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THEIR INFLUENCE BRINGS HOPE TO ORANGE COUNTY

Annette M. Walker, president, City of Hope Orange County, lives by her advice to use your influence for good. This year, the visionary executive led our teams to open City of Hope Orange County Lennar Foundation Cancer Center, changing the way cancer care is delivered for generations of patients and their families.

Edward S. Kim, M.D., M.B.A., physician-in-chief, City of Hope Orange County, is a renowned cancer researcher and executive who recruited dozens of cancer-fighting physician-scientists from around the country, making our new campus the epicenter for cancer breakthroughs.

Your City of Hope Orange County teams thank you for your vision, strong leadership and unwavering commitment to our lifesaving mission. **Thank you to OCBJ for recognizing our exceptional leaders who are bringing hope to our community.**



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Congratulations to 2022 OC500 honorees, Joe Cover, CPA and Ken Johnson, CPA, Withum Partners, who provide continued leadership and guidance — helping businesses grow.

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Joe Cover, CPA
Partner



Ken Johnson, CPA
Partner-In-Charge

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STORY OF THE YEAR

Editor's Note: *The Business Journal* asked OC500 members what they felt were the biggest local business stories of the past year. Edited responses follow (and the last entry got the answer right):

Bill Carpou: OC gaining national recognition as a great place to create and invest in a tech related company.

Bobak Azamian: The Rivian IPO was a huge success, and it was exciting to see this remarkable achievement happen right in OC. It's a great example of a company who had a unique idea, differentiated design with a commitment to a larger cause (reducing carbon footprint) make waves in the industry and attract such significant investor interest.

Dan Rodrigues: Microsoft's acquisition of Activision Blizzard.

Daryl Carter: OC making a strong post-pandemic recovery. I travel frequently throughout the U.S., and believe we've weathered the storm better than most areas.

Dawn Maroney: Orange County's very own Alignment Healthcare going public in 2021 at a ~\$3 billion valuation.

Doug Corbin: The Angels put up for sale.

Ethan Morgan: The unveiling of OCvibe. It will change the OC

entertainment scene dramatically over the years to come.

Gary Crisp: I love the development of the Dana Point Harbor! It is going to simply be spectacular and change the whole flavor of the harbor.

Jenny Dinnen: City of Hope coming to Orange County. This is huge for everyone in OC.

Kim Mikes: Hoag's expansion plan in Irvine. In a few years the Hoag Irvine campus will be comparable in size to the Newport Beach campus.

Matthew Fehling: The canceled Angel Stadium deal.

Paul Bay: OC's continued growth as a tech hub, evidenced by Amazon adding 800 new corporate and tech roles.

Ramin Mousavi: UCI's continuous growth and acceleration. UCI—my alma mater—is now one of the top 10 public universities in the country, and we are just starting.

Dan Lubeck: That the OCBJ, primarily a print newspaper, continues to be so relevant and successful in this age of electronic media.

CONGRATULATIONS

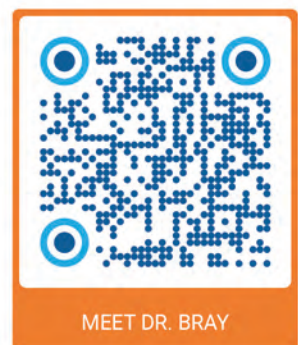
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RESTAURANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Alan Fuerstman: Starfish

Arte Moreno: Gulfstream

Bobak Azamian: Irvine Grill, Zinc Café, Oliver's Osteria

Charlene Reynolds: A+O Restaurant

Clint Carnell: Trevor's at the Tracks, Coastal Kitchen

Dan Rodrigues: Gulfstream, R+D Kitchen, Pirozzi

Emile Haddad: "Wherever my wife decides"

Erik Wexler: Sea Butter, CdM, Trenta, Folks, Bruggers Bagels on Sunday

Ike Kavas: "Knife Pleat for tea parties with my girls and Grandma"

Jamie Arnold: Fish N Fly

Jenny Dinnen: Larsen at Hotel Laguna

Jim Mazzo: Big Canyon Country Club

Joe Lozowski: Mastro's Ocean Club

John Beaver: Solstice, South of Nick's, Heritage Barbecue

John DeCero: Bungalow

Julian Movsesian: Marché Moderne

Justin Li: Javier's, Ten Sushi, Baekjeong KBBQ

Laura Ramos: Ruth's Chris Steak House

Liz McKinley: A Restaurant, Gulfstream, Big Canyon Country Club

Mike Fuerstman: Active Culture, The Drake

Mike Mussallem: Harvest Restaurant at The Ranch

Payman Roshan: Javier's

Rhonda Ducote: Hanna's Prime Steak

Rob Cripe: Chaak Kitchen, Black Marlin

Steve Jones: Hanna's Prime Steak



Congratulations to **STEPHEN G. OSWALD**

Named to the Orange County Business Journal's OC500 List
One of the most influential individuals driving economic growth in the OC.

As Ducommun's first externally hired chairman, president and chief executive officer, Stephen G. Oswald has led and developed a long-term strategy to move the business to a higher level of profitability through building organic proprietary manufacturing processes as well as acquisitions in high-tech product businesses.

Under Stephen's leadership, Ducommun has enriched workforce programs by introducing an Employee Stock Purchase Plan and expanding scholarship benefits for children and grandchildren of Ducommun employees. Stephen has also driven many community outreach and philanthropic initiatives including: the creation of The Ducommun Foundation, sponsorship of STEM on the Sidelines in partnership with the Los Angeles Chargers and University of Irvine, as well as working with the Orange County United Way to support important causes in the community.



Chairman, President and
CEO of Ducommun, Incorporated

Ducommun is a global provider of
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WEEKEND PLANS

Editor's Note: Looking to connect with an OC500 member on the weekend? Try these spots.

Andy Hinrichs: Hiking one of the amazing nature trails in Orange County.

Daryl Carter: In front of the TV when University of Michigan is playing football or basketball.

Debbie Snavelly: Fashion Island shopping with my wonderful husband, Ned, and my adorable Golden Doodle, Teddy.

Emile Haddad: Our beach house with friends and family.

Justin Li: A basketball court or a driving range.

Larry Armstrong: My LRA Art studio in San Clemente.

Matthew Fehling: The Discovery Cube, or the Ocean Institute, or Tanaka Farms trying to keep up with my kids!

Payman Roshan: On Sundays, playing soccer with some friends.

TOP 1%

Best Colleges in America 2022



Cal State Fullerton



LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

RICHARD REISMAN



This marks the seventh edition of the Business Journal's OC500, our annual inventory Directory of Influence. We believe this edition is our best, most diverse, and most relevant.

Inside you will find the names, bios, recent news and inside details of the area executives, educators and other community leaders who made headlines in the pages of the Business Journal over the course of the past year.

Newsmakers, job creators, and breakout business leaders are well-represented in these pages.

Winners of the Business Journal's signature awards programs over the past year—which are back to being in-person events, and drawing big crowds—are profiled, as are contributors to our popular OC Leader Board page. Lawyers, bankers, accountants and other notable service providers are also included in the listing.

As was the case last year, we've included profiles from our latest OC 50 edition of the paper, which ran in May, as part of the directory.

Those entries—this year dubbed the "Fast 50" due to the rapid growth of their businesses and organizations—have been slightly reworked and updated to include new information.

While most OC500 individual entries are loosely grouped into industry sectors, the longer OC 50 entries are scattered throughout the book.

This year's OC500 also includes entries from our most popular listing of the year, the OC's Wealthiest, which ran in July. Those bios have too been updated to include new information, though our wealth estimates for the entries have not changed from their original publication.

The OC's Wealthiest entries are towards the end of the book; for the handful of entries who were on both this year's OC 50 and OC's Wealthiest listings, we've included the latter.

All told, more than half of the OC500 entries are new to this year's edition.

If you or your business is planning to make headlines of your own in 2023, keep us posted. Our editorial staff has already begun the planning for next year's edition.

Lastly, please remember that print media can only serve its readers if sponsors and advertisers provide support. Thank you to those who have done so during another year when our editorial team has gone above and beyond to provide our community the best possible business coverage.

Happy Reading!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Reisman". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Richard Reisman
Publisher



Orange County's future is limitless thanks to the OC 500

FivePoint applauds the individuals who are making an impact within their organizations and communities. We salute you for elevating Orange County's position as a global leader for innovation and improving our quality of life.

FIVEPOINT.

GREAT  PARK
NEIGHBORHOODS

THE OC EXPRESS

MARK MUELLER

The railroad-inspired art that graces the pages of this edition of the OC500 is more than apt: Orange County's community of business is one that's definitely on the move.

That much is clear from the past year's slate of stories in the weekly print edition of the Business Journal; we published close to 2,000 stand-alone news articles, profiles, and column items from October 2021 to October



2022, covering a variety of businesses, organizations, educational institutions and executives who've been fast-moving, fast-growing, opportunistic, entrepreneurial and inspiring.

Well over a thousand additional breaking news stories were written for our recently revamped www.ocbj.com website.

Consider this year's OC500 edition a cheat sheet of sorts, highlighting many of the standout newsmakers we covered over that 12-month period.

Along with brief bios, you'll also hear directly from the OC500 members about their biggest personal and professional achievements, favorite local places to visit and go-to dining spots, among other factoids scattered throughout the book.

You're likely to find something in common with many entries you may not know personally.

Hopefully, the book will serve as a good icebreaker for future get-togethers—perhaps at a Business Journal event next year.

Congrats to the staff of the Business Journal for another standout year of editorial excellence.

And thanks again to my always-on-the-move hiking partners, Angelina and Isabella. Enjoy your reading.

Mark Mueller
Editor-in-Chief
mueller@ocbj.com

OC500 ARTWORK

Courtesy of the Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University

"The Romance of California's Railroads" - Selections from the exhibition opening Dec. 17, 2022, at the Hilbert Temporary

California artists have always enthusiastically portrayed the many facets of the state's railroads.

From atmospheric depictions of engines wreathed in clouds of steam to dramatic nocturnes, from images of peaceful rural platforms and bustling urban train stations to representations of the people who worked and rode aboard the trains, these paintings are a vivid visual chronicle of the history of California's railroads.

As the Hilbert Museum embarks on a year-long expansion project that will increase its exhibition space threefold, the museum will be open throughout 2023 in a temporary location at 216 E. Chapman Ave. in downtown Orange. The newly expanded museum on the Chapman campus is scheduled to hold its grand opening in 2024.

This is the fifth edition of the OC500 to feature artwork generously provided by the Hilbert Museum. Many thanks to founders Mark and Janet Hilbert, and to museum director Mary Platt, who compiled the images.

Cover - Aiden Lassell Ripley (1896-1969), "Night Duty," 1940's, Watercolor, The Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University, Gift of the Hilbert Collection

OC500

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Providence congratulates Erik Wexler, Kevin Manemann and Laura Ramos for their steadfast dedication to caring for the health needs of Orange County. By working with community partners, Erik, Kevin and Laura continually look for innovative ways to provide life-changing care. From community health education and outreach to advocating for those who are experiencing homelessness, we're proud of Erik, Kevin and Laura's unwavering dedication to our vision of health for a better world. Thank you for caring so deeply about our community and congratulations on being named among Orange County Business Journal OC 500 influencers.

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John Conrad Berkey (1932-2008)
"L.A. to Las Vegas Monorail" 1988
Acrylic/Casein
The Hilbert Collection



COMMUNITY

FLYNN ANDRIZZIPRESIDENT
HOAG HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

WHY: Leads fundraising for prominent hospital group, with flagship Newport Beach location and growing Irvine campus. Previously in academia fundraising in Utah, Iowa and Pennsylvania. **IN THE NEWS:** Hoag's largest-ever gift, \$106M from late philanthropist Audrey Steele Burnand, the daughter of transportation and manufacturing mogul Harry Steele, announced in September. Another \$50M from Sun Family Foundation announced earlier this year. **QUOTABLE:** Andrizzzi described Burnand as a "humble and quiet woman, though she always made clear how much she appreciated the care Hoag gave to her over the years." Still, "we had no idea of the magnitude of this gift."

**JEFF BALL**CEO, PRESIDENT
OC BUSINESS COUNCIL

WHY: Assumed council's executive position in January, replacing former 16-year CEO Lucy Dunn. Previously co-founded and led Whittier-based Friendly Hills Bank. **IN THE NEWS:** Welcomed at council's annual dinner at Disneyland Hotel in April which installed dozens to firm's 2022 board of directors with nearly 700 OC business and community leaders in attendance. **QUOTABLE:** "It is an honor and a privilege to have this opportunity to lead OCBC and follow in the footsteps of the impactful contributions made by Lucy Dunn."

**MARK PERCY**PRESIDENT
CEO LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE OC

WHY: Leads alliance with strategic plan to cultivate OC into a premier, inclusive, OC tech talent hub in the next five years. **IN THE NEWS:** Teaming up with Amazon Web Services and education partners to train 4,000 students in cloud computing skills, including a push for more women, Hispanics and African Americans in the sector. **NOTABLE:** By year end 2022, a coalition of over 20 CLA member companies—including CHOC Children's, Edwards Lifesciences, Ingram Micro, Skyworks, and UCI Health—have committed to provide more than 250 students short-term work-based learning experiences and mentoring.

**BONNI POMUSH**CEO
WORKING WARDROBES

WHY: New top exec at nonprofit that has helped over 105,000 at-risk men, women, young adults and veterans find work through job training, career placement and wardrobe services. **IN THE NEWS:** Succeeding founder Jerri Rosen, who has led the nonprofit for 31 years. Assumes the CEO role on Jan. 1, 2023. **NOTABLE:** Counts 25 years of nonprofit experience, previously raised over \$6M in a capital campaign and \$1M from fundraising events. Served as the executive director of The Samuelli Center for Progressive Judaism. **QUOTABLE:** "I want to put my strengths and talents to work to help others overcome challenges and achieve the dignity of work and the power of a paycheck."

**GADDI VASQUEZ**SVP, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS (RET.)
EDISON INTERNATIONAL

WHY: Longtime OC notable who was head of SoCal Edison government relations, OC Supervisor, director of U.S. Peace Corps. Awarded five honorary doctorates; won Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2014. **IN THE NEWS:** As chairman of Ad Hoc Re-Opening Committee for the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in 2021, guided popular arts center's response that included safety protocols for staff and visitors, performance guidelines, enhancement to air systems and heightened cleaning protocols. **NOTABLE:** Orange County Community Foundation in 2021 added Vasquez to its Board of Governors. Position critical to OCCF's Vision 2024 goal of reaching \$1B in cumulative granting by 2024.

**REV. RALPH WILLIAMSON**CEO, PRESIDENT
COR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

WHY: Public face for business development offshoot of Irvine's Christ Our Redeemer AME Church, the largest African Methodist Episcopal church in OC, where he is the pastor. Irvine Spectrum-area group is a frequent partner with Irvine-based Avanath Capital; they have hundreds of affordable housing units in the state, including properties in OC. **IN THE NEWS:** Every year, during Black History Month, California State University, Fullerton President Fram Virjee, faculty and staff members visit African American churches in Southern California to encourage congregants and their children to attend college and, specifically, CSUF. This year, Virjee spoke to the congregation of Christ Our Redeemer at the invitation of Williamson.





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LOU CORREA

CONGRESSMAN
US HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES



WHY: U.S. representative for California’s 46th congressional district in Santa Ana, previously served as a member of the California State Senate. Before political career, held jobs as an investment banker, real estate broker and a college instructor. **IN THE NEWS:** Re-counted the events of the Jan. 6, 2021 United States Capitol attack in a Jan. 10, 2022 Business Journal Leader Board titled “American Versus American.” Aided Capitol Police to resume control after being trapped in the Congressional House chamber. **QUOTABLE:** “I saw an attempt to stop the peaceful transition of power from one president to another. I witnessed Americans defending our Capitol from a mob that carried the same flag that I pledge an alliance to every day.”

MATTHEW FEHLING

CEO, PRESIDENT
BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU,
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST



WHY: Runs largest BBB in the country serving Orange County, also has locations in Lake Havasu City, San Diego; Phoenix, Prescott and Yuma in Arizona. 20+ years with the BBB in a variety of positions and locations, named to current role in 2018. **IN THE NEWS:** Presenting sponsor for Business Journal’s 2022 Family-Owned Business Awards. **NOTABLE:** Named a winner in the 2022 CEO of the Year Awards by the San Diego Business Journal, in association with the Burnham Center for Community Advancement.

JOHN FORSYTE

CEO, PRESIDENT
PACIFIC SYMPHONY



WHY: Has built world-class symphony that typically performs 100 concerts a year, including abroad and on national TV. During his tenure, the Pacific Symphony’s budget has grown by over 200% while remaining balanced each year. Its current budget stands at over \$20M. **IN THE NEWS:** Packed house at FivePoint Amphitheater in August when Pacific Symphony musicians performed the John Williams score to “Empire Strikes Back.” **NOTABLE:** Irvine City Council made a formal proclamation in August honoring Pacific Symphony for its 35 years of service to the city of Irvine.

JANE FUJISHIGE YADA

CHAIRWOMAN
SEGERSTROM CENTER
FOR THE ARTS



WHY: Influential businesswoman, philanthropist and patron of the arts. Helps run family business Harbor Field Holdings LLC, which includes multiple agricultural, residential, industrial and hospitality properties as well as farms in OC, Ventura and Santa Cruz counties. **IN THE NEWS:** Has served on board of OC’s most prominent arts institution since 2001. Last year began serving as chairwoman. Only the second woman to chair the exec-laden board. **NOTABLE:** 2022 marked return of full crowds to arts center, particularly with Broadway hit “Hamilton” coming to town.

HEIDI ZUCKERMAN

CEO
ORANGE COUNTY MUSEUM
OF THE ARTS



WHY: Took over top post in 2021; previously managed the Aspen Art Museum from 2005-2019. Hosted podcast Conversations with Artists and is the author of the “Conversations About Art” book series. Has curated more than 200 exhibitions. **IN THE NEWS:** New \$94M facility at Segerstrom Center for the Arts campus opened in October 2022; building has been described as Orange County’s “most significant piece of architecture.” **QUOTABLE:** Of OC donors stepping up to back the facility, said “we are honored to recognize their extraordinary generosity to support the completion of our spectacular new building, and we can’t wait for the public to see what they have helped create.”

CHARLIE ZHANG

FOUNDER
ZION ENTERPRISES



WHY: Businessman, longtime area philanthropist who created well-known Chinese fast-food chain, Pick Up Stix, which he built to 85 stores before selling it in 2001. “I came to America with \$20 and they gave me \$50 million!” he told the Business Journal. A second food and beverage business he started after Pick Up Stix with his wife, Ling, Aseptic Solutions, would end up selling for even more. **IN THE NEWS:** With longtime local banker and tax attorney Doug Freeman, conceived April’s Celebration of Heroes gala, which recognized local and national scientists and others who made their marks during the pandemic. **NOTABLE:** Serious musician as youth, now backs OC Music & Dance arts school, and Pacific Symphony. He and his wife donated \$6.2M building that houses symphony’s HQ.

We made our family tighter and our business stronger with one football game.

Never have the words, “Yes sir,” been so cutting as when I heard it from my sister. My authority within the family business had caused a rift in the family. Somewhere along the way, I’d stopped being a brother and became the CEO and chairman of the board instead. That’s when Whit suggested that Thanksgiving was the perfect opportunity to recapture some of the family magic of our childhood. A little Thanksgiving football, a few laughs, and a lot of stuffing later, and we’d reworked the business so Whit could handle decisions involving the family and I could focus on being a brother. Sometimes the big picture becomes clearer when you focus on **the little things**.

— David, San Diego




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Learn More

MADELYNN HIRNEISECEO
FAMILIES FORWARD

WHY: Top exec at Irvine-based nonprofit that works to secure safe and affordable housing for those most vulnerable. **IN THE NEWS:** Reported revenue more than doubled to \$19.1M in the year ended June 30, 2021. Tripled number of affordable housing units in its portfolio.

QUOTABLE: “Homelessness has been a prevalent issue in our county for some time. However, since the start of the pandemic, a growing population of people who previously never experienced this type of hardship were suddenly finding themselves on the brink of homelessness—families.”

**SLOANE KEANE**CEO
BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF
ORANGE COUNTY AND THE
INLAND EMPIRE

WHY: Runs nonprofit’s second biggest agency out of 250 nationwide. Held position for nearly three years, and after previously holding senior development roles at the nonprofit. Came to group from the advertising world. **IN THE NEWS:** 2021 Business Journal Women in Business Award winner. **QUOTABLE:** Under her leadership, the number of children mentored by the nonprofit has grown 20% since 2018. She also successfully navigated the pandemic, where she knew standing still wasn’t an option. “There’s no Leadership 101 through a pandemic. There is no game plan.”

**AUTUMN STRIER**CO-FOUNDER, CEO
MIRACLES FOR KIDS

WHY: Runs influential nonprofit that provides financial aid, housing and counseling to families with critically ill children. Wife of Keith Strier, VP of worldwide AI initiatives for computer graphics giant Nvidia. **IN THE NEWS:** Raised \$3M at last year’s 17th Annual Night of Miracles.

NOTABLE: Before starting the organization in 2004, worked for Morgan Stanley, NYC Mayor Rudy Giuliani and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in New Jersey. **QUOTABLE:** “I’ve had the honor of working with some of our area’s most inspirational business leaders, who have aligned their corporate identity with social impact, and as a result, they have affected significant change for critically-ill children and families served by my organization.”

**NICOLE SUYDAM**CEO, PRESIDENT
GOODWILL OF ORANGE COUNTY

WHY: Top exec for OC’s largest nonprofit. Group’s mission: helping those with disabilities and other challenges obtain work via education and workforce development programs among other services. Operates 24 retail sites countywide, including five boutiques and an e-commerce platform, ShopGoodwill.com. **IN THE NEWS:** Continues digital makeover, aimed at modernizing the Santa Ana nonprofit’s online retail backbone amid the increased appetite for e-commerce. Launched its first-ever mobile app to compete with other online secondhand shopping stores, including ThredUp, Poshmark and The Real Real. **NOTABLE:** Goodwill of OC will celebrate its centennial in 2024.

**RANDY BARTH**FOUNDER, CEO
THINK TOGETHER

WHY: Runs California’s largest nonprofit provider of after-school and expanded learning programs. Founded in 1997 with a single after-school learning center in Costa Mesa, invested personal funds and bootstrapped the organization as volunteer board chair while tending to his day job as a stockbroker and later as a corporate CEO. **IN THE NEWS:** In September merged with Orenda Education, a top school improvement and professional development consultancy. Combined organization will serve more than 200,000 students across the state with more than \$150M in annual revenue. **NOTABLE:** Co-author of “Think Together, How You Can Play a Role in Improving Education in America.” Serves on various boards and as a senior fellow at UCLA’s Luskin School of Public Affairs.

**LISA BARTLETT**FIFTH DISTRICT SUPERVISOR
COUNTY OF ORANGE

WHY: Bartlett, who was first elected to the Dana Point City Council in 2006, has been a county supervisor since 2014, representing 650,000 residents in South Orange County. **IN THE NEWS:** Advocate of private-public partnership that’s helping to redevelop the Dana Point harbor area, a \$400M project. **OC LEADER BOARD, JUNE 7:** “When the revitalization project is complete, we are confident that Dana Point Harbor will be considered a prime example of how Orange County taxpayers can enjoy lasting benefits from a public-private partnership.”



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FRANK AND JOAN RANDALL

PHILANTHROPISTS

WHY: Longtime backers of environmental causes who made their money through stock investments and real estate deals largely in Los Angeles. Gave \$50M to preserve the Banning Ranch wetlands in West Newport Beach and Costa Mesa. **IN THE NEWS:** Gave additional \$50M to the Nature Conservancy for largest nature preserve in California, spanning 72,000 acres about 100 miles north of downtown LA. **QUOTABLE:** “As I became more affluent, I became more philanthropic. Open space preservation and make it available to the public ... that’s my passion,” Frank Randall said.



LUCY RAWLINS

CHAIR NEW MAJORITY

WHY: First woman to lead the prominent OC political organization since it was founded in the late 1990s by a group that included George Argyros, Donald Bren, Larry Higby, Gary Hunt, William Lyon and Tom Tucker. Group “promotes a fiscally responsible philosophy in government and an inclusive mainstream approach towards politics,” and says it is the state’s largest Republican Political Action Committee. **IN THE NEWS:** Named to position in late March. **NOTABLE:** Previously worked for a decade for then Congressman Robert Badham. Family runs Santa Ana manufacturer R&B Wire Products.



LUCY SANTANA

CEO GIRLS INC. OF ORANGE COUNTY

WHY: Runs organization which has a plan to accelerate change for women and create a path up the ladder that’s not riddled with broken rungs. Aims to transform girls’ views of themselves and their opportunities for generations through programs that focus on leadership, academic success, health and financial self-sufficiency. **IN THE NEWS:** The oldest girl-centered organization in the U.S., reported \$3M in revenue during 2021. **QUOTABLE:** “Last year, the OC Community Indicators Report showed that women-owned businesses are on the rise. We surpassed San Diego County, increasing from 389 to 404 businesses in 2021.”



TED SEGERSTROM

FOUNDER SEGERSTROM SHELBY EVENT CENTER

WHY: Together with wife, Rae, part of the Segerstrom family that built Costa Mesa’s South Coast Plaza, one of the world’s most famous shopping centers. Worked in the family business for decades handling its property management affairs, retired about 20 years ago. **IN THE NEWS:** Opened the Segerstrom Shelby Event Center in Irvine. Close to 80 vintage vehicles owned by Segerstrom, many with a price tag topping \$1M or more. **NOTABLE:** Standouts of the collection include a 1971 Ford Mustang Mach 1, a Shelby Series 1, a 1966 Shelby GT350 and a series of ultra-rare Shelby GT500KR convertibles.



CLAUDIA KELLER

CEO SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

WHY: Second woman to hold top leadership position at Irvine regional food bank that distributed nearly 60 million pounds of food and served over 489,000 people per month on average last year. Purchases and grows food for distribution at more than 250 locations throughout OC, with focus on vulnerable populations. **IN THE NEWS:** Named to top C-Suite spot in January, replacing interim CEO Dave Coffaro. Previously served as chief mission officer after roles with LA Promise Fund, American Heart Association and St. John Knits. **NOTABLE:** Bilingual daughter of immigrants; holds a bachelor’s degree from University of California, Irvine and a master’s degree in Public Administration from California State University, Fullerton.



JIM MCALEER

CEO, PRESIDENT ALZHEIMER’S ORANGE COUNTY

WHY: Head of resource and research center since 2004, overseeing fundraising coordination including major gifts and planned giving. Managed two mergers and has secured several seven-figure gifts for organization that sees \$17M in revenue per year. **IN THE NEWS:** Celebrating 40 years in business. **QUOTABLE:** “As AlzOC looks to the next 40 years, we reaffirm our pledge to provide an uncompromising level of care, collaboration and compassion for everyone touched by memory loss disorders.”



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TRACY BRANSON

CFO
ORANGE COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

WHY: CFO at Orange County's largest nonprofit, managing annual revenue around \$200M and assets that top \$500M. **IN THE**

NEWS: Winner of Business Journal CFO of the Year award for nonprofits in 2021. **NOTABLE:** Says "fiscal 2022 is turning into a very strong year." **QUOTABLE:** "We are working on a major technology transformation and website overhaul that will allow us to be of better service to donors, nonprofits and the Orange County community."

**DOUGLAS CORBIN**

CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
CHOC
PRESIDENT
CHOC FOUNDATION

WHY: Longtime fundraising exec, tapped with fundraising for OC's main children's hospital. Went full-time at CHOC February 2018 to head independent 60-employee foundation as chief development officer and SVP. Former president of Paragon Charitable Services Group serving clients including The Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and The Motion Picture & Television Fund. **IN THE NEWS:** \$5M pledge in 2021 from Panda Express among more prominent donations of late. **QUOTABLE:** Panda Express is "an inspiring corporate citizen dedicated to making a difference in the communities they serve," Corbin said. "Our shared values have made our long-standing partnership incredibly impactful on our providers, staff, patients and their families."

**MARK HILBERT**

PHILANTHROPIST, FOUNDER
HILBERT PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

WHY: Hilbert, a Newport Beach real estate owner and manager, and his wife, Janet, a former community college professor, began museum on Chapman University to showcase couple's personal collection of over 3,000 California scene paintings, works of movie and animation art, and American illustration, a trove valued at about \$10M.

IN THE NEWS: Couple spending \$12M to triple museum's size to 22,000 square feet by 2024. **NOTABLE:** OC500 art comes from the Hilbert collection. **QUOTABLE:** "Our quest is to become one of the leading university-based art museums in the nation."

**ASHLEY HARRIS**

CFO
BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF
CENTRAL ORANGE COAST

WHY: Money chief who handles operational annual budget of about \$5M for nonprofit programs serving over 9,500 young people ranging from preschool, through college and beyond. Committed to maximizing clubs' budget to ensure continued growth. Authored first book in 2016, "It's Not You, It's Your Money." **IN THE NEWS:** Named Outstanding CFO of a Not-for-Profit Organization at Business Journal's 15th annual CFO of the Year Awards. Praised for modernizing organization's finances while executing strategic plan over two years. **QUOTABLE:** "It's a full-circle moment for me to go from a kid playing basketball at the clubs to representing them on one of the highest stages in getting honored in this way."

**DAN YOUNG**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DEVELOPMENT
OCVIBE

WHY: Former Irvine Co. exec oversees \$4B mixed-use project in Anaheim's Platinum Triangle, known as OCvibe. Aims to be sustainable, mixed-use, live entertainment district, 95 acres in size, anchored by Honda Center. **IN THE NEWS:** Helping Henry and Susan Samuelli "create a magnet" so people stay in OC rather than leave for other metro areas and to build OC's base of high-paying jobs. **NOTABLE:** 20-year career as a real estate developer. Former mayor of Santa Ana for eight years. Serves as chair of Hoag's board of directors.

**BOBBY MCDONALD**

CEO, PRESIDENT
OC BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

WHY: Heralds Black Chamber's ability to work within the vast business community, opening up opportunities, dialogue and new arenas to improve business insights. President since 1995. **IN THE NEWS:** Has been in the private sector his entire life; involved in the shoe clothing business, providing sporting goods for high schools, colleges and the professional leagues. **QUOTABLE:** "Over the years, the Black Chamber has embraced diversity and encouraged our members to broaden potential networking circles."



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SUE AND RALPH STERN

PHILANTHROPISTS

WHY: Ralph Stern built his net worth by running dental manufacturing, consumer finance, and TV retail businesses; now a frequent sight in OC's philanthropic circles. **IN THE NEWS:** Couple's contributions include \$5M to the build-out of UCI's new hospital and cancer center now underway on Jamboree Road.

NOTABLE: "With our support, there will be less of a need for a patient with cancer to leave the county. That's one of our dreams," Ralph Stern said.

**GREGORY SCOTT**CEO, PRESIDENT
COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP
OF ORANGE COUNTY

WHY: Tapped in 2018 by Garden Grove-based nonprofit, which aims to eliminate and prevent the causes of poverty. His team has a broad array of goals, including enhancing fundraising, increasing board education, elevating marketing initiatives and continuing to strengthen diversity equity and inclusion. **IN THE**

NEWS: Late 2021, Business Journal's Leader Board discussed how cost of living has affected the living wage in Orange County, and how CAPOC combats that within its own organization. **NOTABLE:** Grew up in poverty in Paterson, N.J. Has bold mission to end the cycle of poverty in his role as CEO of the partnership.

**ADELINE YEN MAH**CO-FOUNDER
FALLING LEAVES FOUNDATION

WHY: Former chief anesthesiologist at West Anaheim Community Hospital. Her husband, Robert Mah, was a prestigious professor at UCLA. Now well-known in philanthropic circles. **IN THE NEWS:** Made \$30M gift to UCI Medical; funds used for construction of 200K-square-foot research and education facility in Irvine. **QUOTABLE:** "The future of medicine is being advanced at an

unbelievable rate. Twenty-first century medical innovation is a collaborative process derived from brilliant minds working together rather than flashes of insight from solitary scientists working alone in his or her lab."





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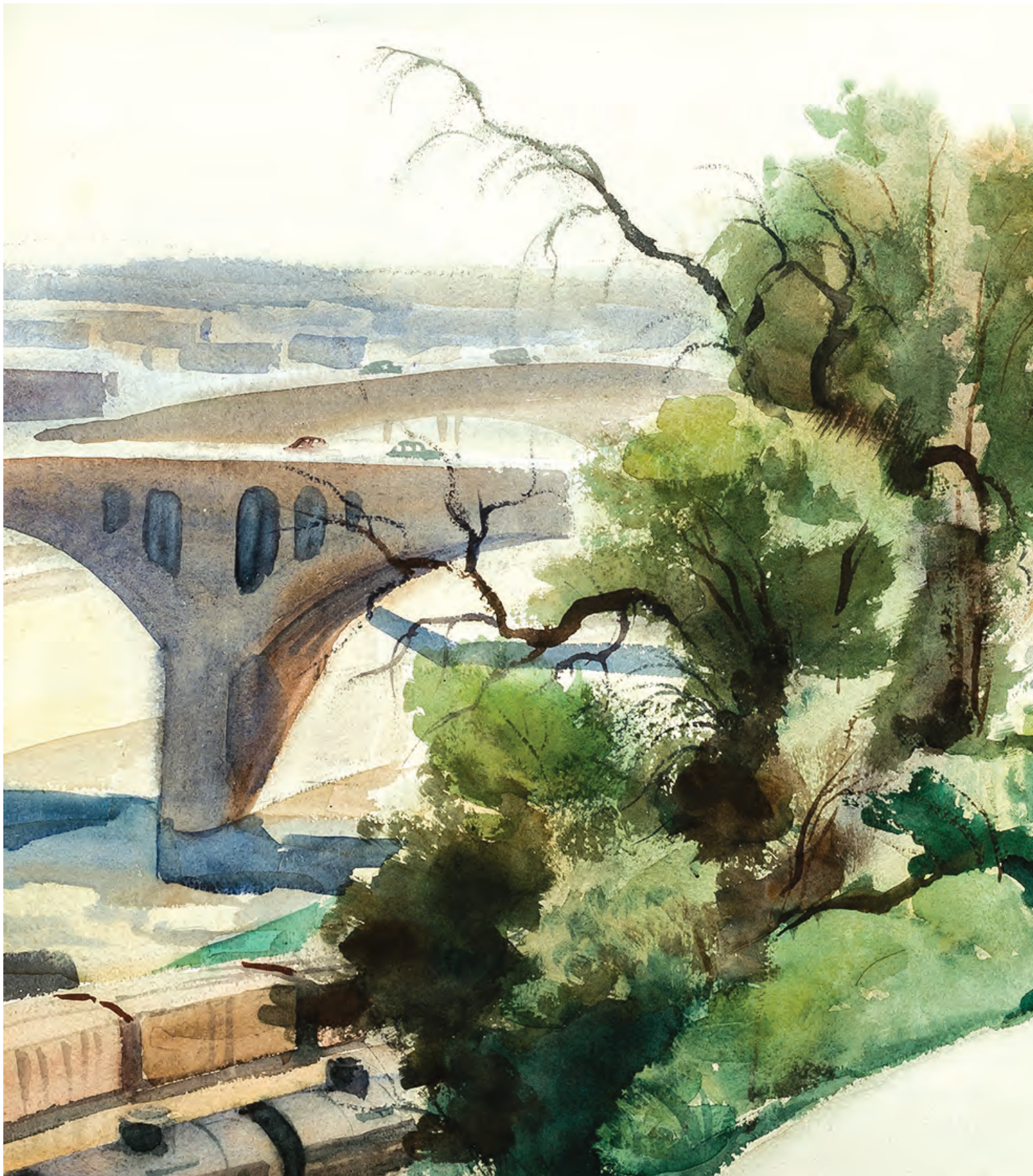
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Emil Kosa Jr. (1903-1968)
"Romantic Bridges" 1950's
Watercolor
The Hilbert Collection



CONSUMER

JAMES CHAECHAIRMAN, CEO
YOSHIHARU GLOBAL

WHY: Runs Buena Park-based ramen restaurant chain with about a half dozen locations in operation, and ambitious expansion plans. **IN THE NEWS:** 6-year-old company, which operates under the corporate name Yoshiharu Global Co. Filed plans for an initial public offering in January. Went public in September. Aiming to have nearly 20 company-owned spots open in near future. **NOTABLE:** Yoshiharu is the first ramen-focused chain to go public in the U.S.

**CHAD GRETZEMA**BRAND PRESIDENT
DEL TACO RESTAURANTS

WHY: Runs Lake Forest firm that's the second-largest Mexican-American QSR chain by units in the U.S. with nearly 600 restaurants across 16 states. OC's sixth-largest restaurant chain by systemwide sales. **IN THE NEWS:** Named to post in August, was COO. Replaced John Cappasola who left following company's sale to Jack in the Box for \$585M in January. **NOTABLE:** Has been with Del Taco since 2012. Along with COO role, previously served as SVP, Strategic Planning & Innovation and SVP, Operations Support and Engagement.

**FRANK DIMARCO**CEO
SERVICE CHAMPIONS

WHY: Runs Brea-based firm, the largest residential service provider of heating, air conditioning and plumbing services in the western U.S., which was on run rate to finish 2021 at \$500M in annual sales. **IN THE NEWS:** Former COO this year took over CEO role from founder Leland Smith. **NOTABLE:** Has a B.S. in Business Administration from John Carroll University, brings over 30 years of operational experience in the plumbing and HVAC industry. **QUOTABLE:** "Leland gave me the best compliment ever—he said, 'I hired myself, just better.'"

**MIKE HENRY**CFO
TILLY'S

WHY: Key exec at Tilly's, a retailer of casual apparel, footwear and accessories; has more than 5,000 companywide employees, including almost 700 in OC. **IN THE NEWS:** 2021 winner of a Business Journal CFO Lifetime Achievement Award. **NOTABLE:** Decided in high school he wanted to be a CFO of a public company. "At the time [that job] was a concept. I had no idea what that meant and what it took," he said. **QUOTABLE:** Says goal of reintroducing live events at stores is to "bring the fun back, the vibe of Tilly's. We're re-engaging with customers directly."



2022 OC50

RYAN ELLISCEO
TRAVISMATHEW
HUNTINGTON BEACH

Surf City apparel company, founded in 2007, got its start by making clothes for the golf course with a West Coast flair, drawing "inspiration from the culture and lifestyle of Southern California's surf, sand, and sun." Its popularity has moved well beyond the links.



THEN: When the Huntington Beach-based apparel company was acquired in 2017 by Callaway Golf Co. (NYSE: ELY) in a \$125.5 million cash-and-debt deal, the then largely golf-focused brand reported about \$61M in revenue and \$7M of adjusted EBITDA, thanks primarily to sales of men's polo shirts and hats.

NOW: Company's Carlsbad-based parent company expects TravisMathew to see revenue closer to \$300M, and adjusted EBITDA of around \$50M, as it offers a far larger base of casual wear products. New additions include a women's wear line launched in May.

FUTURE: Callaway officials said in April that they see a "clear path" to over \$500M in net sales, and a potential to hit the \$1B mark, thanks in part to expanding base of retail stores. International expansion includes store at Scotland's famed St. Andrews golf club. **IN THEIR WORDS:** "The brand started in golf, but the idea was always to be more than golf."

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MOTI FERDERCO-FOUNDER, CEO
LUGANO DIAMONDS & JEWELRY

WHY: Started, runs Newport Beach fine jewelry brand. Has boutiques in Newport Center, Aspen and two locations in Florida. Big on the social scene with Lugano typically hosting/sponsoring more than 70 events annually. **IN THE NEWS:** Company inked lease at Fashion Island for new store with membership club, Privé, which will host a food and beverage program, events and nonprofit partnerships. Also expanding nearby offices. **QUOTABLE:** “Lugano is known for the events and experiences we create for our clients, and Privé is our way of expanding those offerings.”

**FRANCISCO MORALES**CO-FOUNDER, CEO
5.11

WHY: Co-founded Irvine-based outdoor apparel company 5.11 two decades ago; CEO since September 2018. **IN THE NEWS:** Struck a deal to move HQ to Costa Mesa’s Canvas office campus along Bristol Street. It’s leasing nearly 40K square feet at the EQ Office-run complex. 5.11 is a unit of Westport, Conn.-based Compass Diversified (NYSE: CODI). Opened 100th store in Oxnard in September. **QUOTABLE:** “We are embracing the opportunity for our people to work from anywhere—hence, the importance of having an inspiring space to collaborate in person,” Morales said in February.

**LEE BRAUN**CEO
PERSPIRE SAUNA STUDIO

WHY: Founded Costa Mesa-based health and wellness firm, which utilizes infrared lighting systems to heat customers directly, rather than a traditional steam-based sauna that heats the air. Founded in 2010. **IN THE NEWS:** Aggressive franchising push. Locations in Irvine, San Clemente and Laguna Beach are among the many local additions coming to its portfolio, which stood at 22 as of April. Its goal is to have 500 Perspire studios open in the next five years. **QUOTABLE:** Reports positive feedback from Perspire customers. “There aren’t a lot of businesses where the customers come up to you and thank you for being in business.”

**DAVID JACKSON**CEO
JACUZZI GROUP
IRVINE

The famed manufacturer of hot tubs, spas, bathtubs and bathroom products is writing its next chapter in Orange County, and it’s on a hiring push.

THEN: The iconic company—which owns the trademark to the eponymous Jacuzzi brand, and also owns Sundance Spas and ThermoSpas, among other wellness-focused lines, and with roots in Italy—in early 2019 was acquired by an affiliate of Investindustrial, a large European investment firm, in a deal with Cleveland-based Nottingham Spirk Design Associates. At the time of that deal, made on undisclosed terms, Jacuzzi’s annual revenue was around \$500M.

NOW: Since the sale, Jacuzzi has seen growth every year, and officials expect its fiscal 2022 revenue to be double what they were pre-sale, if not more. Part of that growth is down to a series of acquisitions under the company’s new ownership group, and new product offerings, execs say. In addition, the pandemic brought heightened demand for the company’s products from stuck-at-home customers. In March, the company moved its headquarters from Chino Hills to Irvine.

FUTURE: As of April, Jacuzzi Group was looking to add about 50 positions in the new Irvine office, particularly in IT, finance, sales, marketing and legal. Company officials expect the move will draw interest from Orange County’s employee base. Since moving to Irvine, “there’s been a transformation of interest” among potential talent, Chief Legal Officer Jason Weintraub said. “The talent pool here is fantastic.”

IN THEIR WORDS: “People are trying to make their backyard a special place and an extension of their indoor space, especially as we had to live at home more frequently,” Jackson said in April. “The two forces of the wellness trend and the outdoor living trend are really providing us with huge momentum.”

**JAMES CONROY**CEO, PRESIDENT
BOOT BARN HOLDINGS

WHY: Runs western-inspired work-wear retailer that started in 1978, now approaching 300 stores. Retail chain devoted to western and work-related footwear, apparel and accessories in the U.S. **IN THE NEWS:** Appointed to position a decade ago. Pushed expansion of retail footprint. Flagship spot in Orange a model for future expansion. **QUOTABLE:** “People thought we were crazy to invest capital in stores, the dinosaur of retail,” he told Investor’s Business Daily. “It has played out to be the right strategy.”



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JIM HYATTCEO
CALIFORNIA PIZZA KITCHEN

WHY: Runs Costa Mesa-based restaurant chain. Took over the CEO role in 2018, decided to relocate the company from Los Angeles last year into new HQ at The Met business campus in Costa Mesa. **IN THE NEWS:** With an estimated 2021 revenue of almost \$500M, CPK was No. 35 on the Business Journal's list of OC's largest private companies. More's in store: growth initiatives include new restaurant designs, product lines and domestic franchising deals. **QUOTABLE:** CPK in 2020 emerged from Chapter 11 bankruptcy, where it reduced its debt from around \$400M to \$177M. "We made a lot of moves during that process that got CPK to a better position, low debt and even moving offices."

**MANNA KADAR**FOUNDER, CEO
MANNA KADAR COSMETICS

WHY: Founder and namesake of fast-growing Irvine-based cosmetics firm she started in 2011. Has built a following via Amazon's Influencer Program and other outlets. **IN THE NEWS:** August saw Kadar on the cover of the Vietnam edition of Harper's Bazaar; the magazine cover, photographed by LA celeb fashion photographer Jim Jordan, called her a "beauty mogul." **NOTABLE:** Product lines include Manna Kadar Bath & Beauty, Haute Dog, Mason Man Skincare and Beauty & the Bump, which are sold at retailers including Ulta and Urban Outfitters, as well as beauty box subscription companies and home shopping networks.

**MIGUEL GONZÁLEZ**CO-PRESIDENT, CEO
NORTHGATE GONZÁLEZ

WHY: Son of founders who launched Latin-American focused grocery chain in 1980; now employs nearly 6,000. **IN THE NEWS:** Ranked No. 18 on Business Journal's annual list of largest private companies with an estimated \$1B in 2021 revenue. Now counts 42 locations. **NOTABLE:** Northgate González Market suppliers and sponsors this summer raised more than \$700K to help local families with education and wellness initiatives at the 13th Annual Familia González Reynoso Foundation Golf Tournament at Pelican Hill Golf Club.

**CHRIS BRITT**CO-OWNER, CEO
MOUNTAIN MIKE'S PIZZA
NEWPORT BEACH**ED ST. GEME**CO-OWNER, CEO
MOUNTAIN MIKE'S PIZZA
NEWPORT BEACH

Owners of one of OC's fastest-growing restaurant chains, one which has posted record sales several years running. The firm benefited much from the pandemic. "Offering convenience and food to a quarantined guest drove a lot of business in stores," Britt said.

THEN: The duo—who learned the restaurant business through prior ownership of 43 **Burger Kings**—turned to a familiar name from their college years and bought the pizzeria concept in 2017.

NOW: Franchise-focused businesses reported its best years in sales growth for 2021. Total system sales hit over \$250M for Mountain Mike's, which counts more than 250 locations. Ranked as No. 11 restaurant chain based in OC by sales ended December 2021. More's in store for 2022. Mountain Mike's established new franchise agreements for over 60 new restaurants in 2021, and opened 18 new restaurants over the course of last year. The pizza chain currently has five locations in OC, but 10 more are in development among its planned 30 new spots for 2022.

FUTURE: Mountain Mike's has been methodically moving eastward, with recent new locations in Idaho and Arizona. Britt and St. Geme say that Texas could eventually be on par with the pizzeria's presence in California.

IN THEIR WORDS: "Whatever you're franchising, the franchise business has a consistent playbook you need to provide," Britt said.

**JEFFREY GUYTON**CEO, PRESIDENT
MAZDA NORTH AMERICAN
OPERATIONS

WHY: Oversees Mazda's North American Operations in Irvine, Mazda Canada in Toronto, Mazda Colombia in Bogota and Mazda Motors de Mexico in Mexico City. Duties also include oversight of production facilities in Mexico and Alabama. Counts about 780 dealers. **IN THE NEWS:** In January, drove the first 2023 Mazda CX-50 to roll off the Discovery Line at Mazda's new plant in Huntsville, Ala. **NOTABLE:** Named to top spot in 2021. CEO and president of Mazda Motor Europe before joining Mazda North American Operations in 2019 as president.





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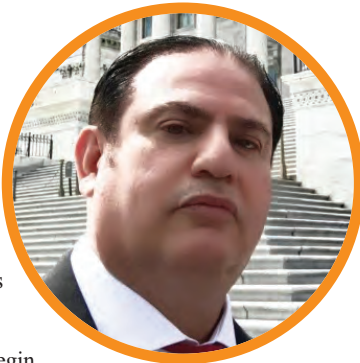
Thank you to one of OC500's Most Influential, Randy Barth. Your vision and leadership have impacted the lives of over 2 million students.

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DAVID MICHERYCEO
MULLEN AUTOMOTIVE

WHY: Head of Brea-based EV maker (Nasdaq: MULN). Company went public last November at \$12 a share and a \$300M market cap. **IN THE NEWS:** Company in September acquired 60% ownership of EV manufacturer Bollinger Motors for \$148M in cash and stock to enter medium-duty commercial EV truck segment. EV crossover expected to begin production in 2024. **QUOTABLE:** “I think we’re better off than most of the guys that are out there. We have the smallest market cap—these other guys are \$2B and they don’t have anything. We have everything.”

**BORIS MITREV**CEO
ZESTY OLIVES
MEDITERRANEAN GRILL

WHY: Runs Greek fast-casual restaurant founded last year with sister, Dessi Sarabosing. Opened locations in Lake Forest and Irvine last year. **IN THE NEWS:** Received Business Journal Family-Owned Business Award in June, in the Small Business category. Generated \$500K in revenue in 2021, expects \$3M this year. Plans to open nearly 60 more locations over the next five years. **NOTABLE:** Works at restaurants making food, training employees and taking orders when needed. “I’m like the captain of the ship, I have to be here and involved.”

**YANGHEE PAIK**CEO
RAEL

WHY: Co-founded personal care startup based in Buena Park that aims to provide healthy and effective women’s hygiene products as alternatives to conventional brands. **IN THE NEWS:** Closed a \$35M Series B investment in May bringing total funding to \$59M since its founding in 2017. Represents largest amount raised in the U.S. feminine care category to date, according to company. **QUOTABLE:** “Ultimately, we want to become a global household brand and believe our new investors will be very helpful in accelerating our global expansion, especially in Asia.”

**ANDY LEW**DEPUTY CEO
ST. JOHN KNITS
IRVINE

Iconic apparel company founded by **Robert Gray** and his wife, **Marie**, in 1962, whose wool-blend clothes have been go-to pieces for women execs and first ladies over the decades, as well as endorsed by celebrities such as **Angelina Jolie**. Counts 47 stores in 13 countries, and the knit fashion retailer reported 130 points of sale as of September 2021.



THEN: Firm, now entering its 60th year of operations, has seen several changes in ownership over the years. Most recently, Chinese consumer goods firm **Fosun International** took a one-third stake in the company in late 2013 for \$55M. In 2017, Fosun took over a majority stake in the company on undisclosed terms, and later spun it off into that firm’s new **Lanvin Group** division which includes other high-end heritage fashion brands.

NOW: Lanvin going public via a SPAC deal, and expected to be valued around \$1.5B. St. John generated about \$82M of sales in fiscal 2021, up 12% from 2020, according to financial data pertaining to the planned reverse merger. The company made up about 22% of Lanvin’s total revenue last year, and was the parent company’s second-largest unit by sales, according to regulatory filings.

FUTURE: Financial projections for St. John Knits indicate the parent company believes the Irvine business can top more than \$200M in annual sales by 2025, with growth coming via its existing retail stores, expansion into China, and a bigger e-commerce presence, among other factors.

IN THEIR WORDS: Going public marks “a momentous moment for Lanvin Group and we are excited for their path to become publicly traded. Being part of a global luxury fashion group will only benefit St. John as we move into our 60th anniversary of business in Southern California,” Lew told the Business Journal.

**ADAM TOWNSEND**CFO
VIZIO

WHY: CFO of longtime area TV manufacturer, which went public in 2021 and is seeing a growing business line with its SmartCast streaming platform. **IN THE NEWS:** Vizio revamped its WatchFree+ app about a year ago, and recently said 16.1M Vizio TV users are actively engaged with the SmartCast platform. **NOTABLE:** Former Showtime exec joined Vizio in 2020. Winner of a Business Journal 2021 CFO of the Year award. **QUOTABLE:** “The market is hungry for our data, and we are in a great position to serve.”

