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AWARDS



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CFO AWARDS

PUBLISHER'S LETTER



WELCOME to our 10th annual Los Angeles Business Journal CFO Awards special supplement, in which we celebrate the efforts and achievements of those too often unsung heroes of the corporate space.

This issue pays tribute to, and shines a much-deserved spotlight on, the finalists and honorees we celebrated at our 2016 CFO of the Year Awards luncheon on Tuesday, September 20th at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel downtown.

Every successful company in Los Angeles owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Chief Financial Officers of their respective businesses, each of whom plays a key role, not only in the success of their companies, but in the success of the Los Angeles financial community as a whole. So to all the great CFOs profiled in this volume we say thank you!

The list of prestige nominees – each an example of excellence in the field of financial business stewardship – made it particularly challenging this year to single out the honorees. Eight honorees are announced in this sec-

tion in six categories – “Public Company CFO,” “Private Company CFO,” “Government/Public Sector CFO,” “Non-Profit CFO,” “Rising Star,” and the inaugural “RSM Middle Market Award.” We applaud each of the finalists and honorees – all of whom are described in these pages.

We hope you enjoy this special section, which contains some insights on what exactly it means to be a corporate financial steward in today’s business climate, as well as a closer look at each of our esteemed CFO Award finalists and honorees.

And again, congratulations to all the great CFOs in Los Angeles who tirelessly contribute to the bottom line of your businesses, and ultimately, our business community as a whole.

Best regards,

Matthew A. Toledo
Publisher & CEO



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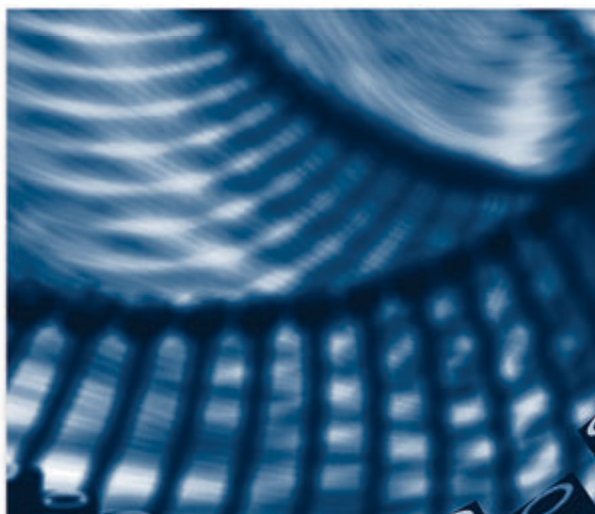
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PUBLIC COMPANY CFO OF THE YEAR

STEVE PRESLEY

Nestlé USA

FIRST and foremost, Steve Presley is a team player. It's a mindset that started when he first played sports in West Palm Beach, Florida as a young boy. It strengthened as he earned a football scholarship in college and has been translated over the years from the playing field to the corporate stage as a key leader at Nestlé, the largest food and beverage company in the world.

Presley began his career with Nestlé USA in 1997 as Factory Controller for the Beverage factory in Suffolk, Virginia. After a series of increasingly impactful positions, in 2013, Presley was named to his current position of Chief Financial Officer for Nestlé USA, which includes Nestlé Baking, Nestlé Beverage, Nestlé Confections & Global Food, Nestlé Prepared Foods, Nestlé Pizza and Nestlé Dreyer's Ice Cream.

As CFO, he plays a crucial role in driving the overall business performance of Nestlé USA. He has a powerful combination of finance expertise and deep experience on the commercial side. This makes him especially effective as CFO because he understands the challenges of the commercial leaders he works with. He has run a large product portfolio in the Beverage division. He's worked extensively in operations, spending several years of his career at product factories. He sees issues and opportunities from both the financial and the commercial points of view, which leads to stronger decisions and a successful approach to Nestlé USA's business overall.

Presley has also played a key role in helping Nestlé USA return to market share growth and robust innovation pipelines. The company has moved to a matrixed organizational structure, which along with other transformational projects have resulted in \$500 million in cost savings to be invested in delighting consumers, growing sales and market share.



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CFO AWARDS

HONOREES



PRIVATE COMPANY CFO OF THE YEAR

NIGEL KERSHAW

Lucky Brand

Lucky Brand was founded in Los Angeles in 1990. For ten years, the company grew steadily. In 1999, the denim brand was acquired by the Liz Claiborne organization based in New York and ultimately resulted in the consolidation of the back-office functions on the east coast.

In early 2014, Lucky Brand was acquired by LA-based Carlos Alberini and Leonard Green. As part of the acquisition, Lucky Brand's management team was required to carve out the back-office operations and establish a fully functional stand-alone company in Los Angeles. In May of 2014, Nigel Kershaw was hired as the Chief Financial Officer with the goal of establishing the back-office operations in Los Angeles. The carve-out required building a local team to support the financial operations of the company, developing, testing and implementing financial, ERP, HR, payroll, point-of-sale systems, business intelligence reporting tools and implementing processes and controls to manage the organization.

