurs. Williams, who was deputy district attorney in Clark County (Nevada) for two years, is a board member of the Debra Carroll and Donald DuFord Family Foundation.

JESSICA YANG
PARTNER, LAGASSE BRANCH BELL + KINKEAD LLP
Jessica Yang has been partner at Lagasse Branch Bell + Kinkead LLP, a certified women-owned law firm, for nine years. Yang practices in the areas of employment law and general litigation, including defending employers in a variety of legal claims including wrongful termination, harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and wage and hour matters. She was previously a law clerk at the practice as well as with the U.S. Attorney’s office. Yang was judicial intern to Hon. William McQuire Jr. in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California.

GUY ASARO
PRESIDENT & CEO, MERIDIAN DEVELOPMENT, LLC
As president of Meridian Development, Guy Asaro leads one of San Diego’s most prolific developers, a company responsible for the expansive Millennia project in Chula Vista. A graduate of the University of Redlands with a bachelor’s of science degree in business management and economics, Asaro is the former president of McMILL Homes and former senior vice president of McMILL Land Development. He also is a former chairman of the San Diego Building Industry Association.

DON ADAIR
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT & CHIEF REVENUE OFFICER, SWINERTON
With 35 years in the construction industry, Don Adair started his career with Swinerton Builders in 1988 as a Project Engineer for the Los Angeles Division. In 1995, Adair moved to the San Diego Division. He is an affiliate of the Associated General Contractors (AGC), and formerly a member of the Palomar College Foundation, Presidents Association, and Hall of Fame Committee. Adair earned a bachelor of science degree in engineering industrial technology construction from California State University Long Beach.

AL APUZZO
PRESIDENT, LEE & ASSOCIATES NORTH SAN DIEGO COUNTY
Al Apuzzo has more than a decade of experience in commercial real estate development, brokerage, asset management, property management and consulting. Before joining Lee & Associates, Apuzzo was president of Al Apuzzo Real Estate and an associate with Meridian Properties Real Estate Development. He holds a master’s of business administration from San Diego State University and a bachelor’s of science degree in finance from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

JAMES AWFORD
PRINCIPAL, BNBUILDERS
With more than 30 years of experience in construction, James Awford joined BNBuilders in 2014 as principal of Southern California operations. He is part of the management team responsible for strategic growth, business development, and operations, working closely with owners and designers to lead project teams through preconstruction and construction. Awford integrates the appropriate use of technology to generate the optimum approach and results on projects. He is a board member of the Design Build Institute of America.

CH elsea Wilson
FOUNDER & CEO, 3CS
Chelsea Wilson started working in the experiential marketing and creative services industry more than 15 years ago in New York City, working with clients in the automotive, entertainment, lifestyle and retail industries, producing events around the world. Wilson moved back to Southern California in 2014 and in 2020 launched 3CS – a production-focused experiential marketing agency offering everything from live experiences to installations.

Kelly DuFord Williams founded Slate Law Group in February 2020 and is the company’s managing partner. She is also an independent consultant, legal expert on business and employment legislation and law as well as a panel attorney for Appellate Defenders Inc. Her specialties include business law and litigation, sexual harassment and employment discrimination and she also provides legal workshops and classes to entrepreneurs. Williams, who was deputy district attorney in Clark County (Nevada) for two years, is a board member of the Debra Carroll and Donald DuFord Family Foundation.

ERICA YOUNG
PARTNER, GORDON REES SCULY MANSUKHANI, LLP
Eric Young is a partner at Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP. Young has practiced real estate law in California for 35 years and has represented developers, public and privately held companies and investors in the acquisition, financing and development of office buildings, industrial parks, shopping centers and multi-family residential projects. He has negotiated leases in many of the landmark office towers throughout the country and also has mentored attorneys from junior lawyer to partner. He also serves as assistant general counsel to the nonprofit Windansea Surf Club.

JIMMY AYALA
DIVISION PRESIDENT, TRI POINTE HOMES
Ayala joined Tri Pointe Homes in 2003 as a project coordinator and rose through the ranks to become division president. He earned a master’s degree in business administration from SDSU and a bachelor’s of science degree in urban and regional planning from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. He serves on the board of Wakefield Housing and Development Corp and on the board of the San Diego County Water Authority.

BEN BADIEE
PRESIDENT & CEO, BADIEE DEVELOPMENT, INC.
As the founder and CEO of Badiee Development, Inc., Ben Badiee has been involved in development for more than 30 years. He has been involved in the development of millions of square feet of real estate projects, including industrial, and logistic projects. Badiee is involved in a variety of mentorship programs including NAIOP and has mentored hundreds of young professionals. He is a former board member of La Jolla Country Day School.
Our Success is Possible
because of our clients and the entire Marcus & Millichap team. Our relentless pursuit to achieve superior results for our clients is why more investors choose Marcus & Millichap. As the number one brokerage firm, our success is rooted in our client’s trust and our consistency in delivering exceptional results. We strive to deliver certainty in an ever-changing marketplace so our clients can invest with confidence. Thank you, your belief in us has made our collective success possible.

Leadership Matters.
Based in San Diego, John Vosheck oversees Marcus & Millichap’s Western Division, which includes much of the West Coast, Rocky Mountain states and Western Canada. Vosheck’s dedication to achieving superior results and developing advisors to maximize value for each of our clients has helped establish Marcus & Millichap as the leading commercial real estate investment sales brokerage and capital markets advisor in North America.

John Vosheck
Western Division Manager
Senior Vice President
858.373.3100
CARRIE BOBB
CEO HELLOJENNY; FOUNDER & CEO CARRIE BOBB & CO.
Since starting her real estate career in 2003 as a commercial real estate agent at a time when there were few women in the field, Carrie Bobb has completed transactions totaling over $2 billion. Before forming her own company in 2019, Bobb was vice president of CBRE in San Diego. Bobb earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism from Southern Nazarene University and a master’s in business administration from SDSU. She also is a member of the Forbes Real Estate Council.

PAUL BARNES
DIVISION PRESIDENT, SHEA HOMES SAN DIEGO
Shea Homes is the largest privately owned builder in the U.S. and Paul Barnes heads the San Diego division of the real estate company. Barnes was promoted to division president in 2004. He has served on several civic and nonprofit boards, including Habitat for Humanity and the San Diego Building Industry Association and is a graduate of UCSD.

JASON BARRY
PARTNER, BARRY ESTATES
Jason Barry is an acknowledged leader in the San Diego County luxury real estate market. Based in Rancho Santa Fe, Barry’s real estate team had a sales volume of $300 million in 2021, including the highest sale on record in Rancho Santa Fe at $39 million. His team is consistently responsible for some of the most expensive home sales in Rancho Santa Fe, La Jolla, Del Mar, Solana Beach, Carlsbad, Point Loma, and downtown San Diego. Barry is a graduate of UCSD.

LAURA BARRY
REALTOR, BARRY ESTATES
Laura Barry has consistently been rated as one of the top producing real estate professionals in San Diego County, specializing in luxury homes. She was the first Realtor in San Diego County to top $100 million in sales volume and has been named by the Wall Street Journal and Lore magazine as one of the top 55 real estate agents in the nation for the years 2006 through 2015. She has a loyal clientele of high-ranking business officials, professional athletes and celebrities.

MIKE BERRYHILL
VICE PRESIDENT & DIVISION MANAGER, SWINERTON
As Division Manager of Swinerton’s San Diego operations, Mike Berryhill leads an office that has grown to be one of the largest contractors in the county over the last several years. Berryhill has nearly 30 years of construction industry experience and is currently on the Board of Directors for The Downtown San Diego Partnership, AGC of San Diego, American Heart Association, and The Swinerton Foundation. He earned a bachelor’s degree in construction management from California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo.

TAMI BARNHART-REESE
PRESIDENT BARNHART-REESE CONSTRUCTION, INC.; PARTNER MAKENA CONSULTING
Barnhart-Reese co-founded Barnhart-Reese Construction, Inc. with her father, Douglas Barnhart, and husband, West Reese, after the sale of her father’s company, Douglas E. Barnhart, Inc. She is the former president of J. Reese Construction and was director of communications for Barnhart Inc. She also worked as an account representative for Marston & Marston, a public relations firm. Barnhart-Reese earned a bachelor’s degree in marketing from USD.

DAN BRODERICK
PRESIDENT AMERICAS, CUSHMAN & WAKEFIELD
Dan Broderick heads Cushman & Wakefield’s operations in the Western U.S., Canada and Latin America. As a leading real estate professional in the region for more than 19 years, he is well-versed in every aspect of the business including investment banking, capital markets, sales and leasing and corporate services. Broderick has won numerous awards and is a board member, volunteer, and contributor to many industry, philanthropic and charitable causes.

BRIAN CAHILL
DIVISION PRESIDENT, BALFOUR BEATTY CONSTRUCTION
Brian Cahill joined Balfour Beatty Construction as a construction manager and superintendent in 1993 when it was Bannhart, Inc. In 2015, he was promoted to his current position as president, California, where he oversees operations and business acquisitions throughout California and Arizona. A former U.S. Navy deep sea diver and graduate of Mesa College and SDSU, Cahill co-authored a book on public education with futurist Rex Miller.

MIKE CONROY
VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS, LEVEL 10 CONSTRUCTION
Mike Conroy has more than 24 years of experience in construction in San Diego County and throughout California, managing and overseeing wide range of projects from new school campuses to museum expansions. A graduate of Purdue University with a bachelor’s of science degree in building construction technology, he has worked on projects for such clients as Stanford University; USD, the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego; the San Diego Community College District, SeaWorld and the San Diego Zoo.