KEVIN BAILEY

GLOBAL BRAND PRESIDENT
VANS

WHY: New leader at Costa Mesa-based footwear and apparel company, the largest unit of parent VF Corp. **IN THE NEWS:** Bailey returned to Vans in March, taking over the global brand president role from Doug Palladini, a longtime Vans exec. Told analysts in May that the firm will refocus on Classics footwear line and improve direct-to-consumer experience as part of “the process of refreshing and refocusing Vans’ strategy.”

QUOTABLE: “I know this brand, understand the consumer and competition, and have a clear point of view on our challenges and of the opportunities that lie ahead for us.”



ADAM BOSCH

FOUNDER, CEO
ALTCAMP

WHY: Started Costa Mesa-based high-end recreational vehicle company; envisioned for-rent RVs to be “a Four Seasons on wheels.” Previously worked at local office of brokerage CBRE Group and Newport Beach commercial real estate developer CapRock Partners. **IN THE NEWS:**

Founded company last year. World’s top-ranked surfer Filipe Toledo is a customer. Expects to generate over \$100K in annual revenue per vehicle. Plans to expand with national network of company hubs. **QUOTABLE:** “These are the nicest camper vans you’ll find anywhere. You can search the listing services in all the U.S., you’re not going to find something like this.”



GREG LEVIN

CEO, PRESIDENT
BJ’S RESTAURANTS

WHY: Took top spot at restaurant chain last September, taking over from Gregory Trojan. Joined BJ’s as CFO in 2005; previously served as the CFO of now Costa Mesa-based California Pizza Kitchen. **IN THE NEWS:** BJ’s, the fourth-largest restaurant chain based in OC by sales, this year became the first national chain to implement the Daily Pay system, which provides employees immediate access to their money after a shift. **QUOTABLE:** “Anytime you can provide improved convenience, for consumers [or] employees, you’ve got a winning product. It doesn’t matter on the macroeconomic conditions,” he said of Daily Pay.



MARK WETTERAU

CEO
GOLDEN STATE FOODS

WHY: Runs Irvine-based food products maker and distributor. Only the third chief executive in GSF’s 75-year history. **IN THE NEWS:** Earned No. 5 spot on Business Journal’s list of OC’s largest private companies, with \$5B in revenue. Back in growth mode after selling McDonald’s units, which decreased sales from \$7B to \$4B.

QUOTABLE: Services over 200 well-known brands such as Taco Bell, Chick-fil-A, etc. “There are a lot of sauces that you can give us credit for but it’s not something that we want to talk about because when we develop these products exclusively for those customers, we’re behind the scenes.”



JEFF MCGUANE

CEO
FOX RACING

WHY: Heads up Irvine-based mountain bike and motocross company. Took over CEO role in 2019. **IN THE NEWS:** Fox acquired by Vista Outdoor (NYSE: VSTO) earlier this year for \$540M. Expected to surpass \$350M in revenue post-sale.

NOTABLE: Full-length feature film by company is set for release in Q1 2023.

QUOTABLE: “Two years ago, we would have never invested in the production of a full-length feature because we didn’t think of ourselves as a media and entertainment brand. [But] as we’ve elevated the way we thought about [Fox], it’s led to these types of ventures.”



DAVE ROBINS

CO-OWNER
THEODORE ROBINS FORD

WHY: Runs oldest Ford dealership in Southern California with brother Jim Robins. HQ in Costa Mesa. Became co-owner in 2016. Third generation in family to lead company. **IN THE NEWS:** Received Business Journal Longevity Award at Family-Owned Business Awards in June for company reaching 100th anniversary. **NOTABLE:**

Heard a saying 30 years ago that “the first generation makes a company, the second generation will take the company and third generation will break the company.” Robins’ “lifelong goal [was] to prove that saying wrong.”



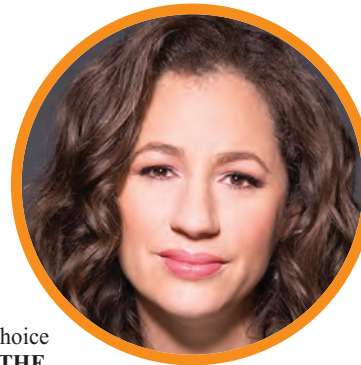
MOLLY UNGERGENERAL MANAGER
SOUTH COAST PLAZA

WHY: Runs Costa Mesa shopping center, the top luxury shopping destination in U.S. With over \$2B in annual sales, South Coast sees roughly double that of Beverly Hills' collection of luxe retailers along Rodeo Drive. Counts 30-year career as retail exec. **IN THE NEWS:** Took over general manager role after David Grant retired last December after serving for 42 years. Grant now works as a consultant for property. **NOTABLE:** First woman to manage South Coast Plaza in property's 50-plus year history.

**KELLY VLAHAKIS-HANKS**CEO, PRESIDENT
ECOS

WHY: Heads environmentally friendly cleaning products maker based in Cypress. Has been widely recognized as an influential voice in the green movement, corporate social responsibility, and sustainable manufacturing. Recognition for ECOS include U.S. EPA's Safer Choice Partner of the Year five times. **IN THE**

NEWS: Keynote speaker at Business Journal's 2022 Family-Owned Business Awards. **NOTABLE:** Member of YPO and Abundance 360. **QUOTABLE:** "I'm proud ECOS is made in the USA. We have four facilities across the country, and each one plays an important role in producing products that are safe and healthy."

**JEFF WALKER**CEO
ALLIANCE ENTERTAINMENT

WHY: Runs Sunrise, Fla.-based media distributor with long maintained executive offices in Irvine. Provided services for past 35 years, stocking over 480,000 products from over 500 manufacturers including Microsoft, Nintendo and Disney. **IN THE NEWS:** Company to go public via \$480M SPAC deal with Adara Acquisition, expected to close in the fourth quarter this year. Will be listed on New York Stock Exchange under ticker symbol "AENT." **QUOTABLE:** "Just as Amazon started in books in the 1990s, we saw the opportunity to evolve our music distribution business into a leading e-commerce company serving the biggest brands in the entertainment industry and beyond."

**TAYLOR SHUPE**FOUNDER, CEO
FUTURESTITCH
SAN CLEMENTE

Co-founder of San Clemente sock apparel company standout **Stance Inc.**, now looking to make San Clemente's sock industry a matching set. Leads company whose mission, Shupe says, is to manufacture more ethically—for both the worker and the planet.



THEN: Started FutureStitch in 2017, and has put in about \$9M of his own money into his newest venture, which counts rapper-turned business mogul **Kanye "Ye" West** (with whom Shupe has other business interests) and skateboarder-turned entrepreneur **Rob Dyrdek** as strategic investors and partners.

NOW: Shupe expects over \$50M in sales this year, in part by increasing the company's domestic manufacturing presence via a number of locations. This year saw opening of a 9,000-square-foot plant about 20 miles from the company's headquarters, in Ocean-side. A larger plant in Dallas is next on tap.

FUTURE: Company has its largest manufacturing facility in China; a nearly 240,000-square-foot facility near Shanghai that can create up to 50,000 socks per day, or 1.5 million socks every month. The facility, which opened four years ago, has earned acclaim for its environmentally friendly features. FutureStitch is said to be the first U.S.-based manufacturer in China to receive the LEED Platinum certification for its facility. Shupe has larger idea in store for his company in China: he wants FutureStitch to go public on the **Shanghai Stock Market**, as soon as 2024.

IN THEIR WORDS: The company, which counts Stance as a customer, grew sales 56% last year to \$46M. Besides Stance, FutureStitch makes socks for companies such as **Toms, Crocs**, and **Everlane**. "That's a testament to this hypothesis of investing in workers, and an environment that fosters workplace happiness," Shupe said of the company.

LANCE ZHOUCEO
PHOENIX MOTOR

WHY: Former CEO of Irvine luxury electric vehicle make Karma Automotive, brought on by Anaheim upstart to make EV medium-duty vehicles including buses. Long range plans include solar-powered vehicles. **IN THE NEWS:** Hired this year. June IPO priced shares at \$7.50 each, raised \$20M. **QUOTABLE:** "We are taking all of these measures to position Phoenix Motorcars for tremendous growth in the quarters ahead as we capitalize both on our successful past experience, as well as the emerging industry tailwinds supported by recently-passed legislation in the U.S. and elsewhere encouraging this green energy transition."



MARK KING

CEO
TACO BELL

WHY: Heims Irvine-based unit of Yum Brands Inc., which is OC's largest restaurant chain by systemwide sales. Responsible for the global growth strategy, franchise operations and performance of chain. **NOTABLE:** Before joining Yum, King served as president, Adidas Group North America, a time when Adidas became the fastest-growing sports brand in North America, increasing sales by 35% in 2017, doubling its market share and regaining the No. 2 position in the U.S. **QUOTABLE:** "Let go of the process. Let people make mistakes and let them fix it. It's the best way we learn."



HAJIME 'JIMMY' UBA

CEO
KURA SUSHI

WHY: Runs Irvine-based revolving sushi restaurant chain, valued at around \$700M as of September. First domestic location at Irvine's Diamond Jamboree center. **IN THE NEWS:** Oversaw June rollout of 60 robot servers, "Kur-B the KuraBot," to company's 37 U.S. locations. New automation tackles company's challenges with staffing stores and rising wages. **QUOTABLE:** The robots received positive feedback from Kura's guests and staff due to the "reduction of non-hospitality focused responsibilities for our front-of-house employees," he said.



**CLAUDE TELLIS
KAREEM COOK**

CO-OWNERS
NATURADE
IRVINE

Vegan nutrition company on a mission to encourage the prediabetic Black community to adopt healthier diets.

By partnering with several large retailers, Naturade aims to bring healthy food to the most underserved corners of the country. "We are working to solve a food justice issue," Tellis says. "Now, the same nutrition options people have in Beverly Hills and Santa Monica, are available to folks in neighborhoods with bodegas and liquor stores."



THEN: Tellis met business-partner Cook studying business at **Duke University**. Cook, who grew up in the Bronx's housing projects, always found it unfair that his mother had to take a bus and a train to get to a good grocery store. Both men had family members with diabetes and cancer. "We knew we wanted to impact food access in our careers," Tellis told the Business Journal. The duo first took their mission to Sacramento, and successfully banned junk food throughout California's public school system. Then, they made their move to California, and in 2012, acquired Naturade, a nearly 100-year-old health and wellness brand.

NOW: Naturade offers about 40 different plant-based products, from meal replacement shakes and protein powders, to vitamins and supplements. The company's popular weight-loss shake **VeganSmart** retails on **Amazon** for \$25, meaning each serving costs under \$2.

FUTURE: In recent years, revenue has grown about 25% annually. Tellis hopes to double or triple that number this year, due in part to partnering with "the biggest and the best"—**Costco, Target, Whole Foods** and **Walmart**, he said. Recently announced expansion of offerings at Target.

IN THEIR WORDS: "We believe we identified an opportunity gap, and we're hitting our social mission," Tellis said.

CLAUDIA MARQUEZ

COO
GENESIS MOTOR NORTH AMERICA

WHY: Leads Genesis Motor North America as luxury automaker's COO and top ranking official. Responsible for sales, marketing and growth of Genesis brand. **IN THE NEWS:** Appointed COO in 2021. Came to Genesis from Hyundai Motor Mexico, where she was CEO since 2019. **NOTABLE:** Genesis ranked first overall and top among premium auto brands in 2022 JD Power tech experience index. Says the "results recognize our commitment to implementing technologies focused on improving our customers' driving experience."





Dong Kingman (1911-2000)
"Train Crossing" 1970's
Watercolor
The Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University
Gift of the Hilbert Collection



EDUCATION

ERROL ARKILIC

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
UCI BEALL APPLIED INNOVATION
CHIEF INNOVATION OFFICER
UCI

WHY: Head of UCI's Beall Applied Innovation, the public research university's commercialization branch, a multifaceted platform that supports entrepreneurship. Its incubator, Wayfinder, has formed over 60 startups to date. **IN THE NEWS:** Took over role last year from BAI's founding executive director Richard Sudek. Oversees entrepreneurial engagement with partners, intellectual property stewardship, licensing and marketing, and outreach relations. **QUOTABLE:** "I've been in the tech space for 25 years. Applied Innovation is one of the most exciting projects I've ever seen."

**MICHAEL BEALS**

PRESIDENT
VANGUARD UNIVERSITY

WHY: 10th president of Costa Mesa school. Since coming aboard in 2013, overseeing 12-building project near OC fairgrounds campus as part of the school's master plan to increase enrollment. Counts about 2,100 students; 30,000 alumni. **IN THE NEWS:** Unveiled in April new monument sign at Newport Boulevard and Fair Drive, part of a \$1.8M project. **QUOTABLE:** "This is a project we've been looking forward to implementing as a way for Vanguard's physical presence in the community to truly mirror that of the impactful work we are doing to equip and prepare our students to make a difference in society."

**ANIL PURI**

CO-DIRECTOR
WOODS CENTER FOR ECONOMIC
ANALYSIS AND FORECASTING
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,
FULLERTON

WHY: Lead economist at center that oversees local CEO economic survey, the Orange County Business Expectations Index (OCBX). **IN THE NEWS:** Spoke at CSUF's Spring Economic Forecast in April, where OC's rising housing prices, with a median price up more than \$200,000 in about two years, was among the most striking features. **QUOTABLE:** Noted that rising housing prices make it harder to recruit young people to work in OC. "There is a disconnect. That is why so many people live in the Inland Empire and commute to come into Orange County."

**SRIDHAR SUNDARAM**

DEAN, COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
AND ECONOMICS
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,
FULLERTON

WHY: Took helm in July 2021 of largest business college in California, second largest in U.S. Offers range of business classes to some 9,000 students. **IN THE NEWS:** Joined Goodwill board of directors. **NOTABLE:** Research on banking regulatory effects and asset pricing published in the Journal of Banking and Finance, the Journal of Quantitative and Financial Analysis, and the Financial Review. Recent research has included the impact of the pandemic on minority-owned microbusinesses.

**JIM DOTI**

PRESIDENT EMERITUS
CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

WHY: Served as Chapman's 12th president. Stepped down in 2015 to return to teaching, succeeded by Daniele Struppa. Renaissance man who built Orange-based Chapman into OC's most successful private university. Ph.D. from the University of Chicago; came to Chapman as a faculty member in 1974. **IN THE NEWS:** Considered one of nation's most accurate economic forecasters. Presents the Annual Economic Forecast in December and the midyear update. Frequent Leader Board contributor to Business Journal. **NOTABLE:** Said in June that Orange County was lagging behind in creating high-value jobs, as house prices were set to decline.

**BERNADETTE BODEN-ALBALA**

DEAN
PUBLIC HEALTH SCHOOL
UCI

WHY: Tapped to head launch of new public health school in 2019, soon after oversaw local education, research efforts throughout the pandemic. Joined task force organized by Chancellor Howard Gillman to help educate and support the school's some 37,600 students, and work with the Orange County Health Care Agency. **IN THE NEWS:** Launched large-scale study to give more accurate estimate of the true prevalence of the pandemic in OC. Generated awareness of how socioeconomic conditions factor into COVID-19. **QUOTABLE:** "Ultimately, this trend is suggesting these variants will continue to evolve into something more similar to a typical cold or flu."



#3

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on the West Coast by
U.S. News & World Report

#7

Best Business School in
California according to
U.S. News & World Report



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– ISABELLA ZELINGER, MSRE '22

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CHAPMAN
UNIVERSITY

Argyros School of
Business and Economics

ED FEASEL

PRESIDENT
SOKA UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

WHY: Leads Aliso Viejo-based private institution, with 103-acre campus just 2 miles from the Pacific Ocean. Close to half of its roughly 400-student undergraduate population made up of international students. Served as COO and EVP prior to current role. **RECENT:** Named the second president of Soka in July 2020. School was one of Orange County's principal vaccination sites last year. **NOTABLE:** Soka ranked among top 30 on U.S. News & World Report's 2022 Best Liberal Arts Colleges list.

**HOWARD GILLMAN**

CHANCELLOR
UCI

WHY: Leads largest OC university with nearly 40,000 students, over 220 degree programs, and \$5B economic impact. **RECENT:** UCI last year became OC's largest employer, topping Disneyland with more than 26,000 local workers. Took over position in 2014. **NOTABLE:** Published author on law, public policy. Among his books are "The Constitution Besieged: The Rise and Demise of Lochner Era Police Powers Jurisprudence," "The Votes That Counted: How the Court Decided the 2000 Presidential Election," and "American Constitutionalism."

**STEVE GOLDSTEIN**

VICE CHANCELLOR OF
HEALTH AFFAIRS
UCI

WHY: Leading the development of several substantial healthcare projects for UCI, including Susan and Henry Samueli College of Health Sciences, formed in 2017 with a cornerstone gift of \$200M, largest in UCI's history. **IN THE NEWS:** Construction well under way for medical center on the north side of its Irvine campus. The \$1.3B UCI Health-Irvine complex will hold specialty hospital with emergency and surgery departments and an outpatient center, and will join previously announced \$221M center for advanced care. **NOTABLE:** \$80M inpatient rehabilitation hospital in works elsewhere in Irvine.

**ANTHONY LEE**

CEO, PRESIDENT
WESTCLIFF UNIVERSITY

WHY: Private institution in Irvine counts more than 3,000 students, on rapid expansion push. **IN THE NEWS:** In August, saw formal launch of its new Doctor of Education professional degree program, designed for those pursuing educational leadership roles. **NOTABLE:** Offers bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees spanning 21 areas of study including business, education, technology, computer science, engineering and law. **QUOTABLE:** The faculty of Westcliff University's College of Education "is pleased to parlay its extensive experience as educational leaders in a variety of academic and professional settings to providing today's learners with the opportunities they need to succeed."

**JANEEN HILL**

DEAN, CREAN COLLEGE OF HEALTH
AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE
CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

WHY: Joined faculty in 1997, serving a variety of roles such as president of Faculty Senate, chairing departments of kinesiology and biological sciences and dean of the science and technology department. **IN THE NEWS:** Served as acting vice president for research for a year until Chapman named Martina Nieswandt to the role. **QUOTABLE:** "This area has so much to offer emerging talent, but the promise of an ideal climate, strong public and private schools, a concentration of biotech companies and hospital systems is insufficient to offset our housing crisis."

**MATT PARLOW**

EVP, CHIEF ADVANCEMENT OFFICER
CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

WHY: Former dean of the Fowler School of Law and Donald P. Kennedy Chair in Law at Orange university. **IN THE NEWS:** Became Chapman University's new executive vice president and chief advancement officer last December, taking on role previously held by Sheryl Bourgeois. **NOTABLE:** Fundraising success as dean of Fowler Law led to the establishment of several new professorships to support faculty research and teaching. **QUOTABLE:** "I look forward to working with the entire Chapman Family to continue to elevate this great university to new heights in the future."





THE FUTURE IS BRIGHT. OUR PEOPLE MAKE IT BRILLIANT.

The University of California, Irvine celebrates this year's OC 500 honorees, especially those who share a connection to our campus. Their talent and commitment have helped make UCI one of the top 10 public universities in the nation — and UCI Health one of the top health systems in California.

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California, Irvine

BRILLIANT FUTURE
THE CAMPAIGN FOR UCI

HENRIK CRONQVIST

DEAN, ARGYROS SCHOOL
OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS
CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

WHY: Oversees one of the top business schools in the county, which celebrated its 20th anniversary of Argyros backing in fall 2019. Previously vice dean at the University of Miami Herbert Business School. **IN THE NEWS:** Named dean in March, began position in late July. **NOTABLE:** Native of Sweden, a graduate of the Stockholm School of Economics (M.S. in business and economics) as well as the University of Chicago Booth School of Business (Ph.D. in finance). His doctoral adviser was Nobel Laureate Richard H. Thaler.

**BRIAN HERVEY**

VICE CHANCELLOR,
UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT
UCI

WHY: Tapped in 2016 to lead fundraising for the public school, with \$1.3B endowment. Manages more than 100 staff members; responsible for current \$2B funding push with over half of funds committed; 40,000 engaged alumni. **IN THE NEWS:** In February, UCI received a more than \$55M bequest from a longtime benefactor, the late philanthropist Audrey Steele Burnand, to fund the creation of a new campuswide center that will pursue research into the causes and treatment of depression. **NOTABLE:** Burnand's gift is believed to be the largest philanthropic donation to a U.S. university to support research focused solely on depression.

**MIRA FARKA**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
ECONOMICS/CO-DIRECTOR
CSUF/WOODS CENTER FOR
ECONOMIC ANALYSIS AND
FORECASTING

WHY: Economist at center that oversees local CEO economic survey, the Orange County Business Expectations Index (OCBX). **IN THE NEWS:** Advised OC executives to plan well, be cautious of wage increases, labor demand, and prudent spending at CSUF's Spring Economic Forecast in April. **QUOTABLE:** Predicted the period beyond the 12 months after April would "be precarious" due to economic issues. As a result, "we're kind of bullish enough in the short term, but longer term we see a lot more troubles on the horizon."

**JOHN JJ JACKSON**

DIRECTOR
CSUF CENTER FOR
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

WHY: Runs startup incubator and entrepreneurial center for CSUF. Oversees a Student Consulting Program, a Startup Incubator, a multi-university event called Orange County Celebrates Entrepreneurs, and a Fast Pitch competition. **NOTABLE:** Professor of Entrepreneurial Marketing, New Venture Creation & Launch, and Social Media. **QUOTABLE:** "I'm proud of what we've built here at Cal State Fullerton. It doesn't matter what stage an entrepreneur is at, we have the resources and guidance. Our students have gone on to start hundreds of successful businesses, appear on 'Shark Tank,' and take companies public."

**MICHAEL THOMAS**

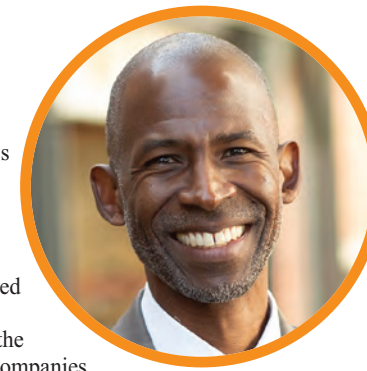
PRESIDENT
CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY IRVINE

WHY: Fifth president of the private Lutheran institution. Took over for former president Kurt Krueger in 2021. Spent 15 years at sister school Concordia University Portland. **RECENT:** Last year completed its "Forward in Faith" campaign in February, which exceeded \$100M, making it the largest fundraising event in CUI history. The university is applying the funding toward building new facilities, scholarships, academic programs and endowment. **QUOTABLE:** "To witness donors place their confidence in our academic tradition and in our Concordia family in this way is both remarkable and historic."

**IAN WILLIAMSON**

DEAN
UCI PAUL MERAGE SCHOOL
OF BUSINESS

WHY: Top spot at UCI's business school, which counts more than 1,500 MBA students. Succeeded Eric Spangenberg, who returned full-time to the classroom. **NOTABLE:** A globally recognized expert in human resource management. **QUOTABLE:** Of the "Great Resignation" trend, said companies should "reframe how they approach managing their workers. One way to do this is by investing in external relationships that ensure consistent access to high-quality talent. Enhancing relationships with educational institutions is one option. Adopting alumni programs that recruit former employees to rejoin is another."





For His Students

Concordia University Irvine continues to provide a comprehensive education that prepares students for all of their callings in life. This year, under the leadership of Dr. Michael Thomas, Concordia was proud to unveil a new brand — logo, academic seal, athletic mascot, and *Freedom to Explore* campaign — that highlights and enhances our commitment to providing an outstanding Christian education in southern California and beyond.

Congratulations, President Thomas, on being recognized once again among the OC500!

Explore Concordia [CUI.edu](https://www.cui.edu)



CONCORDIA
UNIVERSITY
IRVINE

Michael A. Thomas, Ph.D.
President, Concordia University Irvine

DANIELE STRUPPA

PRESIDENT
CHAPMAN UNIVERSITY

WHY: Native of Italy, took over as president of Chapman, OC's largest private university, in September 2016. **IN THE**

NEWS: Personally donated \$1M to university's fundraising campaign this year. The president's bequest will endow the Bernardino Telesio Professorship in Italian Studies to the Italian Studies program of the Wilkinson College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. **NOTABLE:** Has Ph.D. from University of Maryland. Author of more than 200 refereed publications, and editor of several volumes.

QUOTABLE: "We are proud to call Orange our home and want to give back in every way that we can."

**FRAM VIRJEE**

PRESIDENT
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,
FULLERTON

WHY: President of California State University, Fullerton, since 2017. Previously was a partner at Los Angeles-based law firm O'Melveny & Myers, where his practice included commercial litigation. **IN THE NEWS:** Among the year's highlights: increasing graduation rates for first-time freshmen; graduating one of the largest classes in CSUF history; exceeding the university's \$250M comprehensive fundraising campaign goals; hiring 27 new tenure-track faculty. **QUOTABLE:** "Every day, CSUF is making a remarkable difference in the lives of so many students and in our community."

**AUSTEN PARRISH**

DEAN
UCI SCHOOL OF LAW

WHY: In August became UCI's third-ever law dean. UCI Law had 52 full-time faculty members and 477 students as of April.

NOTABLE: Previously dean at Indiana University Maurer School of Law. A top 20 public law school, Parrish helped Maurer complete a \$60M capital campaign and grew its research centers, established new clinics and built pipeline programs with dozens of university partnerships.

QUOTABLE: "Former deans Erwin Chemerinsky and Song Richardson have set a very high bar for leadership at UCI Law, and to be selected to follow in their footsteps is an honor."





VANGUARD UNIVERSITY

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MICHAEL J. BEALS, PHD PRESIDENT

On behalf of Orange County's first four-year college, congratulations to our president, Dr. Michael Beals. President Beals has served as the 10th president of Vanguard University since 2013. Under his leadership, the University has experienced significant growth.



2022 HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

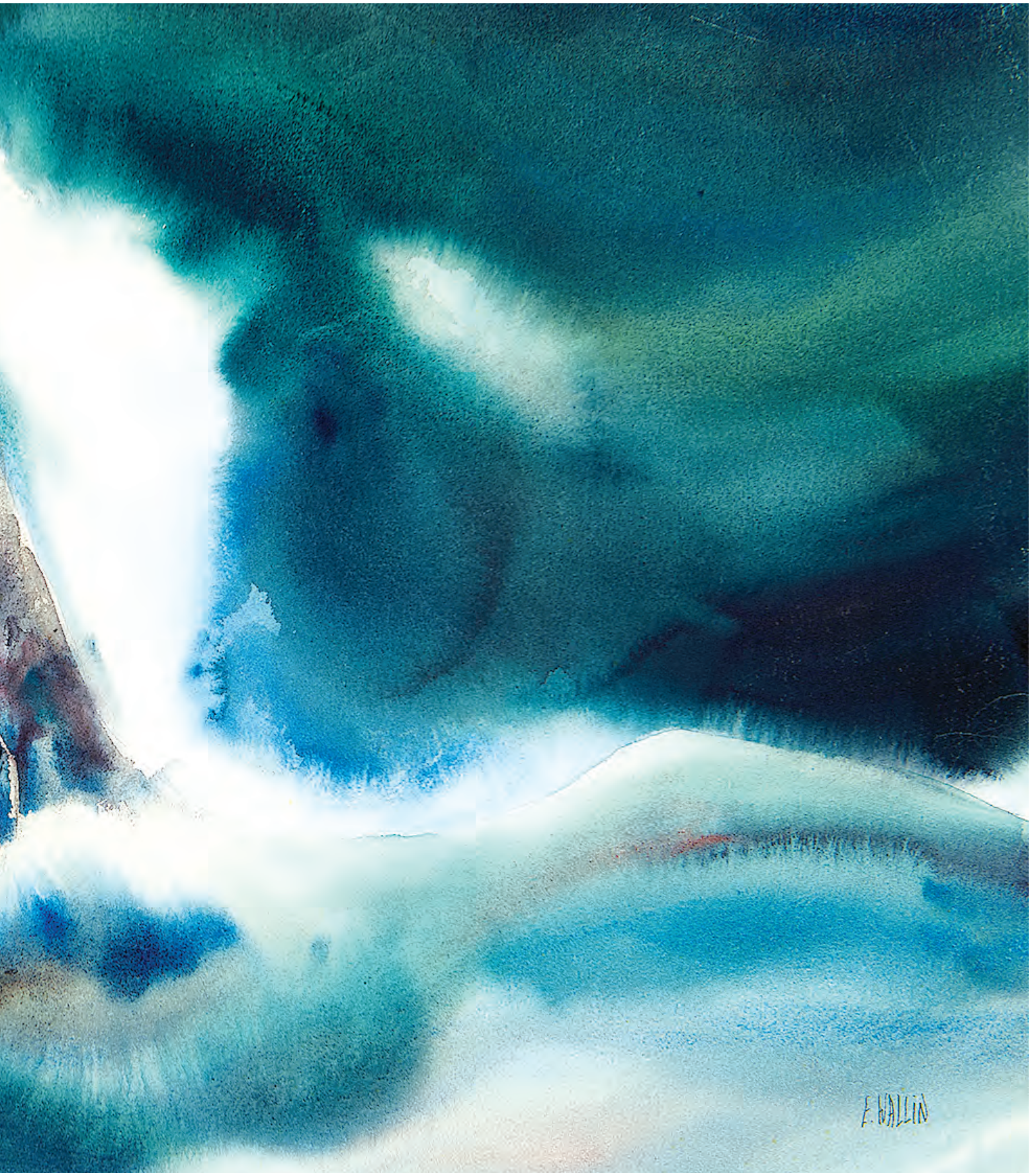
- Continued traditional undergraduate student enrollment growth with fall 2022 enrollment being the largest in our history.
- Ranked #35 by *U.S. News & World Report* in the Regional Universities West category – our highest ranking to date.
- Construction started on the new Freed Center for Leadership and Service, a 60,000 sq. ft. dynamic athletic and learning facility that will serve students and the community scheduled to open in 2024.

A UNIVERSITY ON THE RISE

vanguard.edu



Eugene Wallin (b. 1926)
"Train in the Snow" 1960's
Watercolor
The Hilbert Collection



FINANCE / BANKING

FLOYD AMUCHIEVP, FINANCE
SIENTRA

WHY: Finance exec previously at space tourism company backed by Richard Branson. Firm went public via a reverse merger in 2019. Exec offices at Tustin's aptly named Flight campus. **IN THE NEWS:** Virgin Galactic moved HQ designation from New Mexico to Orange County this year, making it one of the area's most valuable public companies in the aerospace industry. Amuchie in June moved to medical equipment maker Sientra. **NOTABLE:** Won the Business Journal's Rising Star Award at CFO of the Year Awards event in 2021.

**DAVID BAHNSEN**FOUNDER, MANAGING PARTNER,
CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER
THE BAHNSEN GROUP

WHY: Left Morgan Stanley in 2015 to start his own firm, which manages nearly \$4B in assets. Outspoken conservative who often appears on CNBC and Fox Business. **THE NEWS:** Published a book, "No Free Lunch: 250 Economic Truths," which was a bestseller on Amazon's Economics and Free Enterprise sections. **NOTABLE:** In 2021, launched new family office service for its ultra-high-net-worth clients. The bundled offering will combine a flat fee for comprehensive services. **QUOTABLE:** "The delivery and execution of an idea is at the heart of successful entrepreneurship, and profits merely follow."

**ALEX BHATHAL**EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN
MANAGING PARTNER
REVITATE

WHY: Runs asset management platform of the Bhathal family with sister Lisa Merage; co-owner and executive director of Sacramento Basketball Holdings. Family office previously run under Raj Capital banner, late last year unveiled new vehicle Revitate, an investment platform with sports, consumer products and real estate focus. **IN THE NEWS:** Joined board of directors of Compass Diversified (NYSE: CODI), which owns 5.11 Tactical and Lugano Diamonds. **NOTABLE:** Investment partner of Rx3 Growth Partners, a private equity fund that includes Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers as a partner.

**EDWARD CARPENTER**CHAIRMAN, CEO
CARPENTER & CO.

WHY: Founder of Irvine-based company that helps source capital for and builds banks. **IN THE NEWS:** Long involved in the International Medical Corps, where he is associate chairman. IMC got a shoutout in the New York Times as being one of four organizations that are "especially worthy" of donations for their work in Ukraine. **NOTABLE:** The nonprofit has provided medical services and prescription medicine since 2014. **QUOTABLE:** "To meet the needs of Ukrainians displaced by the conflict, the organization plans to increase its presence in the country, focusing in particular on mental healthcare and access to food and water," the Times wrote in March.



2022 OC50

FRED THIELCEO
MARATHON DIGITAL
IRVINE

Exec in OC's technology circles for almost 30 years, roles included serving as CEO of Irvine's **Lantronix**. Thiel runs one of country's leading public cryptocurrency firms out of Irvine Spectrum office.

He says he became interested in cryptocurrency about a decade ago.

"I grew up on a diet of corporate finance and the regulatory framework," he said. "With my technology background, I understood that systems are all about becoming more efficient. Financial systems are very inefficient."

THEN: A personal friend became CEO of Marathon's predecessor, and Thiel joined the board to help it recapitalize. "In 2017, it had a negative net worth. We raised over \$500 million in 2020 through public offerings," Thiel said.

NOW: Thiel became CEO in 2021. "We went from being a tiny little miner to becoming one of the largest in the world." The publicly traded company (Nasdaq: MARA) reported revenue soared 3,353% to \$150.4M in 2021. It projects almost a \$1B run rate next year. Firm's valuation hit a peak of \$8B late last year. "We're the fourth or fifth largest holder of bitcoin in the U.S.," he said in May.

FUTURE: Expects OC's base of influence in industry to expand. "In Orange County, you have a lot of entrepreneurs who have been successful in other businesses who see the opportunity in blockchain, bitcoin and crypto generally. They've started businesses or have been recruited to run businesses."

IN THEIR WORDS: "The ability to use blockchain to have instantaneous settlement was very attractive," he said. "Blockchain promised huge efficiency gains in the financial markets. That tickled my interest."



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JULIAN MOVSESIANFOUNDER, CEO, PRESIDENT
SUCCESSION CAPITAL ALLIANCE

WHY: Runs what company calls the largest, longest-running, and most respected premium financing program in the industry. Acts as an adviser to advisers, offers advanced life insurance planning for businessowner and high-net-worth clients. **IN THE NEWS:** Says he sees himself in his heir apparent, Michael Rothman, company EVP who has been with the firm for a decade. **NOTABLE:** Firm has helped advisers place more than \$52B of protection and \$5.1B of financed premium. Born in Cairo, Egypt of Armenian descent, convinced his parents at age 17 to let him move to Southern California, where he lived with guardians. Fired from first job at McDonald's.

**TIM NGUYEN**CO-FOUNDER, CHIEF STRATEGY
OFFICER
MERIDIANLINK

WHY: Started software company that serves credit unions and smaller financial institutions; went public in 2021. The company as of mid-2022 had more than 1,900 customers and 664 U.S.-based employees, up from 582 a year ago. **IN THE NEWS:** Honored with Business Journal Innovator of the Year Award in September 2021. **NOTABLE:** Vietnamese refugee, started business while a student at UCI. **QUOTABLE:** "If you have ever applied for a loan in the past 20 years, chances are you have crossed paths with us digitally as we have touched millions of consumers. We're like the Intel Inside chip of financial institutions."

**GREG CUSTER**EVP
WHITTIER TRUST

WHY: Helps manage nearly \$20B in assets at West Coast's oldest and largest family office, a trust that made its money discovering oil in Bakersfield. Board of OC YMCA. Named 2020 Man of Character by OC Boy Scouts. Often top volunteer at Pasadena Tournament of Roses. **RECENT:** Whittier Trust named one of the top five worldwide best Multi-Family Offices by the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners. **NOTABLE:** Whittier a heritage sponsor of the California-to-Hawaii Transpac sailing race. Custer owns a Duffy. **QUOTABLE:** "Whittier's objective is to provide investment management and trust services to wealthy families by assisting them with the transition of wealth by creating a family's legacy and a lasting difference."

**MICHAEL JANETT**COMMERCIAL BANKING LEADER
WELLS FARGO

WHY: Counts 35 years of banking and finance, with focus on business development, managing client relationships, leading teams and managing risk. Been with Wells Fargo since 2016, prior to that CIT Bank. **IN THE NEWS:** Presenting Sponsor at Business Journal's 15th annual CFO of the Year Awards, held in May. **NOTABLE:** Banks among largest commercial institutions in OC, with nearly \$30B in local deposits.

**DANIEL WALKER**CEO
FARMERS & MERCHANTS
BANK OF LONG BEACH**W. HENRY WALKER**PRESIDENT
FARMERS & MERCHANTS
BANK OF LONG BEACH

Brothers Henry and Dan Walker are the fourth generation of Walkers to work at the bank, which was opened in 1907 by their great-grandfather **C.J. Walker**. Financial institution, now with 13 branches in OC, reported its OC deposits rose 21% to \$4.3B, ranking it No. 11 on the Business Journal's February list of banks with operations here.

THEN: Dan Walker's first job with the bank was at 14 when he ran the elevator at the institution's HQ in Long Beach. Henry Walker took his first job at the bank when he was 16, delivering gingerbread to the branches during the holidays, a family tradition. Both moved up the ranks, working in just about every job at the bank.

"When Henry and I were hired by our grandfather, he told us 'I expect you to work a half day,'" Dan Walker quipped. "We didn't realize that was 12 hours."

NOW: Last year surpassed a major milestone in the banking world—going over \$10B in assets. Now around \$11.5B. It ranked near the top 100 in the nation and 15th largest in California as of February. The bank finished 2021 with record high total deposits and net loans, as well as total assets.

FUTURE: F&M continued to go against a banking trend—with three more branches in OC in the works as of earlier this year. "We'd love to expand in Orange County," Henry Walker said. "We see it as a primary market growth. We have an enormous amount of success here."

IN THEIR WORDS: At a time when other banks are cutting back their branches in favor of fintech, the Walker brothers believe that young tech savvy kids want to feel safe about their money. "At the end of the day, those same individuals are still stating that they want a relationship, that they be called by a name and that they can call someone by a name that they're entrusting their funds to," Dan Walker said. "Bricks-and-mortars are still a requirement for any age of clients. Relationships are the maximum key to our success."



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ALEX GREENCHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER
DIGITAL PORTFOLIO ADVISORS

WHY: Heads hedge fund connected with Newport Beach-based Miramontes Capital to create institutional vehicle for investment in bitcoin. Is also chief solutions officer at family-owned EoS Organization, a developer of sustainable energy infrastructure.

NOTABLE: Has been buying, selling, trading and thinking about bitcoin, blockchains and cryptos since age of 14.

QUOTABLE: In April 18 Business Journal Leader Board: "If you don't understand a cryptocurrency's technology or what it's trying to solve for, you can absolutely get your face ripped off."

**MARK HARDTKE**ORANGE COUNTY PRESIDENT
NORTHERN TRUST

WHY: Over 30 years of wealth management experience in Orange County. He moved to the area from Chicago in 1989 to help build and establish Northern Trust's presence in the market. Deep understanding of trusts, investments, taxation, insurance and banking. **IN THE NEWS:** Named to current post in 2018, was previously OC managing director. **NOTABLE:** Heavily involved in the community, serves as a director of the Hoag Hospital Foundation and served as president of Hoag's 552 Club and Planned Giving Advisory Committee. Graduate of Valparaiso University, master's degree from DePaul University.

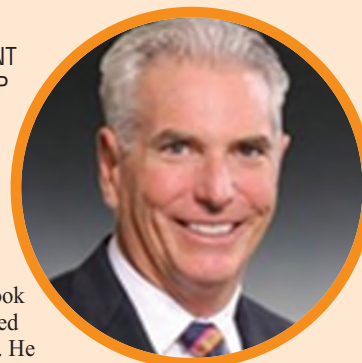
**TODD HOLLANDER**HEAD OF BUSINESS BANKING
AND SMALL BUSINESS BANKING
MUFU UNION BANK

WHY: Group head for Business Banking, SBA, and the Business Development Program for Union Bank's commercial division. Works with relationship managers, private wealth advisers, business development officers and treasury and credit professionals "to bring the best financial solutions to our clients." **IN THE NEWS:**

Presenting sponsor at Business Journal's 2022 Family-Owned Business Awards. **NOTABLE:** Degree in business administration finance accounting from San Diego State University. Active member of many nonprofit organizations, in addition to serving as a member of the PBS SoCal board of trustees.

**STEVEN GARDNER**CHAIRMAN, CEO, PRESIDENT
PACIFIC PREMIER BANCORP
IRVINE

Runs one of the largest banks headquartered in Southern California and the largest based in OC, with \$21.6B in assets as of midyear. Gardner in 2000 took over a failing Riverside-based bank and moved it to Irvine. He grew the bank organically and through acquisitions and avoided financial disasters such as the subprime mortgage meltdown of 2007-08. One of best-performing stocks of any OC company over past decade. The \$1B buy of crosstown rival **Opus Bank** completed in June 2021.



THEN: Said in February that the bank's "strong 2021 financial performance is reflective of our commercially-focused and diversified business model, the impact of our technology-driven growth strategy, and the strength of our culture centered on continuous improvement."

NOW: In late April, announcing first-quarter earnings, said Pacific Premier "took a number of actions to position the balance sheet for higher interest rates, including reducing the size and duration of the available-for-sale securities portfolio, increasing our liquidity position, and enhancing our asset sensitivity. The strength of the organization we have built and our proactive approach to risk management has enabled us to capitalize on opportunities that arise in stressed environments."

FUTURE: "As we navigate the current environment, we are focused on driving new business development, strengthening and deepening our client relationships, continuing to support our dedicated employees, and actively engaging with the communities we serve."

RHONDA DUCOTEPRESIDENT
APRIEM ADVISORS

WHY: Runs Irvine-based wealth manager. Firm serves three client niches the company calls underserved: women, blue-collar workers and nonprofits. **IN THE NEWS:** Apriem ranked high in Business Journal's 2022 Best Places to Work list in the Small Company category for ensuring job security for employees during pandemic, organizing company retreats, doling out discretionary bonuses, encouraging work boundaries and conducting "weekly praise reports." **NOTABLE:** Started a women-only monthly financial planning seminar, "Women of Wisdom," after noticing that women who attended meetings with their husbands were reluctant to ask questions for fear of looking silly.



SHANNON EUSEY

CEO
BEACON POINTE

WHY: Built Newport Beach’s Beacon Pointe from UCLA school paper into largest female-led registered investment advisory firm in the country. **IN THE NEWS:** Finished 2021 with an acquisition spree of six registered independent advisories, including Pacific Edge in Corona del Mar and Newport Wealth Strategies in Irvine. Received 50% investment from one of Wall Street’s best-known investors, KKR & Co. **NOTABLE:** 2017 winner at Business Journal Women in Business Awards; delivered keynote address at 2022 event.



ASH PATEL

CEO, PRESIDENT
COMMERCIAL BANK OF CALIFORNIA

WHY: Invests in human capital through the “PJ2B”—Purposeful Journey to a Billion—initiative that he developed. Irvine-based bank moved up four spots to No. 23 on this year’s Business Journal list of largest commercial banks by OC deposits as its OC deposits rose 25% to \$1.1B as of June 2021. **IN THE NEWS:** Founder of Siksha Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides education through building schools for underprivileged children in India and Africa. **QUOTABLE:** “We’ll continue to look for technology platforms. Most banks are trying to become fintech. We’re no different,” Patel said in February.



MARY GARRETT

MANAGING PARTNER
ERNST & YOUNG

WHY: Runs Orange County office of accounting and consulting giant. **IN THE NEWS:** Appointed to managing partner and assumed role in January. First job out of college was from EY, spent 23-year career at firm. **NOTABLE:** Family began farming business in OC planting grapes, avocados and oranges. Born in Newport Beach and raised in Irvine. Attended University of Tennessee on a volleyball scholarship. **QUOTABLE:** “What I love about Orange County is how much I’ve seen it grow and change over the years,” she said. “There’s an amazing entrepreneurial spirit in Orange County.”



JONATHAN BRINDSEN

PRESIDENT
IRVINE CO. OFFICE PROPERTIES

STEVE CASE

EVP, STRATEGIC LEASING
& ADVISORY
IRVINE CO. OFFICE
PROPERTIES

OC and California’s largest office landlord, with a 53 million-square-foot operating portfolio counting over 560 buildings. Also the state’s largest speculative office developer, with several projects underway in the Irvine Spectrum.

THEN: Irvine Co.-owned buildings were home to six of the top seven local office leases of 2021, and those six deals totaled over 600,000 square feet of space. Irvine Co. says that it leased nearly 10 million square feet of office space to about 1,000 companies in 2021, across its entire portfolio.

NOW: Third phase of **Spectrum Terrace** well underway. **Apple** taking one of the three buildings now under construction at the project. **Amazon** recently confirmed its own full-building lease, with plans to hire 800 tech and office positions for the location.

FUTURE: Going forward, Case said he’s expecting to see further local leasing activity growth in a number of industries, like medtech, gaming, next-gen aerospace, and electric vehicles. Also keep an eye on Orange County’s life sciences industry, Case said. It’s a sector expected to soon see large local growth push, he said.

IN THEIR WORDS: Last year’s leasing performance “is a window into the post-pandemic future of work,” Brinsden said. “The activity clearly shows the importance of being together to drive company culture, productivity, innovation and, ultimately, the bottom line.”



KENNETH JOHNSON

PARTNER
WITHUM

WHY: Withum, a Princeton, N.J.-based accounting firm that is among the nation’s 25 largest, first entered Orange County in 2020 with the acquisition of KSJG CPA LLP. Johnson joined KSJG in 1996, became partner in 2020. **IN THE NEWS:** Headcount at Irvine office grew by 19% to 87 last year. Named a Best Place to Work in Orange County in 2022 by the Business Journal. **QUOTABLE:** “Withum isn’t just a job—we’re a family, and we carry that spirit together in everything we do,” Johnson said on the company’s webpage. “We live the ‘Withum Way.’ We are catalysts for growth and success.”



NIC JOHNSON

FORMER PORTFOLIO MANAGER,
COMMODITIES
PIMCO

WHY: Mechanical engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory prior to joining Newport Beach investment management firm in 2004. **IN THE NEWS:** Three funds he managed in 2021 ranked in the top five returns at company, including a 54% jump in returns for his Real Estate Real Return Strategy Fund, the largest gain among the 96 funds at the wealth management giant. Retired from firm in March. **QUOTABLE:** "My background was as a mechanical engineer building models and trying to explain how things work. In finance, it's quite similar. I predict future values."

**CRYSTAL LI**

OFFICE MANAGER, AUDIT PARTNER
UHY

WHY: Runs only West Coast office for Farmington Hills, Mich.-based accounting firm. **IN THE NEWS:** Assumed current role in January. Firm this year doubled headcount to 21 after successfully handling the auditing for the IPO of Duarte-based hydroponics equipment provider iPower Inc. (Nasdaq: IPW). **QUOTABLE:** Born and raised in Beijing, moved to U.S. about a decade ago for training at an international firm. Looking for employees fluent in Chinese. "Our practice has an Asian focus. Most of our employees speak fluent Chinese. We're heavily serving the local Asian community."

**TIFFANY KETTERER-
BUCHANAN**

SVP, FINANCE
CROWDSTRIKE

WHY: Finance exec for rapidly growing cybersecurity company that got its start in Irvine a little more than a decade ago and was valued at over \$40B as of September. Started with CrowdStrike as the first finance hire, working beside the CFO and one of CrowdStrike's co-founders. **IN THE NEWS:** Ketterer-Buchanan, who works out of the company's Irvine offices, was honored with a Business Journal Women in Business Award in late 2021. **QUOTABLE:** "I've worked since I was 14 years old, and have just muscled my way through funding my own education all of these years."

**NOAH KERNER**

CEO
ACORNS GROW
IRVINE

Head of OC's best-known fintech startup. Micro-investing platform Acorns says it has grown into the largest subscription service in U.S. consumer finance, with more than 4.6 million paid subscribers who invest a few dollars regularly through its app. Acorns says it's helped its customers save and invest over \$12.5B. It now sports \$6.1B in assets under management, according to filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission earlier this year.



THEN: Pulled back from a SPAC-led public listing in January, amid a down period for new listings and SPACs in general. At the time, Acorns said its "pre-market value" was \$1.5B.

NOW: In March, announced it had raised \$300M from private investors. The oversubscribed Series F funding round, led by TPG, an alternatives asset manager, gives Acorns a "private valuation" of \$1.9B, officials told the Business Journal. "Our ability to secure \$300M in choppy markets at a higher valuation speaks to the strength of Acorns business," Kerner said at the time.

FUTURE: The total addressable market for Acorns' services is \$100B, as 222 million American adults live in household incomes below \$100,000, the company said. In November, the company said its 2021 sales would climb 77% to \$126M. It predicts sales will reach \$309M in 2023. Acorns expects to expand its financial wellness system to include customizable portfolios, the ability to add crypto exposure to a diversified portfolio and family-specific offerings. A recently disclosed expansion for Acorns into direct investing should help the app rival other mobile platforms such as Robinhood Markets Inc., plus legacy services like E-Trade and Fidelity.

IN THEIR WORDS: "This capital helps us continue our commitments of building a generational company and putting the responsible tools of wealth-making in everyone's hands," Kerner said of the March fundraise.

JASON LES

CEO
RIOT BLOCKCHAIN

WHY: OC-based exec who heads booming bitcoin miner in Colorado with valuation near \$1.2B as of May. Professional poker player from 2004 to 2018. UCI Grad. **IN THE NEWS:** Discovered bitcoin as great way to move money around quickly, without government involvement during poker career. Opened Costa Mesa office with about 10 employees in 2021 while revenue increased eighteenfold to \$213.2M after taking over. **QUOTABLE:** "I believe bitcoin is the future. I want to devote my entire life to the study of bitcoin."



ALLEN STAFF

PRESIDENT
BANK OF AMERICA, ORANGE COUNTY

WHY: Irvine native went through ranks to become top executive of biggest bank in OC by local deposits as of June 30, 2021, \$31B, up 14% year-over-year.

Consolidated many executives into offices at Fashion Island in Newport Beach. **IN THE NEWS:** Provided financing to support Laguna Playhouse's Our Stories program for second consecutive year, allowing organization to form partnerships with more than 20 community organizations that serve at-risk youth and young adults.

QUOTABLE: "The arts provide an undeniable avenue to connect and heal a community. It's an honor to partner on the Our Stories project."

**IVO TJAN**

FOUNDER, CEO
COMMERCEWEST BANK

WHY: Runs one of the largest commercial banks based in OC. Launched an initial public offering in 2001. The bank's HQ is in Irvine and serves businesses throughout California. **IN THE NEWS:** CommerceWest saw its deposits rise 25% year-over-year to \$1.1B as of June 2021. **NOTABLE:** Recently moved to new, larger HQ alongside the 405 Freeway. **QUOTABLE:** "Inflation is causing many of our business clients to reassess their cost structure, automate and increase prices on products or services," Tjan said in February.

**JIM MADDEN**

CO-FOUNDER, CO-CEO
CARRICK CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

WHY: Successfully co-founded, exited human resources firm Exult in 2004 with \$50M+ payday; co-founder of PE firm now with \$1B assets under management. **IN THE NEWS:** Last year saw firm make largest-ever investment, chipping in more than half of its \$175M Series D round for New York software firm Daily Pay, which provides same-day paychecks.

QUOTABLE: "We think this market is going to explode," he says of Daily Pay, which landed BJ's Restaurants as a big customer this year. "The majority of employers will offer this service within two years."

