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

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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 Sol 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 needed 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 council 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. ERIK 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 Burges 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. Burges 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 EASTERY  
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 Lathan & 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
Senior Vice President
Manager of Business Banking & Chair
Asian Business Association San Diego

First Citizens Bank
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); Q INFIX (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.

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!

Bret Schanzenbach
President & CEO | Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce

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 recent turnout and new membership growth.”
- Chairman, Nick Zundel

WWW.EASTCOUNTYCHAMBER.ORG
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.

Rick Wilson 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.

Ricardo Villa has been president and CEO of 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.

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RICK WILSON
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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.

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Manufacturers and hospitality businesses. Cloward, whose and represents major port tenants, including shipbuilders, renamed in spring 2022 and formerly known as the San Diego Sharon Cloward runs San Diego Working Waterfront, SHARON CLOWARD
Fieldstone Foundation's Emerging Leaders Program. Castillo has provided oversight for the Food SDWP manages a countywide network of full-service career centers, Casey Castillo has been with the Jacobs & Cushman SDWP CEO, SAN DIEGO WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP PETER CALLSTROM
CEO, SAN DIEGO WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP Peter Callstrom is a nationally recognized leader in workforce and economic development and has led SDWP since 2012. A sought-after speaker and thought leader, Callstrom leads efforts to transform the public work 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.

CASEY 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.

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.

PRESIDENT & CEO, REALITY CHANGERS Tamara Craver has been president and CEO of Reality Changers since 2019. Reality Changers prepares youth to become first-generation college graduates and agents of change in the community. An executive with a history of working in the education management industry, she was director of The Posse Foundation in Los Angeles for nearly 13 years. Previously Craver was director of development and communications for the YMCA of the USA and director of development and social markets for the American Heart Association in the greater Los Angeles area. Craver has a history degree from UCLA.

STEPHANIE 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.

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 has 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.

LISETTE ISLAS
CHIEF IMPACT OFFICER, MAAC Lisette 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 an master’s in city planning from UCLA.

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.
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
GAME CHANGER

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! LFFC.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.

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.

MAACproject.org
Advocacy & Leadership Development | Education | Economic Development | Housing | Health & Wellbeing
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 TERA VAINEN
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
Art Studio | Resource Center | Garden Area

Learn more on our website!
www.sandiegooasis.org
MEGAN THOMAS
PRESIDENT & CEO, CATALYST OF SAN DIEGO & IMPERIAL COUNTIES

Megan 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 degrees in international business and Spanish at Georgetown University and has an MBA in nonprofit management from the Yale School of Management.

CHRIStborne
CHAPTER PRESIDENT, GARY SINESE FOUNDATION SAN DIEGO

Chris Thorne has been president of the local chapter of the Gary Sinese Foundation for nearly two years. The Gary Sinese 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 Wisconsin-Madison and has a master's in administration from Arizona State University.

SIMONA VALENClUITE
PRESIDENT AND CEO, SAN DIEGO OASIS

Simona Valicu 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.

C H R I S T H O R N E
CHA P T E R P R E S I D E N T , G A R Y S I N E S E F O U N D AT I O N S A N D I E G O

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T O N Y A T O R O S I A N
C E O , P R O M I S E S 2 K I D S

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S I D D V I V E K

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.

G R E G G W A R D

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.

B E T Z Y W E I N B L A T T - L Y N C H

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

St. Paul’s Senior Services is a San Diego non-profit. Established 1960.
Leadership and administration at San Diego State University.

Administers. She received her Ph.D. in educational and has served as a faculty member on several institutes Association of California Community College administrators UC San Diego for nearly nine years. She is a member of the College since June 2022 and was previously vice president of Chicana/o studies, director of the Center for Transnational Cooke was recognized in 2016 as San Diego Business Journal’s Women Mean Business and the NAACP Salute to Women of Color. was appointed chancellor of UCSD in 2012. Pradeep Khosla was a technology entrepreneur at a global Fortune 500 firm and within academia at four universities. Throughout his academic career, Dr. Harris has worked closely with cross-discipline teams to spearhead civic and community engagements, connecting academic environments with issues faced by society. Harris previously served for 13 years as the president of San Diego State University where he initiated and oversaw the establishment of the Chester Higher Education Council, a consortium dedicated to improving access to higher education for students from underserved populations.

Bob Brower is the 14th president of Point Loma Nazarene University, elected in October 1997. Dr. Brower has held faculty and administrative positions at two universities and also been president of a publishing company in Kansas City. Brower is a member of the board of San Diego Regional EDC and is a member of the board of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. An advocate for independent, nonprofit higher education, he earned his Ph.D. in organizational and interpersonal communication at The University of Kansas.

Bennett Cherry has been a professor of management and entrepreneurship in the College of Business Administration at Cal State San Marcos for 22 years. Cherry has also been faculty program director at Cal State San Marcos-temecula for the BSBA degree program for eight years and has been the faculty athletics representative at CSUSM for nearly 19 years. He was interim dean of the College of Business Administration from July 2021 through June 2022. He is currently a visiting professor at the University of Applied Sciences at Worms in Germany.

Sunita ‘Sunny’ Cooke has been an educator for nearly 30 years and began her tenure as the superintendent/president of MiraCosta Community College District in 2015. She has been a California Community College CEO for 15 years. Under her leadership, MiraCosta College has implemented new degrees and certificates including a biomanufacturing bachelor’s degree – and the college’s academic and student equity programs have been recognized by the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges. Cooke was recognized in 2016 as San Diego Business Journal’s Women Who Mean Business and the NAACP Salute to Women of Color. She earned her Ph.D. in Biology from Georgetown University.

FACULTY & ACCREDITATION, USD

Priya Kannan-Narasimhan is worldwide leader in business education. She is the associate dean of faculty & accreditation and the founding director of the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Catalyster at the University of San Diego’s Knauss School of Business. In addition, she is an affiliate faculty member at the USD Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies and also serves as a full professor of entrepreneurship at University of Exeter Business School, one of the UK’s leading institutions.

Timothy Keane’s career has included leadership positions as a technology entrepreneur at a global Fortune 500 firm and within academia at four universities. During his 20 years in marketing and sales at Anheuser-Busch, Keane developed innovative marketing campaigns for high-volume markets and launched a new department focused on data analytics. He left the company to start a Salesforce automation software venture. When the company was acquired in 2003, Dr. Keane entered academia full-time.

Mark David Milliron became president and CEO of National University in October. He is also currently the vice chair on the board of trustees at Bennett College. Milliron is also an author, speaker and consultant who works with universities, community colleges, K-12 schools, foundations, corporations, associations and government agencies around the world. He also holds an appointment as a Professor of Practice in The University of Texas at Austin College of Education, teaching in the education leadership doctoral program. He earned his Ph.D. in educational leadership at the University of Texas at Austin.

Dr. Catriona Jamieson, MD, Ph.D., is the ideal director for the new UCSD Sanford Stem Cell Institute due to her years of experience in clinical trials and cancer stem cell research. Prior to leading the Stem Cell Institute, launched this year, Dr. Jamieson was the deputy director of the Sanford Center from 2014 to 2018. In her new role, she endeavors to develop programs that will accelerate the translation of stem cell-related discoveries.

PRIYAMVADA BHAT
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

Dr. Priya Kannan-Narasimhan is a professor at the University of San Diego’s Knauss School of Business. She is an affiliate faculty member at the USD Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies and also serves as a full professor of entrepreneurship at University of Exeter Business School, one of the UK’s leading institutions.

Timothy Keane is Dean of the Knauss School of Business at USD. Keane’s career has included leadership positions as a technology entrepreneur at a global Fortune 500 firm and within academia at four universities. During his 20 years in marketing and sales at Anheuser-Busch, Keane developed innovative marketing campaigns for high-volume markets and launched a new department focused on data analytics. He left the company to start a Salesforce automation software venture. When the company was acquired in 2003, Dr. Keane entered academia full-time.

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Pradeep Khosla was appointed chancellor of UCSD in 2012. A native of Mumbai, India, he was previously an electrical engineering professor and Dean of the Carnegie Mellon College of Engineering and was also the Philip and Manisha Dave University Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Robotics at Carnegie Mellon. Khosla was elected a member of the National Academy of Engineering in 2006 for contributions to design and sensor-based control in robotic systems for the assembly of high-precision electronics and for leadership in engineering education.