WILLIAM DAVIDSON
PRESIDENT & FOUNDER, DAVIDSON COMMUNITIES
Since he founded Davidson Communities in 1978, William Davidson has focused on building luxury homes. He has built more than 5,000 homes in 45 communities with a total value of more than $2 billion. In 2020, the Davidson Collection on Bethel Island was named community of the year by the National Association of Home Builders. Other recent projects have included neighborhoods in San Eliso Hills and San Juan Capistrano.

DEREK DAVIS
PRESIDENT, DAVIS REED CONSTRUCTION
Derek Davis formed Davis Reed construction in 2002 with EE Reed after more than 20 years in the construction industry. His company has a strong emphasis on high-end hospitality projects such as Vista Collina in Napa and the Pendry San Diego hotel. A graduate of the University of Florida with a bachelor’s degree in building construction, he is a board member of the Eske Family YMCA and is a strong supporter of many local events and charities.

PERRY DEALY
PRESIDENT AND CEO, DEALY DEVELOPMENT
Perry Dealry has over 45 years of real estate experience in public and private development. Key projects have included downtown San Diego’s Research and Development District, Convention Center Expansion, Manchester Grand Hyatt San Diego, Navy Headquarters, Wells Fargo Plaza and Grand Del Mar. Dealy is active with the Downtown San Diego Partnership Executive Committee, the Lincoln Club of San Diego County Executive Committee and Lambda Alpha International.

MIKE CONROY
VICE PRESIDENT OF OPERATIONS, LEVEL 10 CONSTRUCTION
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CONGRATS BRIAN M. KOSHLEY, AIA.
SAN DIEGO TOP 500 EXECUTIVES
MARCELA ESCOBAR-ECK
PRESIDENT & CEO, ATLANTIS GROUP LAND USE CONSULTANTS

Marcela Escobar-Eck has more than 30 years of experience in the land use and development field with various government agencies and elected officials. As director of the San Diego Development Services Department, she oversaw a department with a $68.9 million budget. She also is the former Carlsbad planning director. Escobar-Eck earned a bachelor’s of science degree in landscape architecture with an emphasis in urban and regional planning from the University of California Davis.

KURT EVANS
PRESIDENT, LUSARDI CONSTRUCTION CO.

Kurt Evans joined Lusardi Construction Co. in 1996 after earning a bachelor’s of science degree in civil engineering from California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo. As president of one of the nation’s top private general contractors, he is in charge of strategic planning, managing the growth and development of the company and running day-to-day operations as he oversees a staff of more than 200 employees.

JOHN FRAGER
EXECUTIVE MANAGING DIRECTOR, CBRE

A Navy veteran and graduate of the University of Southern California-Marshall School of Business, John Frager is the regional leader of CBRE’s businesses in San Diego, North Baja Mexico and Hawaii. With more than 27 years of real estate professional experience, he is a board member of the executive committee of CONNECT San Diego and a board member of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the board of trustees of USD.

NICK FRASCO
MANAGING DIRECTOR & CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER
WEST, LONGFELLOW REAL ESTATE PARTNERS

Nick Frasco is in charge of the San Diego operations of Longfellow Real Estate Partners, which is based in Boston. Longfellow has been one of the more active life science property investors in San Diego. In 2021, Frasco was the winner of SDBJ’s 40 Under 40 Award. Before joining Longfellow, Frasco worked for Vot Real Estate Partners, The Irvine Company, and Majestic Realty Co. He is a member of NAIOP and a graduate of the University of Southern California-Marshall School of Business.

SCOTT FREE
CEO, LUSARDI CONSTRUCTION CO.

Scott Free has been with Lusardi Construction for more than 30 years and has helped the company earn one of the nation’s top general contractors. A graduate of Northern Arizona University, he has volunteered with multiple organizations, including the YMCA, Young Presidents’ Organization (San Diego Chapter); the Challenged Athletes Foundation; and Padres Pedal the Cause.

YEHUDI GAFFEN
FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, GACCON

Yehudi Gaccon formed Gaccon Inc. in 1987 after emigrating to the U.S. from South Africa. Before starting the company, he worked in real estate development, including eight years with Sunroad Enterprises. Under his leadership, Gaccon has grown into one of Southern California’s most respected construction consulting firms. He provides the leadership and direction for strategy and execution of the Seaport San Diego Project. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management from the University of Cape Town, South Africa.

MARK GLEIBERMAN
CEO, MG PROPERTIES GROUP

Mark Gleiberman founded MG Properties in 1992, and oversees the acquisition, development, and management of more than $7 billion in apartment communities. A graduate of Drexel University, he served as the executive board of the University of San Diego Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate, a member of the National Multi-Housing Council Board of Directors and the University of California Real Estate and Development Advisory Board. He has received many awards for his philanthropy.

SANDRA GRAMLEY
CO-OWNER, PLATT/WHITELEAW ARCHITECTS

Sandra Gramley joined Platt/Whiteleaw in 2000 and became principal in 2010. She leads the firm with her co-owner Naveen Waney. A strong proponent of diversity, she has dedicated her career to improving communities, collaborating with peers and training strong leaders. A graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, she holds a master’s degree in architecture from Texas A&M University. She is a past president of AIA San Diego and taught sustainable design for 13 years at the Design Institute.

RYAN GREEN
DIVISION PRESIDENT, LENNAR

Ryan Green has a successful history of working in the construction industry, focusing on home building. He became division president of Lennar in December 2020 after working for the company as vice president for land acquisition for nearly three years. Before joining Lennar, he was a vice president of CalAtlantic, vice president of Ryland Homes, and director of land acquisition of PulteGroup. He earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration and management from the University of Phoenix.

LINDA GREENBERG
PRINCIPAL, LEE & ASSOCIATES

Linda Greenberg is an acknowledged expert when it comes to industrial property leasing and sales in San Diego County, specializing in South County and Central County. An industry veteran since 1983, she has been a top performer at Lee & Associates. She is a past president of CREW national and San Diego chapters, past president of the Otay Mesa Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee and a member of the South County Economic Development Council.

ZACH HAMMOND
SAN DIEGO GENERAL MANAGER, SUFFOLK

Since he became general manager for Suffolk in San Diego in 2020, Zach Hammond has been responsible for business planning and development, market analysis and talent recruitment. In addition to leading Suffolk’s operations in San Diego, he is responsible for expanding the company’s presence across various industries, including residential, hospitality, education, science and technology, and aviation. A graduate of Bowdoin College, he has been with Suffolk since 2007.

JEFFREY HARPER
PRESIDENT, HARPER CONSTRUCTION

Jeff Harper has led Harper Construction since 2005, when he took over the company founded by his father, Ron Harper, in 1974. He continues the construction family tradition while maintaining the company’s outstanding reputation for uncompromising quality and safety. He has been responsible for projects in the private and public sectors with a hands-on approach and responsibility for all construction operations through project completion. He specializes in design-build projects.

J. KEVIN HEINLY
MANAGING DIRECTOR & PRINCIPAL, GENSLER

As managing director, Kevin Heinly has grown Genster’s San Diego team from 20 to 100. He is an active member of the Urban Land Institute and the Downtown San Diego Partnership and serves on the board of directors for the NAIOP San Diego Chapter and is an advisory board member to the NewSchool of Architecture and Design. He holds a bachelor’s degree in architecture from Lehigh University and a master’s of architecture from the University of Maryland.

ERIC HEPFER
MANAGING DIRECTOR, HINES

As managing director of Hines, Eric Hepfer is overseeing a massive $3 billion redevelopment project in Mission Valley, transforming the Riverwalk Golf Course into a mixed-use community that will include rental apartments, for-sale condominium units, 1 million square feet of office space, 152,000 square feet of retail space and a $10 million new trolley station. A former Navy submarine officer, Hepfer, is a graduate of Harvard Business School and Virginia Military Institute.
OVER $5 BILLION IN CAREER SALES
OVER $500 MILLION SOLD IN 2021

THE #1 TEAM IN SAN DIEGO
Atlantis Group Land Use Consultants congratulates our President and CEO Marcela Escobar-Eck for being recognized as one of the Top 500 Business Executives in San Diego. Marcela’s commitment to excellence for the community, the company and its clients, and her leadership in the land development industry are evident in our success.

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Barnhart-Reese Construction, Inc. and Makena Medical Buildings LLC are proud to congratulate Douglas Barnhart and Tamela Barnhart Reese on being recognized as Top Executives in San Diego!

Tami Barnhart Reese
President
Barnhart-Reese Construction

Douglas E. Barnhart
Chairman
Barnhart-Reese Construction and Makena Medical Buildings LLC

Douglas and Nancy Barnhart Cancer Center, Chula Vista, CA

Bret Morriss
Managing Partner, CAST Capital Partners

A U.S. Marine Reserve pilot instructor, Bret Morriss has been managing partner of CAST Capital and Brokerage divisions since February 2022. He manages the investments, commercial real estate services and advisory teams, which are responsible for capital markets, investment sales and brokerage teams. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Virginia Tech and a master’s degree from the University of California Anderson School of Management. Before joining CAST, he was the founding managing Director of the San Diego office for Stream Realty Partners.

James McLamb
Senior Vice President, Clark Construction

Starting with Clark Construction as a field engineer in 1990, James McLamb worked his way up to become senior vice president in 2007. A graduate of the University of Florida and Whittier Law School, he led company teams on some of the West Coast’s most notable projects, including Chase Center, the Governor George Deukmejian Courthouse and PETCO Park. He is responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of Clark Construction Group’s projects in San Diego.

Tim Meissner
Founder & CEO, Meissner Commercial Real Estate

Tim Meissner has more than 40 years of experience in commercial real estate including advisory services, asset management, acquisition, disposition, finance, leasing, construction and property management. A graduate of Santa Clara University, he has been focused on commercial real estate transactions and the formation of Meissner CRES as an operating business that manages a client portfolio valued in excess of $1 billion. His primary functions are business growth and development as well as mentoring the firm’s senior management team.