**JEFF WINNER**

CEO
HAPPY MONEY

WHY: Helms Tustin-based debt consolidator, among OC's better-funded fintechs. Has led the company as CEO since last October; joined the company in 2020. **IN THE NEWS:** Raised \$50M in a Series D round late last year, bringing total VC money raised to more than \$135M. Company's pre-money valuation stood at about \$1.1B as of February. **NOTABLE:** Previously served as head of engineering at Twitter, Uber and Stripe, also led the development of the Apple Card.

QUOTABLE: "What resonates with me is taking something complicated like finance and putting it behind a simple API, so many people can use it."

**JOHN MELOUN**

CFO
XPONENTIAL FITNESS

WHY: Joined upstart franchiser of boutique fitness studios with an aggressive growth strategy in 2018. Guided company through acquisitions, refinancing transactions and an initial public offering in 2021. **IN THE NEWS:** Honored as Outstanding CFO of a Public Company at this year's 15th annual CFO of the Year Awards by the Business Journal. Led successful secondary offering in April for existing investors. **QUOTABLE:** Never saw himself as CFO. "When you take a company public, people feel that's the finish line, but it's really just the starting line."

**BRANDON KERNS**

PRESIDENT, CFO
RUSSELL STREET VENTURES

WHY: Was CFO at Huntington Beach-based Landmark Health, which was acquired in 2021 by Optum, a part of UnitedHealth Group in a deal worth about \$3B. Now focused on healthcare venture capital firm. **IN THE NEWS:** Winner of a Business Journal CFO of the Year Award in 2021, prior to Landmark's sale. **QUOTABLE:** About investment for his new firm: "CareBridge's full-risk model for managing Medicaid patients and dual eligible receiving home and community-based services is one of the most innovative models I have seen."



DAN LUBECK

FOUNDER, MANAGING DIRECTOR
SOLIS CAPITAL PARTNERS

WHY: Runs investment firm specializing in the lower middle market, companies with revenue of \$15M to \$75M, typically in services, niche manufacturing and software sectors. **IN THE NEWS:** Emcee for Business Journal's CFO of the Year Awards event in 2021.

NOTABLE: Has been a lower middle market private equity investor for over 27 years and has participated in more than 70 company acquisitions and divestitures. Prior to founding Solis in 2002, co-founded a leveraged buyout firm, Unique Investment Corp. **QUOTABLE:** "We believe that investing in companies is really betting on the leaders and leadership teams."

**LISA WALKER**

PRESIDENT
TECH COAST ANGELS
ORANGE COUNTY

WHY: First woman to lead the local investor network in the chapter's 25-year history; chosen for 2022-2023. TCA is one of the largest investor networks in the nation. Joined TCA in 2018. **IN THE NEWS:** Named to post in February. **NOTABLE:** Has over 25 years of executive leadership and product management experience. **QUOTABLE:** "My goal is to improve outcomes for all our members, and to develop and build relationships with other ecosystems and angel groups that will drive the overall quality of our investments."

**GLENN WELLING**

FOUNDER, CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER
ENGAGED CAPITAL

WHY: Activist investor in 2012 founded company that employs a private equity-style investing strategy in publicly traded small- and mid-cap companies. Previously managing director of Relational Investors, a \$6B activist fund. Started with \$85M, now \$1.5B in assets. **IN THE NEWS:** Invested \$100M in Black Rifle Coffee Co., Salt Lake City-based and veteran-founded coffee company that went public in February. **QUOTABLE:** "Black Rifle meets the criteria of what we look for—great businesses that have the potential to get better."

**SEAN MCCLOSKEY**

CEO
TAX & FINANCIAL GROUP

WHY: Leads Newport Beach-based financial services firm. Second generation CEO to run the firm founded by his father, Dick McCloskey, founded in 1970. **IN THE NEWS:** Received Business Journal Family-Owned Business Award in June, in the Midsize business category. **NOTABLE:** Firm has 100 employees at offices throughout Southern California as well as Hawaii, Colorado, Ohio and Texas. **QUOTABLE:** "My best attribute is perseverance. Sometimes it's good and sometimes it hurts you to not walk away from things you should."

**JARED WOLFF**

CEO, PRESIDENT
BANC OF CALIFORNIA

WHY: Took top spot of OC's second-largest local bank three years ago with focus on reducing costs of deposits. \$8B in assets, up 3.5% from year prior. **IN THE NEWS:** Reported strong pipeline of new loans, indicating strong consumer, business confidence. Bought payments platform tech from Deepstack Technologies for \$24M in September. **QUOTABLE:** "Overall, the economy is appearing to be very resilient. There are great changes forthcoming that may impact behavior. So far, rising rates haven't affected behavior, except for the mortgage industry."

**MARC MILLS**

CEO, PRESIDENT
PACIFIC RIM CAPITAL

WHY: Leads one of OC's largest private companies. Firm leases forklifts, cranes and other material-handling equipment for large companies in the manufacturing and transportation industries. Posts revenue of nearly \$200M annually, and manages an equipment portfolio of nearly \$1B. **IN THE NEWS:** Longtime business partner, Dave Mirsky, retired at end of 2020. Mills, a Harvard grad, assumed CEO role at company. **QUOTABLE:** Not following partner's plan. "I have no plans to retire. We've really refined the strategy over time, and I feel confident in the strategic direction of the company."



PAUL O'MARAMANAGING DIRECTOR
UNION BANK

WHY: Manages the Orange County Middle Market Banking team, who provides the bank's products and services to middle market clients in the Southern California Region.

Prior to assuming his current role in 2019, he was regional vice president at Wells Fargo Bank from July 2011 until September 2019. **IN THE NEWS:**

Award presenter at Business Journal's 15th annual CFO of the Year Awards in May. **NOTABLE:**

Member of the University of California, Irvine Chief Executive Roundtable; board member of the J.F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center.

**MANISHI PARIKH**MARKET EXECUTIVE
WELLS FARGO COMMERCIAL
BANKING FOR ORANGE COUNTY

WHY: Has more than 20 years of commercial banking experience; earned bachelor's degree in economics with honors from UCI, MBA from USC. **IN THE NEWS:** Offered four "financial driving tips" in February: don't overreact; avoid kneejerk borrowing; remember: it's not all or nothing; consider the big picture.

NOTABLE: Tells OC business executives to "keep both hands on the steering wheel" and follow the four tips above "before making sudden corrections based on the recent rate news."

**RICK NOGUEIRA**REGION MANAGER
JPMORGAN CHASE

WHY: Oversees middle market banking in OC, Inland Empire, serving firms from \$20M to \$500M in revenue. Joined Chase as a senior banker in 2009 and was promoted to the region manager position in January 2012.

NOTABLE: Active in the community; board of directors for the Orange County Business Council and the Business Leadership Committee for Segerstrom Center for the Arts. Bachelor's degree in Business Finance from San Diego State University and a Master of Business Administration from California State University, Long Beach. **FUN FACTS:** Wife, Semra; sons, Jack and Matthew; favorite musical group as a kid: Guns N' Roses.

**ARSHAD ROKERYA**SVP
COMMERCIAL BANK OF
CALIFORNIA

WHY: Relationship manager at Irvine's Commercial Bank of California, a full-service bank and diversified financial services company serving the business and professional communities of Los Angeles and Orange counties. \$1.9B in assets as of mid-2022. **IN THE NEWS:** Award presenter at Business

Journal's 21st annual Excellence in Entrepreneurship Awards in May. **NOTABLE:** In August, CBC reported net income of \$7.9M for the first half of 2022, up from \$7.6M for the first six months of 2021.

**MURRAY RUDIN**MANAGING DIRECTOR
RLH EQUITY PARTNERS

WHY: Long career in private equity, with at least 20 of those years at RLH. Portfolio companies include Cymetrix, CyberCoders, Clarity Solution Group, others. **IN THE NEWS:** Master of ceremonies for the Business Journal's CFO of the Year Awards in May, which drew the second-highest attendance of the awards in its history. **QUOTABLE:** "Our values are not only consistent with the strong returns we've achieved for our investors, they are a significant contributing factor to that success."

**TODD SOUTHWICK**CO-FOUNDER, CEO
ITRUST CAPITAL

WHY: Co-founded company that provides investors a platform to invest through an IRA into 29 different cryptocurrencies, as well as gold and silver. Grew revenue from \$3M in 2020 to \$47M in 2021. Company calls itself "the world's largest crypto IRA investment platform." Despite crash of many cryptocurrencies, has grown to 40,000 newly funded accounts from 24,000 a year ago. **IN THE NEWS:** Fed up with crime in Long Beach, moved HQ to Irvine earlier this year. **QUOTABLE:** "Our revenue blew everybody else off the chart. We didn't know it was going to make as much money as it did and as fast as it did."



ETHAN MORGAN

MANAGING DIRECTOR
JP MORGAN PRIVATE BANK

WHY: Market manager for private bank's ultra-high-net-worth and high-net-worth clients in Orange County and San Diego. Manages a team of professionals that offers customized guidance on growing and preserving wealth. **IN THE NEWS:** Provides commentary for Business Journal's weekly Stock Index.

QUOTABLE: "As an investor, there is always something to be worried about. Last year, it was new variants of COVID-19. Today, it's hot inflation, central bank policy tightening and geopolitical conflicts."

**JOHN DECERO**

CEO
MECHANICS BANK

WHY: In 15 years, has gone from starting a bank with no assets—California Republic Bank—to overseeing nearly \$19B at Mechanics Bank, among state's largest institutions. Often works at Irvine office; company's name adorns Irvine Towers office building.

IN THE NEWS: One of America's best banks based on growth, credit quality and profitability, according to Forbes. In its February 2022 report, Forbes ranked Mechanics 32nd among the nation's 100 largest publicly traded banks and thrifts. **QUOTABLE:** The ranking "is a testament to our exceptionally strong capital levels which far exceed the required minimums to be considered 'well-capitalized' in accordance with regulatory standards."

**JEFF MYERS**

MANAGING PARTNER
WRIGHT FORD YOUNG & CO

WHY: Bob Wright in 1974 founded what became known as Wright Ford Young & Co., the 17th-largest accounting firm in OC this year by local employee count. **IN THE NEWS:** Myers estimates he

"unofficially" became managing partner about five years ago and "I guess officially within the last year or two." **NOTABLE:** Firm grew 11% this past year to 100 employees. **QUOTABLE:** "We've been blessed by not being plagued like other firms with high degree of turnovers," he said. "We've had low employee turnover, which has resulted in low client turnover."

**DARRYL BUTTON**

CEO, PRESIDENT
PACIFIC LIFE INSURANCE CO.

WHY: The 15th chief executive in Pacific Life's 155-year history.

IN THE NEWS: Took over top spot in April, was previously CFO. Joined company in March 2017. **NOTABLE:** Prior to joining Pacific Life, served for 17 years at Aegon where his last role was chief financial officer and a member of the executive board. **QUOTABLE:** "The biggest challenge is low interest rates and modernizing our delivery systems and customer experiences to make sure we can connect with customers the way they want to be connected with."

**SCOTT COLES**

FOUNDER
WMBC

WHY: Started Irvine financial advisory firm. Family business counts over 40 years, touts "well-being science" with focus on investment management, estate planning, taxation, retirement, life insurance, special family needs and more. **IN THE NEWS:** Presenting Sponsor of Business Journal's 2022 Family-Owned Business Awards.

QUOTABLE: "I look to bring the human element to the forefront of every decision," he says on company's website. "When we take into account a person's emotions we can better understand their behavior and then develop financial systems that are aligned with how they are moving about the world."

**AARON OLSON**

SVP, REGIONAL MANAGER
FIFTH THIRD BANK

WHY: Regional manager for Fifth Third Bank's Commercial Banking Division in Orange County. Responsibilities include leading and commercial banking coordinating team, with a focus on middle market companies in the area. **IN THE NEWS:** Award presenter at Business Journal's 15th annual CFO of the Year Awards in May.

NOTABLE: Joined bank two years ago. Previously with Bank of the West, City National Bank, Citi Bank. University of Minnesota grad.



JARROD INGLE

REGIONAL PRESIDENT & HEAD OF
CORPORATE BANKING, OC & IE
PNC BANK

WHY: Leading Orange County expansion by nation's fifth-largest bank. Longtime Southern California banker with prior experiences at JPMorgan and Wells Fargo. **IN THE NEWS:** Opened an office in Irvine, its first in OC.

NOTABLE: Ingle grew up in Iowa, receiving a degree in business finance from Iowa State University. While at Wells Fargo, he transferred to Orange County, where he's been since the late 1990s. **QUOTABLE:** "We are open to the competition. That's what drives a good strong local economy."



LET'S DO LUNCH

Editor's Note: *The Business Journal* asked the OC500 to name someone they'd like to meet for lunch. Master developers, other members of the OC500, and baseball players drew the most responses. A selection of edited responses follow:

Annette Walker: Palmer Lucky. I am always drawn to brave innovators.

Daryl Carter: I'd love to meet **Arte Moreno** for lunch to convince him to sell the Angels to me!

Doug Corbin: Mike Trout.

Hans Keirstead: My mom, because I don't get to see her enough.

Ike Kavas: Meeting the deans at Chapman University and UCI would provide a great opportunity to discuss the future of filmmaking using AI/ML. I'd be curious to know their opinions on how it will shape future filmmakers.

Jared Wolff: Mike Trout

Jim Madden: Someone in the entertainment industry, to help me learn the ropes on a movie I plan to co-produce.

John Pham: Mark Cuban—his courage, grit, and willingness to break boundaries inspired me as an entrepreneur.

Julian Movsesian: Leigh Steinberg—he is very inspirational.

Laura Ramos: Mike Musselmen. Aside from the obvious healthcare

connection—we routinely use their technology to improve patients' lives—both our organizations strive for highly committed workforces capable of extraordinary outcomes.

Michael Hunn: Emile Haddad, whose vision created the Great Park Neighborhoods, including affordable housing, and brought the City of Hope to Orange County.

Murray Rudin: Donald Bren. His singular ability to shape the development of the entire city of Irvine across housing, recreation, offices, and quality of life is an unparalleled feat of master community planning.

Paul Bay: Disney CEO **Bob Chapek.** Although technically not headquartered in OC, Disney is one of the world's largest and most complex companies with many different businesses and brands and it would be fascinating to share a beer and a good meal with him.

Paul O'Mara: Susan Samueli.

Reynolds Bish: Henry Samueli, to hear his approach to charitable giving, which I've long admired.

Tim McElfish: James Doti, to gain some insight to Orange County's economic forecast.

Tim Morten: Mike and Amy Morhaime, because they're always inspiring to spend time with.

Tony Smith: RJ Scaringe from **Rivian,** to pick his brain on some business learning he's gleaned the past few years.



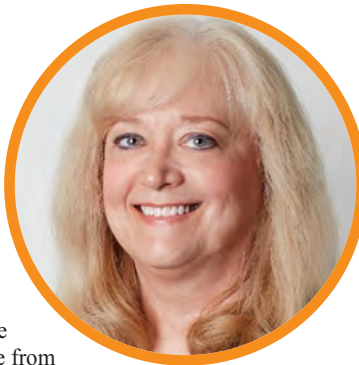
Noel Quinn (1915 – 1993)
"Streetcar Turnaround" 1950s
Watercolor on paper
Hilbert Collection



HEALTHCARE

CAREN MASONCEO
STAAR SURGICAL

WHY: Runs Lake Forest-based eye-focused device maker, one of OC's largest publicly traded companies valued at nearly \$5B as of early September. Product serves as an alternative to laser-based procedures like LASIK. **IN THE NEWS:** Doubled sales of Visian Implantable Collamer Lenses (ICL) to 2M in three years. ICLs allow users "to break free from the hassles of glasses and frequent replacement of contact lenses," company officials said. **QUOTABLE:** Staar moved HQ from Monrovia to Lake Forest in 2019 because "for recruiting ophthalmologists, Orange County is more important than Los Angeles."

**JIM MAZZO**EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN
NEUROTECH

WHY: Top business executive in OC's ophthalmology industry. Former president and CEO of Advanced Medical Optics. **IN THE NEWS:** Helping Holland Foundation for Sight Restoration, where he is a board advisor, build its first "Center of Excellence" at UC Irvine's Gavin Herbert Eye Institute. **NOTABLE:** Prior positions include CEO of Allergan's North American and European eyecare organizations. **QUOTABLE:** "With this program, Dr. Holland and his team will be able to help men, women, children and the elderly to see and become impactful people in society again."

**JOHN BEAVER**CEO, PRESIDENT
BIOLASE

WHY: Texas native, took over Foothill Ranch-based dental medical device firm in 2020 seeking to diversify its product offerings, bulk up revenue and restore its reputation among investors. **IN THE NEWS:** According to the company, 7% of dental practices in the U.S. have dental laser technology and Biolase makes up 60% of the total market. Released the EdgePro, its first microfluidic irrigation device for root canals, this year. **QUOTABLE:** "Traditional surgeries leave patients unable to eat for days and on opioids. With our technology, they'll be eating a hamburger the same day."

**BILL HOFFMAN**CEO
INARI MEDICAL
IRVINE

Inari Medical is gearing up for another record year in 2022 in terms of sales of its devices that treat blood clots in the veins. Company (Nasdaq: NARI), spun out of medical device incubator **Inceptus Medical** in 2013, focuses on catheter-based technologies to remove large blood clots from patients with venous thromboembolism (VTE), a condition that can lead to disability or death. Hoffman took Inari's helm as CEO in 2015 after serving as president and CEO of neurosurgical imaging company **Visualase**, which **Medtronic PLC** (NYSE: MDT) paid \$105M for in 2014.



THEN: Inari commenced sales of its products in 2017. Reported 2021 revenue climbing 98% to \$277M in 2021.

NOW: Executives at the company are expecting revenue this year to come in between \$350M and \$360M, up about 26% to 30% from 2021 levels. The company in 2020 moved its corporate headquarters to **Irvine Co.'s 6001 Oak Canyon** building, where it now leases about 120,000 square feet of space to its corporate headquarters, research and development, manufacturing, and other related activities. **FUTURE:** New products being released, including **Intri24**, an introducer sheath designed to optimize a clot-removing procedure. Intri24 is "the second of what will be many product introductions this year," said Hoffman, who is transitioning from CEO to a board position at end of year.

IN THEIR WORDS: With market cap topping \$4B, Inari's stock is up over threefold from its 2020 IPO, but Hoffman doesn't measure success by stock price alone, noting a higher purpose in the company's life-saving devices. "We love every second of this work and we remain thankful for the opportunity to serve our patients and our mission."

ROBERT BRAYFOUNDER
DISC SURGERY CENTER

WHY: Neurological spine surgeon who recognized that spinal procedures often required lengthy hospital stays. He set out to develop the techniques, tools and protocols to make minimally invasive spine surgery more cost-effective at outpatient centers that don't require overnight stays rather than in traditional hospitals. **NOTABLE:** Founded Cedars-Sinai's Institute for Spinal Disorders. **IN THE NEWS:** Plans to expand throughout California as a newly formed parent company, Trias Global. PE firm Chicago Pacific Founders acquired a majority stake in Trias in January. **QUOTABLE:** "The fee-for-service world led to limiting care for patients, and it was clear we needed a new business model."



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CLINT CARNELLCEO
INBRACE

WHY: A founder of several consumer healthcare companies, Carnell in March took helm of invisible braces maker from co-founder and leading inventor Dr. John Pham for what he believes will be new growth stage in \$40B orthodontics market. **IN THE NEWS:** Raised \$45M in Series E round in August; follows \$100M raise in 2021.

QUOTABLE: “We believe you shouldn’t have to look worse before looking better, and that is a message which investors understand.”

**ROBERT CRIPE**CHIEF COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS
OFFICER
MICROPORT ORTHOPEDICS

WHY: Irvine resident, medical device industry veteran who oversees strategic growth at the unit of MicroPort Scientific Corp., the fourth-largest multinational orthopedic producer which develops medical devices related to orthopedics and cardiovascular health. Previously held executive roles at Irvine-based Integrated Endoscopy and Biogenix. **IN THE NEWS:** Joined firm in November 2021 as company completed \$40M purchase of new U.S. base in Irvine. MicroPort Scientific America division housed at office complex that totals about 115K square feet.

QUOTABLE: “MicroPort is rapidly expanding its footprint in the industry, and I am excited to be a part of its growth and strategy moving forward.”

**ERIC GIESECKE**CEO
PLANET DDS

WHY: Head of Newport Beach provider of cloud-based dental software founded in 2003. Took top spot in 2015. In 2020 acquired dental diagnostic software firm Apteryx Imaging. Partners and customers include American Dental Partners, the U.S. Army and Navy, and Dental Care Alliance. **IN THE NEWS:** This summer acquired QSI Dental from NextGen Healthcare, adding another 1,000 practices to the firm’s portfolio of 10,000 practices in North America. **QUOTABLE:** “We plan to be selective in acquisitions. We like acquisitions with great products and great teams servicing a unique need in dentals. We’re not just going buying software companies and putting them together.”

**JOHN KAO**FOUNDER, CEO
ALIGNMENT HEALTHCARE
ORANGE

Heads one of OC’s fastest-growing public companies, population health management company that partners with national health systems and provider groups to improve the health of seniors. Offers increasingly popular **Medicare Advantage** insurance plans; plans are required to cover traditional Medicare expenses such as doctor visits and hospital costs, and also offer extra coverage for needs such as vision, dental and hearing exams, and prescription drugs.

THEN: March 2021 IPO raised nearly \$500M in proceeds, with funds going to expand Alignment’s reach beyond the three states—California, Nevada, North Carolina—it initially covered.

NOW: First-quarter revenue of \$346M represented 29% growth year-over-year. “This was led by our health plan premium revenue of \$331M, representing 25% growth,” Kao said in May. Alignment’s health plan membership ended at 94,200 members at end of latest quarter, growing 13.4% year-over-year.

FUTURE: Has entered the Arizona market as its fourth state, with the company entering Pima and Maricopa counties; with additions there and other markets in existing states, has increased the total number of Medicare eligibles in Alignment’s geographies from 5.5 million to 7 million.

IN THEIR WORDS: Company “continues to do well by doing good—delivering sustainable growth and once again beating guidance on our four critical metrics: membership, revenue, adjusted gross profit and adjusted EBITDA,” Kao said in May. “This is a strong quarter for Alignment and caps a solid first year of growth as a public company, having met or outperformed guidance every quarter since listing.”

**NICK GREEN**CEO
AVID BIOSERVICES

WHY: Leads Tustin-based contract drug manufacturer (Nasdaq: CDMO). Company shares increased nearly threefold since named CEO in June 2020. **IN THE NEWS:** Opened \$75M, 53K-square-foot Costa Mesa facility in eight months, designed and built by construction firm CRB. Second phase will be operational in mid-calendar year 2023. **QUOTABLE:** “Considering the challenges of the current supply chain environment, it has been nothing short of remarkable for Avid and CRB to be opening the doors of Avid’s new viral vector process development labs here in June.”





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Institute



DREW HYKESCOO
INARI MEDICAL

WHY: Exec tapped to take over a company on a fast track. Revenue is expected to grow 33% this year to \$369M and another 20% in 2023, according to analysts' consensus estimates. Inari has developed products from the ground up with a specific purpose to remove clots from veins. **IN THE NEWS:** Taking over CEO role from Bill Hoffman on Jan. 1, 2023. Joined Inari in 2017 as chief commercial officer before becoming COO in 2020, leading its day-to-day business operations. **QUOTABLE:** "We have maintained an unwavering commitment to our patients, our people and to big ideas."

**JOHN KILCOYNE**CEO
JENAVALVE

WHY: Helms clinical stage medical device maker that aims to compete in the heart stent industry with Edwards Lifesciences, OC's most valuable publicly traded company. **IN THE NEWS:** Attracting heavyweight executives, directors and investors both locally and from Europe. In August, a \$100M Series C financing was led by current investor Bain Capital Life Sciences as well as new investors like the Qatar Investment Authority. **QUOTABLE:** "JenaValve is committed to becoming the first and only FDA-approved transfemoral transcatheter valve system indicated for symptomatic, severe aortic regurgitation, addressing an estimated multibillion-dollar U.S. market opportunity."

**KIM PHAN**CEO
CARECONNECTMD

WHY: Runs Costa Mesa-based provider of primary care and care coordination services for Medicare participants. **IN THE NEWS:** Company closed a \$25M financing round led by Capital Partners in July. Will use the funds to improve technology platform and double its current headcount of nearly 90 employees within next 18 months. **QUOTABLE:** "Our goal is to partner with physicians to create a special model of care [for] high-risk seniors. We're small but there's a lot of need, a lot of demand."

**SCOTT SHREEVE**CEO
CROSSOVER HEALTH

WHY: Founded in 2010 primary care upstart that serves large, self-funded tech employers that act as their own medical insurance companies. Now has some 430,000 members enrolled. **IN THE NEWS:** Crossover anticipates reaching 1M members by 2024. It's also on its way to grow its 43 health centers to nearly 50 by the end of this year. **NOTABLE:** Won in 2021 a Business Journal Excellence in Entrepreneurship award. **QUOTABLE:** "We take care of the whole person, from healing their sore throat, to addressing their mental health or their chronic disease."

**MIKE MUSSALLEM**CHAIRMAN, CEO
EDWARDS LIFESCIENCES
IRVINE

Runs Orange County's largest medtech employer—almost 5,000 workers here, and 16,000 worldwide. Maker of heart valves and related products, as well as critical care monitoring equipment. Edwards is OC's most valuable public company, sporting a \$50B market cap as of October.



THEN: Appointed to his positions in 2000, when Edwards became an independent, publicly traded company, spun out of **Baxter International**.

NOW: Under his tenure, Edwards has become, in its words, "a global leader in patient-focused medical innovations with the introduction of lifesaving and life-sustaining therapies such as transcatheter aortic valve replacement, new resilient surgical valves designed for active patients and non-invasive hemodynamic monitoring."

FUTURE: 50-acre campus has seen a flurry of new development in past few years, adding several new buildings. A new cardiovascular innovation facility is next in line to be built at campus. Hundreds being hired to staff up the expanded headquarters base.

IN THEIR WORDS: "As we are hopeful the worst of the pandemic is behind us, we're constantly reminded of the importance of our work as we pursue solutions for cardiovascular disease, which continues to be the number one killer in the U.S. and the world, well ahead of cancer and other deadly conditions."

PROTECTING ORANGE COUNTY CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



As the world continues to grapple with the lasting impact of COVID-19, CHOC President and CEO Kimberly Chavalas Cripe remains focused on protecting the health and well-being of children and families. Kim has never wavered on her passionate defense of CHOC's mission and vision. From recruiting some of the brightest minds in healthcare to expanding access, programs and facilities, Kim is directing CHOC towards becoming the leading destination for children's health by providing exceptional and innovative care.

BARRY ARBUCKLECEO
MEMORIALCARE

WHY: Head of Fountain Valley-based health system with collection of area hospitals that bring in close to \$3B in revenue. Built an organization that emphasizes 225 locations for outpatient care, while leaving its four hospitals to concentrate on the critically ill. Has 15,000+ employees. Largest nonprofit healthcare system headquartered in OC.

IN THE NEWS: MemorialCare reported its Fountain Valley facility rose sales by 10% to \$359.3M and its Laguna Hills center climbed 7.9% to \$388.4M for the year ended Sept. 30, 2021.

QUOTABLE: “Unlike most health systems, our community-based outpatient centers operate as high-quality, lower-priced outpatient centers rather than as hospital-based outpatient departments with higher reimbursement.”

**BOBAK AZAMIAN**CEO
TARSUS PHARMACEUTICALS

WHY: Executive of Irvine-based development-stage drugmaker with an initial focus on eyecare. Firm went public in 2020.

IN THE NEWS: In May raised \$75.6M in a secondary offering due to strong investor interest, among the largest fundraising deals in OC for 2022 of either public or private sectors. **NOTABLE:** Developing TP-03, a therapeutic to treat Demodex blepharitis, a type of ocular disease that affects some 25M Americans and as of mid-2022 had no FDA-approved treatment. **QUOTABLE:** “We are one step closer to providing a solution to eyecare professionals and patients that can resolve this disease.”

**KIM MIKES**CEO
HOAG ORTHOPEDIC INSTITUTE

WHY: Heads one of the largest providers of spine and orthopedic care in the nation. Was previously SVP, COO and Chief Nursing Officer at HOI.

IN THE NEWS: Named to current position a year ago; institute reported sales rose 9% to \$141.6M for year ended Sept. 30, 2021. **QUOTABLE:** “Like all healthcare providers in Orange County and the nation, Hoag Orthopedic Institute has faced staffing challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic. Employee engagement and morale are among the highest of priorities for the HOI Leadership team.”

**MARSHALL MONCRIEF**CEO
BE WELL OC

WHY: Heads group of local public health leaders tackling mental health issues in the county. Former regional executive director of the Institute for Mental Health and Wellness at Providence St. Joseph Health.

IN THE NEWS: U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra in March visited the Be Well Campus in Orange. **QUOTABLE:** “We are social creatures. Isolation causes stress and worse. The pain of the pandemic—whether financial, health-related, the loss of a loved one, missed milestones, missed family time—has exacerbated typical life stressors and mental health challenges for people of all ages.”

**RAMIN MOUSAVI**CEO
CATHWORKS

WHY: Leads Irvine-based developer of the FFRangio system, which provides X-ray imaging of the coronary artery branch and applies machine learning to help doctors identify coronary issues in a noninvasive manner. **IN THE NEWS:** Received this year a \$75M investment from Medtronic, one of the world’s largest medical device makers. Agreement provides Medtronic option to buy CathWorks in next five years at a \$585M valuation. **NOTABLE:** Business Journal’s 2022 Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award winner. **QUOTABLE:** “This long-term partnership [with Medtronic] opens up the door for exciting development activities.”

**AUGIE NIETO**CO-FOUNDER
AUGIE’S QUEST

WHY: Fitness industry mogul behind Lifecycle, Life Fitness, Octane Fitness. After stricken with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis in 2005, began campaign to treat and cure ALS, known as Lou Gehrig’s disease. **IN THE NEWS:** Irvine-based Eledon Pharmaceuticals Inc. (Nasdaq: ELDN) in May revealed “positive topline results” from Phase 2a trial demonstrating safety, target engagement and biomarker responses in patients living with ALS. Nieto did not participate in study. **QUOTABLE:** “As someone who has lived with ALS for nearly two decades, it is gratifying to see the positive results of this research. We will not stop until a cure for ALS is a reality.”



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KOLIN OZONIAN

FOUNDER, CEO
GLOBAL PREMIER FERTILITY

WHY: Runs Irvine-based company that builds, buys and manages fertility clinics and adjacent businesses. Launched last year. Was previously VP of M&A at IntegraMed Fertility. **IN THE NEWS:** Company in June closed \$11M in Series C round led by Triangle Capital, which also promised additional \$50M investment in next 12 months.

QUOTABLE: Ties to fertility industry are both personal and professional. “My wife and I were patients going through our own fertility journey while simultaneously I was recruited to head up development and M&A for the largest fertility network in the world.”

**JOHN PHAM**

CO-FOUNDER/ CHIEF
MEDICAL OFFICER
INBRACE

WHY: Entrepreneurial who offers “invisible braces.” Invented in 2012 company’s flagship product, the SmartWire. Irvine-based orthodontics firm has raised over \$175M since its first round of funding in 2017. **IN THE NEWS:** Honored this year at Business Journal’s 21st annual Excellence in Entrepreneurship Awards in May. Planned to have six training facilities, called InStudios, opened by end of 2022. Stepped down from CEO role in March. **QUOTABLE:** “Knowing that the future can be different than today—that’s what entrepreneurship is.”

**EDWARD KIM**

PHYSICIAN-IN-CHIEF
CITY OF HOPE OC

WHY: Renowned oncologist tapped for OC operations in 2020. Exec at one of the largest cancer research and treatment organizations in U.S.

IN THE NEWS: In July, organization opened 190K-square-foot Lennar Foundation Cancer Center in Irvine. Received \$50M donation from real estate developer Lennar. City of Hope OC broke ground on 170K-square-foot cancer hospital next door, slated for 2025 opening. **QUOTABLE:** At the Lennar Foundation, “everyone in this building is working on cancer. It’s the only place in the western United States that’s completely, 100% dedicated to cancer.”

**PAYMAN ROSHAN**

SVP, OC AREA MANAGER
KAISER PERMANENTE

WHY: New top local exec for the fourth-largest hospital system in OC. Has operational responsibility for two major medical centers—Anaheim and Irvine—and 24 medical offices. **IN THE NEWS:** Named to new position in August, filling position of retiring Mark Costa. **QUOTABLE:** Its 600K members implies Kaiser has around 19% market share of Orange County’s 3.16M residents. When asked how he could increase the market share, acknowledged it would be difficult. “Orange County has been one of the most competitive health markets in the country. There are quality competitors.”

**KEVIN MANEMANN**

CALIFORNIA CEO
PROVIDENCE

WHY: Runs nonprofit health system that operates three of OC’s six largest hospitals. **IN THE NEWS:** Promoted to role this year to oversee system’s 17 hospitals in the state. Previously led Providence hospitals in Orange and Los Angeles counties.

Providence California hospitals generated \$9.9B in revenue last year.

NOTABLE: Hiring was part of system’s restructuring due to the “fast-changing healthcare landscape,” company officials said. **QUOTABLE:** “We’re in unprecedented times ... This opportunity to streamline our operating model will allow us to free up resources for the front lines.”

**MICHAEL STAMOS**

DEAN
UCI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

WHY: UCI Health colorectal surgeon and pioneer in minimally invasive surgery, named dean in 2017. **IN THE NEWS:** In February, estate of Audrey Steele Burnand gifted \$57.8M to UCI to fund the creation of a new campuswide center that will pursue research into the causes and treatment of depression. **QUOTABLE:** Of those plans, said “I think it’s an extraordinarily exciting development to have a major investment like this in an area in which UCI has so many traditional strengths. Our objective will be to execute on a full spectrum of research—from basic science to translational studies to clinical trials.”





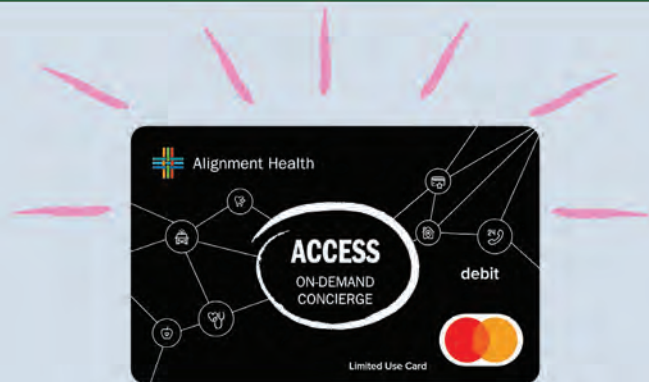
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KAO**
CEO



**DAWN
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President, Markets



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STEPHEN THORNE IV

FOUNDER, CEO
PACIFIC DENTAL SERVICES

WHY: In 1994 founded company, a pioneer in what nowadays is known as a DSO, or dental support organization, which runs the back offices of dental shops nationally. Firm has grown to 12,000 employees and more than \$2B in annual sales. **IN THE NEWS:** Won Business Journal Excellence in Entrepreneurship award this year. **NOTABLE:** Economics degree from UCLA, master's degree in health services administration from Chapman University. **QUOTABLE:** "When we started, there really didn't exist a dental support industry. Now it's about 30% of the dental market in the United States. We are disrupting the industry."

**ERIK WEXLER**

COO
PROVIDENCE

WHY: Oversees operations nonprofit health system that operates three of OC's six largest hospitals. **IN THE NEWS:** Promoted to COO this year, will oversee three new divisions. Previously held role of president of strategy and operations for system's southern regions. Based out of Providence's Irvine offices. **QUOTABLE:** "We believe health is a human right, and that health begins with a focus on wellness through primary care. We invest in the health of our communities by expanding access to care, educating challenged communities about healthy eating, fitness and preventative care, and recognizing and managing social determinants of health."

**SASHA YAMAGUCHI**

GENERAL MANAGER
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA/NEVADA
CIGNA

WHY: Runs healthcare unit that in Orange County alone has 44K+ in HMO and 74K+ in PPO. **IN THE NEWS:** Promoted to current role in April. **NOTABLE:** Last year named to board of MOMS Orange County. **QUOTABLE:** "Cigna was an early leader in telehealth, starting with coverage for 'virtual house calls' in 2007," she says. "For many years, telehealth utilization had been low, but the pandemic changed that. Customers tried telehealth, liked it and then stuck with it. Sixty percent of our behavioral health customers now use telehealth."

**STEPHENIE GODDARD**

CEO
GLIDEWELL LABORATORIES

WHY: Left World Bank Group in 2006 to lead human resources for the world's largest privately held provider of dental lab products. Has since served in other executive positions from business operations, to sales, to software development. Newport Beach-based firm is OC's largest dental firm by local workers with 1,500 people. **IN THE NEWS:** Took helm of company as CEO at the start of this year. Founder Jim Glidewell retained president role. **QUOTABLE:** "I'm obviously humbled by the new title and honored by Jim's faith and trust. While the responsibility is daunting, I'm thrilled by the continued opportunity to positively impact the future of dentistry."

**DAWN MARONEY**

MARKETS PRESIDENT
ALIGNMENT HEALTHCARE

WHY: Oversees consumer experience, growth and expansion, in all areas from sales strategy, product strategy, market expansions and acquisitions, to partnership account management, at Orange's Alignment (Nasdaq: ALHC), which develops customized health plans for elderly or disabled beneficiaries on Medicare. **IN THE NEWS:** Winner of Business Journal's Women in Business Award in October 2021. This April, given expanded role at company, will now oversee new market management and development. **QUOTABLE:** Alignment, valued around \$3B as of September, "has a long heritage of serving seniors from all backgrounds across the country."

**MICHAEL HUNN**

CEO
CALOPTIMA

WHY: Oversees \$3.7B budget to provide publicly funded healthcare coverage for more than 880,000 low-income children, adults, seniors and people with disabilities in Orange County. Previously chairman of the board for the Hospital Association of Southern California and former CEO of Providence Health & Services Southern California region. **IN THE NEWS:** Named to position in March. **QUOTABLE:** "I am amazed, grateful and frankly proud of what Orange County has accomplished compared with other nearby counties in a relatively short period of time. Rather than rely on a state or federally directed vaccine appointment effort, Orange County officials created their own vaccination deployment model to speed efforts."



BJARNE BERGHEIMCEO, PRESIDENT
SONENDO

WHY: Helms Laguna Hills' dental device maker, known for its GentleWave System, which reduces the failure rate of root canals to under 3%. **IN THE NEWS:** On a mission to make root canals less painful, more successful, and much faster. Says its newest device, the CleanFlow, "takes the procedure to the next level" for an even less invasive approach; company could potentially enter other areas of tooth decay, like cavities. **QUOTABLE:** "People don't want to come in multiple times to the dentist. You want to come in, get your root canal done and get out of there. Plain and simple."

**CHUCK KRUGER**CEO
AKESO OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH

WHY: Became CEO last year of Irvine occupational health clinic network that aims to expand its footprint in California to over 30 clinics within the next two years. Company serves over 73K patients and processes over 67K claims every year. **IN THE NEWS:** Acquired Santa Maria-based clinic Industrial Medical Group (IMG), marking the firm's eighth clinic acquisition in California since the start of 2020. **QUOTABLE:** "By assisting the injured worker, employer and payor, we get the injured worker healthy and back to work as soon as possible, while keeping the employer's cost and premiums down."

**THOMAS BURNS**CEO, PRESIDENT
GLAUKOS

WHY: Ophthalmic company focused on devices and drugs to treat glaucoma, corneal disorders and retinal diseases. Pioneered the microinvasive glaucoma surgery (MIGS) marketplace. Its best-known product is the iStent, which is among the smallest medical devices ever made. **IN THE NEWS:** Revealed positive Phase 3 results for new eye treatment called iDoseTR, sending shares up 21% in early September. Full FDA approval predicted by end of 2023. **NOTABLE:** Made long-awaited HQ move from San Clemente to Aliso Viejo in 2022.

**JAMIE ARNOLD**CFO
NEXTGEN HEALTHCARE

WHY: Decades-long finance career at various software firms leading transformations, numerous acquisitions, IPOs. Now at healthcare software company that serves over 155,000 healthcare providers as of May. **IN THE NEWS:** Honored with Lifetime Achievement Award at Business Journal's 15th annual CFO of the Year Awards in May after leading "multi-pronged" transformation of company's product with acquisitions, R&D investment and upheaval of existing revenue model. **QUOTABLE:** "A lifetime achievement isn't about me—it's about what a group of people can do. When they come together, they make great things happen."

2022 **OC50****ROBERT BRAITHWAITE**CEO, PRESIDENT
HOAG MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
PRESBYTERIAN

Oversees Hoag's entire healthcare network, including two hospitals and the Hoag Orthopedic Institute, which in total count some 600 beds. Planning one of the area's larger healthcare development projects at Irvine hospital.



THEN: Hoag had been affiliated with larger **Providence Health** nonprofit health system for nearly a decade.

NOW: Ended affiliation at end of January. Terms of separation weren't disclosed. "We appreciate the relationships we built over the last several years with the Providence and **St. Joseph** teams," Braithwaite said at the time.

FUTURE: Moving ahead on plans for major expansion to Irvine hospital campus, which opened in 2010. Multi-phase project will add several new facilities on the campus, including a Women's Hospital as well as a Digestive Health Hospital, and increase the number of hospital beds there to 391. Received \$50M gift from **Sun Family Foundation**, announced in March. Funds going toward project.

IN THEIR WORDS: "Hoag is elevating healthcare and wellness in Orange County by transforming our delivery of care to an integrated, specialized services-based model," Braithwaite said in March. "We are engaging with our board and the community to shape our Orange County expansion and look forward to announcing details in the coming months."

LBACHIR BENMOHAMEDVP, BOARD MEMBER
TECHIMMUNE

WHY: Lead investigator for TechImmune, which seeks to develop and commercialize a preemptive multi-antigen vaccine that could thwart various types of coronaviruses, including prevention of further COVID-19 outbreaks. **IN THE NEWS:**

Company backer Gavin Herbert Sr., of Allergan fame, estimates cost of \$20M or so just to complete a Phase 1 clinical trial with humans. Big pharmaceutical firm could help complete the work and then take the product to market.

NOTABLE: A UCI professor and director of the Laboratory of Cellular and Molecular Immunology at the school's Gavin Herbert Eye Institute.

**RONNIE ANDREWS**CEO
ONCOCYTE

WHY: Heads Irvine-based cancer diagnostics company, which had 124 employees as of June. **IN THE NEWS:** Moved Oncocyte from Alameda to Irvine in 2020. Oncocyte (NYSE: OCX) ranked No. 3 on the Business Journal's 2022 Best Places to Work list, in the category of Midsized companies.

QUOTABLE: "We are together in the fight against cancer. Each person matters and we celebrate what makes each one of us unique and our individual gifts that we bring to the table. There's probably no one I know that's more than one degree removed from cancer."

**KIMBERLY CHAVALAS CRIPE**CEO, PRESIDENT
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
OF ORANGE COUNTY

WHY: Has served as the CEO and president of Orange County's top children's hospital since 1997. CHOC ranks as one of the top pediatric healthcare systems in the nation. **IN THE NEWS:** Serves as the chair of the national Children's Hospital Association, and is active on a variety of other children's advocacy organizations.

QUOTABLE: "Orange County is a fabulous place to live and raise a family. The weather is amazing, it has a good lifestyle and the population is diverse. It is also very family oriented, which I appreciate since I work in pediatric healthcare."

**MARK COSTA**SENIOR VP, AREA MANAGER FOR OC
KAISER PERMANENTE
MEDICAL CENTERS

WHY: Has had operational responsibility for two major medical centers—Anaheim and Irvine—and 24 medical offices, which provide care for nearly 600,000 Kaiser Permanente Orange County members. **IN THE NEWS:** Scheduled to retire in October 2022, replaced by Payman Roshan. **NOTABLE:**

Costa's retirement after seven years in the top OC role; credited with overseeing the growth of more than 100,000 members.

**NICK MORAN**FOUNDER, CEO
AXIS RESEARCH &
TECHNOLOGIES

WHY: Founded one of Southern California's only bioskills training facilities, in 2014. **IN**

THE NEWS: The Irvine-based company provides a variety of specialized testing, research and skills training services, including the use of cadaver specimens, for medical device companies and hospitals. Surgeons, educators and researchers can use its facilities for didactic training, classroom style learning, broadcast events and more. **QUOTABLE:** "Our labs are sterile, but our labs don't have a sterile feel. We want Axis to be a place where clients can come to enjoy themselves."

**MARCIA MANKER**CEO
MEMORIALCARE ORANGE COAST,
SADDLEBACK MEDICAL CENTERS

WHY: Has held role since 2016, oversees Saddleback in Laguna Hills, Orange Coast in Fountain Valley. They had a combined 470 beds and 6,500 employees as of 2020. **IN THE NEWS:** Has developed prominent outpatient facilities, developed new models of care.

Broke ground on Women's Health Pavilion at Saddleback in September. **NOTABLE:** "We have a plan to transform the future of women's healthcare throughout all stages of their lives, and with the help of people in the community like you, that vision will soon become reality," Manker told a gala event in June.



LAURA RAMOS

CEO
PROVIDENCE ST. JUDE
MEDICAL CENTER

WHY: Took over as chief executive in July 2021; has more than 36 years of healthcare experience. Her healthcare experience began as a bedside nurse at Anaheim Memorial Medical Center. **NOTABLE:** Joined Providence St. Jude in 2009 as manager of the critical care and step-down unit. In 2020, promoted to chief operating officer where her focus included quality, affordability and the patient experience. **QUOTABLE:** “I’m very proud of the culture we’ve been able to cultivate between our caregivers, physicians and the community.”

**JACK SYAGE**

CO-FOUNDER CEO
IMMUNOGENX

WHY: Co-founded Newport Beach-based ImmunogenX, an early-stage developer working on clinical trials of celiac disease, in 2013. Research efforts are focused on therapy, disease management, and food safety for those adhering to a gluten-free diet. **IN THE NEWS:** Said this summer that the completion of its CeliacShield trial would be published in the Gastroenterology Journal. **NOTABLE:** Has published over 130 papers, delivered about 100 invited talks and has over 30 U.S. patents issued or pending. Holds a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Brown University; regarded as a leading expert in mass spectrometry and trace chemical detection.

**JULIE SAWYER-MONTGOMERY**

PRESIDENT
BECKMAN COULTER
DIAGNOSTICS

WHY: Hired as president of one of OC’s largest medical device firms in 2020, after leading company’s developed markets, commercial organization, business units and global marketing. Honored by Fierce Pharma as one of the 22 most influential people in the fight against COVID-19. **IN THE NEWS:** Over 70% of the company’s workforce adopted hybrid or completely remote work models since the start of the pandemic, company said in February. **QUOTABLE:** “The pandemic rewired the way top workplaces think about where work is done.”





Francis Caldwell (1911 - 1996)
"Beach Car" 1937
Oil on board
The Hilbert Collection

HOSPITALITY / FOOD

NED ALGEO

CFO
XPERIENCE RESTAURANT GROUP

WHY: Finance exec for leading operator “of casual, polished casual, and fine dining brands.” XRG restaurants include Acapulco, Chevys Fresh Mex, El Torito, El Torito Grill, Las Brisas, among others. **IN THE NEWS:** Former CFO of Mobilitie joined restaurant firm in 2018. Named Outstanding CFO of a Private Company in May at Business Journal event for negotiating rent relief, forging new banking relationships and seeking out government aid while cutting costs during pandemic. Ensured all benefits were paid for furloughed employees. **QUOTABLE:** “There are always ways to become more profitable with restaurants.”



KEVIN ELLIOTT

CEO, DIRECTOR
CODE FOUR, PACIFIC AIRSHOW

WHY: Bought world’s largest airshow by attendance to add to Huntington Beach-based entertainment company’s portfolio in 2018. Brought in around 3M people to Surf City in 2021 and 2022. **IN THE NEWS:** Expanded airshow to Queensland, Australia to debut on the Gold Coast in 2023. Will mark firm’s international debut and first step to becoming “a global spectacle.” Event generated north of \$100M for the OC economy in 2019. **QUOTABLE:** “It’s the future of entertainment. It’s more than just music, more than sports—it’s an integrated family lifestyle event.”



TONY ESNAULT

CO-FOUNDER
KNIFE PLEAT

WHY: Along with partner Yassmin Sarmadi, opened award-winning restaurant Knife Pleat that in 2021 won a 1-Star Michelin review, the only such restaurant to do so in the 55-year history of the South Coast Plaza. A repeat Michelin recipient recognition in 2022. **THE NEWS:** Won Business Journal 2022 Chef of the Year award in March. **QUOTABLE:** “Passion. This is a business of passion. You need to have the passion. Without it, you cannot do this. No matter what you do, you have to have passion.”



**LAUREN ASSEO,
THOMAS ASSEO**

FOUNDERS, CO-CEOS
FRESH N LEAN
ANAHEIM

Ready-to-eat meal delivery service has been one of Orange County’s breakout businesses the past few years.

THEN: Privately held company, founded in 2010 by Lauren Asseo when she was 18 years old, saw revenue surge to about \$119M last year, up 35% from roughly \$88M in 2020, and nearly triple the \$40M it earned in 2019. The company ranked No. 4 among the fastest-growing private large businesses in OC this year, based on two-year revenue growth, according to Business Journal data.

NOW: Asseo siblings tell the Business Journal they forecast a nearly 40% bump in business this year, with projections for \$170M in revenue for 2022. Projected growth is due to a sizeable new production facility scheduled to come online this summer in Las Vegas, which will more than double the company’s headcount to over 1,000, and eventually allow for a quadrupling in output.

FUTURE: Fresh N Lean has its eyes on expanding beyond the western U.S., with an aim to become a household name across the country. It’s a “very lofty” goal, but achievable, according to Thomas Asseo. “We’re in a space that’s objectively underpenetrated and the players in it are spending lots of marketing dollars and giving lots and lots of discounts to a narrow audience,” he said of the company’s competitors.

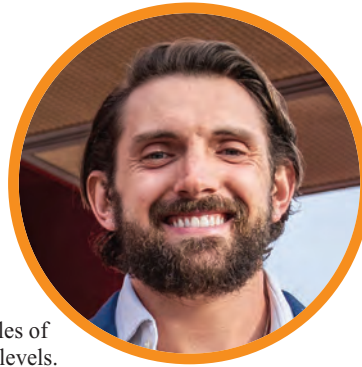
IN THEIR WORDS: When asked if the company is currently hiring, Lauren Asseo said, “always. We’re always trying to find good people for our creative and manufacturing teams.”



J.R. GALARDI

CEO, PRESIDENT
GALARDI GROUP

WHY: Wienerschnitzel chief counts more than 20 years of experience at the famed family-owned hot dog restaurant chain. **IN THE NEWS:** Named to current role at Galardi Group in February. **NOTABLE:** As of March, chain counted nearly 350 locations; closed out 2021 with sales of about \$385M, up 28% from 2020 levels. Galardi’s hot dog career began when he was 13, at a summer job as a janitor at the Wienerschnitzel location off Jamboree Road, near the Irvine and Newport Beach city line. The next two decades saw him move up through the ranks.



ANDREW KIMCEO, PRESIDENT
WABA GRILL

WHY: Spearheading growth of restaurant franchise specializing in healthy rice bowls and plates. Relocated and expanded HQ from City of Industry to Anaheim Hills this year. Entered Northern California market through 20-unit deal. **IN THE NEWS:** On track for third year of record annual sales.