JAMES T. HARRIS
PRESIDENT, UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

James Harris became USD’s fourth president in 2015. Throughout his academic career, Dr. Harris has worked closely with cross-discipline teams to spearhead civic and community engagements, connecting academic environments with issues faced by society. Harris previously served for 13 years as the president of San Diego State University where he initiated and oversaw the establishment of the Chester Higher Education Council, a consortium dedicated to improving access to higher education for students from underserved populations.

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MARK DAVID MILLIRON
PRESIDENT & CEO, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Mark David Milliron became president and CEO of National University in October. He is also currently the vice chair on the board of trustees at Bennett College. Milliron is also an author, speaker and consultant who works with universities, community colleges, K-12 schools, foundations, corporations, associations and government agencies around the world. He also holds an appointment as a Professor of Practice in The University of Texas at Austin College of Education, teaching in the education leadership doctoral program. He earned his Ph.D. in educational leadership at the University of Texas at Austin.
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 gymnasiums.

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 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. Sean M. Scott, dean and president of California Western School of Law, on being named one of the most influential leaders in the San Diego region! Dr. Scott stewarded the largest gift in California Western history, of $3 million.
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 2021. He received a “Leader of the Bar” 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 30 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 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 experience in 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 2013 and is a member of the Bank’s National Private Banking Management team. He has more than 13 years of experience in the banking industry, specializing in business and wealth management services. Boerner is a member of the board of ACCESSITY and currently serves on the board of the San Diego Christian Foundation and is a former member of the SDCCU Board of Directors.

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 BIOPAC 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.

KELLI BURGER
WEALTH MANAGEMENT ADVISOR, PARTNER, WEATHERLY ASSET MANAGEMENT

Kelli Burger has been a Wealth Management Advisor and Partner at Weatherly Asset Management for nearly 12 years, joining the Weatherly Asset Management team in 2011, the partnership in 2019. 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.

DAVID BROOKE
PRESIDENT/CEO, MYPOINT CREDIT UNION

David Brooke has been with MyPoint Credit Union (formerly Port Loma Credit Union) for 31 years, including nearly eight years as president/CEO and EVP of operations/COO for nearly 14 years. Brooke is responsible for the management of MyPoint Credit Union’s more than $600 million in assets and 30,000 members in San Diego and Riverside counties. He is the only the President/CEO for the credit union in its more than 70-year history. Brooke started his career as an internal auditor and later became branch manager for Pacific Marine Credit Union.

TERESA CAMPBELL
PRESIDENT AND CEO, SAN DIEGO COUNTY CREDIT UNION

Teresa Campbell has been at SDCCU since 2010. Under her leadership, SDCCU’s customer base has more than doubled, reaching more than 427,000 members and assets have grown from just under $5 billion to $10.9 billion. She serves on the California Department of Financial Protection and Innovation CU Advisory Committee. She served a two-year term, 2018-20, on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Credit Union Advisory Council. She also serves as a Board Member of the National Credit Union Foundation.

BAMBOS CHARALAMBOUS
MANAGING DIRECTOR, JPMORGAN CHASE

Bambos Charalambous has been with J.P. Morgan for nearly 20 years. He was executive director for 16 years and is currently Managing Director and the Wealth Management Team Lead for J.P. Morgan Private Bank in San Diego. A native of England, Charalambous headed west in 2007 to help the bank build its presence in Southern California with a goal of opening a wealth management office in San Diego. He began his career at the Private Bank in the Europe, Middle East and Africa Strategy Team.

DAVID CREAM
MANAGING DIRECTOR, INVESTMENT BANKING, COAST BIОVENTURES; MANAGING GENERAL PARTNER, CARDIFF ADVISORY LLC

David Cream is a venture investor, investment banker and board leader, helping healthcare and life sciences entrepreneurs build companies and achieve their goals. He is the founder and managing partner of FINRA boutique Investment Bank, a mergers and acquisitions and strategic advisory firm focused exclusively on the healthcare and life sciences sectors. Cream is chair of ACG San Diego CEO Circle/Life Sciences-Medtech. He is also the lead independent director/audit and scientific committees with Histogen as well as an independent member of the board of directors for Pararwine, Inc.

DINO D’AURIA
SVP, CALIFORNIA REGIONAL PRESIDENT-HOMESTREET BANK

Dino D’Auria, currently SVP California Regional President, has been with HomeStreet Bank for nearly four years. D’Auria is in charge of driving growth in all markets including San Diego, Orange and Los Angeles counties, the Inland Empire and Northern California. His past experiences include building successful banking teams at several community banks, including Silvergate. D’Auria has a MBA in corporate finance from USC.
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 Bancorporation 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 as chairman of the board 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 FUUSA.COM/NY.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 Discover 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 on management, advisor 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 CIT 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.

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.

MARKeting strategy, operational management and financial level courses in strategic business management, global institutional venture financing. She 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.
Making financial dreams come true since 1952.

Congratulations to Frontwave President/CEO Bill Birnie for being named one of San Diego’s most influential business leaders!
KRISHNA GOPINATHAN
CEO, APPLIED DATA FINANCE
Krishna Gopinathan co-founded and has been CEO of Applied Data Finance for more than eight years. He has over 25 years of experience in machine learning and data science, and is the author of 10 patents, including seminal patents in transaction-based predictive models for fraud detection and risk management. ADF focuses on consumer segments that are not well served by existing banks and non-bank lenders. Prior to Applied Data Finance, Gopinathan was the founder-CEO of fintech company Global Analytics.

MARK GRESCOVICH
PRESIDENT & CEO, BANNER BANK
Mark Grescovich has been president and CEO of Banner Corporation and Banner Bank for nearly 13 years. Grescovich is responsible for all operations of Banner Corporation, a $10 billion multi-bank holding company. He was the Executive VP and Chief Corporate Banking Officer for FirstMerit Corporation and FirstMerit Bank N.A. He assumed the role for FirstMerit’s commercial and regional line of business in 2007, previously serving starting in 1994 in various commercial and corporate banking positions, including that of Chief Credit Officer.

KAREN HARRISON
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNITY BANKING DIRECTOR, BANNER BANK
Karen Harrison has been senior VP, community banking director at Banner Bank since March. She was previously Senior VP, national SBA executive, national SB credit products and partners executive, SB regional manager for Bank of America for more than 10 years. Harrison was also executive VP, chief retail banking and marketing officer for USE Credit Union and was senior VP, marketing at Scripps Bank/US Bank. She also worked in product management for Home Federal Savings & Loan and was regional marketing officer at The Crocker Bank.

PETER HEALD
CEO, SIGNATURE ANALYTICS
Peter Heald has been CEO at Signature Analytics for six years. Heald has more than 20 years of experience in developing leadership teams, driving profitable revenue and growing companies, working with industry-leading companies to drive profitable growth, implement and improve culture, and create service brands that stand for quality and professional integrity. He was previously president of the Cumming Corporation for eight years and was managing director for CBRA Group, Inc. He holds an MBA in entrepreneurship from USC Marshall School of Business.

KRISTIAN ILKOV
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, UMPQUA BANK
Kristian Ilkov has been executive VP, southwest regional director at Umpqua Bank for nearly four years. Ilkov is a corporate banking executive focusing on midcap companies with specialty verticals in tribal/gaming, acquisition and development, and healthcare, providing financing solutions and growing the company’s geographical footprint in the southwest. He was previously managing director/senior VP/regional manager at Bank of the West for nearly 15 years and was also a VP at US Bank.

Congratulations, President & CEO Greg Garrabrants 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!

ASHOK KAMAL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CO-FUND MANAGER, NUFUND VENTURE GROUP
As executive director of NuFund Venture Group, Ashok Kamal oversees one of the largest, most active and most successful early-stage investor groups over the past 20-plus years. This year, Kamal oversaw the rebranding of NuFund from its previous iteration of Tech Coast Angels – San Diego. NuFund has more than 350 active accredited investors from across the country and last year invested $16 million into tech and life science startups.