Neil McFarlane
President & CEO, McFarlane Architects, Inc.

With Neal McFarlane as the sole owner, McFarlane Architects has become one of the largest architectural, planning and interior design firms in San Diego. A graduate of the University of Utah with a bachelor’s degree in science and finance and a master’s degree in architecture, Neal McFarlane has designed more than 12,000,000 square feet of life science facilities including some highly specialized, first-of-their-kind facilities. He is responsible for the success, design and management of each project.

Joe Monaco
President & CEO, Dudek

Joe Monaco has had a steady rise in the employee-owned Dudek after joining the firm in 2000, ascending to become president and CEO in 2020 following the retirement of the firm’s founder, Frank Dudek. A graduate of the University of California Los Angeles with a degree in geography, he has focused on regional water resource development and habitat conservation. He managed the analysis of environmental feasibility, compliance and permitting for six regional desalination programs.

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Martha Mosier
President, Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices California Properties

Martha Mosier is responsible for driving success within Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties and its affiliated partners, including Prosperity Home Mortgage, Pickford Escrow, The Escrow Firm, California Title and HomeServices Insurance. A graduate of Thomas Jefferson School of Law and SDSU, she transitioned to the top executive spot for Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties after nearly three decades of serving as legal counsel to the brokerage community, specializing in single-family, multifamily and commercial properties in Southern California.

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Neal McFarlane
President & CEO, McFarlane Architects, Inc.

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Martha Mosier
President, Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices California Properties

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MARK READ
REGIONAL PRESIDENT, BROKERAGE, KIDDER MATHEWS
With more than 30 years in the commercial real estate industry, Mark Read has helped Kidder Mathews open offices in multiple locations including San Diego, Phoenix, Irvine, Carlsbad, the Inland Empire, Long Beach, Commerce, and Los Angeles, El Segundo and Pasadena. Before joining Kidder Mathews in 2015, he was broker and then senior managing director for CBRE and an executive managing director for Voit Real Estate Services. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the UCLA.

ADAM ROBINSON
FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, RPG
Adam Robinson leads RPG, an investment firm specializing in the acquisition, development, operations and management of commercial real estate. RPG specializes in mixed-use, office, retail, multifamily and creative industrial — a new product type integrating creative office features into state-of-the-art ground-up developed industrial buildings. RPG has acquired 4.8 million square feet of commercial real estate with a value over $2 billion dollars and has completed aggressive repositioning to drive values.

RALPH ROESLING
PRINCIPAL, ROESLING NAKAMURA TERADA ARCHITECTS
Ralph Roesling founded Nakamura Terada Architects with Kotaro Nakamura in 1983. The firm has 45 professionals serving clients in the public and private sectors with a particular interest in neighborhood revitalization, climatic design and urban/historic preservation. A graduate of Arizona State University’s School of Architecture, his architecture and planning projects have been recognized with more than 60 regional, state, national and international design awards. He is a member of the adjunct faculty at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

STEVE ROSETTA
CEO, IQHQ
Steve Rosetta is a co-founder of IQHQ, the company that is remaking a large portion of San Diego’s downtown waterfront with the $1.5 billion Research and Development District (RaDD) targeting life science companies. He previously served as executive vice president and chief investment officer at Kilroy Realty and spent more than 20 years at Cushman & Wakefield. He earned a bachelor’s degree from CSU San Marcos and a master’s degree from UCLA.

CHRISTINA ROUSH
MANAGING PRINCIPAL, SAN DIEGO & NEVADA, CUSHMAN & WAKEFIELD
Christina Roush leads strategy for Cushman & Wakefield’s San Diego and Nevada markets. She oversees multiple service lines including brokerage, property management, valuation and advisory, and private capital investment sales. A graduate of USD with a bachelor’s degree in business administration and marketing, she has more than 30 years of experience in commercial real estate. She transformed the Las Vegas office into one of the top commercial brokerages in the market.

SUMIT ROY
PRESIDENT & CEO, REALITY INCOME CORP.
Sumit Roy has served as Realty Income’s CEO since October 2018 and president since 2015. He previously served as Realty Income’s COO and oversaw the company’s investments and business operations, including acquisitions, dispositions, asset management, portfolio management, information technology, internal audit and human resources. He earned a master’s degree in finance and economics from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and serves on the executive board and the Governance Committee for the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts.
SCOTT SASS
BUSINESS UNIT LEADER, DPR CONSTRUCTION
Scott Sass started his career in construction as a carpenter. Earning a bachelor’s degree in construction management from the University of Nebraska, he joined DPR in 1999 as project executive. He moved to Texas in 2007, where he grew the company’s Special Services Group for the Central Region from an annual revenue of $40 million to $172 million. He became business unit leader in San Diego in 2021, developing and growing high-performing teams and operations in the region.

ERIC STENMAN
PRESIDENT U.S., BAFOUR BEATTY CONSTRUCTION
Eric Sternman began his career as a plumbing contractor, owned his own business, and later became a general contractor. In 2001, he became vice president and general counsel for Douglas E. Barnhart, Inc., which was acquired by Balfour Beatty in 2008. He holds a law degree from California Western School of Law and a master’s degree in political science from California State University, Norridge. In 2013, he was recognized by the Boy Scouts of America as “Good Scout of the Year” for the construction industry.

RANDEE STRATTON
MANAGING DIRECTOR, NEWMARK GRUBB KNIGHT FRANK
With more than 18 years of experience in real estate brokerage, Randee Stratton focuses on providing exclusive tenant representation for national and regional retail and restaurant tenants. A graduate of SDSU with a bachelor’s degree in marketing, she is a member and past president of the Association of Real Estate Executive, a member of the Urban Land Institute, a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers and a member or Commercial Real Estate Women.

COLTON SUDBERRY
PRESIDENT & CEO, SUDBERRY PROPERTIES
Colton Sudberry has maintained the company’s focus on mixed-use and town center developments with an emphasis on urban in-fill and master-planned communities. Major projects include the 235-acre master-planned community of Civita in Mission Valley, the 465-acre El Corazon mixed-use community and SoCal Sports Complex in Oceanside, and the 850,000-square-foot Watermark mixed-use project in San Diego’s Scripps Ranch. A football standout at the University of Colorado Boulder, he is a member several industry groups, the San Diego City College Foundation and Santa Fe Christian Schools.

BRAD TERMINI
CO-CEO, ZEPHYR
Brad Termini co-founded Zephyr in 2006 with a commitment to enhancing communities in California. His focus on large scale developments that have positive impact in specific communities remains central to the company’s guiding ethos. He manages a development portfolio of more than $1 billion. Through the Zephyr Foundation, he has been deeply involved in the communities in which Zephyr does business, supporting homeless causes and youth organizations including Boys and Girls Club. Solana Beach School Foundation and Elwood Franklin School.

THOMAS TURNER
VICE PRESIDENT, CBRE ADVISORY AND TRANSACTION SERVICES
Thomas Turner specializes in helping law firms, technology, biotech, healthcare companies and others in real estate transactions. He is a former managing partner and real estate leader at Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch. A graduate of UCLA with a law degree from the University of California Berkeley, his volunteer work includes serving as a mentor at the Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies at USD.

JOHN VORSHECK
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/DISTRICT MANAGER, MARCUS & MILICHAP
John Vorsheck oversees the San Diego, Denver, Las Vegas and Phoenix offices of Marcus & Millichap. A graduate of the University of Arizona, he joined the firm in 2006 as sales manager of the Newport Beach office, was promoted to regional manager of the Los Angeles office in 2007, and to regional manager of the San Diego office in 2011. Five years later, he was elevated to District Manager.

DOUGLAS WILSON
CEO, DOUGLAS WILSON COMPANIES
A nationally recognized expert in problem resolution, Doug Wilson has overseen the development and management of nearly $15 billion in assets and has served as a court appointed fiduciary for more than 1,000 matters in state and federal Courts. Prior to founding Douglas Wilson Companies in 1989, he was the managing general partner of the company that developed Symphony Towers, a $160 million, 1.2 million square foot office and hotel complex in downtown San Diego.

JOSEPH WONG
FOUNDER & PRINCIPAL, JOSEPH WONG DESIGN ASSOCIATES
The architectural firm that Joseph Wong founded in 1977 has been responsible for many of the projects that have dramatically changed the skyline of San Diego and created sophisticatedly designed buildings throughout the region. The firm has earned more than 50 local and national design awards. With master’s degrees from Harvard University and the University of California Berkeley, Wong is a fellow with the American Institute of Architects.

ALEX ZIKAKIS
FOUNDER & PRESIDENT, CAPSTONE ADVISORS
Alex Zikakis founded the diverse real estate investment and development company in 1997. The firm has been an equity investor in more than $2 billion of residential development ventures, purchased five million square feet of commercial properties, overseen third-party asset management services for millions of square feet of retail and office properties, and is developing multiple commercial, residential and hospitality projects. He has a master’s degree in business administration from Cornell University and a bachelor’s degree in finance from the University of Colorado Boulder.
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CRISTIANO AMON
PRESIDENT & CEO, QUALCOMM INC.

Since taking over the chief executive role at Qualcomm Inc. last year, Cristiano Amon has overseen massive growth at what was already San Diego’s largest public company. Qualcomm has leveraged its expertise in cellular technologies to advance an “intelligently connected” world through edge computing in automobiles, virtual reality, gaming, AI, 5G, and more. Amon started at Qualcomm in 1995 and prior to CEO served as company president as well as head of its semiconductor business.

GERRY BORJA
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION HEAD OF VETERAN & MILITARY SPOUSE PROGRAMS, ORACLE

Gerry Borja is the Veteran Transition Program Manager at Oracle. Borja grew up in a Navy family and served in the Army. He has worked at all levels in recruiting to include operations and management for both large corporations and startups in the Silicon Valley and San Diego. While primarily a technical and engineering recruiter, Borja has also hired employees for the healthcare, financial services and sales industries. He was previously a corporate recruiter at Qualcomm.