QUOTABLE: “We’ve been in business for 15 years and we’re enjoying the highest sales per store we’ve ever enjoyed, and we don’t see any real obstacles for us to be able to replicate the kind of growth that we’ve had in Southern California in other parts of the United States.”

**JAY KIM**CEO
REBORN COFFEE

WHY: Has led growth of Breabased coffee roaster and retailer known for award-winning cold brew since inception in 2014. Counted seven locations at the end of 2021, including three in Orange County, with plans to operate more than 40 by early 2023, with new locations in Huntington Beach and Irvine. **IN THE NEWS:** Launched IPO in August with about 1.4M shares offered at \$5 for a total of \$7.2M. Shares are listed under the ticker symbol “REBN” on the Nasdaq Capital Market. **NOTABLE:** Sold Wellspring Industry, which includes Tutti Frutti and O’My Buns brand, in 2017 to focus on Reborn, which counts 75 employees.

**ED LEE**CO-FOUNDER
WAHOO’S FISH TACO

WHY: Along with brothers Wing Lam and Mingo Lee created Wahoo’s, one of OC’s better-known restaurant chains. Has other food ventures. Alliance between Lee and Chef John Park, forged five years ago, created one of Orange County’s most beloved comfort food restaurants: Toast Kitchen & Bakery in Costa Mesa. **IN THE NEWS:** Named Business Journal’s Restaurateur of the Year in 2022. **NOTABLE:** Second Toast opening in Tustin. **QUOTABLE:** “We have been very fortunate to have great people on staff who want to be with the company and see it grow.”

**JASON MCCLAIN**FOUNDER
MCCLAIN CELLARS

WHY: Independent winery in Laguna Beach launched in 2016 as a pop-up speakeasy in founders’ backyard. Wine harvested from vineyards owned in Central California’s Santa Ynez Valley. **IN THE NEWS:** 2021 Family-Owned Business Award winner added two new OC locations and one Temecula spot, doubling firm’s portfolio. Company’s first wine lounge and full restaurant will be in The Village in Coto de Caza. **FUN FACT:** Each bottle assigned meaningful name—like “Sofia’s Star,” a Syrah for wife Sofia’s mother or “Kiss of Life,” a grenache blanc for Sade song that played when couple had first kiss.

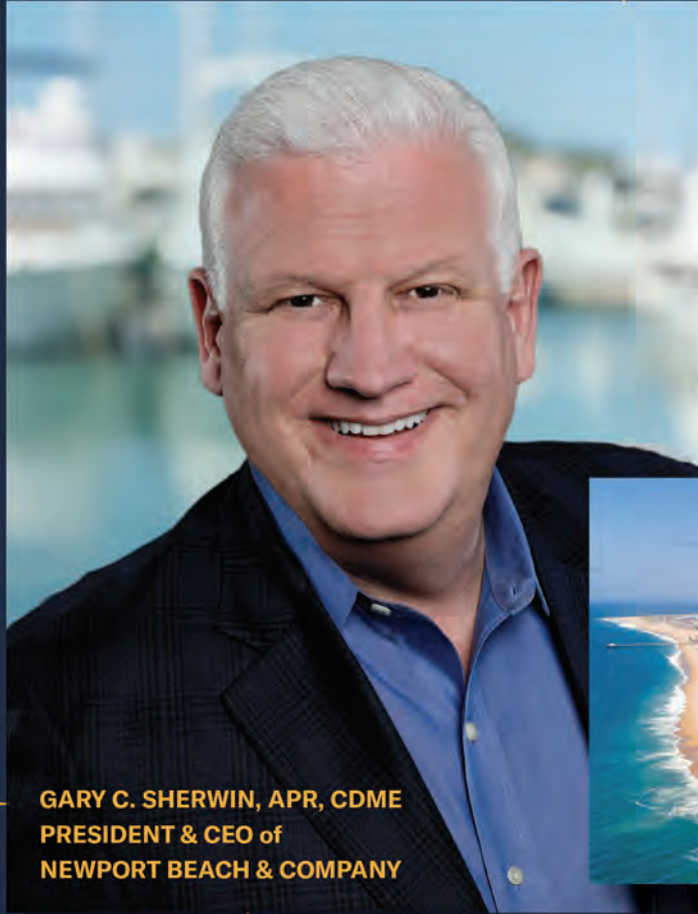
**SUSAN TAYLOR**CEO, PRESIDENT
JUICE IT UP
NEWPORT BEACH

Smoothie, bowl and juice chain making big strides. Counts 83 locations and growing.

THEN: Taylor joined Juice it Up in 2019 as its vice president of operations, after serving Atlanta-based **Jamba Juice** for 14 years as senior director of franchise operations. A year later she was promoted to the president and CEO role at the Newport Beach restaurant operator, which is backed by same owners as **Mountain Mike’s Pizza**. **NOW:** The company posted a record \$41M in sales last year, thanks in large part to expanding digital sales and a well-received mobile app. Along with tracking its loyalty members, which increased 57%, digital orders in 2021 grew by more than 70% to account for 19% of all orders—nearly twice the rate in 2020. Firm ranked No. 28 among OC-based restaurant chains this year by systemwide sales. **FUTURE:** Going through a store design refresh, which debuted at its flagship location along 17th Street in Costa Mesa in 2020. “We are continuing to make the brand fresh, so it doesn’t look like a 27-year-old brand,” Taylor said. The refresh includes a menu redesign, following a customer shift towards specialty smoothies, which saw 45% year-over-year growth, and an increased demand for açai bowls that jumped 38% in units sold. The chain has plans to introduce its first drive-thru this year.



CONGRATULATIONS TO
GARY SHERWIN
ON HIS RECOGNITION IN THE
ORANGE COUNTY BUSINESS JOURNAL'S OC500



GARY C. SHERWIN, APR, CDME
PRESIDENT & CEO of
NEWPORT BEACH & COMPANY



**NEWPORT
BEACH
& COMPANY**

NewportBeachandCo.com

Newport Beach & Company cultivates a multi-million dollar tourism industry that benefits all corners of the county. A top economic driver, discerning Newport Beach visitors spend millions of dollars in the region that keeps local businesses thriving, creates jobs, bolsters the economy and generates funds for public services that improves the quality of life for the community.

JOHN PARK

CO-FOUNDER
TABLEAU KITCHEN & BAR
TOAST KITCHEN & BAKERY

WHY: Co-creator of one of Orange County's most beloved comfort food restaurants: Toast Kitchen & Bakery in Costa Mesa. **IN THE NEWS:** Ed Lee and Park opened Tableau Kitchen & Bar in South Coast Plaza in January. A second Toast Kitchen being added in Tustin, near the city's historic blimp hangars. **NOTABLE:** Named Business Journal's Restaurateur of the Year for 2022. Restaurants give back to the community and then some, from donating a percent of proceeds to charity to hiring homeless individuals, vets, and others in need of a job. **QUOTABLE:** Says Lee of his business partner: "I am surprised John has not won some sort of Humanitarian of the Year award. He deserves it."

**ALAN FUERSTMAN**

FOUNDER, CHAIRMAN, CEO
MONTAGE INTERNATIONAL

WHY: Founded luxury hotel collection Montage International in 2002. It includes Montage Hotels & Resorts, Pendry Hotels & Resorts, Montage Residences, Pendry Residences, and management of some of the country's premiere golf courses and clubs. **IN THE NEWS:** In February announced with Eagle Four Partners plans to transform the then-shuttered Fashion Island Hotel in Newport Center into the Pendry Newport Beach. **NOTABLE:** Father of Michael Fuerstman, the co-founder and creative director of Pendry; Michael joined Montage in 2009. Recognized at Business Journal's 2022 Family-Owned Business Awards.

**LARRY ROBERTS**

CEO
EL POLLO LOCO

WHY: In March, named CEO of Costa Mesa-based chain, the fifth-largest based in OC with \$973M in sales in 2021. **IN THE NEWS:** First big move was to introduce beef to the menu, a notable change for a fast-food chain famous for its chicken. **NOTABLE:** Was previously COO and CFO of KFC. **QUOTABLE:** The company's prior focus "got a little bit away from the food and consumers using the food and got more into, quite frankly, naked people with nachos and those type of things."

**ANTHONY GEISLER**

FOUNDER, CEO
XPONENTIAL FITNESS
IRVINE

The muscle behind a buff boutique fitness growth machine. Counts portfolio of 10 cycling, rowing, stretching and other increasingly popular exercise brands, including **Club Pilates**, **CycleBar**, **StretchLab**, **Row House**. Via aggressive franchising strategy and ability to pivot to digital fitness offerings during pandemic, brought its total studio count to 2,229 at end of first quarter.



THEN: Founded in 2017, went public last year and was among the few local IPOs of 2021 where a company's stock price has remained higher than IPO price.

NOW: The franchiser added 99 locations in the first quarter. Total studio licenses sold increased to 4,684 globally.

"With a solid start to the new year, we continue to solidify our position as the largest and most differentiated global franchiser in the boutique fitness industry. We remain on track to meet our guidance for 2022," Geisler said in May.

Secondary offering completed in April, company's valuation now in the \$1B range.

FUTURE: The company forecasts to open at least 500 units during this year and to hit revenue between \$201M and \$211M for the full year. Additional acquisitions are possible.

YASSMIN SARMADI

CO-FOUNDER
KNIFE PLEAT

WHY: Along with partner Tony Esnault opened in 2019 award-winning restaurant Knife Pleat that has earned a 1-Star Michelin review, the only such restaurant to do so in the 55-year history of the South Coast Plaza. Power couple in industry; prior Los Angeles restaurants, Church & State and Spring, were named to the late Jonathan Gold's "101 Best Restaurants" in the Los Angeles Times. **IN THE NEWS:** Second Michelin recognition for Knife Pleat in 2022. **QUOTABLE:** OC diners "are far more sophisticated, they appreciate and understand what we are doing here. That's very gratifying. We put a lot every day into what we do to make this theater come alive, so it's nice when you have an audience that gets it. We love being here."





OUT OF OFFICE

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MICHAEL FUERSTMANCO-FOUNDER, CREATIVE DIRECTOR
PENDRY HOTELS & RESORTS

WHY: In 2009 joined Montage International, the brand founded by his father, Alan Fuerstman; director of acquisitions and development. **IN THE NEWS:** The father-son duo has worked together to grow the luxury resort chain's portfolio. New addition coming to Newport Center at former Fashion Island Hotel. **NOTABLE:** A few years ago, the younger Fuerstman saw the opportunity for branching into a newer luxury clientele. Pendry opened its first property in 2017 and is part of the Montage group. Pendry is now a growing luxury boutique hotel line.

**CHARLENE REYNOLDS**AIRPORT DIRECTOR
JOHN WAYNE AIRPORT

WHY: Runs Orange County's main airport, which serves well over 10M annually. Previously CCO of Houston Airport System. **IN THE NEWS:** Appointed to director by OC's Board of Supervisors in May this year. Airline passenger traffic at John Wayne shows signs of pandemic recovery—surpassed pre-pandemic levels in May by 6.5% over the same month in 2019. **NOTABLE:** Introduced Fly Friendly program in August to advocate for noise and pollution reduction in general aviation flights.

**ROSS PANGILINAN**CHEF, OWNER
MIX MIX KITCHEN BAR

WHY: Runs Michelin-recognized Mix Mix Kitchen & Bar in Santa Ana, Terrace by Mix Mix at South Coast Plaza, and Remix Kitchen Bar in Long Beach. Was the 2019 Business Journal Chef of the Year. **IN THE NEWS:** Opened Populaire Modern Bistro in South Coast Plaza with his friend and colleague, Chef Nicholas Weber; took over the Lawry's Carvery spot near the Macy's Men's Store. Running Verdant café at new OC Museum of Art. **QUOTABLE:** "South Coast Plaza is a great place to have a restaurant."

**JESSE MERRILL**CO-FOUNDER, CEO
GOOD CULTURE
IRVINE

Organic dairy brand that's leading the comeback of cottage cheese. Company offers a variety of multi-serve and single-serve cottage cheese products, as well as sour cream. While it operates out of a small office space in Irvine's Eureka Building, its products line the shelves of over 10,000 stores, including **Whole Foods** and **Target**.



THEN: Founded in 2015. The idea for Good Culture was born after Merrill was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis, an inflammatory disease with no known cure. This prompted a complete overhaul of his diet; for three years, he ate nothing but fermented foods, organic meat, fruits and vegetables—and cultured dairy.

NOW: Firm has experienced "explosive growth," with a 79% compounded annual growth rate, and \$70M in sales for 2021, officials say. That growth stands as an anomaly, as the country's cottage cheese industry has seen declining sales as customers have gravitated more toward Greek yogurt offerings in recent years, according to industry reports. In February, the company secured \$64M in a Series C funding round led by Colorado-based investment firm **Manna Tree** and Pennsylvania-based food investor **Semcap Food & Nutrition**. **FUTURE:** On track to reach \$100M this year, according to Merrill. "Good Culture is the biggest contributor to cottage cheese growth in the U.S.," Merrill told the Business Journal. "We expect a growth rate well into the double digits for the upcoming years."

IN THEIR WORDS: "Cottage cheese was an overlooked superfood with more protein and less sugar than yogurt, but it lacked relevant innovation and brand appeal," Merrill said.

**SHAWN THOMPSON**CEO
PIEOLGY PIZZERIA

WHY: Putting the Tustin-based pizza chain back on the expansion path. Pieology ranks No. 16 on the Business Journal's most recent list of restaurant chains with an estimated \$125M in systemwide sales in 2021. **IN THE NEWS:** Hiring announced in January. The fast-casual pizza chain, which allows guests to custom-order their pizzas, reported operating about 130 restaurants including five in Orange County as of February. **QUOTABLE:** "Everybody eats pizza. That's why it's one of the largest food markets" in the U.S.



BRIAN NICCOL

CHAIRMAN, CEO
CHIPOTLE MEXICAN GRILL
NEWPORT BEACH



Heads OC's No. 2 restaurant chain, with over \$7.5B in systemwide sales last year, and over 3,000 locations.

A longtime marketer who learned the retail business at **Proctor & Gamble Co.**, and the restaurant business at **Taco Bell**.

THEN: Joined Chipotle in 2018, after the burrito chain's sales and stock price had taken a hit after a series of food-safety scares. Immediately moved headquarters from Denver to OC.

NOW: Stocks up nearly fivefold since his hiring; has overseen one of industry's largest turnarounds in recent years. Chipotle now OC's second-most valuable company with market cap near \$40B.

FUTURE: Aims to build restaurant count to 7,000. Launching a new \$50M venture fund, **Cultivate Next**, which will provide early stage investments to companies that align with Chipotle's mission, it says. Funds will support Series B stage companies that can help accelerate Chipotle's strategic priorities, which include improving operations, increasing the use of technology, advancing its **Food With Integrity** mission and increasing convenience for consumers, it says.

IN THEIR WORDS: Said during recent earnings call that "you will likely see us increasing technology enablement for our restaurants and support centers to amplify innovation, enhance the customer experience and optimize efficiencies to improve operational execution."



BRIAN GIGLIA

CEO
SUNSTONE HOTEL
INVESTORS
IRVINE



Heads hotel-focused REIT that's reinvented itself as owner of high-end resort properties, which it dubs "long-term relevant real estate." Named to top spot in March after serving as CFO. Sunstone has spent nearly \$700 million since April 2021 on a trio of high-profile purchases while disposing of properties in other markets like Chicago.

THEN: Sunstone went nearly four years without an acquisition, slimming down portfolio to less than 20 holdings, about half what it owned at the end of 2014.

NOW: In late 2021, paid nearly \$175 million to buy a recently built **Four Seasons** in Napa Valley, an 85-room resort that opened a month ago near Mount Saint Helena. That came a few months after spending \$265 million for another recently built hotel in Northern California, the 130-room **Montage Healdsburg** in Sonoma County. In May, announced plans to buy the **Confidante Miami Beach** hotel, a 239-unit property on 1.5 acres along a busy stretch of upscale hotels along the water in Miami Beach. Sunstone is paying \$232 million, or \$684,000 per key, for the hotel. Will spend another \$60 million on upgrades and rebranding it to the **Andaz Miami Beach**, a **Hyatt** brand.

FUTURE: "Upon completion of the planned renovation, we will have transformed the earnings potential of the hotel and we will own a premier Miami Beach luxury resort at a highly attractive all-in basis in a resilient, supply-constrained market that has continued to demonstrate meaningful rate growth," Giglia said.



**KEVIN MARTIN,
TODD PICKUP,
JOE MOODY,
RICK WEINER,
KORY KRAMER**

PARTNERS
EAGLE FOUR PARTNERS
NEWPORT BEACH



Locally based private equity group of investors who've become the largest owner of hotel and resort properties in Newport Beach. Founded in 1996, firm has participated as the lead equity investor in more than \$2 billion of real estate transactions.

THEN: Built collection of Newport Beach assets including **Balboa Bay Resort & Club** and **Newport Beach Country Club**, as well as **Paséa Hotel & Spa** in Huntington Beach.

NOW: Newport Center focus. Team was part of the largest hotel sale in the state in 2020 when it and other investors paid \$216 million for the **Newport Beach Marriott Hotel & Spa** near Fashion Island. That spot is being revamped as a new Marriott-branded project called **Vea Newport Beach**. In February, completed purchase of another nearby hotel property, the currently shuttered **Fashion Island Hotel**. Paid **Irvine Co.** \$143.6 million for the 295-room hotel.

FUTURE: Fashion Island Hotel to open next

year as a **Pendry Hotels & Resorts**, a growing luxury boutique hotel line from Irvine-based **Montage International**, following spots in West Hollywood and San Diego. **Ritz-Carlton** residences being added to Vea.

IN THEIR WORDS: "We are dedicated to continuously investing in Newport Beach and elevating the hospitality experience of our neighbors and guests," said **Kevin Martin**, following the purchase of the future Pendry.

DESSI SARABOSING

CO-FOUNDER
ZESTY OLIVES
MEDITERRANEAN GRILL

WHY: Runs Greek fast-casual restaurant founded last year with brother, Boris Mitrev. Opened locations in Lake Forest and Irvine last year. Earned Rising Star Award at Business Journal’s CFO of the Year event in 2017 for previous work at Newport Beach wireless tower base operator Mobilitie. **IN THE NEWS:** Received Family-Owned Business Awards in June, in the Small Business category. Zesty generated \$500K in revenue in 2021, expects \$3M this year. Sixty more locations to open over next five years. **NOTABLE:** Company uses family’s own secret recipe for its \$6.95 baklava.



MARIO MAROVIC

RESTAURATEUR
MICKEY’S IRISH PUB &
HIGH HORSE SALOON

WHY: Business Journal’s Restaurateur of the Year in 2021 with sizeable local restaurant and bar portfolio. Portfolio stretches from Fullerton to Newport Beach. Croatian Marovic got his start with family’s OC bar. **IN THE NEWS:** Added two more restaurants in downtown Fullerton to culinary empire: Mickey’s Irish Pub and High Horse Saloon on North Harbor Boulevard in May. **QUOTABLE:** Wants to “put a shot of adrenalin and add some confidence for people and reinvent downtown Fullerton. Downtown is the heartbeat of Fullerton, it’s always been a meeting place, it has that community-focused feel to it.”



JULIE FELSS MASINO

PRESIDENT
TACO BELL INTERNATIONAL

WHY: Succeeded former Taco Bell International head Liz Williams in 2020. Felss Masino ran much of the company’s operations following former president Brian Niccol’s departure to Chipotle in 2018 until the hiring of Mark King in mid-2019. **IN THE NEWS:** Company earlier this year hit the 100-restaurant mark in Spain, making it the chain’s largest market outside the U.S.; more than 130 spots in OC. **QUOTABLE:** “Our international franchise partners and team members in Taco Bell restaurants around the world fuel the fire of our brand and are a huge testament to what we are building together.”



PAUL NADEL

CEO
A SHOC ENERGY
NEWPORT BEACH

Beverage firm making the next generation of energy drinks that are “charged by nature,” and which count numerous athletes as investors. Its products are currently available in about 80,000 retail locations across the U.S., including 7-Eleven, Walmart and Target.



THEN: Co-founded in 2019 by Scot De Lorme, who was vice president of innovation at Corona-based Monster Beverage Corp., which is currently valued around \$45B and Lance Collins, who has founded several beverage brands, including BodyArmor, which was bought out a year ago by Coca-Cola Co. for \$5.6B.

NOW: In April, firm raised \$29M in a Series B funding round led by existing investors and prominent athletes. The company originally sought \$18M, which it increased because of demand, Nadel said. “It’s the product and the market—it was much easier than I anticipated,” Nadel told the Business Journal. Keurig Dr Pepper, as well as Collins and 7-Ventures LLC, the venture arm of the 7-Eleven Inc. convenience store chain, made the Series A investment in A Shoc in 2019. Keurig Dr Pepper and 7-Ventures also participated in the latest \$29M Series B.

FUTURE: The company has a master distribution agreement with Keurig Dr Pepper, giving it a national advantage when it started, Nadel says. Keurig also has an option to buy A Shoc. While not yet profitable, the company is growing ahead of competitors at this stage in their development, Nadel said. The company currently has 70 employees with plans to expand to as many as 90 this year. It contracts out the manufacturer of its drinks to facilities around the country.

IN THEIR WORDS: A Shoc markets its product as free of sugar and preservatives. “We thought it was a good time to come in with a 2020 version” of Monster and Red Bull.

WENDY HAASE

PRESIDENT
TRAVEL SANTA ANA

WHY: Runs Santa Ana’s destination marketing organization, OC’s newest DMO. Worked at Destination Irvine for 11 years; previously represented Huntington Beach. **IN THE NEWS:** New DMO established in June this year, in downtown Santa Ana, to showcase city’s local pride and culture to visitors. **QUOTABLE:** At 27 square miles and a population of over 300K, Santa Ana is OC’s second-largest city behind Anaheim. “A city of that size to not have its own DMO is unheard of.”



DEBBIE SNAVELY

GENERAL MANAGER
VEA NEWPORT BEACH

WHY: Oversaw rebrand of former Newport Beach Marriott Hotel & Spa after \$216M sale to Eagle Four Partners and others. High-end, 400-room property is OC's 20th largest. **IN THE NEWS:** Reopened in June with new guest rooms, three restaurant and bar concepts, spa and fitness center and resort-style pool. **NOTABLE:** 22-story Ritz-Carlton condominium tower totaling 159 for-sale residences set to replace portion of the hotel in project led by Lyon Living.



KERRY SONG

FOUNDER, CEO
ABBOT'S BUTCHER

WHY: Founded plant-based meat alternative brand of Costa Mesa in 2017 to provide more access to consumers. **IN THE NEWS:** Completed its largest retail expansion to date as of May—vegan chorizo alternative now available at 1,215 Target locations nationwide, and entire product line expanded into over 150 The Fresh Market locations and 73 Fresh Thyme grocery stores. Reported 700% sales growth from prior year and expects to triple growth by end of year. **NOTABLE:** Actors Owen Wilson and Woody Harrelson participated in company's Series A round in 2021.



GEORGE MUNZ

GENERAL MANAGER
WALDORF ASTORIA
MONARCH BEACH

WHY: Oversees second California location for luxury hotel brand in Dana Point, previously the Monarch Beach Resort before nearly \$500M sale and subsequent rebranding. Three-decade hospitality career includes decade-long leadership stint at the Ritz-Carlton Laguna Niguel. **IN THE NEWS:** Implemented extensive, \$20M revamp of 400 hotel rooms and other spaces. **NOTABLE:** 800K-square-foot property counts 550 employees and 110K square feet of meeting space, the fourth most of all OC hotels.



GARY SHERWIN

CEO, PRESIDENT
NEWPORT BEACH & CO.

WHY: Runs Newport Beach's destination marketing agency. **IN THE NEWS:** Visit Newport Beach facilitated the city's debut in the 94th Academy Awards post-show on March 27, highlighting Newport Beach' history of Hollywood visitors in ABC's "On The Red Carpet After the Awards." **QUOTABLE:** Believes newest additions to Newport Beach hotel scene, Vea and Pendry, will revive travel demand in city and raise the bar for modern luxury. The Resort at Pelican Hill, which opened in 2008, "forced everyone to step up their game. Now luxury is changing," he said.



**STEVE SCHULZE,
ALEXIS SCHULZE**

CO-FOUNDERS
NÉKTER JUICE BAR
SANTA ANA

Next-generation juice concept, known for its vegan juices, smoothies, açai bowls, and other healthy snacks, that aims to be the Starbucks of their category. Now in the midst of an aggressive growth strategy through franchising.

THEN: Founded in 2010, the company ended 2021 with 170 locations across the U.S., with plans to open an additional 55 spots in 2022. Reported having signed another 150 agreements with new and existing franchise partners in 2021. Steve Schulze noted a "seismic shift" in the way people viewed health during the pandemic.

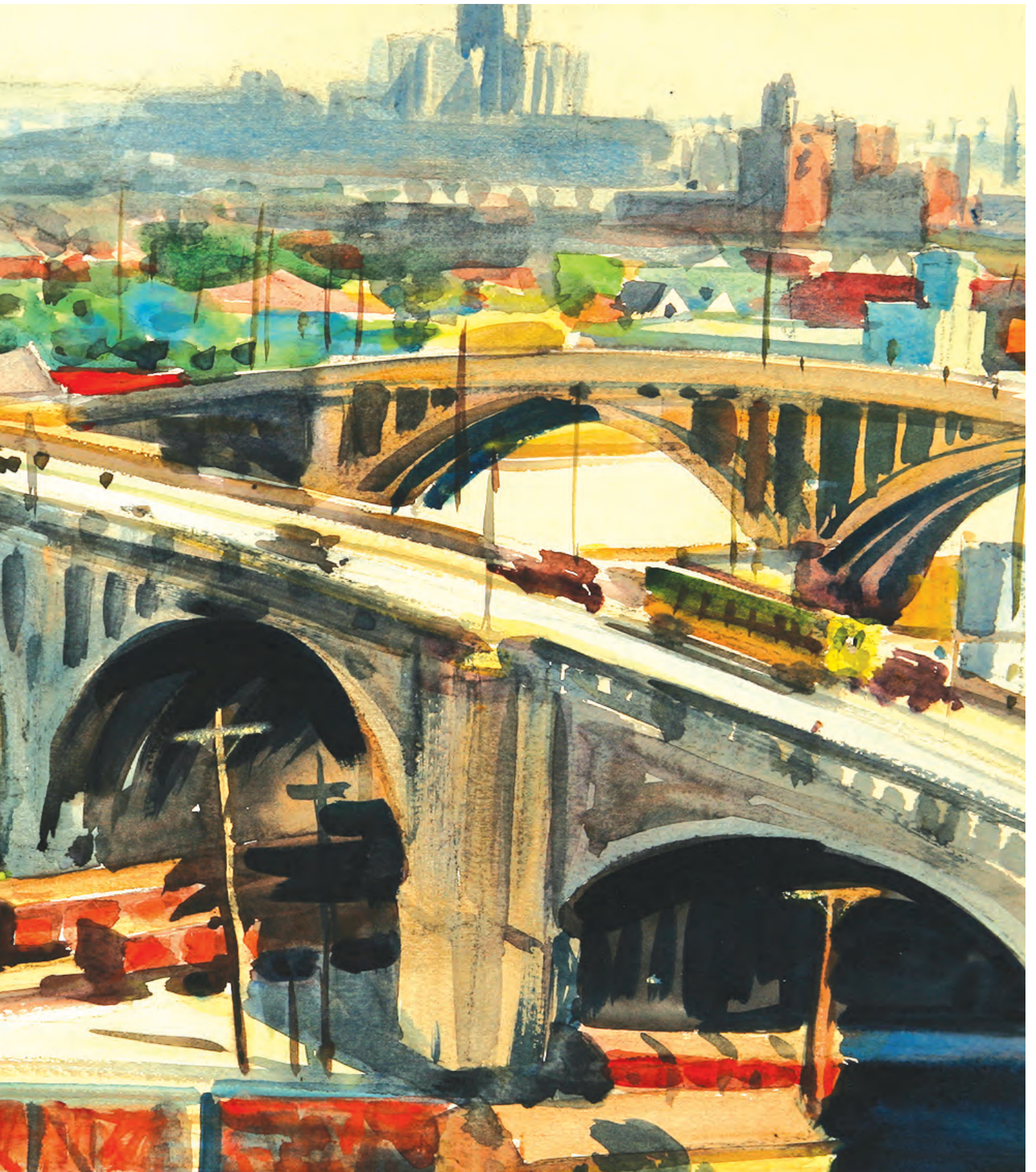
NOW: The company reported a 28% increase in 2021 revenue compared to a year ago. "We maintained the strategy of controlled growth," Steve Schulze said of the company's expansion plans.

FUTURE: New additions to locations include window pickup and curbside storefronts. More food items will be slowly introduced as the company starts to implement ideas from 2021 brand data. These offerings highlight Schulze's plan to ultimately drop "Juice Bar" from the company name and move forward with simply "Nécter." **IN THEIR WORDS:** "I don't think that idea of being healthy is ever going to go out of style," Steve Schulze said. "I don't think anyone makes New Year's resolutions about getting less healthy and says 'Nope, I've ate too many fruits and vegetables.' So, the wind's at our back."





Emil Kosa Jr. (1903-1968)
"Los Angeles Train Station Yard," 1940's
Watercolor
The Hilbert Collection



INNOVATION

JOSEPH ZAKIFOUNDER, CEO
LOKO AI

WHY: Oscar-winning Hollywood video editor who was appalled by Las Vegas Route 91 concert shooting in 2017. Started his own company, now based in Irvine, to combine newest in video and artificial intelligence to provide better security for corporations **IN THE NEWS:** In July, signed first West Coast customer, Yusen Terminals LLC at Port of Los Angeles. **QUOTABLE:** “There’s no blueprint to build a company like this. Once I figured out no one else has thought about this, I was willing to take the risk. If you get it right, you get everything right.”

**KENNETH CHANG**FOUNDER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
UCI DIGESTIVE HEALTH INSTITUTE

WHY: Expert on stomachs who started the UCI Digestive Health Institute in 2017. Has conducted a number of clinical trials, published more than 470 papers and book chapters, holds five patents. **RECENT:** Honored with Innovator of the Year Award by the Business Journal in September 2021. U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2020 approved tool developed by Chang called Endoscopic Ultrasound Guided Portal Pressure Gradient, used to assess liver health, diagnose disease’s advance. **NOTABLE:** CV is 97 pages long. **QUOTABLE:** Chang’s mission in OC is “innovation through compassion.”

**WALTER CRUTTENDEN**CHAIRMAN
ACORNS

WHY: Founded investment app with son Jeff that’s approaching a \$1B valuation. Started firm that today is Roth Capital, OC’s largest investment bank. Founder, CEO of investment banking arm E-Trade. **IN THE NEWS:** Closed \$20M Series A funding round for Ant Money, Newport Beach fintech platform founded by Cruttenden and Consumer Brands founder Michael Gleason in 2020. **QUOTABLE:** “Building an investment account early in life can help people on the road to financial success, but many people don’t start because they lack the knowledge or funds. My hope is that Ant Money can foster new growing accounts and provide increased financial security for millions.”

**OSMAN KHAWAR**CEO
DIALITY

WHY: Heads company developing a hemodialysis machine that can be used in multiple care settings, including nursing homes, hospitals, dialysis centers, and at home. Khawar, a nephrologist, has been CEO since May 2018. M.D. degree from University of Glasgow. **IN THE NEWS:** In March, the Irvine-based company announced securing \$24M in Series B2 funding from private investors. **QUOTABLE:** “To accommodate cost-effective delivery in all care settings, hemodialysis machines need to be user friendly for non-specialty nurses, patients and care partners.”



2022 OC50

CHAD LEFTERISCEO
UCI HEALTH
IRVINE

Runs OC’s only academic medical center and all clinical and patient-serving operations. Also heads the overall UCI Health system, which includes Orange’s **UCI Medical Center**, the area’s largest hospital, and more than a dozen outpatient research and specialty care centers throughout Orange County and portions of Riverside County. Overseeing one of larger healthcare construction projects in the area.



THEN: UCI Medical Center retained its No. 1 position among OC’s largest hospitals this year, with a 14% growth to \$1.4B in net patient revenue. “Last year, we delayed care and we said don’t come to hospitals,” Lefteris told the Business Journal. “This year, we’re seeing a lot of catch-up between the surges. We are busier than ever. There’s this pent-up demand.”

NOW: Construction underway for \$1.3B medical complex on land the school owns at the corner of Jamboree Road and Birch Street. Dubbed the **UCI Medical Center-Irvine**, project to include a 144-bed acute care hospital with an emergency room, an outpatient Center for Advanced Care for primary and specialty health services, a Center for Children’s Health, and the Chao Family Comprehensive Cancer Center and Ambulatory Care building.

FUTURE: All facilities, spanning about 800,000 square feet combined, are expected to receive patients in 2025.

IN THEIR WORDS: The new center in Irvine “will be a full-service academic medical complex, bringing a broad range of the most advanced healthcare services to coastal and southern Orange County, including access to the hundreds of clinical trials underway at UCI Health.”



Continues to strengthen its presence in the U.S. and in California

MicroPort® is advancing its efforts to open a new **100,000 + square feet headquarters in the core medical company zone in Irvine, CA.** Once completed, the facility will serve as headquarters for the Americas and Miracle Point® Southern California Innovation Center and Intelligent Manufacturing Base. Through Miracle Point®, MicroPort® expects to develop more world-class medical products at a faster pace, thus benefiting patients across the world.

As announced in November 2021, MicroPort® aims to invest \$200 million dollars in Southern California in the next five years, and create around 500 high-quality jobs to further support the local communities.

About MicroPort®:

MicroPort® is a global Medical Devices company founded in 1998 with the purpose of pushing boundaries so that patients everywhere can enjoy better and longer lives.

MicroPort® is a Growing Global Company



80+ Countries and Regions



7,640+ Patents and Applications



12,000+ Employees



300+ Therapeutic Solutions



90+ Diseases Treated

TODAY, 1 MICROPORT® SOLUTION IS USED EVERY 6 SECONDS

GAVIN HERBERT SR.FOUNDER
ALLERGAN

WHY: Founding father of OC's aesthetic, ophthalmic and drugmaking industries. Saw maker of Botox turn into an international powerhouse. Namesake of UCI eye center. **IN THE NEWS:** Now 90, still active in business. Helped build San Clemente's Regensis into a thriving \$50M business, one that provides a mix of technology-based products and services to large national engineering firms that work on soil and groundwater remediation projects. **NOTABLE:** Says Regensis' latest product, PlumeStop, a liquid activated carbon compound designed for groundwater uses, "could be our Botox."

**WAYNE LIN**FOUNDER, CEO
FINFARE

WHY: In 2021, built platform that uses AI-driven spend management platform and rewards program to serve North American companies. **IN THE NEWS:** In March, raised \$20M in seed funding round led by investment firm Digital Mobile Venture, which is run by one of Zoom's early investors. **NOTABLE:** Studied at UCI and previously served as COO of Vacaville-based Polaris Pharmaceuticals Inc. **QUOTABLE:** "Finfare is in the business of making our payment and digital banking platform fun for everyone."

**CHARLES WYMAN**CEO, PRESIDENT
VERTIMASS

WHY: Runs Irvine upstart that produces vital fuels and chemicals from methanol, ethanol and other renewable alcohols to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Professor, Chemical & Environmental Engineering, University of California, Riverside. **IN THE NEWS:** Company in January completed a Series B funding round for \$8M. Backers include a small VC fund, a significant number of high-net-worth individuals and UGI Corp. of Pennsylvania. **NOTABLE:** Chairman Bill Shopoff, a well-known OC master developer and real estate investor, wants company to reach \$1B valuation in next funding round.

**KEITH STRIER**VP, WORLDWIDE AI INITIATIVES
NVIDIA CORP.
SAN CLEMENTE

Local exec for Nvidia (Nasdaq: NVDA), one of the world's foremost manufacturers of video graphics with a \$450B market cap as of midyear. Part of collection of influential area business executives trying to increase the base of tech talent in Orange County.



THEN: Recently helped organize the installation of a supercomputer capable of doing 8 quadrillion calculations a second at **Chapman University** in Orange. Nvidia is donating the computer to help students from lower-income areas gain access to the latest computing technology, and to expand the region's pipeline of artificial intelligence tech workers. "This is the first community operated supercomputer" in the country, Strier told the Business Journal. The computer may be among the fastest in Orange County, he said. "We're excited to be a part of it."

NOW: Besides Chapman and Nvidia, other contributors to the \$1M project include Irvine-based IT and managed services provider **Trace3**, Israeli-based **Run:ai** and the **CEO Leadership Alliance Orange County (CLAOC)**. The supercomputer will be under the jurisdiction of Chapman's **Fowler School of Engineering**, whose dean is **Andrew Lyon**.

FUTURE: The program plans to work with high schools and universities around Orange County, including **University of California, Irvine** and **California State University, Fullerton**. Access will be limited to those granted it. "We want Orange County to become an AI super hub," said **Jasmine Pachnanda**, senior vice president of artificial intelligence at CLAOC, whose collection of over 50 top area execs are aiming to build OC into what it calls a "premier, inclusive, innovation talent hub."

IN THEIR WORDS: Strier envisions students from junior high schools to high schools to junior colleges to state universities gaining access to the supercomputer's power. "If you're in seventh grade or a sophomore in junior college, having exposure to this technology, seeing examples of how this technology will be applied—these things will be game-changing," he said.

IKE KAVASFOUNDER, CEO
EPHESOFT

WHY: Started up-and-comer in the document processing industry. Ephesoft was founded in 2010 and is seeing year-over-year growth of more than 30%, as of early 2022. Firm was expecting to reach \$100M in ARR—annual recurring revenue—within three or so years, Kavvas said at the time. **IN THE NEWS:** Bought by crosstown rival Kofax in August. Recipient of Business Journal Innovator of the Year Award in September. **NOTABLE:** Sale is a homecoming for Kavvas, who worked at Kofax from 2003 to 2010 before starting his own firm. He plans to "continue leading Ephesoft's organizational efforts."





TAKING CARE OF ONE ANOTHER

Here at Orange County United Way, we are dedicated to ensuring local students succeed, struggling OC families gain financial security, and our homeless neighbors find a place to call home. We step up to actively address the critical issues facing our community and we go the extra mile to make sure OC residents have the support they need. We genuinely care for one another. That's The OC Way.



JOIN US. DONATE. ocuw.to/the-oc-way



THAT'S THE OC WAY



**Breaking Barriers
and Improving Lives
in Orange County**



**UNITED FOR
FINANCIAL SECURITYSM**



**UNITED FOR
STUDENT SUCCESSSM**



**UNITED TO END
HOMELESSNESSSM**

HANS KEIRSTEADCEO
AIVITA BIOMEDICAL

WHY: Internationally known stem cell expert and has led therapy development for late-stage cancers, immune disorders, motor neuron diseases, spinal cord injury and retinal diseases.

IN THE NEWS: In September, named a Business Journal Innovator of the Year at annual awards event.

NOTABLE: Founded and directed the Sue and Bill Gross Stem Cell Research Center at UCI, raising \$77M to establish its research building. Bio notes he has mentored over 100 students, published over 100 manuscripts, and has been granted over 20 patents.

**JUSTIN CHEN LI**CEO
HELIO GENOMICS

WHY: Developing AI-enabled blood tests to identify early stages of blood, breast and liver cancers from a blood draw; one of Orange County's better-funded medical startups. **IN THE NEWS:** Plans to ramp up its Irvine operations following the December launch of its inaugural product. HelioLiver is a laboratory developed test that detects early-stage liver cancers at a higher rate than traditional detection methods; launched via a commercial partnership with Fulgent Genetics Inc. (Nasdaq: FLGT). **NOTABLE:** 2022 Business Journal Innovator of the Year Award winner. **QUOTABLE:** "We're on the precipice of something great—we can really revolutionize liver cancer, a problem around the globe."

**ANDY HINRICH**CEO
DIGITAL MOTORS

WHY: Co-founder of Irvine-based auto fintech company. Previously co-founder and former CEO of fellow fintech automotive startup AutoGravity. **IN THE NEWS:** Digital Motors bought by LA's TrueCar (Nasdaq: TRUE) for total consideration of \$21.8M.

Helping accelerate launch of TrueCar's online marketplace, TrueCar+. **QUOTABLE:**

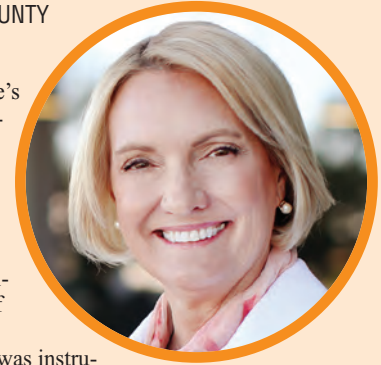
Isn't hoping to render brick-and-mortar dealerships obsolete with Digital Motors' technology. "We don't want to create a competition to the traditional car buying experience. We want to augment the physical presence of the dealership with a digital storefront that allows the respective parties to transact in a seamless fashion."

**BILL CARPOU**CEO
OCTANE

WHY: Head of Orange County's largest business accelerator. Aims to help create 55,000 new high-paying jobs for the area in the near future. **IN THE NEWS:** Group, now in its 20th year of operations, is seeking private investors for the new Octane Impact Fund. Capital campaign plans to raise \$5M by the end of 2023. Planning collab with city of Irvine. **QUOTABLE:** "Creating jobs without talent is a losing proposition. Creating talent with no jobs moves it elsewhere."

**ANNETTE WALKER**PRESIDENT
CITY OF HOPE ORANGE COUNTY
IRVINE

Leader behind City of Hope's comprehensive cancer campus and regional network moving ahead at **FivePoint Gateway** campus in Irvine; \$1B project among OC's most ambitious developments in recent years. Previously served as president of strategy for **Providence St. Joseph Health**, where she was instrumental in bringing together two noted health organizations to form the nation's third-largest health system.



THEN: Nearly 20% of OC residents with cancer leave the county for advanced treatment, and nearly 4,000 travel outside the area to other City of Hope locations, including its campus in Duarte.

NOW: The **City of Hope Lennar Foundation Cancer Center**, running 190,000-square-foot, opened this year for patients, at office building that it purchased and converted to medical uses.

FUTURE: A separate, stand-alone specialty cancer hospital, running about 164,000-square-foot, is slated to open in 2025. The 73-bed facility would employ about 350 staff and physicians. All told, campus expects to employ about 650.

STUART MCCLURE

CEO
SHIFTLEFT
CEO
NUMBERONE AI



WHY: Co-founded Cylance, an Irvine internet security company, a decade ago and sold it in 2019 to Canada-based BlackBerry for \$1.4B. Long among OC's more prominent tech execs. **IN THE NEWS:** In August joined Santa Clara-based cybersecurity company ShiftLeft as chief executive. Announcement from the application security firm trumpeted McClure as a "cybersecurity visionary" as he seeks to expand his new company's offerings. To remain based in OC. Unveiled NumberOne AI in October, has \$13M in funding. **QUOTABLE:** "I have been waiting almost 30 years to shift the entire discussion left and take prevention to the root cause of cybersecurity vulnerabilities: source code. ShiftLeft is set up for success."

KEITH SIMON

CEO
WAEV



WHY: Oversees Anaheim electric vehicle maker that counts two business units, GEM and Taylor-Dunn. The former is for personal use and urban mobility carts, the latter is used at hospitals, airports, military bases, and other locations. **IN THE NEWS:** Former Polaris Inc. executive took over ownership of GEM and Taylor-Dunn with four other partners; all are former Polaris executives. Anaheim production facility runs some 156K square feet. **QUOTABLE:** "The emerging opportunities to grow these businesses are real," he says. Demand and "advancements in EV technology open up opportunities for GEM and Taylor-Dunn in new applications and markets that we will invest in and pursue long term."

KRZYSZTOF PALCZEWSKI

IRVING H. LEOPOLD PROFESSOR
OF OPHTHALMOLOGY
UCI



WHY: World-renowned scientist focused on vision. Donald Bren Professor of Ophthalmology at UCI's School of Medicine, and director of the Center for Translational Vision Research at UCI's Gavin Herbert Eye Institute. **IN THE NEWS:** Numerous accolades from across the globe. Won a Business Journal Innovator of the Year Award in September. **NOTABLE:** One of very few people to have won both the Cogan Award (1996), for the most promising young vision scientist, and the Friedenwald Award (2014), for continuously outstanding ophthalmology research, from the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology, school notes.

MICHAEL MCGARRITY

CEO
MDXHEALTH

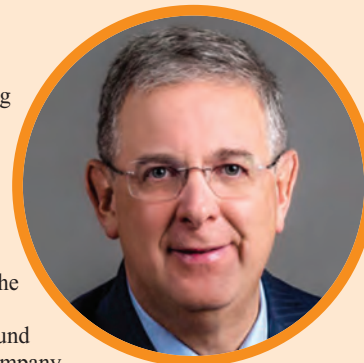


WHY: Exec helping precision diagnostics company with its U.S. HQ and laboratories in Irvine. Diagnostics products aim to improve early detection of prostate cancer in a noninvasive manner and reduce the number of false negatives. **IN THE NEWS:** Acquired a prostate cancer business for up to \$100M from Madison, Wis.-based Exact Sciences Corp. Says the acquisition now allows the company to provide "the most comprehensive menu of advanced molecular tests for urology in prostate cancer." **NOTABLE:** Company raised around \$45M in an initial public offering late last year, in part "to expand our menu in prostate cancer and other urologic diseases."



MARC BELL

CHAIRMAN, CEO
TERRAN ORBITAL
IRVINE



Heads small-satellite making business based in Florida and with substantial operations in OC. Company, one of OC's fastest-growing tech firms, designs and builds satellites that range from about 25 pounds and the size of a boot box to mini fridges that weigh from around 200 to over 800 pounds. Company counts a mix of government, commercial and defense clients, providing a suite of satellite solutions to our customers in the U.S. and across the globe.

THEN: "In our history, we have launched dozens of our own satellites, including over a half dozen in 2021," officials told the Business Journal at start of the year.

NOW: Terran recently took over four floors at the **400 Spectrum Center** tower and announced plans to develop a new \$300M commercial spacecraft facility in Florida in partnership with **Space Florida**, Florida's aerospace and spaceport development authority. Officials expect to have between 400 and 500 employees working at the Irvine Spectrum tower office, focusing on engineering, design and development work for small satellites. Tyvak has also added significantly more manufacturing space in Irvine Spectrum area this year.

FUTURE: Terran went public earlier this year (NYSE: LLAP) and aims to deliver more than 1,000 satellites per year as prices come down and both defense and commercial uses grow.

IN THEIR WORDS: Of the growing demand for small satellites, there's no issue with overcrowding, officials say. "Space is big. There's plenty of room."

HARSH VATHSANGAMCO-FOUNDER, CEO
MOVING ANALYTICS

WHY: Runs Irvine-based maker of virtual rehab programs for cardiac patients. **IN THE NEWS:** Company raised \$20M in Series A, bringing total funding to \$30M. Funding round led by Wellington Access Ventures. Money will support growth in sales and marketing, expansion into East Coast markets, add more health plans and increase content for non-English speaking patients. Plans to double current headcount of 50 over next two years. **QUOTABLE:** “We are on a mission to conquer cardiovascular disease as the leading cause of death by empowering people with tools to adopt healthy lifestyles.”

**STEPHEN TYSZKA**FOUNDER, CEO
TRUBIFY

WHY: Founded mobile app, designed to help musicians monetize their craft through livestreamed performances. Launched in 2021, firm is backed by local investor Walter Cruttenden, co-founder of Irvine fintech company Acorns. **IN THE NEWS:** Announced in February a \$12M Series A round in partnership with OC’s largest business accelerator, Octane. **NOTABLE:** “Trubify has grown exponentially—both nationwide and globally—and Series A funding will help us accomplish our business milestones and strategies while focusing on maximizing investor returns.”

**BRIAN SCHIMPF**CEO
ANDURIL INDUSTRIES

WHY: Co-founded Costa Mesa-based defense technology company that quickly vaulted into the ranks of OC’s most valuable private companies. Utilizes technology such as drones, optics and artificial intelligence to transform U.S. defense capabilities and solve national security challenges. **IN THE NEWS:** Awarded \$967.6M contract from Department of Defense’s U.S. Special Operations Command to help develop protections against drones. **NOTABLE:** Moved into new HQ at The Press; will occupy entirety of 640K-square-foot campus, making the upstart defense tech firm one of OC’s largest office tenants.

**JERRY WELSH**CEO
ICEYE US

WHY: Builds Irvine satellites to see through clouds, poor weather and night to assist U.S. government and commercial companies. **IN THE NEWS:** Launched satellites this year on Elon Musk’s SpaceX rockets; first launched satellite built in Irvine licensed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at start of year. **NOTABLE:** Received contract with the National Reconnaissance Office to participate in the evaluation of commercial remote sensing companies operating SAR satellites.

**MICHAEL COLGLAZIER**CEO
VIRGIN GALACTIC
TUSTIN

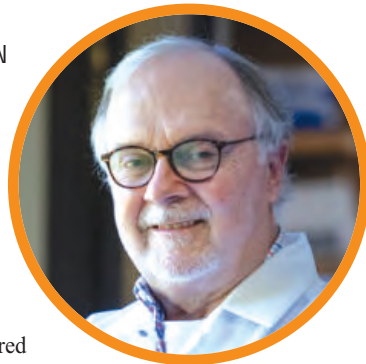
Longtime Orange County business and tourism exec, who from 2013 to 2018 headed operations of **Disneyland**, long OC’s largest employer. Now CEO at local space travel firm—currently ramping up its tech-heavy local operations via an aggressive employment push—that aims to send people from around the world on an out-of-this-world trip.



THEN: Richard Branson’s Virgin Galactic (NYSE: SPCE), founded in 2004 and which went public in 2019, bills itself as the “world’s first commercial spaceline.” Has its operational base called Gateway to Space at **Spaceport America**, a 25-mile spot in New Mexico, where the company will handle future astronaut launches. **NOW:** Colglazier, named to the CEO role in 2020, earlier this year moved company’s HQ designation to the **Flight** office campus at the **Tustin Legacy** development, near the intersection of Barranca Parkway and Red Hill Avenue. Spot holds a new engineering and design division that will serve as “our primary hub for R&D and the design of our new vehicles,” Colglazier told analysts earlier this year. **FUTURE:** Hiring push underway for OC hub. Tustin is “an excellent location for innovation and collaboration, and we continue to ramp up engineering and support team talent to this location,” Colglazier said in a February call. Company says it will be ready to begin commercial service with suborbital space flights sometime in the first quarter of 2023. **IN THEIR WORDS:** “We’re going to be building up a really large engineering staff here in OC that will play a significant role in defining the next generation of space travel.”

PHILIP FELGNER

PROFESSOR OF PHYSIOLOGY AND BIOPHYSICS,
DIRECTOR
UCI VACCINE RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT CENTER, PROTEIN
MICROARRAY LABORATORY



WHY: Life's work dedicated to gene therapy and immune system research has led to 280 published papers, 50 patents cited by other scientists more than 38,000 times and development of the first commercially available mRNA vaccines by Pfizer, BioNTech and Moderna. **IN THE NEWS:** Honored with Global Impact Award at Business Journal's 2021 Innovator of the Year Awards. Lauded at local 2022 Celebration of Heroes gala. **QUOTABLE:** "It's remarkable how quickly the proof-of-concept experiments are happening. What we struggled to make work several years ago are now coming together quickly."

