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In your hands is the inaugural issue of Sacramento 300, the first-of-its-kind publication designed to shine a spotlight on the most powerful business executives and civic leaders in the Sacramento region.

Selecting 300 of our city’s top leaders wasn’t easy. We cast our net wide, looking for people who exemplify leadership in all its forms. Some choices were no-brainers: As governor of the largest state in the union, for instance, Gavin Newsom was an obvious pick. Likewise, our list is filled with company founders, owners, CEOs and other C-suite executives. But we also wanted to include people lower down in the org chart—or perhaps not even on the chart at all—who are working hard to create a vibrant new Sacramento.

We chose people from a wide variety of industries. As befits our status as the state capital, we included people who work in government. In recognition of Sacramento’s booming food and agriculture scene, you’ll find chefs, restaurateurs, farmers and more. We included a myriad of professionals, from lawyers and lobbyists to fashion stylists and social media influencers.

Our goal in producing this publication was to produce an annual resource guide to the most powerful and influential people in the Sacramento region. But we also wanted to give our readers a look into each person’s psyche, personality and temperament—in short, what makes them tick. So you’ll learn interesting tidbits about their first jobs, biggest challenges and favorite travel destination, among other things.

We know that a list of the region’s most powerful people is, of necessity, very subjective. Please reach out and let us know who you consider worthy of the designation. And next year, I hope you’ll nominate your favorites for inclusion in 2020’s Sacramento 300.

MARYBETH BIZJAK
marybeth@sacmag.com
YEAR-ROUND DESTINATION FOR SHOPPING, DINING + EVENTS

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4/25 Sip and Stroll
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6/27 Hometown Parade
9/20 Fall Market
9/27 Live Art Event

10/24 Spirits, Brews and Bites
10/31 Festifall
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12/4 Christmas Tree Lighting
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**Co-founder**
1810 Gallery

Sacramento native Shaun Burner is a muralist whose work graces the walls of buildings locally and globally. Raised in a family of artists, he says that “both sides of my family are highly creative, so I have been surrounded by art and music my entire life.” Burner is the co-owner of 1810 Gallery and a founder of the collective M5 Arts, which produced Art Hotel and Art Street, immersive art experiences that showcased the work of dozens of artists.

**FIRST JOB** Paper delivery boy
**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** The ephemeral nature of life, the passing of close people both literally and metaphorically, and learning to let go and continue to embrace the moment
**ADVICE FOR MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** Stay focused on your craft; don’t waste time getting wasted.
**CAUSES** Sol Collective, rent control, Black Lives Matter, Dreamers
**IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** I ask myself this all the time.
**BUCKET LIST** Yearlong “spraycation”

### Jason Silva
**Chair**
Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission

Jason Silva is a partner and design principal at Dreyfuss + Blackford Architecture, where he frequently incorporates technological advances into his designs and fabrications. Operating since 1950, Dreyfuss + Blackford has offices in Sacramento and San Francisco. In 2013, Silva was appointed to the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission. The Sacramento native also serves as vice president of communications and public affairs for the American Institute of Architects, California Council. A national lecturer on environmental and technological innovations, Silva previously served as creative director for TEDx Sacramento. In 2017, Silva and colleague Ginger Thompson created a 1,200-square-foot art piece for ArtStreet.

**EDUCATION** Oal Poly, San Luis Obispo, Virginia Tech

### Lynda Jolley
**Partner**
JAYJAY

Lynda Jolley and her business partner, Beth Jones, launched their contemporary art gallery, JAYJAY, in 2000. The gallery’s stable includes about 20 of the region’s most respected artists. Before opening JAYJAY, Jolley was owner and director of the alternative gallery Big Art from 1992 to 2000. She has lectured at the Crocker Art Museum and served on the boards of directors for the Center for Contemporary Art and Uptown Arts.

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** It was a passion that turned into a career.
**FIRST JOB** Ranch hand at a summer camp
**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Say yes to the client and figure out how to do the job as soon as you get it!
**FAVORITE BOOK AND MOVIE** The Princess Bride by William Goldman
**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATIONS** London and Paris
**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Be kind!
**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** Docent at the Crocker Art Museum

### David Sobon
**Owner/Founder**
David Sobon Events

Auctioneer David Sobon has worked with hundreds of foundations, nonprofits, service and religious groups and associations around the country to help them meet their fundraising goals. He is an active member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and the National Auctioneers Association. He founded Wide Open Walls, one of the largest mural festivals in the country, and he serves on the board of directors of the Sacramento Metro Chamber Foundation.

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** My love of the arts motivated me to create a nonprofit with a goal of art for all.
**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Do what makes you happy.
**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I was on a billboard for the opening of Marriott’s Great America playing a clarinet in a Dixieland jazz band.
**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Anywhere in the world that has street art
**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Sunflower Drive-In for lunch
**CHARITIES** The Chevo Foundation, Children’s Miracle Network

### Liv Moe
**Founding Director**
Verge Center for the Arts

Artist, curator, writer and arts administrator Liv Moe founded and runs Verge Center for the Arts, a contemporary art center and artist residency. She maintains an active studio practice and has shown her work at the Richard L. Nelson Fine Art Collection, Sonoma Art Center and the Crocker Art Museum. Under her leadership, Verge transitioned from a commercial gallery to a nonprofit art center, merging with the Center for Contemporary Art Sacramento.

**EDUCATION** Sacramento State University, UC Davis
**HIDDEN TALENT** I play cello.
**HOBBIES** The only world I’ve occupied longer than the art world is the punk scene. Remaining connected to that scene and my friends within it is how I stay sane.
**FAVORITE MOVIES** Nights of Cabiria and Killer of Sheep
**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** The Old City Cemetery
**BUCKET LIST** I’m writing a book of essays.

### Maren Conrad
**Artist/Muralist**
Maren Conrad Fine Art

Artist Maren Conrad is best known for her public murals, although she also works in metal leaf and layered resin. Her first mural—a giant koi painted on the side of the MARRS building and titled Prosperity Through Perseverance—pays tribute to the Chinese workers who built the railroads. Her work is held in private collections by Dignity Health, Accenture, Kaiser Permanente and Hotel Napa, among others.

**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** Mary Daffin
**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Being a widow, raising a baby boy to become a man who is a genuine asset to the world
**HIDDEN TALENT** I pick a new thing to gain proficiency in every two years. Currently learning to throw ninja stars.
**FAVORITE BOOK** The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck by Mark Manson
**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Sayulita, Mexico
**WHAT MOTIVATES YOU** Attacking the urban planning gender gap by inspiring play through artistic placemaking
**BUCKET LIST** Doing five minutes of standup comedy
**Lial Jones**

*Director/CEO*

**Crocker Art Museum**

Kansas City native Lial Jones has worked as director of the Crocker Art Museum since 1999. The first public art museum in the West, the Crocker is currently raising funds for a $40 million expansion project that will increase gallery, event and parking space. Earlier, Jones led a campaign that raised more than $120 million to finance the Teel Family Pavilion, a 125,000-square-foot addition that opened in 2010. Under Jones, the collection has increased by 50 percent, museum staffing by 100 percent, and attendance by 150 percent. Before coming to Sacramento, Jones worked for 20 years as deputy director at Delaware Art Museum.

**EDUCATION**

University of Delaware, Museum Management Institute

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**Amy Seiwert**

*Artistic Director*

**Sacramento Ballet**

Before becoming artistic director of the Sacramento Ballet in 2018, Amy Seiwert enjoyed a 19-year-long career dancing with ballet companies in Sacramento, San Francisco and Los Angeles. The late Michael Smuin mentored her, and upon retiring from dancing in 2008, she became choreographer in residence at the Smuin Ballet in San Francisco. Dance Magazine named her to its list of “25 to Watch,” and her works are in the repertoires of ballets in Austin, Atlanta, Milwaukee and her hometown of Cincinnati, among others.

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK**

Dance is the art form where I feel most alive, and ballet is the dialect I speak it in.

**FIRST JOB**

Working the grill at a water park

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED**

You are responsible for your own contentment.

**TOUGhest CHALLENGE FACED**

Creating a new Nutcracker

**HOBBY**

Hiking and yoga

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION**

Costa Rica

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE**

Don’t worry about getting it “right.” Just do.

---

**Buck Busfield**

*Co-founder/Producing Artistic Director*

**B Street Theatre**

Buck Busfield is the founder and producing director of B Street Theatre, one of the most significant new-works theaters on the West Coast. Busfield and his brother, Emmy-winning actor Timothy Busfield, founded the theater in 1991 as a sister company for Fantasy Theatre, a touring theater for children. Over the years, Busfield has produced more than 100 plays, including world premieres by some of the country’s top playwrights. As a playwright, Busfield twice won the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission’s New Works Award. After several decades on B Street, the company moved into The Sofia Tsakopoulos Center for the Arts (aka The Sofia) in 2018. The $31 million, 49,000-square-foot facility includes a year-round professional theater for children and two large performance spaces.

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**Michael Stevenson**

*Producing Artistic Director*

**Capital Stage Company**

A professional actor and director for more than 25 years, Michael Stevenson took over as producing artistic director of Capital Stage Company in 2015. Founded as the Delta King Theater in 1999, the nonprofit Capital Stage moved to its current home in midtown Sacramento in 2011. Stevenson graduated from the Acting Studio of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, then went on to earn his master’s degree in acting from the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco. In addition to his work with Capital Stage, Stevenson spent 11 years as co-conservatory director at the B Street Theatre Conservatory. He also worked as director at Sacramento Theatre Company and Orlando Shakespeare Theater.

**EDUCATION**

San Diego State University

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED**

It’s never about you; it’s about the people you keep around you.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW**

I’m a foster kid.

**HOBBY**

Traveling around the world

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION**

Japan

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE**

Never take no as an answer.

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT**

The Cabin on 21st Street

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**Eddie Meehan**

*President*

**Wonderful Union**

Eddie Meehan is an industry leader in providing unparalleled experiences for music fans. He has been a trendsetter in the world of VIP and ticketing initiatives, fan-club management and direct-to-consumer merchandising. Meehan helped Wonderful Union grow into a global agency with offices in Los Angeles, Nashville, Tokyo and Toronto. He is a founding partner of the event management system Queue, which was acquired by Eventbrite in 2016.

**EDUCATION**

San Diego State University

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED**

It’s never about you; it’s about the people you keep around you.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW**

I’m a foster kid.

**HOBBY**

Traveling around the world

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION**

Japan

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE**

Never take no as an answer.

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT**

The Cabin on 21st Street

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**Beth Jones**

*Partner*

**JAYJAY**

Gallerist and art consultant Beth Jones co-owns JAYJAY, a contemporary art gallery, with business partner Lynda Jolley. Jones grew up making art and writing poetry, and in 1984 she began an apprenticeship at Jennifer Pauls Gallery in downtown Sacramento. In 1991, she launched Beth Jones Art Consultant, with clients that include Kaiser Permanente, Lucas Public Affairs, UC Davis Medical Center and Sprint. Jones and Jolley’s first gallery, called Beth Jones and Lynda Jolley Present, opened in 1999 on Franklin Boulevard. After a brief run, the duo moved the gallery to Elvas Avenue and relaunched it as JAYJAY. In 2016, JAYJAY moved across the parking lot to its current 2,400-square-foot space.

**EDUCATION**

Sacramento State University
Sacramento native Ben Gumpert oversees Republic FC’s operations and has led the effort to bring Major League Soccer to Sacramento. Previously, he was the chief marketing officer for the Sacramento Kings and Golden 1 Center and played a key executive role in the design and construction of the downtown arena. He joined the Kings after five years with the NBA, most recently serving as vice president of team marketing and business operations. Before working in the NBA, he was a consultant with Bain & Company.

**EDUCATION** UCLA, Stanford Graduate School of Business

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Find great people to work for and stick with them, regardless of industry and location. They will push you, stretch you and help you grow faster than you could ever imagine.

**WHAT MOTIVATES ME** My family, my coaches, my mentors. I owe it to everybody who has enabled me to be in this position to succeed.

**BUCKET LIST** World Cup Final

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**Vivek Ranadivé**
Owner/Chairman
Sacramento Kings

Vivek Ranadivé is an entrepreneur, technology visionary, New York Times best-selling author and philanthropist. He pioneered the use of real-time event-processing software and created TIBCO, a multibillion-dollar software company. He served as CEO and vice chairman of the Golden State Warriors in 2010. In 2013, the Bombay native became the first Indian majority owner of an NBA team when he purchased the Sacramento Kings. He is the founder and managing general partner of venture capital firm Bow Capital.

**EDUCATION** MIT, Harvard Business School

**FIRST JOB** Building circuit boards in the architecture machine room at MIT

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** While coaching my daughter’s middle school basketball team, I fell in love with the game.

**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** My grandmother, who always told me to “live a life bigger than yourself.”

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I have a black belt in martial arts.

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**Kevin M. Nagle**
Chairman/CEO
Sacramento Republic FC

Kevin Nagle has been a business executive, professional sports owner, investor, entrepreneur and philanthropist. He is currently chairman and CEO of Sacramento Republic FC and a minority owner of the Sacramento Kings. Before that, he was the co-founder and CEO of Envision Pharmaceutical Holdings, a pioneering pharmaceutical benefits management firm. His numerous holdings include venture capital firm Jaguar Ventures and The Nagle Company, a real estate development business.

**EDUCATION** OSU Long Beach, University of Southern California

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I operate on only a few hours of sleep a night. Also, I have been anointed a knight by the Royal Order of Constantin the Great and Saint Helen.

**HOBBY** Reading

**FAVORITE BOOK** The Age of Napoleon by J. Christopher Herold

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** My beach home in Dana Point

**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** I might like to be a university president and teach economics.

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**Susan Savage**
CEO
Sacramento River Cats

Susan Savage and her late husband, Art, brought minor league baseball back to Sacramento after a 23-year absence. In 1999, they purchased a Triple-A franchise in Vancouver, renamed the team the River Cats and moved it into the newly built Raley Field in West Sacramento the following year. They co-owned the Kings until Art’s death in 2009, at which point Susan became the sole majority owner and CEO.

**EDUCATION** UCLA

**FIRST JOB** Selling doughnuts door to door

**TOUGHEST LESSON LEARNED** You can’t please all the people all of the time … but I keep trying!

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I am a bridge Ruby Life Master.

**FAVORITE BOOK** The Untethered Soul: The Journey Beyond Yourself by Michael A. Singer

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Any beach

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** You must tackle what scares you— it will lead you to what you were meant to do.
Local Legends

John Lescroart
John Lescroart is a best-selling author of more than two dozen legal and crime novels. His recurring characters Dismas Hardy, Abe Glitsky and Wyatt Hunt are well known by fans across the globe. His work has been translated into 18 languages and sold in 75 countries. Lescroart’s first hardcover book, Son of Holmes, was written while he was a college student at UC Berkeley in 1970 but wasn’t published until 14 years later. Early in his career, Lescroart juggled his fiction writing with a career in the corporate world until a life-changing illness—he’d contracted spinal meningitis in 1989 and was given hours to live—convinced him to devote his life to writing fiction.

William T. Vollmann
William T. Vollmann is a novelist, essayist and journalist whose wide-ranging subjects include climate change, sex workers, Japanese Noh theater, migrants, poverty, violence and war. He is known for writing meticulously researched, encyclopedic treatises based on his extensive experiences in far-flung locales including Afghanistan, Japan, Yemen and Abu Dhabi. His novel Europe Central won the 2005 National Book Award for fiction. Known for eschewing most modern technology (he reportedly does not own a cellphone or television), Vollmann wrote an essay about his discovery that the FBI once considered him a suspect in the Unabomber attacks.

Greta Gerwig
Actress, screenwriter and director Greta Gerwig started out performing in theater productions at St. Francis Catholic High School in the early 2000s. The Barnard College graduate broke into movies in 2006, quickly becoming associated with the short-lived “mumblecore movement” in independent filmmaking. Over the next decade, she garnered critical praise for her performances in such films as Frances Ha, Damsels in Distress, Mistress America, Jackie and 20th Century Women. (She also co-wrote Frances Ha and Mistress America.) In 2017, she returned to Sacramento to shoot the semi-autobiographical Lady Bird, which earned her Academy Award nominations for best director and best original screenplay.

Ryan Coogler
Director, producer and screenwriter Ryan Coogler helmed Black Panther, the highest-grossing film of 2018 and an Academy Award nominee for best picture. After graduating from Sacramento State University, the Oakland native moved on to USC Film School, where he directed several acclaimed shorts. He made his feature debut with Fruitvale Station, a drama about the final hours of African-American murder victim Oscar Grant. Fruitvale Station won the grand jury and audience awards at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival. In 2015, Coogler revived the Rocky series with the highly acclaimed Creed. Among other projects, he is currently developing the sequel to Black Panther.

Wayne Thiebaud
Through his instantly recognizable visual style and subject matter, as well as his many decades spent teaching art at Sacramento City College and UC Davis, Wayne Thiebaud is arguably the most influential local artist of all time. A National Medal of Arts recipient and California Hall of Fame inductee, he is best known for his intensely colorful paintings of pies, pastries and other desserts. Thiebaud entered the national spotlight in 1962 when his work was included in one of the country’s first pop art exhibitions. Today, his paintings hang in the Whitney, the Smithsonian, the Crocker and many other museums and galleries around the world.

Gregory Kondos
Born in Massachusetts to Greek immigrant parents, Gregory Kondos grew up to become the quintessential California landscape artist. Influenced by Impressionist painters like Paul Cezanne and Paul Gauguin, Kondos produced works that capture the unique beauty of the Golden State. After attending art school in Los Angeles, he started teaching at his alma mater, Sacramento City College, in 1956. When he retired from teaching in 1982, the school renamed the campus art gallery the Gregory Kondos Gallery. He’s an artist in residence at Yosemite National Park, and his paintings hang in galleries all over the world, including several in the People’s Republic of China.

Vlade Divac
Serbian-born businessman, humanitarian, executive and former NBA All-Star Vlade Divac is arguably the most beloved player in Sacramento Kings history. The 7-foot-1 center played 16 seasons in the NBA, signing with Sacramento in 1998 and leading the team to its best seasons. Divac played on the Yugoslavian national teams that won Olympic silver medals in 1988 and 1994, and he later served two terms as president of the Serbian Olympic Committee. A noted humanitarian, Divac was appointed a government adviser to humanitarian issues in Serbia in 2008. He currently works as general manager of the Kings, where he built one of the most exciting young rosters in the NBA.

Dusty Baker
Major league baseball veteran Johnnie B. “Dusty” Baker Jr. played 19 seasons in the big leagues and served as a manager for 20 more. Baker was drafted out of Del Campo High School in 1967 by the Atlanta Braves. As a player, he hit 242 career home runs and won the World Series with the 1981 Los Angeles Dodgers. During his legendary managerial career, he took four different teams to the MLB playoffs, leading the 2002 San Francisco Giants to the World Series. Today, he co-owns Eiker Family Wines, a winery that sources some of its grapes from Baker’s backyard vineyard in Granite Bay.

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G. Steven Pleau founded Future Automotive Group, one of the nation’s largest automotive dealership groups. He started in the industry by washing cars during the summer at Downtown Ford, the dealership owned by his father, Gene Pleau. After serving in the Army, he returned to Sacramento to open Future Ford of Roseville. Today, Future Automotive Group has nine locations, including Future Ford of Sacramento, Future Ford Lincoln of Roseville and Future Nissan of Folsom. Headquartered in Roseville, the company is one of the top employers in Placer County. Pleau serves on numerous boards and has been a director of River City Bank since 2001. In college, Pleau competed on the gymnastics team, which did not lose a single meet in his four years.

EDUCATION Sacramento State University

Mark and Scott Lasher
300 Owners
Lasher Automotive Group

Brothers Mark and Scott Lasher own Lasher Automotive Group, the largest dealership in the Sacramento area. Lasher Elk Grove Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram earned more than $219 million in revenue in 2017 and sold nearly 5,000 vehicles. Headquartered in Elk Grove, the company was founded by Mark and Scott’s father, Wes Lasher, who opened the first Volkswagen dealership in downtown Sacramento in 1955. Still family-owned and operated more than 60 years later, Lasher Automotive Group also sells Acura, Audi, Isuzu, Fiat and Subaru vehicles. In addition to its many brick-and-mortar dealerships and award-winning parts and service departments, Lasher Auto Group operates an online virtual dealership.

George Grinzewitsch Jr.
300 Owner/CEO
Von Housen Automotive Group

George Grinzewitsch Jr. owns the Von Housen Automotive Group, which operates Mercedes-Benz of Sacramento, Rocklin and El Dorado Hills. Founded in 1958 by Grinzewitsch’s father, it has grown into one of Sacramento’s largest privately held, family-owned brands, with annual sales exceeding $301 million. Mercedes-Benz of Sacramento won the Best of the Best Dealer Award from Mercedes-Benz of North America in 2017.

FIRST JOB I worked at BAP Auto Parts at age 12 over summer vacation. I dismantled used VW engines to sell parts as cores for refurbishing.

BEST ADVICE RECEIVED “Change the belief and the performance will follow”—Lou Tice

LESSON LEARNED Keep business and personal relationships separate.

FEW PEOPLE KNOW I have a daily meditation practice that I began almost three years ago.

WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB Architecture and design

Rick Niello
300 President
The Niello Company

In 1998, Rick Niello became president of The Niello Company, a fourth-generation family business that he has worked for since 1972. Today, The Niello Company is the Sacramento region’s only privately held dealership group, with products spanning 14 of the world’s finest automobile manufacturers. Niello supports a variety of community organizations; last year, his company donated to more than 40 charities and nonprofit organizations.

EDUCATION Merced College School of Business Administration

BEST ADVICE RECEIVED My mother: “Remember who you are and who you represent.”

HIDDEN TALENT Photography

HOBBIES Sailing and skiing

FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATIONS Carmel, Tahoe and Europe

WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE Remember who you are and who you represent. Work hard and go to bed early!

WHAT MOTIVATES ME My family, my business and the very special region we live in
Virginia A. Varela  
President/CEO/Director  
Golden Pacific Bank

Virginia A. Varela is a seasoned banker with more than 30 years of community banking experience, including as president of San Luis Trust Bank, CEO of the Bank of Rio Vista and COO of the Bank of the Orient. Before joining Golden Pacific, she held positions of authority with the Federal Reserve Bank and the U.S. Treasury Department. Today, Varela serves as a director of the Western Bankers Association and president of the Sacramento Philharmonic Symphony and Opera board of directors.

MOST INSPIRING PERSON My mother  
FEW PEOPLE KNOW I was a synchronized swimmer.  
FAVORITE BOOK Anything by Charlotte Brontë  
FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION Tibet  
WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE Don’t let others define you. Define yourself.  
FAVORATE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT Crocker Art Museum  
CHARITIES Mercy Pedalers, Sacramento Philharmonic Symphony and Opera

David E. Ritchie Jr.  
President/CEO  
American River Bank

David E. Ritchie Jr. serves as president and CEO of American River Bankshares, the parent company of American River Bank, a regional bank serving Northern California since 1983. He started his banking career with Wells Fargo in 1986 and has held leadership roles at US Bank and One West Bank. As a student at UC Irvine, he earned All-American honors in water polo and in 1977 was selected as a member of the U.S. men’s national water polo team.

HOMETOWN Fullerton, Calif.  
FIRST JOB Box boy at a grocery store  
BEST ADVICE RECEIVED My water polo coach said it well: “You gotta put the time in.”  
HOBBIES SUP (stand up paddle boarding) and equestrian activities  
CHARITIES American River Bank Foundation  
WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB Teach high school or college

James Beckwith  
President/CEO  
Five Star Bank

James Beckwith joined Five Star Bank in 2003 after serving as CFO and COO at National Bank of the Redwoods in Santa Rosa. Under his leadership, Five Star Bank has grown from approximately $63 million to more than $1.4 billion in assets. Beckwith is a private-sector director with Greater Sacramento Economic Council and a member of the Sacramento State University College of Business Advisory Council.