STACEY ANFUSO
PRESIDENT & CEO, LA JOLLA LOGIC

Stacey Anfuso has over 20 years of experience in cybersecurity, computing technologies, systems engineering and software design. As CEO of La Jolla Logic, which she founded, Anfuso leads a team that engages with engineers, policy makers and program offices to achieve continuity and successful development and implementation of new security directives and processes.

NICHOLAS BULCAO
CO-FOUNDER & CEO, AIRSPACE

Nicholas Bulcaio and his partner, Ryan Rusnak, built Airspace into a modern logistics company that uses artificial intelligence and machine learning to find the best and fastest delivery routes. Airspace’s platform creates the optimal shipping route within seconds, then automatically finds an experienced driver to dispatch, relaying to company clients all of the time-critical progress of their shipment in real time. This year, the company secured $70 million in financing to expand global operations.

CHRIS ANTHONY
CO-CEO & CO-FOUNDER, APTERA MOTORS

Chris Anthony is co-founder and co-CEO at Aptera Motors, maker of three-wheeled electric vehicles that will have built-in solar panels allowing them to travel up to 40 miles on solar power alone. Aptera has pre-orders from more than 20,000 customers. Aptera opened a production facility in Carlsbad this year and plans to produce its first vehicles in 2023. Prior to leading Aptera, Anthony founded and was CEO of lithium battery company Flux, which is headquartered in Vista.

DUANE CAMERON
VICE PRESIDENT, COX BUSINESS

Since joining Cox in 2018, Duane Cameron has elevated the prestige of Cox’s San Diego region team. During the transition to remote work, Cameron ensured he stayed connected to his frontline employees, created continued professional development opportunities, created team building and social engagement touch points, operational transparency and diversity and inclusion initiatives. Cameron has more than 25 years of telecommunications and tech experience and is also a former team member of USA Volleyball.

ARY ARIANPOUR
FOUNDER & CEO, SEQSTER

Ardy Arianpour is a visionary health tech executive and serial entrepreneur in biotech and digital health. He leads Seqster, a “patient-centric” SaaS healthcare technology company he founded in 2016. Prior to starting Seqster, he launched several clinical and consumer-based genetic tests as CCO of Pathway Genomics and served as EVP of Ambry Genetics. Arianpour was a key player in the 2013 landmark SCOTUS decision scrapping gene patents.

DANIEL CHANG
FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN, AEM COMPONENTS

As an entrepreneur who started from ground zero, Daniel Chang grew AEM Components to a leading position in the micro-fuse world – and a value of more than $200 million. He is a mentor and leader not only at his company but also for the passive component industry and the local community. AEM products have been adopted globally in customer applications from Earth to space, with AEM represented in products and services used by virtually every modern family.

SAM ATTISHA
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT FIELD OPERATIONS, COX COMMUNICATIONS

Sam Attisha leads a national team focused on growth initiatives. Last year, he was promoted to Cox’s senior VP of field operations, in charge of the company’s interests in 16 Western states. Attisha has held various leadership roles at Cox since 2007. He is also a board member of the San Diego Regional EDC and also sits on the leadership council of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce.

SCOT CHISHOLM
FOUNDER & STRATEGIC ADVISOR, CLASSY

Scott Chisholm founded Classy, an online fundraising platform that enables nonprofits to connect supporters with the causes they care about. Since 2011, Classy’s platform has helped raise over $4 billion for nonprofits. Chisholm is founder of farming advocacy nonprofit Save Farmland, co-owner of the Albion Soccer Club and sits on the leadership council advisory board at The Nature Conservancy.

CODY BARBO
FOUNDER & CEO, TRUST & WILL

Cody Barbo started Trust & Will in 2017 with a mission to make estate planning an affordable and inclusive option for all American families. Before launching the firm, Barbo was founder and CEO of Industry, a LinkedIn for the service and hospitality industry. Barbo also serves on the San Diego State University Alumni Board of Advisors, Phi Kappa Theta Fraternity’s National Foundation Board and is a member of Founders Pledge.

MIKE CORDONNIER
CO-FOUNDER & CEO, CARLSMED

Mike Cordonnier is an accomplished MedTech executive who has dedicated his career to building private and public companies that can improve lives – millions of lives. He is co-founder and CEO of Carlsmed and volunteers his time to support the San Diego Life Science and Tech startup community. Prior to launching Carlsmed, Cordonnier held leadership roles at NuVasive, Zimmer Biomet and Ortho Orthopedics as well as startups Ellipse Technologies and X-Spine Systems.

JOE BEERY
CEO, LUNA

Joe Beery is dedicated at Luna to advancing the genomics and health data to give families of children with rare diseases opportunities for treatment. His own twin children were born with a rare genetic disorder that was undiagnosable until they became the first case of clinical outcomes for next-gen sequencing. He also serves on the boards of Rady Children’s Institute for Genomic Medicine, The Rare Genomics Institute, and is a founding member of Hope Knows No Boundaries.

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Congratulations to A.J. van de Ven, Calsense President & CEO, on being recognized, for the second year in a row, as one of San Diego’s most influential people. A.J.’s leadership is creating a more sustainable future by conserving Earth’s most precious resource: water. A special thank you to Calsense’s incredible customers and partners who share our mission to promote smart irrigation and water conservation.

HOW SMART IS YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM? VISIT CALSENSE.COM TO FIND OUT

For over 35 years, Calsense has been a leader and chief innovator in smart irrigation systems, helping countless educational institutions, municipalities and businesses effectively meet their water management and financial goals.
CONGRATULATIONS

Sam Attisha

We are inspired by your leadership and commitment to Cox customers and employees, the San Diego region and helping businesses and communities thrive. Congratulations on being named one of San Diego’s most influential people in 2022.

CONGRATULATIONS

Ingo Hentschel

Your leadership and dedication to Cox employees and the customers and communities we serve inspire us all. Congratulations on being named one of San Diego’s most influential people in 2022.
enabling companies to accelerate their digital innovation in the CaliBaja region. Ingo Hentschel oversees Cox Communications’ day-to-day operations and employees in San Diego, Orange County, Palos Verdes and Santa Barbara. He has a record leading large, complex operational groups to high performance during competitive and high change periods. Prior to joining Cox in 1992, Hentschel was a crew chief in the U.S. Marine Corps. He sits on the boards of the USS Midway Museum, California State University San Marcos Foundation and San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation.

MIKE HALL
CO-FOUNDER & CEO – BORREGO SOLAR
Mike Hall was one of the original co-founders of Borrego, joining his brother Aaron in 2002. In 2009 he transitioned into the role of CEO, after leading the company’s sales and marketing organization for seven years. Over the last 40 years, Borrego has established itself as one of the nation’s most reliable solar and energy storage companies, known for its focus on safety, integrity, quality, and deep staff expertise.

AFIF KHOURY
CEO, SOCI
Afif Khoury is a former attorney, venture capitalist and now founder and CEO of one of the largest enterprise SaaS companies in the world. Khoury has raised more than $200 million in his career and has driven SOCI to become an INC. 5000 Fastest Growing Companies in America for five years straight. SOCI now employs more than 300 people across nine countries and supports more than 3 million businesses.

KEVIN MARSHALL
CO-FOUNDER & PRESIDENT, COPYLINK
Kevin Marshall is the president and co-founder of CopyLink, a successful office equipment company headquartered in Chula Vista that Marshall launched in 1990. The company offers programs that include copying/printing systems as well as scanning solutions and new electronic document filing software programs. Marshall is also board chair of the YMCA and Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce president.

STEVE MCMILLAN
PRESIDENT & CEO, TERADATA
Steve McMillan has led Teradata since 2020. He is a seasoned executive with more than two decade track record of transforming enterprise services and product businesses into industry-leading cloud portfolio offerings. Prior to joining Teradata, McMillan served as the EVP of Global Services for F5 Networks where he was responsible for more than half of worldwide operations and achieved significant top-line growth and industry-leading customer satisfaction.

Congratulations, Maritza Diaz on being acknowledged as Business Woman of the Year for 2022!

We appreciate your passion for enhancing San Diego’s Life Science and Technology industries to expand and become more competitive in the world, and your dedication to enabling companies to accelerate their digital innovation in the CaliBaja region. Your prowess transcends barriers.

SEAN FERREL
FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN, MANAGED SOLUTION
Sean Ferrel founded Managed Solution because he believed there was a better way to provide IT talent to help businesses with their exponential growth of data, technology needs and business challenges. Ferrel believes the gap between people and technology has gotten even smaller and at the end of the line, his company helps connect the digital landscape and is a critical component to empowering the technology platforms that empower our everyday lives.

ALEX GOODE
CEO, GOSITE
Alex Goode launched GoSite in 2013 as a website design platform that builds webpages for small businesses. GoSite, now operating in all 50 states and with 250 employees in San Diego, has expanded into an enablement platform helping small businesses engage and transact with customers. The company has partnered with more than 6,000 merchants and recently raised $40 million in a Series B round to fuel further expansion and growth.

ADAM HARRIS
CO-FOUNDER & CEO, CLOUDBEDS
Adam Harris leads Cloudbeds, a cloud-based hospitality management software platform that simplifies the working lives of professional property owners, operators and employees. Hotels, hostels, vacation rentals and groups in around the world use Cloudbeds’ award-winning software to generate billions of dollars in room sales annually. This year, Cloudbeds raised $150 million in a Series D round, bringing its total venture backing to $253 million.