Kershaw was able to quickly establish a core management team from the local retail and apparel talent pool that would become the nucleus of a 45 person financial team, providing financial services to the rest of the organization. Implementing multiple systems in such a short time frame with a brand new team may seem daunting, but Kershaw saw this as an opportunity to build a strong financial organization using advanced cloud-based technology. Within eight months, Kershaw and his management team had built out the finance organization, selected and tested the software and were ready to implement.

In October of last year, the final system implementation was completed that allowed Lucky Brand to become a completely stand-alone organization based back in downtown Los Angeles, not far from where the brand had originally started 25 years previously, largely thanks to the efforts spearheaded by Kershaw.

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CFO AWARDS

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PRIVATE COMPANY CFO OF THE YEAR

WHIT RICHARDS

Fullscreen, Inc.

As an operations-savvy executive with more than 14 years in domestic and international digital media, Whit Richards has significant expertise with early-stage companies in search, online media, and emerging e-commerce business models. His work has resulted in the successful architecting of accounting, financial planning and analysis, business intelligence infrastructure, and decision support from the ground up.

Richards has carved out a unique role in the high growth dynamic search, digital media and ecommerce industries. As a leader in these increasingly complex businesses, his experience enables him to advise fellow executives with big picture, future forward strategies while ensuring the tactical, long term accounting details enable large-scale growth.

Richards joined Fullscreen Media as chief financial officer in October of 2013. Combining his operations savvy with his MBA from Duke University, he has built a highly effective approach to finance, accounting and investment strategy for the media business that began with one core focus and now has multiple, and quickly growing, business units. An outspoken and respected leader, Richards offers meaningful instruction and information on corporate financial plans across the business.

Since 2013, and under Richards' financial leadership, Fullscreen Media has grown from 200 employees to nearly 800 employees. Among the founder-led management team, Richards has been an important contributor to the maturation of the company's executive suite, overseeing the growth of four lines of business while aggressively and prudently managing the achievement of revenue and profitability targets.

To scale along with the company, Richards has built and led a high performing team that includes finance, accounting and business intelligence functions. Without his leadership and his team's consistent and relentless dedication to providing the best data to inform business decisions, Fullscreen Media would not be able to scale, improve and execute upon its innovative and market-leading strategies.



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CFO AWARDS HONOREES



GOVERNMENT/PUBLIC SECTOR CFO OF THE YEAR

RYAN YAKUBIK

Los Angeles World Airports

RYAN Yakubik was appointed CFO of Los Angeles World Airports in 2014, having previously served as Director of Capital management and Budget beginning in October of 2007. Los Angeles World Airports is the City of Los Angeles department that owns and operates a system of three airports: Los Angeles International (LAX), LA/Ontario International (ONT) and Van Nuys (VNY). Each plays an integral role in helping to meet the Southern California regional demand for passenger, cargo and general aviation service. Each airport makes a distinct contribution to the strength of the system as it provides a high level of safety, security and service for its customers, communities and stakeholders.

Currently as Los Angeles World Airports' CFO, Yakubik is responsible for overseeing rates and charges, grants administration, operating budget, capital budget, and debt management.

He has been instrumental in developing financing plans and preparing Los Angeles World Airports for the next round of capital improvements. He is also assisting in the financial planning for the upcoming Landside Access Modernization Program, which includes an automated people mover and consolidated rental car facility.

He previously worked as a fixed income portfolio manager for institutional clients. Yakubik holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles and is Chartered Financial Analyst.



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NONPROFIT CFO OF THE YEAR

JAMES DOUGHERTY

Glendale Chamber of Commerce / JLK Rosenberger, LLP

JAMES Dougherty, CPA is a teacher at heart, bringing reasoned advice and simplicity to complex financial reporting. He first learned to master a difficult instrument, publicly lead his peers and quickly assess and resolve any potential problems while concertmaster and skilled violinist in his junior and senior high school orchestras. He now continues these traits on personal, professional and community levels.

Dougherty conquers new systems for clients in an ever-changing business environment. He has an innate ability to teach accounting to expert and novice alike. His appetite for both learning and mentoring, his personable nature and knack for networking make Dougherty the CPA who can bring order to a client's seemingly complex financial reporting challenges. He fixes various accounting problems and is the calm voice in strained situations. His least favorite word is "can't."

His career began with Coopers & Lybrand, LLP, leading to positions in industry as senior, manager and controller. However, Dougherty focused his career in public accounting, which has been his passion for most of his life.

Dougherty has over 28 years of experience auditing various types of entities including manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors, real estate fiduciary companies, insurance companies and not-for-profit organizations. His insurance experience extends to captives, government risk pools, property and casualty insurers and agencies offering a variety of commercial and personal lines. He is also a peer reviewer under the AICPA Peer Review Program. Ever involved in the community, he is the past Co-Chair of the Planning Committee of the Accounting and Auditing Conference sponsored by the CALCPA Education Foundation, has served as the Assistant Treasurer of The Man-Kind Project USA (a national nonprofit organization) and is currently the CFO of the Glendale Chamber of Commerce.