JASON KRUGER
PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER, SIGNATURE ANALYTICS
Jason Kruger is president of Signature Analytics, which he founded in 2008. Signature Analytics is an accounting firm that specializes in bookkeeping, financial consulting services and outsourced accounting. Kruger started Signature Analytics with the vision of taking the benefits and expertise of large company financial and accounting tools and processes and making them accessible to small and medium-sized businesses. Signature is an Inc. 5000 firm with offices throughout Southern California. Kruger was previously audit senior manager at Deloitte & Touche for six years.

TODD LANE
PRESIDENT AND CEO, CALIFORNIA COAST CREDIT UNION
Todd Lane has been president and CEO at California Coast Credit Union for nearly nine years; he was previously CFO for five years. Lane also served as president and CEO at Executive Compensation Solutions, LLC, and was Executive VP/CFO at WesCorp for 22 years. He is a member of the board of directors for Neighborhood House Association and is also on the advisory board of SDSU Alumni Board of Directors as well as on the board of directors for Cal Coast Cares Foundation.

ALAN LANE
CEO, SILVERGATE BANK
Alan Lane has been with Silvergate Bank since 2008 and is also CEO of Silvergate Capital Corporation. With more than 40 years of corporate and financial institution leadership experience, Lane formerly was director, president and CEO of Southwest Community Bancorp; Vice Chairman and CEO of Financial Data Solutions, Inc.; and Director and CEO of Business Bank of California. Lane has served as president and CEO or CFO at a number of manufacturing and retail companies. He earned his B.A. in Economics from SDSU.

QUINN LI
SENIOR VP AND GLOBAL HEAD, QUALCOMM VENTURES
Quinn Li has been Senior Vice President, Global Head of Qualcomm Ventures since 2018 and with Qualcomm Ventures for nearly 18 years. Li started with the company in 2005 as senior manager/director. He is a board observer for Cohesity and RetailNext and was a former board member at Airspan Networks, OneWeb and PowerCloud Systems. Li was also a product manager at IBM, a senior staff scientist for Broadcom Inc.; and a member of the tech staff for Lucent Technologies.

DAVID LOSEKE
MANAGING DIRECTOR, PRIVATE BANKING, FIRST REPUBLIC BANK
David Loseke has been managing director at First Republic Bank for more than 11 years. His team provides private banking services including lending, cash management and wealth planning, specializing in nonprofits, startups, tech and life science companies, real estate investors and professional firms. He leads the San Diego chapter of the Nonprofits Financial Executives Alliance affinity group. He was previously client manager, commercial banking for Bank of America Merrill Lynch, finance and acquisitions senior executive for Crown RV Group and was GM of Freedom Capital.
Congratulations
Steve O’Connell

For Being Recognized as
One of San Diego’s
500 Most Influential Executives

SHAUN LUCAS
PRESIDENT AND CEO, MONTEREY FINANCIAL HOLDINGS, LLC/MONTEREY FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC
Shaun Lucas has been president and CEO at Monterey Financial Services, LLC, for four years and has been with the company for nearly 24 years. He was previously the VP of Operations and executive VP. Founded in 1993 and based in Oceanside, Monterey Financial Services LLC’s mission is to empower businesses with the ability to optimize sales and cash recovery. It is also invested in aiding and empowering their local community organizations to thrive. Lucas earned a B.S. in biochemistry at Idaho State.

JOHN MAGUIRE
DIVISION CEO, TORREY PINES BANK
John Maguire is division CEO of Torrey Pines Bank and one of the founding officers when the bank launched in 2003. Maguire became executive VP of Torrey Pines Bank in 2007, and previously managed the bank’s La Mesa office. Maguire has been involved with the YMCA for more than 25 years and is a former chairman of the board for the YMCA of San Diego County. Torrey Pines Bank is part of top-performing Western Alliance Bancorporation, with more than $65 billion in assets.

ASHISH MASIH
PRESIDENT AND CEO, ENCORE CAPITAL GROUP
Ashish Masih has been president and CEO of Encore Capital Group for 13 years. Masih was previously at Capital One for nearly eight years, where he was VP of Collections, VP of Recoveries and Director/Business Unit CFO. He was also an associate principal at McKinsey & Company for five years. Masih earned an M.S. in manufacturing systems engineering at Lehigh University and an MBA in finance from The Wharton School. He was previously a member of the U.S. delegation of the U.S. India CEO Forum.

SILVIA MAH
FUND MANAGER, STELLA IMPACT CAPITAL FUND
Silvia Mah, Ph.D., is managing partner at Stella Impact Capital, a seed-stage venture fund, investing in diverse women founders building startups at the intersection of deep tech and impact. Mah serves as the Director of Innovation at Biola University. Mah has invested in more than 130 startups with six exits and one IPO. She is an Investment Committee member of Next Wave Impact, a social impact venture fund. She produces a globally recognized podcast, “She Invests!” She is on the board of directors of the Angel Capital Association.

MARY ANN MCGARRY
CEO, GUILD MORTGAGE
Mary Ann McGarry has been president and CEO of Guild Mortgage for 38 years, and has been a member of its board of directors since 1988. Under her leadership, Guild has grown to become one of the largest and most experienced independent mortgage lenders in the U.S. with close to 4,000 employees and 205 retail branches in 33 states. McGarry has received multiple awards and accolades for her leadership and Guild is often recognized for its positive contributions to the community, commitment to customer service and collegial workplace culture.

DAVID MICHAEL
MANAGING PARTNER, ANZU PARTNERS
David Michael is managing partner at Anzu Partners, a venture capital firm that focuses on technologies of tomorrow, with a specific focus on breakthrough technologies in life sciences. Michael led the development of Anzu’s three investment funds with more than $1 billion assets under management. Michael is a board director at e-Zinc, InterVenn Biosciences, ImmunoScape, BioSkryb Corp., Terapore Technologies, Inc., Pivotal Systems and NUBURU Inc. He is a professor of practice at UCSD and was part of the Boston Consulting Group for almost 30 years.
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
Finance

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 to the cannabis industry. In 2008, Stettner was CEO and founder of Reliant Funding, which he sold to CIT Group/Student Loan Xpress. He is an advisor to the San Diego Natural History Museum and at Second Chance Beer Co.

Paul Thiels has been president of Northern Trust Wealth Management in the San Diego Region for nearly five years. Thiels also works part time as an angel investor for NuFund Venture Group, which invests in early-stage companies with less than $1.5 million in capital. Thiels is also a member of the board of directors of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation and a member and planned gifts chair with the非Challenged Athletes Foundation.

Peter N. Townshend has been managing partner at Townshend Ventures, LLC, for nearly six years. Townshend is CEO of Shop My Shirt and managing partner at Ambix Venture Capital, which invests in medical device and other types of life science startups. He is a member of the board 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 Yahnke is CEO and founding principal at Dowling & Yahnke Wealth Advisors and has been chief investment officer (co-founder) for nearly 11 years. Yahnke has more than $2.74 billion in assets under management and is a member of the board of directors of NuFund Venture Group, is on the board of directors and chairman of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation and a member of the board of directors for the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation and a member and planned gifts chair with the Challenged Athletes Foundation.

Paul 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 of 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 has been managing director/junior region, a graduate of Vassar High, has been managing directors region/head San Diego Middle Market Banking at JP Morgan Chase for three years. Ryan previously worked as a VP/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 Senior Relationship Manager in San Diego.

Aaron Ryan, the founder of National Lending Associates and Reliant Funding, was president/CMO and his team bring more than 20 years and $20 billion in capital solutions for the cannabis industry. Stettner, which since September 2021 has provided flexible capital solutions for the cannabis industry. In 2008, Stettner was CEO and founder of Reliant Funding, which he sold to CIT Group/Student Loan Xpress. He is an advisor to the San Diego Natural History Museum and at Second Chance Beer Co.

Caitlin Wege is a managing partner at MooDoos Investments, a minority-owned private investment fund that invests in early-stage companies throughout the United States and Canada. Wege also serves as the COO of NuFund Venture Group (formerly Tech Coast Angels San Diego chapter). She is also a co-founder of the Wege Founders, an innovative focused family office based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, which is the first president at NuFund Venture Group, is on the board of directors of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation and a member and planned gifts chair with the Challenged Athletes Foundation.