EDUCATION San Francisco State University, University of Washington, Pacific Coast Banking School  
FIRST JOB Picking prunes for 25 cents a box  
BEST ADVICE RECEIVED Trust is the foundation of every great relationship.  
TOUGHEST CHALLENGE The Great Recession. I learned to stay calm and focused and face every day with resilience. As the leader of our bank, I had to show that we were in control of our fate and that we were the masters of our destiny.  
FEW PEOPLE KNOW I am a sixth-generation Californian  
FAVORITE TV SHOW Peaky Blinders  
WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB Hedge fund manager

Randall “Randy” Reynoso  
Executive Vice President/Market Executive  
Wells Fargo/Northern & Central California

A 38-year banking industry veteran, Randall Reynoso joined Placer Sierra Bank in 2000, serving as president and chief operating officer. He was instrumental in taking the bank public in 2004 and in merging with Wells Fargo in 2007. For the next 10 years, Reynoso led Wells Fargo business banking teams throughout Northern and Central California. In 2017, he launched the vertical buildout of the bank’s national Business Banking Investor Real Estate group and currently serves as its national leader.

EDUCATION Sacramento State University  
FAVORITE TV SHOW Anything British. My most recent obsession has been The Crown.  
FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION Nearby, our home in Carmel; farther away, London  
WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE Nothing bad will come from always being your authentic self.  
FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT The duck pond at William Land Park. I dedicated a bench along its shore to my extraordinary grandmother, Mary Raffetto Mabrey.

Steve Fleming  
President/CEO  
River City Bank

Since 2008, Steve Fleming has been president and CEO of River City Bank, the largest bank based in the Sacramento region. Under his leadership, the bank has grown from $800 million to $2.2 billion in total assets. He has more than 38 years of banking experience, including more than 20 years with Bank of America in Sacramento and London, England. Before joining River City Bank, Fleming founded and was CEO of Presidio Bank in San Francisco.

EDUCATION UC Davis, UC Berkeley  
FIRST JOB Selling Fuller brushes door-to-door at age 15  
FEW PEOPLE KNOW I was born in London and didn’t become a U.S. citizen until the age of 46.  
HOBBIES Playing golf and running with my dog  
WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB My dream job is to be the GM for the Sacramento Kings, but they have yet to approach me. Besides, Vlade is doing really well in building an exciting young team!

Donna Bland  
President/CEO  
Golden 1 Credit Union

President and CEO of Golden 1 Credit Union since 2010, Donna Bland has more than 25 years of experience in the financial services industry. The Sacramento native sits on the boards for Greater Sacramento Economic Council and Credit Union Direct Corporation. Before joining Golden 1, she worked as a CPA for KPMG, a global tax, audit and advisory firm.

EDUCATION San Francisco State University  
FIRST JOB Cashier at a Hallmark Store  
BEST ADVICE RECEIVED If you want something you’ve never had, you must be willing to do something you’ve never done.  
FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION Hawaii  
WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE Enjoy the moments more and take time to see the world.  
WHAT MOTIVATES ME My family
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tim Marriott</td>
<td>President/CEO</td>
<td>Schools Financial Credit Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Robertson</td>
<td>Chief Community Banking Officer</td>
<td>Tri Counties Bank</td>
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<td>Louise A. Walker</td>
<td>President/CEO</td>
<td>First Northern Bank</td>
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<td>Dave Roughton</td>
<td>President/CEO</td>
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<td>Nathan Cox</td>
<td>Senior Vice President, Market Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>David J. Lucchetti</td>
<td>President/CEO</td>
<td>Pacific Coast Building Products</td>
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**Tim Marriott**
Begun his career with Schools Financial Credit Union in 1982 and, after stints as chief financial officer and executive vice president, was promoted to president and CEO. He works closely with the board of directors to drive organizational performance and return maximum benefit to the credit union’s members. He also co-developed a business intelligence system for loan portfolio analysis that is widely deployed throughout the credit union industry.

**Scott Robertson**
As chief community banking officer for Tri Counties Bank, Robertson oversees a network of 76 branches, as well as the 24/7 call center, direct banking and home mortgage sales teams, and Tri Counties Advisors. Since he joined the bank, the company has more than doubled in size and now has more than $6.5 billion in assets, making it the largest community-based bank in the region. Robertson started in the banking industry as a part-time teller while still in college and quickly realized he had found his calling. A Sacramento native, Robertson sits on the advisory board for the Salvation Army and serves on the board of the Center for Fathers and Families.

**Louise A. Walker**
Has served as president and chief executive officer of First Northern Community Bancorp and its subsidiary, First Northern Bank, since 2011. She joined First Northern Bank in 1979 and has been a member of the senior management team since 1989. Walker is a past chair of the Western Bankers Association and is chairman of the board of Yolo Food Bank.

**Dave Roughton**
Started working at SAFE Credit Union in 1999, holding the positions of vice president, CFO, executive vice president and COO before assuming his current role of president and CEO in 2016. A not-for-profit, cooperative, community-chartered financial institution, SAFE Credit Union employs more than 600 people in the Sacramento metropolitan area. Roughton previously worked as audit and business consulting manager at Arthur Andersen & Co. An active leader in the credit union industry, Roughton is a board member of the California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues. He also sits on the boards of Align Capital Region and The First Tee of Greater Sacramento. In 2019, the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce named Roughton its Businessman of the Year.

**Nathan Cox**
At U.S. Bank, Nathan Cox leads a local team for middle-market commercial banking in the greater Sacramento region. Cox’s team provides banking services to businesses with revenues ranging from $20 million to $500 million. His 25-plus years of banking-industry experience includes working as senior vice president and manager of business banking for Rabobank, N.A., and at jobs at Bank of the West and Wells Fargo.

**EDUCATION**

- **First Northern Bank**
- **Sacramento State University**
- **University of Virginia**

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED**

- **Always be joyful; pray continually; give thanks in every situation.**
- **People want to help you succeed if you put in the effort.**
- **Having an employee die while they are working for me. I have had to deal with that twice and it’s been very hard.**
- **I like to fish.**

**Hobbies**

- Announcing high school football games; golf
- **the Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis**
- **Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling**
- **My son’s house**

**FavoriTE SACRAMENTO PLACEs TO VISIT**

- Mortgage’s Steakhouse, Revival at The Sawyer and outdoor concerts
- Having an employee die while they are working for me. I have had to deal with that twice and it’s been very hard.
- My son’s house

**WHAT MOTIVATES ME**

- Learning new things
- Rippling waves
- Helping others

**FAVORITE MOVIE**

- **Sawyer and outdoor concerts**
- **The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis**
- **Harry Potter by J.K. Rowling**

**BUCKET LIST**

- Spend a week on the Amazon
- **A week of watching the world go by.**
- **A week of watching the world go by.**

**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB**

- Play more music
Mariah Lichtenstern  
**Founding Partner/Managing Director**  
DiverseCity Ventures

Self-described “activist/entrepreneur” Mariah Lichtenstern is a founding partner in DiverseCity Ventures, a venture capital fund committed to supporting companies led by underrepresented founders. In addition to funding startups, Lichtenstern also founded a startup. She created CINESHARES, a platform that exhibits films for crowdfunding, in 2014. Lichtenstern initiated, launched and currently serves as managing director of the Sacramento chapter of Founder Institute, the world’s largest entrepreneur training and startup launch program. The Oakland native also serves on the tech advisory committee for CleanTech Fund, CalSEED. A member of UCLA Ventures, Lichtenstern is a film school graduate and former executive producer at Lightedstar Entertainment.

**EDUCATION** UC Berkeley, UCLA, University of Southern California

Shain Thomas  
**CEO**  
Tesco Controls

A 15-year veteran of Tesco Controls, Shain Thomas was appointed CEO in 2014. Founded in 1972 and now North America’s leading water and wastewater systems integrator, Tesco has completed more than 50,000 projects to date. Before becoming CEO, Thomas worked at Tesco as senior estimator, then as estimating sales manager. In 2018, Thomas was appointed to serve on the board of directors of Make-A-Wish Northeastern & Central California and Northern Nevada. He is also a board member of the Water Design-Build Council.

**EDUCATION** UC Berkeley, UCLA, University of Southern California

Jeanne Reaves Consulting  
**President/CEO**  
Jeanne Reaves Consulting

At her eponymous consulting company, Jeanne Reaves specializes in coaching executives in a variety of industries. A certified personality consultant, she uses technology and techniques to help clients understand their executive teams’ unique abilities. A Sacramento native, Reaves previously held leadership positions with Wells Fargo Bank, River City Bank and Bank of Alex Brown. She serves as a chair or board member of numerous organizations, including CASA and The Community College Foundation.

**EDUCATION** Sacramento State University

Jack Smith II  
**CEO**  
Fortuna Business Management Consulting

Jack Smith is a service-disabled veteran who served in the U.S. Air Force during Operation Iraqi Freedom, where he worked as a computer programmer. Today, with more than two decades of experience in IT leadership, he is the president, CEO and owner of Fortuna BMC, which provides IT consulting and staffing services for public and private-sector clients throughout the United States. A sought-after speaker and instructor, he serves as a director for the U.S. Veterans Business Alliance.

**EDUCATION** Bellevue University, Oklahoma City University

Eileen Drake  
**President/CEO**  
Aerojet Rocketdyne

Eileen Drake served on active duty for seven years as a U.S. Army aviator and airfield commander at Davison Army Airfield in Virginia. A Distinguished Military Graduate of the U.S. Army Aviation Officer School, Drake holds commercial and private pilot licenses in both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft. She started working as chief operating officer at Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings in 2015 and a few months later was appointed CEO. Before coming to AR Holdings, Drake held leadership positions at Pratt & Whitney Company, United Technologies Corporation and Ford Motor Company. She serves on the board of directors for Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings, Inc. and Woodward, Inc.

**EDUCATION** College of New Rochelle, Butler University

Chet Hewitt  
**President/CEO**  
Sierra Health Foundation and The Center

Chet Hewitt is president and CEO of Sierra Health Foundation and its nonprofit intermediary, The Center at Sierra Health Foundation. Over the past decade, he has developed and launched a bold collective-impact strategy focused on promoting health equity and social justice in underserved communities. Before joining Sierra Health Foundation, Hewitt held several senior positions, including director of Alameda County’s Social Services Agency, associate director for the Rockefeller Foundation in New York and project director of the Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice in San Francisco.

**EDUCATION** New College of California

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SACRAMENTO300
Kären Woodruff is responsible for managing and directing philanthropic contributions for 38 counties within Northern and Central California. She joined Wells Fargo in 2013, bringing with her 29 years of experience in business development, marketing, outreach and community engagement at various for-profit and nonprofit organizations. She previously served as the director of corporate relations for the UC Davis Health System.

**EDUCATION** CSU Fresno

**FIRST JOB** Scooper at Baskin-Robbins

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** When presenting a problem, try to also provide a solution.

**HOBBIES** Wine tasting, cooking, travel

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Do what you love; the money will follow.

**CHARITIES** Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services, Los Rios Foundation

Charles Cargile is the chief executive officer of Roseville-based Sunworks, Inc., a leading provider of solar-power solutions for homes and businesses. He started at Sunworks in 2016 as an independent director and was promoted to his current position in 2017. Before coming to Sunworks, Cargile worked as the chief financial officer at Newport Corporation, helping grow the company’s revenue from $100 million to more than $600 million. In the years before Newport, Cargile held executive positions at York International Corp. and Flowserve Corporation. Certified as a professional director by the American College of Corporate Directors, Cargile serves on the board of directors of Hoag Charity Sports.

**EDUCATION** Oklahoma State University, University of Southern California

Neil Koehler is the co-founder, director and chief executive officer of Pacific Ethanol, Inc., a company that produces and markets low-carbon ethanol while also developing other renewable fuel technologies. Based in Sacramento, Pacific Ethanol currently operates bio refineries in Nebraska, Illinois, Idaho, Oregon and California. During his 30-plus years in the industry, Koehler co-founded Parallel Products, the state’s first ethanol production company. After selling the company in 1998, Koehler founded ethanol sales and distribution firm Kinergy Marketing in 2000. A board member of the Renewable Fuels Association since 1992, Koehler received the association’s prestigious Industry Award in 2017. He also serves as the director of the California Renewable Fuels Partnership.

**EDUCATION** Pomona College

Stephen Westlake has worked in his present position at Westlake, Grahl, and Glover, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial, since 1986. A certified financial planner, chartered life underwriter, certified financial consultant, certified funds specialist and certified retirement planning counselor, he specializes in retirement, wealth preservation and tax-planning strategies. An avid reader, golfer, fisher and photographer, Westlake is a member of the board of directors of Keaton Raphael Memorial, a group that supports children with cancer. He also supports Habitat for Humanity and the Sacramento Estate Planning Council, and he is a member of the Ameriprise Hall of Fame.

**EDUCATION** San Diego State University

**FIRST JOB** McDonald’s

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Have an opinion and be willing to stand by your convictions.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** My brother and I bought and revived Poor Red’s Bar-B-Q in El Dorado.

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Be patient but persistent.

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACES TO VISIT** Del Paso Country Club and Poor Red’s

**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** Be a caddie on the PGA or Champions Tour
Scott Hanson is a senior partner and founding principal of Hanson McClain Advisors, now known as Allworth Financial. In 2004, Hanson and Pat McClain founded Liberty Reverse Mortgage, which was later acquired by Genworth Financial and is now the largest reverse mortgage company in the country. An author and frequent guest columnist for national financial publications, Hanson is also the co-host of the long-running radio program Money Matters.

**EDUCATION**
Chico State University

**FIRST JOB**
Paper route

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED**
I’m responsible for my outcomes. No one else.

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE**
Take a gap year and do something adventurous before you have a career, mortgage and family.

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACES TO VISIT**
Cronan Ranch. Tons of great trails overlooking the American River.

**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB**
Adventure travel guide

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Pat McClain is a co-founder and senior partner at Sacramento retirement planning firm Hanson McClain Advisors, now known as Allworth Financial. A speaker at financial conferences and industry seminars nationwide, McClain has co-hosted Money Matters, one of the longest-running financial-topic radio programs in the country, for more than two decades. McClain was named to Barron’s list of the top 100 independent wealth advisers in America five times.

**EDUCATION**
Sacramento State University

**FIRST JOB**
Painting house addresses on curbs

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE FACED**
The death of a young family member

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW**
I’m a voracious reader.

**HOBBY**
Bike riding

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE**
Every relationship matters.

**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB**
Own a restaurant

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At various points in his 30-year broadcast career, Kelly Brothers anchored the area’s top-rated evening news telecast and the top-rated morning news radio show. The Sacramento native is currently a partner in Genovese Burford & Brothers, a firm that specializes in wealth management and retirement plans and has more than $3 billion under advisement. A certified financial planner, Brothers serves as the financial expert for KCRA-TV and NewsRadio KFBK.

**EDUCATION**
University of Notre Dame

**MOST INSPIRING PERSON**
Forever inspired by my parents, who boldly said goodbye to their families and emigrated from Ireland to America with a single-minded determination to provide great opportunities for their children.

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACES TO VISIT**
McKinley Park, where I skinned my knees and climbed trees; also, Golden 1 Center, because I still can’t believe we have such a great venue in our midst.

**CHARITIES**
Catholic education in general, Cristo Rey High School in particular

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In 2005, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management hired David Fritz as managing director and complex manager. Based in downtown Sacramento, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management employs 12 local certified financial planners and 158 local credentialed advisers. J.P. Morgan & Co. founded Morgan Stanley in New York City in 1935; today the company employs nearly 60,000 people worldwide. Fritz graduated from State University of New York at Stony Brook, where he played lacrosse. After college, he joined the Marines Corps, working as an infantry officer for recruiting. He started in the finance industry in 1996, rising to the level of corporate vice president at UBS Financial Services.

**EDUCATION**
State University of New York at Stony Brook

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A former captain in the U.S. Army, Shawn McElmoyl has worked for San Francisco-based Wells Fargo since 2006. In 2006, he was named regional manager of private client services in Northern Nevada. Today, McElmoyl is the regional managing director and senior vice president for Wells Fargo Wealth Management & The Private Bank. Based in Roseville, the company employs 17 local certified financial planners and 22 local credentialed advisers. The company’s primary services include wealth management and planning, trust and estate services, private banking and investment management. McElmoyl previously worked as branch manager at Prudential Securities and as financial adviser at Edward Jones.

**EDUCATION**
University of Oregon

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Robert Phillips oversees the strategic direction, fiscal stewardship and overall management of Alluma, a nonprofit company that leverages technology to improve access to health care and social services. He assumed the role of president and CEO in 2017, bringing more than two decades of experience in health policy, health systems, technology, philanthropy and strategic consulting to the position. Before joining Social Interest Solutions, Phillips worked at Kaiser Permanente, The California Endowment and Sierra Health Foundation. Other previous employers include PolicyLink, Service Employees International Union and the AFL-CIO. A former glee club singer, Phillips holds master’s degrees from Syracuse University and Harvard University.

**EDUCATION**
Morehouse College, Syracuse University, Harvard University
Jonna Ward is the founder, chief executive officer and chair of the board of Visionary Integration Professionals, a global technology solutions firm based in Folsom. Since Ward started VIP out of her bedroom in 1996, the company has worked with more than 1,200 local, state, federal and commercial clients. Last year, VIP raised $47.3 million in funding from a Wall Street firm. Before founding VIP, Ward worked as an executive at Accenture, a Fortune Global 500 company. Government Technology named VIP one of its 100 Companies to Watch, and Sacramento Business Journal gave Ward its Women Who Mean Business award.

With more than two decades of experience leading software businesses, Hardeep Gulati serves as CEO of the Folsom-based PowerSchool Group, a K–12 education technology company with more than 57 million users in 70 countries. Since starting at PowerSchool Group in 2015, Gulati oversaw a massive expansion of the company that included at least eight acquisitions. EdTech Digest recognized Gulati as Education Technology CEO of the Year in 2018. Before joining PowerSchool Group, Gulati worked as CEO of SunTotal Systems, and he held positions at Oracle, SpinCircuit and Lucent Technologies. When he isn’t working, Gulati loves to spend time traveling, hiking, golfing and playing chess with his family.

Involved in the Sacramento region’s entrepreneurial environment for more than a decade, Laura Good co-founded StartupSac in 2016. The nonprofit works to accelerate growth in the Sacramento region’s startup and innovation ecosystem. In addition to her leadership role at StartupSac, Good provides consulting services to other entrepreneurial support organizations and co-curates the Sacramento Startup Digest. Sacramento Business Journal honored Good in 2018 with its Women Who Mean Business award.

Raja Krishnan has more than two decades of experience providing end-to-end business and information technology solutions to customers around the globe. Born and raised in India, he moved to America in 1996. Since 2003, he has served as president of Agile Global Solutions, a Folsom-based IT services company with offices in India, Singapore and across the United States. In 2017, Agile acquired a Pittsburgh-based IT services provider, dramatically increasing the company’s footprint on the East Coast.

As vice president of embedded solutions marketing at Micron Technology, Jeff Bader is responsible for the company’s embedded segment strategy and product direction. He has more than 25 years of experience in the semiconductor industry. In 2010, Bader joined Micron, a business that creates memory and data storage solutions for computer manufacturing firms, consumer electronics companies and telecommunications giants. The company has also made significant investments in vehicle safety technology for driverless cars. Before coming to Micron, Bader held senior marketing director positions in the embedded memory divisions at Numonyx and Intel. Embedded Computing Design named him a Top Embedded Innovator in 2016.

Kais Menoufy is the founder, president and CEO of Delegata Corporation, a leading management and technology consulting company. Founded in 2000, Delegata operates in the United States and Saudi Arabia. Before starting Delegata, Menoufy worked at Indus, where he helped make the company into the world’s largest provider of software solutions for enterprise asset management. Menoufy also founded SKAKS Technology, a company providing imaging systems and integration services to clients around the world. A native of Egypt and a longtime community leader, Menoufy is the founder and president of the American Egyptian Strategic Alliance. He has served on the board of directors for the American Leadership Forum, The Institute for Advancing Unity, Shifa Clinic, Sacramento World Music and Dance Festival and the Interfaith Service Bureau.

Raja Krishnan
President
Agile Global Solutions

Hardeep Gulati
CEO
PowerSchool Group

Laura Good
Co-Founder
StartupSac

Jonna Ward
CEO
Visionary Integration Professionals

Jeffrey Bader
Corporate Vice President/General Manager, Embedded Solutions Business Unit
Micron Technology

Kais Menoufy
President/CEO
Delegata

FEW PEOPLE KNOW
I can sing the theme song from *The Beverly Hillbillies* to the tune of *Gilligan’s Island*.

HOBBIES
Hanging out with Balboa, my border-collie mix.

FAVORITE TV SHOW
*Game of Thrones*

WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE
Don’t wait until you’re in your 40s to seek therapy. Everyone would benefit from it.

EDUCATION
Sacramento State

EDUCATION
Birla Institute of Technology

EDUCATION
University of Vermont

EDUCATION
Santa Clara University

EDUCATION
Cairo University

FAVORITE MOVIE
*p* *Man*

FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION
Hawaii

BUCKET LIST
Skydiving

TOUGHEST CHALLENGE FACED
Leaving a nice-paying job to start a business. The timing was especially tough, but with calculated risks and careful planning, I took the dive and never looked back.

EDUCATION
Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania

EDUCATION
University of Pennsylvania

EDUCATION
Birla Institute of Technology, Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania

EDUCATION
California State University, Chico

EDUCATION
University of California, Los Angeles

EDUCATION
University of California, Berkeley

EDUCATION
Birla Institute of Technology

EDUCATION
University of Pittsburgh

EDUCATION
Cairo University

EDUCATION
Cairo University
Tyler Smith
Founder/CEO
SkySlope

Former Realtor Tyler Smith is the founder of Sacramento-based SkySlope, an SaaS B2B platform that helps real estate professionals streamline the transaction process. After an unsatisfactory home-buying experience when he was 19, he became a real estate agent. He worked at Smith Premier Properties and Prudential California Realty and was recognized by Realtor Magazine as one of its Top 30 Under 30. Finding that paperwork slowed his team down, Smith started SkySlope, which quickly became the industry’s leading transaction management and compliance software. With more than 100 employees, SkySlope currently serves nearly half of the top 100 brokerages in the nation.

**FIRST JOB** Busboy

Satwinder Mangat
President
ALLDATA

Punjabi, India, native Satwinder Mangat joined ALLDATA in 2012 as chief technology officer and was promoted to president in 2018. Under his direction, ALLDATA has maintained its leadership position in the automotive repair software market, with more than 400,000 users worldwide. Before joining ALLDATA, Mangat worked as president and CEO of Boomr-ang, and he also held leadership positions with Ricoh, Novell and Adobe. He holds six technology patents.

**EDUCATION** Panjab University, Santa Clara University

**FIRST JOB** Ricoh Corporation

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I’m formerly a volunteer radio talk show host.

**FAVORITE BOOK** *I’m currently reading, 21 Lessons for the 21st Century* by Yuval Noah Harari.

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Be competent, work hard and develop plans to execute. Be honest and develop strong emotional intelligence. Stay positive.

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Old Sacramento

Pamela Marrone
CEO/Founder
Marrone Bio Innovations Inc.

Pamela Marrone founded Marrone Bio Innovations in 2006 to discover and develop bio-based products for pest management and plant health. In 2019, BioAg World gave her its Lifetime Achievement Award for contributions in biopesticides. Previously, she founded AgraQuest, a commercial biopesticide company. She holds several hundred patents and is in high demand to deliver keynote addresses on the future and potential of biologicals for pest management.

**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** Eleanor Roosevelt

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE FACED** Our head of sales had done a side deal with a customer that was not declared to either finance departments or the auditors. This resulted in a financial restatement and a long SEC investigation and arrest of our former employee for fraud.

**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** Coach and mentor entrepreneurs

**WHAT MOTIVATES ME** Changing agriculture to be more sustainable

**BUCKET LIST** Changing agriculture to be more sustainable

Jeff Bennett
President
StartupSac

Jeff Bennett began to get involved with the Sacramento startup community in 2015, joining the Startup Weekend organizing team and launching the StartupSac.com website. In 2016, Bennett and Laura Good co-founded StartupSac, a nonprofit organization with the mission to accelerate the region’s startup and innovation ecosystem. A digital media creator, he co-curates the Sacramento Startup Digest and works as an organizer for the 1 Million Cups Sacramento and Startup Weekend Sacramento teams. Previously, he worked at Boeing as an engineer and software developer.

**EDUCATION** Brigham Young University, City University of Seattle

**HOMETOWN** Reno, Nev.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** In 2003, my wife and I left the rat race and moved to Maui, where we lived for 12 years in a sort of reverse retirement.

**HOBBY** Brewing beer

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Be true to yourself. Do what you have a passion for, not what others expect you to do.