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\$8,000,000

Consumer Products Manufacturer

Working Capital/Owner-User & Investment CRE Financing/Commercial Cards/Treasury Management

\$12,000,000

Textile Manufacturer

Working Capital/Letters of Credit/Treasury Management

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NONPROFIT CFO OF THE YEAR

STEPHEN KENNEDY

Los Angeles Mission

STEPHEN Kennedy has served as the head of finance for the Los Angeles Mission since 2006, where he has consistently managed the organization's budgets. His commitment to the organization and the role he plays is exemplified by his beginnings with the Mission. He began his tenure as a temporary employee, and through his dedication to the finance function and the positive impact he made, he was named permanent CFO.

Since 2013, he has also overseen most of the Mission's administrative departments. In addition, he and his accounting staff provided professional accounting services to the Los Angeles Christian Health Centers (LACHC) from 2006 to 2013.

Kennedy initiated two important real estate transactions in the past few years, which strengthened the Mission's financial and operating positions. In 2011, he executed the purchase of the Mission's strategically located warehouse to lock in long-term costs while the real estate market was favorably priced before an upturn in prices. He also secured a 10-year fixed-rate mortgage loan to finance the warehouse purchase and refinance an existing mortgage due in 2014. In 2015, he recommended and executed the sale of a Mission-owned apartment building in Hollywood. This sale significantly improved the Mission's balance sheet and cash position. In addition, with the help of the Mission's insurance broker, property and liability insurance costs were reduced by 16%, and director and officer liability insurance costs were cut in half in 2016. Through changes in vendors, custodial supply costs will be reduced by 30% during the next year.

Kennedy has been recognized as a leader and strong financial manager by the Board of Directors, senior management, and employees at all levels of the organization. Program clients see and respect his commitment to improving the operations of the Los Angeles Mission and supporting them during their time in the 12-month rehabilitation program.



**Los Angeles World Airports Congratulates Ryan Yakubik
and all finalists for the CFO of the Year Award**



CONGRATULATIONS!

LABJ 2016 CFO OF THE YEAR NOMINEES



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CFO AWARDS

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RISING STAR OF THE YEAR

ERIC CHAN

LootCrate, Inc.

In his relatively short time at Loot Crate (about a year), Eric Chan has been responsible for a number of truly important initiatives for the company.

To highlight three of them, first, without Chan, LootCrate would not have been able to raise \$35 million of capital for the company. Chan relied on his personal contacts, his ability to communicate the strategic vision of the company, and his keen sense on how to get a deal completed, to secure this important milestone for the company.

Second, Chan has been instrumental as CFO of solidifying LootCrate's executive team. Since his joining, and with his focus and persistence on this area, the company has been able to bring in a Chief Creative Officer who leads the company's product development today, a SVP of Product Management, a head of Licensing and Business Development, a Corporate Controller, and a VP of People Operations. These hires would not be possible without Chan's handling of recruiting to build out the executive team appropriately. With this seasoned executive team in place, LootCrate has the personnel to drive significant growth and expansion to the company.

Third, Chan has been crucial at shaping the process and culture within the company. As CFO, he brought the finance team to a place where LootCrate could get through its first audit. Even more impressive is that he was able to get through a Big 4 audit (with KPMG) in the company's first try at the process. He was able to get all the documentation and controls to a level where LootCrate is able to complete the process properly and in good standing.

He has also been very important in bringing together processes between the various groups within the company including product development, product management, marketing, operations, and customer support to work more seamlessly together in a cross-functioning environment.



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RSM MIDDLE MARKET AWARD

MATTHEW PAKKALA

World Oil Corp.

MATTHEW Pakkala has served as the CFO for World Oil since 2012. He is responsible for overseeing World Oil's finance operations, including asset management, information technology, logistics, and accounting but is also in charge of ensuring the family office functions. Pakkala plays a central role in defining the strategic direction of the company with World Oil's board and strives to balance World's long-term vision with the short-term business needs to create value for its customers, employees, suppliers and shareholders.

Pakkala has brought to World Oil a diversified organizational improvement background that is based on a deep financial, operational and legal expertise. He has demonstrated extensive experience in identifying and increasing value where others may not be able to do so. When he joined World Oil, the shareholders were engaged in several complex and highly contentious litigations. Pakkala helped lead the company to successful resolutions that included structuring the buyouts and complex recapitalization of the organization that resulted in long-term shareholder debt being retired in less than a year at a discount, saving the existing shareholders over \$8MM.

Pakkala also played a primary role in the strategic divestiture of the company's stake in United Oil. Throughout this short but challenging period, World Oil remained profitable and Pakkala kept the Company calmly focused on becoming a more modern, integrated corporation, continuing to do things right in the community, environmentally and with its employees. He bears the weight and responsibilities of overseeing not only the bottom line performance and financial integrity of the organization, but he also speaks the language of the family shareholders and company employees. Serving as the right-arm and business partner to the family owners, he set about developing a strategic road map that included implementation of a set of centralized financial and operational reporting systems, which are being integrated across the various subsidiary companies.