Vanessa Wieliczko is managing partner at MooDoos Investments, a minority-owned private investment fund that invests in early-stage companies throughout the United States and Canada. She is also a president of NuFund Venture Group, is on the board of directors and chairman of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation and a member and planned gifts chair with the Challenged Athletes Foundation.

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 of 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.

Daniel Schroeder has been managing director at First Republic Bank for nearly 15 years. He is on the board of advisors for Life Science Cares San Diego, hosts a Biotech and Billiards podcast, and is the author of “Women, Men and Children: A Family Guide to the World’s Most Important Social System.” Schroeder is also a president of the San Diego CFO Association, a member of the board of directors of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation and a member and planned gifts chair with the Challenged Athletes Foundation.

Debra Schwartz has been the CEO of National Lending Associates and Reliant Funding, was president/CMO and his team bring more than 20 years and $20 billion in capital solutions for the cannabis industry. Stettner, which since September 2021 has provided flexible capital solutions for the cannabis industry. In 2008, Stettner was CEO and founder of Reliant Funding, which he sold to CIT Group/Student Loan Xpress. He is an advisor to the San Diego Natural History Museum and at Second Chance Beer Co.

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Matt Townshend has been managing partner at Townshend Ventures, LLC, for nearly six years. Townshend is CEO of Shop My Shirt and managing partner at Ambix Venture Capital, which invests in medical device and other types of life science startups. He is a member of the board 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.

Paul Thiels has been president of Northern Trust Wealth Management in the San Diego Region for nearly five years. Thiels also works part time as an angel investor for NuFund Venture Group, which invests in early-stage companies with less than $1.5 million in capital. Thiels is also a member of the board of directors of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation and a member and planned gifts chair with the Challenged Athletes Foundation.

Peter N. Townshend has been managing partner at Townshend Ventures, LLC, for nearly six years. Townshend is CEO of Shop My Shirt and managing partner at Ambix Venture Capital, which invests in medical device and other types of life science startups. He is a member of the board 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.

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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.

OPTIMA OFFICE
THE OPTIMAL ACCOUNTING, HR & OPS TEAM

858-283-1234 | info@optimaoffice.com
5120 Shoreham Place, Suite 285,
San Diego, CA 92122
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.
Sharon Vidal

Sharon 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 Barry is a longtime leader in genomics. Before co-founding LunaDNA, Barry 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 Dexcom, led Biosite Inc. as CEO and held leadership positions at Medivation, Inc., which was acquired by Pfizer, and Dexcom.

KATE BRODERICK  
 SENIOR VP, TRI-LINK BIOTECHNOLOGIES  
Kate Broderick has extensive experience leading multi-disciplinary 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 Inovio 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 experienced 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 lead at SBP, he served as vice chancellor for Health Services at UC San Diego for the last 15 years, guiding nearly $2 billion in expansions.

DOUGLAS BRYANT  
CEO, QUDEL 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  
CHIEF 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 $120 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 Omnimere and a scientist at The Scripps Research Institute working with Weiyan 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
FOUNDER, PRESIDENT & CEO, BLUENALU
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
PRESIDENT & CEO, ACADEIA PHARMACEUTICALS
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
CEO, ILLUMINA, INC.
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 of 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
PRESIDENT AND CEO, TRI-CITY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT
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 T. DEVRIES III
CHAIRMAN & CEO, AMERICAN SPECIALTY HEALTH
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. Devries 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
PRESIDENT & COO, RESMED
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
PRESIDENT & CEO, TRAVERSE THERAPEUTICS
Eric Dube leads Traverse 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 Traverse, Dube was head of WW North America and also held various leadership roles at GlaxoSmithKline. In addition to leading Traverse, Dube is also an independent director at Rennco Pharmaceuticals and is a recognized leader in the LGBTQ community.

MICHAEL DUGAN
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT & CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER, BIOCEPT, INC.
As CMO at Biocept, Michael Dugan leads clinical strategic development and oversees the company’s College of American Pathologists accredited CLIA clinical laboratory. Biocept is a leading commercial provider of blood and liquid biopsies for solid tumors, as well as COVID-19 testing. In addition to his work at Biocept, Michael has been with the company for nearly 13 years, leading a variety of roles and has served on various committees and boards over the years.

MICK FARRELL
CEO, RESMED
Mick Farrell is chief executive of ResMed – the global leader in the development, manufacturing and marketing of medical devices 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
SR. VICE PRESIDENT & AREA MANAGER, KAISER PERMANENTE
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
PRESIDENT & CEO, RADY CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL
Patricio "Patrick" 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
PRESIDENT, SALK INSTITUTE
In addition to institutional leadership as 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.

Palomar Health
Reimagining Healthcare

PalomarHealth.org
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
MOLLY HE
CEO & CO-FOUNDER, ELEMENT BIOSCIENCES
This year, Element Biosciences CEO 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
CEO & CO-FOUNDER, MARAVAI LIFESCIENCES
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
CEO, LIGAND PHARMACEUTICALS
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.

CHRISTOPHER HOWARD
PRESIDENT & CEO, SHARP HEALTHCARE
As CEO of Sharp Healthcare, Chris Howard oversees a workforce of more than 19,000 employees, approximately 2,700 affiliated physicians and 1,800 volunteers at four acute-care hospitals, three specialty hospitals, three affiliated medical groups, six urgent care centers, three skilled nursing facilities, hospice, state-of-the-art outpatient facilities and a health plan. Howard’s career spans three decades working with integrated care delivery systems, hospitals, medical groups and health plans.

FREDERICK HOWE
FOUNDER, CHAIRMAN & CEO, MEDIMPACT HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS
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.

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.
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!

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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 KIA SER 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.

**Congratulation to our CEO, Devon Cayer!**

The recognition by the San Diego Business Journal for 1859 is a testament to the efforts made by our team each and every day. We’re committed to realizing our vision to revolutionize how we discover new medicines. We aim to discover new medicines at the pace required, so that no patient has to wait for a needed new medicine, because we already have discovered it. We thank the San Diego Business Journal for this recognition and hope to make an impact in San Diego for many years to come!

**1859 THE ORIGIN OF NEW MEDICINES**

**INFO@EIGHTEENFIFTYNINE.COM**

**TURN Behavioral Health Services**

**TURN IMPROVING LIVES**

As a EVP at Foundation Services, 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.

**JAMI DEBRANGO-PALUMBO**

**EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, POSEIDA THERAPEUTICS**

Dr. Eric Ostertag is executive chairman for Poseida Therapeutics, a clinical-stage biopharmaceutical company utilizing proprietary genetic engineering platform technologies to develop cell and gene therapeutics. Dr. Ostertag is the first Gene Therapy Program graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and since has founded multiple successful startups including Poseida, which he founded in 2015 and served as CEO until January 2022.

**ERIC OSTERTAG**

**CEO, NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTHCARE**

Rakesh Patel, M.D., has been with Neighborhood Healthcare for over 18 years and has served as CEO for five. Neighborhood Healthcare is a nonprofit Federally Qualified Health Center with 19 community health centers serving over 78,000 patients in San Diego and Riverside counties. Dr. Patel is also the chair of the board of managers for Integrated Health Partners of Southern California, San Diego’s leading clinically integrated network representing 270,000 individuals.

**RAKESH PATEL, M.D.**

**CEO, EVOFEM BIOSCIENCES**

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.

**SAUNDRA PELLETIER**

**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.

**BARRY QUART**

**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.

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**CINDY SALAS**
Congratulations!

STEVE DIETLIN & AARON BYZAK

of

Tri-City Medical Center

SD500

THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN SAN DIEGO

Photo by Aaron Chang

KEVIN SAYER
PRESIDENT, CEO & BOARD CHAIR, Dexcom

Kevin Sayer became chief executive at Dexcom in 2015 and was appointed board chair in 2018. Sayer has also served as the company president since 2011. Prior to leading Dexcom, Sayer served as CFO at Bioness International Group, EVP and CFO of Specialty Laboratories, CFO of MinMed and VP and general manager of Medtronic MiniMed after the acquisition of MiniMed by Medtronic. A Certified Public Accountant, he has a master’s in accounting and information systems from BYU.