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Many of the fantastic local craft breweries in our region

John Pierron
Vice President/Folsom Site Loader
Intel Corporation

John Pierron joined Intel in 1992 as a component design engineer. Today, he works on decreasing product time to market and improving product quality and is responsible for the corporate product development life cycle. Pierron and his design team delivered the Intel Atom processor-based system-on-chip design that became part of the iconic Dell Venue 8 7000 series tablet, which earned an International CES Best of Innovation award from the Consumer Electronics Association.

**EDUCATION** University of Michigan, Colorado State University

**FIRST JOB** Pet store

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Your network of people is your greatest asset.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I’m an avid board game player.

**FAVORITE BOOK** *The Fountainhead* by Ayn Rand

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Solve the problems of those who judge your performance.

**BUCKET LIST** A trip to Antarctica

Ajay Kaul
Managing Partner
AgreeYa Solutions

Ajay Kaul was pivotal to the growth and progress of AgreeYa Solutions, a leading software, services and solutions company based in Folsom that serves more than 500 clients worldwide. As the managing partner of a 1,700-member team, Kaul guided AgreeYa to become the fifth fastest-growing company in the Sacramento region. Earlier in his career, he worked with technology industry leaders like Deloitte Consulting, iGATE Mastech and Tata Infotech.

**EDUCATION** Delhi University, University of Bornbay

**FIRST JOB** Selling printers and writing POS software for a retailer

**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** Mother Teresa

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE FACED** Learning how to find work/life balance

**HIDDEN TALENT** I enjoy karaoke.

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Follow your passion and consistently work hard.

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Top Golf
John L. Sullivan
Owner
The Sullivan Auto Group


Fred Teichert
Executive Director
Teichert Foundation

Sacramento native Fred Teichert is the great-grandson of Adolph Teichert Sr., the German immigrant who founded the construction company A. Teichert & Son, Inc., in 1887. Fred Teichert started working at the company in 1977, but in 1991, he found his true calling as a corporate philanthropist. He is the executive director of the Teichert Foundation, which contributes $400,000 a year to California communities, regardless of how the company performed. Teichert is the founding chair of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Sacramento and the Sacramento Community Regional Foundation, as well as a member of the Mayor’s Task Force on Homelessness.

Kevin J. Barri
Senior Vice President
Wells Fargo

Kevin Barri comes from a banking family: His father and grandfather were both lifelong bankers. As region bank president of the Capital Foothills area for Wells Fargo, Barri is responsible for all retail banking operations in Sacramento, El Dorado and Placer counties, as well as parts of San Joaquin, Sierra, Nevada and Yolo counties. He leads a team of nearly 1,000 people and oversees 65 bank branches. He began his banking career in 1989 with Bank of America and later worked for Placer Sierra Bank before joining Wells Fargo in 2007.

EDUCATION
CSU Fresno, Pacific Coast Banking School

MOST INSPIRING PERSON
George Washington

FEW PEOPLE KNOW
My grandparents were born in Italy.

WHAT I’D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF
Be patient and work hard.

FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACES TO VISIT
Every brewery in town!

BUCKET LIST
European vacation to Ireland and Scotland

Eric Stille
President/CEO
Nugget Markets

A fourth-generation grocer, Eric Stille is CEO and president of Nugget Markets, an upscale supermarket chain headquartered in Woodland since 1926. Stille and his father, Gene, led the company’s expansion outside of Woodland, acquiring two Alpha Beta stores in 1984 and converting them to Nugget Markets. Today, the company runs 12 Nugget Markets in Northern California, plus Fork Lift in Cameron Park and Sonoma Market in Sonoma. Nugget established an employee-first culture from the very beginning, and that approach continues into the 21st century. The business regularly makes Fortune magazine’s list of the country’s 100 Best Companies to Work For, and People named it one of 50 Companies That Care in 2018.

Michael Teel
Chairman
Raley’s

As grandson of Raley’s founder Tom Raley, Michael Teel has spent his entire life steeped in the grocery business. After graduating from college, he became a Raley’s store manager; he later led innovations in the bakery division and was involved in the company’s Bay Area expansion. In 1995, Teel became chief operating officer, followed by president in 1996 and CEO in 1998. After leaving the company to pursue outside business interests, he returned in 2010 as president and CEO and became majority owner of Raley’s in 2015. He now leads the largest family-owned company in the Sacramento region.

EDUCATION
Whittier College
FIRST JOB
Bagging groceries

Garrett Larsson
CEO
Rhombus Systems

As co-founder and CEO of Rhombus Systems, Garrett Larsson oversees a company that produces cloud-based security cameras that use facial recognition technology. A graduate of Jesuit High School, he and fellow classmate Brandon Salzberg built and sold two Silicon Valley tech companies before founding Rhombus in 2016. The company’s customers include Luxer One, California Family Fitness and Colony Hardware. Now working from an office on J Street, Larsson recently told The Sacramento Bee he hopes to ignite a tech cluster in downtown Sacramento.

EDUCATION
Stanford University
Education + Health Care

K-12
Colleges + Universities
Hospitals
Medical Groups
**Jorge A. Aguilar**  
Superintendent  
Sacramento City Unified School District

The son of farmworkers, Jorge Aguilar grew up in the Central Valley and is a product of the Migrant Education Program. He spent his early childhood migrating back and forth between California and the state of Michoacán, Mexico. As superintendent of the Sacramento City Unified School District, he leads the 13th largest school district in California with more than 42,000 students, more than 4,200 employees and a budget of more than $530 million.

**HOMETOWN** Parlier, Calif.  
**EDUCATION** UC Berkeley, Loyola Law School (JD)  
**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** To disrupt inequities and give every student an equal opportunity to graduate with the greatest number of postsecondary choices from the widest array of options  
**FIRST JOB** Working in the fields of the Central Valley  
**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Every single one of our Sacramento City Unified schools  
**CHARITY** Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project

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**Kevin R. Johnson**  
Dean, Professor of Public Interest Law and Chicana/o Studies  
University of California, Davis School of Law

After joining the faculty in 1989, and serving as associate dean of academic affairs, Kevin R. Johnson became dean at UC Davis Law in 2008. His book How Did You Get To Be Mexican? A White/Brown Man's Search for Identity was nominated for the Robert F. Kennedy Book Award in 2000, and his 2011 book, Immigration Law and the US-Mexico Border, received Latino Literacy Now’s International Latino Book Award for Best Reference Book. Johnson blogs at ImmigrationProf and is a regular contributor on immigration on SCOTUSblog.

**HOMETOWN** Los Angeles  
**EDUCATION** UC Berkeley, Harvard University (JD)  
**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Teaching law brings together my passions: teaching and law.  
**HOBBIES** Following Cal Bears and UC Davis sports  
**FAVORITE TV SHOW** Law and Order: Special Victims Unit  
**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Follow your passions.

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**Gary S. May**  
Chancellor  
University of California, Davis

As UC Davis chancellor, Gary S. May heads up four colleges and six professional schools. Prior to becoming chancellor, he spent almost 30 years at Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, most recently as dean of the College of Engineering. He has authored more than 200 technical publications and contributed to 15 books. In 2010, he was named UC Berkeley’s outstanding engineering alumnus. And in 2015, he received the Presidential Award for Excellence in STEM mentoring from President Barack Obama during a visit to the White House.

**HOMETOWN** St. Louis, Mo.  
**EDUCATION** Georgia Institute of Technology (BEE), UC Berkeley (MS, PhD)  
**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** My mother. As one of the first students to integrate the University of Missouri, her incredible tenacity and dedication to education guides me to this day.  
**HOBBIES** Wine tasting, traveling, collecting comic books  
**FAVORITE TV SHOW** Star Trek: The Original Series. No question.

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**Whitney I Yamamura**  
President  
Folsom Lake College

Since 2017, Whitney I Yamamura has been president of Folsom Lake College. He previously worked for 28 years as a teaching intern, part-time faculty, full-time tenured faculty, dean, vice president and interim president. He plans to complete his Ph.D. this year and has already finished course work in the doctoral program in Educational Leadership at UC Davis.

**EDUCATION** Sacramento State University (BS, MA)  
**FIRST JOB** Delivering phone books  
**HOBBIES** Wine aficionado, follower of the Sacramento Kings and San Francisco Giants  
**FAVORITE MOVIE** Casablanca  
**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Italy  
**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Golden 1 Center for Kings games  
**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** Teach at a community college—I still miss it.

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**Sarah Koligian**  
Superintendent  
Folsom Cordova Unified School District

Born and raised in the San Joaquin Valley, Sarah Koligian has spent 32 years working in public education. She became superintendent of the Folsom Cordova Unified School District in 2017. Before that, she was superintendent at Tulare Joint Union High School District and Golden Valley Unified School District in Madera County. She began her teaching career as a resource teacher in Fresno. In 2014, she was Future Farmers of America’s Central Valley Administrator of the Year.

**EDUCATION** OSU Fresno (BS, EdD)  
**FIRST JOBS** Sandwich shop, aerobics instructor  
**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I had some wonderful teachers. Their impact on me left such a strong impression that I wanted to become an educator.  
**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** My mother  
**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Fixed mind-sets are tough to change.  
**HOBBIES** Running, reading, cycling  
**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** The Capitol

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**Derk Garcia**  
Superintendent  
Roseville City School District

Derk Garcia started his education career as a teacher at La Entrada Continuation High School. He was a teacher, vice principal and principal in the Elk Grove Unified School District, and he served as a director, assistant superintendent and interim chief academic officer in the San Juan Unified School District before becoming superintendent in the Roseville City School District. During his tenure, the district has introduced music education and transitional kindergarten at all of its elementary schools.

**EDUCATION** UC Davis, Sacramento State University  
**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I wanted to improve the lives of children.  
**FIRST JOB** Fan Fever in Old Sacramento  
**LESSON LEARNED** My father taught me at an early age to return things in better condition than you received them.  
**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I’m very shy.  
**HOBBY** Golf  
**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** My parents’ house
John Bowes became superintendent of the Davis Joint Unified School District in 2016. Previously, he worked for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District and held various positions in the Los Angeles Unified School District. He also served as the lead negotiator in LA from 2009 to 2013, working to save thousands of jobs and keep the school district fiscally solvent during the Great Recession. He completed his doctoral research at UCLA.

HOMETOWN Springfield, Va.
EDUCATION Virginia Polytechnic Institute, California Lutheran University, UCLA (EdD)
WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK Serving as a Peace Corps volunteer sparked my interest and commitment to public education.
BEST ADVICE RECEIVED An education is the one thing that no one can ever take from you.
TOUGHEST CHALLENGE Overcoming speech and articulation challenges as a child
FEW PEOPLE KNOW I have an awesome comic book collection.
FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT Gunther’s Ice Cream

Sacramento State appointed Robert S. Nelsen as its eighth president in 2015. He has had a 30-year career in public higher education. He was president of the University of Texas–Pan American and special advisor to the university’s executive chancellor for academic affairs. He taught English at the University of Illinois at Chicago and founded and directed the creative writing program at the University of Texas at Dallas. He is the first person in his family to attend college and is a short-story writer. In 1995, his play, We Bums, ran for three weeks at the Deep Ellum Theater in Dallas.

EDUCATION Brigham Young University (BA, MA), University of Chicago (PhD)
NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS Named 2014 Man of the Year by the Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; received a Literacy Champion award from the South Texas Literacy Coalition in 2012.

In 2014, Thomas Greene became president of American River College, a public community college and part of the Los Rios community college district. ARC currently serves 30,000 students. Greene has been the vice president of academic affairs and student services at Lake Tahoe Community College, as well as Sacramento City College’s associate vice president of student services. He was also an associate and facilitator with The Center for the Study of Community College Student Engagement in Austin, Texas, and a special assistant to the president at Valencia Community College in Orlando, Fla. He is a former coordinator and instructor for the Voyager Outward Bound School.

EDUCATION Northern Illinois University (BS, MS), University of Texas at Austin (PhD)
NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT Received the national dissertation of the year award

Edward Bush has worked in the California community college system for 17 years. He was a tenured associate faculty member in student activities and a dean of student services, as well as an adjunct instructor at the University of Redlands and Brandman University. He became president of Cosumnes River College in 2015. He is credited with developing programs for underserved individuals and veterans, and he started a successful two-year graduation guarantee program aimed at new college students and local school districts. He is a public speaker and presenter on various educational topics, such as student success, equity, diversity and leadership.

EDUCATION UO Riverside, OSU San Bernardino (MPA), Claremont Graduate University (PhD)
NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS Co-authored books, book chapters and peer-reviewed publications

Michael Gutierrez became president of Sacramento City College in 2017. Established in 1916, the college employs more than 800 people and serves 24,000 students. The main campus is located on Freeport Boulevard in Sacramento, with centers in Davis and West Sacramento. Gutierrez, the college’s first Latino president, had been executive vice president for academic affairs and student success at Eastfield College in the Dallas Community College District, program coordinator for the Texas Council on Workforce Education and a research specialist for the Texas Council on Workforce and Economic Competitiveness. Currently, he is completing his doctorate in higher education at University of the Cumberlands.

EDUCATION Princeton University (BA), University of Texas at Austin (MPA)
NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT One of 25 college presidents to receive the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society Paragon Award for New Presidents in 2019

William “Willy” Duncan was born and raised in Bakersfield, Calif. He has been president of Sierra College since 2011 and is the college’s sixth president. More than 18,000 students attend Sierra College, which has campuses and centers in Rocklin, Roseville, Grass Valley and Truckee and which offers 126 degrees and certificates. From 1997 to 2011, Duncan was employed by Taft College, where he held leadership positions, including president and CEO. While at Taft, he is credited with securing large grants for the college. For 12 years, he was the student and budget director at California State University, Bakersfield.

EDUCATION CSU Bakersfield (BBA, MBA)
NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT While he was at Taft College, Duncan obtained a $5 million grant for science, technology, engineering and math education.
Dr. Leonard Abeduto has worked in the field of disabilities for close to 40 years. Since 2011, he has been the director of the MIND (Medical Investigation of Neurodevelopmental Disorders) Institute at UC Davis. He is also the Tsakopoulos-Vismara endowed chair and professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences. He has his own research program focused on understanding and treating autism, Fragile X syndrome, Down syndrome and other neurodevelopmental disorders. He has published more than 160 articles, chapters, reviews and books.

**EDUCATION** University of Illinois at Chicago (BA, MA, PhD)

**FIRST JOB** Assistant manager at a Jack in the Box in Chicago

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** The pace of science and change is often slow.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I started running marathons in my 50s.

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Give yourself choices.

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Crocker Art Museum

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In 1998, Dustin Corcoran started working at the California Medical Association, a nonprofit organization of more than 44,000 physicians, as the membership coordinator for the political action committee. He then moved to the CMAs center for government relations, where he worked as a staff lobbyist. He has been the CEO since 2010. For the past nine years, Corcoran has been listed as one of Capitol Weeklys top 100 power brokers in the state.

**HOMETOWN** Los Alamitos, Calif.

**EDUCATION** American University, University of Southern California (MBA)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** When I left school, I wanted to get involved in politics and I jumped at the opportunity to work with Steve Thompson, who was then the head of government relations at CMA; he became my mentor.

**FAVORITE HOBBY** Snowboarding

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Wherever the best European football match is

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Taylor’s Market

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Dr. David Lubarsky oversees UC Davis Health’s academic, research and clinical programs, including the School of Medicine, the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, the 1,000-member physician practice group and UC Davis Medical Center. UC Davis Health has roughly 10,000 employees, 800 students and an operating budget of $1.9 billion, and it handles 1 million outpatient visits per year. He joined UC Davis Health in 2018.

**EDUCATION** Washington University (BA, MD), New York University Medical Center (Fellowship), Fuqua School of Business, Duke University (MBA)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I became a doctor because my best friend’s grandfather made house calls. He made me feel so much better by giving me warm Coke when I had the flu. He was such an amazing role model, I decided I wanted to be a doctor when I was 12.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** When I was a lonely college freshman trying to meet women, someone said, “Why don’t you take a ballroom dancing class?” I became an instructor and an amateur competitor.

**LESSON LEARNED** Relationships are enduring but can be fragile.

**HIDDEN TALENT** I love to cook!

**HOBBIES** Anything outdoors: biking, hiking, snow skiing, scuba and travel

**FAVORITE BOOK** *Endurance* by Alfred Lansing; it chronicles Ernest Shackleton’s Antarctic explorations, with great insights on perseverance and leadership.

**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** Renovate historic homes

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Laurie Harting oversees operations for six hospitals and medical centers, including Mercy General Hospital in Sacramento and Mercy San Juan Medical Center in Carmichael, with more than 8,000 employees and 600 physicians throughout Dignity Health’s greater Sacramento service area. She serves on the Greater Sacramento Economic Council Board of Directors and is a board member of the Hospital Council of Northern and Central California.

**HOMETOWN** Riverside, Calif.

**EDUCATION** Riverside Community College (RN), University of Redlands (BS, MBA)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I started my health care career as a nurse. I am passionate about working with people to improve the overall health and wellness of the communities where I live and beyond.

**FIRST JOB** Ice cream scooper at Baskin-Robbins

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I love to ballroom dance and go deep-sea fishing.

**HOBBY** Mosaic art

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Be a sponge and learn as much as you can. Read a lot and keep current on your field of interest.

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**EDUCATION** Sacramento State University

A 34-year professional in the aging-services industry, Todd Murch started working at Eskaton in 1981, the year he graduated from college. The Carmichael-based community nonprofit Eskaton operates 23 residential facilities and memory-care sites, serving nearly 12,000 senior citizens in the Greater Sacramento area. A graduate of Stanford University’s Executive Program, Murch assumed the role of CEO in 2005. Previously, he was accounting manager, divisional controller for skilled nursing, corporate controller, executive director of operational support services, chief financial officer and chief operating officer. He is a past chair of LeadingAge California and president/board chair of The Institute for Senior Living.

**EDUCATION** California State University

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**EDUCATION** University of North Texas, Villanova University (MBA)

**LESSON LEARNED** Relationships are enduring but can be fragile.

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**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Give yourself choices.

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Crocker Art Museum

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**EDUCATION** Sacramento State University
In 2017, Carmela Coyle became president and CEO of the California Hospital Association, one of the largest hospital trade associations in the country. CHA represents more than 400 California hospitals and health systems. Prior to joining CHA, she spent nine years leading the Maryland Hospital Association as its president and CEO. She also held senior policy positions with the American Hospital Association, where she worked for 20 years. At the start of her career, she was an analyst for the Congressional Budget Office in Washington, D.C. In addition to earning an undergraduate degree, she completed coursework at the University of Michigan’s Pew Health Policy Program and Yale University.

EDUCATION Carleton College
NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS Named Influential Marylander in 2010 and 2016 and Maryland Association of Healthcare Executives’ Most Valuable Partner in 2013

### Sarah Krevans
President/CEO
Sutter Health

As president and CEO of Sutter Health, a not-for-profit health system that cares for 3 million patients, Sarah Krevans oversees 24 hospitals, 55,000 employees and 14,000 clinicians, as well as outpatient services, research facilities and home health and hospice care. Previously, Krevans was Sutter Health’s chief operating officer and held executive positions at Kaiser Permanente and Maines’s Bureau of Medical Services. Modern Healthcare named her one of the Top 25 Women Leaders.

EDUCATION Boston University, UC Berkeley
FIRST JOB See’s Candies in Berkeley
FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION Family home in Maine
WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK While at school, I took several small jobs at hospitals and was quickly disenchanted with the health care system, particularly in the way it treated the elderly and the mentally ill. This inspired me to change my plan of becoming a doctor and instead pursue a career in health policy and administration in order to help fix the system.

### Jordan Herget
Senior Vice President and Area Manager
Kaiser Permanente/Roseville

Calgary native Jordan Herget oversees local health plan and hospital services at Kaiser’s 340-bed Roseville Medical Center and is responsible for the health care of more than 340,000 Kaiser Permanente members. Before Kaiser, Herget worked at Verity Health System, serving as the president and chief executive for two Bay Area hospitals. He previously served as director of managed care financial services at HCA Healthcare and worked as a senior consultant for Ernst & Young Healthcare Consulting.

EDUCATION Brigham Young University, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine
FIRST JOB Paper and then computer billings for my physician father
FEW PEOPLE KNOW I love to cook as much as possible.
FAVORITE BOOKS I have copies, some of them early editions, of all the James Bond novels by Ian Fleming.
FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT Discovering the burgeoning food scene in town has been amazing.
CHARITIES Local food bank organizations

### Garry Maisel
President/CEO
Western Health Advantage

Garry Maisel started a health plan from scratch in 1996 and turned it into a company with annual revenues of $830 million and more than 135,000 members in the Sacramento and North Bay regions. Maisel has 26 years of experience in health care plus 10 years in the banking and finance industry. An active community board member, Maisel lends his expertise to organizations such as WEAVE, Valley Vision and Mercy Foundation.

EDUCATION Sacramento State University
FIRST JOB Cleaning movie theaters as a kid. It was fun because you found loose change and dollar bills.
BEST ADVICE RECEIVED It came from a fortune cookie. I have it framed on my desk: “Do not be afraid of competition.”
FAVORITE ACTIVITIES Outdoor activities such as hiking and trout fishing in the Sierra
FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT McKinley Park and its rose garden

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### Carly Wintemute
Director
Violence Prevention Research Program

Well-known researcher and authority on gun violence Garen Wintemute, an emergency medicine doctor, directs the Violence Prevention Research Program at UC Davis. The program is the first state-funded gun research program of its kind in the United States. Wintemute has worked as a consultant for the National Institute of Justice, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and he’s testified before Congress on gun-related topics. He has researched and published numerous studies on gun violence, including *Ring of Fire*, about Saturday Night Specials, and *How to Stop Mass Shootings*.

EDUCATION Yale University, Johns Hopkins University’s Bloomberg School of Public Health, UC Davis School of Medicine
FEW PEOPLE KNOW He funded his gun violence research with more than $1 million of his own money.

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### Sandy Sharon
Senior Vice President and Area Manager
Kaiser Permanente/Sacramento

A Kaiser Permanente employee since 1997, Sandy Sharon is responsible for all local health plan and hospital services at Kaiser’s 287-bed Sacramento Medical Center. After helping to open Roseville Medical Center in 1998, she worked there as the chief nursing officer, chief operating officer and interim senior vice president/area manager. Before coming to Kaiser Permanente, Sharon worked for 20 years at Sutter Health. She sits on the boards of Downtown Sacramento Partnership and the Greater Sacramento Area Economic Council.

EDUCATION Sacramento State University
BEST ADVICE RECEIVED The best way to predict the future is to create it. —Abraham Lincoln
HIDDEN TALENT Super Scrabble player
FAVORITE MOVIE Silver Linings Playbook
CHARITIES Joshua’s House Hospice
WHAT MOTIVATES ME Rooting for the underdog
BUCKET LIST River cruise through the Bordeaux countryside

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### Carmela Coyle
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FIRST JOB Paper and then computer billings for my physician father
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FIRST JOB Cleaning movie theaters as a kid. It was fun because you found loose change and dollar bills.
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EDUCATION Sacramento State University
BEST ADVICE RECEIVED The best way to predict the future is to create it. —Abraham Lincoln
HIDDEN TALENT Super Scrabble player
FAVORITE MOVIE Silver Linings Playbook
CHARITIES Joshua’s House Hospice
WHAT MOTIVATES ME Rooting for the underdog
BUCKET LIST River cruise through the Bordeaux countryside
Trish Rodriguez is a registered nurse with more than 30 years of experience in health care operations. As senior VP and area manager for Kaiser Permanente in South Sacramento and Elk Grove, she oversees health plan and hospital operations, including a Level II trauma center, and is responsible for the provision of health care to approximately 212,990 Kaiser Permanente members in the area.

**HOMETOWN** Calgary, Alberta, Canada  
**EDUCATION** University of Lethbridge, University of Hawaii  
**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Maintain your integrity because in the end, integrity trumps even the most adverse situation.  
**FAVORITE BOOK** Leading Change by John P. Kotter  
**FAVORITE TV SHOW** House of Cards  
**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** Travel writer  
**BUCKET LIST** Break 100 in golf

Dr. Primo “Lucky” Lara Jr. oversees the UC Davis Comprehensive Cancer Center, a world-class institution that delivers exceptional cancer care to Northern California and the Central Valley. He is on the faculty of the UC Davis School of Medicine as a full professor and executive associate dean for cancer programs. As a senior academic medical oncologist, the Manila-born Lara has extensive experience in the diagnosis and treatment of people with advanced cancer and has chaired or co-chaired dozens of clinical trials. He holds leadership roles in numerous scientific and educational programs and is the editor-in-chief of Cancer Treatment and Research Communications and Kidney Cancer.