VIC MERGANIAN

CEO
TITAN HST



WHY: Growing tech firm's products allow users and emergency personnel to communicate emergency information instantly—including GPS coordinates, text, audio, pictures and videos—increasing information dissemination and reducing emergency response time. **IN THE NEWS:** Anaheim Ducks and Honda Center in June partnered with Titan HST as the arena's official security communication platform provider. Titan will equip the 650K-square-foot Honda Center with a mass communication tool. **NOTABLE:** Received Business Journal's Excellence in Entrepreneurship Award in 2018.

EMILE HADDAD

CHAIRMAN EMERITUS
FIVEPOINT



WHY: Founded Irvine-based real estate developer in 2009. Among largest development companies in the state, holdings include the Great Park Neighborhoods in Irvine. **IN THE NEWS:** Stepped down from CEO spot September 2021, saying pandemic caused him to rethink the way the developer approaches the state's communities. **NOTABLE:** Delivered the keynote address at the Business Journal's 21st annual Excellence in Entrepreneurship Awards in May. **QUOTABLE:** "As the world changes, you must change with it, or you risk becoming obsolete."

KATIE SZYMAN

CORPORATE VP, CRITICAL CARE
EDWARDS LIFESCIENCES



WHY: Oversees critical care and vascular business at OC's largest publicly traded firm; joined in 2015. Served as president of global diabetes, multiple VP roles at Medtronic for more than a decade prior. **IN THE NEWS:** Last year named to board of Outset Medical Inc. Also on board of Inari Medical and the American Heart Association of Orange County. Joined the board of the Edwards Lifesciences Foundation in 2015. **QUOTABLE:** "I've spent most of my career focused on innovations around patient care, and I've witnessed firsthand the impact medical technology can have on people's lives."



DON DICOSTANZO

CEO
PEDEGO
FOUNTAIN VALLEY



Leader in the rapidly expanding, but still fragmented, electric bike market. CEO says Pedego is probably the No. 1 electric bike company in the U.S. in terms of dollar sales, while in unit sales the company is likely No. 2, behind Seattle-based **Rad Power Bikes**.

THEN: "In the original days, I think there were about 10,000 or 12,000 electric bikes sold in this country," DiCostanzo told the Business Journal in March. The Fountain Valley company was founded in 2008. "We started with one store in Newport Beach, next to the Crab Cooker," DiCostanzo said. The company at the time counted four competitors and faced an uncertain future, he said. "It wasn't a craze back then. It was more like we were crazy." The company's been profitable since 2011, he said.

NOW: Charged up to potentially hit \$100 million in corporate revenue this year. 2022 revenue goal is far above the \$66 million Pedego achieved last year. "Last year according to industry reports there were about 850,000 sold, and we sold 40,000 of those," he said. The average price for a Pedego bike is a little over \$3,000; sales revenue is split between the company and its more than 200 licensed retail dealers. Retail sales last year totaled about \$150 million, according to DiCostanzo.

FUTURE: An IPO is being considered. "It is a highly fragmented market with over 300 competitors. The average competitor sells less than 3,000 bikes per year," he says. "The market has about a 20 times growth trajectory by everybody's measure," the CEO says. "We see this as just the first inning of a 9-inning game."

IN THEIR WORDS: "There's nobody else that has branded stores in the electric bike space," DiCostanzo said. "I like to think we're like the Tesla of electric bikes."



BOB OLSON

CEO, PRESIDENT
R.D. OLSON DEVELOPMENT
NEWPORT BEACH
CEO
R.D. OLSON CONSTRUCTION
IRVINE



California's dominant hotel developer for over a decade. Since 2008, company has completed about 20 projects with nearly 3,000 rooms. Those projects have a value topping \$2B.

THEN: None of his properties closed during the pandemic, though some operated with limited capacity. As travelers returned last summer, he said the biggest challenge is staffing up the properties. "Leisure travel is out in force, like never before," Olson, who was named the Business Journal's **Businessperson of the Year** in 2019 following the opening of the **Lido House** boutique hotel in Newport Beach, as well as the **Marriott Irvine Spectrum**, said last year.

NOW: Said last year he's on the hunt for new hotel opportunities after selling a trio of properties to locally based **Dauntless Capital Partners**. The three sales, two in Maui and one in Pasadena, sold for a combined \$290M, sources told the Business Journal.

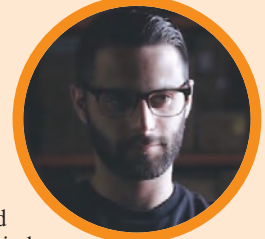
FUTURE: Along with a pair of hotels in the works at the revitalized **Dana Point Harbor**, he's planning his first development in Arizona, at an 11-acre site along the river in Sedona. It'll be a five-star, bungalow-style retreat for leisure travelers, he said. A brand hasn't been announced yet.

IN THEIR WORDS: "It's an unequal market," he says, noting challenging times for hotels catering to business travel, in central business districts, while the coastal leisure market thrives. "What matters most is the market and the product."



LEGRAND CREWSE

CO-FOUNDER, CEO
MICHAEL CANNAVO
CO-FOUNDER, CMO
AARON WONG
CO-FOUNDER
CHIEF BRAND OFFICER
SUPER73
IRVINE



Creators of some of the most distinctive, and sought-after, e-bikes in the world. Bikes, often in limited editions and with tie-ins to sci-fi movies, comics, and other pop culture artifacts—a 2017 video of a bike designed like a "Star Wars" speeder bike went viral—are an eco-friendly mashup of a dirt bike and motorcycle and don't require a special driver's license like typical motorcycles. Its entry-level bikes run around \$1,400. Counts a lengthy roster of celebrity riders.

THEN: The company, founded in 2016, got its start in an approximately 8,000-square-foot space in Tustin and relocated to a 15,000-square-foot Irvine facility in 2019. After a banner year in 2020, "we needed to look for a new home very quickly," co-founder Cannavo told the Business Journal. It found a new home at the former headquarters of **Anduril Industries**, taking over nearly 70,000-square-foot.

NOW: "2020 accelerated our growth plans by several years as a result of skyrocketing demand for electric motorbikes," Cannavo, who serves as chief marketing officer of Super73," said after striking the new lease.

Super73 doesn't disclose sales figures, but said its revenue doubled in 2020, and expects to double revenue again this year. Annual sales of \$100M appears likely in play in near future for firm, which last year raised \$20M in a Series D round.

FUTURE: In March unveiled the **C1X**, its first electric motorcycle, which expects to top out around 75mph. New e-bike line for kids also on the way.

A YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENTS

***Editor's Note:** The Business Journal asked members of the OC500 to list some of their most notable professional achievements of the past year. A selection of edited responses follow:*

Alan Fuerstman: I am incredibly proud of the **Montage Hotels & Resorts** team for receiving the No. 1 ranking amongst all luxury hospitality brands by Forbes Travel Guide.

Annette Walker: Opening **City of Hope Orange County Lennar Foundation Cancer Center** on time and on budget. We promised Orange County we would deliver advanced cancer care, and we did it thanks to an outstanding team and partners.

Arte Moreno: The **Angels College Scholarship**. The program was established in 2016 to support individuals as they pursue an undergraduate degree, with funds applied to tuition, room and board, healthcare, textbooks and tutoring. This year we celebrated our seventh year, with 25 new scholars. The program has awarded 127 scholarships since its inception and we were able to celebrate 16 graduates for the class of 2022 from various colleges such as University of Southern California, University of California at San Diego, University of Rochester and Chapman University.

Darin Anderson, Salas O'Brien: I am proud of the quality and sustained growth and impact our team has made in North America. In 16 years, we have grown from 30 team members to 1,800 by the time this is published. Financially, we are in the top 10% of engineering firm

performance, and we are trusted by the most progressive global and national organizations to engineer their complex and critical facilities.

Daryl Carter: Closing **Avanath's** largest investment fund, **Avanath Affordable Housing Renaissance Fund**, with initial capitalization of \$1 billion.

Doug Corbin: Helping guide the **CHOC Foundation** to the second most successful fundraising year in our history, \$57.2 million.

Ed Kim: Recruiting 25+ amazing cancer specialists to City of Hope Orange County's Irvine campus.

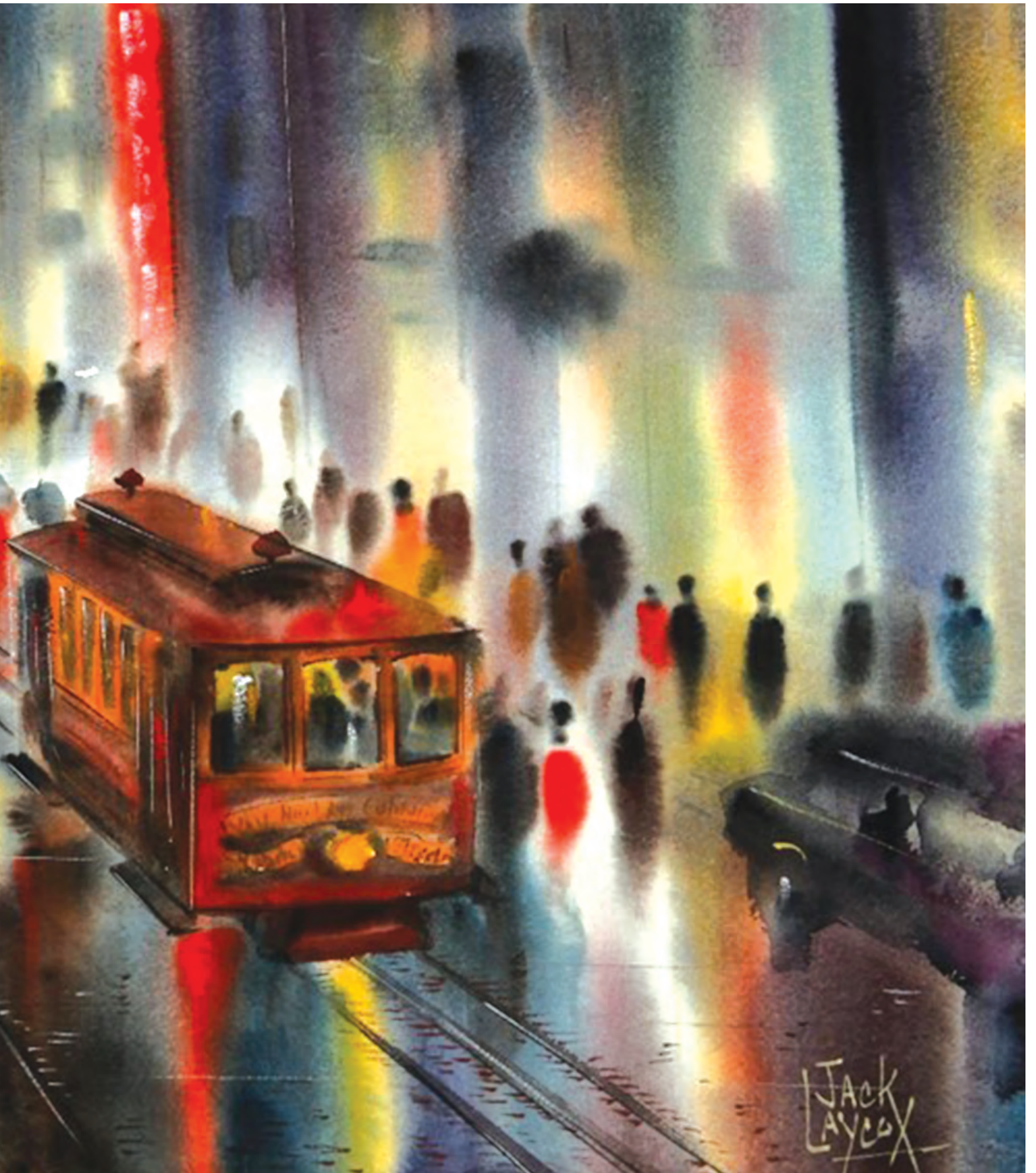
Gary Crisp, Crisp Imaging: We acquired seven new firms and grew our base business over 30% with a current run rate approaching \$30 million. We now have 22 locations with 175 employees in Southern, Central, and Northern California as well as the Pacific Northwest and are well on our way to reach our goal of \$50 million in annual revenue.

Steve Jones: Integrating a \$9 billion acquisition into **Allied Universal** and becoming a truly global company with a workforce of approximately 800,000 and operations in 96 countries.

Tony Smith, Restaurant365: Making a big acquisition and bringing two businesses together with as few bumps as possible was great. I also had a blast as the keynote at the OCBJ Innovator of the Year program.



Jack Laycox (1921 – 1984)
"Trolley Car Bonanza" 1960s
Watercolor
The Hilbert Collection



LEGAL

MICHAEL YODERPARTNER
O'MELVENY & MYERS

WHY: A former president of the OC Bar Association, counts a long record of trial and arbitration wins. Handles securities, M&A, licensing disputes, unfair competition, professional liability defense, business torts, insurance, contract, real estate, land use and general commercial disputes. **IN THE NEWS:** Led team representing Johnson & Johnson and its Janssen Pharmaceuticals unit in an opioid lawsuit that was one of the biggest in recent years. **NOTABLE:** Ruling ended an attempt by four local governments to expand public nuisance laws to address alleged opioid related harms.

**ED SUSOLIK**SENIOR PARTNER, SUPERVISING
TRIAL ATTORNEY
CALLAHAN & BLAINE

WHY: Expert in insurance law, representing corporate and individual policyholders in the western U.S.; chair of the Insurance Department at Callahan & Blaine. **IN THE NEWS:** Has been an adjunct professor at USC Law School on numerous occasions, where he teaches Insurance Law. Retained on many occasions as an expert witness on insurance law issues by insurance companies and policyholders. Recognized by his peers as one of the "Top 100 Attorneys in Southern California" for several years running. **NOTABLE:** Born in Czechoslovakia; USC grad with degrees in philosophy, English and history; graduated second from USC law school in 1990; was an editor of the Law Review. Was professional golfer for several years.

**JASON DE BRETTEVILLE**SHAREHOLDER
STRADLING YOCCA
CARLSON & RAUTH

WHY: Defends companies, financial institutions and executives in civil and criminal litigation matters. Chair of Stradling's litigation department; focuses on corporate investigations and white-collar defense, securities litigation and enforcement, business litigation. Named one of Best Lawyers in America for 2022. **IN THE NEWS:** Currently representing the former CFO of a digital token in the DeFi crypto space, in a securities class action, firm says. **NOTABLE:** Served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Central District of California from 2001 through 2006. As a prosecutor, he tried seven felony cases to verdict.

**JEFF THURRELL**MANAGING PARTNER
FISHER PHILLIPS

WHY: Heads Irvine office of one of the country's preeminent labor and employment law firms representing employers. Local office in expansion mode; the Irvine office has grown to become the firm's largest and one of its most diverse. In 2021 alone, 15 attorneys joined Irvine office. **IN THE NEWS:** At start of year, succeeded Jim McDonald, who was the firm's managing partner in Irvine for 20 years. **QUOTABLE:** "Today the Irvine office stands out as a leader in providing high quality legal services and responsive and practical advice to its employer clients."

**SEYMOUR 'SY' EVERETT III**PARTNER
EVERETT DOREY LLP

WHY: Co-founded Irvine-based law firm Everett Dorey with Samantha Dorey in August 2017. Law firm defends corporations and other organizations in civil lawsuits. Everett Dorey has 22 lawyers, five of them partners. **IN THE NEWS:** Helped city of Orange evict a soup kitchen that it said led to significant increase in crime. **QUOTABLE:** "Orange County has been plagued by unscrupulous sober living home operators resulting in deaths and negatively impacting residential neighborhoods. Costa Mesa is the only city to successfully stand up to the unscrupulous operators."

**BRYAN GADOL**HEAD OF CALIFORNIA CORPORATE
M&A, PRIVATE EQUITY
HOLLAND & KNIGHT

WHY: Head of the California Corporate, M&A and Private Equity practice and a partner in Holland & Knight's Orange County office. Guides clients at all stages of the corporate life cycle in connection with mergers and acquisitions, private equity, securities transactions, reorganizations and other corporate matters. **IN THE NEWS:** Helped sell Lugano Diamonds and Jewelry last year in a \$256M deal with Compass Diversified (NYSE: CODI). **QUOTABLE:** Says Lugano founder and CEO Moti Ferder: "Bryan and his team were invaluable in assisting us with our partnership with Compass Diversified."





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JUSTIN OWENS

SHAREHOLDER
STRADLING YOCCA
CARLSON & RAUTH

WHY: With focus on complex disputes involving shareholders, business partners, and breaches of contract, his “aggressive yet thoughtful approach to litigation helps his clients secure early victories and avoid protracted lawsuits,” notes his bio. **IN THE**

NEWS: Presenting sponsor for Business

Journal’s 8th Annual Innovator of the Year Awards in September.

NOTABLE: Serves on the Board of Governors for the Association of Business Trial Lawyers (OC Chapter) and was editor of ABTL Report from 2016-2020. “Southern California Rising Star” for several years running.

**WAYNE GROSS**

PARTNER
GREENBERG GROSS

WHY: Often selected to serve as lead trial counsel by companies, executives, and celebrities in their highest-stakes litigation matters; equally at representing plaintiffs and defendants. Co-runs prominent Costa Mesa-based litigation firm with partner Alan Greenberg. **IN THE NEWS:** In August, named to The Best Lawyers in America 2023. Noted for Criminal Defense White Collar, and Litigation. **NOTABLE:** Former federal prosecutor in Los Angeles and Orange County, prosecuted cases of national and international significance. These included the UCI Fertility case, the Katarina Witt (Olympic Gold medalist) stalker case, and one of the first criminal trademark infringement cases brought to trial in Southern California.

**DEBORAH GUBERNICK**

PARTNER
SNELL & WILMER

WHY: Partner in firm’s intellectual property and commercial litigation groups. She helps small and large clients protect and defend their brands and business in the U.S. and abroad. Has handled over 100 matters before the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board. **IN THE NEWS:**

Won \$13M verdict for plaintiff NorthStar

Moving in a federal trademark infringement case involving allegations that another firm infringed NorthStar trademark by deceiving customers. **NOTABLE:** Has represented well-known high-end retail stores, specialty grocery store chain, gas service station company, apparel and accessories brand licenses, hotel chain, and luxury golf apparel brand.

**JERRY HUANG**

GENERAL COUNSEL
VIZIO

WHY: GC at TV maker’s roughly 20-person legal team, whose work is supported by outside counsel across nearly a dozen law firms. Growth is happening quickly for Irvine-based Vizio due to company’s ballooning Platform+ advertising business, among other matters. **IN THE NEWS:** Vizio was recognized with the In-House Legal Team Award during the Business Journal’s General Counsel of the Year Awards in November 2021. **NOTABLE:** Helped company navigate pandemic and still go public in 2021. **QUOTABLE:** “Early on in the pandemic we had to face a decision on the company, whether we shut down or do we qualify as an essential business, and Vizio is an essential business based on many different criteria.”

**LINDSAY HULLEY**

PARTNER
RUTAN & TUCKER

WHY: IP lawyer whose practice focuses on trademark and copyright prosecution and advising clients on the adoption and use of trademarks. **IN THE**

NEWS: Presenting Sponsor at Business Journal’s 2022 CFO of the

Year Awards. **NOTABLE:** Clients are varied and conduct business in the apparel, medical device, alcohol, food and beverage, vitamin supplement, gaming, automotive, e-commerce, real estate, hospital administration, dental, construction, cosmetics, marketing, software, fitness, financial, and communications industries. Member of Octane and OC Chamber of Commerce.

**WENDY PETERSON**

GENERAL COUNSEL
KNOBBE MARTENS

WHY: Handles all internal legal matters for OC’s largest law firm. Prior to Knobbe, was general counsel of Wynn Oil Co., assistant general counsel of Parker Hannifin’s Seal Group. **IN THE NEWS:** Serves on the board of Shidler College’s Pacific Asian Center for Entrepreneurship. 2019 recipient of Hall of Honor award from the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa Shidler College of Business; served as keynote speaker for school’s May 2022 Business Night, its signature student event. **NOTABLE:** Produced award-winning indie film “Hello, My Name is Frank,” official selection Newport Beach Film Festival 2015. Was editor-in-chief, University of Hawaii Law Review.



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TIM MCELFIHPARTNER
FERRUZZO & FERRUZZO

WHY: Partner and chair of the law firm's Corporate and Real Estate Practice Group. Handles all aspects of M&A transactions, entity formation and commercial finance. His practice includes negotiating and managing joint ventures, including real estate transactions. Also, he serves as outside counsel for businesses that include entity structuring, transactional and corporate governance matters. **IN THE NEWS:** Award presenter at Business Journal's 2022 Family-Owned Business Awards. **NOTABLE:** Born in Anchorage, Alaska. Received his bachelor's degree from University of California, San Diego in 1999. Juris Doctor degree from Pepperdine University.

**PAUL NELSON**FOUNDER
NELSON KIRKMAN

WHY: Started Newport Beach law firm that specializes in complex family law litigation. Has tried hundreds of family law matters, "giving him uncommon familiarity with local judicial officers and opposing counsel," company's website notes. **IN THE NEWS:** Chosen as a Super Lawyer for 2021 and 2022. **NOTABLE:** A member of the Family Law Section of the Orange County Bar Association, he also belongs to the Family Law Section of the State Bar of California and the J. Reuben Clark Law Society. A licensed private pilot, "which allows him to handle cases throughout the state," firm notes.

**AMBER ENRIQUEZ**GENERAL COUNSEL
ECOS

WHY: GC for family-owned Earth Friendly Products of Cypress, which manufactures over 200 green cleaning products. Addresses all legal and regulatory matters, heads legal strategy and operations for the company's four U.S. manufacturing facilities, global operations in Europe, and sales in over 65 countries. **IN THE NEWS:** Rising Star Award at the Business Journal's 11th annual General Counsel Awards in November 2021. **QUOTABLE:** "Most of our competitors didn't disclose what went into their products, because they didn't want people to know. We are always lobbying for safer and cleaner products. As a mother of three, I feel very strongly about it."

**MICHELE JOHNSON**PARTNER
LATHAM & WATKINS

WHY: Global chair of Latham's Litigation & Trial Department; represents financial institutions, Fortune 500 companies, boards of directors, and individuals in securities, M&A, and other complex commercial litigation. Consistently recognized as a leading national litigator. **IN THE NEWS:** Represented U.S. Soccer Federation when it was sued by women's national team players. Two sides reached \$24M settlement in February. **NOTABLE:** U.S. Soccer disavowed prior's legal firm's line of argument that women's team players are not entitled to equal pay because they do not "perform equal work requiring equal skill, effort and responsibility under similar working conditions."

**ALAN GREENBERG**PARTNER
GREENBERG GROSS

WHY: Noted for commercial litigation and white-collar defense. Represents several high-profile cases such as PG&E Fire Victim Trust in its cases against former PG&E vegetation management contractors for contributing to the causes of deadly fires in Northern California. **IN THE NEWS:** Represents family of Mater Dei High School football player injured in hazing ritual. **NOTABLE:** Represented Advantage Solutions Inc. (Nasdaq: ADV) in high-profile civil RICO case with more than \$130M at issue.

**CHARLES RUCK**PARTNER
LATHAM & WATKINS

WHY: Advises on mergers and acquisitions, capital markets, and general corporate and securities matters. Serves as primary outside counsel to a number of public and privately held companies, regularly represents boards of directors and special committees in complex strategic corporate governance matters. **IN THE NEWS:** Among execs that lead Irvine nonprofit Stars & Stripes Foundation, which uses annual event in Cabo San Lucas to serve a variety of youth-oriented philanthropic groups in Southern California and Mexico. **NOTABLE:** 25th anniversary for Stars & Stripes this year was its most successful event to date, raising over \$5M.





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BABAK SIAVOSHYGENERAL COUNSEL
ANDURIL INDUSTRIES

WHY: As the chief legal officer for Anduril, Siavoshy leads a team of more than 25 people, ranging from lawyers to security compliance specialists at the fast-growing tech defense company. He has helped negotiate a potential \$950M deal with the U.S. Air Force, completed a \$550M funding round that valued Anduril at nearly \$5B, and helped ink one of Southern California's largest office leases ever. **IN THE NEWS:** Honored at the Business Journal's 11th annual General Counsel Awards in November 2021, as the outstanding general counsel of a private company. **QUOTABLE:** "We plan to grow rapidly. Our goal is to be the next generation's defense prime [contractor]."

**JOSEPH WELCH**SHAREHOLDER
BUCHALTER

WHY: Co-Chair of the law firm's Agribusiness/Agrifinance group, where he helps clients address the sector's challenges in supply chains, financial volatility, risk mitigation, and other business issues. **IN THE NEWS:** Represents the official committee of unsecured creditors for Easterday Farms in the largest pending agricultural bankruptcy cases in the country, with over \$300M in claims and \$200M in assets liquidated to date. **NOTABLE:** The Easterday cases, known locally in Washington state as "Cattlegate," came about when Cody Easterday, who managed the Easterday's three-generation family farm, pled guilty to federal charges for defrauding Tyson Foods of over \$230M by selling them 200,000 "ghost cattle."

**ROBYN BABCOCK**ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL
BROADCOM

WHY: Helps Broadcom, one of the world's largest chipmakers, manage the myriad employment issues of its approximately 21,000 workers across the globe. **IN THE NEWS:** 2021 Business Journal General Counsel Award winner. Played an integral role in ensuring Broadcom employees could safely return to the company's facilities, working to implement nuanced protocols in compliance with government agencies, and Broadcom's own environmental, health, and safety policies. She also helped the company establish the legal framework for Broadcom employees to effectively work from home during the peak of the pandemic. **NOTABLE:** COVID-19 "made employment lawyers the most popular people" in the legal industry, she quipped when winning award.

**CAMILLE VASQUEZ**PARTNER
BROWN RUDNICK

WHY: Former associate at Irvine office of law firm. Served as lead attorney for Johnny Depp's winning defamation case against Amber Heard. **IN THE NEWS:** Promoted to partner in June after Depp case. **NOTABLE:** Following the Depp case, told the Beverly Hills Bar Association "life has become a little less private ... now I have a responsibility to [inspire] fans or people, especially young women that have come forward and said, 'Thanks for being an inspiration. For getting me through a hard time. Or pushing me to go back to school.'"

**JEFFEREY VERDON**FOUNDER, MANAGING PARTNER
VERDON LAW GROUP

WHY: Managing partner of namesake firm. He has been practicing law in the areas of taxation and comprehensive estate planning since receiving his Master of Law from Boston University in 1979. Specializes in estate, trust and income tax planning, and asset and lifestyle protection planning for high-net-worth clients across the United States. **IN THE NEWS:** Frequent presenter at Business Journal events, including 2022 Excellence in Entrepreneurship Awards. **NOTABLE:** Often is published in Kiplinger Reports. A founding member of one of the earliest and most distinguished publications on comprehensive estate planning, Jacob's Report on Asset Protection Strategies.



PERSONAL BEST

Editor's Note: *The Business Journal* asked the OC500 to cite their biggest personal accomplishments of the past year. A selection of edited responses follow:

Chris Marsh: Joined the Board of Jessie Rees Foundation to help kids fighting cancer to Never Ever Give Up!

Darin Anderson: My friends would know that fitness and health center me in many ways. I enjoy the time with friends and get great fellowship with it. Each year, I typically ride my bike around 10,000 miles and run around 800 miles and compete in national and world events to push me physically and mentally and push away father time.

Ed Kim: I finally played a round of golf (I play about once a month) where I did not lose a single golf ball!

Hans Keirstead: Working with the Dalai Lama on an amazing project.

Jared Wolff: Learning to use our barbecue smoker and cooking for family and friends.

Jim Madden: Major wins in sailing at 'Les Voiles de St. Barth' and the 'Around the Island Race' in Newport, R.I.

Jim Mazzo: Having been selected to receive the Ellis Island Medal of honor. This is a great honor really recognizing my mom and dad and their great heritage.

John DeCero: Providing support to several addiction and mental health programs within our community and seeing encouraging results!

Larry Armstrong: Chairing the Leadership Council for the United to End Homelessness initiative, through Orange County United Way. We have housed 720 people to date!

Liz McKinley: Finally releasing our inaugural vintage of family wine called Norris Wines based in the Willamette Valley, Ore. This was a labor of love for the whole family for over 15 years—a sweet success.

Mark Costa: Finding meaningful ways to contribute not only as a healthcare leader, but to engage and make a difference in our communities in addressing the needs of our vulnerable populations. I am specifically passionate about the need of the homeless and the those suffering from mental illness.

Paul O'Mara: Babysitting my 10-month-old granddaughter for one week—solo.

Ramin Mousavi: 52 weeks and 52 books—one book a week. It's a record I have kept since I was 16, so I am now over 1,1100 books. Yes, I am getting old.

Steve Jones: Continuing to raise money and awareness for victims of sex trafficking.

Tony Moiso: Helping my wife, Melinda, successfully recover from a September 2021 accident.

Wendy Hasse: Competing in my third Ironman triathlon. Swimming 2.4 miles, biking 112 miles and running 26.2 at Ironman Wisconsin, in Madison.



Brooks Willis (1903 - 1981)
"LA Transit" 1950s
Watercolor
The Hilbert Collection



MEDIA / SPORTS / ENTERTAINMENT

ARIANNA BARRIOSCEO
COMMUNICATIONS LAB

WHY: Leads Orange-based public relations office. Large part of business during pandemic with government agencies, which counted firm as essential business.

IN THE NEWS: Grew firm's headcount 54% to 20 employees as of May, the most growth among OC's top PR firms. No. 5 on Business Journal list.

Focusing on projects out of LA. **NOTABLE:** In 2020, won election to the Orange City Council as the first Latina elected to serve on the council and the very first representative of the newly formed District 1. **QUOTABLE:** "Storytelling now has to have these digital tools. Without the pivot, a huge slowdown would have happened."

**RAJEEV KAPUR**CEO, PRESIDENT
1105 MEDIA

WHY: Oversees more than 100 employees at provider of B2B media and marketing services. One of Orange County's larger media companies; portfolio includes a bevy of business-to-business media titles, as well as events and research and analytics. **IN THE NEWS:** Wrote book "Chase

Greatness," excerpted this year in Business Journal's Leader Board. **NOTABLE:** Previously worked for Dell, sent to improve its markets in China, Thailand, Philippines, India and more in early 2000s. Much of 1105 Media's work is focused on federal government and education IT, infrastructure and data and analytics.

**DONTE WHITNER**PRESIDENT
NFL PLAYERS ASSOCIATION
ORANGE COUNTY

WHY: Irvine resident, former NFL safety, played college at Ohio State, drafted by the Buffalo Bills. Other teams include San Francisco 49ers, Cleveland Browns and Washington Commanders. **IN THE NEWS:**

Partner in wealth manager Kirtland Hills Capital, on advisory boards of organizations helping athletes understand the importance of financial literacy. **QUOTABLE:** "I know what a lot of guys go through. They are transitioning from the NFL where they got so much attention."

**JAMES KESTON**OWNER
OC SOCCER CLUB

WHY: Runs local franchise in USL, in second tier of America's soccer hierarchy after MLS. Bought Orange County Blues FC in 2016 and renamed to Orange County Soccer Club, moved team to Irvine where it plays before crowds of about 5,000. **IN THE NEWS:** Won USL

championship in 2021. **NOTABLE:** In talks with city over terms of team's use of stadium at Great Park. **QUOTABLE:** Ownership deal fell through with a Pacific Northwest MLS team over a decade ago. "I knew that when the time presented itself, I'd be able to get back [into soccer ownership]."

**JORDAN PALMER**OWNER
QB SUMMIT

WHY: Former NFL quarterback for five teams. Founded Rock Software Inc. to help teammates make iPhone apps. Also founded Santa Ana's Qalo, maker of Silicon wedding rings, and co-founded Costa Mesa sales agency Common Thread Collective. **IN THE NEWS:**

Runs QB Summit, holds 10 weekend training camps for aspiring and established quarterbacks, charging up to \$1,500 a person. **QUOTABLE:** "I've always felt professional football is like being an entrepreneur. A couple of years, I made millions. Other years, I made nothing, and I lived with my parents."

**REBECCA HALL**CEO, PRESIDENT
IDEA HALL

WHY: Well-connected PR and marketing exec whose award-winning firm is among OC's largest media agencies. **IN THE NEWS:** Goodwill of Orange County in April named Idea Hall its marcomm agency of record for corporate branding, marketing and communications services. **NOTABLE:**

Founded in 2003, firm works with business-to-business and consumer clients in real estate, hospitality/travel/leisure, healthcare, professional services, nonprofit, consumer products, education and public agencies.



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NATE RAABECO-FOUNDER, MANAGING PARTNER
RX3

WHY: Co-founded RX3 along with Aaron Rodgers, the Green Bay Packers QB, and Byron Roth, owner of Roth Capital. Invests in small to midsize companies on behalf of many professional athletes, particularly NFL quarterbacks. **IN THE NEWS:** Held flag football charity event in March at JSerra in San Juan Capistrano that featured eight NFL quarterbacks and raised \$400K. This year raised \$75M for second round of investments. **QUOTABLE:** “Most of the quarterbacks are investors (in RX3). The idea is that we have such a unique community at RX3, instead of doing a traditional charity golf event, we said we have all these athletes, let’s do a charity flag football event.”

**RICHARD REISMAN**CEO, PUBLISHER
ORANGE COUNTY
BUSINESS JOURNAL

WHY: Long-running head of OC’s only business trade publication in both print and digital. Face of the publication, largely responsible for maintaining OC’s “community of business.” **IN THE NEWS:** Business Journal’s signature events resumed to in-person venues last year; this year seeing record attendances for several of the gatherings. **NOTABLE:** Celebrated 30 years as the paper’s publisher in 2020. Married in 2021. Counts three grandchildren.

**NICOLAAS VERHEEM**FOUNDER, CEO
TRL11

WHY: Previously ran Irvine’s Teradek, tech company that helped build a revolutionary wireless video transmission system for on-set monitoring on movie and TV sets. **IN THE NEWS:** Left Teradek in early 2022 to start TRL11, a new space-related venture. Sees a “big opportunity” in the emerging satellite industry. **NOTABLE:** Part of the team that received Academy Award for its technological achievements. The Academy’s “Scientific and Engineering Award” was presented in a virtual ceremony in February 2021. Also won a similarly tech-focused Emmy. **QUOTABLE:** “Given my background in video and specifically wireless, I really think I can make existing satellites work better.”

**GARY CRISP**FOUNDER, CEO, PRESIDENT
CRISP IMAGING

WHY: Operates digital printer with 11 locations and more than 150 employees. **IN THE NEWS:** Late last year introduced its Docu-Dock software to speed up the often laborious task of storing and retrieving building architectural plans, drawings, and specifications generated for businesses, schools, universities, hospitals and other organizations. **QUOTABLE:** Hosts Super Bowl party at American Legion in Newport Beach for Marines and Veterans each year. “We wanted to give our men and women in uniform a joyous day they would never forget,” he said. “It is our humble honor to throw them this event to recognize their service and sacrifice.”

**JOE CARR**CEO
THRILL ONE SPORTS &
ENTERTAINMENT

WHY: Helms Costa Mesa firm, an events and content business, that’s looking to build an all-encompassing platform for motocross, motorsports, skateboarding and other amped-up action sports. **IN THE NEWS:** In July, the company got new owners, in a deal that valued Thrill One at about \$300M. Backers include a pair of institutional investors, including one with ties to UFC’s former owners, plus well-known sports and media personalities. **NOTABLE:** The investors “knew there was power in numbers and offered the opportunity to scale the company within the industry.”

**JILL GRIFFIN**CEO
ADVANTAGE SOLUTIONS

WHY: Took over as CEO in April, succeeding Tanya Domier at marketing firm valued at \$1.1B as of September (Nasdaq: ADV). **IN THE NEWS:** Won a 2021 Women in Business Award by the Business Journal. **QUOTABLE:** When Griffin was named CEO, Domier said: “Not only is she extraordinarily intelligent with great energy and passion for the business, she is a deeply strategic thinker with great vision for the future and a respected leader who live and embodies core Advantage values.”



MATT KANNE

CEO
OPEN GYM PREMIER

WHY: Runs Anaheim-based provider of camps, club teams, leagues, tournaments and training for youth basketball and volleyball players. **IN THE NEWS:** Open Gym ranked No. 7 spot in Business Journal's Best Places to Work list in the Midsize Company category. Praised for its flexible, hybrid three-day workweek. Earned No. 6 spot in Business Journal's Fastest-Growing Private Companies list in Small Company category for increasing revenue 140% to \$6M over the past two years. **QUOTABLE:** "There's so much conversation about these rigid, black and white [work models] ... I think the answer is clearly in the middle."



OLIVER WYSS

PRESIDENT OF SOCCER,
GENERAL MANAGER
OC SOCCER CLUB

WHY: Soccer franchise exec that plays in Irvine, which won USL championship title in 2021. **IN THE NEWS:** OC Soccer Club transferred youth international Kobi Henry to French Team Stade de Reims; the \$700K fee is said to be the biggest ever transfer fee seen in USL Championship. **NOTABLE:** Founded Aliso Viejo-based cancer research nonprofit Soccer for Hope in 1998 with wife after their two children died of rare cancerous diseases at ages 3 and 11.



JENNY DINNEN

CO-OWNER
MACKENZIE

WHY: Along with sister Katie Rucker, runs family-owned business founded by father that conducts customer insights for firms like Yamaha Motor Corp. **NOTABLE:** Won a 2019 Family-Owned Business Journal award. **QUOTABLE:** In an April 4 Business Journal Leader Board, Dinnen wrote: "Irvine ranked as the number one city in California and 10th nationwide on the 'Best Cities for Working Remotely' ... What does that mean for the future of our local communities? ... What does your business need to do in the present to prepare for success, position for competitiveness and plan for adaptability within this unpredictable future?"



EDDIE LEWIS

FOUNDER, PRESIDENT
TOCA FOOTBALL

WHY: Ex-professional soccer player. During his 14-year career, played in the U.S. and England, for Fulham, Leeds United, Derby County and Los Angeles Galaxy. Now part of Costa Mesa's Toca, a quickly growing soccer-focused venture with indoor training sites and entertainment venues going up across the globe. **IN THE NEWS:** Toca, which has raised \$105M, is now the largest owner of indoor soccer facilities in North America. **NOTABLE:** Starred in U.S. National Team's 2002 run to the quarterfinals of the World Cup, the best result in modern times for the men's team.



JEFF MOORAD

PRINCIPAL
MSP SPORTS CAPITAL

WHY: Longtime sports agent turned business executive, including exec and ownership roles at San Diego Padres and Arizona Diamondbacks. **IN THE NEWS:** Added Formula 1's McLaren Racing to portfolio, which includes several European soccer teams. **QUOTABLE:** "Fundamentally, investors are attracted to the disproportionate annualized returns available in sports, with limited relative downside risk. The indexed valuation performance of sports franchises and clubs has far outpaced the S&P 500 over the last decade, and in some leagues, such as the NBA and MLB, has done so dramatically. Rising valuations have shown to be uncorrelated to on-field performance or to the broader market cycles."





John Bohnenberger (1926-2012)
"Train Station" 1970's
Watercolor
The Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University
Gift of the Hilbert Collection



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IRVINE COMPANY

JOHN COMBS

FOUNDER, PRINCIPAL
RIVERROCK REAL ESTATE GROUP

WHY: Founded Irvine-based property management firm in 2003. Counts 140 employees across 23 offices as of June. Oversees 40M square feet of office, industrial and retail properties in California and Arizona. **IN THE NEWS:** Honored at Business Journal's 21st annual Excellence in Entrepreneurship Awards in May. **NOTABLE:** Office among the first in the U.S. to certify that its spaces promote positive health outcomes using Fitwel. **QUOTABLE:** "I started RiverRock with the intention of creating a solid company for property managers to work for, that also provided customized property services."

**MARC DELUCA**

CEO
KBS

WHY: Runs Newport Beach-based realty investor, which has been among country's most active buyers of large office properties over past decade. Counts numerous REITs, other investment vehicles. **IN THE NEWS:** Took over CEO role from Chuck Schreiber at the start of the year. **NOTABLE:** KBS looking to reenter Orange County market via strategic office investment opportunities. **QUOTABLE:** "We are tracking 30 markets extremely closely, specifically markets with a strong employee base, good quality of life and school systems. Orange County is one of those markets."

**SCOTT BURNHAM**

CEO
BURNHAM WARD PROPERTIES

WHY: Newport Beach-based developer that aims to create the retail property of the future. Projects include Costa Mesa's OC Mix and South Coast Collection, Newport Beach's Castaway Commons, and the retail portion of the Dana Point Harbor renovation. **IN THE NEWS:** Sold Long Beach Exchange, multi-property retail center near the Long Beach Airport, for nearly \$160M around start of year. Biggest reported retail sale in the region since the start of the pandemic. **NOTABLE:** Revamped Gateway Center in Mission Viejo, home to the first Amazon Fresh grocery store in South Orange County.

**ROYCE SHARF**

VICE CHAIRMAN,
BRANCH MANAGER, OC
SAVILLS

WHY: Managing principal for Newport Beach tenant brokerage, one of OC's largest. Established local operation in 1987. **IN THE NEWS:** Helped civil litigation law firm Wolfe & Wyman LLP, OC's No. 33 law firm by local lawyer count, go from renter to owner in the office area around John Wayne Airport. **NOTABLE:** Has represented tenants in more than 11M square feet of transactions totaling over \$2.5B. Authority in lease negotiations, representing many of the area's most prominent law firms, technology companies and other corporate space users.

**CHRIS MARSH**

CO-FOUNDER
REVITATE CHERRY TREE

WHY: Former Irvine Co. apartment exec founded multifamily investment fund last year with members of the local Bhathal family. Aims to increase workforce housing in the Midwest and Sun Belt markets. **IN THE NEWS:** Purchased first three assets as a part of multifamily fund launched in October, in Kansas and Kansas City, Mo. **QUOTABLE:** Acquisitions are "indicative of Cherry Tree's strategy to acquire and preserve traditional workforce housing communities in growing markets that have consistent employment growth and positive net in-migration."

**JOSH CHILDRESS**

CEO
LANDSPIRE GROUP

WHY: Former NBA star who has become a notable player in the area's commercial real estate scene, co-founding his own investment firm and striking up strategic partnerships with other local investors over the past few years. Made OC his home during his 15-year basketball career. **IN THE NEWS:** With TPG as its anchor investor, said early this year that Irvine's LandSpire plans to launch with a target of raising \$500M. **NOTABLE:** Stayed local when he made his first commercial investment in 2018, acquiring Sunflower Plaza, a shopping center and office building across the street from South Coast Plaza, an area poised for major redevelopment.





NORTHERN CALIFORNIA



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JOHN HOCEO
LANDSEA HOMES

WHY: Leads U.S. unit of China-based real estate firm, largest publicly traded homebuilder headquartered in OC. Master developer of IronRidge, a 96-acre Lake Forest project with 600 homes. Went public in early 2021. **IN THE NEWS:** Expansion into Florida, inked \$250M for Orlando's Hanover Family Builders. **NOTABLE:** Bullish on OC real estate in wake of pandemic, and sees demand from millennials, which represents a large group of first-time homebuyers. **QUOTABLE:** Lake Forest project has "attracted a variety of buyers, but especially first-time homebuyers looking for space to grow their families in attractive homes and attainable prices."

**GRANT KEENE**CEO
WJK DEVELOPMENT

WHY: Heads family-owned developer, founded in 2014, with focus on infill homebuilding projects, in areas including Laguna Beach and Eagle Rock in Los Angeles County. OC's 19th largest builder, sold 36 homes in 2021. **IN THE NEWS:** Completed largest land purchase in its history. 8.1-acre site in downtown Reno, near the Truckee River in Nevada. Plans to build a project that's expected to run upward of 400 homes or rental units. **NOTABLE:** Company is working on one of its more high-profile projects to date along Laguna Canyon Road in Laguna Beach. A long-awaited, 28-unit artist work-live project is now under construction, after a review period that stretched multiple years.

**STEPHEN LOGAN**VP, DEVELOPMENT
MERLONE GEIER PARTNERS

WHY: Helming San Diego-based retail developer's efforts to redevelop former Laguna Hills Mall into Village at Laguna Hills with 250K square feet of retail, 465K square feet of office space in four buildings, a hotel with up to 150 rooms and about 1,500 apartments. Project in works for nearly a decade. **IN THE NEWS:** Received city approval in March for latest version of \$130M redevelopment. **QUOTABLE:** "This is [now] a true mixed-use project in South Orange County. We think having all those different components is going to be dramatic for South Orange County and this shift will make it a better place for everyone to visit."

**CHUCK SCHREIBER**CHAIRMAN
KBS

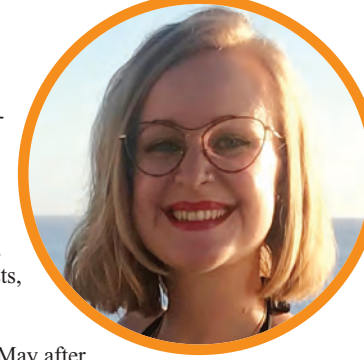
WHY: 23 years as CEO for one of the country's largest office investors before becoming chairman. The "S" in KBS; the other two founders are the late Don Koll and Peter Bren, the late brother of Irvine Co.'s Donald Bren. **IN THE NEWS:** Company marked local portfolio departure in 2020, now scouting OC investment opportunities. **NOTABLE:** Four generations of Schreiber family involved as volunteers of J.F. Shea Therapeutic Riding Center in San Juan Capistrano, an equine assisted therapy program that serves more than 1,800 clients per year.

**KEVIN HAYES**FOUNDER, CEO
PENDULUM PROPERTY PARTNERS

WHY: Growing real estate investor with four Orange County assets in its portfolio as of midyear, including three office projects in Irvine, Huntington Beach and Anaheim, and a retail and office mixed-use property on the Huntington Harbor Marina. **IN THE NEWS:** Generated 45% premium on sale of Stadium Crossings complex in Anaheim, one of its first local investments. **NOTABLE:** Previously headed local operations of Lincoln Property before starting own firm in 2016. **QUOTABLE:** "With Orange County serving as our solid infrastructure, we have been in expansion mode."

**ARYA MAZANEK**FOUNDER, CEO
WILDERWISE HOMES

WHY: Leads Laguna Beach tiny-home company started in 2017. USC grad. Lives part time in company's two-story, 21-foot-long mobile prototype. Homes production slated to begin by end of 2022 with 450 preorder requests, 25 deposits and six down payments. **IN THE NEWS:** Opened \$10M Series A round in May after closing oversubscribed equity crowdfunding campaign the month before. Funds will expand its production capabilities, support development of new products, and build out tech platform. Startup plans to hire marketing and operations roles in the U.S. this year. **QUOTABLE:** "I'm not just a business owner—I'm living in the product."



A Legacy of Riding for The Brand

Congratulations Tony Moiso!

For over half a century, Tony Moiso has set the standard for how to live a life and conduct business with the highest level of ethics and integrity. While the communities developed by Tony are nationally admired and recognized, it is his unwavering conviction towards taking care of the land and the people who live on it that inspire his team at Rancho Mission Viejo each and every day.



RANCHO MISSION VIEJO



BILL SHOPOFF

CEO
SHOPOFF REALTY INVESTMENTS

WHY: Namesake of Irvine-based real estate investor and developer. Development pipeline totals nearly \$4B. **IN THE NEWS:** Broke ground earlier this year on Dream Las Vegas, a \$550M 20-story hotel on Las Vegas Strip. Collaborating with Costa Mesa-based boutique development firm Contour Real Estate for Vegas project. Company also bought large portions of 90-acre Westminster Mall, with eye on future development. Working with builders to revamp shopping center into mixed-use hub. **QUOTABLE:** The company celebrated its 30th anniversary this year. "I never thought we would get to where we are today. It just feels remarkable."

**WIL SMITH III**

FOUNDER
GREENLAW PARTNERS

WHY: Runs Irvine-based real estate investor, among OC's top commercial property investors. **IN THE NEWS:** Greenlaw in midyear completed a \$520M sale of eight industrial properties in California and Utah, leased to Amazon. Among the larger industrial deals in the western U.S. this year. Previously sold Brea's Bank of America campus to Amazon for \$165M. **NOTABLE:** Donated \$10M to USC in 2020, establishing the Department of Real Estate Development at the university's public policy school, which is named after him. Half of the money went to scholarships, while the remainder went to faculty support.

**MORGAN TRENT**

FOUNDER
TRENT LUXURY

WHY: After three-year career in NFL, moved to OC as a realtor for the Related Companies. Since 2018, has sold more than \$175M in luxury homes in Orange and LA counties. **IN THE NEWS:** Began Trent Luxury, a real estate firm affiliated with the Aaron Kirman Group and Compass. Counts 14 employees selling luxe real estate. **QUOTABLE:** "I never want to be known as the guy who was successful for catching a football. I'm not going to stop until I get where I'm going."

**BRYON WARD**

PRESIDENT, PARTNER
BURNHAM WARD PROPERTIES

WHY: Longtime area real estate exec, with a specialty in retail development. Behind area projects such as SOCO and The OC Mix in Costa Mesa, and The Hangar at LBX, in Long Beach. **IN THE NEWS:** Burnham Ward is tasked with revitalizing the restaurants, retail, and public spaces at the Dana Point Harbor, as part of partnership with county and other local businesses. **OC LEADER BOARD, JUNE 7:** "It is possible to bring incredible improvements to a cherished public asset in a way that brings long-lasting benefits to local taxpayers without any undue tax burden."

**BILL WILHELM**

PRESIDENT
R.D. OLSON CONSTRUCTION

WHY: At construction firm affiliate of R.D. Olson Development for over 25 years, spearheading projects including Lido House, Irvine Spectrum Marriott, Paséa Hotel and Spa, and Chapman University's Reeves Hall. Among country's top general contractors. **IN THE NEWS:** Completed renovation of Sheraton Park Hotel on the Anaheim Convention Center campus. Work moving ahead at mixed-use Bolsa Row in Westminster's Little Saigon district, to include a 200-unit apartment complex, retail and the city's first full-service and four-star hotel by Wyndham Hotels and Resorts. **NOTABLE:** New projects include Heritage Square South, a \$28M permanent supportive housing complex in Pasadena.

**BILL WITTE**

CHAIRMAN, CEO
RELATED CALIFORNIA

WHY: Founded California unit of real estate giant Related Co. in 1989, oversees all of company's multifamily and mixed-use development activity in the state. **IN THE NEWS:** Has early-stage plans in works for 42-acre redevelopment project in south Santa Ana in the South Coast Metro area. 3,750 apartments, 350K square feet of retail, dining and commercial, 200 senior housing units and a 250-room premium hotel proposed. **NOTABLE:** The Bill Witte and Keiko Sakamoto Shop named after couple at new OC Museum of Art. Also has naming rights for a new library lecture hall planned next to Newport Beach's central library.



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Brea Superblock I
Parking Structure



Children's Hospital of Orange
County – South Tower



Chapman University Musco
Center for the Arts



UCI Center for Advanced
Care Medical Office Building



St. Jude Medical Center
Northwest Tower



LINDSAY PARTONPRESIDENT
DJM CAPITAL

WHY: Heads Southern California property acquisitions and development for San Jose-based shopping center investor. Three decades in construction development, previously founded Santa Barbara-based Parton & Edwards Construction. **IN THE NEWS:** Involved in nearly \$200M of local acquisitions at the start of the year, including the Gateway Center in Mission Viejo and the 26-acre Long Beach Exchange. Burnham Ward Properties sold the latter property in a retail deal among tops during the pandemic. **QUOTABLE:** “Over the next year, we plan to double the square footage of our assets under management and focus on aggressive growth within our company.”