JEFFREY GERARDI
CEO, PROEST, INC.
Jeffrey Gerardi has been CEO of ProEst since 1992 and has led the firm from a small tech company to its current position as the construction industry’s leading estimating software, with over 8,000 active users around the world. Gerardi’s pioneering development of an online cloud platform allows businesses to maintain productivity and collaboration amidst unprecedented challenges. As CEO, Girardi oversees all aspects of the business including sales, development, client support, and customer service.

INGO HENTSCHEL
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT AND REGION MANAGER, COX COMMUNICATIONS
Ingo Hentschel oversees Cox Communications’ day-to-day operations and employees in San Diego, Orange County, Palos Verdes and Santa Barbara. He has a record leading large, complex operational groups to high performance during competitive and high change periods. Prior to joining Cox in 1992, Hentschel was a crew chief in the U.S. Marine Corps. He sits on the boards of the USS Midway Museum, California State University San Marcos Foundation and San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation.
GIOIA MESSINGER  
FOUNDER & PRINCIPAL, LINKEDOBJECTS, INC.
Gioia Messinger is an accomplished entrepreneur and senior executive who launched LinkedObjects in 2012. The firm provides strategy and technology services focused on the digital transformation brought about by AI and IoT. Previously, Messinger was co-founder and CEO of Avaak, now Arlo Technologies. She currently serves as an independent director for OneStop Systems, Indyme Solutions, CAR-H, Health, and sits on the Council of Advisors at UCSD Jacobs School of Engineering.

DUSTIN NIGLIO  
CEO, PAYMENT LOGISTICS LIMITED
Dustin Niglio started Payment Logistics with his brother Britton in 2003 in response to a need in the industry to provide reliable and secure merchant account services while addressing the technical needs presented by a complex and ever-changing electronic payment processing industry. Named one of SDBJ’s 100 Fastest Growing Companies, Payment Logistics offers everything from mobile payments and payment processing to a gift and loyalty program.

CHRIS ORLANDO  
CO-FOUNDER & CSMO, SCALEMATRIX
Chris Orlando is the co-founder of ScaleMatrix and DDC Cabinet Technology and leads the company’s commercial and strategic efforts. Prior to ScaleMatrix, Orlando served as president of the Complex Drive Data Center Group for four years, in additional to developing a number of hosting and colocation brands in the early 2000’s. Today, he is involved in expanding the reach and breadth of the ScaleMatrix brand, which offers clients some of the highest density and most energy-efficient hosting platforms in the world.

MIKE ROBERTS  
FOUNDER & CEO, CREATING CODING CAREERS
During his career, Mike Roberts has worn many hats, from software engineer to CEO. Most recently, he is the founder and CEO of Creating Coding Careers (formerly San Diego Code School) where he has helped launch more than 100 student careers and has grants working at IBM/RedHat, Apple, Walmart Labs, Sony, AWS and other leading tech companies. Roberts is a Fullstack JavaScript practitioner with more than 30 years of coding experience. He is a board member of San Diego JavaScript Community.

GORDON SCHENK  
PRESIDENT & CEO, UCAP POWER
Gordon Schenk has been the leader of UCAP Power since the firm’s inception in 2019. UCAP Power provides ultracapacitor-based solutions across a wide range of renewable markets. Ultracapacitor systems are a long-lasting, renewable source of reliable power storage that can eliminate lead-acid or other hazardous batteries. Previously Schenk was VP of sales for Americas at Maxwell Technologies prior to its acquisition by Tesla.

SHAYNE SKAFF  
CEO, BLOOMA
Shayne Skaff is a strategic visionary and serial entrepreneur and operator dedicated to building emerging technology companies. In 2004, he co-founded MaintenanceNet, a SaaS platform that automated how companies managed and transacted annuity businesses. Skaff sold the company to Cisco Systems in 2015 for $139 million, and he co-founded Blooma, which employs artificial intelligence machine learning solutions to help commercial real estate professionals handle data gathering, number crunching and document reading.

ERIC SPOMER  
PRESIDENT & CEO – ENERGYSOURCE MINERALS
Eric Spomer has led EnergySource Minerals (ESM) as president and CEO since 2015. Over the course of his leadership, ESM further developed a direct lithium extraction (DLE) technology called ILiAD (Integrated Lithium Absorption Desorption) that is the cleanest process for mining lithium to date. The company is now poised to be a leader in the supply chain needed to electrolytically transport.

A.J. VAN DE VEN  
CO-FOUNDER & CEO, CALSENSE
A.J. van de Ven began his career with irrigation solutions leader Calsense in 2005, where he started as a software engineer. After 10 years, he expanded his involvement within the business and became president in 2016. In 2018 he became CEO of Calsense. In addition to leading Calsense, van de Ven is involved with Young Presidents Organization, dedicated to making “Better Leaders Through Education and Idea Exchange.”

LÂLE WHITE  
CO-FOUNDER & CEO – XIFIN
Lâle White founded XIFIN in 1997 with a vision of using technology to optimize the economics of healthcare – creating an environment in which patients receive the best healthcare at the lowest cost to themselves and the healthcare system as a whole. XIFIN has helped diagnostic labs and health systems process more than 70 million labs visits per year, realizing more than $3 billion in cumulative net cash collection gains.

DOUG WINTER  
CO-FOUNDER & CEO, SEISMIC SOFTWARE
Doug Winter is the chief executive officer and co-founder of Seismic, the global leader in sales enablement. A veteran entrepreneur, Winter was also a co-founder of Objectiva Software Solutions. In collaboration with his co-founders, Winter has grown Seismic from a small startup to an international organization that recently reached an annual run rate of $300 million.

OREN ZASLANSKY  
FOUNDER & CEO, FLOCK FREIGHT
Oren Zaslansky put together a 100-truck fleet at age 20 and a brokerage called “SolSource,” which opened his eyes to the inefficiencies of LTL shipping. Zaslansky founded Encinitas-based Flock Freight in 2015 and has turned the firm into one of the area’s fastest-growing privately held companies – and one of San Diego’s newest “unicorns.” Flock Freight’s proprietary software allows shippers to pool less-than-full loads to maximize available space on trucks and eliminate tons of carbon dioxide emissions.
DOUG AUSTIN

Owner, AvRP Studios

Architect Doug Austin founded AvRP Studios and has served as the prestigious firm’s chairman for nearly a decade. A graduate of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, Austin’s many specialties include mixed-use, urban planning and green building. He began his career in 1976 after graduating from the Punahou School in Hawaii, where former President Barack Obama was also an alum.

AL BALDWIN

CEO/Chairman, Baldwin & Sons

Al Baldwin’s career in homebuilding has spanned more than three generations and positively impacted homeowners from San Diego to Los Angeles. Baldwin has built more than 20,000 homes and developed more than a dozen neighborhoods and communities that are flourishing today, including South County’s Olney Ranch. His commitment to architectural innovation and quality craftsmanship has earned him praise from homeowners and industry peers alike.

DOUGLAS BARNHART

Chairman, Barnhart-Reese Construction

The company that Doug Barnhart founded in 1983, Douglas E. Barnhart, Inc., built many of San Diego’s most recognizable projects, including enhancements to the San Diego Convention Center Sails Pavilion, Tony Gwynn Stadium at San Diego State University and Terminal 2 at San Diego International Airport. Barnhart sold the company in 2008 and became chairman of the newly formed company that became Barnhart-Reese Construction, with his daughter, Tam Barnhart Reese, as president and his son-in-law, West Reese, as CEO.

PHIL BLAIR

Executive Officer, Manpower San Diego

Phil Blair is a keen observer of the world of work. He thinks about work, talks about work and writes about work. Together with partner Mel Katz, Blair is co-owner of the Manpower of San Diego employment agency franchise, also overseeing operations in other Western cities. He appears frequently in the region’s business press, on television and radio and also is the author of the job-hunting guide “Job Won!” Blair is involved in multiple civic and business organizations. A Kansas native, he received his business degree from Oklahoma State.

KEN BLANCHARD

Founder, The Ken Blanchard Cos.

Ken Blanchard has written scores of business books on topics including Servant Leadership. His most iconic book, “The One Minute Manager,” has been in print 40 years. In 2015, Blanchard and co-author Spencer Johnson, M.D., released an updated edition of the slim volume that still serves as foundational text for new managers today. A New Jersey native who grew up in New York, Blanchard — along with his wife Marjorie — formed Blanchard Training and Development, which eventually became The Ken Blanchard Cos.

J. NEAL BLUE

CEO/Chairman, General Atomics

J. Neal Blue oversees General Atomics (GA) and its affiliated companies. GA is based in La Jolla and also has a massive manufacturing facility and presence in Poway, where it builds the Predator drone. Blue’s son is now CEO of GA Aeronautical Systems Inc. Blue is intensely private and makes few public appearances. GA’s portfolio of business encompasses aviation, uranium mining, nuclear engineering, real estate, and oil and gas exploration.

LINDEN S. BLUE

Vice Chairman, General Atomics

Linden Stanley Blue is a familiar figure in San Diego defense contracting circles. He and brother Neal Blue bought General Dynamics from Chevron in 1986. The brothers spent their early years in agriculture in Central America, and Linden Blue tells a harrowing tale of being imprisoned in Cuba prior to the Bay of Pigs invasion. Blue, who sits on the board of the Hudson Institute, is the author of “Losing Freedom,” a critique of left-wing politics. Blue’s nephew, Linden P. Blue, runs General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc.

CHARLES BRANDES

Founder, Brandes Investment Partners LP

Brandes established his reputation, in part, by developing an investing approach based on undervalued stocks. At its peak, Brandes grew his namesake asset firm to manage nearly $120 billion. In 2018, he retired from the firm, which now has about $22 billion in assets under management. Through the Manzanita Foundation, Brandes has supported a number of organizations, including the San Diego Symphony, San Diego Jewish Academy and Rady School of Management and several local charities.