PETER SCHULTZ
PRESIDENT & CEO, The Scripps Research Institute

A professor, chemist and successful biotech entrepreneur, Peter Schultz leads the prestigious Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla. Widely considered one of the world’s top chemists, Schultz has made numerous seminal contributions to the field and has founded nine biotech companies that have pioneered the development and application of new technologies in energy, material and human health. He is also founding director of the California Institute for Biomedical Research, which was established at Scripps in 2012.

CLINT SEVER
CO-FOUNDER & CHIEF PRODUCT OFFICER, CUE Health

Clint Sever is co-founder of Cue Health. Sever leads product development and product design strategy at Cue, including overseeing the look and feel of Cue products, user interface and packaging. He has spearheaded hardware engineering, supply chain development and scaled manufacturing of Cue consumable cartridges, cartridge readers and accessories and is also responsible for the design and engineering of the facilities in which Cue products are made.

CHRIS SEVERN
CO-FOUNDER & CEO, Turquoise Health

Chris Severn leads Turquoise Health, a startup simplifying healthcare reimbursement through price transparency. Since launching in 2020, Turquoise has aggregated more than 3,300 hospitals’ pricing data in a central repository and made the data actionable for the first time. The company’s software for managed care makes it commonplace for patients to know the price of healthcare in advance of treatment.

MELODY SHEDLOSKY
COO, Presidium Health

As chief operating officer of Presidium Health, Melody Shedlosky helped implement a pilot program with Community Health Group, San Diego’s largest nonprofit health plan that lowered the cost of treating the most expensive patients by 53% while also increasing the care they received. Before working at Presidium, Shedlosky worked as a nurse at Scripps Mercy Hospital and then Sharp HealthCare where she became manager of the Sharp Grossmont Hospital’s Shortstay/Observation Unit.

RAHUL SINGHVI
CO-FOUNDER & CEO, Resilience

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Rahul Singhvi co-founded Resilience – a company dedicated to faster and less expensive manufacturing of drugs and therapeutics that now has facilities across the U.S. Prior to founding Resilience, Singhvi was president of Ring Therapeutics, operating partner at Flagship Pioneering, COO at Takeda Vaccines Inc. and a plethora of other positions at top life science firms going back to 1994 when he was a director of manufacturing at Merck & Co.

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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
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 Chander 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’s Anderson Graduate School of Management.

CAPT. AMY BAUERN SCHMIDT  
**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 has a home run with Portfolium, 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 Temic, 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, NAWWAR. 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 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 Rattner 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 drinking 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 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 Aerostructures division of Collins Aerospace/Raytheon Technologies. Formerly Goodrich Aerostructures, 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 McClellan-Palomar Airport. She has led operations at 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.

Neal Manowitz has spent more than two decades at Sony, working with cameras, home theaters and consumer electronics. He has more than two dozen patents. He took the president and COO’s job in Rancho Bernardo in April 2021. In 2022, Sony agreed to provide USCG’s cinema school with advanced equipment and $2 million. The benefit is mutual; Sony gets customer feedback and ideas for new products and services.

Jeffrey Martin leads a Fortune 500 company with over $72 billion in assets and 20,000 employees. Sempra, one of North America’s leading energy infrastructure companies, is focused on sustainable business practices and investments that will help advance the global energy transition through electrification and decarbonization in the markets the company serves. Previously Martin was Sempra’s CFO.

Brent McCarty took charge as president of ESET’s U.S. office in 2018. The former Ingram Micro executive has also worked in Canada and Europe. ESET offers a suite of antivirus and digital security software. McCarty’s objective is to make the preferred cybersecurity products on this continent. He has also increased the company’s focus on diversity, equity and inclusion while growing the North American business.

Eugene Mitchell is senior vice president of diversity and community partnerships for Sempra, one of San Diego’s largest publicly traded companies (NYSE: SRE). He has nearly 30 years of public policy and government affairs experience. Mitchell is heavily involved in the wider community. He chairs the San Diego Housing Commission’s Board of Commissioners and sits on the boards of multiple charitable, community and arts organizations.

Rory Moore is CEO of EvoNexus, an important figure in San Diego’s vibrant startup ecosystem. He founded technology incubator EvoNexus in 2008 together with Walter Davis, a retired U.S. Navy vice admiral. EvoNexus has since grown to be the largest tech incubator in Southern California. Moore was also a founder of Peregrine Semiconductor, now a Murata company, and Silicon Wave. Moore’s other passions include Unlimited Aerobatic Competition flying, scuba diving and surfing.

Brigadier General Jeffrey A. Davis was awarded the Navy Distinguished Service Medal in 2022. He is a 30-year veteran who spent 18 years in the Marine Corps, retiring as a lieutenant colonel. Davis has served on the boards of numerous start-ups and non-profits, including the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, the San Diego Venture Group, the National Venture Capital Association and the San Diego Venture Group. He is also a founder of Peregrine Semiconductor, now a Murata company.

Tom Pellette serves as president of Solar Turbines. Caterpillar acquired Solar Turbines in 1996. Pellette has held various positions at Caterpillar, including as controller of the Solar Turbines division, vice president of manufacturing for the Caterpillar Power Systems division and vice president of Caterpillar’s worldwide gas turbine business. Pellette was also a founder of Peregrine Semiconductor, now a Murata company.
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!
ARTEM SHAROSHKIN
CEO OF THE BXNG CLUB

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.

T H E  B X N G  C L U B

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MARTHA GILMER  
CEO, SAN DIEGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Martha Gilmer has been CEO at San Diego Symphony Orchestra since 2014. She was a manager with the company. Gilmer helped create and direct the Symphony’s annual festival that includes partnerships with many organizations throughout the city. She was previously VP for artistic planning and 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 1953, include The Lodge at Torrey Pines, Bahia Resort Hotel and Catamaran Resort Hotel and Spa. Gleason is 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, and served on the board of the California Travel and Tourism Commission and is chair of World Trade Center San Diego.

KEITH GUILBAULT  
CEO, QDOBA RESTAURANTS

Keith Guilbault has been CEO at Qdoba Restaurant Corporation for nearly five years and was brand president for the corporation for two years previously. Guilbault led Qdoba, 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 Kits for Warriors events.

EAMIN 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 Cicis 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 Qdoba 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 Bodin 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 Ballard Port 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 Anheuser-Busch.

JIM LAKE  
PRESIDENT, SEALWORLD & SESAME 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 Royal 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  
PRESIDENT, 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 Sheppard 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 an MBA in business administration from Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de Mexico. 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/CHIEF, 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 JRDN Restaurant at Tower23 Hotel.

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SD 500 | THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN SAN DIEGO
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, PROOPCO, CORY, HARGREAVES & SAVITCH LLP

John Alessio has been a partner at Proppco, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP for nearly 16 years and managing partner since 2018. Alessio was previously a partner with Thompson & Alessio 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 BLOOPE.com. Currently a real estate broker with Dream Homes California, Anderson founded BlackOwned 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 U.S. 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 U.S. 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, 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 Turning Point Therapeutics (a $1.8 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, PVC CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

Kevan Bradshaw is the clients and market leader of the PricewaterhouseCoopers 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 PVC’s Assurance Innovation Leadership Team with primary responsibility for leading Change Management for PVC’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.

QUINTIN ANDERSON
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, Collective 54, Entrepreneurs Organization, Connected Women of Influence, National Association of Women Business Owners and the San Diego Chamber of Commerce.

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ERIN BURRULA
CEO & PRESIDENT, BOUTIQUE RECRUITING

Innesa Burrula has been CEO and president at Boutique Recruiting for more than eight years. She was 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, Burrula 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’s Small Business Owner 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 TEDxAmericas/FinestCity about “100% perk-free workplace” and hosts The Marketing Remix Podcast. Carr is a board member at Benefundr. Voice of San Diego, San Diego Sport Innovators, The One Club for Creativity San Diego and University of Oregon Alumni Association.

STEVE J. COLONGE
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 eight years. Cologne has served as a 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 Charterlaid 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. Stationed 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 and production 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 former 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, Transparency Culture and an Authentic You” was an Amazon best seller.