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL LEADERS in Law

The *Los Angeles Business Journal* is proud to announce the expansion of the **2016 Leaders in Law** to recognize general counsel and firm attorneys.

Awards Luncheon

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

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2016 General Counsel Award Categories

- Public Company
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- Nonprofit Company
- Government/Municipal/Public Sector
- Rising Star
- NEW: In-House Team

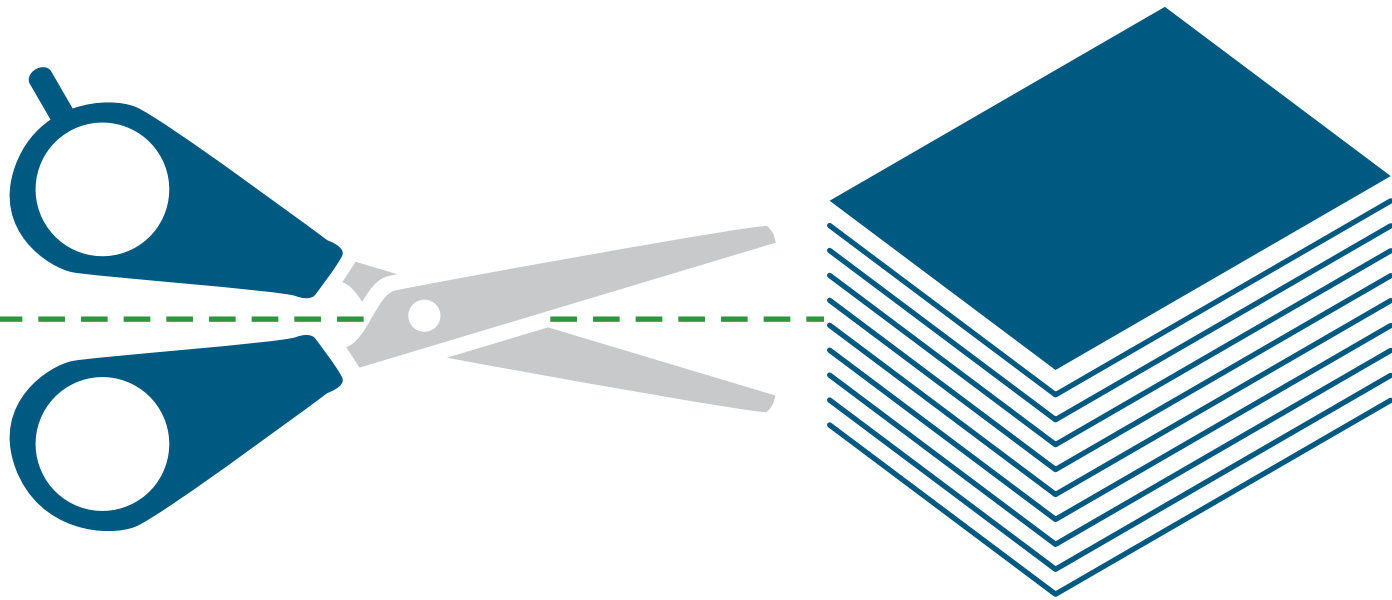
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CFO AWARDS

FINALISTS

PUBLIC COMPANY CFO OF THE YEAR

W. DOUGLAS BENN THE CHEESECAKE FACTORY INCORPORATED



As The Cheesecake Factory's CFO, Doug Benn is responsible for all of the day-to-day financial aspects of the company's business, including risk management, financial planning, accounting, tax, treasury, payroll, SEC

reporting and business strategy. He is also actively involved in investor relations and communicating the company's results and messaging its growth outlook to Wall Street investors. His role encompasses critical aspects of capital allocation and corporate governance. For example, the company has a strong record of returning its free cash flow to shareholders through a dividend initiated about four years ago, and increased every year since, and a consistent share repurchase program that has reduced weighted average shares outstanding by an average of over three percent annually for the past five years. In addition to taking responsibility for the financial operations of The Cheesecake Factory, Benn also makes it a point to educate and inspire its people through his signature "Donuts with Doug" meetings.

TOM EMREY DINEEQUITY



Becoming and being a leader isn't something that happens overnight, but is something that occurs when you've worked hard and had a commitment to improve with the experiences you've gained throughout

your career and life. In relation to that, Tom Emrey is not just a boss at work, but according to his coworkers, he exemplifies what a true leader should be. Over the several years that he has worked at DineEquity, he has always displayed his passion for development not only within the company itself, but the employees as well, demonstrating that he cares about each employee's success. One of the key factors in becoming a truly great leader is being able to listen to your colleagues and reports and using those insights to make positive, long-lasting improvements and changes. He has made outstanding contributions to the company's performance and keeps doing so year-after-year.