MALIN BURNHAM

Chairman, The Burnham Foundation

Malin Burnham founded the Burnham Center for Community Advancement in 2021. The organization, which Burnham calls a “think-and-do tank,” is working in multifaceted ways to improve San Diego. For six decades, Burnham helped build and lead his family’s insurance and commercial real estate businesses until Cushman & Wakefield bought the company in 2008. Organizations such as the Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute and USD’s Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate have benefited from Burnham’s philanthropic support.

GORDON CARRIER

Owner, Chairman & Design Principal, Carrier Johnson + Culture

Gordon Carrier leads Carrier Johnson + Culture, a unique design laboratory emphasizing the value of brand strategy in three dimensional environments. Carrier, a University of Michigan grad, has been called a “great motivator of people” and a “change agent.” His firm’s approach focuses on clarifying “actual” client needs versus industry assumptions to avoid unnecessary expense. Carrier, Johnson + Culture’s specialties include brand strategy, architecture and all types of design.

CONSTANCE CARROLL

Retired Chancellor, SD Community College District

Constance Carroll retired in 2021 as chancellor of San Diego Community College District, a position she had held since 2004. As chancellor, Carroll guided the state’s second-largest community college district, with more than 102,000 total students, through unprecedented expansion funded by a $1.5 billion bond program. Carroll was previously president of San Diego Mesa College for 11 years, and served a six-year term on the National Council on the Humanities.

DAVID COHN

Co-Founder, President Cohn Restaurant Group

David Cohn and his wife Lesley opened their first restaurant in 1982, a burger joint on Mission Gorge Road. Since then, they have amassed an extensive collection of nearly two dozen restaurants throughout San Diego County, including Cosaterra, The Prato at Balboa Park, Indigo Grill, BO-tau-beau (two spots), Pacific, David Cohn recently a board member of the SDSU Hospitality and Tourism Management Program, California Restaurant Association and Gaslamp Quarter Association.

LESLEY COHN

Co-Founder, Cohn Restaurant Group

Lesley Cohn, together with her husband and business partner David, was inducted into Junior Achievement’s San Diego Business Hall of Fame in 2021. Over the decades, the Cohn Restaurant Group has grown to two dozen outlets, which the Cohn family runs with imagination, flair and a sense of style. The Cohns also give back. In 1996, they founded a culinary arts program for at-risk youth. More recently, when the COVID-19 pandemic swept through San Diego, the Cohns put together a program to support out-of-work hospitality staff.

GENEVIEVE CRAIG

Founder, Jenny Craig

Jenny Craig turned her given name into an enduring brand, launching the Jenny Craig weight loss business in Australia in 1983. She and her husband brought the business to North County in 1985. Now owned by H.I.G. Capital, Jenny Craig Weight Loss Clinics & Diet Centers, based in Carlsbad, has nearly 500 company-owned and franchised locations in the U.S. and Canada, and approximately 600 centers worldwide. Craig has long been involved in the horse racing scene, and her name adorns the University of San Diego Jenny Craig Pavilion, affectionately known as the Slim Gym.
NOVEMBER 14, 2022

Lifetime Achievement Award from the San Diego Business Journal.

RETIRED PRESIDENT COO, SONY ELECTRONICS

MICHAEL FASULO

Fasulo retired as president and COO of Sony Electronics in 2021. Fasulo led Sony Electronics’ operations in North America for seven years, engineering a stunning turnaround of the business in North America, achieving record results, cutting the number of products and emphasizing Sony’s status as a premium brand. He is on the boards of the Consumer Technology Association and the national Boys & Girls Clubs of America. In 2003 at the annual CEO of the Year Awards, Fasulo received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the San Diego Business Journal.

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KAREN HAYNES
FORMER PRESIDENT, CAL STATE SAN MARCOS
Karen Haynes excelled for more than three decades as a university administrator. Haynes was president of California State University San Marcos from 2004 until her retirement in 2019. At CSUSM, she oversaw record expansion of the North County campus footprint and student population. She was president of the University of Houston-Victoria from 1995 to 2004 and dean of the graduate school of social work at the University of Houston from 1985 to 1995. She is a trustee of Sanford Burnham Prebys, the research institute on Torrey Pines Mesa.

T.W. (BILL) HOEHN III
PRESIDENT, HOEHN MOTORS
Bill Hoehn is the third generation of Hoehns in the car dealership business. He succeeded his grandfather, Theodore W. Hoehn, and his father, Theodore W. “Bill” Hoehn Jr., and is nurturing a fourth generation to carry on the family’s legacy at the Hoehn Family of Dealerships in Carlsbad. Hoehn has served on the boards of the San Diego County YMCA, Fuller Foundation and The Bishop’s School and has been a member of the San Diego Motor Car Dealers Association, Audi National Dealer Council, and Mercedes-Benz National Dealer Council. The Hoehn family supports numerous local charities and nonprofits.

BILL HOWE
PRESIDENT, BILL HOWE FAMILY OF COMPANIES
Bill Howe oversees a rapidly growing business that has been family-owned and operated for three generations. Bill Howe started his business, AM/PM Sewer and Drain Cleaning, in 1985, operating initially out of the garage of his studio apartment in Pacific Beach. Today, the firm is one of the area’s largest and most active building maintenance companies, offering 24/7 service delivered by one of the largest service fleets in San Diego. In 2022, Howe and his wife Tina transitioned day-to-day management of the company to their three daughters.

TINA HOWE
VP, BILL HOWE FAMILY OF COMPANIES
Tina Howe, vice president of the Bill Howe Family of Companies, is at the forefront of the firm’s brand management and daily operations. For 34 years, she has helped build and support one of the largest plumbing, heating and air, and restoration and flood service company in San Diego. Tina Howe is also an active philanthropist and supports a number of San Diego area causes, including empowering women in the workplace and supporting various animal rescue organizations.

SELWYN ISAKOW
CHAIRMAN, CALPRIVATE BANK
Real estate investor Selwyn Isakow is founder, chairman and CEO of the Oxford Investment Group Inc., a private equity, real estate and venture investment firm that has built a portfolio of over 80 manufacturing, financial services and niche distribution companies in 17 countries since 1985. A native of South Africa, Isakow has founded several commercial banks and been a board member at firms traded on the New York Stock Exchange. He is currently chairman of CalPrivate Bank and is chair of City of Hope, one of the largest cancer treatment and research hospitals in the country.

JO DEE JACOB
FORMER CEO, GIRL SCOUTS SAN DIEGO
A Girl Scout program unique to San Diego, Operation Thin Mint, is now headed into its third decade thanks to the early organizing efforts of Jo Dee Jacob. The retired U.S. Navy captain served as CEO of Girl Scouts San Diego from 2001 to 2016. Since 2002, under Operation Thin Mint, the Girl Scouts have shipped more than 3 million boxes of cookies to military troops overseas. During her time in the Navy, Jacob oversaw U.S. military assets in Guam. She is past president of Rotary Club 33.
IRWIN JACOBS
CO-FOUNDER, QUALCOMM INC.
Irwin Jacobs was one of the co-founders of Qualcomm Inc., which developed the CDMA technology that paved the way for cellphones and today is one of the world’s leading chipmakers and San Diego’s largest, publicly traded company. Jacobs served as Qualcomm’s CEO for two decades. He and his wife Joan are among the region’s most generous philanthropists and have given more than $100 million to each of the San Diego Symphony, UC San Diego and the UC San Diego Health system. The Jacobses also donated $11 million to the Symphony to assist with the development of its new outdoor venue, named Jacobs Park in their honor.

STATH KARRAS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BURNHAM-MOORES CENTER FOR REAL ESTATE
Stath Karras served as the executive managing director at Cushman & Wakefield and also was CEO of Burnham Real Estate Services before taking the helm at the University of San Diego Knauss School of Business’s prestigious Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate. Karras serves as co-chair of LEAD San Diego and has served as chairman of CONNECT and the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp. He also sits on the board of HG Fenton and currently serves as an advisor to multiple local companies.

BARRY JANTZ
RETIRED CEO, GROSSMONT HOSPITAL DISTRICT
Barry Jantz is an unabashed champion of East County. Jantz served as CEO of Grossmont Healthcare District from 2004 until his retirement in 2021, leading the effort to complete over $260 million in Proposition G improvements at Grossmont Hospital, as well as a successful 2014 ballot measure to continue the lease of the hospital to Sharp HealthCare until 2051. Jantz served four terms on the La Mesa City Council and currently runs Jantz Communications, which specializes in government and community affairs and executive coaching.

MEL KATZ
EXECUTIVE OFFICER & CO-OWNER, MANPOWER SAN DIEGO
Mel Katz and partner Phil Blair bought the local Manpower franchise in 1977 and have built it into the largest in the United States. Katz has been active in many local organizations, including his leadership role with the San Diego’s prestigious Burnham-Moores Center for Real Estate. Karras serves as co-chair of the UC San Diego Foundation, the San Diego Foundation, the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp. Other organizations he has worked with include the San Diego Workforce Partnership and San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce.

TOM KARLO
GM EMERITUS, KPBS
Tom Karlo retired from KPBS in 2020 and is now the local public media center’s general manager emeritus. Karlo began his career at KPBS in 1973 as a part-time assistant while studying television and film at SDSU, serving in numerous roles from assistant cameraman to associate general manager of business, finance and operations. He was named general manager in 2009 and during more than a decade at the helm, the station merged the TV, radio and digital departments into one content-producing center. KPBS won 419 journalism awards and saw impressive staff, audience and fundraising growth during his leadership.

JOHN D. KLINEDINST
FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN EMERITUS, KLINEDINST PC
John D. Klinedinst has achieved remarkable results in both the legal and business communities. Klinedinst started his business law firm in 1983, oversaw its growth to five West Coast offices and took the title of chairman emeritus in 2021. His practice focuses on business litigation, and he has tried dozens of cases, including professional liability and IP disputes. He has served on the boards of many professional groups, nonprofits, and educational institutions and was recognized by the San Diego Business Journal as one of San Diego’s Most Admired CEOs in 2019.