**DAVID PROLO**PRESIDENT, LAND SALES,
HOMEBUILDING
IRVINE CO.

WHY: Joined Irvine Co. in 2020 after serving in executive roles at Lennar and CalAtlantic Homes. Besides being president of land sales and homebuilding for Irvine Co., also oversees Irvine Pacific, the company’s in-house home developer. **IN THE NEWS:** Work underway for Summit, collection of Orchard Hills homes with sweeping views of Irvine. Groundwork nearing for 1,200-home project in Orange. **QUOTABLE:** “Buyers continue to appreciate the great room concept and the indoor/outdoor relationship in our home designs. Flexible use spaces are a critical component in today’s new home designs. Highly amenitized kitchens open to the family room with expanded islands are a popular feature.”

**JEFF ROOS**REGIONAL PRESIDENT
LENNAR

WHY: Responsible for overseeing homebuilding operations in the Western Region for country’s largest homebuilder, with regional base in Irvine. Joined Lennar in 1996. Started and managed Lennar’s Orange County Division, which was the foundation for Lennar’s expansion in California. **IN THE NEWS:** City of Hope Orange County Lennar Foundation Cancer Center opened this summer thanks to \$50M donation from charitable arm of homebuilder. **NOTABLE:** Inducted into California Homebuilding Foundation’s Hall of Fame last year. Helped found Lennar Charitable Housing Foundation in 2001.

**ANTHONY ROZIC**NORTH AMERICA CEO
GOODMAN

WHY: Leads North America ops for Goodman Group, a \$25B-valued industrial investor that operates locally out of Irvine. Rozic joined firm in 2004 as chief financial officer, named to current position in 2016. **IN THE NEWS:** Largest industrial project currently on the books in Orange County, a speculative, 1.5M-square-foot logistics campus at the former Kimberly-Clark tissue paper manufacturing site in Fullerton. Grocer Sprouts reported to be first tenant. **QUOTABLE:** The Fullerton project is being “built to meet the needs of the new digital economy,” and is being touted as the firm’s “most sustainable” facility in OC.

**JIM MADRID**EVP
MCCARTHY BUILDING COS.

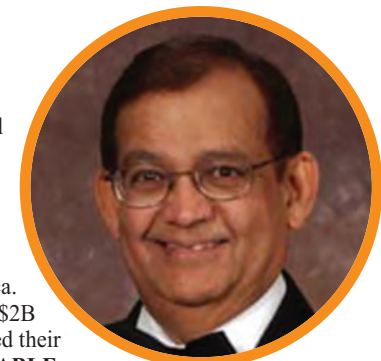
WHY: Heads Southern California operations for St. Louis-based commercial construction firm, long among the tops in Orange County. **IN THE NEWS:** Part of team working on UCI’s Center for Advanced Care Medical Office Building & Parking Structure, a project estimated at around \$158M. 2021 revenue of \$1.1B for OC operations.

NOTABLE: Newport Beach office serves the majority of Southern California from Bakersfield to San Clemente and through the Inland Empire.

**MANU SHAH**FOUNDER, CEO
MSI

WHY: Flooring, countertop, wall tile products distributor with 2,600 employees. One of the pioneers of granite for kitchen countertops. Multiple Business Journal honors. Largest natural stone distributor in North America. **IN THE NEWS:** Reported over \$2B in annual sales as people upgraded their homes amid the pandemic. **NOTABLE:**

1970 immigrant from India, co-founded firm in 1975 with wife, Rika. Big break came in 1981 to provide granite for Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Washington, D.C. **QUOTABLE:** “Natural stone has stood the test of time and remains the most visual part of a home—found in entryways, kitchen counters, master baths, fireplaces, columns, patios and landscaping. Natural stone endures as mankind’s best friend and is an incredible job-creation machine.”



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MIKE MCKEECHAIRMAN
TGR FOUNDATION

WHY: Longtime area real estate exec who now chairs education-focused charity founded by Tiger Woods. Has been the chairman of the board of governors for more than a decade. TGR provides STEM curriculum and college-access programs to underserved students. **IN THE NEWS:** TGR Foundation had 25th anniversary last year. Has now reached more than 2 million children through its in-person and digital programs. **NOTABLE:** Former right-hand man of Irvine Co.'s Donald Bren, one-time chief executive of Irvine Co. Served as principal for Peter Ueberroth's Contrarian Group since 2018. A director with San Diego's Realty Income, which has several OC real estate investments.

**PARKE MILLER**EVP, SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
LPC WEST

WHY: Manages West Coast arm of national real estate firm Lincoln Property Co., among OC's larger landlords. **IN THE NEWS:** Bought Orange's The Square on Main, a five-building complex for \$97.2M, one of the area's biggest multi-tenant office sales seen this year.

QUOTABLE: The Square "is a landmark commercial project that reflects the vibrancy of the Orange County region," he said. "It represents a prime example of why we remain bullish on the promise of well-positioned, highly amenitized office space in this market as businesses increasingly return to in-person work."

**TONY MOISO**CHAIRMAN, CEO
RANCHO MISSION VIEJO LLC

WHY: Heads development, leasing arm of Moiso, O'Neill and Avery families; OC's No. 2 landowner after Donald Bren. **IN THE NEWS:** Latest housing community, Rienda, is one part of the third phase of housing development at the South County master-planned community, located south of Ladera Ranch. The third phase of RMV will total 7,000 homes. The first phase of Rienda opened in April, and has been "selling at a fast rate," prompting the company to push up plans for the second phase, officials say. **QUOTABLE:** "Our family has owned this ranch since 1882. At one time it was 52,400 acres."

**MARK MOSHAYEDI**CEO
MSM GLOBAL VENTURES

WHY: One of Orange County's best-known tech entrepreneurs, having founded STEC Inc. with brothers Manouch and Mike in 1990. Has expanded into coastal real estate, particularly Mariner's Mile in Newport Beach. Also operates real estate firm Space Investment Partners. **IN THE NEWS:** In March purchased for \$19M The Village, a 21K-square-foot office and retail property in Corona del Mar, paying \$19M, or about \$900 per square foot, among the higher prices seen lately for a property of that size. Site seeing heavy work. **NOTABLE:** Family sold STEC in 2013 for \$340M to Western Digital, which was then in Irvine.

**MICHAEL MUGEL**FOUNDER, CEO
RED MOUNTAIN GROUP

WHY: Founded private Santa Ana redevelopment firm that counts a portfolio of retail properties running more than 4.7M square feet across 18 states. **IN THE NEWS:** Ended 2021 by buying and selling area properties in deals totaling nearly \$60M, including a \$25M acquisition of the Buena Park Marketplace and the \$33.5M sale of Katella Gateway in Garden Grove. **NOTABLE:** Started company in 1991 with a distressed shopping center acquisition in Mesa, Ariz. Portfolio includes about a dozen local properties.

**CRAIG ATKINS**CHAIRMAN
CITY VENTURES

WHY: Prominent real estate exec, founder of one of area's first homebuilders to embrace green, eco-friendly building features, with a focus on affordability. **IN THE NEWS:** Irvine-based City Ventures is leading a \$200M project in Whittier to develop a 6.4-acre collection of city-owned sites. Project counts 344 homes and apartments and small amount of retail and entertainment space. **NOTABLE:** Counts a sizeable commercial real estate portfolio as private investment, including waterfront property along Mariner's Mile.



LARRY ARMSTRONG

CHAIRMAN
WARE MALCOMB

WHY: Longtime face of Irvine-based international architecture design firm, where he served as CEO for 28 years. Accomplished artist with work featured at Chicago’s Sculpture Objects Functional Art and Design Fair in 2018 and Chelsea Biennale fall exhibition in 2021. **IN THE NEWS:** Firm still in growth mode after 50 years in business, with new offices in Nashville, Tenn.; Columbus, Ohio; and São Paulo, marking expansion into South America. OC’s largest architectural firms in 2021 with billings up 20% to \$218.8M. **QUOTABLE:** “We grew up for 50 years in Irvine, we’re very proud of our heritage in Orange County. This at minimum should be a 100-year company.”



NATALIA OSTENSEN

EVP
OLEN PROPERTIES

WHY: Oversees day-to-day operations at Olen, one of the area’s largest local property owners. Heads commercial property unit leasing team at the family-owned company. Also owns Andrei’s Conscious Cuisine, and more casual concept Dandelion Conscious Cafe & Catering. **IN THE NEWS:** Rapid rental push in Southeast has built Olen’s portfolio close to 17,000 apartment units in 51 multifamily communities, in addition to more than 7M square feet of commercial space. **QUOTABLE:** “We see our properties and communities as family members, in a sense. They need to be cared for and maintained for the long term because there is no end of the relationship in sight.”



ART BIRTCHER

CO-CHAIRMAN
BIRTCHER ANDERSON &
DAVIS ASSOCIATES

WHY: Industrial investor, whose fifth-generation family company was founded in 1939. Birtcher family is one of OC’s better-known real estate families. **IN THE NEWS:** In January, partnered with Belay Investment Group on a \$42M purchase of an industrial portfolio in Dallas. **NOTABLE:** Over his career, he has purchased and developed more than \$4B of commercial real estate through public and private offerings, including roughly 60M square feet of commercial real estate globally. He has also developed more than 100 residential projects totaling 12,000 units.



JOHN DRACHMAN

CO-FOUNDER,
HEAD OF CAPITAL MARKET
WATERFORD PROPERTY CO.

WHY: Co-founded with Sean Rawson owner-driven diversified real estate investment and development company, with a recent and growing focus on solving the California housing crisis. **IN THE NEWS:** Since starting his predecessor firm, Stillwater Investment Group in 2014, Drachman has acquired and been a partner in over \$2.8B of office, retail, and apartment assets in Southern California. **NOTABLE:** In 2021, company pushed into workforce housing—a sector that aims to provide affordable rental homes for healthcare workers, military members, first responders, teachers, and other service professionals and their families.



CHRIS BURNS

EVP, REAL ESTATE OPERATIONS
DUKE REALTY

WHY: Opened Irvine office for what was one of country’s largest industrial real estate investment trusts. Duke managed a 19.2-million-square-foot Southern California portfolio out of a nearly 10,000-square-foot office at the 200 Spectrum Center tower, and counted a sizeable amount of industrial holdings in the region. **IN THE NEWS:** January promotion. Previously oversaw the West and Central Regions for Duke Realty where he was responsible for the operations of 10 logistics markets. **NOTABLE:** Duke, which in October completed blockbuster sale to Prologis, was ranked high on Business Journal’s Best Places to Work list for several years running.



DAN HEDIGAN

CEO
FIVEPOINT

WHY: Heads one of California’s largest developmental firms, with plans for 40,000 homes and 23M square feet of planned commercial opportunities on land it owns, including Irvine’s Great Park Neighborhoods. Previously served as president of land sales and homebuilding for Irvine Co. **IN THE NEWS:** Took over role from founder Emile Haddad this year, looking to boost commercial development on company’s land in Irvine, near City of Hope campus. **QUOTABLE:** “We have very flexible zoning in our commercial properties, which is a very unique attribute.”





Patricia Chidlaw (b. 1952)

"Mojave" 1999

Oil on canvas

The Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University

Gift of the Hilbert Collection



SERVICES / ACCOUNTING / INSURANCE

GORDON MACLEANPARTNER
RJI INTERNATIONAL CPAS

WHY: Specializes in audits of publicly traded and privately held businesses in the manufacturing, technology, medical device, real estate, distribution and professional services industries. Has been in the public accounting business for over 30 years and spent 20 years at KPMG LLP's Orange County office, including seven years as an audit partner. **IN THE NEWS:** Presenting Sponsor for Business Journal's annual Excellence in Entrepreneurship Awards in May. **NOTABLE:** Former board chairman, United Cerebral Palsy of Orange County; advisory board member, CSUF Executive Council.

**ANESA CHAIBI**CEO, PRESIDENT
COOLSYS

WHY: Helms Brea-based HVAC, lighting and engineering firm that calls itself "the market-leading indoor environment solutions company." Serves customers in the retail, commercial, foodservice, educational, healthcare, and industrial markets. Has more than 3,000 employees nationwide, serving the daily needs of more than 45,000 customers. **IN THE NEWS:** Named to role last October, replacing Adam Coffey. **NOTABLE:** Has successfully scaled multiple businesses for both public and private companies, and served as president and CEO of HD Supply Facilities.

**JOHNNY, CINDY JOHNSON**OWNERS
BLUE BUOY FAMILY SWIM SCHOOL

WHY: Tustin swim shop with family and safety-first vision that has trained nearly a dozen Olympians over the decades. Founded in 1956, became sole owners in 2007. **IN THE NEWS:** Recognized at 2021 Business Journal Family-Owned Business Awards. Scaling back day-to-day involvement in school to focus on community initiatives. Youngest son, Eric, now runs bulk of operations. **NOTABLE:** Known for philanthropic work in Tustin, both served on the board of directors of the National Drowning Prevention Alliance. Also co-founded Stop Drowning Now nonprofit.

**NAT TURNER**EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN, CEO
COLLECTORS HOLDING
SANTA ANA

Rapidly expanding firm, previously known as Collectors Universe, provides authentication and grading services to dealers and collectors of coins, trading cards, event tickets, autographs and historical and sports memorabilia. Benefitting as industry for trading cards and other collectibles has continued to grow over the course of the pandemic, with no signs of a slowdown. It's the owner of **PSA**, which authenticates trading cards and memorabilia; **PCGS**, which grades coins and currency; and **WATA**, which values video games and other pop culture items.



THEN: Company went public in 1999 and spent the next decade with a market cap around \$30M. In recent years, the company's value slowly crept up until late 2020, when Turner's investment group offered \$700M, or a 30% premium to its value at the time. By last February, it bumped the offer to \$853M to complete the deal.

NOW: The company has grown from \$105M in sales in calendar 2020 to more than \$300M last year, officials tell the Business Journal. In Collectors' three prior fiscal years, sales hovered around \$40M. Firm said its own valuation has risen fivefold to \$4.3B after it raised \$100M in new funding.

FUTURE: Since 2021, it's made five acquisitions, including an online collectibles marketplace called **Goldin**, described as a high-end online auction house that does for cards what Sotheby's does for art. The \$100M will be used to for more acquisitions, officials say.

IN THEIR WORDS: Collectors has grown from 600 employees at the end of 2020 to about 1,100 as of March, with 1,000 in Orange County. It plans to expand to 2,000 employees by the end of the year, ranging from entry-level positions to software engineers. "Our biggest challenge is hiring. We're struggling to find talented people," Turner said.

PATRICK MAHONEYCEO
WEST COAST ARBORISTS

WHY: Operates largest municipal tree maintenance company in California. Anaheim-based company celebrating 50-year anniversary this year. Contracts with over 330 municipal agencies. **IN THE NEWS:** 2021 Family-Owned Business Award winner branching out with new partnerships to plant more trees, educate youth about tree care and practice sustainability. Planted nearly 1,500 trees across 28 cities in California through partnerships in March. **NOTABLE:** Expected in May to generate \$160M in 2022. Firm plants over 14,000 trees and prunes over 500,000 on yearly basis.

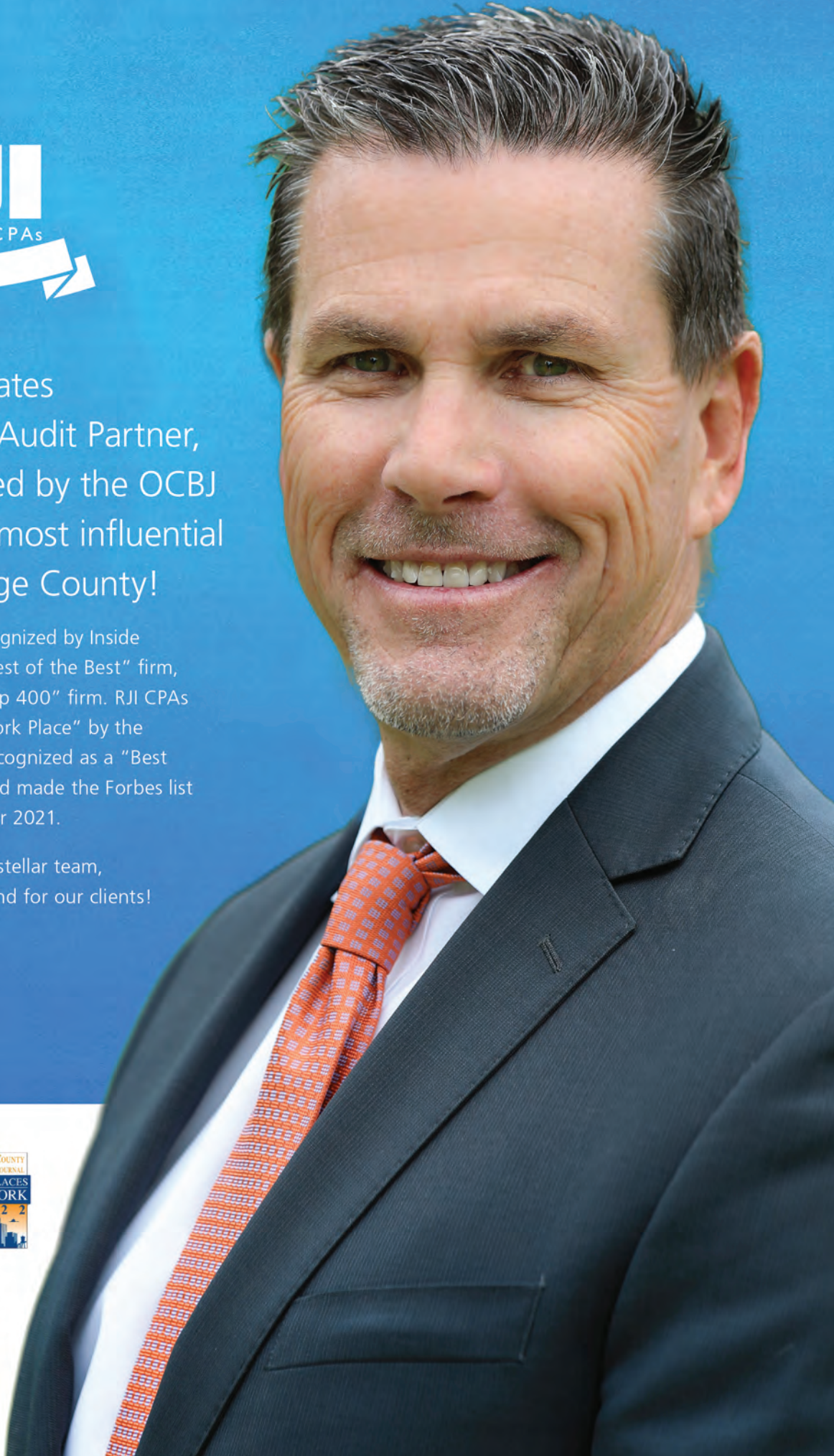




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Places to Work" by the OCBJ and made the Forbes list
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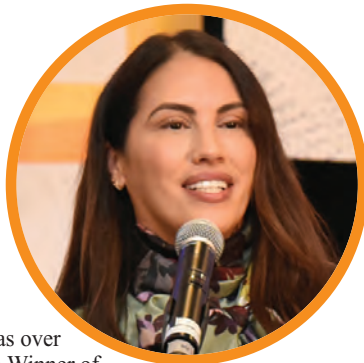
These accolades are due to our stellar team,
who always go above and beyond for our clients!



CHARLENE GARZA

CEO
HORIZON PERSONNEL SERVICES
CEO
STAFFCHEX

WHY: Heads two staffing companies, Orange-based StaffChex and Horizon Personnel Services. The two firms, which employ nearly 7,000 total employees, including 130 internal employees, could generate about \$250M in revenue this year. Has over 20 office locations. **IN THE NEWS:** Winner of October 2021 Women in Business award. **NOTABLE:** Most of Garza's staffing work is in food manufacturing, logistics and warehouses that supply large clients like Walmart. "The problem right now is the supply chain," she said. "Most of our logistics companies are overworked."

**GAVIN HERBERT JR.**

OWNER, PRESIDENT
ROGER'S GARDENS

WHY: Majority owner of 5-acre gardening business in Corona del Mar, one of Southern California's most iconic gardening businesses. Known for its assortment of drought tolerant plants and outdoor restaurant. **IN THE NEWS:** Strategy to "own Orange County" for shipping plants online, and to promote plants that are "not thirsty" and can thrive during current drought. Firm has grown to 170 employees as of May. **QUOTABLE:** Finds joy in family business. "Dad's across the hall. My stepmother, Ninetta, has tremendous taste. She guides us to the right vendors and right products. My son works the e-commerce side."

**MIKE CORBO**

CEO, PRESIDENT
MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC US

WHY: U.S. affiliate company of Mitsubishi Electric Corp. provides HVAC systems, elevators and escalators, semiconductor and power devices, and data walls. Oversees nearly 3,000 employees who generated \$1.6B in sales in 2020. Based in Cypress. **IN THE NEWS:** Elevator and Escalator division opening a new Miami branch. Firm is "a natural fit for Miami, a city with the third tallest skyline in the United States." **NOTABLE:** Last year was named first non-Japanese CEO of unit. Americas Corporate Office provides strategic and operational services to other Mitsubishi Electric group companies in North America including factories in Ohio, Pennsylvania and Kentucky.

**DARYL CARTER**

FOUNDER, CHAIRMAN, CEO
AVANATH CAPITAL
MANAGEMENT
IRVINE

Longtime head of firm that acquires, renovates, and operates apartment properties, with an emphasis on affordable and workforce communities. Since its formation in 2008, Avanath has acquired \$2.5B of properties in 13 states in the U.S., totaling 10,000 apartment units.



THEN: Avanath previously opened four investment funds; all of them have had a 10-year shelf life, which has limited the possibility of long-term holds for Avanath, officials said.

NOW: Prepping for a new wave of affordable housing investments—and, for the first time, apartment development—after closing its first open-ended fund totaling \$536M. The fund is a consolidation of the firm's first two funds and will serve as the company's sole investment vehicle for new affordable and workforce housing acquisitions moving forward. The fund was launched with investor **UBS** and adviser **Accord Capital Partners**. The fund's seed portfolio includes 27 apartment communities including 4,256 units with a value of \$830M. Those assets were part of the first two closed funds.

FUTURE: "In addition to accelerating the firm's growth and expanding our acquisition capacity, the fund's infinite lifespan enables us to invest on an ongoing basis in affordable housing that serves residents and communities in need throughout the country," Carter said in April.

IN THEIR WORDS: Says company's mission is to provide "budget-friendly homes and impactful social programs for those most in need throughout the country."

KEN DEGIORGIO

CEO
FIRST AMERICAN FINANCIAL

WHY: Promoted from president to the top spot of the Santa Ana title insurance giant in February, replacing Dennis Gilmore, who is now chairman of the board of directors. Country's second largest title insurer, among OC's oldest companies. **IN THE NEWS:** Acquired Phoenix-based Mother Lode Holding Co. to expand in 11 states. Marked the fifth acquisition for the firm over the past two years. **NOTABLE:** Joined firm in 1999; named executive vice president in 2010 after First American separated from what's now CoreLogic.



Congratulations on being part of the OC500, Pritha!



Pritha Sridharan
Slalom OC General Manager

Fiercely human consulting

What's that?

Slalom is a purpose-led, global business and technology consulting company. From strategy to implementation, our approach is fiercely human. We focus on deeply understanding you—and your customers—to deliver practical end-to-end solutions that drive meaningful impact.

Let's build a better future, together.

VIVEK MANDE

DIRECTOR OF SCHOOL
OF ACCOUNTANCY
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,
FULLERTON

WHY: Runs the largest provider of accountants in OC and one of the largest accounting programs in the country, with about 1,400 students enrolled. **IN THE NEWS:**

Accounting program became an official school last fall, raised \$1M in two weeks to prove demand to CSUF. **QUOTABLE:** 80% of grads from the accounting program stay in OC. "That was the whole point in creating this school—to be a resource for Orange County accounting firms."

**FRANK MARTELL**

CEO, PRESIDENT
LOANDEPOT

WHY: Leads one of the country's largest mortgage firms in Foothill Ranch, founded by Anthony Hsieh. **IN THE NEWS:** Former CoreLogic head took over president and chief executive roles in April after Hsieh gave up position for executive chairman position. In January had himself moved to the chairman role at CoreLogic, after the real estate and analytics company went private in 2021 following \$6B sale to Stone Point Capital and Insight Partners. **QUOTABLE:** "After two years of record-breaking volumes, the market has contracted sharply and abruptly in 2022."

**JOSEPH COVER**

PARTNER
WITHUM

WHY: In public accounting since 2006, joined Withum as part of the KSJG LLP merger in 2020. Leads the Irvine office not-for-profit practice and also takes part in the professional services niche, where he has significant experience working with employee-owned companies. **IN THE NEWS:** Presenting sponsor of Business Journal's 2022 Excellence in Entrepreneurship Awards. **NOTABLE:** A fitness enthusiast and heads the firm's annual Withum Fitness Challenge. Graduated cum laude from Westmont College with a bachelor's degree in Economics and Business and a minor in Spanish. Obtained a California CPA license in 2010.

**STEVE JONES**

GLOBAL CHAIRMAN, CEO
ALLIED UNIVERSAL
SANTA ANA

Runs the world's largest private security firm, which has grown through dozens of acquisitions both in the U.S. and abroad. Last year completed the \$5.1 billion acquisition of London-based G4S PLC to create the world's seventh-largest private employer.

THEN: Joined company in 1996 when it counted \$12 million in annual sales.

NOW: Annual revenue now tops \$20 billion, Jones told the Business Journal in March. That's up from \$18 billion figure cited at the time of the G4S buy. Worldwide employee count now tops 800,000; was around 250,000 prior to the G4S acquisition.

FUTURE: "The plan is to grow to \$25 billion in annual sales by 2026," Jones said last year. "We're not slowing down." Recent acquisitions include **Star Protection Agency**, the largest locally owned security firm in Hawaii, and **American Security**, a top security provider in the Southeast region of the U.S.

**HEATHER FALCONE**

CEO
THERMAL-VAC TECHNOLOGY

WHY: Leads operator of brazing, heat-treating and finishing facility, for products used in inner workings of space vehicles and aerospace and military products. Products used in missile defense, deep space exploration, medical devices. **IN THE NEWS:** Won a 2021 Family-Owned Business Award in the Medium-Size Company category from the Business Journal. Completed work on the SphereX project as a partner to NASA-JPL in April. **NOTABLE:** Works with nonprofit Chrysalis that helps individuals experiencing homelessness and extreme poverty to return to the workplace. Says the company onboarded two Chrysalis clients as new team members.



2022 **OC50**

NATALIA SEPHTON

CEO, PRESIDENT
M&R ENGINEERING

WHY: Started career in LA after leaving Moscow at 16 years old. Joined Orange-based aerospace and manufacturing company as COO in 2016; acquired firm in 2018. **IN THE NEWS:** Honored at 21st annual Excellence in Entrepreneurship Awards in May.

NOTABLE: Started in community college and then climbed corporate ladder to acquire company. **QUOTABLE:** Says starting or buying a company in U.S. is “fairly easy” in comparison to other countries. “If you work hard, if you take risks in the right places, if you have a good head on your shoulders, you will succeed.”



PAUL SHORT

MANAGING PARTNER
RSM US

WHY: More than 20 years of experience providing financial statement audit, audit of internal control and advisory services. After 23 years at KPMG, joined RSM in 2017; now among six largest accounting firms in OC. **IN THE NEWS:** Presenting Diamond Sponsor at Business Journal’s CFO of the Year Awards in May. **NOTABLE:** Has extensive experience working with middle market multinational companies and is well versed in SEC reporting, IPOs, secondary equity offerings, debt offerings, and mergers and acquisitions. **QUOTABLE:** “I’m a growth-oriented, market-facing guy.”



STACY HUBBARD

OC MANAGING DIRECTOR
MARSH & MCLENNAN AGENCY

WHY: Specializes in employee benefits for public and private industry sectors. Has been in the healthcare industry for over 25 years and has experience with fully insured and self-funded health plans. Responsibilities have included client consulting and management, compliance, strategic planning and project management. **IN THE NEWS:** Named to position in April, previously the associate managing director for firm’s LA office. Presenting Diamond Sponsor at Business Journal’s CFO of the Year Awards. **NOTABLE:** Bachelor’s degree in organizational learning and a master’s degree in healthcare administration from Chapman University.



DARIN ANDERSON

CHAIRMAN, CEO
SALAS O'BRIEN

WHY: Runs Irvine consulting engineering and technical services firm with over 1,700 professionals across 55 North American offices. Firm delivers over 11,000 projects per year for clients. **IN THE NEWS:** Ranked No. 2 among Fastest-Growing Large Private Companies in Business Journal’s 2022 listing, with two-year revenue growth of 147% to \$340M for year ending in June. On acquisition spree over past few years. **QUOTABLE:** “Our goal is simple: to be the most respected firm in the galaxy as measured by our positive impact to our clients, communities and team members.”



JOE LOZOWSKI

OWNER, CEO
TANGRAM INTERIORS

WHY: Runs office supplier and renovation company. Clients include Newport Beach-based Pacific Life, Foothill Ranch-based Kawasaki and Santa Ana-based Samueli Academy. **IN THE NEWS:** Company this year helped renovate the Edwards Lifesciences Irvine HQ with new collaboration spaces and amenities. **NOTABLE:** Moved from Michigan to take over Tangram about 20 years ago when company generated \$60M in annual sales while losing \$5M a year. Company now does about \$250M in sales annually. **QUOTABLE:** “Moving to a huge diverse economic area like Southern California was clearly an opportunity, and I knew I could fix the business.”



MARIA PITOL

FORMER CORPORATE CONTROLLER
MONTROSE ENVIRONMENTAL

WHY: Born and raised in Brazil, arrived in OC 15 years ago. Served as controller for one of the country’s largest environmental services firms thanks to an aggressive roll-up strategy. IPO in 2020. **IN THE NEWS:** This year won Rising Star Award at Business Journal’s 15th annual CFO of the Year Awards. Has since left firm. **QUOTABLE:** “I was fortunate to be in an environment in Orange County where I had opportunities that made me stay here—opportunities that I didn’t have in my country, business-wise and career-wise.”



JESSICA WORD

CEO
WORD & BROWN
GENERAL AGENCY

WHY: Daughter of company co-founder of group of companies that has 500+ employees who provide services to brokers in the health insurance and employee benefits industries. **IN THE NEWS:** Named CEO in December 2021; had served as president since 2013. **NOTABLE:** A member of the California Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Board of Directors at the Center for Leadership at California State University, Fullerton, and an active member of the Orange County Chapter of the Connected Women of Influence.

**MARSHALL SOLOMON**

MANAGING PARTNER, ORANGE
COUNTY
DELOITTE

WHY: Heads largest accounting firm in Orange County. Took on position in 2021. **IN THE NEWS:** Last year saw a 15% jump in employment at the Costa Mesa office of Deloitte, which stood at 978 employees as of June. **QUOTABLE:** “Our growth in Orange County reflects Deloitte’s national increase in headcount,” he said. “Locally, we’re growing across several key sectors, including life sciences, technology and real estate.” **NOTABLE:** Specialty is corporate taxation, working as the lead tax partner and lead client service partner for several multinational-based corporations headquartered in Southern California.

**PRITHA SRIDHARAN**

GENERAL MANAGER
SLALOM

WHY: Runs OC’s fifth-largest management consulting firm. **IN THE NEWS:** Slalom earned No. 2 spot in Business Journal’s Best Places to Work List in the Large Company category in 2022. **NOTABLE:** Firm hosts regularly happy hours, beach days, retreats to Las Vegas and Mammoth, trips to Disneyland and Angels games and giving out monthly and quarterly employee awards like gift cards. **QUOTABLE:** Company regularly tracks employee hours to prevent them from topping 55 hours a week. “We don’t want to work people to death,” she said.

**BRYAN STARR**

CEO, PRESIDENT
GREATER IRVINE CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE

WHY: One of largest business chambers in state, supports Irvine business community through economic development work and retaining talent pool. **IN THE NEWS:** Irvine topped Santa Ana last year to become OC’s second-most populous city. Working with city leaders, local companies to boost ranks of middle market housing, especially for younger workers. **QUOTABLE:** “Situated in the center of Orange County, Irvine was master planned to be an economic powerhouse. Its business ventures are home to an impressive list of leading companies in technology, innovation, biotechnology, medical and communications sectors.”

**TREVOR TAIT**

MANAGING DIRECTOR
TAIT & ASSOCIATES

WHY: Directs Santa Ana-based civil engineering, environmental service, land planning and architectural firm. **IN THE NEWS:** 2021 Family-Owned Business Award winner making strides on several OC master-planning projects in the works, including repurposing Newport Beach’s Coyote Canyon landfill and acting as master engineer for Dana Point Harbor redevelopment project. **QUOTABLE:** Of plans for Coyote Canyon, says “this is a true opportunity to create a national model of how to sustainably repurpose landfill sites.”

**REBECCA ROSEN**

SENIOR DIRECTOR
COX BUSINESS

WHY: Oversees field and product marketing in the western U.S. for cable company. In this role, “I have the distinct pleasure of working with some of the best marketers and product folks in the industry, all working hard to fuel revenue growth.” **IN THE NEWS:** Diamond Sponsor for Business Journal’s 8th Annual Innovator of the Year Awards, in September. **NOTABLE:** San Diego State Athletics recently inked a seven-year agreement with Cox Business as a founding partner of Snapdragon Stadium at SDSU Mission Valley, said it “is another exciting way for us to invest in the communities we serve.”



LIZ MCKINLEY

FOUNDER, CEO
PINNACLE PETROLEUM

WHY: Runs Huntington Beach-based provider of competitively priced petroleum products and services. Firm has delivered refined fuels, lubricants and specialty fuels nationwide as a certified woman-owned business enterprise since 1995. Honored by Business Journal at 2020 Women in Business Awards. **IN THE NEWS:** Honored by Business Journal at Family-Owned Business Awards in June, in Small Business category. **QUOTABLE:** Got start in industry in 1980s, after being asked by Koch Industries to interview as an oil trader. "I took the job, and it was not until I got there that I realized I was the only woman."



BRIAN PROBOLSKY

CEO
ORANGE COUNTY
POWER AUTHORITY

WHY: Head of a new Irvine-based nonprofit utility that expects to generate \$300M in revenue this year, could eventually get to \$1B a year. Oversees all OCPA functions, including power planning, finance and budgeting, procurement, supply operations, and the development of local energy programs. **IN THE NEWS:** The nonprofit utility, which started last November, officially began billing business customers on April 1. **NOTABLE:** Extensive public service background, including serving as chief of staff to three members of the Orange County Board of Supervisors.



TRACEE JONES

MANAGING PARTNER
PWC

WHY: Runs OC's fourth-largest accounting firm by number of employees. **IN THE NEWS:** Took over as managing partner in 2021, after Ted Wilm retired from the role. **NOTABLE:** Joined firm in 1997, became a partner in 2015. Previously worked at PwC's Los Angeles office. Lives in Yorba Linda where she and her husband raised four children. **QUOTABLE:** Decided to pursue accounting for its stability after meeting a PwC partner as a high school student in Houston. Later on, "I found out it was a noble career."



KRISTEN ALLISON

CEO, PRESIDENT
BURNHAM BENEFITS

WHY: Joined Burnham Benefits Insurance Services in 1990s. Bought most of firm in 1995. Past Business Journal Women in Business honoree. Now third-largest insurance brokerage in OC last year following buy of Tustin's Wood, Gutmann & Bogart. **IN THE NEWS:** Burnham often ranks high on Business Journal's Best Places to Work list, including placing No. 7 among larger companies in 2022. **QUOTABLE:** Claims for mental health have skyrocketed during pandemic. "It's so sad," she said. "We have a compassion for mental health. It's an area that we can all concentrate on."





Ben Abril (1923-1995)
"Mission Switching Tower, Los Angeles" 1960s
Oil on canvas
The Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University
Gift of the Hilbert Collection



TECHNOLOGY

AHAD KHANCEO
KAJABI

WHY: Key executive of Irvine-based software firm that helps customers build businesses with websites, online courses, coaching, membership communities, podcasts and more in what it has dubbed the “knowledge economy.” **IN THE NEWS:** One of OC’s better-funded private tech companies; it completed a \$550M growth round of funding in 2021.

Named to top spot last year, took over role from company co-founder Kenny Rueter, who now serves as executive chairman. **QUOTABLE:** “We need to evangelize what we do as the market continues to move in our favor. We’re at the top of the first inning in terms of what this knowledge economy is going to look like in five to 10 years.”

**MARK ANDERSON**CEO
ALTERYX

WHY: Last year took helm of one of OC’s star tech firms. Data analytics company in growth mode with new, 183,000-square-foot HQ at Spectrum Terrace in Irvine. Silicon Valley vet, prior stints included president role at Palo Alto Networks. **IN THE NEWS:** Made largest acquisition in its history, paying \$400M for cloud-based “data wrangling” company Trifacta. **QUOTABLE:** “We have salespeople all around the world that are chomping at the bit to bring their customers back to our headquarters. When they come out to Southern California and visit, they understand why we want to be headquartered here because it’s a beautiful place.”

**TIM MORTEN**FOUNDER
FROST GIANT STUDIOS

WHY: Founded Irvine video game startup, one of the most talked-up early-stage gaming companies in Orange County. Former Blizzard Entertainment strategy mastermind. **IN THE NEWS:** Frost Giant announced its first video game, Stormgate, a free-to-play PC game, earlier this year. Company raised \$25M in Series A funding in January. Raised nearly \$35M to date. **QUOTABLE:** Morten was pleased by tech website Ars Technica commending Stormgate’s “fun and ’90s vibes.” In response, said “we’ve been inspired by some of Blizzard’s greatest games that debuted in the ’90s, we’re flattered by the comparison.”

**PAUL BAY**CEO
INGRAM MICRO

WHY: Promoted to top spot of one of the world’s largest wholesale distributors of technology products at start of year. Previously executive vice president and president of Global Technology Solutions at Irvine firm. **IN THE NEWS:** Weeks after promotion wrapped the company acquisition of Dutch e-commerce software company Keenondots B.V. as part of company’s CloudBlue unit. Now planning an IPO. **NOTABLE:** Firm looking to diversify into more profitable areas of work beyond tech distribution, specifically cloud-based services.



2022 OC50

DAN LEJERSKARCEO
EON REALITY
IRVINE

Company is the creator of what it calls the “Knowledge Metaverse”; its augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) software is used in a variety of educational and business applications. Eon Reality specializes in what is known as “extended reality,” or XR, which

lets people use electronic devices to visualize objects ranging from the parts of the human heart to component pieces of jet engines with full three-dimensional effect. XR is essentially the combination of virtual reality and augmented reality.

THEN: Launched in 1999, Eon Reality has built up a network of more than 1.1 million licensed users, and counts a base of offices that span the globe. The company says it has created “the world’s leading XR library for education and industry,” with over 2.1 million 3D assets as of March. The company has pivoted in the past two or three years more toward education, while retaining a full roster of business clients, Lejerskar told the Business Journal last year.

NOW: Said in April it would go public via a reverse merger with a Florida-based Special Purpose Acquisition Company, or SPAC, **Arogo Capital Acquisition Corp.** (Nasdaq: AOGO). The merger agreement implies a pro forma company enterprise value of about \$655M for Eon Reality, according to the company.

FUTURE: The transaction will provide Eon Reality with over \$100M in cash for its balance sheet, which is expected to be used to expand the company’s base of operations.

IN THEIR WORDS: The CEO, who will remain in charge of the public company after the reverse merger is completed, said his goal with the company is to “democratize extended reality, not to make it special.”





Congratulations to Claudia Keller,
CEO, Second Harvest Food Bank,
on being named an **OC 500!**



WE'RE ON A **NUTRITION MISSION**

Community health starts with access to nutritious food for everyone in Orange County. Working together with our partner network, we're committed to providing dignified, equitable and consistent access to nutritious food to children, adults and seniors throughout our community. And since August 2021, we've been harvesting and distributing nutrient-rich, locally grown produce at the 45-acre Harvest Solutions Farm. **To volunteer or donate, please visit FeedOC.org.**

40 YEARS OF SERVICE



REYNOLDS BISHCEO
KOFAX

WHY: Runs one of OC's largest and longest-running software firms, which generated about \$550M in revenue last year. **IN THE NEWS:** In its first big move since getting new private equity ownership in July, Kofax bought crosstown rival Ephesoft. Both companies' software helps businesses keep track of the growing number of electronic files and information needed to keep enterprises running smoothly. The expanded company will have about 2,300 employees globally with about 300 to 325 of them in OC. **NOTABLE:** Kofax boasts more than 25,000 customers including Aetna, Goldman Sachs and mining giant Rio Tinto.

**TIM BRITT**CEO
SYNOPTEK

WHY: Leads Irvine-based IT services and consulting firm that offers a combination of IT outsourcing, business systems, analytics, cloud computing and cybersecurity services. **IN THE NEWS:** Company boosting presence in Southeast U.S. market via acquisition of customer service agency Macquarium. Said his company has about 300 "material customers" throughout North America and about 40 of them are in the Southeast U.S., with their HQ primarily in Georgia and Florida. **NOTABLE:** Reaffirmed last year's prediction that the firm will hit \$250M to \$300M in revenue over the next four to five years. Announced new majority investor in September.

**PAOLO DAL PINO**CEO
TELIT

WHY: Runs Irvine-based IoT company. Resigned as president of Italy's world-renowned Serie A soccer league earlier this year to run Telit while it relocated HQ from London to Irvine. **IN THE NEWS:** Led purchase of IoT products unit of French conglomerate Thales to form new business, Telit Cinterion. Combined venture counts sales "north of \$800M," company officials said. Goal of over \$1B in revenue of three years. **QUOTABLE:** Quipped he initially thought the role of Serie A president "was for just giving the cup at the end of the championship."

**SUSAN BRENNAN**CEO, PRESIDENT
ROMEO POWER
CYPRESS

Battery maker for commercial electric vehicles that this year moved more than 250 employees and its headquarters from Los Angeles to a 215,000-square-foot spot in Cypress, in the latest sign of Orange County's growing stature as an EV hub. The company's products are designed to power commercial vehicles such as trucks, buses and delivery vans.



THEN: Romeo Power went public through a reverse merger with a special purpose acquisition company, or SPAC, and started trading on the New York Stock Exchange at the end of 2020. Brennan was named CEO last year, and the move to OC was among her first big acts.

NOW: The opportunity to "recruit and retain talent" was a key factor in the in-progress move to OC, according to Brennan. "R&D is core to Romeo's success. When we identified the location in Cypress, it was perfect for all kinds of reasons," including "the ability for us to grow and have enough space to expand our labs." New space will support the company's expansion of battery development and testing capabilities next to its production line.

FUTURE: Romeo Power says it will enable battery-operated vehicle owners "to eliminate negative emissions in a safe and cost-effective manner so they can meet the evolving environmental regulations in the U.S. and abroad." In October completed sale to Nikola Corp., a \$144M deal struck in August.

IN THEIR WORDS: Brennan, speaking of the emerging EV market, said that "the total cost of ownership, we're confident, will continue to improve." "The electric vehicle industry has reached a critical inflection point and the demand for affordable high-density battery solutions is at an all-time high," the company added.

DEEPAK GARGFOUNDER, CEO
SMART ENERGY WATER

WHY: Holds degrees from Stanford and MIT. Founded cloud-based technology platform in Irvine, which helps utilities and their consumers conserve water and energy. Clients include Southern California Edison and Southern California Gas Co. **IN THE NEWS:** Rapidly expanding global client base in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Australia and New Zealand. Said in April the company will add another 400-plus employees this year. 2021 Business Journal Innovator of the Year Award winner. **QUOTABLE:** "We are in the business of connecting billions of people to energy and water ecosystems."



TONY SMITHCO-FOUNDER, CEO
RESTAURANTS365

WHY: Heads restaurant-specific accounting and back-office software platform that has topped \$70M+ in annual sales. Helps restaurants perform back-of-the-house functions, now has a customer base topping 30K. **IN THE**

NEWS: Launched a new business line, R365 Workforce, which will help clients “manage payroll, HR, hiring, and we have other things bundled in there to help employees, like being able to offer daily pay.” **NOTABLE:** Last year, won a Business Journal Innovator of the Year award; was keynote speaker at this year’s event.

QUOTABLE: Pandemic “accelerated the adoption of (digital) systems by four years.”

**CHRISTOS KARMIS**CEO, PRESIDENT
MOBILITIE

WHY: Leads Newport Beach telecommunications infrastructure company founded by Gary Jabara. Company sold for \$1.7B to Australia-based BAI Communications last year. OC’s No. 13 largest telecommunications company with 76 employees here. **IN THE NEWS:** Deployed high-speed 5G wireless deployment at the recently rebranded Crypto.com Arena and L.A. Live. **QUOTABLE:** “We have invested over \$100 million in LA over the past five years with over 1,000 new wireless network infrastructure projects in preparation of 5G. That includes both indoor and outdoor locations.”

**RICH FENNESSY**CEO
TRACE3

WHY: Helms fast-growing IT services provider and consulting firm, which provides cloud, data intelligence, security, software development and operations, and enterprise IT services to thousands of corporate customers. **IN THE NEWS:** Trace3 celebrated 20 years of business with a move to a new office in the Irvine Spectrum, with this year’s revenue expected to exceed \$2B. **QUOTABLE:** “Having Trace3’s headquarters in Orange County has played a key role in our growth over the last 20 years. We strive to recruit the best talent in the industry and thanks to the strengthening of the SoCal technology ecosystem, we have built a wonderful business.”

**HASAN IMAM**CEO
OBSIDIAN SECURITY
NEWPORT BEACH

Obsidian is quickly moving further into the front ranks of Orange County’s growing cyber-protection industry. Well-funded firm’s offerings are designed to meet the growing demand for corporate cybersecurity, enabling companies to maintain what the tech world calls good “SaaS Security and posture management.” The company counts nearly 100 corporate customers, according to Imam.



THEN: The software maker’s founders include two former executives of onetime Irvine-based cybersecurity firm **Cylance** and which also count ties to well-known security firm **Carbon Black**. Has raised a total of \$119.5M since its founding in 2017. Imam said revenue showed an almost four-times increase last year, and he expects three-times growth in 2022, though he did not disclose figures. The company said its number of deals of \$100,000 or more increased fivefold last year.

NOW: In April, announced a \$90M financing round led by prominent Silicon Valley investment firm **Menlo Ventures**. Obsidian will be investing a significant amount of its latest funds in research and development positions this year and “Newport Beach-Orange County is a big area of our focus for those hires,” Imam told the Business Journal. The company also has offices in Silicon Valley. **FUTURE:** Imam expects the current companywide headcount of 80 people to double this year as demand for corporate cybersecurity jumps.

IN THEIR WORDS: “Even if you have perfect posture, perfect configuration, perfect controls around data visibility, perfect controls around how you are granting people privileges, accounts can still be compromised.”

PARSA ROHANIFOUNDER, CEO
NEUDESIC

WHY: Founder, CEO of cloud services consultancy which provides a range of digital transformation services, including advisory, application development and cloud migration. **IN THE NEWS:** Tech giant IBM in April bought Neudesic to help tap into an estimated \$200B cloud consulting market opportunity. Neudesic counted more than 180 active clients, most of them in the U.S., but also in India and Australia as of March. **NOTABLE:** Neudesic has about 1,700 employees with about 950 of them in India and the rest in the U.S. “We are hiring at a very rapid rate.”



PAULA HANSENPRESIDENT, CHIEF REVENUE OFFICER
ALTERYX

WHY: Nearly half of Forbes Global 2000 companies are Alteryx customers; Hansen says the company's goal is to sign up the rest to the data analytics software company. She oversees Alteryx worldwide sales. **IN THE NEWS:** Promoted to current position in February. **NOTABLE:** Joined the company in May 2021. Previously the CRO of SAP Customer Experience, where she led the global sales strategy, go-to-market operations and customer success for the division of the software giant. **QUOTABLE:** Of new company HQ, says it "is very much meant for customers and partners."

**GRAYSON MORRIS**CEO
PERFORMIO

WHY: Runs Irvine-based software company that automates the tracking of sales commissions. Performio moved HQ from Australia to Irvine in 2019. **IN THE NEWS:** Performio this year received \$75M investment led by JMI Equity. Funding will help company hire more staff in sales and engineering positions and support Performio's global expansion. **QUOTABLE:** Company counts about 115 employees, with around 20 based in OC. "We love being in Orange County. We have employees all around the world. We definitely have a critical mass here in Orange County."

**ANDREW LITTLEFAIR**CEO, PRESIDENT
CLEAN ENERGY

WHY: Co-founded Newport Beach-based provider of renewable natural gas in transportation and OC's largest public company in the renewable energy sector. Valued around \$1.6B as of midyear. **IN THE NEWS:** Clean Energy hit the 25-year mark for operations and is looking further into hydrogen as a different type of fuel. Announced new fueling contracts, infrastructure expansions, and RNG production projects in April. **QUOTABLE:** "Being awarded our first hydrogen station and supply contract for Foothill Transit is very important to Clean Energy because it demonstrates our ability to move to different alternative fuels as our customers expand to other technologies."

**ROBERT RANGO**CEO
ENEVATE
IRVINE

Firm developing fast-charging batteries for electric vehicles, now with a fast-charging expansion underway in Irvine Spectrum. Develops and licenses advanced battery technology for electric vehicles, with a vision of EVs charging as fast as refueling gas cars, while making them accessible and affordable to everyone, and accelerating EVs' mass adoption.



THEN: Formed in 2005, the company calls itself one of the "early pioneers" working to make a new class of Li-ion batteries that utilizes silicon-dominant anodes. After initially focusing on cellphone batteries and other products, in 2016 it pivoted to the EV charging business, led by Rango, a former **Broadcom** exec.

NOW: Earlier this year signed a lease for over 125,000 square feet for a pre-production line and new HQ at 34 Parker Drive. New facility in the Irvine Spectrum represents a substantial growth from the company's existing space of 20,000 square feet at UCI Research Park. "With Enevate's expanding customer base, increased number of projects, and more employees we simply ran out of room at our current facility," Rango said. Company boosted its worker base by 50% last year.

FUTURE: Enevate last year secured \$81 million in Series E funding led by **Fidelity Management & Research Co.**, bringing total investment in the Irvine firm to nearly \$200M. An IPO is a consideration in the future, excess say.

IN THEIR WORDS: Of the expansion, Rango said: "This is a major milestone for the company during a very exciting time in mobility as the world transitions to electric vehicles."

ERIN O'NEILL SCHULTZREGIONAL GENERAL
MANAGER-WEST
GOOGLE FIBER

WHY: Has overseen Southern California operations for Alphabet Inc. internet service provider unit that's rapidly growing its footprint in OC, particularly in Irvine. **IN THE NEWS:** Named to new position in August, previously was the Southern California head for Google Fiber. **QUOTABLE:** Last year, Google Fiber began offering 2 gig download speeds. "We are the fastest ISP in most of the cities of which we serve," Schultz said. "We've been really excited by the customer response in Orange County."



MARLO BROOKEFOUNDER, CEO
SIMPLEAR

WHY: Founded SimpleAR in Irvine to make augmented reality and mixed reality achievable for all businesses and enterprises, including the U.S. military, aerospace and leading X-reality studios. **IN THE NEWS:** Founded SimpleAR 19 years after establishing Huntington Beach-based Avatar Partners, which is a major player in augmented and mixed reality and where she remains chairwoman. SimpleAR has built-in artificial intelligence that requires no software skills to configure. **NOTABLE:** Business Journal Women in Business Award winner in 2019. Chapter president of VR/AR Association Orange County.