**EDUCATION** University of the Philippines  
**FIRST JOB** My first paid job was as a national newspaper columnist.  
**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Be kind to everyone.  
**FAVORITE BOOK** A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson  
**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I want to eradicate cancer.

Scott Reiner is the chief executive officer of Adventist Health, a faith-based, nonprofit integrated health system serving more than 80 communities on the West Coast and Hawaii through 21 hospitals, more than 280 clinics, 14 home care agencies and nine hospice agencies. A registered nurse with nearly 30 years of health care leadership, Reiner previously served as Adventist’s executive vice president/chief operations officer, responsible for the $4 billion health system. Before that, he was president and CEO of Adventist Health Glendale.

**EDUCATION** Pacific Union College, CSU Northridge, University of Missouri  
**HOMETOWN** Takoma Park, Md.  
**FIRST JOB** In college I worked as a landscaper, cutting lawns and trimming bushes.  
**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** My parents provided me a lot of advice growing up, but the most important thing they showed me is the love they have for each other. I was blessed to have parents with that kind of relationship who were also very accepting, nonjudgmental and always encouraged me to do what I wanted to do.
Food + Agriculture

Beer, Wine + Beverage
Farming
Restaurants + Chefs
Thaddeus Barsotti was born on his family farm, Capay Organic, where his first job was to cut roma tomatoes. Today, he is co-CEO of Farm Fresh To You, a home-delivery service that provides fresh, local, organic produce and artisanal groceries to consumers throughout the state. He also heads up farm management for Capay Organic and serves on the boards of CCOF (California Certified Organic Farmers) and the Davis Farmers Market.

**EDUCATION** Oal Poly San Luis Obispo

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Don’t dwell on your mistakes.

**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** My mom, Kathleen Barsotti

**TOUGHEST LESSON LEARNED** Capitalism can be mean.

**HOBBY** Hunting

**FAVORITE MOVIE** Pulp Fiction

**BUCKET LIST** Writing a book

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For more than 40 years, Ann M. Evans has promoted healthful eating through her work with state and local governments and nonprofit organizations. The former mayor of Davis, Evans co-founded three local food-system mainstays: Davis Food Co-op, the award-winning Davis Farmers Market and Davis Farm to School. She co-authored Cooking With California Food in K-12 Schools and is a food columnist for several local newspapers.

**EDUCATION** UC Davis

**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** Alice Waters

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I play the flute.

**HOBBIES** Fly-fishing, gardening, beekeeping, drawing

**FAVORITE BOOK** The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Steven Covey

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Find what you love to do and don’t give up. The world needs your vision and passion.

**BUCKET LIST** Create a food center with the Davis Farmers Market to provide educational programming for students in Yolo County about food and agriculture

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Amber Stott founded the Food Literacy Center to inspire healthy eating habits in low-income children. A self-described “impatient woman of action,” she created the center’s curriculum in response to the childhood obesity crisis. She worked with the California State Legislature in 2012 to declare September Food Literacy Month and helped create the Sacramento Food Film Festival. Stott speaks Danish and Zulu.

**EDUCATION** University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**FIRST JOB** Paper route. I wanted a bike, and my parents said I needed to find a way to pay for it. It was my first side hustle!

**FAVORITE BOOK** Harvest for Hope: A Guide to Mindful Eating by Jane Goodall

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** The Sunday farmers market is what I call “my happy place.”

**WHAT MOTIVATES ME** I’m driven to make the world a better place.

**BUCKET LIST** I want to own a mini donkey! A girl can dream.

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A fifth-generation farmer, Michael Bosworth manages Rue & Forsman Ranch, a family business operating in Olivehurst since 1946. Today, the company sells more than a dozen varieties of conventional, specialty and organic rice. Recognizing a demand for locally grown produce, Bosworth created Next Generation Foods, a food distribution company owned by area farmers. He is a board member of the California Rice Commission and serves on the Sacramento Farm-to-Fork Steering Committee.

**EDUCATION** UC Davis

**FIRST JOB** Selling corn and strawberries at a roadside produce stand with my cousin. I was 7 and he was 9.

**LEARNED** Never lose sight of cash flow.

**HOBBIES** Spending time outdoors with my family, fly-fishing and hunting

**FAVORITE BOOK** Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Find and develop relationships with mentors you want to learn from.

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Kru

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Under Mark Jansen’s leadership, Blue Diamond has become a $1.6 billion global branded food manufacturer, and consumers can buy Blue Diamond Snack Almonds and Almond Breeze in 50 countries. Jansen has a unique understanding of the branded retail, ingredients and food service businesses; his career achievements include leading brand growth for Häagen-Dazs, Pudding, and Almond Breeze in 50 countries. Jansen has a unique understanding of the branded retail, ingredients and food service businesses; his career achievements include leading brand growth for Häagen-Dazs, Pudding, and Almond Breeze in 50 countries.

**EDUCATION** St. Olaf College, Kellogg School of Management

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Take the lead.

**FAVORITE MOVIE** Forrest Gump

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** My son and I travel to the Canadian Arctic and go fishing.

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Find and develop relationships with mentors you want to learn from.

**WHAT MOTIVATES ME** I’m driven to make the world a better place.

**BUCKET LIST** I want to own a mini donkey! A girl can dream.

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In 2005, North Texas native Michael Passmore founded the 86-acre Passmore Ranch in Sloughhouse. Famed for its sustainably raised and sourced seafood, Passmore Ranch supplies small-batch caviar and fresh fish to some of the best chefs and restaurants in the country, including The French Laundry in Yountville. Passmore Ranch plans to expand with the addition of a 4,000-square-foot processing plant that will include food production areas.

**EDUCATION** UC Davis

**FIRST JOB** Mowing lawns and laying sod in the fifth grade

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** My Marine Corps team leader would tell us, “Let the situation develop.” He meant when there's seemingly no path forward, don't panic. The situation will change, and other options will reveal themselves.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** My four nieces are allowed to paint my toenails whenever they want.

**HOBBIES** Building things, motorcycles, cooking, shooting, jujitsu

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I like to grow things, whether it’s a business or fish.
Mary Kimball
Executive Director
Center for Land-Based Learning

Founded in 1993 by Winters walnut farmers Craig and Julie McNamara, the non-profit Center for Land-Based Learning works to inspire and educate the next generation of farmers and agricultural leaders. Raised on a small farm in Yolo County, Mary Kimball joined the center in 1998. Over the past 21 years, Kimball helped grow it from one educational program to five different model programs operating in more than 25 California counties. Kimball sits on the board of the Yolo County Flood Control and Water Conversation District, and she previously served two terms as chair of the Yolo County Planning Commission. She is currently overseeing construction of the new Center for Land-Based Learning headquarters, slated to open in Woodland in 2020.

EDUCATION Ohio State University, UC Davis

Hank Shaw
Cookbook author/blogger
Hunter Angler Gardener Cook

Hank Shaw was a political reporter for 18 years before turning his focus to the world of food, particularly food made with ingredients for which he has hunted, foraged, or fished. He is the author of four award-winning cookbooks, and his blog, Hunter Angler Gardener Cook, was named best food blog by the James Beard Foundation in 2013. “I chose this work because I could,” explains Shaw. “We are all the sum of our choices, and when the opportunity opened up for me to do this full time in 2010, I took a chance. I continue doing this because the worlds of wild foods are endlessly fascinating.”

FIRST JOB Newspaper delivery boy
LESSON LEARNED You can’t do everything all the time.
WHAT I’D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF Talk less, listen more.
FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT American River Bike Trail
CHARITY California Waterfowl Association
WHAT MOTIVATES ME There is always something new to learn.
BUCKET LIST Becoming fluent in Spanish

Hank Shaw was a political reporter for 18 years before turning his focus to the world of food, particularly food made with ingredients for which he has hunted, foraged, or fished. He is the author of four award-winning cookbooks, and his blog, Hunter Angler Gardener Cook, was named best food blog by the James Beard Foundation in 2013. “I chose this work because I could,” explains Shaw. “We are all the sum of our choices, and when the opportunity opened up for me to do this full time in 2010, I took a chance. I continue doing this because the worlds of wild foods are endlessly fascinating.”

Jerry Moore
CEO
Knee Deep Brewing Company

Mountain View native Jerry Moore is a former police officer and serial entrepreneur who founded a cable manufacturing business and a solar manufacturing business before acquiring Knee Deep Brewing Company. “I enjoy manufacturing and especially enjoyed the opportunity to lay out our production floor and then expand it multiple times as we grew,” he says. Today, Knee Deep is one of the largest breweries in the Sacramento region, shipping craft beer to more than 30 states and eight countries.

FIRST JOB Picking pears in Placerville
TOUGHEST CHALLENGE Managing the multiple personalities, expectations and abilities of employees
HIDDEN TALENT I can sing, but only to my grandbabies under 2 years old.
HOBBIES Working on outdoor projects at home
WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE Don’t stop trying.
WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB I’d open a beach bar on a tropical island.
WHAT MOTIVATES ME Something inside me that won’t let me slow down

Lauren Zehnder
General Manager
Mraz Brewing Company

Elk Grove native Lauren Zehnder works on management, marketing, operations, event planning, merchandise and label designs and more for El Dorado Hills-based Mraz Brewing Company. Since joining Mraz in 2014, Zehnder helped the craft brewery triple in size while expanding distribution to the Bay Area, Chico and Truckee. She was recently elected president of the Sacramento Area Brewers Guild. Previously, she worked in the wine industry in Napa Valley and New Zealand.

EDUCATION UC Davis
HIDDEN TALENT I used to pole vault in high school.
HOBBIES Traveling, reading, spending time with friends and family, cuddling with my pups, riding bikes
FAVORITE BOOK Daring Greatly by Brené Brown
FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACES TO VISIT American River, R Street Corridor
CHARITIES Fregoso Outdoor Foundation, Count on Kids, Eleanor Fuller Forever Foundation, Friends of NICU, to name a few
BUCKET LIST Bungee jumping

Rob Archie opened Pangaea in 2008, taking inspiration from the pubs and cafes he visited while playing professional basketball in Europe. The San Diego State University graduate introduced local beer enthusiasts to arcane international styles, and Pangaea played a significant role in legitimizing the Sacramento beer scene. In 2018, Archie and brewer Peter Hoey opened Urban Roots, a barbecue restaurant, craft brewery and biergarten. Archie's latest project is Bawk, a fried chicken eatery in the R Street Corridor.

FIRST JOB Adams Trucking
BEST ADVICE RECEIVED Love yourself.
HIDDEN TALENT Humor
HOBBY Riding motorcycles
FAVORITE TV SHOW Chappelle’s Show
FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION Hawaii with family
CHARITY Sacramento Food Bank
WHAT MOTIVATES ME My children

Rob Archie opened Pangaea in 2008, taking inspiration from the pubs and cafes he visited while playing professional basketball in Europe. The San Diego State University graduate introduced local beer enthusiasts to arcane international styles, and Pangaea played a significant role in legitimizing the Sacramento beer scene. In 2018, Archie and brewer Peter Hoey opened Urban Roots, a barbecue restaurant, craft brewery and biergarten. Archie's latest project is Bawk, a fried chicken eatery in the R Street Corridor.

Michael Mraz
Owner/Brewmaster
Mraz Brewing Company

Auto repair industry veteran Michael Mraz started brewing as a hobby in 2006 and quickly became one of the most decorated homebrewers in the state. Mraz was named California Homebrewer of the Year in 2008 and 2009, and he twice took the top prize at The Mayfair, a nationwide homebrewing competition. He turned pro in 2013, opening Mraz Brewing Company in El Dorado Hills. The brewery quickly grew a reputation for making exceptional Belgian and sour beers. Only 13 months after opening, Mraz won a gold medal at the 2014 California State Fair Commercial Craft Beer Competition, then went on to win Brewery of the Year in 2018.
Edmond, Okla., native Sean Kohmescher sold his 1948 Harley Davidson and 1958 Volkswagen bug to raise money to open Temple Coffee in downtown Sacramento in 2005. Today, the company employs 120 people at its five coffeehouse locations and roastery. Temple has been named best coffeehouse in Sacramento and garnered awards for its coffees and interior design. Kohmescher is a founder of Specialty Coffee Week Sacramento and has served as a chapter representative for the Barista Guild of America.

EDUCATION San Francisco State University
FIRST JOB My own mowing and landscaping business at age 14
BEST ADVICE FROM MY FATHER: Don’t gamble with something you can’t afford to lose.
TOUGHEST CHALLENGE Keeping ahead of a growing business takes constant reorganization.
FEW PEOPLE KNOW I used to hold the track record at Thunderhill Raceway in class TTD for racing cars. I used to want to be a motorcycle mechanic.
FAVORITE BOOK On the Road by Jack Kerouac

Tom McCormick
Executive Director
California Craft Brewers Association

Tom McCormick founded the first craft-beer-only distribution company in the country in 1984, serving the Sacramento and Lake Tahoe markets. McCormick Beverage Company, which he sold in 1994, was a pioneer of the craft beer industry. “I got into the industry for the people,” says McCormick. “In the early years, craft brewers were part pioneer, artist, scientist and entrepreneur, and they were all extremely passionate. It was for the love of beer, not for the money.” McCormick became executive president of the California Craft Brewers Association in 2006.

EDUCATION UC Santa Barbara
FIRST JOB Selling painted rocks when I was 4 years old
BEST ADVICE RECEIVED Never go into business with friends or family.
HIDDEN TALENT I play guitar and sing.
HOBBIES Hiking, backpacking, backcountry skiing.
WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE Life’s not fair. Get used to it. You can prevail.
FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT Any brewery

When Patrick Mulvaney moved to Sacramento in 1993, he knew that he had found his true home. The Garden City, N.Y., native, who began his career in the restaurant industry as a waiter in Manhattan, has been instrumental in launching Sacramento’s farm-to-fork movement. He opened Mulvaney’s B&L, his restaurant devoted to his true home. The Garden City, N.Y., native, who began his career in the restaurant industry as a waiter in Manhattan, has been instrumental in launching Sacramento’s farm-to-fork movement. He opened Mulvaney’s B&L, his restaurant devoted to local, seasonal food, in 2006. Mulvaney is a committed advocate for food access and local, seasonal food, in 2006. Mulvaney is a committed advocate for food access and local, seasonal food, in 2006. Mulvaney is a committed advocate for food access and local, seasonal food, in 2006. Mulvaney is a committed advocate for food access and local, seasonal food, in 2006.

FIRST JOB Chef/Owner Mulvaney’s B&L
FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT I go to the Robert’s Family Development Center to be reminded of the promise of a better future.
HOBBY Aimless late-night walks with the dog
FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION Any restaurant table across from my wife, Bobbin
FEW PEOPLE KNOW The day Ted Kaczynski was arrested, I received a standing ovation on coming to work at Paragary’s because they thought I was the Unabomber.

At age 18, Josh Nelson started working in catering for his family’s Sacramento restaurant, The Kitchen, eventually moving through nearly every position available: serving, dishwashing, accounting and back of house. That breadth of experience prepared him for his role as CEO, where he leads on strategy, marketing and branding, business development, budget, philanthropy and more. Nelson describes his total immersion in the family business this way: “When it’s part of how you live, it becomes less of a job and more of a passion.” His ultimate goal? To make Sacramento a think tank for food and agricultural policy.

EDUCATION Sacramento State University
MOST INSPIRING PERSON My wife, Gina Funk
TOUGHEST CHALLENGE Raising kids, hands down!
FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION Paris
FEW PEOPLE KNOW I love skateboarding and punk rock music.
HOBBY Mushroom foraging

Warren Bogle is president and vineyard director of Bogle Vineyards, a sixth-generation family-farming operation in Clarksburg that produces award-winning wine that is sold nationwide. Bogle was in college in 1997 when his father passed away unexpectedly; he left Chico State to return to work in the family operation with his mother, Patty. During that period, the winery won the respect of esteemed wine critics and grew its production substantially, becoming one of the largest wineries in the country. Today, Bogle and two of his siblings run the company’s day-to-day operations.

NAME Warren is named for his grandfather, Warren V. Bogle, who was the first in the family to plant wine grapes, in 1968.
FOUNDING The Bogle wine label was born in 1979. During the prior decade, the family sold its fruit to other wineries.

Hong Kong-born Billy Ngo moved to Sacramento as an infant and grew up working his way through the ranks of his parents’ restaurant. “It was the first job I ever had and I loved it.” When he opened his own restaurant, Kru, in 2005, he was celebrated as a wunderkind chef with a passion for fresh ingredients and an inventive take on contemporary Japanese cuisine. Ngo has been a featured chef at the Pebble Beach Food & Wine and Los Angeles Food & Wine events. He is a supporter of Front Street Animal Shelter and the Food Literacy Center.

FEW PEOPLE KNOW I’m introverted and shy away from big social gatherings. People can’t tell that because I’m always out front at the sushi bar greeting and talking to people.
LESSON LEARNED Just because you have a good idea or concept doesn’t mean it will work if you don’t execute it properly.
HOBBY Jujitsu, but I suck at it.
FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION Japan
BUCKET LIST Travel more and spend more time enjoying family, friends and all the little things.
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Terry Harvego</td>
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<td>Kurt Spataro</td>
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**Ginger Hahn**
Owner/Creative Director
Ginger Elizabeth Chocolates

When chocolatier Ginger Elizabeth Hahn opened her eponymous boutique in Sacramento in 2008, she had already racked up some serious credentials, including graduating with honors from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, N.Y. Since then, she has been voted a Top Ten Chocolatier in North America by Pastry Arts Magazine and launched a second retail location in 2018 in San Francisco. Hahn’s popular seasonal items are known to attract long lines of customers. She counts meeting and dining with Julia Child among her notable accomplishments. Hahn is a supporter of Dining with Julia Child among her notable accomplishments.

**Rick Mahan**
Chef/Owner
The Waterboy

Rick Mahan founded what has become one of Sacramento’s most enduring restaurants, The Waterboy, in 1996. He was one of the first chefs in the city to focus on farm-to-fork cooking, forging relationships early on with local farmers to provide diners with the highest-quality ingredients. One of Mahan’s hobbies, bike riding, became the theme of his pizza-centric restaurant, OneSpeed. Mahan was inspired to open his own restaurant by the first family for whom he worked. He has this advice for those starting out in the work world: “Try and find your passion and throw yourself into it.”

**Brad Cecchi**
Executive Chef/Partner
Canon

Sacramento native Brad Cecchi launched Canon in 2017 after working at Calistoga’s Solbar, which earned a Michelin star while he was there. Cecchi’s experience at Solbar and Urban Farmer in Cleveland prepared him to open Canon. He was inspired to become a chef by his grandfather, who owned restaurants around Phoenix. “Every time I went for a visit, I loved hearing him tell me about food,” says Cecchi. “I learned so much from him.”

**Terry Harvego**
CEO
Harvego Companies

Sacramento native Terry Harvego is the CEO of Harvego Companies, an investment group focusing on real estate and restaurants, including The Firehouse, one of Sacramento’s most esteemed fine-dining destinations. The Firehouse, which first opened in 1960 under different ownership, has won numerous awards for its collection of rare wines. Harvego was instrumental in opening the Orleans Lofts apartments and the now shuttered Ten22 near The Firehouse in Old Sacramento. A former commercial real estate broker, Harvego also operates Foresight Property Management, which oversees property management for the Harvego Companies.

**Kurt Spataro**
Executive Chef
Paragary Restaurant Group

Kurt Spataro was a young boy when he first started making recipes from Julia Child. A self-taught cook, Spataro is the corporate executive chef at Paragary Restaurant Group, a company that has profoundly influenced Sacramento’s dining scene. He trains, manages and develops menu concepts with the chefs for the company’s restaurants, including Cafe Bernardo, Centro Cocina Mexicana and Paragary’s. Drawing inspiration from a lifelong interest in music (he has played piano and guitar in several local bands), Spataro is invigorated by the daily rhythms of the kitchen. Over the years, he has mentored a generation of chefs in the city who have gone on to open their own successful establishments.
Randall Selland
Co-owner/Chef
Selland Family Restaurants

An early champion of Sacramento’s farm-to-fork movement, Randall Selland is passionate about serving food sourced from local farms and farmers markets. He advocated for the benefits of eating locally grown organic food at the state and local levels. In 2008, Selland received an award from Pesticide Watch for helping overturn a law that barred restaurants from shopping at California’s farmers markets. In 2015, he received Breathe California’s Clean Air Award for a zero-waste program piloted at his restaurants. Selland is an enthusiastic supporter of children’s food literacy. He credits his wife, Nancy Zimmer, for inspiring his love of cooking.

FIRST JOB Janitor at a food court in Fresno
TOUGHEST CHALLENGE Raising a family. It’s the greatest joy and can bring the greatest challenges.
FAVORITE BOOK La Technique: An Illustrated Guide to the Fundamental Techniques of Cooking by Jacques Pépin
HIDDEN TALENT Finally coming to a place in life where I enjoy the art of doing nothing
HOBBY Golfing

Henry de Vere White
Owner
Irish Hospitality Group

Sacramento native Henry de Vere White was a college student majoring in history at the University of Washington when he fell in love with bartending. “When I was 15, my mother told me if you never want to go hungry, get a job in a restaurant. I have been in love with this business ever since,” says de Vere White, who has opened four bar/restaurant ventures with his brother, Simon de Vere White. “We’ve been able to do this while giving back to the communities that have embraced us.” He and his brother have helped raise more than $2.6 million for pediatric cancer through the St. Baldrick’s Foundation.

FIRST JOB Dishwasher
HIDDEN TALENT I’m an avid gardener and amateur beekeeper.
HOBBIES Cooking, hunting, gardening
FAVORITE TV SHOW Game of Thrones
FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION Ireland or Hawaii
WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE Everything up to now was just a warm-up. Jump in the deep end and start your real education!

Simon de Vere White
Owner
de Vere’s Irish Pub

Simon de Vere White and his brother Henry founded de Vere’s Irish Pub in downtown Sacramento in 2008, adding a Davis location in 2011. Together with their business partners, the brothers went on to open Firestone Public House and The Snug. “I don’t know if I chose the restaurant industry or if it chose me,” says de Vere White. “I worked in a couple of other fields after graduate school, but I was always most comfortable in my abilities when working in restaurants. I think the idea of hospitality was ingrained in me during my upbringing.” He currently serves as president of the Sacramento chapter of the California Restaurant Association.

FIRST JOB Dishwasher/busser
BEST ADVICE RECEIVED My father once told me that you can’t bet on a horse after it has run its race. That has always stuck with me.
LEARNED The restaurant industry is consistently inconsistent.
FAVORITE BOOK No Ordinary Time by Doris Kearns Goodwin

Kelly McCown
Executive Chef
Selland Family Restaurants

As executive chef at Selland’s The Kitchen restaurant, Kelly McCown made Sacramento history by bringing the first (and only) Michelin star to the region in 2019. A graduate of the California Culinary Academy, he has worked in some of California’s finest kitchens, including La Folie and Fleur de Lys in San Francisco and Martini House in St. Helena. Under his leadership, The Kitchen has received accolades and positive reviews. McCown is an enthusiastic supporter of children’s food literacy. He credits his wife, Nancy Zimmer, for inspiring his love of cooking.

FIRST JOB Janitor at a food court in Fresno
FEW PEOPLE KNOW I don’t like social events or gatherings.
HOBBIES Riding motorcycles, mountain bikes or anything fast enough to get hurt on
FAVORITE MOVIE Harold and Maude
CHARITY Monterey Bay Aquarium Conservation & Science
WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB Mechanic or tradesman
WHAT MOTIVATES ME I hate sitting still.

Darrell Corti
Owner
Corti Brothers

Darrell Corti, whose father Frank Corti co-founded the family grocery store Corti Brothers in 1947, has been described by acclaimed food writer and critic Ruth Reichl as the man who “knows more about food and wine than anyone else in the world.” He is credited with helping introduce traditional Italian balsamic vinegar to the United States, and he received the equivalent of a knighthood from the Italian government for his promotion of the country’s food products. Corti is also a proponent of locally produced olive oil and a champion of planting Italian grape varieties in California. The ravioli sold in the store’s deli section are Sacramento’s oldest continuously produced food.

FIRST JOB Dishwasher
FEW PEOPLE KNOW I don’t like social events or gatherings.
HOBBIES Riding motorcycles, mountain bikes or anything fast enough to get hurt on
FAVORITE MOVIE Harold and Maude
CHARITY Monterey Bay Aquarium Conservation & Science
WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB Mechanic or tradesman
WHAT MOTIVATES ME I hate sitting still.