JESSIE KNIGHT JR.
FORMER CEO & CHAIRMAN, SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC
Jessie Knight Jr. is best known for his tenure as CEO of San Diego Gas & Electric. Knight also served in the California Public Utilities Commission, was CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and held several key leadership roles with Sempra Energy, SDG&E’s parent company. He is managing director of Knight Angels LLC, a private equity investor and also serves on the boards of Alaska Airlines, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the UC San Diego Foundation and the Timken Museum of Art.

BOB LEONE
RETIRED CEO & PRESIDENT, MRC SMART TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS
Bob Leone is the founder and former president and CEO of MRC, a Xerox Company and leading technology firm focused on helping businesses increase productivity and reduce costs. In July 2021, Leone retired after 48 years of service during which he transformed MRC from a single San Diego office to operating locations in Cerritos, Pleasanton, Sunnyvale, Hayward and as far as Hawaii. A five-time recipient of the San Diego Business Journal’s CEO of the Year Award, Leone is now a business consultant and also volunteers with multiple homeless service agencies in the area.

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SUSAN LEW
FOUNDER & CEO, S. LEW & ASSOCIATES INC.
Since founding her real estate firm in 1978, Susan Lew has overseen the acquisition of over $1 billion of multifamily and commercial investments, including retail and shopping centers, industrial and office buildings. Lew, who also founded Emerald Chinese Seafood Restaurant and Pearl Chinese Cuisine, served two terms on San Diego Port Commission and has been a member of numerous area boards, including 1st Pacific Bancorp and Bank of Commerce. She is a trustee of the UC San Diego Foundation.
KURT LISTUG
CO-FOUNDER, TAYLOR GUITARS
San Diego native Kurt Listug, together with Bob Taylor, founded El Cajon-based Taylor Guitars in 1974. The innovative company, one of the world's leading manufacturers of high-quality acoustic and electric guitars, recently became 100% employee-owned under a long-term business plan engineered by Listug. He and Taylor first met while working at a guitar shop in Lemon Grove, borrowing $10,000 from family and friends to buy the business, American Dream Musical Instrument Manufacturing, and ultimately changing its name to Taylor Guitars.

SEAN MAHONEY
REGIONAL CEO, AMERICAN RED CROSS SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA REGION
Sean Mahoney joined the Red Cross in 2017 as regional CEO of San Diego and Imperial Counties. In 2020, his position was extended to the entire Southern California region to also serve Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. He leads the region’s disaster preparedness initiatives, emergency relief efforts, service to the armed forces and more. Mahoney is a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard, having served 27 years before retiring with rank of Captain.

DOUG MANCHESTER
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS, MANCHESTER FINANCIAL GROUP
Known affectionately as “Papa Doug,” Doug Manchester is one of the region’s most prolific developers and philanthropists. Manchester built Manchester Grand Hyatt, the Marriott Marquis and Marina and the Fairmont Grand Del Mar. He also once owned the San Diego Union-Tribune. He donated $5 million each to San Diego State University and also made multimillion dollar donations to the University of San Diego and The Bishop’s School at San Diego State. Centennial Hall was renamed Manchester Hall in his honor.

LIDIA S. MARTINEZ
MANAGER OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH (RET.), SOUTHWEST AIRLINES
For 30 years, Lidia Martinez has been a high-profile, vocal advocate of Southwest’s commitment to corporate social responsibility. Her career trajectory took her from the border town of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, where her mother was a housekeeper in El Paso, to the halls of corporate power. Martinez built goodwill for Southwest in the Latinx community and throughout the region. Today she is a mentor and volunteer for several organizations. In 2020, Martinez received the Lifetime Achievement Award from SDBJ.

ARMON MILLS
PUBLISHER EMERITUS, SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL
Armon Mills began his professional career in public accounting, spending over 25 years in the field. Mills also spent more than 30 years working for several local business publications. He was president of American City Business Journals and was involved with starting and acquiring local Business Journals nationwide. Mills was named President & Publisher of the San Diego Business Journal in 2004. He retired from that position in 2016.

STEVE MOLLENKOPF
RETIRED CEO, QUALCOMM
Steve Mollenkopf led Qualcomm from 2014 to his retirement in 2021. Mollenkopf, who joined the company in 1994, grew the firm to $30.6 billion in revenue, shepherded fifth generation (5G) wireless technology from the lab to commercialization and successfully navigated several crises, including a hostile takeover attempt by Broadcom, a legal fight with Apple and an antitrust dispute with U.S. authorities. In 2020, Mollenkopf joined the board of Boeing Co., where he sits on the aerospace safety and compensation committees. He previously served as a director for General Electric.

JOHN MOORES
PRINCIPAL, JMI SERVICES INC.
Philanthropist, venture capitalist and software entrepreneur John Moores, who once owned the San Diego Padres, led the redevelopment of East Village, overseeing more than $3 billion in projects. His companies include JMI Realty and JMI Equity. Moores made his fortune building BMC Software in Texas and Peregrine Systems and ServiceNow locally. He’s donated hundreds of millions to San Diego State University, the Scripps Research Institute, UC San Diego and the University of San Diego and also is an active supporter of the San Diego Symphony and the Boys and Girls Clubs.

JERRY NAVARRA
CHAIRMAN, JEROME’S FURNITURE
Jerry Navarra runs Jerome’s Furniture, a company founded by his father in 1964. Navarra became president in 1974 and has appeared in thousands of Jerome’s television commercials over the years. Today the business includes multiple generations of family and has a presence in San Diego, the Inland Empire, Orange County and Los Angeles County with 14 home furnishings retail locations, one Urban Outlet showroom and 10 stand-alone mattress retail locations.

MARK PAYNE
FORMER VP & GENERAL MANAGER, SWINERTON
Mark Payne, who retired in January, worked at Swinerton for 23 years, managing divisions and operations at the San Diego-based national construction firm. Payne studied civil engineering and earned a business degree from University of Phoenix and also worked at Sundt Construction for 17 years. A LEED Accredited Professional, he is a board member of the Downtown San Diego Partnership and a major supporter of the American Heart Association’s San Diego operations.

JOE PANETTA
CEO, BIOCOM CALIFORNIA
Joe Panetta is the face of the biotech and life science industry in California. The president and CEO of Biocom California received the Lifetime Achievement Award from SDBJ’s CEO of the Year Awards in 2021. Panetta oversees an organization that sets strategic direction, guides policy priorities and champions the industry at the local, state, national and international levels. He expanded Biocom’s footprint to include offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Tokyo and Washington, D.C. In 2021, Biocom California launched a statewide Diversity, Equity and Inclusion member pledge.

MICHAEL PERSALL
FOUNDER & CHAIRMAN, C3 BANK, ABP CAPITAL
Michael Persall is founder and chairman of ABP Capital and is the owner and chairman of C3Bank. Persall is also a founder and board member of Bloom — an AI-powered loan origination platform — and is a lead investor and board member for Vurii, a performance apparel company headquartered in Encinitas. He is a member of the board of trustees for his alma mater, the University of San Diego and as a CPA who began his career with Ernst & Young LLP, Persall also has extensive experience in construction, real estate and finance.

ROBERT PRICE
CHAIRMAN, PRICESMART INC.
Robert E. Price is co-founder of PriceSmart, the successful warehouse-retail firm that operates 47 stores in 12 countries, primarily in Latin America and the Caribbean, and one U.S. territory. Robert Price and his father, Sol Price, started Price Club in 1974 and sold it to Costco Wholesale in 1999. A San Diego native, Price is manager of The Price Group LLC and president of Price Charities and Price Philanthropies Foundation. The latter supports charitable activities locally and in the markets where the company operates.

ROB QUIGLEY
PRINCIPAL, ROB WELLINGTON QUIGLEY, FAIA
The $185 million Central Library designed by Rob Quiyley opened in East Village almost a decade ago, a milestone in Quigley’s architecture practice, which spans its fifth decade. The architect’s portfolio includes academic buildings, cultural centers, high-rise towers and master plans for neighborhoods, campuses, parks and transit corridors. Quiyley’s firm, with offices in San Diego and Palo Alto, has won more than 70 regional and national awards. Other recent designs include Bayview Fire Station No. 2; Fire Station No. 5; and an $81 million affordable housing complex in Mid-City.
ERNEST RADY
FOUNDER, AMERICAN ASSETS INC.
Canadian native Ernest Rady founded several financial services and real estate firms, the most prominent of which, Westcorp, was bought by banking giant Wachovia for $3.8 billion in 2005. The Rady family are among the most generous philanthropists in the region. Gifts include more than $300 million to the San Diego Children’s Hospital, which bears the Rady name; and more than $150 million to UC San Diego, including the initial gift to create the Rady School of Management. The Rady's also donated the lead gift of $15 million to the San Diego Symphony to create its iconic outdoor venue – The Rady Shell.

LYNN REASER
CHIEF ECONOMIST, FERMANIAN BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC INSTITUTE, PLNU
Lynn Reaser, Ph.D. is an adjunct professor at Point Loma Nazarene University and chief economist at the college’s Fermanian Business and Economic Institute. Earlier in her career, Reaser served as chief economist and managing director of Ban of America's Investment Strategies Group. She is a past member of the California Governor’s Council of Economic Advisors and has been a fiscal advisor to the cities of Los Angeles and San Francisco.

DEBRA L. REED
RETIRED CHAIR & CEO, SEMpra ENERGY
Debra L. Reed had a trailblazing career with Sempra Energy beginning in 1978. Reed started as a project accountant as a civil engineer but quickly established her leadership skills, and at age 32 became the first female officer in the history of the energy holding company. She has held executive roles at subsidiaries San Diego Gas & Electric and Southern California Gas Co. and served as Sempra’s CEO from 2011 to 2018. During her tenure as CEO, Sempra doubled its business.