**PAT DODD**CEO, PRESIDENT
CORELOGIC

WHY: New CEO and president of Irvine-based provider of residential real estate, and mortgage data and analytics. Dodd was named interim chief executive in January 2022. Interim label removed in June. **IN THE NEWS:** Took over from Frank Martell, who now runs Foothill Ranch's loanDepot; Dodd previously served as executive at Nielsen Corp. **QUOTABLE:** "At my roots, I have a strong background in data. I'm fascinated with analytics, what it can do with all the technology out there."

**RUSSELL ELLWANGER**CEO
TOWER SEMICONDUCTOR

WHY: Helms chipmaker, which has domestic operations at large plant in Newport Beach. **IN THE NEWS:** Company in February announced agreement to be purchased for \$5.4B by Intel of Santa Clara. The two companies said it could take a year for the deal to close. **NOTABLE:** Tower is Orange County's second-largest chipmaker with an estimated local workforce of 800 people. Long-term future for plant near Jamboree Road in doubt. **QUOTABLE:** "The man who took Tower from broke to billions," Israeli financial news site Globes said of Ellwanger.

**FABIAN BATTAGLIA**CEO
MOBIX LABS
IRVINE**JAMES PETERSON**EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN
MOBIX LABS
IRVINE

Chip startup which focuses on next-generation 5G wireless communications. Company was founded in 2020 and is pursuing a twin-track growth approach of organic growth and acquisitions. Its board's executive chairman is longtime area tech executive "Jimmy P" Peterson, who previously led **Microsemi**.



THEN: Came out of stealth mode early last year, the same time it announced \$10 million in funds. It has since made several partnerships and announced two acquisitions. In April, announced deal to buy **Advanced Interconnect Technologies**, a St. Cloud, Minn.-based manufacturer and product development firm serving the military, defense, and commercial air and space industries. Mobix Labs last July said it had bought on undisclosed terms **Cosemi Technologies Inc.** of Irvine, a company that specializes in high-speed connectivity equipment. In September, made a second local buy, for EMI Solutions, which makes products to reduce the amount of unwanted noise and electromagnetic interference on military and aerospace electronics systems.

NOW: Lining up a new Series A funding round, according to CEO Battaglia. "We launched recently our next financing round and we're in the midst of doing that. We're looking to raise \$30 million," said Battaglia.

FUTURE: "We're continuing on the path where we grow organically with the core IP (intellectual property) that we have and we accelerate that growth with an M&A strategy," according to Battaglia.

IN THEIR WORDS: Of Cosemi buy, Peterson—who oversaw dozens of acquisitions while at Microsemi—said the deal was "the first of many more that will transform Mobix Labs into a household name."

SEAN KIMPRESIDENT,
CHIEF PRODUCT OFFICER
KAJABI

WHY: Joined Irvine-based online software platform for small businesses and entrepreneurs earlier this year. Company helps its members build and manage websites and digital offerings such as online courses, membership communities and podcasts. Among OC's better-funded software companies. **IN THE NEWS:** Reports to Ahad Khan, who last year took over the CEO role at Kajabi from company co-founder Kenny Reuter, who became executive chairman. **NOTABLE:** Kim previously served as head of product at LA-based TikTok. Says: "For me it was like jumping off one rocket ship onto another."



STEPHEN OSWALDCHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT, CEO
DUCOMMUN

WHY: Helms Santa Ana-based supplier of electronic and structural products and services for the aerospace and defense industry; CEO since 2017. Responsibilities include setting and driving strategic initiatives and significantly improving the organization and operational performance. **IN THE NEWS:**

Completed a sale-leaseback transaction for the company's nearly 17-acre "performance center building" and excess land in the city of Carson. The roughly 307K-square-foot property traded hands for \$143M. **NOTABLE:** Ducommun is the oldest continuously operating company in California, dating back to 1849. Made the Business Journal's Best Places to Work in Orange County list the past two years.

**SAJAN PILLAI**CHAIRMAN/FOUNDER
MCLAREN STRATEGIC
VENTURES/UST

WHY: Entrepreneur known for founding IT services company UST and turning Aliso Viejo firm into global powerhouse and one of OC's largest private tech firms. Now oversees business accelerator in Irvine and venture capital firm. **IN THE NEWS:** Launched Atlas Silicon, an artificial intelligence, particularly customized chip design venture to reduce dependence on China. Said production could start in July 2023. Firm targeting business worth \$300M by 2025. **QUOTABLE:** Said company will cover design, manufacturing and production. "Atlas Silicon will do all three."

**DAVID PROSS**CEO
MOBILE GLOBAL ESPORTS

WHY: Heads mobile esports company launched last year in San Clemente. Has since contracted with Sports Industry of India to promote and operate 27 esports tournaments in India, reaching more than 450K viewers. Investors include former NFL star quarterback Kurt Warner.

IN THE NEWS: Company went public in July at \$4 per share, raising \$6M. Following month announced plans to move HQ designation to Connecticut. **QUOTABLE:** With better iPhones and access to Wi-Fi, "it's really inexpensive in India. That's become the predominant way of doing it. The players are playing on their devices."

**JAIWON SHIN**CEO
SUPERNAL
IRVINE**BEN DIACHUN**CTO
SUPERNAL
IRVINE

Key cog in Orange County's nascent flying taxi industry, which is taking off, literally. Supernal is working to build an electric-powered vertical takeoff and landing vehicle—known in the industry as an eVTOL—that will carry four to five passengers in urban areas and nearby locations to start.

THEN: Supernal was launched as the **Urban Air Mobility Division** of **Hyundai Motor Group** at the CES 2020 tech show in Las Vegas. Its headquarters are in Washington, D.C., but the tech brains behind its aircraft will be in OC. The company last year picked Irvine for its engineering headquarters, and aims to get flying taxis into service in 2028. It initially leased 106,600 square feet of high-end office space in the Irvine Spectrum to hold that division, and is now in the early stages of a big hiring push for the expected 300-person group.

NOW: Company added another 80,000 square feet of working space at another nearby **Irvine Co.-owned** building earlier this year. "We're working on technology at Supernal to power an entirely new dimension of mobility," Diachun, the company's chief technology officer, told the Business Journal.

FUTURE: Regulatory certification for the Supernal vehicles is expected in 2024.

IN THEIR WORDS: "Tech talent is critical to making advanced air mobility a reality—and that makes Irvine a great place for our engineering headquarters," said Diachun, who was named to the CTO role in early 2021. He previously served as CEO and president at **Opener**, an aerospace startup in Palo Alto.

**DAN RODRIGUES**CO-FOUNDER, CEO
TEBRA TECHNOLOGIES

WHY: Runs Newport Beach-based healthcare software company. Founded boutique software firm Kareo in 2004, which ranked No. 6 on Business Journal's 2021 list of software companies with 270 OC employees and 549 companywide. Kareo raised over \$120M in funding and merged with Santa Monica-based PatientPop last year. Combined companies formed Tebra. **IN THE NEWS:**

Tebra raised \$72M in funding earlier this year, giving the firm a billion-dollar valuation. Funding round led by Golub Capital. **QUOTABLE:** "Like Shopify is for e-commerce—Tebra is that operating system for healthcare."



KRISHNA SUDHEENDRA

CEO
UST

WHY: Helms one of OC’s largest privately held tech services firms. Aims to help clients scale and expand through strategic partnerships. Over 30K employees in 30 countries. **IN THE NEWS:** Launched UST AiSense, AI tech that provides personalized recommendations for wine, beer and some foods using “sensory science.” **NOTABLE:** New product utilizes technology developed by Tastry, said to be the world’s first AI-driven sensory sciences company. UST is strategic investor in Tastry.



MICHAEL SPERANZA

CEO
KANTATA

WHY: Runs company that’s the result of combination of Irvine-based software maker Mavenlink and London’s Kimble Applications. Kantata’s cloud-based project management software helps professional services organizations and other companies bring together project, financial and workforce data to streamline operations. **IN THE NEWS:** In November 2021, Mavenlink and Kimble Applications said they would merge to accelerate the development of software solutions for professional services firm. Name changed in May. **QUOTABLE:** “We are now one company with nearly 600 employees serving more than 2,000 clients and over half a million services professionals.”



PAUL TRULOVE

CEO
SECUREAUTH

WHY: Leads Irvine-based company, one of Orange County’s more prominent cybersecurity firms. **IN THE NEWS:** Appointed to CEO in February. **NOTABLE:** SecureAuth launched Arculix, a platform designed to make internet authentication more efficient for users while maintaining top security. Company expects client base to grow next year, as it invests in next-gen products; currently serves 600 companies, including Bass Pro Shop and Michaels. **QUOTABLE:** “We’re trying to minimize the amount of friction that we put a user through when they go through that authentication process.”



JEFF VOLPE

PRESIDENT
VIEWSONIC, AMERICAS

WHY: Head of global provider of visual solution products that conducts business in more than 100 countries worldwide. Brea-based firm, with nearly 100 employees at its local base, provides desktop monitors, interactive displays, and non-touch commercial displays, software and accessories for customers. **IN THE NEWS:** ViewSonic ranked No. 20 on this year’s Business Journal list of largest private companies by revenue, with an estimated \$1B. **QUOTABLE:** On emerging innovation in the education sector, a big focus of the firm, says “there is no classroom of the future that will not have tech.”



DONALD MCCLYMONT

CEO
INDIE SEMICONDUCTOR
ALISO VIEJO

Auto-focused technology company’s offerings include semiconductors and related software. Its “system-on-chip” products are used in driver assistance systems that help with parking and collision avoidance, onboard entertainment systems, lighting and car key products, as well as backup and forward cameras used to avoid driving errors.



THEN: Formed in 2007, Indie shipped its 100 millionth unit in 2020. Numerous Tier 1 auto suppliers use Indie’s product lines. Company went public in 2021 via a SPAC, and was valued around \$1.1 billion as of October.

NOW: First-quarter revenue was up 171% from the same period a year ago and 16% sequentially to a record \$22M, the company reported in May. Figures exceeded analyst consensus estimates.

FUTURE: “We believe our deeper R&D investments coupled with successful acquisition integrations will leverage the indie platform to accelerate growth, enable us to become the leading provider of edge sensors across all key modalities and, in turn, create shareholder value,” McClymont said this month. The company’s products are expected to ultimately be used with self-driving cars.

IN THEIR WORDS: “Our outperformance versus the industry in the face of continued supply chain headwinds reflects indie’s differentiated product portfolio and our team’s ability to obtain committed volumes from our strategic supply partners.”

CHRISTOPHER BARTYCO-FOUNDER, CTO
LUMITRON TECHNOLOGIES

WHY: Physics professor; started Irvine medical device maker in 2017. Maker of HyperView, an ultra-high-intensity, laser-based X-ray machine. **IN THE NEWS:** Developing fourth generation of the HyperView prototype at headquarters and R&D facility at UCI Research Park. **QUOTABLE:** Doesn't consider company a startup, but a fledgling company whose proprietary technology is built upon 17 years and \$220M worth of R&D. "How valuable is curing cancer? If you're the one with it, you can't put a price tag on it."

**MARTHA DANIEL**FOUNDER, CEO, PRESIDENT
IMRI

WHY: Tech vet whose career has spanned corporate and government sectors. IMRI provides program management for over \$300M in data center operations; recent work includes designing the public safety broadband first responder network; and provides cybersecurity governance and compliance, among other projects. **IN THE NEWS:** IMRI a frequent sight on Business Journal list of OC's Largest Women-Owned Businesses. **NOTABLE:** Prior to founding IMRI, served in the U.S. Navy and had a lengthy corporate career with positions ranging from mainframe programming to chief information officer for companies such as IBM, Aerojet General and Bekins Transportation.

**BEN TIGNER**CEO
OVERAIR
SANTA ANA

Head of upstart aerospace firm looking to build an electric air taxi for urban areas. Company's initial six-seat, **Butterfly** electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) vehicles are expected to be significantly quieter than typical helicopters, and as efficient as fixed-wing airplanes in forward flight. They're being designed to have a range of over 100 miles, the ability to recharge quickly between trips, a top speed of around 200 miles per hour, and can accommodate five passengers plus a pilot.



THEN: Overair's technology has been in development since 2004, under parent company **Karem Aircraft** of Lake Forest. The consumer-focused business was split off at the start of 2020 from Karem Aircraft—founded by legendary **Predator** drone designer **Abe Karem**—to allow the Lake Forest firm to focus on its military work. Ahead of its rebranding last year, Overair raised \$25M in funding, led by Korea's **Hanwha Group**.

NOW: Late last year, the company signed a 109,000-square-foot lease to more than double its footprint in Santa Ana. Raised an additional \$145M in funds in June, among largest funding rounds for an OC firm this year. Named a Business Journal Innovator of the Year award winner in September.

FUTURE: "We are on track to create 1,000 manufacturing and engineering jobs in Orange County over the next three years as we focus on bringing electric mobility solutions to the market," Tigner said late last year.

IN THEIR WORDS: "There's a group of companies that are all in a competition with each other of sorts, although I will say at least in the short term it's far more collaborative than competitive," Tigner said. "The potential market is much, much larger than any one company can fill."

KURT BUSCHCEO
SYNTIANT
IRVINE

Syntiant's low-power chips respond to voice and speech commands and can wake up a device like an **Amazon Alexa**, or have it perform a specific function. The company has also expanded its products to include sensor and image recognition, as well as other uses. Its tiny processors allow battery-powered devices to hear, speak, see and detect various sound, motion and light impulses in a wide range of consumer areas such as earbuds, wearables, smartphones, smart speakers, laptops, automobiles and other IoT consumer and industrial areas.



THEN: Founded in 2017, Syntiant said it had shipped more than 10 million of its **NDP100** and **NDP101** processors to customers across the globe as of early 2021. By March 2022, over 20 million chips—which it calls Neural Decision Processors—had been shipped. Syntiant chips, which use a tiny amount of energy when compared to current semiconductor standards, took on even greater importance during the pandemic with consumers increasingly insisting on touch-free devices.

NOW: Earlier this year closed on \$55M in new funding, bringing the company's total investment to more than \$100M. Latest round of funding is expected to help the company expedite production deployments, while ensuring the firm has the financial backing to continue to expand operations as it approaches profitability in the not-too-distant future.

FUTURE: "Our plan is IPO," according to Busch. "Future financings will be based on the market situation at the time."

IN THEIR WORDS: Syntiant's products make "edge AI accessible to any battery-powered device," according to Busch, a Business Journal **Innovator of the Year Award** recipient in 2020.

LIAM GRIFFINCHAIRMAN, CEO, PRESIDENT
SKYWORKS SOLUTIONS

WHY: Chief executive and, beginning last year, board chairman of Irvine semiconductor maker, Orange County's fourth-most valuable public company with valuation topping \$16B as of September. **IN THE NEWS:**

Diversifying revenue and making further push to 5G, the next phase in global wireless telecommunications.

Counts Apple as main customer. **NOTABLE:**

Heads team of about 500 people at UCI Research Park following HQ shift from Boston in 2020. Named president in 2014 after serving as executive vice president and corporate general manager. Added C-suite title in 2016.

**MICHL BINDERBAUER**CEO, PRESIDENT
TAE TECHNOLOGIES

WHY: Leads \$5B-valued Foothill Ranch-based tech parent—nuclear fusion, energy beams, particle accelerators—spinning out firms after 20 years of researching, including cancer-hunter targeting inoperable tumors and EV super-charging business. \$1.2B in backing. **IN THE**

NEWS: Company in July received additional \$250M in funding from investors including Google and Chevron to build a sixth-gen research reactor. Funding supports company's goal to develop and commercialize new source of clean energy that could fuel planet for next 100K years. **QUOTABLE:** With one of the company's power plants, "you could make copious at economic rates with no detriment to the environment."

**MARYAM ROFOUGARAN**CEO
MOVANDI
IRVINE**REZA ROFOUGARAN**CTO
MOVANDI
IRVINE

Co-founders of wireless technology equipment maker who are looking to expand deployment of the 5G advances for indoor and outdoor use; company counts deep ties to **Broadcom**. Movandi specializes in 5G millimeter wave technology to enable multi-gigabit wireless speeds. The company aims to accelerate the adoption of 5G deployment while bringing costs down.

THEN: The privately held firm was founded by the Rofougaran siblings in 2016 and has nearly \$70M of funding announced to date. It raised \$27M in May 2020. It was the first big funding deal for an OC company during the pandemic.

NOW: In March, linked up with San Diego chipmaking giant **Qualcomm** (Nasdaq: QCOM) to expand deployment of the 5G advances for indoor and outdoor use.

FUTURE: Under the partnership, Movandi's "5G smart repeater" technology will be combined with "mmWave small cells" powered by Qualcomm platforms, for expanded 5G mmWave adoption and an increased flexibility in operator deployments, the two companies said. The combination of the two companies' technological advances "is positioned to offer mobile operators cost-effective and fast deployment of mmWave at scale and help unlock the full potential of 5G," Movandi says.

IN THEIR WORDS: "It's really a huge deal—it's very advantageous for both companies," Maryam Rofougaran told the Business Journal in March. "Qualcomm is a leader in this wireless industry," and has a 76% share of the 5G baseband shipments, according to Counter Point Research. "Everyone needs alliances to push this market forward," she added.

**RUSS GARCIA**CEO
MENLO MICROSYSTEMS
IRVINE

Company spun out of **General Electric's Global Research Center** to commercialize a new micro-electronic component called the **Ideal Switch**. It claims the electronic switch—similar in respects to a semiconductor made by wireless chipmakers like **Broadcom**, but not the same type of technology—will be "the most disruptive technological innovation in the electronics industry since the advent of the transistor." The company says the Ideal Switch is 99% smaller, lighter, and more efficient than conventional switches and electromagnetic relays.

THEN: "Our first year of revenue was last year," Garcia told the Business Journal in early March, saying revenue was more than \$8M. "We expect (revenue) to grow significantly this year," he said, adding that "we expect to achieve profitability and cash-flow positive over the next few quarters."

NOW: In March, Menlo Microsystems announced it had raised \$150M, including an investment from the designer of **Apple Inc.**'s original iPhone. It brings its total funding to more than \$225M.

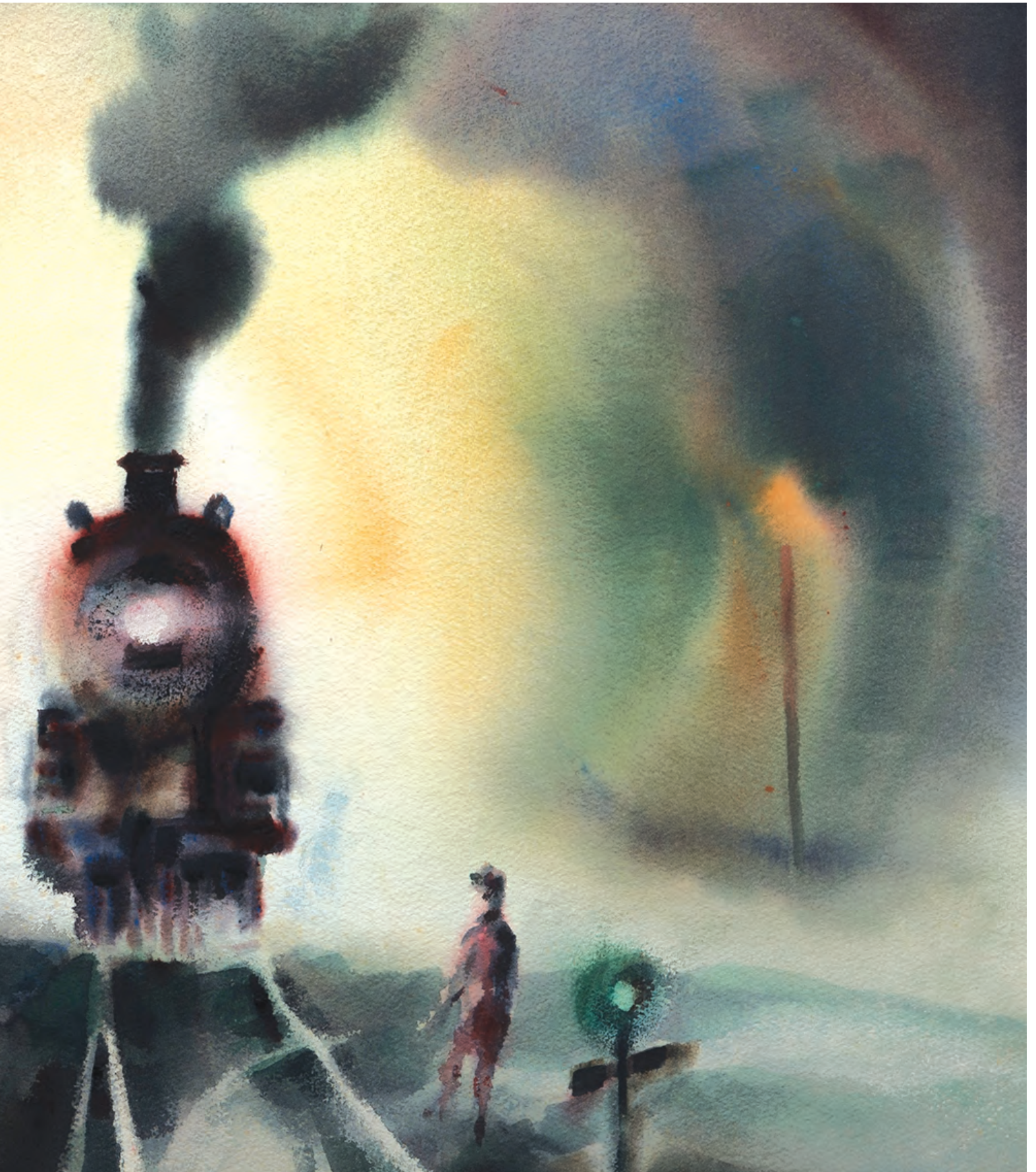
FUTURE: Looking to build a new manufacturing facility with at least 160 jobs, and is being lobbied hard by New York to put the plant there. Garcia said "we do all of our product development" in Irvine and "our operations are centered here."

IN THEIR WORDS: Of latest funding round, Garcia said the "milestone underscores the confidence our investors have in Menlo Micro's transformative technology to fuel the electrification of everything and modernize the \$100+ billion market for RF communications, power switching and protection devices in the 21st century."





Eugene Wallin (b. 1926)
"Waiting at the Station"
Watercolor on paper
The Hilbert Museum of California Art at Chapman University
Gift of Drs. James L. and Lynne P. Doti



OC's WEALTHIEST

SPOTLIGHT: SOUTH COAST PLAZA



Recent pop-up exhibit

On the Clock



Molly Unger
General Manager
South Coast Plaza

According to South Coast Plaza, there are now 35 different luxury jewelry and timepiece boutiques under its roof as of this year—the largest collection of such stores in the country, with more slated to open in the near future.

New arrivals to the center this year will be **Tudor**, **Breitling**, **Hublot**, and **Roger Dubuis** with **Audemars Piguet** and **Tag Heuer** having just opened last month.

After 42 years, South Coast's previous General Manager **David Grant** retired last December. Thirty-year retail executive **Molly Unger** has taken over. She's the first woman to manage the property.

"Molly brings a high level of operational expertise to South Coast Plaza which is enhancing the day-to-day operations of the center," **Debra Gunn Downing** said.

—Emily Santiago-Molina

South Coast Plaza

- **LOCATION:** Costa Mesa
- **BUSINESS:** luxury shopping center
- **OPENED:** 1967
- **GENERAL MANAGER:** Molly Unger
- **NO. OF STORES:** 287
- **GROSS LEASABLE SPACE:** 2.8M SF
- **NOTABLE:** South Coast Plaza is celebrating its 55th year of business this year

Signage for EV maker Polestar



Center Sees Record Sales, Plots New Additions

■ By EMILY SANTIAGO-MOLINA

South Coast Plaza is showing few signs of a slowdown as it enters its 55th year of business.

With annual sales topping \$2 billion for the first time in 2021, the Costa Mesa center has cemented its place as the top luxury shopping destination in the western U.S., if not the entire U.S. Its sales are estimated to be roughly double those seen at Beverly Hills' collection of luxe retailers along the 2-mile-long Rodeo Drive, and the OC center brings in over 20 million visitors a year, which is nearly three times the traffic seen at the LA retail hub, according to industry figures.

SCP, with about 2.8 million square feet of retail and dining space, first surpassed \$1 billion in sales in 2002 and now counts 287 tenants.

Orange County's top shopping center is privately owned by various members of the **Segerstrom family** and opened in 1967.

The **Business Journal** recently connected with SCP executive director of marketing, **Debra Gunn Downing**, to get an update on the shopping center and recent changes to its tenant roster, including new additions.

The following Q&A is edited for clarity.

Business Journal: When it comes to incoming tenants at SCP, there seems to be a

focus on restaurants, cars and watches. Is this part of a larger plan for the center?

Downing: South Coast Plaza has a reputation for "best of the best" which brings so many shoppers here. Fine timepieces attract major collectors, and the market has never been stronger.

Interest in dining experiences and chef-driven restaurants is also in demand. We've recently added **Tableau**, **Populaire** and **Petrrossian** at **Tiffany's [& Co.]**. **Mian Sichuan Gourmet Noodles** is opening next month and **Caló Kitchen + Tequila** this winter, with a couple more lined up for 2023.



Debra Gunn Downing
Executive Director, Marketing
South Coast Plaza

Business Journal: What is SCP's strategy for competing against other top luxe retail destinations, like Rodeo Drive?

Downing: Part of South Coast Plaza's allure and an advantage is the number of luxury flagships all under one roof, making shopping easy and enjoyable. It contributed to our 2021 record annual sales that exceeded \$2 billion.

Business Journal: What makes Costa Mesa and Orange County such a hot spot for luxury spaces?

Downing: Orange County is an affluent market with a coveted lifestyle, great weather—and as evidenced by the high-end real estate market, a region where people are eager to relocate or have a second home. Our



SPOTLIGHT: SOUTH COAST PLAZA

SEGERSTROM FAMILY

C.J. Segerstrom & Sons
HTS Management

4%

- NET WORTH: \$2.5 billion
- LAST YEAR: \$2.4 billion
- SOURCE OF WEALTH: real estate

THE MONEY: Different branches of the Segerstrom family operate C.J. Segerstrom & Sons and HTS Management, real estate development and management firms that run some of Costa Mesa's most valuable commercial properties, including famed South Coast Plaza.



THE FAMILY: Stakeholders in the family's varied business interests, propelled by the late Henry Segerstrom, include his widow, Eliza-

beth, who along with Sandra "Sandy" Segerstrom Daniels, daughter of Henry's cousin Harold and his wife, Jeanette, serve as

managing partners. Anton, one of Henry's three children from his first wife, is active in the center's day-to-day operations.

OTHER INVESTMENTS: In addition to South Coast Plaza, the family-run business owns and operates four office properties on the opposite side of Bristol Street under the Office of South Coast Plaza banner. The Plaza, Center and Park towers are three of the city's tallest and highest-end office buildings. They total more than 1.3 million square feet and house large law firms, accountant, and other professional services firms. Each building has a different ownership structure and investors, according to sources. The family owns hundreds of acres near the San Diego (405) Freeway in Costa Mesa and Santa Ana, some of which remains developable and could likely sell for at least \$3 million an acre, if the family ever opted to sell. They also own large properties to the immediate north of the mall.

unique collection of luxury retailers, wonderful and diverse restaurants, and superb performing arts, enhanced by easy access, makes SCP a top destination for visitors and shoppers.

Business Journal: Exclusivity and exhibitions, such as the June collaboration between adidas and Gucci, a pop-up in Jewel Court, are a huge part of business for SCP. Is the center actively searching for these opportunities?

Downing: We are fortunate that we can pick and choose from prospective tenants. Many

brands seek a presence at South Coast Plaza.

The pop-ups give us a chance to work with unique and cutting-edge retailers on a shorter-term basis. They add an energy to the center. Our exhibits are varied and enhance the experience of South Coast Plaza—there is always something new and creative to see. We are booked out through the year.

Business Journal: Many brands within the center are on the move within the plaza, whether it's expansion or moving locations.

Are bigger spaces becoming a priority for SCP right now?

Downing: Because of the outstanding sales performance of our retailers, there is a trend for luxury brands to build flagships here or invest in extensive remodels. The request for more space is based on consumer demand.

Business Journal: Has the center noticed any changes in the demographics over the past few years? How is international traffic faring?

Downing: Middle Eastern guests are back,

many here for the summer. Also, more high-end shoppers from Mexico City. We draw regional shoppers from a radius of 100 miles-plus—San Diego, the desert communities, the South Bay, Los Angeles, Malibu and Santa Barbara.

Business Journal: Any news on the plans for the former Sears site?

Downing: There is no news to announce at this time.



LYNSI SNYDER
Owner, President
In-N-Out Burger

THE MONEY: Upon turning 35, took over 96% ownership of the Irvine-based burger chain founded in 1948 by her paternal grandparents, Harry and Esther Snyder. She had seen a slow increase in her holdings in the company for a decade as part of a trust created by her grandparents.

THE NUMBERS: The nearly 380-store chain posted \$1.6 billion in 2021 revenue, up 12% year-over-year, according to Technomic. Company is OC's largest woman-owned business.

KEY FIGURE: Forbes has listed Snyder as the youngest woman in its Forbes 400 listing of billionaires. The magazine currently pegs her fortune at \$4.2 billion, well over the Business Journal's estimate. The Forbes valuation factors in a price of a little more than \$11 million per In-N-Out location, if it were to be sold.

PORTFOLIO: In-N-Out owns all of its stores, and Snyder is on record vowing that it will remain a private company.

FAMILY HISTORY: She took over the president's role in 2010 from Mark Taylor, who'd served as president since her grandmother's death in 2006. Her father died in 1999.

MOVING PLANS: Snyder sold her nearly 19,000-square-foot home in LA's Bradbury Estates near the start of the year for about \$16 million. No word on where she moved post-sale, though reports have suggested she's living closer to OC and the company's headquarters now.



Instagram post from Snyder's account: a drive-thru visit to In-N-Out Burger HQ, restaurant in Irvine



+11%

- NET WORTH: \$3 billion
- LAST YEAR: \$2.7 billion
- AGE: 40
- SOURCE OF WEALTH: restaurants

OC's WEALTHIEST

JULIA ARGYROS

President
Argyros Family Foundation

GEORGE ARGYROS

Chairman, CEO
Arnel & Affiliates
Founding Partner
Westar Capital



ARNEL

- NET WORTH: \$3.3 billion
- LAST YEAR: \$3.3 billion
- RESIDENCE: Newport Beach
- SOURCE OF WEALTH: real estate



OCSA campus rendering: school's expansion plans received \$2M boost from Argyros family this year

THE MONEY: Argyros family owns and runs Costa Mesa-based Arnel & Affiliates, a development and investment company George Argyros started in 1968.

THE NUMBERS: Arnel & Affiliates is reported to own close to 5,500 apartments; about 4,500 of those units are said to be in Orange County, where rents on average are up about 18% year-over-year to \$2,600 a month, according to brokerage data. The company also owns about 2 million square feet of office, industrial, and retail space in and around OC. Family has an extensive investment portfolio.

BIG BREAK: Argyros, a Chapman University grad, went into real estate in 1962, selling land at busy intersections to gas stations.

DEALMAKING: Argyros is the former owner of the Seattle Mariners baseball team—drafted Ken Griffey Jr., 1987—and one-time partner, with the late William Lyon, in AirCal. Said to own a large stock portfolio, in addition to other investments, much of that through Costa Mesa's Westar Capital, his family's investment firm. He has taken a step back in day-to-day management of his family holdings in recent years with his wife, Julia,

assuming more responsibilities, including the running of Arnel & Affiliates.

NOTABLE: Has a second home at The Vintage Club in Indian Wells. Main benefactors for nearby Eisenhower George and Julia Argyros Health Center, which runs 92,000 square feet.

PHILANTHROPY: Argyros and his family are notable philanthropists, well known for their work at Costa Mesa's Segerstrom Center for the Arts, home to the Julianne and George Argyros Plaza and Center for Dance and Innovation. The 56,100-square-foot out-

door public square, which is used for a variety of family-friendly entertainment, is the most recent big addition to OC's main arts center and was the center's primary attraction during the pandemic. The plaza was the result of a \$15 million donation from the Argyros family, which has endowed other parts of the center over the years. Family is a frequent contributor to other theaters across the country. Other recent beneficiaries of the family's foundation over the past year include Children's Hospital of Orange County, which received a \$10 million commitment a few months ago, and \$2 million for a new student commons area at Orange County School of the Arts.



PHOTO CREDIT: SUPER YACHT FAN

BOAT SWAP: The Argyros' family's Huntress yacht, with a reported \$83 million value, runs some 248-feet, can reach speeds of 24 knots and cover 7,000 miles. YachtCharterFleet says it costs about \$765,000 to charter the Huntress for one week and includes a crew of 22.

The boat is not to be confused with another, slightly smaller, yacht the family previously owned under the same name. In 2020, Argyros "swapped" yachts with fellow billionaire Dwight Schar, who "considered his 76-meter Lurssen yacht [dubbed Bella Vita] too large. And Argyros was searching for a bigger yacht, maritime industry reports said. "So Argyros' Huntress became Bella Vita, while Schar's Bella Vita became Huntress," according to the report.

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SPOTLIGHT: DONALD BREN

Apartment Holdings, Rare Sales Boost Irvine Co.

■ By MARK MUELLER

Donald Bren, the country's wealthiest real estate owner, is rarely in a selling mood. That changed in 2022, with **Irvine Co.** closing a pair of notable Southern California commercial real estate sales totaling more than \$470 million.

In May, a venture headed by **Douglas Emmett Inc.** (NYSE: DEI), a large apartment investor in the Los Angeles area, paid \$330 million for **1221 Ocean Avenue**, a 120-unit Santa Monica apartment complex overlooking the beach that has counted celebrities and other high-end Hollywood types as residents over the years.

It's among the largest reported sales for the Newport Beach-based real estate firm in its history.

The deal works out to about \$2.75 million per unit and is the priciest apartment sale for a larger-sized California apartment, on a per-unit basis, according to industry data.

Rents average a sky-high \$15,000 per month at the 16-story tower, records indi-

cate.

Irvine Co. paid a reported \$44.1 million for the Santa Monica property in 1998; it wasn't seen as a core holding of the company, whose apartment portfolio now tops 125-plus properties and 65,000 units.

Hotel Transactions

In February, Irvine Co. entered into a ground lease transaction for the **Fashion Island Hotel** in Newport Beach for \$143.6 million. The deal works out to a price of about \$487,000 per room for the 295-room

property, which next year will reopen as the **Pendry Newport Beach** under its new ownership.

Another hotel sale, for the 536-unit **Hotel Irvine** is expected to close in the coming months and is likely to push Irvine Co.'s disposition total for 2022 well over the \$600 million.

Outside of homebuilding sites, homes sold under the company's **Irvine Pacific** unit and older rental complexes it has sold to developers and other property owners, Irvine Co. has rarely been a seller in recent years.



DONALD BREN
Chairman
Irvine Co.

1%

- NET WORTH: \$18.2 billion
- LAST YEAR: \$18 billion
- AGE: 90
- RESIDENCE: Newport Beach
- SOURCE OF WEALTH: real estate

Modest Boost

Continued growth in rents for Irvine Co.'s thriving apartment division—now its largest source of revenue—gives the Business Journal confidence in boosting Bren's wealth estimate this year, despite issues facing other product types and larger economic issues.

The estimate for 2022: **\$18.2 billion**, a modest 1% boost from a year ago, and the Business Journal's highest valuation to date for Bren, who continues to actively run the company. Other national estimates place Bren in the \$16 billion range.



Pelican Hill

THE WEALTH: Bren heads Orange County's largest real estate company, with one of the largest portfolios of apartments and offices in California, among other notable holdings. The company's holdings consist of 127 million square feet and include more than 570 office buildings, 125 apartment communities with 65,000 units, 40 retail centers, one coastal resort, one hotel, three golf courses and five marinas.

Properties are primarily located in OC, with about 35% of the portfolio in Silicon Valley, San Diego, West Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York City.

BIG BREAK: Bren got his start as a homebuilder in 1958. In 1977, he was part of a group that purchased Irvine Co. from the founding family, the successor to the 93,000-acre ranch bought by **James Irvine** in 1864. Bren bought out most of his partners in 1983. Became sole owner in 1996.

LOCAL HOLDINGS: Fashion Island,

Newport Center, half of 185-acre UCI Research Park in Irvine, Jamboree Center, MacArthur Court, the Resort at Pelican Hill, and large parts of the 5,000-acre Irvine Spectrum.

PHILANTHROPY: Bloomberg Businessweek magazine ranks Bren as one of the country's most generous philanthropists, estimating his lifetime giving at more than \$2.1 billion. Over \$265 million of that went toward education. He's directed more than \$70 million to the **University of California, Irvine**, in addition to giving to other schools. Bren also set aside 57,500-plus acres—more than half of the 93,000-acre Irvine Ranch—as open space and parklands in perpetuity. The U.S. Department of the Interior and the state formally designated the lands as Natural Landmarks. In 2014, Irvine Co. donated 2,500 acres of land in Anaheim Hills and East Orange where it once planned more than 5,000 homes. The land will be permanent open space.



Donald Bren, center, and his wife, Brigitte Bren, who also serves as Caltech trustee, at the institute

Out-of-This-World Investment

In August 2021, Pasadena's **California Institute of Technology** disclosed the institution has been gifted more than \$100 million by **Donald Bren**, a university Life Trustee, to develop technology to collect solar power in space and beam it back to Earth. The endowment was made anonymously in 2013.

"I have been a student researching the possible applications of space-based solar energy for many years," Bren said in a statement at the time the gift was revealed.

The institution said Bren became interested in the subject after reading an article on the topic in *Popular Science* magazine.

"My interest in supporting the world-class scientists at Caltech is driven by my belief in harnessing the natural power of the sun for the benefit of everyone," Bren said.

The institution said last year it was aiming to unveil early-stage prototypes at some point in 2022.

Bren "has brought the same drive and discipline that he has demonstrated with master-planning communities to the Space Solar Program," said Caltech President **Thomas Rosenbaum**. "He has presented a remarkable technical challenge that promises a remarkable payoff for humanity: a world powered by uninterrupted renewable energy."

PHOTO CREDIT: CALTECH



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ANTHONY HSIEH
Executive Chairman
loanDepot

loanDepot

-55%

- **NET WORTH:** \$1.3 billion
- **LAST YEAR:** \$2.9 billion
- **AGE:** 57
- **RESIDENCES:** OC, Miami
- **SOURCE OF WEALTH:** loanDepot, prior businesses

THE MONEY: Founder of company that ranks among nation's largest nonbank mortgage lenders. Since 2010 inception, loanDepot has generated more than \$300 billion in loans.

THE ENTREPRENEUR: Became owner of a mortgage company at age 25 when he bought out owners and renamed firm loandirect.com, which he said was the world's first internet-based financial services company. He sold it in 2001 to **E-Trade Financial Corp.** for shares worth about \$51.5 million. At 35, he had every intention of retiring and spending his time fishing, a life-long passion. Instead, founded HomeLoanCenter.com, selling it for an undisclosed price to IAC/Interactive Corp., which merged it into Lending Tree. After non-compete ended in 2010, he started loanDepot.

UP & DOWN BUSINESS: Pulled the trigger on IPO (NYSE: LDI) in early 2021 after a record year, thanks in part to decline in interest rates. His 39% stake in the company was at one point worth more than \$2 billion. With interest rates rising, refis down and the company in contraction mode, company's stock is down more than 80% from year-ago levels. The Business Journal's valuation, while considerably lower than a year ago, factors in money he's taken out of the business, his prior company sales and other assets.

RECORD BREAKER: Paid \$61 million in 2020 for a mansion in Crystal Cove. It was the most paid for a home until November 2021. Has other residences around the country.

PHILANTHROPY: Hosts **War Heroes on Water** tournament, which takes wounded military members on a fishing tournament on yachts—including his own—around Catalina Island. Giving has been on upswing over the past few years. Fiercely patriotic, Hsieh is a first-generation American, born in Taiwan. He emigrated to the U.S. with his family as a young child.

QUOTE: Said in early July, just prior to announcement of loanDepot restructuring plan: "Where there are challenges and change, there is opportunity. This is the mortgage business!"



Record-setting
Newport Coast home



War Heroes on Water tournament



THE BOATS: Owns multiple sports fishing yachts, including the **Bad Company 144**, described on the War Heroes website as "one of the largest sportfishers in the world." Adds SuperYachtTimes: "She cruises at 23 knots and reaches a top speed of 26 knots. She can sleep up to 12 guests taken care of by a crew of 7." It is not reported to be available for charter.

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SPOTLIGHT: IGOR OLENICOFF



Olenicoff's yacht, dubbed Rusalka



IGOR OLENICOFF
Owner, Founder, President
Olen Properties Corp.



2.5%

- NET WORTH: \$8.2 billion
- LAST YEAR: \$8 billion
- AGE: 80
- RESIDENCES: Laguna Beach, Florida
- SOURCE OF WEALTH: real estate

Olen Properties Rides Rental, Low-Rise Wave

■ By MARK MUELLER

Olen Properties Corp.'s first commercial development was in 1974, when it built the 14-building **Orange Freeway Business Park**, a roughly 190,000-square-foot collection of offices and flex space along Orangethorpe Avenue in Placentia.

"I valued that project on a good day at \$130 to \$150 a square foot," Igor Olenicoff, Olen's founder and president, told the Business Journal earlier this year. Such a price would place the park's value a little under \$30 million.

Olen had recently received an unsolicited offer to buy the property for well over double that price, Olenicoff said at the time. The

exec tells the Business Journal that occurrences like that have become more regular as investors and real estate investment trusts look to find infill locations in OC, often to convert the sites into new industrial projects.

Olen Properties, which rarely sells its local commercial buildings, kept hold of the Placentia property.

That long-term investment strategy has served Olenicoff well; Olen now counts more than 8 million square feet of commercial space—largely low-rise space, a product type that's gained value the past two years in the wake of the pandemic.

The company has nearly 2,000 tenants, and 380 buildings in OC. Most buildings are believed to be debt free.

"Business is solid as are our projects that continue to experience solid occupancies and valuations," said Olenicoff, who notes that the prices being sought for his own properties makes it a challenge to find deals of his own to buy, especially in OC.

"Generally, a public REIT wants it far more than we do," he said.

Southeast Surge

When Olen's made buys of late, it has largely looked out of state, and largely focused on apartments.

The company's added thousands of rental units to its ever-expanding portfolio in the Southeast over the past few years. It now counts over 17,000 rental units, largely gar-

den-style complexes, in eight states.

Recent all-cash acquisitions include the 254-unit **Sycamore Fort Mills** complex near Charlotte, N.C., and **Creekside at Providence**, a 209-unit apartment community in Mt. Juliet, Tenn.

Olen paid \$64 million for the latter property, or about \$306,000 a unit, according to brokers.

Mt. Juliet, a suburb of Nashville, has been an area of focus for Olen of late, with other deals for newer complexes in the works, according to Olenicoff.

Rental increases at Olen's complexes have been topping 15% the past two years, providing a sizeable boost to the company's bottom line, he says.

BIG BREAK: Worked for Shell, Touche Ross, Motown Records, where he was a VP and business consultant to **Berry Gordy**, expanding the company out of Detroit to Hollywood. Founding partner in real estate syndicator **Gemini Pacific**. VP of operations at **Dunn Properties** before starting Olen.

STOCK HOLDINGS: Reliable sources tell the Business Journal that much of Olenicoff's liquidity is invested in the stock market, and it has been tech heavy the past few years, which gave Olenicoff an outsized boost in wealth estimate the prior two years. With a year-over-year decline in that portfolio likely this time around, it's one reason the latest \$8.4 billion estimate isn't larger.

PHILANTHROPY: **Andrei Olenicoff Memorial Foundation**, charity for eye health, blindness cure, in memory of Olenicoff's late son.

Daughter Natalia Ostensen, an Olen EVP, in a 1956 Porsche Speedster



A few vehicles in Olenicoff family's collection; 'we prefer to collect what we also will regularly drive,' he says



RICK CARUSO
Founder, CEO
Caruso

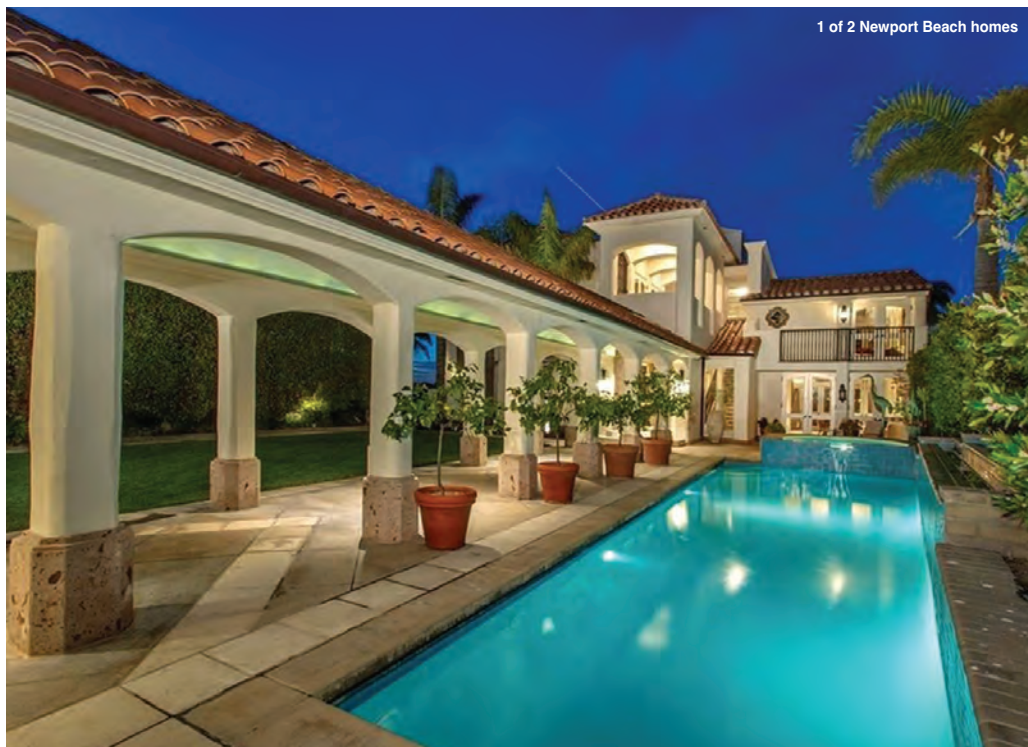
THE MONEY: Developer of high-end retail properties in Southern California including the **Grove**, the **Americana at Brand** and the **Palisades Village**. The portfolio carries only a small amount of debt, reports sister publication *Los Angeles Business Journal*. The company has grown nearly 20% annually since it was founded. The company's properties' sales are three times higher than the industry average, according to **Green Street Advisors**.

LOCAL TIES: Sources indicate Caruso, who has served as an **Irvine Co.** board member, spent a large amount of time on the Balboa Peninsula over the course of the pandemic, at a waterfront residence he paid

-4%

WEEKEND WEALTHY

- **NET WORTH:** \$4.3 billion (Forbes)
- **LAST YEAR:** \$4.5 billion
- **AGE:** 63
- **PRIMARY RESIDENCE:** Brentwood
- **SOURCE OF WEALTH:** retail real estate development



1 of 2 Newport Beach homes

some \$15 million for in 2017 and subsequently rebuilt. Last year, he paid a reported \$18.6 million for the house next door. Despite the double lot, it's not nearly enough waterfrontage to park his yacht, though. He also has a sizeable home in Malibu.

PHILANTHROPY: Founded in 1991, the **Caruso Family Foundation** "is dedicated to improving the lives of at-risk children and their families throughout Southern California," it says. Primary focus is ensuring educational opportunities and quality healthcare for underserved youth. In addition, it also supports public safety, culture and arts, and faith-based institutions.

Americana at Brand



PHOTO CREDIT: YACHTCHARTERFLEET.COM

THE MAYOR'S RACE: No word on whether Caruso's dined at the Mayor's Table at Newport Beach's **Lido House** hotel, as he has his eyes on another position: LA mayor. He's reported to have spent \$40 million of his own money on his campaign this year alone.

That spending, and his wealth, has drawn predictable scorn from campaign foes.

"Billionaire developer Rick Caruso will significantly outspend the entire field of candidates in his attempt to buy the election—all while campaigning from the comfort of his \$100-million yacht in Newport Beach," LA Councilman **Joe Buscaino** told the *LA Times* in April.

That yacht is the **Invictus**, Caruso's 216-foot mega yacht, whose value is pegged well over \$100 million. It was built by Delta Marine in 2013. It has required a special permit from the city to dock in the Newport Harbor in the past and is reported to be the largest vessel to have ever moored there. With a crew of 19, it can be chartered for around \$600,000 a week, plus expenses, according to YachtCharterFleet.com.

SPOTLIGHT: GARY JABARA

Wireless Proceeds Turned Into Wine Resort, SoCal Real Estate



GARY JABARA

Founder
Boardwalk Investments Group
Founder
ioXt Alliance

50%

- NET WORTH: \$1.5 billion
- LAST YEAR: \$1 billion
- RESIDENCE: Newport Beach
- SOURCE OF WEALTH: telecom business, real estate, other investments

■ By MARK MUELLER

A year ago, **Gary Jabara** was the largest private owner of wireless infrastructure in the U.S.

While still heavily involved in the tech sector, via his **ioXt Alliance**, a security certification business for Internet of Things manufacturers that he founded about four years ago, Jabara can now also be identified as a real estate mogul.

Over the past year, he's spent more than \$600 million on a series of notable commercial real estate acquisitions in the state. The all-cash deals come after he sold Newport Beach's **Mobilite**, the telecommunications infrastructure company he founded and chaired, in a deal news reports pegged around \$1.7 billion.

That exit, and news of Jabara's buys of high-end commercial real estate, which he runs under the **Boardwalk Investments Group Inc.** name, are reasons why the Business Journal boosted the wealth estimate for the exec to \$1.5 billion.

He first made the OC's Wealthiest list about a decade ago, after a big payout for a portfolio of cellphone towers he owned.

Yountville, San Diego

Jabara's sale of **Mobilite** to Australia's **BAI Communications** was completed last October. The

Newport Beach company infrastructure offerings enable wireless coverage in a variety of settings, ranging from stadiums to casinos.

Money from that deal was soon redeployed into real estate. Last November, the Business Journal was first to learn of Jabara's purchase of the **Estate Yountville**, a 22-acre "village-within-a-village" collection of upscale hotels, restaurants, wedding facilities, shops, meeting space, a vineyard and other facilities in the heart of wine country.

The Estate is the largest commercial property in the city of Yountville, which is just off the Saint Helena Highway, about 55 miles north of San Francisco.

"It's the gem of Napa Valley," Jabara said at the time of the purchase, a deal that approached \$300 million. The property is seeing a major renovation under his ownership.

A few months later, he followed up the Napa deal with another \$270 million of buys in San Diego: a recently built high-end apartment tower in the city's downtown, and a prominent shopping center in Del Mar called **Flower Hill Promenade**.

The latter property is "the greatest shopping center in all of San Diego," Jabara said.

Expect more real estate buys going forward, he told the Business Journal at the time.

"We're always looking—from San Diego to Orange County, to Napa."

San Diego holdings



PCH Assets

You'll find many of **Gary Jabara's** real estate holdings along Coast Highway: his CRE portfolio in OC runs from **The Strand** mixed-use center in the heart of Surf City to the **Aliso Creek Shopping Center** that's a short walk from the Montage resort in Laguna Beach.