Randy Paragary
Founder/Co-Owner
Paragary Restaurant Group

Randy Paragary has been pushing boundaries and setting trends across Sacramento’s nightlife and dining scenes since 1989. With Chez Panisse and other groundbreaking Bay Area restaurants as his inspiration, Paragary has influenced the city’s culinary landscape perhaps more than any other restaurateur. He introduced Sacramento to its first wood-fired pizza at Paragary’s Restaurant in 1983, and more than two decades ago he was among the first to promote authentic regional Mexican cuisine at Centro Cocina Mexicana. Several of Sacramento’s high-profile chefs, bartenders and restaurateurs began their careers at one of Paragary’s establishments, which emphasize local ingredients served in a comfortable, stylish environment. Today, Paragary Restaurant Group includes the midtown Paragary’s restaurant, Centro Cocina Mexicana and four Cafe Bernardos.
THE ONE NAME YOU NEED TO KNOW

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More than a structural engineering firm. 70 years of award-winning work, a sterling reputation, and the trust of our clients through long standing relationships - these elements are the Buehler experience.

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Curtis Owyang | Vice President
LPAS Architecture + Design

“I want them on the team because I know they’ll be creative, I know they’ll be committed, and they’ll have a collaborative nature; that’s what building projects are all about.”

John Webre | CEO
Dreyfuss & Blackford Architecture
GOVERNMENT + CIVIC LEADERS

Yu (Ben) Meng
Chief Investment Officer
CalPERS

At CalPERS, Yu (Ben) Meng oversees nearly 400 employees and is responsible for investment policies, risk management, corporate governance standards, and environmental, social and governance strategies. He manages a $350 billion investment portfolio composed of public and private investments. He returned to CalPERS in 2019 after serving as the deputy chief investment officer at the State Administration of Foreign Exchange for three years. He has worked at Barclays Global Investors, Lehman Brothers and Morgan Stanley.

HOMETOWN Fuxin, Liaoning Province (China)
EDUCATION UC Berkeley (MFE), UC Davis (PhD)
WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK I am fascinated with how the economy and financial markets work and I like the challenge.
BEST ADVICE RECEIVED Be kind.
TOUGHEST CHALLENGE Keeping up with technological innovations
FAVORITE BOOKS Thinking, Fast and Slow and Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow
WHAT MOTIVATES ME I am a mission-oriented person.

Darrell Steinberg
Mayor
City of Sacramento

Before becoming Sacramento’s 56th mayor in 2016, Darrell Steinberg was elected to the California Senate in 2006 and served as president pro tempore in 2008. He was a member of the Sacramento City Council and the California Assembly. He is a proponent of mental health care services. While in the Assembly, Steinberg authored Proposition 63, the Mental Health Services Act, which was enacted in 2005. He also helped pass legislation that required insurance companies to pay for treatment of autism spectrum disorders.

EDUCATION UCLA, UC Davis (JD)
NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT Given the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award by the Kennedy Library Foundation in 2010

Jack Ehnes
CEO
California State Teachers’ Retirement System

Jack Ehnes is CEO of CalSTRS, the largest educator-only pension fund in the world and the second-largest pension fund in the United States, with more than $949,000 members and benefit recipients and an investment portfolio of $227.8 billion. Before joining CalSTRS in 2002, Ehnes was the Colorado insurance commissioner, deputy insurance commissioner and board trustee for the Colorado Public Employees Retirement Association.

EDUCATION Cornell University, Vanderbilt University
FIRST JOB Road construction
BEST ADVICE RECEIVED Find a job with purpose.
TOUGHEST CHALLENGE Losing my father to illness as a very young boy created difficult challenges, but it also built resilience and independence.
HIDDEN TALENT I play a very mean game of billiards. (Keep your money close.)
HOBBIES Snow skiing with my wife (a former downhill racer), horseback riding, scuba
WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE Start saving for retirement.

Jan Lynn Owen
Commissioner
California Department of Business Oversight

Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. appointed Jan Lynn Owen as the first commissioner of the Department of Business Oversight in 2013. She had previously served as the commissioner of corporations. She has been a strategic initiatives manager at Apple Inc., vice president of government affairs at J.P. Morgan Chase, state director of government affairs at Washington Mutual, and executive director of the California Mortgage Bankers Association.

EDUCATION CSU Fresno
FIRST JOB Aide in a convalescent hospital at 14
BEST ADVICE RECEIVED Any decision can wait for 24 hours.
FAVORITE BOOK The Shadow of the Wind by Carlos Ruiz Zafón
FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT M掏unee’s B&B
WHAT MOTIVATES ME Crafting public policy to protect consumers and leading my incredible staff, who work to ensure Californians have a fair and competitive financial marketplace
CHARITY Planned Parenthood

Christopher Cabaldon is West Sacramento’s longest-serving mayor. First elected by the public in 2004, he has been reelected seven times. He currently chairs the Jobs, Education and Workforce committee for the U.S. Conference of Mayors and is a member of Mayors Against LGBTQ Discrimination. From 1997 to 2003, he was vice chancellor of the California Community Colleges system. In 2006, he came out to the public as an openly gay man in a story in The Sacramento Bee.

EDUCATION UC Berkeley, Sacramento State University (MPPA)
NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT The Sacramento Bee wrote that “under [Cabaldon’s] leadership, [West Sacramento] has become one of the municipal stars of the region.”
PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS In April 2018, Cabaldon spoke at a rally where South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg announced he was running for president.

Howard Chan
Manager
City of Sacramento

After receiving 80 resumes and interviewing 10 candidates, Sacramento’s City Council unanimously voted to offer Howard Chan the position of city manager in 2017; he is the city’s first Asian-American city manager. Prior to that, he served as Sacramento’s assistant city manager for three years. For more than a decade, he was the city’s parking services manager, overseeing approximately 160 employees, 10,000 off-street parking spaces and 31 parking facilities, as well as parking enforcement and meter collections.

HOMETOWN San Francisco
EDUCATION CSU Hayward
NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT In 2017, Chan won the Asian Pacific Islander (API) Rise award from the Sacramento Asian Pacific Chamber of Commerce—an annual award given to four API leaders who have shown strong leadership skills and demonstrated support for the region.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nav Gill</th>
<th>Matthew Jacobs</th>
<th>Eleni Kounalakis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>County Executive</td>
<td>General Counsel</td>
<td>Lieutenant Governor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacramento County</td>
<td>CalPERS</td>
<td>State of California</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Nav Gill

Before coming to California, Nav Gill worked for the city of Durham, N.C., in senior financial positions. During that time, Durham received the highest possible bond ratings from three major rating agencies. He was Folsom’s assistant city manager and finance director for five years before becoming assistant county executive and chief operations officer for Sacramento County in 2007.

**EDUCATION** University of Missouri (MA, MPA)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I’ve spent my career in public service with the goals of improving the accountability of government operations while delivering vital services to people.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I’ve lived on five continents.

**HOBBY** Cycling

**FAVORITE BOOK** *In Patagonia* by Bruce Chatwin

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Mammoth Lakes, Calif.

**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** Investigative journalist

**WHAT MOTIVATES ME** Doing the right thing for people.

Matthew Jacobs

Matt Jacobs joined CalPERS as its general counsel in 2014. Before that, he was a partner at DLA Piper, a global law firm, and worked for the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Sacramento. At CalPERS, he is responsible for strategic direction and oversight of the Legal Office, the Office of Audit Services and the Equal Employment Opportunity Program.

**HOMETOWN** San Francisco

**EDUCATION** UO Berkeley, University of Michigan Law School (JD)

**FIRST JOB** Paperboy

**HOBBIES** Bike riding through beautiful scenery; viewing art

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *The Big Lebowski*

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** American River Bike Trail

**CHARITIES** WEAVE, Sacramento Food Bank

Eleni Kounalakis

The first woman elected to be lieutenant governor of California, Eleni Kounalakis was sworn in on Jan. 7, 2019. From 2010 to 2013, she was President Barack Obama’s ambassador to the Republic of Hungary. A memoir about her time in Hungary, *Madam Ambassador: Three Years of Diplomacy, Dinner Parties and Democracy in Budapest*, was published in 2015. Before entering public service, Kounalakis was president of AKT Development Corporation, a housing development firm founded by her father.

**EDUCATION** Dartmouth College, UC Berkeley’s Haas School of Business (MBA)

**NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT** Elected lieutenant governor with a margin of victory of 13.2%

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I always knew I wanted to work in government. Service to my country, and now my state, is an honor and a privilege.

**FIRST JOB** Intern for California State Sen. Nick Petris

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said, “Always strive to be part of something bigger than yourself.”

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Doris Matsui

Since 2005, Doris Matsui has represented the city of Sacramento and its surrounding areas in the U.S. House of Representatives. She is a senior member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and she serves on the Health, Environment and Climate Change, and Consumer Protection and Commerce subcommittees. In 2018, the congresswoman secured $1.8 billion to help strengthen the region’s levees and raise Folsom Dam.

**HOMETOWN** Dinuba, Calif.

**EDUCATION** UC Berkeley

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I believe in being an active participant in public service.

**HIDDEN TALENT** I grew up on a farm, so I can pick out the best peaches and melons by smell and touch.

**FAVORITE BOOKS** English mysteries, books by Louise Penny, and cookbooks

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACES TO VISIT** Sacramento rivers

**WHAT MOTIVATES ME** My grandchildren, Anna and Robby. They are my touchstone to the future.

Troy L. Nunley

Troy Nunley has worked as a prosecutor for the Alameda County District Attorney’s office, as well as the Sacramento County District Attorney’s office and the California State Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General. In 2002, he was appointed to the Sacramento Superior Court, and in 2013, President Barack Obama appointed Judge Nunley to the United States District Court, Eastern District.

**HOMETOWN** San Francisco

**EDUCATION** St. Mary’s College of California, UC Hastings College of the Law (JD)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I wanted to give back to the community. I felt law would help me contribute to the common good.

**FIRST JOB** Vendor at Candlestick Park in San Francisco

**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** My mother challenged my siblings and me to dream about something bigger than yourself.

Anne Marie Schubert

Anne Marie Schubert has 28 years of law enforcement experience, including as a Sacramento County prosecutor. She formed the Cold Case Prosecution Unit in 2002 and is a recognized forensic expert. As DA, she created the Community & Government Relations Bureau to educate and engage the community. Using groundbreaking investigative genetic genealogy, she led the team that solved the infamous East Area Rapist case.

**EDUCATION** St. Mary’s College of California, University of San Francisco School of Law (JD)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** When I interned for a criminal court in San Francisco, I found my passion for seeking justice for victims.

**FIRST JOB** McDonald’s

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Find your passion and be authentic; if you have these, you will find success.

**CHARITIES** Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center, Brother to Brother, City of Refuge

**BUCKET LIST** To infinity and beyond!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position/Title</th>
<th>Hometown</th>
<th>Why I Chose This Work</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phil Serna</td>
<td>Supervisor, First District Sacramento County</td>
<td>Sacramento</td>
<td>To serve, and it’s likely where I will die. Serna bass guitar in a band called UnSupervised, performing for charitable causes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Saunders</td>
<td>Executive Director Capitol Area Development Authority</td>
<td>Alameda, Calif.</td>
<td>I am fortunate to have a passion for my positions and to be able to serve my community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gene Whitehouse</td>
<td>Chairman, United Auburn Indian Community</td>
<td>Auburn, Calif.</td>
<td>It is a profound honor that I do not take lightly. Whitehouse has championed the development of key projects that have enhanced the vibrancy and livability of the city’s urban core.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony Roberts</td>
<td>Tribal Chairman, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation</td>
<td>Brooks, Calif.</td>
<td>I am fortunate to have a passion for my positions and to be able to serve my community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ann O’Leary</td>
<td>Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor</td>
<td>Sacramento</td>
<td>For the past six years, gene whitehouse has been tribal chairman of the united auburn indian community. He currently serves as chairman of the board of directors of Thunder Valley Casino Resort, and he had a management role in the resort’s 2010 expansion. Whitehouse is secretary of the board of directors for Chap De Indian Health, which provides health care to American Indians and low-income individuals and families.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Xavier Becerra</td>
<td>Attorney General State of California</td>
<td>Sacramento</td>
<td>He is the state’s first Latino attorney general. Before being elected attorney general, he was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 12 terms. During that time, he served in several key positions: He was a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, chairman of the House Democratic Caucus and a ranking member of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Social Security. In 1987, he was appointed as a deputy attorney general in California. He graduated from Stanford Law School in 1984.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EDUCATION**

- Wendy Saunders: UC Santa Barbara, UC Davis Leadership
- Gene Whitehouse: UC Santa Barbara, Mount Holyoke, Stanford University (MA), UC Berkeley School of Law (JD)
- Ann O’Leary: UC Santa Barbara, UC Davis Leadership, Stanford University (MA), UC Berkeley School of Law (JD)
- Xavier Becerra: UC Santa Barbara, UC Davis Leadership

**HOMETOWN**

- Wendy: Alameda, Calif.
- Gene: Auburn, Calif.
- Ann: Sacramento
- Xavier: Sacramento

**FAVORITE MOVIE**

- Wendy: It’s a Wonderful Life
- Gene: The Bible
- Ann: The Bible
- Xavier: The Bible

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION**

- Wendy: San Francisco, Calif.
- Gene: Lake Tahoe, Calif.
- Ann: New York City, NY
- Xavier: San Francisco, Calif.

**FIRST JOB**

- Wendy: Touring guide for the California State Capitol
- Gene: Senior communications officer for Stockton
- Ann: Legislative director and Senate aide
- Xavier: Legislative director and Senate aide

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- Wendy: Championed the development of key projects that have enhanced the vibrancy and livability of the city’s urban core.
- Gene: Championed the development of key projects that have enhanced the vibrancy and livability of the city’s urban core.
- Ann: Key in developing Children’s Health Insurance Program and worked on K-12 programs like No Child Left Behind and expanding paid medical and family leave.
- Xavier: Announced multimillion-dollar settlements on behalf of Californians harmed by bad over-the-counter medications, wire fraud scams and compromised credit card information; he secured tens of millions of dollars in debt relief for students taken advantage of by predatory for-profit colleges.
A native of San Francisco, Betty Yee is currently serving her second term as California’s state controller. She was initially elected to the position in 2014 and was reelected in 2018. Before becoming controller, she sat on the California Board of Equalization for two terms. Yee has 35 years of public service experience. She has been a chief deputy director for the California Department of Finance, held senior staff positions for California State Legislature committees and co-founded the Asian Pacific Youth Leadership Project. Her immigrant parents had a laundry and dry cleaning business, and Yee worked there when she was growing up.

HOMETOWN San Francisco
EDUCATION UC Berkeley

Tani Cantil-Sakauye
Chief Justice
Supreme Court of California

Tani Cantil-Sakauye is California’s 28th chief justice and chair of the Judicial Council of California and the Commission on Judicial Appointments. Before becoming chief justice, she worked in the state’s trial and appellate courts for more than two decades. In 2010, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger nominated Cantil-Sakauye for the position of chief justice, and voters elected her in November of that year. She is California’s second female chief justice and its first Asian-Filipina American.

HOMETOWN Sacramento
EDUCATION Sacramento City College, UC Davis, UC Davis Law School

Gavin Newsom
Governor
State of California

Before becoming California’s 40th governor in January 2019, Gavin Newsom was the lieutenant governor of California and mayor of San Francisco. He is widely known for his stance on issues such as same-sex marriage, gun safety, marijuana, universal health care, criminal justice reform and the death penalty. Before starting his political career, Newsom opened PlumpJack, a wine store on Fillmore Street in San Francisco, in 1982. That led to the formation of the successful PlumpJack Group—a wine and hospitality management company. His career in politics began in 1996 when former Mayor Willie Brown appointed Newsom to serve on San Francisco’s parking and traffic commission.

HOMETOWN San Francisco
EDUCATION Santa Clara University

Jennifer Siebel Newsom
First Partner
State of California

Actress and filmmaker Jennifer Siebel Newsom graduated from Stanford University and Stanford’s Graduate School of Business. She produced, directed and wrote Miss Representation, an award-winning documentary, which debuted in 2011 at the Sundance Film Festival; in the film, she explored the media’s portrayal of women and girls. Her second film, The Mask You Live In, about masculine stereotypes, was released in 2015. The Great American Lie, her third film, was released in 2019 and focused on social and economic inequality. She is the founder and COO of The Representation Project, serves on the advisory boards for several organizations, and is married to California Gov. Gavin Newsom. Rather than “first lady,” she prefers to be known as “first partner.”

Kelly Hopkins
Executive Director
Sacramento Valley Conservancy

Kelly Hopkins is the executive director of Sacramento Valley Conservancy, a non-profit land trust organization formed in 1990 to preserve the beauty, character and diversity of the Sacramento Valley landscape. “I care deeply for the environment,” says Hopkins. “I want my children and grandchildren to have the same opportunities that were such a special part of my childhood: to sleep under the stars, get dirty, explore nature and experience our environment.”

FIRST JOB A small bicycle shop
BEST ADVICE RECEIVED My mom taught me to always have a sense of adventure, to celebrate life and have fun.
LESION LEARNED Failure is inevitable.
HOBBIES Running, hiking, cycling, camping, stand up paddle boarding
FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT American River or Lake Natoma
MOTIVATION My kids. I want them to have the same love for the outdoors that I have.
BUCKET LIST Overnight bike-camping trip with my family

Mona Alfi
Senior Rabbi
Congregation B’nai Israel

Rabbi Mona Alfi is the spiritual leader of Congregation B’nai Israel, where she is devoted to merging religion and social action. “The purpose of religion is not only helping us get closer to God, but in getting closer to God, we should be motivated to become more engaged in the world and in people’s lives,” says Alfi. She is the former executive director of the Hillel at Davis and Sacramento and served for four years as chaplain of the California State Assembly and for seven years as chaplain of the California State Senate. Alfi was ordained at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York in 1998.

LEADERSHIP Member of the Commission on Social Action, a joint committee that recommends policy for the Reform Movement in North America
HONORS 2017 Rabbinic Human Rights Hero Award by the organization T’ruah
### Kathryn Phillips
**Director**
*Sierra Club California*

Since 2011, San Diego native Kathryn Phillips has managed Sierra Club’s advocacy at the State Capitol and at key state agencies. Phillips previously worked as a journalist and has authored two books about environmental issues. “I think the public interest and the environment need bold voices at the table to remind policymakers and regulators that everyone deserves clean air, clean water and wild places to enjoy nature,” says Phillips.

**EDUCATION** UC Berkeley, University of Missouri, UCLA

**FIRST JOB** Wrapping Christmas packages at a department store

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** My father, a fairly conservative truck driver, told me to go for a career that allowed me to do the kind of work I love. That advice was a liberating gift.

**FAVORITE BOOK** Anything written by John McPhee

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Norway’s Lofoten Islands

**WHAT I’D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** Don’t worry so much.

**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** I’d go hiking more.

### Raymond L. Tretheway III
**Executive Director**
*Sacramento Tree Foundation*

Ray Tretheway is a founding member of Sacramento Tree Foundation, which works to grow the nation’s best urban forest. A former City Council member, he has been active in the Natomas Community Association, the Natomas Basin Conservancy and the National Alliance for Community Trees. “I chose this field of work to meet three lifelong goals: living an environmental ethic, being a servant leader and being a community builder,” says Tretheway.

**EDUCATION** UC Santa Cruz

**FIRST JOB** Operating a tractor-pulled manure spreader

**BEST POLITICAL ADVICE RECEIVED** The higher the monkey climbs up the pole, the more his ass shows.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** My wife and I have hosted a Hmong community garden for over 20 years.

**FAVORITE BOOK** The Unsettling of America by Wendell Berry

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Establish and follow your values.

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACES TO VISIT** American River Parkway, Bannon Island

### Sister Libby Fernandez
**Director**
*Mercy Pedalers, Inc.*

Sister Libby Fernandez served as the executive director of Loaves & Fishes for more than a decade before founding Mercy Pedalers, an organization of volunteers who reach out to men and women experiencing homelessness on the streets. “Through my 20-plus years of working directly with people experiencing homelessness on the streets of Sacramento, I found that being present in the moment, sharing a cup of coffee together and calling the person by name are the most important gifts one can offer,” says Fernandez.

**EDUCATION** Sacramento State University

**FIRST JOB** Round Table Pizza

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** From Catherine McAuley, founder of the Sisters of Mercy: The poor need help today, not next week.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I have my freefall wings from the U.S. Air Force.

**HOBBY** Backpacking in the wilderness

**TRAVEL AMBITION** To complete the Camino de Santiago from France to Spain in 2020

**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** National park ranger

**WHAT MOTIVATES ME** God and hope in the goodness of humankind

### Jason Jacobs
**Director/President/CEO**
*Sacramento Zoo*

Jason Jacobs has volunteered at and worked for various zoos around the country since he was a teenager. In 2018, he was tapped to lead the Sacramento Zoo. The zoo houses more than 500 animals and is accredited through the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. As CEO, Jacobs oversees 108 employees. He is also in charge of the campaign to reimagine the existing facility and its possible relocation. His career highlights include serving as director of the Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Ariz., development and marketing director for the Los Angeles Zoo, and attractions and research intern at Walt Disney’s Animal Kingdom.

**EDUCATION** Florida International University

**NOTABLE DATE** Became president in 2018

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACES TO VISIT** My backyard BBQ in summer

### Jaime Soto
**Bishop**
*Catholic Diocese of Sacramento*

Most Reverend Bishop Jaime Soto is the leader of the Catholic Diocese of Sacramento, which encompasses more than 100 parishes across Northern California. Soto, who was raised in Orange County, was ordained in 1982. He served as associate pastor at Saint Joseph Church in Santa Ana before attending graduate school, where he received a master’s in social work. Soto, who learned Spanish as an adult, has championed an increased role for Latinos in the church. He is a defender of immigrant rights and worked on immigration issues for Catholic Charities in the early part of his career.

**EDUCATION** Saint John’s Seminary College, Columbia University

**EARLY LIFE** Eldest of seven children

**ACCOMPLISHMENT** Involved in the implementation of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986

**NOTABLE DATE** Became bishop in 2008 upon the retirement of Bishop William Weigand

### Mike Testa
**President/CEO**
*Visit Sacramento*

Mike Testa is president and CEO of Visit Sacramento, a visitor and travel website focused on Sacramento. Testa and his team promote Sacramento as a destination as well as a good place to live and work. He came up with the idea for the Tower Bridge Dinner and worked on attracting the Michelin Guide to Sacramento. Testa serves on the boards of the Sacramento Metro Chamber of Commerce, Sacramento Zoo and Downtown Sacramento Partnership.

**EDUCATION** St. Mary’s College

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I’m not sure if I chose it or fell into it.

**FIRST JOB** Paperboy, The Davis Enterprise

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Always be honest.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I used to be a wedding videographer and loved it.

**FAVORITE BOOK** The Unbearable Lightness of Being by Milan Kundera

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACES TO VISIT** My backyard BBQ in summer
David Baker has provided strategic leadership to Sacramento Children’s Home since 2013. He was inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King to live a life in service to others. “I have been incredibly lucky to have the opportunity to be part of some amazing teams that have allowed me to help others and assure that every child and family has an opportunity to maximize their potential,” says Baker.

**EDUCATION** Sonoma State University, USO

**FAVORITE BOOK** *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** San Diego

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** In the words of Tony Gwynn: Play hard and have fun.

**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** General manager for San Diego Padres

**VISIT** Temple Coffee

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Allan Zaremberg became president and CEO of the California Chamber of Commerce in 1998. He was previously the chamber’s executive vice president and the head of its legislative advocacy program. Under Zaremberg’s leadership, the chamber has been involved in key legislative efforts, including stopping “shakedown” lawsuits and increasing transportation infrastructure funding. He served as a captain and flight navigator in the Air Force from 1970 to 1975 before entering McGeorge School of Law and taking up private practice. At the Department of Justice, he was a deputy attorney general, and he has served for former California governors George Deukmejian and Pete Wilson.

**EDUCATION** Penn State University, McGeorge School of Law (JD)

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Beth Hassett oversees 120 employees, more than 200 volunteers and a $10 million budget at WEAVE, which supports survivors of sexual assault, domestic violence and sex trafficking. Hassett has brought national recognition to WEAVE and raised more than $7 million to build more shelters for victims. “WEAVE’s mission is my mission—to build a community that doesn’t tolerate violence and injustice and supports survivors as they heal,” says Hassett.