GARRY RIDGE
FORMER CEO, WD-40 Co.
Garry Ridge, a native of Australia, often referred to himself as “the chief” of the WD-40 tribe. Ridge began his illustrious career at WD-40 Co. in 1987 and was named CEO in 1997. In 2017, Inc. Magazine named Ridge fourth on the list of the World’s Top CEO’s. He leads the company in unique ways. Ridge retired in September 2022 as WD-40 CEO but remains on the company’s board. He teaches leadership development, talent management and succession planning at the University of San Diego’s Business School.

PATTI ROSCOE
RETIRED OWNER, ROSCOE & ASSOCIATES
Tourism professional Patti Roscoe got her first taste of San Diego as a tourist before moving to the region from Buffalo, N.Y., in the mid-1960s. Roscoe founded, ran and franchised a successful destination management company from 1981 to 2017 before selling to Allied International. Now retired, she continues to support and contribute to many local causes and organizations, including San Diego State University, the Comic-Con Museum and Girl Scouts San Diego.

IVOR ROYSTON
CEO & PRESIDENT, VIRACTA THERAPEUTICS
In 1978, Ivor Royston, M.D. co-founded Hybritech Inc., one of San Diego’s first biotechnology firms. An oncologist, researcher, scientist, entrepreneur and venture capitalist, Royston today is considered one of the founding fathers of the region’s biotech science sector. After Hybritech was purchased by Eli Lilly in 1986, Royston founded and invested in dozens of biotech firms over the years. At the helm of Viracta Therapeutics since 2015, Royston also sits on the board at Biocept.

RALPH RUBIO
CO-FOUNDER, RUBIO’S RESTAURANTS INC.
Ralph Rubio has sold more than 200 million fish tacos since opening his first restaurant on Avenida Del Mar in Carlsbad in 1983. Rubio became acquainted with the Mexican delicacy during surfing trips to San Felipe south of the border. The business, originally a family affair, was bought by Mill Road Capital bought in 2010. Today, Carlsbad-based Rubio’s Restaurants has more than 150 outlets. Rubio no longer carries a formal executive title but remains active in the menu planning and remains a champion of his alma mater, San Diego State, and his hometown.

SUSAN SALKA
CEO, PRESIDENT & DIRECTOR, AMN HEALTHCARE
Under Susan Salka’s leadership, AMN has become known as an innovator in healthcare workforce solutions and is the largest diversified healthcare staffing company in the nation. Salka is a vocal proponent of promoting women to leadership roles and has prioritized gender equity at AMN. She joined the company in 1990 and served in several executive positions, including CFO, COO and senior vice president of business development. Over the years, Salka has expanded, diversified and strengthened the firm’s offerings through dozens of acquisitions.

JERRY SANDERS
CEO, SAN DIEGO REGIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Jerry Sanders has been president and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce since 2013. One of San Diego’s most visible leaders, Sanders served as mayor of San Diego from 2005 to 2012, originally taking office after the resignation of a sitting mayor while the city faced a pension debt crisis. Sanders spent 26 years with the San Diego Police Department, finishing his career as chief. He’s also led the local chapters of the American Red Cross and the United Way.

K. BARRY SHARPRESS
PROFESSOR, SCRIPPS RESEARCH
In 2022, Professor K. Barry Sharpless was awarded a Nobel Prize – his second – for his groundbreaking research on developing “click chemistry” – an ingenious method for building molecules. Sharpless also won a Nobel in Chemistry in 2021 for his work on chirally catalyzed oxidation reactions. Before joining Scripps Research, he was a professor of chemistry at MIT and Stanford. Today, the Sharpless lab at Scripps pursues useful new reactivity and general methods for selectively controlling chemical reactions.

DAN SHEA
CEO, FEEDING SAN DIEGO
Dan Shea has run Feeding San Diego, the county’s leading hunger relief and food rescue organization, since 2020. A longtime area restaurant owner and executive, Shea has served on a number of area nonprofit boards and is passionate about helping feed the face of San Diego County residents. At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, Feeding San Diego served over 700,000 meals per month. In 2022, Shea has partnered with the Lucky Duck Foundation and basketball legend Bill Walton to address San Diego’s homelessness issues.

JUDI SHEPPARD MISSETT
FOUNDER, JAZZERCISE
Jazzercise traces its roots to 1969, when Judi Sheppard Missett started teaching fitness class in Chicago. Those classes eventually grew into the iconic dance fitness company now based in Carlsbad. In 2010, daughter Shanna Missett Nelson became company president and in 2020, granddaughter Skylla Nelson certified as a Jazzercise instructor. Jazzercise has helped raise more than $29 million for a wide range of charitable organizations.

NOVEMBER 14, 2022
THOMAS SUDBERRY  
CHAIRMAN, SUDBERRY PROPERTIES  
Thomas Sudberry founded Sudberry Properties in 1979. The business has developed numerous high-profile projects throughout the region, notably the 230-acre Civita community on former quarry land in the heart of Mission Valley. Farther north, Sudberry is at work on the 460-acre El Corazon development in Oceanside, which will include a $40 million arena for the San Diego Sockers as well as housing and commercial space. Sudberry has been inducted into the California Homebuilding Foundation Hall of Fame.

ROBERT SULLIVAN  
FOUNDING DEAN EMERITUS, RACY SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT, UCSD  
As the founding dean of the Rady School, Robert Sullivan’s leadership, passion and vision were instrumental in building the school’s philanthropic foundation as well as its reputation for excellence, innovation and economic impact. During his time as dean, from 2003 to 2019, Sullivan led the recruitment of world-class faculty who were consistently recognized as among the world’s leading scholars and educators. He received UC San Diego’s Revelle Medal in 2021.

DEBORAH SZEKELY  
FOUNDER, Rancho La Puerta  
Centenarian Deborah Szekely has been called “the godmother of the wellness movement” and is best known locally for founding the Golden Door Luxury Resort & Spa in Escondido. Szekely, who turned 100 years old earlier this year, is also an accomplished writer and activist. In 1940, she opened Rancho La Puerta, a wellness camp in Mexico that was part commune, part spa. Today, the 3,000-acre resort is a favorite of celebrities and wellness gurus while the Golden Door attracts fiercely loyal regulars, including Oprah Winfrey and Martha Stewart.

BOB TAYLOR  
CO-FOUNDER, TAYLOR GUITARS  
World-renowned guitar maker Bob Taylor started El Cajon-based Taylor Guitars in 1974 together with Kurt Listug. The innovative company, one of the world’s leading manufacturers of high-quality acoustic and electric guitars, recently became 100% employee-owned. Taylor was just 19 when he and then 21-year-old Listug started the company, which today employs more than 1,200 in two factories in the U.S. and Mexico. Today, Taylor continues to steward the company as its president.

J. CRAIG VENTER  
FOUNDER, CHAIRMAN & CEO, J. CRAIG VENTER INSTITUTE  
Biotechnologist and businessman J. Craig Venter is best known for his role in mapping the human genome. Venter, who founded Celera Genomics to sequence the human genome using new tools and techniques he and his team developed, has been named one of the most influential people in the world by Time magazine. In 2008, he received the National Medal of Science. Venter has led The Institute for Genomic Research, the J. Craig Venter Institute, Synthetic Genomics Inc. and Human Longevity Inc., from which he recently retired.

ANDREW VITERBI  
CO-FOUNDER, QUALCOMM INC.  
Electrical engineer Andrew Viterbi co-founded Linkabit Corp. and Qualcomm Inc., and invented the Viterbi algorithm. Viterbi has worked in academia in both engineering and applied science at UCLA and UC San Diego. The Viterbi algorithm is used in most digital cellular phones and digital satellite receivers, as well as magnetic recording, speech recognition, search engines and DNA sequence analysis. USC’s engineering school is named after the Viterbi family, recognizing a $52 million gift to the school. He also recently gave $50 million to UC San Diego.

MARY WALSHOK  
ASSOCIATE VICE CHANCELLOR FOR PUBLIC PROGRAMS (RET.), UCSD  
A self-described “academic entrepreneur,” over the course of 40 years, Mary Walshok has built UC San Diego Extension into a powerhouse, with 100,000 students enrolled and a continuing education portfolio in demand nationwide. The author of six books and many articles, Walshok, who has been at UCSD since 1972, is a thought leader in the field of workforce and economic development. In 2022, she spearheaded the opening of UCSD’s new downtown center at Park and Market.

ROBERT WATKINS  
PRESIDENT & CHAIRMAN, R.J. WATKINS & CO. LTD.  
Since Bob Watkins created his executive search company in 1980, he has identified and placed over 1,000 senior executives at corporations, government agencies, educational institutions and nonprofits throughout the San Diego area. Watkins was responsible for recruiting leaders for the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp., San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, United Way, the business school at San Diego State University and the San Diego County Water Authority. He continues to serve on a variety of civic and nonprofit boards.

GARY AND MARY WEST  
FOUNDEWS, WEST HEALTH CORP.  
Gary and Mary West were pioneers in the telemedicine industry, eventually netting $1.45 billion from the 2006 sale of their stake in CalPrivate Bank. Before leading CalPrivate, Wornham spent 40 years at Wells Fargo as an executive VP and regional manager. His civic work has included serving on the board of the San Diego County Water Authority, where he worked to help approve, finance and construct Carlsbad’s $1 billion desalination plant. He is currently the agency’s chairman emeritus.
CONGRATULATIONS
BRIAN LEE

ON HIS RECOGNITION AS ONE OF SAN DIEGO'S
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FOR PRIVATE EVENT INQUIRIES
CONTACT JANISSA REYES AT
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