DAMIAN DOLIN
FOUNDING SHAREHOLDER, PETTIT KOHN INGRASSIA LUTZ & DOLIN PC
Damin 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 Klerienst 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 giveback 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 past 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 Chateau, a luxury real estate platform; Athletiverse, Inc., a Name Image Likeness platform; SokyaHealth; Indie Health LLC; 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 & PARKS 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, representing purchasers and sellers in structuring, negotiating and drafting acquisitions and dispositions of multi-residential and commercial projects. Goetz serves on 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 large 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 Chislokar 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 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of San Diego. A U.S. Navy veteran, he serves as a member of its Judge Advocate General’s corps.

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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 developing strategies 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 and sought 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 Ugly Retreat for more than 40 lawyers. Hong also is an adjunct professor at Cal Western School of Law.

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.

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, CGGS

Priya Huggett earned her law degree from the University of British Columbia and joined CGGS (Crosbie Gliner Schiffman Southard & Swanson) as a partner in October. Prior to joining CGGS, she served as general counsel for Briann 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.

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 KOHN
CEO & SHAREHOLDER, PETTIT KOHN INGRASSIA LUTZ & DOLIN, PC

Andrew Kohn has served as the CEO of Pettit Kohn Ingrassia Lutz & Dolin, PC since the firm’s inception in 2006. Kohn 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 PITTMAN 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, development 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.

MICHAELE LEES
PARTNER, SOLOMON WARD SEIDENVURM & SMITH LLP

Michael Lees has been a partner at Solomon Ward Seidenvurm & 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, licensed and regulated child care providers. She previously was the CEO for multiple technology companies, including Abacuhealth, a company she transformed into a disruptive global technology organization with more than 500 employees across San Diego, Canada and the U.K.
Congratulations!
Innesa Burrola, CEO

Honored as
Most Influential
Business Leader

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.
We are proud to CONGRATULATE OUR COLLEAGUES

Paul Nation & David Diamond

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

Paul Nation, Senior Managing Director | David Diamond, Managing Director
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
San Diego/Los Angeles
213.330.4500
rpetty@fisherphillips.com

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.
JULI MORAN
MARKETPLACE LEADER, MANAGING DIRECTOR, DELOITTE CONSULTING LLP

Juli Moran, who has been with Deloitte for nearly 21 years, has been the managing director for six years and San Diego office marketplace leader for almost two years, helping drive client and business growth and bringing strategic insights to the company. She was the first Deloitte Consulting LLP practice leader for the office of San Diego for the company in 2016, and since then Deloitte has grown to double in size. Moran is also on the board of directors at the American Heart Association — San Diego Division.

JEFFREY MORTON
PARTNER, PROCOPIO, CORY, HARGREAVES & SAVITCH LLP

Jeffrey Morton, Ph.D., is a partner at Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP. He provides strategic intellectual property advice, including patent prosecution and related transactional support, with a particular focus on life sciences and medical technologies. An immunologist, he has extensive patent experience in genomics, immunology and gene editing tech. Morton has an active trademark practice, is part of the San Diego County Bar Association and currently serves as Vice Chair of its IP Section. He also runs a blog at jeffreymorton.com and volunteers for the Surfrider Foundation.

PAUL NATION
SENIOR MANAGING DIRECTOR, CBIZ MHM, LLC

Paul Nation has been senior managing director of CBIZ MHM, LLC for nearly 18 years, responsible for the overall management of the CBIZ offices in California. With the company since 1979 and in public accounting for more than 40 years, Nation’s expertise is in tax, expert testimony and business consulting. He has served as an expert witness in federal court and California Superior Court and is a member of the World Trade Association of San Diego and the North County EDC.

LARRY NISHNICK
PARTNER, DLA PIPER LLP

Larry Nishnick has been a partner at DLA Piper LLP for 13 years. He focuses his practice on capital market transactions; SEC reporting and compliance; mergers, acquisitions and venture capital transactions; and corporate governance matters. Nishnick represents public and private companies in diverse industries, from tech to sports to retail. He is chair of the Southern California Corporate and Securities practice group for the firm. He was previously general counsel at Somaxon Pharmaceuticals and VP, general counsel and secretary at Continuous Computing Corporation.

JACK PERKINS
FOUNDER & CEO, CFO HUB

Jack Perkins is founder and CEO of CFO Hub, which was founded in 2017. Perkins created CFO Hub to provide strategic finance and technical accounting services to small-to-medium-size enterprises. CFO Hub has an expert team of CFOs, controllers and accountants that manage in-house financial operations. Perkins is also managing director of GovCFO, which provides government contractors with tailored services. He was previously CFO of Tourmo and RedHill Realty Investors as well as controller at Events.com and is a member of the Young Entrepreneur Council.

REGINA PETTY
PARTNER & CHIEF DIVERSITY OFFICER, FISHER PHILLIPS LLP

Regina Petty has been a partner and chief diversity officer in the San Diego and Los Angeles offices of Fisher Phillips LLP for nearly 14 years. Petty’s practice, which combines employment law and business litigation, takes her to state and federal courts at the trial and appellate levels. She is experienced in multi-district and class action litigation as well as arbitrations. She is past president of the San Diego County Bar Association. She was honored by the Stanford University Black Community Services Center with its Legacy Award.

Congratulations to our Founding Partner

MARC 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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MANAGING PARTNER, HICKMAN ROBINSON YAEGE LLP
Robert P. Robinson has been the managing partner and attorney at Hickman Robinson Yaegae 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.

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

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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.

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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.

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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. 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.

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.

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.

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 market transactions. He also represents venture capital and private equity firms, corporate and strategic investors and those who finance and acquire emerging growth companies.

JACQUES SPITZER
FOUNDER & CEO, RAINDROP AGENCY, INC.
Jacques Spitzer has been CEO of Raindrop Agency, Inc., a marketing/advertising services company, for nearly 13 years. Raindrop clients include Manscaped and Lume. Spitzer is also a partner at Mari + Gold and an investor at Laundry Sauce, Signature Athletics and HoneyBug. He is a speaker and storyteller, author (“People Love Turkey Sandwiches”) and investor. He was a digital reporter and writer for NBC News, winning two Emmy Awards.

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SCOTT STANTON
MEMBER, MINTZ

Scott Stanton is a partner resident of Mintz in the San Diego office and is chairman of the board of the Corporate Directors Forum. He has experience in mergers and acquisitions, securities offerings, corporate governance and general corporate matters. His areas of expertise include structuring and negotiating mergers and acquisitions deals, leading public and private securities transactions, serving as primary outside counsel to public and private companies and advising clients on SEC compliance. Stanton is also a trustee at the La Jolla Playhouse, and serves on the executive committee and as treasurer.

RITA STEEL
PRESIDENT, PROFESSIONAL TALENT SOLUTIONS WEST AND SOUTHWEST U.S., ROBERT HALF

Rita Steel is the president for West and Southwestern United States operations for Professional Talent Solutions at Robert Half. Steel has been with the company for 35 years and has served on the Talent Solutions Executive Committee since its inception, providing strategy and leadership for operations worldwide. She is a member of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Executive Steering Council and serves as the Executive Sponsor for the Asian Professionals for Excellence (APEX), one of Robert Half’s Employee Network Groups. She also serves on the board of directors for City Ballet of San Diego.

Seth Stein has been CEO of Eastridge Workforce Solutions for nearly 25 years. Stein started as an entry-level sales representative and was formerly president of the company’s workforce recruitment division. He was charged with maximizing Eastridge’s two largest acquisitions, Abbott Staffing Group and Operon Resource Management. An employee-owned company, Eastridge has gone from a direct hire staffing agency to a nationally recognized workforce solutions provider in all 50 states, Mexico, Canada and the U.K.

STEVEN M. STRAUSS
PARTNER, COOLEY LLP

Steven M. Strauss has been a partner at Cooley LLP for nearly 17 years and was a partner with Procopio Cory Hargreaves & Savitch LLP for 25 years previously. Strauss is a first chair trial lawyer in Cooley’s global litigation department with decades of successful trial verdicts and settlements in excess of $10 billion. Strauss was part of the team that in March secured a victory for Chicago Title in ongoing litigation arising from a $400M Ponzi scheme. He has also been lead trial counsel for companies including Qualcomm and Kinder Morgan.