**EDUCATION** University of Utah

**FIRST JOB** Dunkin’ Donuts

**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** My mom, Diana, who told me I could do and be whatever I wanted

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I’m a pretty good artist. I could have been a cartoonist for The New Yorker.

**ADVICE FOR MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** Don’t make assumptions or take anything personally.

**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** I’d have a talk show and be the female Phil Donahue.

**WHAT MOTIVATES ME** The vision of a safer, less violent, equitable future

---

Visit California’s president and CEO, Caroline Beteta, is also the director of tourism for the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz). Visit California is a nonprofit organization focused on promoting California as a top travel destination. With a $1.31 billion marketing budget, Visit California is the leading voice for California’s travel industry. Previously, Beteta was chair of the board and vice chair of operations for Brand USA and directed its $200 million global program. For the U.S. Travel Association, she facilitated the merger of the Travel Industry Association with the Travel Business Roundtable. She is on the executive committee for the World Travel and Tourism Council.

**EDUCATION** UCLA, University of Southern California (M.P.A.)

**NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS** Inducted into the U.S. Travel Association’s Hall of Leaders; named the 2009 State Tourism Director of the Year and received the Robert Mondavi Wine & Food Award in 2013

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Before joining SACOG, James Corless founded Transportation for America, an organization focused on transportation and land-use issues. He led that organization for eight years. He also held senior positions at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in the Bay Area. In 2017, SACOG’s board of directors unanimously selected Corless to lead the planning agency. SACOG board member Susan Rohan described him as “a world-class visionary and leader in the field of transportation, land use, social equity and creative place-making.” SACOG members come from local governments in six counties and the cities within those counties. Its mission includes providing transportation planning and funding.

**NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT** In 2018, Corless appeared before Congress to testify about the future of transportation and the Sacramento region’s contributions to the federal transportation bill.

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**David Baker**
CEO
Sacramento Children's Home

**Leah Miller**
President/CEO
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento

**Beth Hassett**
CEO
WEAVE

**Allan Zaremberg**
President/CEO
California Chamber of Commerce

**Caroline Beteta**
President, CEO
Visit California

**James Corless**
Executive Director
Sacramento Area Council of Governments
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Position</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michael Ziegler</td>
<td>CEO PRIDE Industries</td>
<td>Headed up PRIDE Industries, one of the country’s largest nonprofit employers of people with disabilities. During his tenure, PRIDE has grown to become the Sacramento region’s third largest manufacturing and service company, with more than 5,600 employees and more than $330 million in annual revenue. Ziegler currently serves on the boards of directors for Teichert Inc., American River Bank, Greater Sacramento Area Economic Council and more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott VandenBerg</td>
<td>General Manager Hyatt Regency Sacramento</td>
<td>Held management positions at 17 Hyatt Hotel properties, including the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport, the Grand Hyatt Atlanta and Hyatt Regency Mission Bay. Was the board chair for the California Hotel &amp; Lodging Association; he is now the board chair for Visit Sacramento and serves on the Downtown Sacramento Partnership, Sacramento Hotel Association and Sacramento Tourism Marketing District boards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gina Barbato-Knepp</td>
<td>Fundraiser Front Street Animal Shelter</td>
<td>Front Street was the worst-performing animal shelter in town when Gina Barbato-Knepp stepped in as shelter manager. Under her leadership, Front Street took the animal-save rate from 20 percent to 87 percent. In 2018, she received Sacramento’s Power of Voice Award and the Leader in Animal Welfare Award presented by the Michelson Found Animals Foundation. Recently retired, she aims to raise $1 million for the shelter in the coming year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Gerig</td>
<td>CEO Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>Has served as the chief executive officer of the Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce since 1993. Over the past 25 years, while Roseville’s population nearly tripled in size, she led the chamber through tremendous growth in membership. She was instrumental in creating Placer Valley Tourism, which is constructing a sports and events center at the former Placer County Fairgrounds. Born in Canada, Gerig started working at the Vallejo Chamber of Commerce out of high school and later served as executive director of the Benicia Chamber of Commerce.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rivkah Sass</td>
<td>Library Director/CEO Sacramento Public Library Authority</td>
<td>Spent 40 years working in public and state library agencies in Washington, Oregon, Maryland and Nebraska, as well as in the private sector. She returned to California in 2009 to serve as the library director and CEO of the Sacramento Public Library Authority. California’s fourth largest public library system. She was named Librarian of the Year by the Library Journal in 2006.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amanda Blackwood</td>
<td>President/CEO Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>First woman to lead the chamber as a full-time CEO in its 124-year history. She is responsible for developing strategic direction and overall vision and overseeing cultural and business operations. Sits on a number of regional boards, including Sacramento Works, Visit Sacramento, Downtown Sacramento Partnership and PRO Youth &amp; Families.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BUCKET LIST

- **Michael Ziegler**
  - Learn to fly a small plane
- **Scott VandenBerg**
  - Get into a hot air balloon
- **Gina Barbato-Knepp**
  - Go bungee jumping
- **Wendy Gerig**
  - Learn to fly a kite
- **Rivkah Sass**
  - Learn to dance
- **Amanda Blackwood**
  - Learn to ski

### EDUCATION

- **Michael Ziegler**
  - San Francisco State University
- **Scott VandenBerg**
  - Michigan State University
- **Gina Barbato-Knepp**
  - California State University
- **Wendy Gerig**
  - San Jose State University
- **Rivkah Sass**
  - Sonoma State University
- **Amanda Blackwood**
  - University of Washington

### FIRST JOB

- **Michael Ziegler**
  - Working in a bakery
- **Scott VandenBerg**
  - Telephone operator
- **Gina Barbato-Knepp**
  - Undercover security (best job ever)
- **Wendy Gerig**
  - Telephone operator
- **Rivkah Sass**
  - Library director
- **Amanda Blackwood**
  - Executive assistant

### HOMETOWN

- **Michael Ziegler**
  - Sacramento
- **Scott VandenBerg**
  - Sacramento
- **Gina Barbato-Knepp**
  - Sacramento
- **Wendy Gerig**
  - Ottawa, Kan.
- **Rivkah Sass**
  - Sacramento
- **Amanda Blackwood**
  - Sacramento

### HOBBY

- **Michael Ziegler**
  - Reading
- **Scott VandenBerg**
  - Reading
- **Gina Barbato-Knepp**
  - Reading
- **Wendy Gerig**
  - Reading
- **Rivkah Sass**
  - Reading
- **Amanda Blackwood**
  - Reading

### FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION

- **Michael Ziegler**
  - Tahoe
- **Scott VandenBerg**
  - Tahoe
- **Gina Barbato-Knepp**
  - Tahoe
- **Wendy Gerig**
  - Tahoe
- **Rivkah Sass**
  - Tahoe
- **Amanda Blackwood**
  - Tahoe

### BEST ADVICE RECEIVED

- **Michael Ziegler**
  - Work hard and save for the future.
- **Scott VandenBerg**
  - Never judge a book by its cover; you never know who you have standing in front of you.
- **Gina Barbato-Knepp**
  - Never judge a book by its cover.
- **Wendy Gerig**
  - Never judge a book by its cover.
- **Rivkah Sass**
  - Never judge a book by its cover.
- **Amanda Blackwood**
  - Never judge a book by its cover.

### FAIR GROUND

- **Michael Ziegler**
  - Sacramento
- **Scott VandenBerg**
  - Sacramento
- **Gina Barbato-Knepp**
  - Sacramento
- **Wendy Gerig**
  - Sacramento
- **Rivkah Sass**
  - Sacramento
- **Amanda Blackwood**
  - Sacramento

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58 SACRAMENTO300
Since 2016, David Heitstuman has been the executive director of Sacramento LGBT Community Center, Sacramento’s oldest and largest LGBTQ organization. Before joining the center, he spent 12 years in the California Assembly. He started his political career as a communications aide to Gov. Gray Davis and later became chief consultant to Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon. He grew up in Washington’s Yakima Valley and moved to Sacramento in 2001.

EDUCATION Gonzaga University, Sacramento State University (MA)

WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK Working at the center gives me the opportunity to relieve the despair of the person standing in front of me and fight to change the systems that have caused oppression.

FIRST JOB Sales clerk at JCPenney

BEST ADVICE RECEIVED Live your truth for yourself, not for others.

LESSON LEARNED It’s just social media; let it go.

WHAT I’D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF Being gay won’t be the death of you.

David Heitstuman
Executive Director
Sacramento LGBT Community Center

For 14 years, Arlen Orchard served as SMUD’s general counsel before becoming CEO and general manager in 2014. With a $17 billion budget, SMUD is the sixth largest community-owned electric utility in the United States, supplying power to 1.5 million residents primarily in Sacramento County and parts of Placer County. Orchard serves on numerous boards, including the American Public Power Association and the Northwest Public Power Association.

EDUCATION University of Nevada Reno, UC Davis School of Law (JD), UC Davis Graduate School of Management

WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK I fell into it with a legal job at SMUD. I discovered the work was interesting and varied and SMUD’s values around the community and environment mirrored my own.

FIRST JOB Pounding nails in the road for a street survey crew one summer when I was 14

BEST ADVICE RECEIVED Best advice from my mom was “when things are hard, you square your shoulders and carry on.”

FAVORITE BOOK To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Arlen Orchard
Chief Executive Officer/General Manager
Sacramento Municipal Utility District

In 2018, Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. appointed Karla Nemeth director of the Department of Water Resources, where she oversees 3,200 people and a $3.6 billion budget. She has worked at the California Natural Resources Agency as the deputy secretary and senior adviser for water policy, and as the environmental and public affairs director for the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. In the 1990s, she lived and worked in Eastern Europe, supporting the development of new democracies.

HOMETOWN San Diego

EDUCATION Eleanor Roosevelt College at UC San Diego, University of Washington (MPA)

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS With my team, we helped to pass the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act and implemented the California Water Action Plan.

FIRST JOB Newspaper delivery girl

FAVORITE TV SHOW M*A*S*H

FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACES TO VISIT The bar at Biba and The Shack

Karla A. Nemeth
Director
California Department of Water Resources

In 1997, Michael Ault joined Downtown Sacramento Partnership, representing about 200 downtown property owners, more than 5,000 businesses and 100,000 employees. DSP has received $3.2 billion in private and public investment for projects like Golden 1 Center, Downtown Sacramento Executive Director and Board as its deputy executive officer, and he worked for the California Air Resources Board as its deputy executive officer, and for Telesyne Ryan Aeronautical as a design engineer. He has an extensive publication record, including leading investigations in clean engines and fuels, diesel emission control technologies, and particle measurements, and he lectures in the United States and abroad.

EDUCATION UC Davis (BS, MS, PhD)

WHAT I’D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF Fifty-one may sound old, but you’ll still be able to shotgun a beer.

FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT Downtown. Is this a trick question?

WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB Own a bar

WHAT MOTIVATES ME Cost to send two kids to college

Michael Ault
Executive Director
Downtown Sacramento Partnership

Alberto Ayala has 25 years of environmental experience in industry, government and academic settings. As executive director of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, he is responsible for management and implementation of the agency’s clean-air and low-carbon policies and programs. Prior to joining the district, he worked for the California Air Resources Board as its deputy executive officer, and for Telesyne Ryan Aeronautical as a design engineer. He has an extensive publication record, including leading investigations in clean engines and fuels, diesel emission control technologies, and particle measurements, and he lectures in the United States and abroad.

EDUCATION UC Davis (BS, MS, PhD)

WHAT I’D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF

WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB

WHAT MOTIVATES ME

Cindy Nichol
Director of Airports
County of Sacramento

Cindy Nichol oversees Sacramento International Airport, Mather Airport, Executive Airport and Franklin Field. She has worked as the chief financial officer for the Port of Portland, finance director at San Francisco International Airport and consultant with Leigh Fisher Associates. Nichol wrote the first airport report ever published by the National Academy of Sciences on innovative finance and alternative sources of revenue for airports.

HOMETOWNS Dembi Dollo and Mettu, Oromia, Ethiopia

EDUCATION Carleton College, University of London (MA), John F. Kennedy School of Government (MPP)

WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK I got hooked on aviation as a kid growing up in western Ethiopia, where my dad was a doctor. During the rainy season when roads were impassable, the only way to get from Addis Ababa to where we lived was by flying. I loved the feeling of weightlessness and the wonder of seeing all the homes and fields from the air.

FAVORITE BOOK The Wind Is Not a River by Brian Payton

Alberto Ayala
Executive Director
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

GOVERNMENT + CIVIC LEADERS
At SacRT, Henry Li is responsible for more than 70 bus routes, 43 miles of light rail, paratransit services, 3,100 bus stops and 52 light rail stations. In his first year at the agency, he saved SacRT $20 million. Before joining SacRT, he was the vice president of finance and technology and CFO at the Jacksonville Transportation Authority. He’s held management positions in various transit agencies, including the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency and the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority.

**HOMETOWN** Wuhan, Hubei, China  
**EDUCATION** Central China Normal University, Georgia Southern University (MBA)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I have always been fascinated with mobility. Transit and transportation are the backbone of every community.

**FIRST JOB** College instructor in psychology

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** When I was in college, I recited poetry to share the beauty and power of words.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** The mountains

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Philanthropist Joyce Raley Teel began working in her father’s grocery stores in 1985. She inherited the West Sacramento-based company he founded, which currently includes 78 Raley’s supermarkets as well as several other well-known grocery stores in northern California and Nevada, where her father died in 1991. Teel co-founded Raley’s Food for Families, a nonprofit organization that provides meals to families in need. Partnering with Feeding America, the organization has raised $36 million and provided 40 million meals to date. Teel is a generous contributor to civic-minded groups and arts organizations, including the Crocker Art Museum, and she serves on numerous boards.

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Art lover and philanthropist Marcy Friedman is an accomplished artist who has studied with well-known local painter Wayne Thiebaud. For 40 years, Friedman and her husband, Mort, a lawyer and businessman (he redeveloped Arden Fair mall) who passed away in 2012, have donated to numerous nonprofit organizations, including the Crocker Art Museum, California Museum, United Way and Leland Stanford Mansion Foundation. They contributed $10 million in support of the Crocker’s capital campaign expansion project, and Friedman served as co-chair for the fundraising efforts. For 12 years, she was director of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation.

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As the first president and CEO of the Greater Sacramento Economic Council, Barry Broome leads efforts to attract, grow and scale new businesses, develop advanced industries and guide new job-creation strategies throughout a six-county region. He established the first public/private partnership economic development organization led by CEOs in California. Before coming to Sacramento, he was president and CEO of the Greater Phoenix Economic Council, overseeing the delivery of more than 50,000 jobs and 250 company locales in the region.

**HOMETOWN** Cleveland, Ohio  
**EDUCATION** John Carroll University

**FIRST JOB** In fourth grade, I was a spot loader for trucks at A&P bakery.

**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** My wife, Beth

**FAVORITE BOOKS** The Road Less Traveled by M. Scott Peck and My Losing Season by Pat Conroy

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** You don’t have as much time as you think.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Larry D. Kelley</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sotiris Kolokotronis</strong></th>
<th><strong>William R. Parker</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Managing Member LDK Ventures</td>
<td>President SKK Developments</td>
<td>President Parker Development Company</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

An army brat, Larry Kelley grew up in Texas, Morocco, and the United Kingdom. “I worked briefly as an engineer before deciding to be more of a generalist and own my own business,” says Kelley. “I wasn’t smart enough to see the opportunities in tech or Wall Street, so I chose a more traditional career in real estate.” The company’s latest project, The Railyards, “will make as big or a bigger contribution to the growth of the region as McClellan or Stanford Ranch.”

**EDUCATION** Texas A&M University, Harvard Business School (MBA)
**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** Eli Broad
**FAVORITE BOOK** Atlas Shrugged by Ayn Rand

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Set very high goals and try to exceed them.
**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Golden 1 Center
**WHAT MOTIVATES ME** Seeing those who work with me excel
**BUCKET LIST** More time with my granddaughters

Chrysa Tsakopoulos Demos was named president and CEO of AKT Investments in 2018, having served for a decade as vice president of the firm, overseeing financial analysis for major projects, acquiring requisite permits and entitlements, managing contracts and guiding the company’s strategic planning process. She guides much of the family business’ philanthropic activity, including the naming gift for the Sofia Tsakopoulos Center for the Arts, a performing arts venue in Sacramento.

**EDUCATION** George-town University, Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania (MBA)
**FIRST JOB** Answering phones and filing maps at AKT Developments
**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** My grandmother, whose name I share. She raised three daughters as a single mother in the 1960s in San Francisco. She overcame challenges and faced life with grit, integrity and aplomb.
**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I play the harp.
**MOTIVATION** My family

Since 1987, Sotiris Kolokotronis has led the development of urban infill, mixed-use, mixed-income residential, ground-up commercial and land development projects that serve as models for smart growth. He helped pioneer the renaissance of midtown Sacramento through projects like L Street Lofts, 1801 L Building, The Fremont Building, Capitol Park Homes, Q19 Apartments and 2OPQR Townhomes.

**EDUCATION** University of Athens, UC Berkeley (MBA)
**FIRST JOB** Part-time taxi driver in Athens
**HOBBIES** Bike riding and watching soccer with my sons

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Greece
**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** American River Parkway
**CHARITIES** Salvation Army, Sacramento Tree Foundation, B Street Theatre

Mark Friedman has overseen the development of many of Sacramento’s high-profile real estate projects, including The Barn, Golden 1 Center, Park Moderns, Arden Fair mall and Sutter Brownstones. Fulcrum’s projects have been published in Architectural Record, Harvard Design Magazine and World Architecture. A part owner of the Kings, he was instrumental in the city’s efforts to build Golden 1 Center.

**EDUCATION** Harvard College, Stanford Law School, Stanford Graduate School of Business
**FIRST JOB** Dishwasher
**HOBBIES** Reading, exercise, travel

**FAVORITE FILM** American Beauty
**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Patience is hard; that’s why it’s a virtue.

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** The Barn in West Sacramento
**BUCKET LIST** Building waterfront condos in the Bridge District

In 1976, William Parker was named president of his family’s business, Parker Development Company, the developer behind Sacramento’s Greenhaven community. He continued to develop other master-planned communities, including Riverlake in Sacramento, The Parkway in Folsom and Serrano in El Dorado Hills. Serrano won the 1997 National Association of Home Builders’ National Community of the Year Award. Parker is involved in every aspect of the company’s operations, especially long-range planning, acquisitions, project development and project construction.

**EDUCATION** UC Davis
**FIRST JOB** Landscaping
**HOBBY** Boating

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATIONS** Hawaii and Italy
**CHARITY** Boys & Girls Clubs

**MOTIVATION** Creating communities
**BUCKET LIST** Our next community, Marble Valley

Kansas native Larry Allbaugh joined Buzz Oakes in 1990. He went into commercial real estate for the opportunity “to learn and lead in business.” The company “opened up almost every facet of business I could plug into: finance, marketing, production, family business dynamics, and community and charitable engagement,” says Allbaugh. “I’ve really enjoyed the challenge of trying to connect all of these dots into a central vision of future growth.”

**FIRST JOBS** Mowing lawns and washing dishes
**HIDDEN TALENT** I’m an awesome grandfather—I’m just waiting for the opportunity to prove it.

**HOBBY** Almost any sport

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Maui

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Make the effort to find out what you love, then pursue it with humility and excellence.

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** The American River Parkway
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Company</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tim Schaedler</td>
<td>Partner, Panattoni Development Company, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Pappas</td>
<td>Co-owner, Pappas Investments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian C. Vail</td>
<td>President, River West Investments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Lemmon</td>
<td>Executive Vice President, Newmark Knight Frank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James J. Cordano III</td>
<td>President/CEO, Cordano Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethan Conrad</td>
<td>CEO, Ethan Conrad Properties, Inc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tim Schaedler's exposure to commercial construction in high school led him to pursue a career in the industry. Today, he is responsible for Panattoni Development Company's office and industrial development activities for the Bay Area, Sacramento and Central Valley. He oversees underwriting investments, managing the acquisition team, due diligence, arranging equity, development entitlements, architectural design, construction budgets, lease negotiations and dispositions.

**EDUCATION** University of Oregon  
**FIRST JOB** Construction laborer for a home-builder  
**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** You get what you inspect, not what you expect  
**HOBBIES** Hunting and fishing  
**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Underpromise and overperform.  
**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** Park ranger

John Pappas, who was born and raised in Sacramento, is co-owner of the business founded by his father, Louis Pappas. Pappas Investments is a developer of urban and suburban projects that include corporate centers, medical offices, office buildings and shopping centers. The Laguna Gateway retail center is one of the company’s highest-profile projects and is one of the reasons Pappas Investments was named the Elk Grove Business of the Year in 2012. Pappas Investments was also instrumental in the Department of Corrections moving from Sacramento to Elk Grove.

**EDUCATION** Santa Clara University  
**BOARD AFFILIATIONS** Butter Medical Center, Friends of Cosumnes River College, Midtown Business Association

Brian Vail is owner and president of the real estate management and investment firm River West Investments, which has land holdings in California, Nevada and Hawaii. He acquired the company in 1999. Under Vail's leadership, the company has managed more than $1 billion in public infrastructure projects. The company is considered a leader in environmentally sustainable master planned communities, having planted more than 40,000 trees. Vail was one of the partners in a real estate development group that donated land valued at more than $8 million to UC Davis Health System to expand medical services in Placer County.

**EDUCATION** Cal Poly  
**HOLLYWOOD MOMENT** Was executive producer of the 2008 film Touching Home, starring Ed Harris

Fourth-generation Sacramentan Chris Lemmon fell in love with commercial real estate while working at CBRE in college. Lemmon is an office property specialist focused on the leasing and sale of office space predominantly in Placer County. He also works with tenants in the charter school sector and the region’s growing technology sector.

**EDUCATION** San Diego State University  
**FIRST JOB** Busboy  
**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** From my father: Sacramento is a small town and your reputation matters.  
**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Helping clients survive and thrive after 2008 was something I’ll never forget.  
**HIDDEN TALENT** I am a crack shot with a Nerf gun.  
**HOBBY** Anything related to cars  
**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Canon restaurant

James J. Cordano is president and CEO of Cordano Company, a family-owned firm that is considered a trailblazer in retail development and chain store leasing. In the 1950s, the company built one of the first suburban regional shopping centers in the state. Over the years, Cordano has been involved in nearly every aspect of the business, including asset management, finance, leasing and strategy. Cordano worked as an attorney at Hefner Stark & Marois prior to joining the family business. He is a past board member of Downtown Sacramento Partnership and Florin Road Partnership.

**EDUCATION** University of Southern California, McGeorge School of Law  
**HONORS** While in law school, received three American Jurisprudence Awards and the McGeorge Academic Achievement Scholarship

Ethan Conrad’s real estate career began in 1989, when he became an industrial real estate broker. He founded his company, Ethan Conrad Properties, six years later. By 2007, ECP owned more than 35 commercial properties. Currently, Conrad owns and manages more than 100 commercial properties and 200 commercial buildings totaling 7,500,000 square feet and with more than 1,400 tenants. As CEO, Conrad oversees 130 employees. His specialty is buying lower-cost properties with high vacancy rates; some properties have been resold, primarily to owner-users. In 2018, the Business Journal named Conrad one of the top 100 people in commercial real estate.