DIANE HOLLAND POSSIBLE



Diane Holland is the Global Chief Financial Officer at POSSIBLE, where she is responsible for the agency's global financial and operational management. She leads the agency's planning and growth, including mergers,

acquisitions, joint ventures, and strategic partnerships. Her colleagues report that she is strategically oriented with an innovative mindset and is a true compassionate leader who inspires and empowers others to strive to achieve their highest potential. After a diverse early career, Holland has led POSSIBLE in the merger of one other WPP Digital company (ZAAZ) and completed 7 acquisitions (Germany, UK, Russia, Hungary, Brazil, and 2 in the US). In total, Holland has led the merger of 5 entities and acquisition of 7 entities globally. This is while setting the strategy to be one agency "POSSIBLE" not a network of agencies with legacy brand names. Strategy, culture and integration were key.

PRIVATE COMPANY CFO OF THE YEAR

EDGAR DAVTYAN AYZENBERG GROUP



Edgar Davtyan is the Chief Financial Officer and a Principal at Ayzenberg Group, where he came on board as the 14th employee back in 2002. Davtyan has been intricately involved in the overall growth and

operation of the business, helping to outline the strategy from finance to business development to human resources to talent management and contracts administration. While Director of Accounting and Finance, he played a key role in the creation and launch of the agency's Social Media, Digital and Mobile divisions. He was named CFO of Ayzenberg Group in 2009, and by 2013, he earned a principal partner role in the agency, in which he continues to manage new opportunities for strategy transformation and agency profitability through the development and implementation of multi-year vertical business plans. This includes formal, intentional engagement and collaboration with a network of strategic partners to provide advertising, social media, digital, original content, media planning and implementation, analytics and more unified under one roof.

PHIL SCHRAEDER GUMGUM



Phil Schraeder has been the Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer of GumGum, Inc. since April 2013 and joined the company as Vice President of Finance in November 2011. His 17 years of experience helped

GumGum rise to be an industry leader in the computer vision and marketing spaces. In 2015, he helped spearhead GumGum's Series C funding round with Morgan Stanley Expansion Capital. Taking his usual forward-thinking approach, he pushed hard for Morgan Stanley Expansion Capital to lead the funding round because he knew that the financial firm's VC side would put them in the best position for an IPO down the road. Even though the company was already profitable at the time of the funding, Schraeder helped drive the \$26 million round in order to help the company transition from a healthy startup to a worldwide industry leader. With his financial and operational expertise leading the financial decisions of the company, GumGum has evolved and grown into the leading computer vision platform for marketers.

NEIL WATT UNICOM SYSTEMS, INC.



Neil Watt has spent a long and fruitful career with UNICOM as CFO, working closely with the founder/owner to build the company into a strong technology enterprise that comprises more than 40 corporate

entities encompassing a wide range of businesses across all geographic regions. UNICOM focuses on acquiring and integrating mature and growing mid-cap NASDAQ, London Stock Exchange AIM and German publicly traded companies in technology, financing, IT, real estate, and business services. Just in the last year, Watt has closed licensing deals worth \$160M with IBM; directed two asset acquisitions worth \$37M; increased the company's credit facility from \$55M to \$270M, and to a projected \$500M in 2016; and helped expand internationally into East Asia, Australia, New Zealand and India. Since coming on board 13 years ago, Watt has led at least 35 acquisitions and directed the structuring of each acquisition to minimize taxes.

Nestlé USA Congratulates LA Business Journal's

2016 CFO OF THE YEAR – PUBLIC SECTOR:
Steve Presley

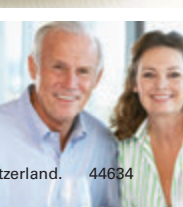
AND RISING STAR NOMINEES:

Karen LaVine
Rudy Tjiong



Nestlé

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CFO AWARDS

FINALISTS

GOVERNMENT/PUBLIC SECTOR CFO OF THE YEAR

GENE STRAUB GRANADA HILLS CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL



Gene Straub is the Chief Business Officer at Granada Hills Charter High School, where he has served the school's fiscal and business needs since 2014. He works to provide the school with the resources it needs to support its

mission to prepare students for college and career readiness. He received his Bachelors degree in finance from Michigan State University (Finance) and has been a business and finance professional since 1987. Straub has also been involved with the launch of Valley Charter School in the San Fernando Valley and Citizens of the World Charter Schools in Silver Lake and Mar Vista, and Brooklyn, New York. Straub previously served as CFO and COO of the Youth Policy Institute and Break the Cycle, as well as Senior Vice President of Studio Operations at 20th Century Fox.

NONPROFIT CFO OF THE YEAR

SABRINA AYALA GREEN DOT PUBLIC SCHOOLS NATIONAL



Sabrina Ayala is the Chief Financial Officer of Green Dot Public Schools and is responsible for managing all financial aspects, including financial strategy, budgets, cash management, accounts receivables, accounts

payable, facility financing and payroll. She is also responsible for over \$130 million in revenue for what is Los Angeles' fastest growing charter management organization. Among her key achievements at Green Dot has been determining and managing finance and accounting process improvements essential to achieving scalable growth in organization with CAGR of 55%. She brings ten years of Wall Street experience to Green Dot. Prior to joining Green Dot in 2006, she was an Institutional Equity Trader with Merrill Lynch, a Valuation and Compensation Consultant with Stern Stewart & Co. and an Investment Banker with Kidder, Peabody & Co. She is able to capitalize on her experiences and expertise to help underserved populations of students in Los Angeles and beyond achieve their dreams through education.