PAT SULLIVAN
CEO, PAT SULLIVAN CONSULTING LLC

Pat Sullivan has been CEO of Pat Sullivan Consulting LLC for just over two years. The company specializes in organizational strategy, business analysis, communications and cyber security. Sullivan is an advisory board member with CORAS, working with the federal government. He also is a senior advisor for The Roosevelt Group and an advisory board member at the San Diego Cyber Center of Excellence. Sullivan was formerly executive director at NAVWAR and was the military advisor to the board of directors of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation.

FRANK L. TOBIN
OFFICE MANAGING SHAREHOLDER, OGLETREE DEAKINS

Frank L. Tobin has been a shareholder/attorney at Ogletree Deakins for nearly 10 years and was a partner at Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP for 13 years prior. Tobin represents management in all types of labor and employment disputes. He has successfully tried discrimination, retaliation, harassment, wrongful discharge, wage and hour and trade secret cases. Tobin also represents employers in class action disputes and ERISA breach of fiduciary duty litigation. He is a member of the San Diego County Bar Association and sits on the legal ethics committee.

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Managing Partner
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Michelle Jacko, Esq.
for being named one of
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At Jacko Law Group, PC, our team has decades of corporate law
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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 Scinto. 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 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 Limeade, 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 groups 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 $1B 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.

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

HECHT SOBERG LAND USE TEAM

Paul Robinson
Beth Abramson

Paul is an icon in the San Diego business and development community, and it has been an honor and privilege for all of us in HechtSolberg’s Land Use group to work with and learn under Paul’s mentorship. Paul has set the bar for zealous advocacy and creative problem solving for our clients (and will forever be the best-dressed land use lawyer in San Diego). 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.

HECHT SOBERG ROBINSON GOLDBERG & BAGLEY LLP
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CHELSEA 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.

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.

ERIC YOUNG  
PARTNER, GORDON REES SCULLY 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.

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 McMillin Homes and former senior vice president of McMillin Land Development. He also is a former chairman of the San Diego Building Industry Association.

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.

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 the Wakefield Housing and Development Corp and on the board of the San Diego County Water Authority.

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 McMurine Jr. in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California.

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.

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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.

ERIC YOUNG  
PARTNER, GORDON REES SCULLY 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.

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 NAICP and has mentored hundreds of young professionals. He is a former board member of La Jolla Country Day School.

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.

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 McMillin Homes and former senior vice president of McMillin Land Development. He also is a former chairman of the San Diego Building Industry Association.
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Based in San Diego, John Vorsheck oversees Marcus & Millichap’s Western Division, which includes much of the West Coast, Rocky Mountain states and Western Canada. Vorsheck’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 Vorsheck
Western Division Manager
Senior Vice President
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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 BEATY CONSTRUCTION
Brian Cahill joined Balfour Beatty Construction as a construction manager and superintendent in 1993 when it was Barmhart, 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 Ede Family YMCA and is a strong supporter of many local events and charities.

PERRY DEALY
PRESIDENT AND CEO, DEALY DEVELOPMENT
Perry Deal 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. Deal is active with the Downtown San Diego Partnership Executive Committee, the Lincoln Club of San Diego County Executive Committee and Lambda Alpha International.
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 dollar 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 275 real estate professionals, 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 Voit 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 50 years and has helped the company build 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, GACFON**  
Yehudi Gaffen formed Gacfon 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, Gacfon 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 Gleberman founded MG Properties in 1992, and oversees the acquisition, development and management of more than $7 billion in apartment communities. A graduate of Drew University, he served as the executive board of the University of San Diego’s 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/WHITELAW ARCHITECTS**  
Sandra Gramley joined Platt/Whitelaw 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.

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NEAL 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.

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 CREIS 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.

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.

BRET MORRISS
MANAGING PARTNER, CAST CAPITAL PARTNERS
A U.S. Marine Reserve pilot instructor, Bret Moriss 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.

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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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.

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SCOTT SASS  
BUSINESS UNIT LEADER, DPR CONSTRUCTION  
Scot 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., BALFOUR BEATTY CONSTRUCTION  
Eric Stenman 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, Northridge. In 2013, he was recognized by the Boys 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 major 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 Executives, a member of the Urban Land Institute, a member of the International Council of Shopping Centers and a member or Commercial Real Estate Women.

CO-CEO, ZEPHYR  
JOHN VORSHECK  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT/DISTRICT MANAGER, MARCUS & MILLICHAP  
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 Las Vegas office in 2007, and to regional manager of the San Diego office in 2011. Five years later, he was elevated to District Manager.

NAVEEN WANET  
CO-OWNER, PLATT/WHITEWALL ARCHITECTS  
Naveen Waney was born in Mumbai on the west coast of India. His family immigrated to San Diego when he was 12 years-old. He joined Platt/Whitleaw in 1985 as an intern under the mentorship of Lee Platt, and later Allison Whitleaw. While going to school, he worked his way up in the firm and was made principal in 2020. A graduate of the NewSchool of Architecture & Design, he leads the firm with Sandra Gramley.

DOUGLAS WILSON  
CEO, DOUGLAS WILSON COMPANIES  
A nationally recognized expert in problem resolution and development management, 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 1,200 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.

BRAD TERMINI  
CO-CEO, ZEPHYR  
Brad Termin 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.

CHRIS VEUM  
PRESIDENT, AVRP STUDIOS  
Chris Veum oversees the AVRP Studios’ workplace and healthcare design projects. He focuses on the current and future needs of a divergent, multigenerational population and how those different generations have and will change the built environment. At 26, he was one of the youngest designers to receive a national AIA design award. His clients include Microsoft, Nokia, Intel, Cymere, Red Door Interactive, Sharp Hospital and Sharp Rees-Stealy. He is a frequent speaker at national conferences on healthcare design.

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.
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.

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 founding Aptera, Anthony founded a battery company Flux, which is headquartered in Vista.

ARDY 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 SVP of Ambry Genetics. Arianpour was a key player in the 2013 landmark SCOTUS decision scraping gene patents.

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 management council of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce.

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 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.

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.

NICHOLAS BULCAO
CO-FOUNDER & CEO, AIRSPACE
Nicholas Bulcao 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.

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.

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.

SCOT CHISHOLM
FOUNDER & STRATEGIC ADVISOR, CLASSY
Scott Chisolm 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. Chisolm is founder of Farming Advocacy nonprofits FairFarming, co-owner of the Albion Soccer Club and sits on the leadership council advisory board at The Nature Conservancy.

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 Carlstrom and volunteers his time to support the San Diego Life Science and Tech startup community. Prior to launching Carlston, Cordonnier held leadership roles at NuVasive, Zimmer Biomet and Ortho Orthopedics as well as startups Elipse Technologies and X-Spine Systems.

LARRY COVAL
WEST REGION VICE PRESIDENT, COX BUSINESS SOLUTIONS
Larry Coval leads Cox Business’ sales and service delivery groups for Arizona, California, Louisiana, Nebraska and Nevada. He has been with Cox since 2006, and previously oversaw a $220 million revenue line of business in the Southern California area, with responsibilities encompassing product development, marketing, sales, technical engineering and design, installation and account management.
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.
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.
NOVEMBER 14, 2022

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.

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, Girard oversees all aspects of the business including sales, development, client support, and customer service.

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.

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.

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 platforms 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 a 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.

GET IN TOUCH
Let us help you accelerate your digital innovation.

info@itjuana.com
www.itjuana.com
ITJuana

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.

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ITJuana
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 founder and CEO of Avaak, now Arfo Technologies. She currently serves as an independent director for One Stop Systems, Indyve Solutions, CAR, 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 addition 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 grads 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 at 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 SPMER
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 electrify transportation.

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 lab 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 “SoLoSource,” which opened his eyes to the inefficiencies of LTL shipping. Zaslansky founded Enomitas-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.

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GIOIA MESSINGER
FOUNDER & PRINCIPAL, LINKEDOBJECTS, INC.
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DOUG AUSTIN AIA
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 alumni.