**HOMETOWN** Healdsburg, Calif.  
**EDUCATION** Sacramento State University  
**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Commercial real estate is multifaceted and always changing.  
**FIRST JOB** Car sales  
**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Work hard, work smart!  
**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Puerto Vallarta  
**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** My house on the Sacramento River
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Position</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Russell A. Fox</td>
<td>President, Kitchell CEM, Inc.</td>
<td>Russell A. Fox began his career as an entry-level project engineer in 1986, holding every growth position at Kitchell CEM before being named president. He has since increased the size of the company by two-and-a-half times and expanded its service line to all phases of the construction industry. Fox enjoys “assembling things both physically and mentally. Being somewhat of an obsessive personality, it is an extreme focus for me.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Whitehead</td>
<td>President, Vanir Construction Management</td>
<td>Steve Whitehead has more than four decades of professional experience in the design and construction sectors. He was appointed project director at Vanir in 2009 and was later promoted to area manager and regional manager for Northern California. He became chief operating officer of the company in 2015. In that position, he led operations across the company and managed the departments responsible for supporting project teams. In his current role, which he assumed in 2019, Whitehead sets policies and provides strategic direction for the company in nine geographic regions across the United States.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ted Foor</td>
<td>President, California Operations, Clark/Sullivan Construction Inc.</td>
<td>Ventura, Calif., native Ted Foor has been employed by Clark/Sullivan Construction since 2006, beginning as a project manager before being promoted to area manager in 2012 and finally to president of California operations in 2017. Clark/Sullivan, which is headquartered in Sparks, Nev., was founded in 1975 by Dave Clark and B.J. Sullivan, growing from a small contracting firm to a major builder of schools, municipal buildings, prisons, universities and medical facilities. Clark/Sullivan has been named a Top 25 General Contractor by the Sacramento Business Journal and a Top 100 General Contractor by California Construction Magazine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denton Kelley</td>
<td>Managing Principal, LDK Ventures, LLC</td>
<td>As managing principal at LDK Ventures, Denton Kelley identifies and executes new real estate investment opportunities for the company, which he operates in partnership with his father, Larry Kelley. He previously worked in New York City at Bessen Capital as an equity research analyst. Kelley also spent three years in the investment banking division of wealth management firm Robertson Stephens. Prior to that, Kelley worked at Dallas-based Prentiss Properties as an acquisition and development analyst. In that position, he shared responsibility for the company’s 2 million-square-foot office/industrial portfolio. LDK Ventures is the developer behind The Railyards, a 244-acre urban infill project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Murchison</td>
<td>Vice President, AECOM</td>
<td>Tim Murchison has enjoyed a 40-year career in construction management and design. He is responsible for building more than $6 billion in public and private projects across the United States. Clients rely on his expertise in understanding every detail of the project development process. As vice president at AECOM, a provider of architecture, design, engineering and construction services for companies worldwide, Murchison oversees leadership and job growth in the company’s Pacific region. Before joining AECOM in 2006, he worked for 11 years at URS Corporation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ron Thomas</td>
<td>Managing Director, Cushman &amp; Wakefield</td>
<td>Ron Thomas has been involved in commercial real estate, specializing in office leasing and investment sales, since 1994. He has participated in more than 1,500 transactions involving more than 13,000 square feet and more than $4 billion in total consideration. In eight years at the helm of Cushman &amp; Wakefield, he grew the firm from four employees to more than 85.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**EDUCATION**
- Chico State University
- UC Berkeley
- University of Colorado at Boulder
- University of Dayton School of Law
- Sacramento State University
- McGeorge School of Law

**PROFESSIONAL LICENSES**
- Professional Engineer
- Certified Construction Manager
- LEED AP

**Hobby**
- Cycling, swimming, running
- Traveling with my family, watching my kids play sports, golf and skiing

**Charity**
- The Dominguez Dream, a nonprofit named for Vanir founder H. Frank Dominguez

**Best Advice Received**
- Do the right thing and the rest will all work out.

**Favorite Sacramento Place to Visit**
- Crocker Art Museum

**Favorite SACRAMENTO Place To VISIT**
- The Dominguez Dream, a nonprofit named for Vanir founder H. Frank Dominguez

**WHAT MOTIVATES ME**
- Family, my wife, and my kids.
Piedmont, Calif., native David Brennan oversees all aspects of CBRE’s business throughout the Central Valley and northern Nevada markets in addition to leading the Northwest Industrial Network, which includes Seattle, Portland and Hawaii. He oversees all lines of the company’s business in the region, including brokerage services, valuation and advisory services, asset services, project management, and debt and equity finance.

EDUCATION Sacramento State University
HOBBY Sports
WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK Because it is competitive and commission based.
FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION Hawaii

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Shortly after Randy Dixon joined Colliers in 2010, more than half the brokers left for other firms. “It was devastating, but it allowed me to focus on building the office with the people I felt were right.” Since then, Dixon has ushered a pipeline of new brokers into the industry and developed a training program “that puts them in position to develop so the senior brokers can leverage their skills and contribute to mentoring them.”

EDUCATION Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University
FIRST JOB Cow pusher on a 1,300-cow dairy
BEST ADVICE RECEIVED Be sure to enjoy whatever you do in life. Life is too short to be doing something you do not have passion for.
HOBBIES Golf, wine, travel and cooking
FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION Any-place new I haven’t been before
WHAT MOTIVATES ME Happy people and contributing to making others’ lives better

---

Geoffrey Brown began his tenure with USA Properties Fund in 1989 and was named president and CEO of the company eight years later. The company develops, owns and manages affordable residential communities for families and seniors in California and Nevada. Nearly all of its projects are public-private partnerships. Over the past two decades, Brown has overseen major growth in the number of communities and units developed by the company. He was previously employed by Lloyds Bank, where he worked as a commercial real estate construction loan officer, and Sanwa Bank, where he oversaw lending for residential and commercial construction.

EDUCATION Willamette University, University of Wisconsin
BOARD AFFILIATION California Council for Affordable Housing and California Housing Consortium

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Ohio native Pat Shea is a 30-year veteran of the real estate industry. As president and chief operating officer of Lyon Real Estate, he has maintained the company’s ranking as the No. 1 independent residential real estate brokerage firm in the Sacramento region. Shea pioneered the company’s use of online platforms to improve the way agents receive and update leads and communicate with clients. Since 2015, he has been named to the Swanepoel Power 200, a ranking of leaders and executives in the residential real estate brokerage industry. He is a member of the board of Leading Real Estate Companies of the World.

EDUCATION John Carroll University
PREVIOUS CAREERS Firefighter, pharmaceutical sales
CHARITY In 2016, launched Lyon Cares Foundation, benefiting more than three dozen local nonprofits

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Tim Collom is a Realtor whose real estate team sold 150 homes worth $100 million in 2018. He is also a painter and gallery owner and has used his platform in the arts community to raise money for numerous charitable causes. In 2018, Collom donated $150,000 from sales of his California print to victims and firefighters from the Paradise fire. He also donates his art to raise charitable causes. In 2018, Collom donated $150,000 from sales of his California print to victims and firefighters from the Paradise fire. He also donates his art to raise

EDUCATION Sacramento State University, University of Wisconsin
FIRST JOB Serving frozen yogurt at Yogurt Delight
TOUGHEST CHALLENGE Quitting drinking. I am 11 years sober.
FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION Lake Tahoe, hands down
WHAT I’D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF Stop drinking, don’t worry what others think, listen to your heart, give back as much as possible.
FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT The tree-lined streets anywhere in Sacramento

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Michael Paris is the president and CFO of BlackPine Communities, a developer of residential and commercial construction. The company develops, owns and manages affordable residential communities across the Sacramento region, including Crocker Village, The Creamery at Alkali Flat, and Farmhouse at Willow Creek. Paris has been in the homebuilding business for three decades, working on both custom and production operations. As president of BlackPine, he oversees the company’s strategic planning and business development. Paris was previously employed by Kimball Hill Homes, a Chicago-based national homebuilder. Before founding BlackPine in 2010, he was CFO for a commercial real estate company and for a startup drilling contractor.

EDUCATION OSU Chico
BOARD AFFILIATION North State Building Industry Association

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Michael Paris is the president and CFO of BlackPine Communities, a developer of residential and commercial construction. The company develops, owns and manages affordable residential communities across the Sacramento region, including Crocker Village, The Creamery at Alkali Flat, and Farmhouse at Willow Creek. Paris has been in the homebuilding business for three decades, working on both custom and production operations. As president of BlackPine, he oversees the company’s strategic planning and business development. Paris was previously employed by Kimball Hill Homes, a Chicago-based national homebuilder. Before founding BlackPine in 2010, he was CFO for a commercial real estate company and for a startup drilling contractor.

EDUCATION OSU Chico
BOARD AFFILIATION North State Building Industry Association
Rachel Bardis is a Sacramento native who grew up in a family of developers. Her responsibilities at Bardis Homes include business management, growth, recruitment and financial planning. “It has been a great accomplishment to be able to come into an industry that is known to be run a certain way and successfully think and work outside the box,” says Bardis. She is a board member of the North State Building Association and received the 40 Under 40 award from Professional Builder Magazine in 2014.

**EDUCATION** Saint Mary’s College
**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Never give up.
**HOBBY** I love to ski with my husband.
**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Anywhere that I can be relaxing on a beach.
**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** I am a concert lover, so anytime I am visiting Golden 1 Center is a good night for me.
**WHAT MOTIVATES ME** The idea that I get to help create a better city for my children.

**Kevin Carson**
Northern California President
The New Home Company

Anchorage, Alaska, native Kevin Carson had ambitions to be a professional cartoonist until he realized the local newspaper paid just 25 cents per cartoon. “So I began to enroll in urban planning courses with the thought that I could design beautiful cities,” he says. During his 30-year career, Carson has been involved with the planning, development and building of more than 15,000 homes in Northern California. He counts the development of McKinley Village in East Sacramento among his most notable accomplishments.

**EDUCATION** Chico State University, Miami University
**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Anywhere with my wife
**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** Larry Webb, CEO of The New Home Company for 20 years
**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** McKinley Village. I love to walk the streets of the neighborhoods I have been involved in creating.
**WHAT MOTIVATES ME** My real passion is people. Homebuilding is the ultimate team business. I love to grow and mentor team members to be better than myself.

**Randy Sater**
President
StoneBridge Properties, LLC

Randy Sater has more than 30 years of experience in real estate, land use planning and strategic community engagement. At StoneBridge Properties, he designed and facilitated a community-based team to develop Cache Creek Nature Preserve. He also facilitated the design and development of Sutter Park, a mixed-use project where Sutter Memorial Hospital once stood. Sater serves on the boards of Valley Vision, the Power Inn Alliance and Sacramento State’s University Enterprises.

**EDUCATION** Sacramento State University
**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Living authentically.
**FAVORITE BOOK** *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson
**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** London or Puerto Vallarta
**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Do the things that make you happy.
**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Crocker Art Museum
**WHAT MOTIVATES ME** Seeing individuals reach their full potential.

**Aren Bazzocco**
Division President
Taylor Morrison

Sacramento native Aren Bazzocco is a member of Taylor Morrison’s operating team, where he focuses on recruiting and retaining talent and overseeing all facets of the business for 13 new-home communities in the Sacramento region. “It is extremely rewarding watching a community start from scratch through the hard work of our team and end up a lively, vibrant neighborhood,” says Bazzocco, who grew the business from 170 home closings in 2014 to 460 in 2018.

**EDUCATION** Sacramento State University
**FIRST JOB** Cashier at Sizzler
**HIDDEN TALENT** I can solve a Rubik’s Cube in three minutes.
**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** All moments in life, just be yourself.
**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Golden 1 Center/DOGO
**BUCKET LIST** The Kentucky Derby.
Local Legends

Angelo Tsakopoulos
Greek immigrant and former farmhand Angelo Tsakopoulos is the founder of AKT Development, which has developed more than 60,000 homes over the past 50 years and is the largest land development company in Northern California. The company’s portfolio includes land development, commercial holdings, and farming and ranching operations. Tsakopoulos, who is known for his civic and philanthropic endeavors, is a supporter of the Crocker Art Museum, the UC Davis MIND Institute, and B Street Theatre, whose newly constructed performing arts complex, The Sofia, is named after his wife of more than three decades. Tsakopoulos is a graduate of Sacramento State University.

Michael J. Heller
Developer Michael Heller grew up in the construction industry, the son of a contractor who introduced him to the building trades as a young boy. He studied engineering and business at USC and began his career developing and building office buildings with his father throughout Sacramento. In 1997, he founded Heller Pacific, which specializes in office, retail and mixed-use developments. The company’s most notable projects include the Ice Blocks complex, the Sutter Brownstones, the MARRS Building and the Elliott Building. Heller supports Big Brothers Big Sisters, Shriner’s Hospital, the Crocker Art Museum and B Street Theatre.

Phil Angelides
Sacramento native Phil Angelides has enjoyed a long career marked by high-profile achievements in both the public and private sectors. He was appointed chair of the federal commission charged with investigating the origins of the 2008 financial crisis. Angelides served as California state treasurer from 1999 to 2007, during which time he promoted smart growth and clean energy initiatives, and was the 2006 Democratic nominee for governor of California. The real estate investment business he founded in 1986 was responsible for the development of the Laguna West community. A graduate of Harvard University, he is now president of Riverview Capital Investments.

Ron Vrilakas
Sacramento native Ron Vrilakas is the creative force behind some of Sacramento’s most significant mixed-use and adaptive-reuse structures and developments, including the Elliott Building, the Ice Blocks, Broadway Triangle and B Street Theatre. His work, which is influenced by his experiences studying and working in Copenhagen, Boston and San Francisco, has helped usher in a renewed vibrancy to neighborhoods throughout the central city. His designs display a respect for historic architecture and celebrate urban life through their embrace of mixed uses, pedestrian interaction, active public spaces and human-centered experiences. Vrilakas founded Vrilakas Groen Architects in 1995.

Paul Petrovich
Paul Petrovich is the founder of Petrovich Development Company, which has developed more than 4 million square feet of commercial real estate in Northern California. The company’s high-profile projects in Sacramento include Crocker Village, Whiskey Hill Lofts and R Street Market. Petrovich, who started his career as a commercial real estate broker in 1981, has fostered long-term development partnerships with Rite Aid and Safeway and brought nationally recognized tenants to his properties. The company is known for the strategic locations of its retail centers, including Curtis Park Village, which underwent a $36 million toxic waste cleanup prior to construction.
Thank you
FOR VOTING US TOP MED SPA FOR TWO YEARS IN A ROW

Congratulations to Jeff Randle - one of Sacramento's top business leaders!

Thanks to your leadership and commitment to team culture, Randle is Sacramento's top PR firm and a Best Place to Work
Professionals

Accounting
Advertising, Marketing + Public Relations
Architecture + Design
Engineering
Fashion + Style
Law
Lobbyists
Media
Social Media
In 1996, Debra Augustine-Nelson founded the Augustine Agency, one of the top ad agencies in Northern California, with headquarters in Roseville and offices in Dallas and Reno. Major accounts have included Avocados From Mexico, Mission Tortillas, North Lake Tahoe and Downtown Napa. She has provided branding for the Sacramento Republic FC and marketed more than 200,000 homes for Northern California and Nevada builders.

**EDUCATION** Sacramento State University

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I’ve always had a creative mind and a flair for writing. I also have a passion for people, so working with a team and interacting with clients was a natural fit for me.

**FIRST JOB** Teaching baton twirling

**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** My mom. She always told me to stop and smell the roses.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I can twirl fire.

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** The Fabulous 4Os at Christmas

**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** Write children’s books

---

Lance Loveday is the CEO and founder of Closed Loop, a boutique digital advertising agency with headquarters in Roseville. Clients include AWS, Intercom, Tableau Software, Service Now and New Relic. Digital advertising, search engine marketing, paid social media, digital strategy, public speaking and thought leadership are Loveday’s specialties. He co-wrote the book Web Design for ROI (2007).

**EDUCATION** UC Davis, University of San Diego Law School (dropout)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** There’s a left-brain, right-brain, creative and analytical aspect to the work that fits my personality.

**FIRST JOB** Burger King

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** “The best way to have a good idea is to have lots of ideas.”—Linus Pauling

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Laying off my friends during the recession

**FAVORITE BOOK** The Name of the Wind by Patrick Rothfuss

**BUCKET LIST** Ride in the Tour of California as an amateur before I turn 50.

---

In 2004, Anne Staines founded ad agency Sagent in response to a dare: What would you do if you knew you could not fail? Her answer: Open an agency focused on creating positive social change. Staines and her team develop branding, marketing and public outreach campaigns, working with public agencies, nonprofits and “companies with a conscience” to improve health, safety, environment and quality of life.

**HOMETOWN** Buena Park, Calif.

**NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT** Working with OAL FIRE, Staines helped create an app to assist people to protect their homes and prepare to evacuate.

**FIRST JOB** Packer for a moving and storage company

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** My grandmother told me in my teens, “The harder you work, the luckier you get.”

**HOBBIES** Skiing, paddle boarding, kayaking, cycling, hiking, painting

**FAVORITE MOVIE** Being There

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Tandem paragliding over Interlaken in Switzerland

---

Amber Williams is the president and one of three partners at ad agency un/common, where she heads up branding and strategy consulting. Clients include Jiffy Lube and Grey Wolf pet food. Williams restarted the grass-roots campaign that eventually led to the Kings remaining in Sacramento. She is a writer and public speaker for various industries, including food and beverage, travel and transportation, and public health and safety.

**EDUCATION** UC Davis

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Once I found advertising, nothing else measured up.

**FIRST JOB** Summer-camp dance instructor

**FAVORITE MOVIE** The Royal Tenenbaums

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Puerto Vallarta

**WHAT I’D TELL MY 18-YEAR SELF** Your 20s will suck because you’ll be poor.

**BUCKET LIST** Write a screenplay with my husband about the time when he had a brain tumor.

---

As head of Edelman’s Sacramento office, Kierstan DeLong leads a team of professionals who support local and national clients, including SMUD, Sacramento County, the Department of Water Resources, Kaiser Permanente and Postmates. She has been involved in award-winning health and safety initiatives, including California’s “Click It or Ticket” seatbelt safety campaign, which is credited with saving thousands of lives. She serves on the Sacramento Metro Chamber board of directors and is the Cap-to-Cap first vice chair and Leadership Sacramento Communications Day chair.

**EDUCATION** UC Davis

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I get to use my skills to do good and make an impact, and that is what keeps me going.

**LESSON LEARNED** At a young age, my sister beat stage 4 melanoma. It was terrifying and taught me that everyone is fighting something.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I performed onstage as a backup dancer for Donny Osmond.

**FAVORITE BOOK** The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** Yoga instructor

---

Doug Elmets has enjoyed a nearly 40-year career in government, politics and business. He served as a White House spokesman for President Ronald Reagan before founding Elmets Communications in 1996. The firm provides public relations, marketing and advertising services to a wide selection of clients. “I was immediately attracted to the variety and fast-paced environment that the communications industry has to offer,” says Elmets. “As a PR professional, you have to be a jack-of-all-trades, which I find very exciting.”

**EDUCATION** University of Iowa, University of Southern California (MBA)

**FIRST JOB** Digging ditches and laying gas pipelines for Iowa Power and Light while in college

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Be the kind of person others want to work with.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** My dad, who was a doctor, delivered me when my mom went into labor unexpectedly early.

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Surround yourself with people who reflect who you want to be and emulate their behavior.
Jeff Flint fell in love with politics during an internship in the office of his Assembly member—a position that he pursued in order to get a break from the tedium of working a summer job in a nuclear physics lab. That eventually led him to work at a campaign management firm, which he took over in 2012, transforming it into a full-service public affairs, PR and political consulting firm while quadrupling revenue and growing the staff nearly threefold.

**EDUCATION** California Institute of Technology (Caltech)

**FIRST JOB** Wendy’s Hamburgers

**FAVORITE BOOKS** The Lord of the Rings trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Playa del Carmen, Mexico

**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** I’d be a youth soccer coach!

**MOTIVATION** I love to win. Campaigns are fun for me because there is a final score. You know if you won or lost. Other than that, I just want to provide the best possible life for my family.

Christopher S. Holben came to Runyon Saltzman after managing Hill & Knowlton’s statewide public affairs practice and serving as undersecretary of the California Trade and Commerce Agency under Gov. Pete Wilson. His notable accomplishments include influencing federal and state policies related to mental health, nutrition and obesity reduction, access to higher education, early childhood development, energy conservation and cultural engagement.

**EDUCATION** American University, University of Michigan

**FIRST JOB** Mannequin assembler

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Always embrace challenges that cause a sense of fear. That is how you grow and prosper.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Losing a run for state Senate in Michigan

**HIDDEN TALENT** As a child and teen I sang and acted in professional summer stock theater.

**HOBBY** Genealogy

**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** I’d pursue elected office.

Kassy Perry founded Perry Communications Group, the largest woman-owned public affairs firm in Sacramento, in 1996. She once convinced former Today show host Katie Couric to televise her own colonoscopy, resulting in a 26 percent increase in colonoscopy rates in three months. Perry’s firm also managed a campaign establishing California’s Master Plan for Aging; helped create the nation’s first coalition of patient advocacy groups; and co-managed Proposition 65 to fund mental health programs in California.

**EDUCATION** California State University, Fullerton

**FIRST JOB** Removing the spleens from mice for medical research

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Live life like it’s the two-minute warning!

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** The recession crushed so many businesses like mine. I used it to learn a new skill set: how to downsize a business, break an office lease and lay off employees I should never have hired in the first place.

**HOBBY** Equestrian show jumping

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Fox-hunting in Ireland

Armed with a business degree with a concentration in wine marketing and work experience in the food and beverage industry, Meghan Phillips founded design and marketing company Honey in 2008. The firm specializes in serving the food, beverage and agriculture industries. She serves on the boards of Valley Vision and the Sacramento Metro Chamber and is a past board member of the Food Literacy Center.

**EDUCATION** Sonoma State University

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Southern Spain

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** You’ll have many reinventions. Learn from each one.

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Ancil Hoffman Park

**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** I’d be a sommelier.

**WHAT MOTIVATES ME** My family and my team

**BUCKET LIST** A family trip to Vietnam

Jeff Randle has more than three decades of political, media and communications experience in the private and public sectors. He was deputy chief of staff to former Gov. Pete Wilson for eight years and was a top adviser to former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Now, he advises U.S. Rep. Kevin McCarthy and serves as his Sacramento-area finance chair. Sacramento Business Journal ranked Randle Communications the No. 1 public relations and public affairs firm in the region for the past two years.

**HOMETOWN** La Mirada, Calif.

**EDUCATION** UCLA

**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** Winston Churchill

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** When President Ronald Reagan left office, I was working for Gov. Wilson, and the two had a very close personal relationship due to their work together in D.C. At election time, President Reagan would send his ballot to Gov. Wilson seeking advice as to how he should vote. On behalf of Gov. Wilson, I had the honor of making recommendations and filling out the sample ballot for President Reagan.

Tina Reynolds is the founder of Uptown Studios, a marketing and design studio committed to building a world that is filled with positive intentions. The firm specializes in cause-related marketing for businesses, nonprofits and progressive political campaigns. “I am here to change the way you think about great marketing,” says Reynolds.

**EDUCATION** American River College and “the college of life”

**FIRST JOB** Folding pink doughnut boxes when I was 11. I was paid in doughnut holes.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Open your own mail!

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Starting over in 1992

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I was the first female letter carrier in downtown Sacramento.