DEBORAH M. IVES WEINGART FOUNDATION



Debbie Ives joined the Weingart Foundation (a \$750 million private foundation that makes grants to nonprofit agencies and charitable organizations) in 2002 as Director of Finance and Controller. Within nine months, she

was promoted to the position of Vice President and Treasurer at the Foundation. At the Foundation, she is responsible for the management and implementation of the Foundation's accounting and finance functions, as well as for the implementation of its investment policy. She provides staff support for the Audit and Investment Committees of the Board and is an active member of the President and CEO's Executive Management team. In addition, she is responsible for human resources, working with consultants on employee benefit renewals and property and liability insurance renewals, and is the primary liaison for Foundation legal matters. Ives also provides the Foundation's program staff with essential training and technical assistance for their work in conducting due diligence on nonprofits that apply for Foundation grants.



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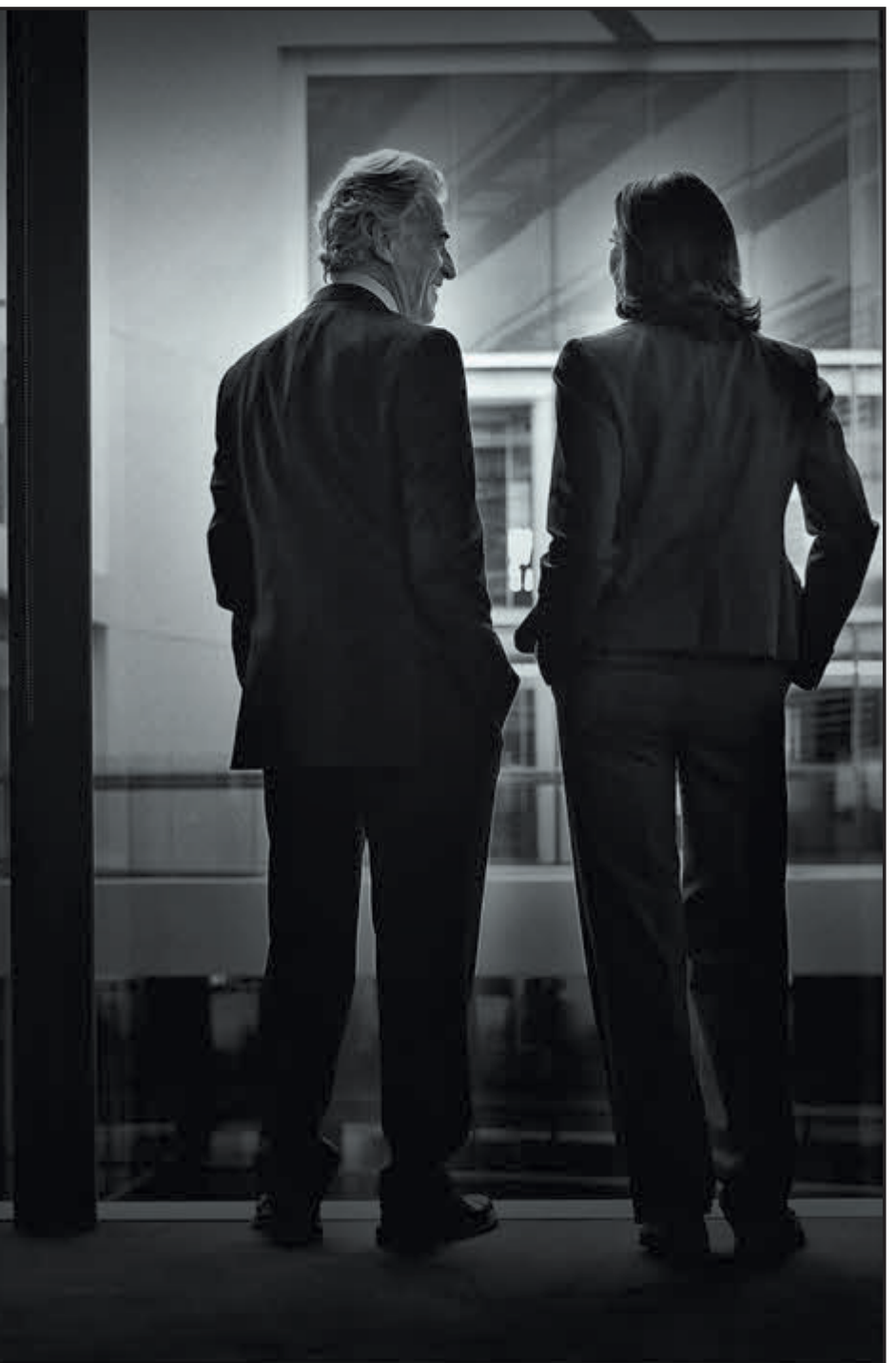
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CFO AWARDS