AL BALDWIN
CEO/CHAIRMAN, BALDWIN & SONS
Al Baldwin’s career in homebuilding has spanned more than three generations and positively impacted homebuyers 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 for 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 tomorrow’s 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 ATOMICOS
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 ATOMICOS
Linden Stanley Blue is a familiar figure in San Diego defense contracting circles. He and brother Neal Blue bought General Atomicos 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 Atomicos Aeronautical Systems Inc.

CHARLES BRANDES
FOUNDER, BRANDES INVESTMENT PARTNERS LP
Charles 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 $28 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 2009. 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 Coasteria, The Prado at Balboa Park, Indigo Grill, BO-beau bistro and 303 Pacific. David Cohn currently serves as chairman 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.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.
Lifetime Achievement Award from the San Diego Business Journal.

In 2020 at the annual CEO of the Year Awards, Fasulo received the Association and the national Boys & Girls Clubs of America. In

in 2021 . Fasulo led Sony Electronics’ operations in North America

serves customers in more than 140 countries. Earlier in his 

sleep apnea, COPD, and other chronic diseases. ResMed

connected medical devices transform care for people with

at ResMed, whose digital health technologies and cloud-

Peter Farrell, Ph.D., is founder, former CEO and board chair

and broadband policy, both nationally and globally and is an 

active leadership as chairman, Evans has grown the company

on Mission Bay for a 14-acre parcel of waterfront property

Anne Evans co-founded Evans Hotels in 1953 along with

horsewoman who lives on a 50-acre ranch in Lakeside.

appearances, written four books and still makes numerous 

advocate, Embery has logged more than 1,000 television 

and her then-employer, the Zoological Society of San Diego,

Ernie Hahn, chairman of Dream Hahn, has been a leader in

marketing, sports and entertainment for the last 30 years in 

San Diego. Until recently, his career was tied closely to the 

San Diego Sports Arena (now Pechanga Arena). Hahn was 

dthe general manager of the venue from 1996-2021, and had 

a hand in thousands of events. Today he leads an experiential 

full-service marketing company that includes Wonderbus 

entertainment, which debuted in 2021. He was founding 

partner in the Wonderfront Festival.

Joe Harper

President & CEO, Del Mar Thoroughbred Club

Joe Harper had bit parts in his grandfather Cecil B. DeMillie’s 
movies “The Ten Commandments” and “Great Show on Earth,” but he’s harness racing’s own version of the nation’s 
top racetracks, the Del Mar Thoroughbred Club, which he 

joined in 1978. Since becoming president and CEO of the 
historic track in 1990, Harper has boosted attendance and 
the club’s profile. He’s a former president of the Thoroughbred 
Racing Association of North America and has served for many 
years on the board of the San Dieguito Boys & Girls Clubs.
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• Small class sizes
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• Professional areas of specialization- Legal, Medical, Business
• Course content designed to prepare students to pass the American Translators Association (ATA), the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI) and the California Court Interpreter examinations

Interpretation AND Translation

CELEBRATE AND CONGRATULATE

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 1999 to 2004 and dean of the graduate school of social work at the University of Houston from 1988 to 1999. 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.

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 1999 to 2004 and dean of the graduate school of social work at the University of Houston from 1988 to 1999. She is a trustee of Sanford Burnham Prebys, the research institute on Torrey Pines Mesa.

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.

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Viasat congratulates
Mark Dankberg
on being recognized as one of
San Diego’s SD500 Leaders.
Viasat is a global communications company that believes everyone and everything can be connected. We are proud to lead the path towards a globally-connected future, using the power of connectivity for good.

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 chip makers 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.

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.

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.

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’ 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.

MEL KATZ
EXECUTIVE OFFICER & CO-OWNER, MANPOWER SAN DIEGO
Mel Katz and partner Phil Blair bought the local Manpower franchise in 1973 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 e3Civic High charter school. He serves as a board member of San Diego Foundation, the UC San Diego Foundation, the San Diego Rotary Foundation and inewsource. Other organizations he has worked with include the San Diego Workforce Partnership and San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce.

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, where 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 Orange, 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.

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 on two terms of 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 Airlines 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 volunteers 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 $33.6 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 the European Union. 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 1954. 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 at 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 Biocom — an AI-powered loan origination platform — and is a lead investor and board member for Vori, 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 Quigley opened in East Village almost a decade ago, a milestone in Quigley’s architecture practice, which spans its 50th decade. The architect’s portfolio includes academic buildings, cultural centers, high-rise towers and master plans for neighborhoods, campuses, parks and transit corridors. Quigley’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, Westcorps, was bought by banking giant Wachovia for $3.98 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, FERNANIAN 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 began her career 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 CEOs who lead companies 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 OWNED, 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 booming biotechnology 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 Biocart.

RALPH RUBIO  
CO-FOUNDER, RUBIO’S RESTAURANTS INC.

Ralph Rubio has sold more than 200 million fish tacos since opening his first restaurant on Mission Bay Drive 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 management and executive roles, 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.

JIM SCHMID  
FOUNDER/CEO, CHELSEA INVESTMENT CORPORATION

During his 40-year career, Jim Schmid’s responsibilities have included mergers and acquisitions, project management, design, construction, marketing and property management of commercial, industrial and residential projects throughout the country. Since 1993, he has held executive roles at subsidiaries of San Diego Gas & Electric and Southern California Gas Co. and served as CEO of San Diego Gas & Electric from 1986 to 1993. Schmid also is the founder of the CRM degree program at USD, past chair of the San Diego Building Industry Association and an inductee into the Building Industry of San Diego Hall of Fame.

PETER SEIDLER  
CHAIRMAN, SAN DIEGO PADRES

Peter Seidler is chairman of the San Diego Padres and lead investor in the ballclub. Seidler is a founder and managing partner of Seidler Equity Partners, a family-oriented private equity fund that provides capital and management support to growing entrepreneurial companies across the United States and Australia. The fund manages equity capital valued at $3 billion. Seidler also is a driving force behind the “Tuesday Group” of civic leaders charged with addressing San Diego’s homeless problem and sits on the board of the University of San Diego.

K. BARRY SHARPLESS  
PROFESSOR, SCRIPPS RESEARCH

In 2022, Professor K. Barry Sharpless was awarded a Nobel Prize – his second – for his groundbreaking research in 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 business executive, Shea has served on a number of area nonprofit boards and is passionate about ending food insecurity among 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 classes in the Uptown neighborhood of 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 Skyla Nelson certified as a Jazzercise instructor. Jazzercise has helped raise more than $29 million for a wide range of charitable organizations.
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, RADY 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 1980, 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伸手 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.

BILL WALTON
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, SAN DIEGO SPORT INNOVATORS

Bill Walton has been executive chairman of San Diego Sport Innovators since the business accelerator spun out of Connect in 2010. Walton, a San Diego native and NBA Hall of Fame, has helped support more than 80 local nonprofits and also has a successful broadcasting career. As a motivational speaker he tells of how he overcame depression and back pain to live an active life, along the way helping the Challenged Athletes Foundation achieve world-class status. In 2022, he teamed with the Lucky Duck Foundation to help find solutions to alleviate the city’s homelessness crisis.

BOB 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
FOUNDERS, WEST HEALTH CORP.

Gary and Mary West were pioneers in the telemarketing industry, eventually netting $1.45 billion from the 2006 sale of their stake in West Corp. After leading America, the publicly traded parent company of CalPrivate (formerly known as San Diego Private 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 received UC San Diego’s Revelle Medal in 2021.

MARY WALSHOK
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ALISON WHITELAW
RETIRED FOUNDER, PLATT/WHITELAW ARCHITECTS

Growing up near the English city of Coventry, which was heavily bombed during World War II, Alison Whitelaw was inspired to become an architect in part by the construction of a new cathedral to replace the gothic medieval cathedral that was destroyed in the bombing. She became a principal in the San Diego architectural firm of Platt/Whitelaw Architects and was awarded a lifetime achievement award in 2021 by the San Diego Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture after retiring in 2020.

THOMAS WORNHAM
DIRECTOR, CALPRIVATE BANK

Since retiring as the bank’s chief executive officer, Thomas Wornham continues to serve on the board of Private Bancorp of America, the publicly traded parent company of CalPrivate Bank (formerly known as San Diego Private 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.
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