It's not the only notable asset of Jabara you'll see on PCH: keep an eye open for his vintage **1955 Mercedes 300SL** gullwing.

"I regularly drive it down PCH to Laguna [Beach] and back," he told the Business Journal. "It runs fantastic and it's really fast!"

The vehicle got attention last month, when it earned the "Best Classic Car" award at the **Balboa Bay Resort's** 15th annual Father's Day Car Show.

"It was a fun show," he said. "Needless to say, there were so many beautiful cars, and the crowd was a special Father's Day gathering of dads and their families, different than just the usual car show."

The Mercedes has a notable history. "It's a special car because it was originally purchased new by **Clark Gable** and has a storied history from the golden Hollywood years," he said.

"It's referred to in the collector world as the **Gable 300SL**. It's a 100-point car that was ordered new by Gable himself with factory luggage, Rudge wheels, and a Nardi steering wheel."

"I have one small rule now, to never drive it without playing **Frank Sinatra** on the radio."



ERNEST GARCIA II
Owner, Chairman
Drivetime Automotive Group

-78%

WEEKEND WEALTHY

- NET WORTH: \$4 billion (Forbes)
- LAST YEAR: \$18.5 billion
- SOURCE OF WEALTH: auto sales, lending

THE PARENT CO.: Owns Tempe, Ariz.-based DriveTime, reported to be the fourth-biggest used car retailer in the country, with nearly 150 locations.

STOCK SWINGS: Privately held DriveTime spun off from Carvana (NYSE: CVNA), an online site for selling used cars and arranging car loans that went public in 2017. At its peak, the company sported a nearly \$60 billion valuation. Shares have fallen steep over



the past year, though; it's now valued around \$5 billion. Garcia II is Carvana's largest shareholder, with Class B shares that equate to more than 40% of Carvana's total outstanding shares if converted, the company's latest proxy statement indicates. He has sold large amounts of Carvana's stock.

THE HOME: Has owned several homes in the area over the years; housing blogs in-

dicate Garcia was the seller of one pricey home near Arch Point in Laguna Beach to Patrick Soon-Shiong over a decade ago. Sources tell the Business Journal that Garcia now owns a home in Crystal Cove, though it is not his main residence. Also reported to have a beachfront mansion in Manhattan Beach.

THE FAMILY: Carvana was founded by

Garcia's son, Ernest Garcia III. The younger Garcia is not reported to have a home here. Both Garcias have been buying large amounts of Carvana stock at its deflated price in recent months, reports indicate.

PHILANTHROPY: Phoenix-based Garcia Family Foundation gives to a variety of educational and other nonprofit groups with a focus on Arizona.



FRANK FERTITTA III
CEO
Red Rock Resorts Inc.

red rock.

-8%

WEEKEND WEALTHY

- NET WORTH: \$2.2 billion (Forbes)
- LAST YEAR: \$2.4 billion
- AGE: 60
- SOURCE OF WEALTH: UFC, casinos

THE MONEY: With brother Lorenzo, bought mixed martial arts promoter UFC for \$2 million in 2001; cashed out in 2017 when UFC had a \$5 billion valuation, each brother reported to have 40.5% stake in business. Took family's casino business, Red Rock Resorts, public in 2016; the brothers own Las Vegas' Station Casinos now valued at



Viva sighting; new mega-yacht for family

about \$1.3 billion. Cousin Tilman Fertitta owns the Houston Rockets and restaurant firm Landry's, whose portfolio includes several OC properties.

STOCK HIT: Value of Red Rock Resorts is down some 20% year-over-year, to valuation of \$3.6 billion. Family has a significant stake in company and controls all voting matters.

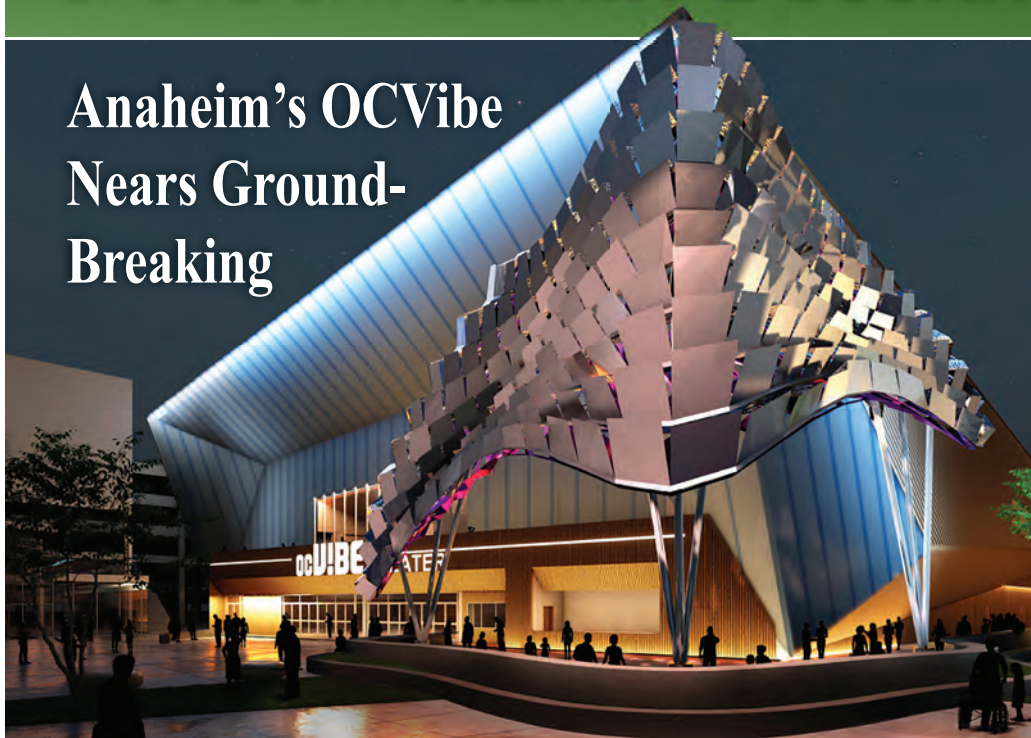
WEEKEND WEALTHY: Bought a beachfront home in Emerald Bay community of Laguna Beach in 2009 for reported \$28 million.

YACHT UPGRADE: Frank and Lorenzo are each reported to own superyachts valued more than \$125 million, along with "planes and major pieces of contemporary art," noted a 2019 report from CNBC. Frank reportedly

got a new and improved vessel last year. Dubbed Viva, it counts an estimate \$175 million value. It is reported to be the 85th largest superyacht in the world. "The yacht's helicopter sports the tail number N702FF, which was believed to have been chosen for Fertitta's initials," said a June report in the Nantucket Current, when the vessel was in the area.

SPOTLIGHT: HENRY & SUSAN SAMUELI

Anaheim's OC Vibe Nears Ground-Breaking



SUSAN SAMUELI
Co-Chair
Samuelli Foundation

HENRY SAMUELI
Chairman
Broadcom



- 3%**
- NET WORTH: \$7.2 billion
 - LAST YEAR: \$7 billion
 - RESIDENCE: Corona del Mar
 - SOURCE OF WEALTH: semiconductors

■ By MARK MUELLER

The **Anaheim Ducks** are 15 years removed from its lone Stanley Cup win, but team owner **Henry Samuelli** says he and wife, **Susan**, are in it for the long haul with the team.

Case in point: the owners recently struck a 50-year lease renewal for the **Honda Center**, in an area being readied for a major overhaul that they are backing.

Dubbed **ocVIBE**, the plan is to build a mix of apartments, offices, hotels, dining and entertainment options on about 95 acres of land around the Angel Stadium.

Samuelli-backed ventures have spent close to \$200 million to assemble the land, records show.

Major redevelopment plans were disclosed last year. The project's cost was previously estimated at \$3 billion; it has since been upped

to \$4 billion.

Samuelli reps say the family will self-finance the deal, the largest project expected to move ahead in the Platinum Triangle.

Job Creation, Job Magnet

Of their mixed-use project being overseen by **ex-Irvine Co.** exec **Dan Young**, Samuelli—speaking during a May 5 event co-hosted by the **CEO Leadership Alliance Orange**

County and Octane, and held at the headquarters of **Edwards Lifesciences**—said the goal is “to create a magnet, so people stay here,” rather than leave OC for other metro areas considered more exciting by younger workers.

The exec-heavy event highlighted efforts to build OC's base of high-paying jobs.

Broadcom co-founder Samuelli said OC Vibe will ensure “there's a great life behind (those) jobs.”

Plans for revamped area around Honda Center



THE MONEY: The largest reported individual owner of stock in the nearly \$200 billion-valued **Broadcom**, plus extensive real estate holdings, as well as ownership of the **Anaheim Ducks** and related media ventures.

THE NUMBERS: Estimated to have sold more than \$1.5 billion in shares since **Broadcom** went public in 1998. Still owns 2.2% stake in company that's now valued at about \$4.3 billion, according to recent regulatory filings. **Chipmaker** holdings only represents a portion

of family fortune. Stepped back as chief technology officer role at **Broadcom** near end of 2018, now carries chairman title. Remains confidante of CEO **Hock Tan**, whose **Avago Technologies** bought chipmaker in 2016.

KEY METRIC: **Broadcom** shares up about 3% year-over-year.

BIG BREAK: Established **Broadcom** in 1991 in Redondo Beach with **Henry Nicholas**. Duo vaulted into ranks of billionaires shortly

Mixed-use rendering



after going public seven years later. Bought local hockey franchise for \$70 million in 2005. **Forbes** values the team at around \$620 million, up from \$460 million a year ago.

PHILANTHROPY: The Samuelis are among Southern California's top philanthropists and are members of the **Giving Pledge**, a group that promises to give away the majority of their money during their lifetime. The **Samuelli Foundation** supports science, technology, engineering and math education;

integrative health, youth services and social justice programs. A few years ago, they made a \$100 million gift to the **University of California, Los Angeles Samuelli School of Engineering**, described as the largest gift ever received at their namesake school. Giving to **UCLA** now approaching \$200 million. The Samuelis have also donated a reported \$250 million to the **University of California, Irvine**, including a \$200 million gift—the largest in UCI's history—in 2017 for its **College of Health Sciences**.

OC's WEALTHIEST



HASSO PLATTNER
Founder
SAP



THE MONEY: Plattner and handful of other former IBM employees started Germany's SAP, an enterprise software company that went public in 1988 and is now one of the world's largest software company, valued at \$108 billion as of mid-July. Counts a 6.3% stake, shares now valued at a little over \$6.5 billion. Stepped down as CEO in 2003, still chairs the company's advisory board. Owner of San Jose Sharks NHL franchise.

THE INNOVATION: Instrumental in SAP opening offices along Newport Harbor, where company has been boosting its base. The office is also the home of HanaHaus, a café and community workspace founded and operated by SAP to help spark creativity. It is the second HanaHaus in the U.S., alongside a spot in Palo Alto. Plattner is "absolutely" happy with the Newport Beach location, and is a frequent visitor, execs told the Business Journal last year, when the offices reopened.

THE HOMES: Has multiple homes in Emerald Bay, according to trade publication Dirt. Paid close to \$45 million for a two-house blufftop compound there in 2014. Not his primary residence, sources tell the Business Journal.

PHILANTHROPY: His nonprofit Hasso Plattner Institute focuses on research and teaching in IT systems engineering; he's also a member of the Giving Pledge.



-30%

WEEKEND WEALTHY

- NET WORTH: \$7 billion
- LAST YEAR: \$10 billion
- SOURCE OF WEALTH: SAP stock



HENRY DAVIS
CEO, President
Greater Omaha Packing Co.



PHOTO CREDIT: STANCE WORKS

Davis owns the first American race car to win at the Le Mans course, a 1966 Ford GT40

THE MONEY: In 1987, took over family-owned beef supplier business started by grandfather in 1920, and grew it multiple times over. It is now the fifth-largest beef producer in the country, with more than \$1.8 billion in annual sales, nearly 1,450 employees, and beef shipments to more than 70 countries around the world, it reports.

THE MEAT: High-end product used by some of the country's most renowned restaurants, and those in nearly 70 other countries. "Its steaks are served at some of the nation's top eateries, including Peter Luger, Minetta Tavern and Marea in New York City, French Laundry in Napa Valley, Ruth's Chris Steak

Houses and Wolfgang Puck restaurants," noted a 2017 Forbes profile.

THE HOME: About two years ago, Davis snapped up an oceanfront home in Emerald Bay for \$21 million, according to residential real estate trade industry reports. Has a larger, primary residence in Nebraska and is reported to be one that state's wealthiest residents.

PHILANTHROPY: In 2020, was cited by The Orange County Museum of Art as one of its lead donors for its new home at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts. This June, his company announced it would be donating enough beef to Ukraine to feed more than 270,000 people. "We live in a country where freedom and opportunity enable us to produce the finest beef and for our employees to provide for their families," Davis said. "It is a natural extension of our company's mission to help Ukrainians fight for those same opportunities in their own country."



27%

WEEKEND WEALTHY

- NET WORTH: \$1.4 billion (Forbes)
- LAST YEAR: \$1.1 billion
- SOURCE OF WEALTH: family business



Nebraska facilities

SPOTLIGHT: PALMER LUCKEY



Anduril's new Costa Mesa HQ



PHOTO CREDIT:
DANIEL PEARSON

PALMER LUCKEY
Founder
Oculus VR
Founder
Anduril Industries



+24%

- **NET WORTH:** \$3.1 billion
- **LAST YEAR:** \$2.5 billion
- **AGE:** 29
- **RESIDENCE:** Newport Beach
- **SOURCE OF WEALTH:** Oculus, Anduril stakes

THE MONEY, PART I: Oculus, a maker of virtual reality hardware and software products Luckey founded in 2012, was bought by Facebook in 2014 for \$2.3 billion. It was one of the fastest-ever multibillion-dollar exit transactions on record.

THE MONEY, PART II: Luckey's second startup, defense-focused Anduril, was formed in 2017 and is the fastest-growing upstart defense firm in the country. Valuation is approaching \$7 billion or more with a new fundraising round to be in the works.

THE WEALTH: Reported not to have put much of his own money in building up Anduril

because of fierce VC interest. "We've never needed to dip into the Palmer pot," Chief Executive Brian Shimpf told Forbes. Believed to still have a significant stake in Anduril after latest funding deals; the Business Journal's \$3.1 billion estimate of his wealth could prove to be on the low side for the tech visionary. He's believed to be the wealthiest businessperson under the age of 30 in Southern California.

THE TECHNOLOGY: Anduril makes a combo of hardware and software, including autonomous drones, sentry towers and other products used to monitor and protect large areas, which are built around its artificial intelligence platform that uses computer vision, machine

learning and mesh networking. Moved to huge new campus in Costa Mesa to accommodate its growing ranks of workers and business.

PORTFOLIO: Owns home on Lido Island. Among reported big splurges after the Oculus sale: a 1969 Mustang, several helicopters, submarine and an island property.

ON INVESTING: Favors low-risk portfolios; not interested in being a VC. "My goal is to make my business successful, to make my employees successful, not to spend my time turning the money I've already made into more money by investing in what other people are doing," he told CNBC.



VICTOR TSAO
President
Miven Venture Partners

JANIE TSAO
Vice President
Miven Venture Partners

THE MONEY: The founders of home networking group Linksys Group Inc. Victor led product development and all company operations, while Janie led sales and business growth. Developed the first affordable broadband router, allowing consumers to connect all their internet devices up to one broadband line.

THE NUMBERS: Linksys sold to Cisco Systems Inc. for \$500 million in 2003, stayed with company post-sale. Couple in 2007 shifted their focus to Miven, an investment firm they had founded in 2005.

THE INVESTMENTS: Miven "invests in



Famed broadband router

consumer and technology companies, and a portfolio of hedge funds for investing in publicly listed companies," said a late 2021 profile by Illinois Institute of Technology, which added alumnus Victor to their board of trustees. Assets include cash, commodities, currency, fixed income, private equity, public equity, real estate, and venture capital, the profile said, noting Victor has "extensive experience in financial modeling and risk management, and allocates capital both directly and through private placement vehicles."

PHILANTHROPY: Tso Family Foundation in Newport Beach supports religious, charitable, scientific, literary, cultural, and educational causes.



+4%

- **NET WORTH:** \$1.25 billion
- **LAST YEAR:** \$1.2 billion
- **RESIDENCE:** Newport Beach
- **SOURCE OF WEALTH:** Linksys sale, family office



ANDREW & PEGGY CHERNG
Co-Founders, Co-Chairs, Co-CEOs
Panda Restaurant Group

THE MONEY: Owners of the largest Chinese restaurant chain in the U.S. with a group that now counts 2,200 doors, 40,000 employees and over \$3 billion in sales. Aiming to grow at a rate of more than 100 restaurants annually. Company has its headquarters and other operational facilities in the San Gabriel Valley city of Rosemead.

HISTORY: The family-owned business is a long-standing one in Southern California, with Andrew Cherng and Master Chef Ming-Tsai Cherng opening the first Panda Inn in 1973 in Pasadena. The first Panda Express opened its doors at the Glendale Galleria mall in 1983 and nine years later the first Hibachi-San, a teppanyaki and sushi concept, opened in Bloomington, Minn.

GROWTH: The couple opened their 100th store in 1992, 500th in 2002, and by 2007, they had reached 1,000 locations and \$1 billion in revenue.

WEEKEND WEALTHY: The Cherngs have a residence in the oceanfront Strand at Headlands neighborhood in Dana Point, according to property records. It's not believed to be the primary residence of the couple, who also have pricey homes in and around Pasadena, Las Vegas and Hawaii, according to reports.

REAL ESTATE INVESTMENTS: Family, estimated by Forbes to have a \$3.2 billion fortune, have increasingly been putting their money into commercial real estate. News reports indicate they've spent at least \$170 million on office and land purchases since 2017.

LOCAL INVESTMENTS: Last year saw family pay \$22.1 million for an office complex in Cypress. The Cherng's family trust in 2016 also invested in Rancho Santa Margarita-based pizza chain PicoLOGY Pizzeria.



WEEKEND WEALTHY

- **NET WORTH:** \$3.2 billion (Forbes)
- **SOURCE OF WEALTH:** restaurants

OC's WEALTHIEST



PATRICK SOON-SHIONG
Founder, CEO
NantWorks LLC

-6%

WEEKEND WEALTHY

- NET WORTH: \$7.5 billion
- LAST YEAR: \$8 billion
- SOURCE OF WEALTH: drugmakers, media, sports



THE MONEY: Invented cancer drug, Abraxane, which is used to treat pancreatic cancer. Would go on to sell drug companies Abraxis and American Pharmaceutical Partners for \$9.1 billion combined, according to news reports. Remains involved in other healthcare firms under umbrella of NantWorks. "He has been called the richest man in Los Angeles; he is one of the richest doctors in the world. He has taken four companies public and runs a

medical-research initiative with a thousand employees and a half-dozen state-of-the-art laboratories," summarized a late 2021 profile in the **New Yorker**. Sister publication **Los Angeles Business Journal** often lists Soon-Shiong as LA's wealthiest resident; **Forbes** (\$6.8 billion) and **Bloomberg** (\$8.7 billion) estimates greatly vary. The Business Journal chose a midpoint figure for his \$7.5 billion estimate. Primary residence is a massive campus in Brentwood, with

a below-ground basketball court.

WEEKEND WEALTHY: Reported to have spent more than \$70 million on Laguna Beach homes over the past six years. Best-known and most-expensive property is city's Twin Points residence on a bluff between Crescent Bay and Shaw's Cove. Paid a reported \$45 million in 2016 for distinctive property, a record price for the area. Also purchased other

nearby homes for top dollar. Sellers have included fellow multimillionaire **Ernest Garcia II**, according to reports. How much time he spends in area is unclear; public sightings in OC are rare.

NOTABLE INVESTMENTS: Owns the **Los Angeles Times** and **San Diego Tribune**, paid \$500 million for both. Has a minority stake in the **Los Angeles Lakers**.



JARED SMITH
President
Qualtrics

-4%

WEEKEND WEALTHY

- NET WORTH: \$1.25 billion
- LAST YEAR: \$1.3 billion
- SOURCE OF WEALTH: Qualtrics sale



Smith made investment in local soccer business Toca Football last year

THE MONEY: Co-founded Provo, Utah-based cloud computing company **Qualtrics** in 2002 with his brother, **Ryan**, and father, **Scott**; Ryan was the CEO. Days before its scheduled IPO in early 2019, Qualtrics was acquired by German software firm **SAP** for \$8 billion in cash. Jared and Ryan still run Qualtrics as a unit inside SAP, according to **Forbes**, which estimates Jared's fortune as a

result of the sale at \$1.4 billion, higher than the Business Journal's estimate.

LOCAL INVESTMENT: Last year was cited as being a new investor in Costa Mesa soccer-focused tech, entertainment and training site **Toca Football**, when it raised \$40 million in Series E funding.

WEEKEND WEALTHY: Paid a reported \$35 million in cash for newly built waterfront Newport Beach mansion in 2019, among the most expensive residential home sales in Orange County history. The 12,710-square-foot Newport Harbor estate sits on three lots with 90 feet of frontage and a private dock that can accommodate several boats. Sold by area real estate exec **Craig Atkins** of **City Ventures**.

SPOTLIGHT: RJ SCARINGE



RJ SCARINGE
Founder, CEO
Rivian Automotive

-50%

- **NET WORTH:** \$2.5 billion
- **LAST YEAR:** \$5 billion
- **RESIDENCE:** Laguna Beach
- **SOURCE OF WEALTH:** stake in Rivian

THE MONEY: Startup electric-vehicle builder, with over \$20 billion in funding since 2009, most of it in past three years. Company's eagerly awaited IPO last year was the largest in years for a U.S. company. For a while, company's \$100 billion-plus valuation made it far and away OC's most valuable public company. Shares

have since fallen, to a valuation near \$30 billion as of mid-July, good for the No. 3 spot among local public companies. It has plenty of cash on hand—nearly \$17 billion—to keep its ambitious production plans moving ahead.

CLASS A, CLASS B: Scaringe's modest

amount of Class A shares was worth less than \$400 million as of this month, but he controls all of Rivian's Class B stock, giving him a 9.2% voting stake in the EV maker, according to the company's latest proxy statement. The Business Journal based its latest valuation on the latter figure.

POTENTIAL PAYOUT: Stock options he's due if the company meets certain performance goals could push his wealth close to \$14 billion, but those options can't be exercised until 2030, according to a Bloomberg report from late 2021. The company has ways to go to meet those incentive goals.



MARK CUBAN
Owner
Dallas Mavericks

-4%

WEEKEND WEALTHY

- **NET WORTH:** \$4.7 billion (Forbes)
- **LAST YEAR:** \$4.9 billion
- **SOURCE OF WEALTH:** tech sales, NBA team

THE MONEY: Co-founded video portal Broadcast.com in 1995; sold it to Yahoo for \$5.7 billion in 1999. Bought majority stake in NBA franchise in 2000 for \$285 million from H. Ross Perot Jr. Team now valued at \$2.4 billion, per Forbes.

WEEKEND WEALTHY: Paid a reported \$19 million in 2018 for a nearly 8,000-square-foot home at the Montage Residences, next to the Laguna Beach resort. John Stana-land and his son Tyler, of Villa Real Estate, were the listing agents. Tim Smith of Cold-



Laguna Beach home

well Banker represented the buyer. Cuban spends about five weeks a year at the home, he told Laguna Beach Magazine: "If you see me in Laguna, always feel free to walk up and say 'hi.'"

NOTABLE INVESTMENTS: "Shark Tank" star and investor has stakes in Magnolia Pictures, AXS TV and numerous startups.



JOSEPH EDELMAN
Founder, CEO, Portfolio Manager
Perceptive Advisors

THE MONEY: New York-based hedge fund firm, founded in 1999, with focus on life sciences and biotechnology. Reported to have some \$10 billion under management.

RECORD BREAKER: Paid \$70 million for an oceanfront mansion in Laguna Beach

community of Abalone Point late last year, which is a new sales record for OC by a wide margin. Prior record high was \$61 million.

WEEKEND WEALTHY: Hedge fund exec—who earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from University California, San Diego—was reported to be leasing a home in the area the time the off-market deal was struck. Also has owned a penthouse in New York City, which was listed for sale last year for nearly \$30 million.

THE HOME: 1 of 12 oceanfront homes in Irvine Cove's Abalone Point, where Sue Gross has multiple properties. Main residence runs 18,000 square feet, and has a pool cabana and an all-glass guesthouse.

WEEKEND WEALTHY

- **NET WORTH:** \$2.9 billion (Forbes)
- **SOURCE OF WEALTH:** finance



C. FREDERICK 'FRED' TAYLOR
Co-Founder, Partner
TGS Management LLC

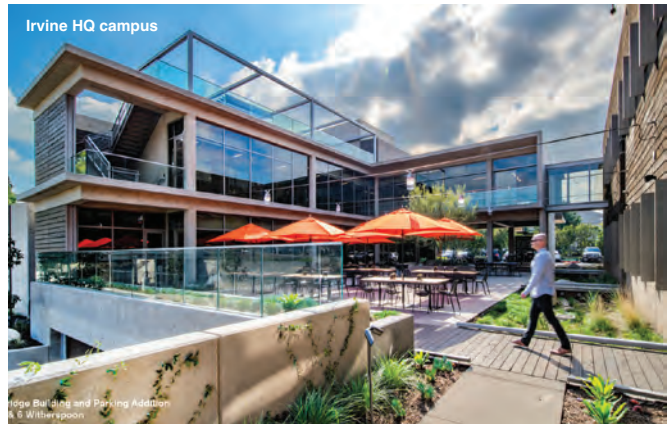
THE MONEY: Taylor is the "T" in TGS, an extremely secretive quant hedge fund with offices in Irvine.

THE NUMBERS: Estimates of Taylor's wealth range vary from \$1.2 billion to multiple billions. Along with founding members **David Gelbaum** and **Andrew Shechtel**, the trio first gained national attention about seven years ago when a Bloomberg report said the hedge fund managers had "secretly directed one of the largest pools of philanthropic capital for years," one it estimated at more than \$13 billion.

THE SECRET: There's been next to no mention of the firm or its founders since the Bloomberg report, with the exception of the Business Journal coverage on Taylor's real estate investments and other deals in Irvine. Sources familiar with the founders tell the Business Journal that prior estimates of Taylor's wealth are likely on the low side.

THE MENTOR: The partners are disciples of South Orange County resident and "Man for All Markets" by **Edward O. Thorp**, founder of one of the world's first quantitative hedge funds, Princeton-Newport Partners, in 1969. Thorp told Businessweek that the men opened a hedge fund in 1989, and practiced a form of statistical arbitrage, seeking to profit from the tendency of recently fallen stocks to rise, and the recently risen to fall.

REAL ESTATE MOVES: The Business Journal has reported on several real estate moves related to TGS since 2018, none confirmed by the firm, which describes itself as highly discrete. Taylor last year paid about \$50 million for a pair of Irvine Spectrum offices; their use post-sale is unknown. There's no indication they plan to lease out the space. A data center is under construction next to the 405 freeway, and the firm has leased an entire building at the new **Spectrum Terrace** office complex on the other side of the freeway, brokers report. Uses for the just-bought office, and the Spectrum Terrace lease are unknown:



both are much larger than TGS' current headquarters, and wouldn't appear to be needed by the company for its workforce, as the company is reported to be extremely methodical and picky about who it hires. "A few engineers here are downright geniuses," said one online posting on Glassdoor.

PHILANTHROPY: According to Inside Philanthropy, perhaps as much as \$850 million of Taylor's giving gets funneled through the **Vanguard Charitable Endowment Program**. He's been reported to be a major supporter of the **Landmine Survivors Network** and other human rights causes. Taylor is a major benefactor and board member of

Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School in Irvine, a Jewish day school founded by late businessman and Holocaust survivor Irving "Papa" Gelman, on land donated by the **Samueli Foundation**.

5%

- **NET WORTH:** \$2.1 billion
- **LAST YEAR:** \$2 billion
- **RESIDENCE:** homes in Shady Canyon, Laguna Beach
- **SOURCE OF WEALTH:** hedge fund

PHOTO CREDIT: AIA ORANGE COUNTY



WILLIAM WANG
Founder, CEO
Vizio Inc.

THE MONEY: Runs one of Orange County's best-known brands, maker of flat-panel smart TVs, sound bars and other products. The Irvine-based company (NYSE: VZIO) went public last year, now valued around \$1.5 billion.

THE NUMBERS: Vizio is the largest

U.S.-based flat-panel TV maker, trails only **Samsung Electronics Co.** among sales in the country. Last year, the company brought in over \$2.1 billion in revenue. Ad-software business is its fastest-growing business unit, bringing in \$309 million last year.

IN HIS WORDS: "Twenty years ago, I embarked on a journey to make quality home entertainment accessible to everyone," Wang said in an April letter to shareholders. "I started Vizio with a handful of employees and the funds from a second mortgage on my home. In our early years, we cultivated supplier and retail partner relationships to create an efficient business model that would allow us to deliver exceptional value to American consumers. Today, this core principle remains at the heart of everything we do."

NEW BUSINESS LINE: A year ago, company launched **WatchFree+**, a Vizio-owned and operated, ad-supported streaming service. "I learned a long time ago, that to truly achieve the best possible overall user experience and drive real innovation, it's imperative to control both the hardware and the

software. This continues to be the core focus of our strategy today and going forward," Wang said.

THE IPO: Voting power at Vizio is 87%, due to ownership of all the company's Class B shares. While company's stock is down more than 50% year-over-year, the Business Journal has not dropped the estimate of his wealth by a similar figure, given his controlling interest in the business, and factoring in money he's likely taken out of the company since its founding, plus other assets.

VIZIO

-17%

- **NET WORTH:** \$1.25 billion
- **LAST YEAR:** \$1.5 billion
- **AGE:** 58
- **RESIDENCE:** Newport Beach
- **SOURCE OF WEALTH:** Vizio



SUE GROSS
Founder
Sue J. Gross Foundation

THE MONEY: Won half of Bond King **Bill Gross'** estimated \$3 billion wealth in 2017 divorce.

LOCAL HOLDINGS: Owns three of the 12 homes in Laguna Beach's exclusive **Abalone Point** enclave, and multiple homes in Beverly Hills.

PHILANTHROPY: A frequent backer of **Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian** and **University of California, Irvine**. At start of year her foundation gave a \$3 million gift to UCI to expand training and education opportunities in the Sue & Bill Gross School of Nursing. "I have always cared deeply about healthcare and recognize the critical role nurses play in providing quality care in our communities. Never has their importance been more prominent than it is now with the challenges we've faced during the pandemic that have truly amplified the need for, and importance of, skilled nurses throughout our country," Gross said at the time of the gift.

-5.5%

- **NET WORTH:** \$1.7 billion
- **LAST YEAR:** \$1.8 billion
- **AGE:** 72
- **RESIDENCE:** Laguna Beach, Beverly Hills
- **SOURCE OF WEALTH:** divorce





DAVID SUN
Co-Founder, COO
Kingston Technology Co.

THE MONEY: Largest local consumer electronics maker, and among OC's largest private companies by sales. Maker of well-known flash memory products, solid-state drives, and other computer-related items. Company has posted upward of \$13 billion



- **NET WORTH:** \$6.2 billion
- **LAST YEAR:** \$6.2 billion
- **AGE:** Sun 70, Tu 80
- **RESIDENCE:** Irvine, Rolling Hills
- **SOURCE OF WEALTH:** computer storage, memory products



JOHN TU
Co-Founder, President
Kingston Technology Co.

of sales annually of late. In addition to its own business, Kingston makes memory products on behalf of PC manufacturers.

THE NUMBERS: Sold 80% of Kingston to Japan-based **SoftBank Corp.** for \$1.5 billion in 1996 and generously shared proceeds with employees. The founders bought the company back in 1999 for \$450 million.

FURY: Last year sold off its popular **HyperX** business unit to Palo Alto's **HP** for \$225 million. Still retained the ability to make memory products used by gamers, such as flash memory, dynamic random access memory and solid-state drive gaming products under the Kingston name. As such, it has kicked off a new line, dubbed "Fury," for the new slate of offerings.



Tu's hobby: drummer in a band he leads

BIG BREAK: Sun, Tu co-founded memory products maker **Camintonn** in the 1980s and sold it to former Irvine computer maker **AST Research Inc.** They left AST to start Kingston after losing millions in **Camintonn** proceeds in the 1987 stock market crash. Now have built second fortune.

\$50M BACKING, PART 1: Tu has provided more than \$50 million in funding for upstart medical diagnostic company **Fluxergy**, an Irvine-based firm working to build

a better, faster test for COVID-19.

\$50M BACKING, PART 2: Sun and his wife, **Diana**, through their **Sun Family Foundation**, in March announced a \$50 million gift to **Hoag Hospital Irvine** to help with the expansion of its campus. The couple has lived in the city since the 1980s. Said Sun: "Our gift is no more important or meaningful than any other gift to Hoag, no matter the amount, if it comes from the heart and is made in the hope of helping others."



LARRY VAN TUYL
Co-Owner
Van Tuyl Companies

THE MONEY: Van Tuyl's father, **Cecil**, opened the family's car dealership in 1952. Van Tuyl joined the company in 1971, helped build it into the third-largest car dealership network in the country by late 1990s. Sold a controlling interest in his family's car dealerships to **Berkshire Hathaway** for a reported \$4.1 billion in stock in March 2015, when group counted some 78 dealerships, which together sold 240,000 vehicles per year, and in 2013 had almost \$8 billion in revenue. For-



-17%

WEEKEND WEALTHY

- **NET WORTH:** \$2.5 billion
- **LAST YEAR:** \$3 billion
- **SOURCE OF WEALTH:** car dealerships

tune spread among several family members.

THE ORACLE: **Warren Buffett's** Berkshire's shares have nearly doubled in price since the sale. Van Tuyl became chairman of what's now **Berkshire Hathaway Automotive**, but stepped down from the position after a five-year term. He's reported to be buying dealerships on his own again, in Texas. His primary residence is said to be in Arizona.

WEEKEND WEALTHY: Has a formidable real estate presence in OC. In 2018, paid a reported \$55 million for a **Corona del Mar** compound along the water. Sale included two technically separate, although adjoining, properties. Property, including the iconic "Big Blue House," was bought from the **Irvine** family heirs.



Larry Van Tuyl (right) with Warren Buffett

PHOTO CREDIT CNBC



PHOTO CREDIT: FEADSHIP

THE YACHT: Owns a mega yacht, called **Vanish**, that's been valued at about \$125 million. The ship was launched in 2016 by **Feadship**, and counts two helipads, an outdoor cinema, a gym, sauna, massage room, beach club, and includes "a free-standing staircase flanked by a glass wall over three decks," the Dutch luxury boat maker's website says.



Photo from Nicholas Academic Centers



HENRY T. NICHOLAS III
Co-Founder
Broadcom

THE NUMBERS: He sold an estimated \$1.2 billion in Broadcom shares since the company went public in 1998.

KEY METRIC: Broadcom shares are flat from a year ago.

THE TWO HENRYS: Nicholas established Broadcom in 1991 in a spare bedroom of his Redondo Beach home with fellow OC's Wealthiest member **Henry Samuelli**. His 2008 divorce is the primary reason the Business Journal's \$5.5 billion estimate for Nicholas lags that of Samuelli, who remains chairman of Broadcom.

RECENT: Business-related news regarding Nicholas has been slow for several years since the Avago sale. News now largely comes from his academic nonprofit, **Nicholas Academic Centers**, which was co-founded with retired Orange County Superior Court Judge **Jack Mandel**. It has multiple centers in Santa Ana and have graduated more than 1,000 underserved, primarily Latino students in the **Santa Ana Unified School District**. Graduates have reportedly received over \$60 million in scholarships, attending top schools, such as **Stanford, Harvard, Columbia, and Dartmouth**.

PHILANTHROPY: On quest to improve victims' rights following the 1983 murder of younger sister, **Marsalee**. Known as "Marsy's Law," Nicholas-backed initiative protects victims and their families through the legal process, from the defendant's trial to restitution to parole or other post-judgment release decisions.

it had 35 employees and \$9.5 million in annual sales; became CEO in 1997.

PRIOR OC INVESTMENTS: Alteryx, SecureAuth, NextVR, Synoptec

CURRENT OC INVESTMENTS: Happy Money, Tebra Technologies

PHILANTHROPY: Supports more than 100 charities, including his own **Teach a Man to Fish Foundation**, which had \$70.9 million in assets as of 2018, up from \$21.8 million in 2012.



VINNY SMITH
Founder
Toba Capital

THE MONEY: Gained about \$800 million in 2012 from sale of Quest Software to **Dell**. Used proceeds to start Toba, OC's largest VC with \$1.3 billion of assets under management.

BIG BREAK: Joined Quest in 1995, when

NET WORTH: \$2.9 billion
LAST YEAR: \$2.9 billion
SOURCE OF WEALTH: Quest, venture capital fund



ANNE CATHERINE GETTY EARHART
Heiress, Philanthropist

CAROLINE MARIE GETTY
Heiress, Philanthropist

THE MONEY: Sisters who are the granddaughters of late oil tycoon **J. Paul Getty**.

FAMILY HISTORY: Their grandfather made his first million in 1916 in Oklahoma oil and became a billionaire from work in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait in the 1940s and 1950s. Other holdings included aircraft maker **Spartan**.

Some news reports at the time said he was the world's wealthiest man. The sisters were born in the 1950s to J. Paul's eldest son, **George Franklin Getty II**.

THE NUMBERS: J. Paul died in 1976, leaving \$700 million to fund the **Getty Museum** in Los Angeles, and a family fortune disputed for nine years by dozens of descendants. It included 40% of Getty Oil; a family trust in 1984 sold that for \$4 billion to **Texaco**. The museum also got a boost, selling its 12% holdings as part of Texaco's takeover. Anne and Caroline each received about \$750 million from the will and \$400 million apiece

from the Texaco deal.

KEY METRIC: The Business Journal has lowered the very private duo's wealth to \$1.6 billion, in line with what sources say would be an average return for modest trust fund investing the past year.

PHILANTHROPY: The sisters stay out of the public eye and give to environmental and left-of-center political causes. Some of Anne's giving flows through the **Marisla Foundation** in Laguna Beach, for her daughter **Sara's** middle name—which had \$40.7 million in assets at the end of 2017, according to GuideStar USA Inc. The foundation in 2016 said it would give \$100 million over five years to support projects to end overfishing; control plastic pollution; and protect marine mammals, according to a U.S. State Department report. Marisla gave money to fight the San Joaquin Hills (73) Toll Road in the 1990s and has backed the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Earhart was honored with a **Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy** in 2019. Caroline is even less in the limelight than her older sister; she's an environmental activist and has served on boards and councils of the **Wilderness Society, World Wildlife Fund, and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Foundation**.

QUOTE: "I knew when I inherited a large sum of money, that some good should come of it," Earhart said in 2019, when she was presented the Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy. The group estimates her philanthropy has helped preserve 4.5 million square miles of ocean.

-6%

- **NET WORTH:** \$1.6 billion
- **LAST YEAR:** \$1.7 billion
- **SOURCE OF WEALTH:** heiress



RON SIMON
Founder, Chairman
RSI Equity Partners

MONEY: Multiple businesses built, then sold, including cabinetmakers **Perma-Bilt Industries** and **RSI Home Products**, as well as homebuilder **RSI Communities**.

HISTORY: Simon—born into the Great Depression in Los Angeles to a Russian mother and an English cabinetmaking father—turned his father's business, **Perma-Bilt**, into the nation's largest manufacturer of bathroom medicine cabinets. In 1987, Simon sold **Perma-Bilt** and started **RSI Home**, which became the largest manufacturer of cultured marble countertops, bathroom vanities, and medicine cabinets in the world.

SALES: RSI Home sold in 2017 for \$1.1

billion to Winchester, Va.-based **American Woodmark Corp.**, about half of it is in debt and half in cash and stock. American Woodmark's stock is off 40% year-over-year. In 2018, RSI Communities sold to **William Lyon Homes** for \$460 million.

THE BOOK: "Business can be a battlefield, and I have decades of stories and the mental scar tissue to prove it," he wrote in 2021 published memoir, "Tell Me Why I Can't."

PHILANTHROPY: The **Simon Scholars Program** is involved in about 20 local high schools, with 1,300 scholarships and counting, valued at more than \$40 million. The **Simon STEM Scholarship Program**, started in 2015, provides a full scholarship to **Chapman University** students pursuing a STEM-area degree. Chapman received a \$9 million commitment from the Simon Foundation during its annual Chapman Celebrates gala in 2019. A separate \$5 million gift to Chapman to transform a historic building near campus into a 28,000-square-foot building for the school's performing arts program. Called the **Sandi Simon Center for Dance**; opening this year.

-7%

- **NET WORTH:** \$1.3 billion
- **LAST YEAR:** \$1.4 billion
- **RESIDENCE:** Newport Beach
- **SOURCE OF WEALTH:** manufacturing



BILL GROSS
Co-Founder
Pimco

THE MONEY: Known as the “Bond King” for building Pimco into one of the world’s biggest money managers; it now has \$2 trillion assets under management. Departed in 2014 in acrimonious split; has since reconciled. Retired in 2019.

THE NUMBERS: Nearly 50-year career, three-time Morningstar Bond Manager of the

Year, Bond Manager of the Decade. Inducted into the Fixed Income Analysts Society’s Hall of Fame. Famously avoided 2008 financial crisis with his bond fund returning 4.8%, while his benchmark dropped 4.2%, and S&P 500 Index dropped 38%.

BIG BREAK: After a car accident in 1966, spent months in a hospital where he read **Edward O. Thorp’s** “Beat the Dealer.” Pair became friends, with Gross telling Thorp: “I tell him all the time that he’s responsible for my career.” Says arrived at Pimco at the right time—30-year bond bull market that began in early 1980s.

RECENT FORTUNES: Gross tells the Business Journal he is doing “very well this year in markets, positive 5% or so versus negative 20% or so in the averages. Shorts in GameStop and AMC Theaters have been working. Also have 40% cash in 6-month Treasury bills as well as selective takeover candidates. I shorted bond and oil at the right time.”

INVESTMENT TIP: “Don’t hold bonds, stocks or commodities going forward until



Bill Gross married Amy Schwartz in 2021

the extent of the recession becomes more visible.”

PHILANTHROPY: Managing invest-

ments at **William, Jeff and Jennifer Gross Family Foundation**, where he’s aiming for 5% annual return to donate about \$20 million annually. Donations have included **Doctors Without Borders**, **CHOC Children’s Small Baby Unit**, **Laguna Food Pantry** and **Orange County Teachers of the Year** awards.

BOOK EXCERPT: “There never was a ‘Bond King’ but there was a passionate leader of a bond management firm called Pimco which dominated market performance for nearly four decades and made ‘more money for more people’ as one investment consultant wrote ‘than any firm on Earth.’”

5%

- NET WORTH: \$2.4 billion
- LAST YEAR: \$2.3 billion
- AGE: 78
- RESIDENCE: Laguna Beach
- SOURCE OF WEALTH: bond investing



RODNEY SACKS
Chairman, Co-CEO
Monster Beverage Corp.

THE MONEY: Local residents who run and are main shareholders in Corona-based Monster Beverage Corp.

THE NUMBERS: Sacks has 9.4% ownership in Monster, Schlosberg 9.2%, according to Monster’s latest proxy statement in April. The company was valued at nearly \$52 billion as of mid-July.



HILTON SCHLOSBERG
Vice Chairman, Co-CEO
Monster Beverage Corp.

KEY METRIC: Monster’s shares are up about 5% this year.

BIG BREAK: Immigrants from South Africa entered the beverage business in 1992 with the purchase of Anaheim-based **Hansen Natural Corp.** Sacks had left behind a career with one of the biggest law firms in Johannesburg to seek his fortune in the U.S. Schlos-



berg, with experience in packaging, had moved to the U.K. The two bought a public company just as the “New Age” category of waters, flavored drinks and other alternatives to **Coke** and other sodas were emerging. Energy drinks, in particular, proved a source of growth. **Coca-Cola Co.** paid \$2.15 billion for 16.7% of the company in 2015, it now has a 19.3% stake in company.

PORTFOLIO: Beyond beverages, the duo is among the area’s largest private investors in OC commercial real estate, having been involved in office purchases here valued at more than \$600 million over the past six years, according to Business Journal data. It was part of group that in 2019 bought 2040 Main St., the Irvine office that holds the local headquarters of law firm **Knobbe Martens**.

It sold for a reported \$130 million. Also in 2019, it was part of group that paid \$116 million for nearby 2211 Michelson office tower. Many of their recent investments were made in ventures with Irvine-based real estate investment group **Greenlaw Partners**.

LOCAL TIES: Sacks is reported to have a house in Laguna Beach, and Schlosberg keeps a Big Canyon address.

PHILANTHROPY: Company’s **Monster Energy Cares Foundation** supports active duty, injured and retired military personnel, Monster athletes and their charities, the local community and first responders.



4%

- NET WORTH: \$4.7 billion
- LAST YEAR: \$4.5 billion
- SOURCE OF WEALTH: beverage company



JAMES SLAVIK & FAMILY
Chairman, Director
Mark IV Capital

THE MONEY: Family controls a sizeable stake in **W.W. Grainger Inc.** (NYSE: GWW), a supply company from Lake Forest, Ill., valued at about \$24 billion as of mid-July. Beneficial ownership of company shares predates Grainger’s IPO in 1967.

THE MARK: Newport Beach’s Mark IV, founded in 1974, makes direct investments in commercial real estate, both in existing properties and new development. It also makes investments in private equities and venture capital. Slavik is also a founder and manager of **Emerald Bay Ventures LLC**, a private investment company.

THE NUMBERS: W.W. Grainger shares are up 2.5% year-over-year, boosting the stake of family’s varied interests in the company past \$2 billion. Slavik stepped down from the company’s board in 2020, after 30 years of service. Replaced on board by another family member and Mark IV director who is reported to live in the St. Louis area, and who controls a stake in the company that tops 9%, according to filings.

CONTROL: Slavik has previously contended that he’s just one of many beneficiaries in the supply company, and that his own worth is too low for our listings.

VENTURES: Has served on the Advisory Board for the **Cove Fund**, a seed capital fund affiliated with **UCI Applied Innovation** at **UCI**, is a founding director for **UCI Applied Innovation**.

PHILANTHROPY: Has served as a director of the **Hoag Hospital Foundation**.

18%

- NET WORTH: \$1.3 billion
- LAT YEAR: \$1.1 billion
- SOURCE OF WEALTH: W.W. Grainger stock, real estate investments



PAUL MERAGE
Chairman
MIG Capital



4%

- **NET WORTH:** \$2.7 billion
- **LAST YEAR:** \$2.6 billion
- **RESIDENCE:** Newport Coast
- **SOURCE OF WEALTH:** company sale, real estate, investments



THE MONEY: Along with brother David, co-founded Chef American Inc., a frozen foods company that sold in 2002 to Nestlé for \$2.6 billion. Name on top of UCI Business School.

THE NUMBERS: After sale of frozen food business, began MIG Capital, which has about \$1 billion in assets and is managed by son Richard. Nephew Greg manages real estate arm with more than 10 million square feet and nearly 7,000 multifamily units, whose value has gone well up over the past year. Brother Cam is founder and CEO of First Team Real Estate, an Irvine-based real

estate team.

BIG BREAK: Inventor in 1983 of Hot Pockets. “With an eye for change, Paul recognized the demographic and social shifts in America—more working parents, less time to prepare meals for families and an array of advances made possible with the expanding use of the microwave oven,” UCI said.

REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS: Village in Indian Wells, Avila Apartments in Rancho Santa Margarita. Real estate arm of MIG typically invests \$15 million to \$100 million multifamily, hotels, and grocery-anchored retail.

PHILANTHROPY: The Paul & Elisabeth Merage Family Foundation counts close to \$50 million in assets, according to public records. Recent donations included \$511,000 to UCI’s Shaping the Future Campaign, \$200,000 to Sage Hill School, and \$58,000 to Segerstrom Center for the Arts. Also gave \$500,000 to the Merage Institute Business Executive Leadership Program to promote innovation as a way to spur new opportunities in fields like cybersecurity and medical devices. It has programs often targeted at encouraging entrepreneurship in Israel, including those over 45 years old.



ARTE MORENO
Owner
Angels Baseball LP

- **NET WORTH:** \$3 billion
- **LAST YEAR:** \$3 billion
- **AGE:** 74
- **RESIDENCE:** Corona del Mar
- **SOURCE OF WEALTH:** billboards, baseball



THE MONEY: Owner of baseball team that Forbes ranks as ninth most valuable in MLB, at nearly \$2.2 billion, due to enviable regional TV market. Last year, team brought in some \$330 million in revenue, double the level seen in pandemic-impacted 2020 season.

THE NUMBERS: The club was acquired in 2003 from Walt Disney Co. for \$184 million; it is Moreno’s chief asset, and its value continues to rise and could go much higher if development around the stadium moves ahead. Angels roster includes two of MLB’s

most recognizable and marketable players, Mike Trout and Shohei Ohtani.

CHANGE IN PLANS: Previously agreed-to deal for city of Anaheim to sell the baseball stadium and the surrounding parking lots to a company controlled by Moreno for about \$320 million was voided by city in May, after improprieties involving city’s former mayor and FBI probe emerged. Now exploring a sale of the team.

BIG BREAK: He’s on his second for-

ture—the first came from Outdoor Systems, a billboard company he founded with partner and Angels minority investor Bill Levine, taking it public in 1996 and selling to Viacom in 1999 for \$8.7 billion in stock.

PHILANTHROPY: Moreno and his wife, Carole, are heavily involved in local charities and other causes. The Angels Baseball Foundation has distributed nearly \$9 million to charitable programs throughout Southern California. In addition, they founded the Angels Scholars Program in 2016, which funds college scholarships.



JOE KIANI
Founder, CEO
Masimo Corp.

THE MONEY: Co-founded medical monitoring device company in 1989. Has 8.5% stake—currently worth about \$600 million—in nearly \$7 billion firm (Nasdaq: MASI), according to the company’s April proxy statement. Shares fell earlier this year after company announced \$1 billion acquisition which positions it more in the consumer goods market. Kiani is involved in other privately held medical device companies, such as Irvine’s Cercacor, which he owns, and is believed to have significant holdings and assets outside of Masimo stock.

AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY: Left native Iran at age 9 when he knew only three words of English. Believed in a new way to improve accuracy of patient monitoring by using what is called adaptive signal processing. Masimo has 500-plus patents, including more than 100 in Kiani’s name.

PHILANTHROPY: Has passion for children, health, and poverty alleviation. Started foundation to help hospitals achieve zero preventable deaths. Prominent supporter of President Joe Biden.



-17%

- **NET WORTH:** \$1.25 billion
- **LAST YEAR:** \$1.5 billion
- **AGE:** 57
- **RESIDENCE:** Laguna Beach
- **SOURCE OF WEALTH:** company founder

In Memoriam



Robert L. Mayer, Sr.
The Mayer Corporation



Michael Berns
Beckman Laser Institute and Medical Clinic



Tom Yuen
AST Computer



Nate Jensen
Clean Energy



John Cheng
South Coast Medical Group



Duvall Hecht
Books on Tape, UCI Rowing



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for making the OC500 by the *Orange County
Business Journal* for the 2nd consecutive year.



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CONGRATULATIONS TO EDWARD SUSOLIK FOR BEING NAMED
TO THE OC 500 FOR THE SIXTH YEAR IN A ROW!

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