FINALISTS

NONPROFIT CFO OF THE YEAR

ELIZABETH TURCHAN THE BUCKLEY SCHOOL



Lisa Turchan is a Certified Public Accountant and University of Michigan Business School graduate with Public Accounting experience at Deloitte. She spent 17 years in senior management roles at Twentieth

Century Fox, being involved in its exponential growth from 1985-2002. Her experience enabled her to get involved in the not-for-profit world, where she is currently the Chief Financial Officer for The Buckley School since 2004. Turchan was integral in obtaining the school's 2008 new Conditional Use Permit, despite heavy community opposition, building out its campus enhancement plan, growing the school's enrollment levels, fortifying the school's rock solid financial position and creating a long term financial vision for the school. Turchan has led the changes in the financial position of the school, growing net assets from \$15.3M to \$73M in her twelve-year term. She manages all nonacademic functions for a not for profit K-12 school including the Business Office, Human Resources, IT, Risk Management and Campus Operations.

PAUL WILLETT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

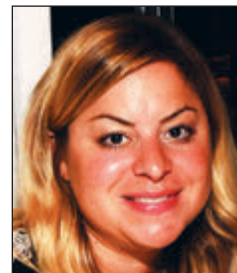


Paul J. Willett is a number of things -- a father and husband who dabbles at being a space cadet, NASA Social junkie, photographer, pilot, writer, amateur astronomer, runner, and jack-of-all-trades-creative-person. He also happens

to also be the Director of Finance of Habitat for Humanity and has served the organization now at its San Fernando/Santa Clarita Valleys office for less than 10 months. While having been at Habitat for Humanity for less than a year, Willett has already made a substantial impact -- bringing his experience and knowledge of finance to an organization that works daily to build simple economical housing in partnership with people in need.

RISING STAR OF THE YEAR

KAREN LAVINE BOND NESTLÉ USA



Karen LaVine Bond is Director of Finance For Nestlé USA, where in her role as a senior finance leader, she is responsible for managing total sales of more than \$12 billion and more than \$2 billion of the company's promotional trade spend. She is the lead functional expert of trade for all 9 Divisions within Nestlé USA, responsible for establishing, and proactively enhancing business processes to improve financial planning, forecasting, and variance analysis. In her relatively short time in this role, she has driven success in the areas of sales growth and promotional profitability by providing financial guidance and insights to maximize trade spend efficiency and ROI at the category, and customer levels. She has led the implementation of a standardized division and customer target setting and planning process for Nestlé Sales Division and has helped to ensure the early identification of risks and opportunities to close gaps, and achieve key performance targets.

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

FASHION AWARDS

The *Los Angeles Business Journal* is proud to announce the **2016 Fashion Awards**. After last year's highly successful event, we look forward to once again acknowledging the top apparel companies driving tremendous growth in the region and making Southern California a major force in the fashion industry. Join us to connect with and learn from the dynamic leaders representing apparel, denim, activewear, couture, swimwear, accessories, retail, and e-commerce companies based in Southern California.

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Awards will be presented in the following categories

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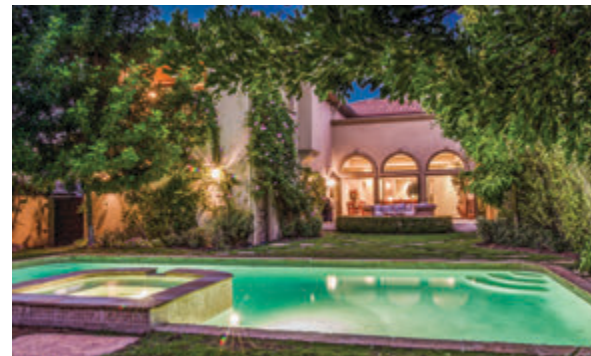
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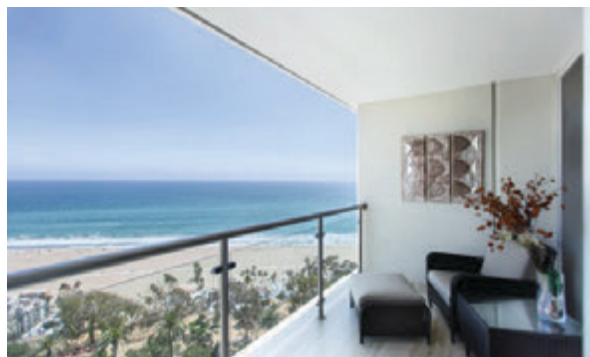
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CFO AWARDS FINALISTS

RISING STAR OF THE YEAR

PETER Y. KIM
KATZKIN LEATHER, INC.



Peter Kim has a rich and varied background across private equity, consulting, and private enterprise. For the past year, he has been the Chief Financial Officer at Katzkin Automotive Leather, a mid-sized, Los Angeles based designer and

manufacturer of custom automotive interiors. Kim has been an integral part of the resurgence of the company, helping to lead and execute a significant business turnaround. In his role as CFO, Kim manages all strategic and operational elements of finance and has transformed the finance function into a forward looking business partner, guiding strategy and working with all functions of the company to improve performance. He has upgraded the caliber of the finance team, and he has pushed for better data and information to drive decision-making.

BRIAN SULLIVAN
REGENT PROPERTIES, LLC



Brian Sullivan is Chief Financial Officer of Regent Properties, a real estate development and investment firm with over \$1 billion in assets under management. Sullivan is an accomplished CFO with a remarkable

track record. His hands-on approach on the firm's complex real estate deals coupled with his deep understanding and insight has propelled Regent Properties to new heights. Since joining Regent Properties in early 2014, Sullivan has already improved operational efficiency at all levels as well as assisted the company to double in size by gross revenue, net operating income and assets under management. These amazing numbers are no small feat. Within his first year with the firm he increased the assets under management by 34%! He is on the front lines working with the investors through each capital raise. Through the fall of 2014, Regent raised institutional investor equity in excess of \$300 million from investors. He has fast become an integral team member with the primary responsibility for financing.

BRYAN WOLFF
THRIVE MARKET



Bryan Wolff joined Thrive Market as CFO in August of last year. In the year that he's been there, the company has grown from fewer than 100 employees to over 600, and has opened two multi-hundred thousand foot fulfillment

centers, and moved into a new Corporate HQ. The Company has grown from \$3 million in monthly revenues to over \$12 million, and from 50,000 members to over 350,000, all while reducing monthly burn rate. Wolff was instrumental in raising both the \$111 million Series B financing round, as well as an additional \$15 million in venture debt. He has helped set the Company's strategic direction, and has built out the core finance, accounting, HR, Legal, and business operations functions. Under Wolff's guidance and oversight, the company has codified its business model, allowing it to clearly articulate its story, and raise the needed capital to grow, but has also given the executive team a strategic direction to orient towards a multi-billion dollar eCommerce company.



Green Dot Public Schools is proud to congratulate **SABRINA AYALA**

Finalist
Los Angeles Business Journal
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Keynote Gene Sykes

Chief Executive Officer
Los Angeles 2024
Candidature Committee

Gene Sykes is the Chief Executive Officer of the Los Angeles 2024 Candidature Committee. He is responsible for the management of the committee working to bring the Olympic and Paralympic Games back to the United States for the first time in 28 years. As CEO, Sykes works closely with Mayor Eric Garcetti, LA 2024 Chairman Casey Wasserman and the United States Olympic Committee and supervises all aspects of LA 2024's day-to-day operations and activities.



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CFO AWARDS

NOMINEES

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Lawrence Balingit
Aware Products, LLC

Cynthia Belak
Teledyne Technologies

Jason Boling
Cherokee Global Brands

Margarita R. Buitrago
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Kenny Chan
Crest Office Furniture

Karen Davis
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Michael Elias
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Stephen Howe
The Wonderful Company

Rachel Howitt
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BNK Petroleum, Inc.

Cameron Kelly
Worldwide Facilities, Inc.

Steve Lacher
Lodgen, Lacher, Golditch, Sardi, Saunders & Howard CPAs, LLP

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American Homes 4 Rent

Christina Leotis
Los Angeles Clippers

Martin E. Louie
Marcus & Millichap

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YapStone

Selam Meharena
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Steve O'Connor
Blazing Saddles Indoor Cycling

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Union Rescue Mission

Michael Sanders
Ergobaby

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Fuse FX, Inc.

Gerry Schauer
Hydra Electric Company

Jason Sklar
DreamWorks Animation

Jerome Taieb
MS Aerospace

Rudy Tjiong
Nestlé USA

Alfred Warsavsky
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Luna & Hunt

Angela Yadegar
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Steel Peak Wealth Management

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Girl Scouts of Los Angeles

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Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong
Keynote Speaker
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CFO AWARDS

EVENT SCENE



(1) Steve Presley (Nestlé USA); (2) Guests; (3) Bob Jacobson and Dharmesh Choksey (RSM); (4) Christina Leotis (LA Clippers) and friend; (5) Guests; (6) Sabrina Ayala (Green Dot Public Schools); (7) Peter Kim (Katzkin Leather) and friend; (8) Dean Joaquin (RSM), Matthew Pakkala (World Oil), and Matt Toledo (LABJ); (9) Nathalie Hollants (Century Group) and friend; (10) Brenda Zamzow and colleague (Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles); (11) Stephen Kennedy (Los Angeles Mission) and friend; (12) Scott Donnelly (CalCPA), Ryan Yakubik (Los Angeles World Airports), and Matt Toledo (LABJ); (13) Kathy McManus (PwC); (14) Bruce Webb and colleagues (RSM); (15) Ron Blair (Century Group)