**HOBBY** Gardening

**WHAT MOTIVATES ME** People and exciting ideas
### Professionals

| Name                  | Title                                | Background and Achievements                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | What I’d Tell a Recent Graduate                                                                 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                      |
| Estelle G. Saltzman   | Founder, Runyon Saltzman, Inc.       | Raised in Latin America, born in New Zealand, who cared for others above herself. Starred in a never released film at the age of 19. Has traveled the world, photographing the places she visited while performing and recording. By 2010, she had amassed a large following on Instagram.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Think big and don’t let your insecurities get the best of you. Never ignore the importance of community service, no matter how busy you are. |
| Donna Lucas           | President/CEO, Lucas Public Affairs  | Founded Lucas Public Affairs in 2006 after holding executive positions in the public and private sectors. Has served on the boards of directors of the Sacramento Chamber of Commerce, Crocker Art Museum and Maria Shriver’s Women’s Alzheimer’s Movement. She is a founding member of the California Chamber of Commerce, Crocker Art Museum and Maria Shriver’s Women’s Alzheimer’s Movement.                                                                                                                                                                                                 | From Jay Sales, director of The Shop at VSP Global, “If you’re not suffering from impostor syndrome, you’re not putting hard enough.” |
| Gordon Fowler         | President/CEO, 3fold Communications   | A former punk rock drummer turned cancer patient. Suffered from a long illness and had to learn how to walk and balance. Represents the new generation of patient leaders who are shaping medical education. | BEST ADVICE RECEIVED From Jay Sales, director of The Shop at VSP Global, “If you’re not suffering from impostor syndrome, you’re not putting hard enough.” |
| Liz Salmi              | Senior Strategist, Outreach and Communications OpenNotes | Shares her story with others through OpenNotes, a project that encourages doctors and health care professionals to share clinical notes with patients. After she was diagnosed with brain cancer at 29, Salmi started blogging and chronicling her symptoms. She is a 2017 fellow of the Salzburg Global Seminar, a 2016 Stanford Medicine X ePatient Scholar and a TEDMED Frontline Scholar. | After I was diagnosed with a brain tumor, I had two surgeries, 24 months of chemotherapy and had to relearn how to walk and balance. I represent the new generation of patient leaders who are shaping medical education. |
| Lila Wallrich         | Creative Director/CEO, Wallrich Creative Communications | After training and working as a graphic designer, Lila Wallrich co-founded Wallrich Creative Communications in 1990. In 2011, she bought out her partner and became the firm’s sole shareholder. Wallrich develops integrated tactics that help organizations communicate effectively, and her firm offers consulting, branding, marketing, advertising and interactive services for local and national clients. | Before my wedding, my mother-in-law-to-be said, “Never clean your own bathroom. And always be a blonde.” |

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**Clients:**
- University of the Pacific, Gig, Regional Transit
- Sutter Health, Dignity Health
- The Glue Factory, an entrepreneurial incubator
- Sacramento County Chamber
- Sacramento Valley Chapter and Valley Vision
- American Leadership Forum–California
- Crocker Art Museum
- Sacramento Metro Chamber
- Marin Art Museum
- Sonoma Art Institute
- World Trade Center

**Education:**
- UC Berkeley
- CSU Chico
- Stanford University

**Role Models:**
- Jean Runyon
- Estelle Saltzman

**Hobbies:**
- Writing for The Humboldt Times
- Librarian Greg Lucas
- Fake it till you make it. And stop worrying so much.
- Art Beast with my 2-year-old grandson

**Faithmari Lopez**
- CEO, Faithmari Inc
- Top 10 Instagrammer on Vanity Fair Italy in 2013
- A trained classical pianist, Faithmari Lopez has traveled the world, photographing the places she visited while performing and recording. By 2010, she had amassed a large photo collection and started sharing her adventures on Instagram. She is mainly known for her work with the Sacramento Convention & Visitors Bureau as curator of its Instagram account, @VisitSacramento. In 2013, she founded a social media management firm, FAITHMARI INC, specializing in lifestyle, hotels, travel and tourism. |
Brandon Weber  
Founder  
The Urban Hive  

Activist and business leader Brandon Weber co-founded The Urban Hive in 2009 with his wife, Molly. As Sacramento’s largest coworking company, The Urban Hive offers an alternative to the traditional corporate environment by providing shared workspaces with all of the amenities its members. In 2016, Paste Magazine ranked Urban Hive as number four on its list of the “coolest coworking spaces” in the country. In 2018, Weber launched I/O Labs, an accelerator program for startups and a working space for entrepreneurs. A licensed TEDx curator, he brought TEDx conferences to Sacramento. The Sacramento TEDx community has more than 25,000 members.

Lauren Gustus  
Editor  
The Sacramento Bee and West Region, McClatchy  

Tewksbury, Mass., native Lauren Gustus oversees McClatchy’s newsrooms in Sacramento, Fresno, Modesto, Merced, San Luis Obispo and Boise. She went into journalism 17 years ago to make a difference in the community. As executive editor of The Coloradoan in Fort Collins, she pushed for changes to open-record laws, ultimately making it easier for people to access public records in digital form. Just as fulfilling, says Gustus, are “the incremental stories we report that drive change for real people who don’t have the voice that we do.”

David Lowe  
President/General Manager  
PBS KVIE  

When David Lowe was named president of KVIE in 2008, he was the youngest PBS station manager in the country. The Kingman, Ariz., native was awarded an Emmy as executive producer for a Studio Sacramento episode on human trafficking. In 2018, he received the Pillar of Public Service Award from America’s Public Television Stations for KVIE’s work with an advanced earthquake notification system.

Eduardo Bretón  
Columnist  
The Sacramento Bee  

As a newspaper journalist for more than three decades, Marcos Bretón has written about everything from the Rodney King riots to the World Series. Bretón, the most senior writer at The Sacramento Bee and one of the few Latino columnists at a major newspaper in America, is a passionate advocate for downtown Sacramento, the undocumented, marriage equality and criminal justice reform. He has written two books about baseball and was featured in The Tenth Inning, the 2010 documentary film directed by Ken Burns.

Rick Eytcheson  
President/General Manager  
Capital Public Radio  

Des Moines, Iowa, native Rick Eytcheson stumbled into a career in radio, first as an announcer and later as an advertising salesperson. “I was a radio junkie as a kid,” Eytcheson says. “I’ve always loved radio, but I never dreamed I’d get a chance to make a living at it. It’s been a dream come true.” He moved to Sacramento in 1985 to work as general manager for radio stations that were later acquired by Chancellor Broadcasting, which Eytcheson co-founded. He joined Capital Public Radio in 2006.

Jack Ohman  
Editorial Cartoonist/Associate Editor  
The Sacramento Bee  

St. Paul, Minn., native Jack Ohman has been the editorial cartoonist at The Sacramento Bee since 2013. He won the 2016 Pulitzer Prize and was a Pulitzer finalist in 2012. Ohman has won virtually every major award in American journalism, including the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award, and the Society of Professional Journalists’ Sigma Delta Chi Award. His cartoons are syndicated by The Washington Post Writers Group. He is the author of 11 books, including four on the subject of fly-fishing.

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<table>
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<th>Kitty O'Neal</th>
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<td>Afternoon News Anchor</td>
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Kitty O'Neal has interviewed heads of state, celebrities, civic leaders and “remarkable people from all walks of life” as host of The Afternoon News on KFBK radio for the past 25 years. She has been drawn to communication and performing since she was a young child. “I also have a strong desire to provide factual information to people, especially in this internet age,” says O’Neal. A former professional singer, O’Neal performs in a rock band with husband Kurt Spataro.

**FIRST JOB** Retail sales

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Dealing with the passing of my parents

**HIDDEN TALENT** I like tools and fixing things. I sew and made my wedding gown and many of the dresses I wore to the Academy Awards.

**HOBBIES** Singing/songwriting, baking, travel

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Probably a bakery!

**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** I’d do something else in the entertainment industry or possibly politics.

**WHAT MOTIVATES ME** A sense of accomplishment

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<th>Risa Omega</th>
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<td>President/General Manager</td>
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<td>KXTV-TV ABC 10</td>
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Risa Omega was named president and general manager of KXTV Channel 10 in 2016. She succeeded Maria Barrs, who retired from the position. Prior to her appointment, Omega had been employed at the station for 26 years in various capacities, including account executive, local sales manager and director of sales. As leader of the sales department, Omega successfully grew the station’s digital sales and led a strategic plan to better serve client needs. Since 2015, KXTV has been a part of TEGNA Media, which operates 49 television stations across the country.

**EDUCATION** UC Davis

**MEMBERSHIP** Alliance for Women in Media—Sacramento Affiliation

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With more than four decades of experience, Elliott Troshinsky is one of the region’s top media executives. He started out in radio in the early 1970s, selling advertising for a tiny AM station in Allentown, Pa. He then went to work for TV stations in Philadelphia, the Midwest and Florida. In the late ’80s, he moved to Sacramento to run Channel 31, where he acquired the TV rights to broadcast Sacramento Kings and San Francisco Giants games. In 2000, Troshinsky jumped to KCRA 3 as president and general manager. KCRA and KQCA are owned by Hearst Television, a subsidiary of Hearst Communications.

**HOMETOWN** Philadelphia

**EDUCATION** Fairleigh Dickinson University

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lance Richard</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Senior Corporate Vice</td>
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<tr>
<td>President—Sales Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entercom Communications</td>
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At Entercom Communications, Lance Richard oversees the implementation of new sales strategies in radio markets across the United States. He is most proud of “repositioning our station and our medium as the lead local media and marketing platform in the minds of our employees, civic leaders and advertisers.” Richard also championed Visit Sacramento’s efforts to position the city as America’s Farm-to-Fork Capital. He has led several turnarounds that involved rebuilding sales operations, developing new sales strategies and establishing forward-looking cultures.

**EDUCATION** Auburn University

**FIRST JOB** Ice cream scooper at my mother’s Baskin-Robbins store

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Being strong for my daughter when she was battling cancer

**HIDDEN TALENT** Juggling

**FAVORITE BOOK AND MOVIE** To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Focus on your passion and not the money.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jeff vonKaelen</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEO/Publisher</td>
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<tr>
<td>News &amp; Review</td>
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As a college student and activist in the ’70s, Jeff vonKaelen joined a group that was forming one of the first alternative weeklies in the country. In 1980, he took over a bankrupt weekly paper in Chico, eventually growing the business to include three News & Review publications in Chico, Sacramento and Reno. News & Review has been selected as the best large weekly in the state by the California Newspaper Publishers Association for three years in a row.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** From my dad: There’s more to life than making a buck.

**HIDDEN TALENT** Few people know I have no hidden talent.

**HOBBIES** Reading and working out

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** American River Parkway

**CHARITY** Habitat for Humanity

**IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** I’d retire.

**MOTIVATION** Trying to make a difference

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Justin Draper</th>
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<tr>
<td>Vice President/General Manager</td>
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<td>CBS13/CW31</td>
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Minnesota native Justin Draper was named vice president and general manager of the CBS Television Stations’ Sacramento properties in 2018. Draper previously served as the financial controller at KCBS-TV and KCAL-TV in Los Angeles and at stations in Boston, Chicago and Minneapolis-St. Paul. “My dad was a CPA and partner in a firm, so it made sense to go the accounting route,” says Draper. “I stumbled into broadcast news through a former co-worker.”

**FIRST JOB** Golf course maintenance

**MOST INSPIRING PERSONS** Dad and both grandfathers. They all worked extremely hard and were very successful at what they did.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Having to let good people go due to no fault of their own

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I successfully raced cars for nearly 20 years.

**FAVORITE TV SHOW** Cheers

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Raley Field

**IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** I would have loved to work for the FBI.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title/Position</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leigh White</strong></td>
<td>Vice President/General Manager</td>
<td>KTXL-TV Fox 40</td>
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<td>In 2015, Leigh White was named vice president and general manager of KTXL-TV Fox 40, where she oversees the station's strategic planning and day-to-day operations. A veteran of broadcast television, she previously worked as the station's director of sales. Prior to moving to Sacramento, White held various positions at television stations in Charlotte, N.C., Knoxville, Tenn., West Palm Beach, Fla., and Jackson, Miss. She serves as a member of the Sacramento Salvation Army Advisory Board. <strong>EDUCATION</strong> University of Minnesota  <strong>HOBBIES</strong> Golf, skiing, scuba diving</td>
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<td><strong>Gary Wortel</strong></td>
<td>President/Publisher</td>
<td>The Sacramento Bee</td>
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<td>Bay Area native Gary Wortel was appointed president and publisher of The Sacramento Bee in 2017 following the retirement of Cheryl Dell, who held the position for nine years. Wortel also serves as regional publisher for 10 McClatchy-owned newspapers in Washington, Idaho and California, including the Fresno and Modesto Bee. He previously served as publisher of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, also owned by McClatchy. During his long career in the newspaper business, Wortel worked at The San Jose Mercury News and the St. Paul Pioneer Press, where he held marketing and sales positions. He serves on the board of the California News Publishers Association. <strong>EDUCATION</strong> San Jose State University  <strong>HOBBIES</strong> Travel, golf, skiing</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Beth Ruyak</strong></td>
<td>Journalist</td>
<td>Capital Public Radio</td>
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<td>Beth Ruyak is an Emmy Award-winning reporter who has covered virtually every topic, from news and science to sports and entertainment, in her long career. Ruyak spent more than 30 years in television as a broadcaster, producer and writer. She reported on six Olympic games for major news outlets, including NBC and CBS. Ruyak was the first woman television journalist to cover the Tour de France. Her first foray into public radio was in 2012 as host of <em>Insight</em>, a live news and entertainment program on Capital Public Radio. She is the founder of Ruyak Media, a documentary production company. <strong>EDUCATION</strong> Gustavus Adolphus College  <strong>WEARING A SASH</strong> in 1981, competed as Miss Minnesota in the Miss America Pageant  <strong>FUN FACT</strong> Once guest-hosted Good Morning America</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Marisa Sharkey</strong></td>
<td>Co-Founder/President</td>
<td>Birdies</td>
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<td>Entrepreneur and retail executive Marisa Sharkey is the co-founder and president of Birdies, a direct-to-consumer e-commerce brand that is disrupting the women’s footwear industry by creating a new category of stylish and comfortable slippers. Before starting Birdies, Sharkey led corporate strategy for Ross Stores. She also worked as a senior manager at Bain &amp; Company, where she focused on growth strategy and performance improvement for Fortune 500 retailers and leading private equity firms. <strong>EDUCATION</strong> Cornell University, The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania  <strong>HOMETOWN</strong> Great Neck, N.Y.  <strong>FIRST JOB</strong> Folding shirts at Lerner New York  <strong>HIDDEN TALENT</strong> Texas Hold ‘em  <strong>CHARITY</strong> Women’s Empowerment  <strong>BUCKET LIST</strong> QIM, my first marathon. If you print it, I have to do it, right?</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ryan Hammonds</strong></td>
<td>Founder, Designer</td>
<td>R. Douglas Custom Clothier</td>
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<td>Ryan Hammonds started R. Douglas Custom Clothier, a custom clothing and tailoring company, in 2003. His flagship showroom is located in downtown Sacramento, and the business has expanded to include showrooms in Fresno and Los Angeles. He and his team offer image consultations and provide hand-tailored garments at an affordable price. The R. Douglas brand has been worn by clients at red-carpet events like the Grammys. Clients include West Sacramento Mayor Chris Cabaldon. <strong>NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT</strong> President Barack Obama admired one of my suits.  <strong>FIRST JOB</strong> Credit-card clerk at Stockmans Bank  <strong>MOST INSPIRING PERSON</strong> Elon Musk  <strong>TOUGHEST CHALLENGE</strong> Women’s tailoring  <strong>WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE</strong> Hustle always pays off.  <strong>WHAT I WOULD DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB</strong> Cry and be miserable  <strong>BUCKET LIST</strong> Expanding R. Douglas beyond California!</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mary Gonsalves Kinney</strong></td>
<td>CEO/Founder</td>
<td>MGK Style</td>
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<td>As the CEO of MGK Style, a fashion styling company, Mary Gonsalves Kinney has clients in Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Seattle, Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C. Her clients include top executives, film producers and directors, actors, athletes and politicians. She’s worked with top photographers on press shoots and executive profile headshots for Fortune 500 companies, and she maintains relationships with designers worldwide. Her editorial work has been featured in Rolling Stone, Wired, Variety, Glamour and the San Francisco Chronicle. <strong>EDUCATION</strong> UC Berkeley  <strong>WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK</strong> I believe that styling is art. When I realized I had the gift of styling, I knew I had to make it happen.  <strong>BEST ADVICE RECEIVED</strong> Run through every open door.  <strong>HIDDEN TALENT</strong> I can turn around any awkward conversation.  <strong>WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE</strong> If you don’t hustle, you will never be successful.  <strong>BUCKET LIST</strong> Launching a consignment operation of luxury pieces collected from clients across the country.</td>
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<td>Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chrisa Pappas</td>
<td>Founder/Owner</td>
<td>Chrisa Pappas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zayn Silmi</td>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>The People of Sacramento</td>
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<tr>
<td>Curtis Popp</td>
<td>Designer</td>
<td>CPOPP WORKSHOP</td>
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<tr>
<td>John C. Webre</td>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>Dreyfuss + Blackford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rebecca Plumb</td>
<td>Owner/Studio Plumb</td>
<td>Studio Plumb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leyla Jaworski</td>
<td>Owner/Creative Director</td>
<td>Design Shop Interiors</td>
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Chrisa Pappas
A fashion influencer and luxury-brand ambassador, Chrisa Pappas offers fashion advice, information and inspiration through her website and social media channels. Pappas has hosted shopping events for Louis Vuitton, Fendi and Net-a-Porter, among others. In 2018, she was one of 40 businesswomen invited to attend the Women Entrepreneurs Program at Stanford Graduate School of Business. She was named one of Elle magazine’s Women in Tech and has been featured in InStyle.

**EDUCATION** Boston University
**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** My love for fashion and design
**FIRST JOB** Salesperson at Saks Fifth Avenue in Boston
**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I can clap with one hand.
**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATIONS** Greece and Paris
**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** Architect
**BUCKET LIST** Produce my own fashion line

Zayn Silmi
As a lover of Sacramento and people, Zayn Silmi found his calling showcasing the careers and passions of Sacramentans. In 2014, he started The People of Sacramento blog and website. TPOS features artists, entrepreneurs and other local individuals and focuses on the slogan “do more of what you love.” He launched the TPOS brand in 2016, offering Sacramento-promoting apparel and a signature 916 hat.

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** To make an impact. I founded TPOS to give back to the people who make Sacramento what it is.
**FIRST JOB** In the sixth grade, I sold electronics to my classmates.
**FAVORITE BOOK** Coming Back Stronger by Drew Brees
**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Palestine
**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** Run a nonprofit focused on animal welfare
**WHAT MOTIVATES ME** The people of Sacramento and the city of Sacramento. This community is what makes me me.
**BUCKET LIST** Opening a TPOS flagship store

Curtis Popp
Third-generation Sacramentan Curtis Popp founded his design firm in 2004. His work encompasses everything from residential and commercial design and branding to art consultation and furniture design. “I’ve always been creative,” says Popp. “I settled into design, but I could have easily gone into film or culinary school and been equally satisfied.” Popp’s work has been featured in Architectural Digest, Interior Design and Sunset magazines as well as The Wall Street Journal.

**EDUCATION** California College of the Arts
**FIRST JOB** Buoy boy at West Shore Cafe, Homewood
**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Those who abandon their dreams will discourage yours.
**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Starting a creative business in a smaller city
**HIDDEN TALENT** I think I’m a decent cook.
**HOBBY** Boating on Lake Tahoe at sunset
**WHAT MOTIVATES ME** The struggle and anything new and unexpected

John C. Webre
John Webre has led Dreyfuss + Blackford for more than three decades. Raised on a sugar plantation in rural Cuba, he left the country as a refugee at age 9. “I chose architecture because of my curious nature and love of projects,” says Webre. “Architects are in a unique position to have real impact on people’s lives and the shape of their communities.”

**FIRST JOB** Construction of a sugar mill
**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** The Great Recession
**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** Spanish is my first language.
**HOBBY** Skiing
**FAVORITE BOOK** All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Be courageous.
**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** I’d make art and travel.
**WHAT MOTIVATES ME** Authentic experiences

Rebecca Plumb
Rebecca Plumb is a multidiscipline designer and the owner of Studio Plumb. She creates designs for homes, commercial spaces and personal branding that reflect the people who use them. Plumb likes to bring personality, character and color to her projects. She is a former co-owner and creative director at the Honey agency. She is also the founder and host of CreativeMornings Sacramento, a breakfast lecture series for the creative community that takes place on a Friday each month.

**HOMETOWN** Orange, Calif.
**EDUCATION** Chico State University
**FIRST JOB** Ironing my dad’s work shirts for $1 each. He liked a starched collar.
**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** You don’t have to be the one in the spotlight to be successful; you can be the campfire that gathers smaller groups together.
**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I went to a lot of Grateful Dead concerts in the ’90s.
**HOBBY** Treasure hunting at thrift stores and antique fairs
**FAVORITE MOVIE** Annie Hall
**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** Design and run Airbnb

Leyla Jaworski
In just five years, Leyla Jaworski grew Design Shop Interiors from a humble enterprise run from her kitchen table to a thriving business with an 11-person design team, a waiting list of clients and a brick-and-mortar home-goods store. Her work has been featured in Better Homes & Gardens, and she is one of three designers in the United States and Canada selected for a national campaign with Delta Faucet.

**FIRST JOB** Round Table Pizza
**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** You cannot be everyone’s cup of tea.
**LESSON LEARNED** To not let myself operate from a place of fear
**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I’m an empath who charges her crystals by the full moonlight.
**HOBBY** Camping at the beach or in the mountains
**WHAT I’D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** Jump. Ask questions later.
**FAVORITE LOCAL PLACE TO VISIT** Sutter Street in Folsom
**BUCKET LIST** A retail/design/e-commerce empire
Theresa Paige is a recognized expert in the design of senior living projects. She taught at Sacramento State University and has served on the boards of the Eskaton Foundation, Los Rios Foundation and Greater Sacramento Area Habitat for Humanity. “I chose this field of work because I loved creativity and construction,” says Paige. “I liked creating drawings by hand and using them as tools to show my clients my vision.”

**EDUCATION** Yuba College, Southern California Institute of Architecture
**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Don’t be the loudest person in the room, just be the most memorable one.
**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** How to communicate to fellow staff as a woman leader
**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Caribbean
**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** You can go as high as you want, but you have to make it happen for yourself. Don’t wait for someone else to open the door for you.
**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Sacramento Republic FC soccer games
**WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB** Forensics

Rachael Camillo-Bennett started as an accounting coordinator at MTA, a commercial interiors and workplace design firm, in 1997 and was named president in 2019. “By working in and with all of the departments, I have gained a better understanding of how we truly work together to make our projects a success.” MTA has designed a number of the city’s high-profile interiors, including Golden 1 Center, Raley’s headquarters, XL Construction and Williams + Paddon Architects.

**FIRST JOB** YMCA
**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** My dad, Tony Camillo. He appreciates life, never has a bad thing to say about anyone or anything, is caring, selfless and just an amazing person and father.
**HOBBIES** Traveling, pool time and enjoying life with my hubby
**FAVORITE FILM** Pulp Fiction
**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Aruba
**CHARITY** Make-A-Wish Foundation
**BUCKET LIST** Scuba diving

As senior designer for the Sacramento Kings, David Lee is responsible for the interior design of all the organization’s projects, including Golden 1 Center, DOCO and Sawyer Hotel and Residences. He also worked on a remodel of the California Governor’s Mansion and the development of The Cloud Club, an exclusive lounge at Oracle Park in San Francisco.

**FIRST JOB** Working in a frame shop. I loved being around art and creative people.
**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Don’t overthink things.
**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** The Great Recession
**HOBBY** Gardening
**FAVORITE BOOK** Crazy Rich Asians. Author Kevin Kwan was my roommate in college, so I’m a bit biased!
**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Mendocino
**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** My home

John Latimer founded Capitol Advocacy, now one of the largest lobbying firms in Sacramento, in 1999. The firm specializes in health care, tort reform, consumer protection, business regulation, and labor and environmental issues. At 26 years old, Latimer became chief of staff for a Democratic member of the California legislature, and at 32 he ran for a State Assembly seat in the district where he grew up. After losing a close Democratic primary election, he left the legislature to form Capitol Advocacy. Today, the firm has more than 60 clients. Latimer is head of a team of seven lobbyists and two legislative analysts.

**HOMETOWN** Santa Rosa, Calif.
**EDUCATION** Sacramento State University (BA, MPPA)
**NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT** Celebrating Capitol Advocacy’s 20th year
**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I was greatly influenced by my late uncle, Tom Foley, a congressman from Spokane, Wash., who went on to become speaker of the House of Representatives and then ambassador to Japan.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** From my dad: Leap and the new will appear.
**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I have a mean left hook.
**HOBBIES** Cooking, writing, entertaining, Peloton
**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Eze, French Riviera
**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** My front porch
Darius Anderson
Chairman/Founder
Platinum Advisors, LLC

In 1998, Darius Anderson founded Platinum Advisors, a government relations and lobbying firm with offices in Sacramento, San Francisco and Washington, D.C. Anderson is also the founder and CEO of Kenwood Investments, LLC, a real estate development and opportunity fund, and managing member of Sonoma Media Investments, LLC, which owns and publishes the Santa Rosa Press Democrat and the Sonoma Index-Tribune. He has advised many of California’s highest-ranking political and business leaders.

HOMETOWN Novato, Calif.
EDUCATION George Washington University
WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK I enjoy helping people and solving problems.
FEW PEOPLE KNOW I have the largest Jack London memorabilia collection.
HOBBY Collecting antiques
FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION Cuba
WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE Don’t be afraid of failure and always dream big.
CHARITY Rebuild North Bay Foundation

Jose Hermocillo
Managing Partner
Hermocillo-Azevedo Strategic Communications LLC

Sacramento Magazine named Jose Hermocillo one of the 100 most powerful and influential people in the region in 2008. As a communication strategist and attorney, he advises corporations, public agencies and nonprofit organizations on public policy and helps them safeguard their reputations during crises and transitions. Hermocillo wrote The Employer’s Survival Guide to Workers’ Compensation, published by the California Chamber of Commerce (1989–1994).

HOMETOWN Upland, Calif.
EDUCATION Pomona College, McGeorge School of Law (JD)
WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK Our clients are from different sectors and different parts of the state, so every day is interesting and challenging.
FIRST JOB Senate fellow
BEST ADVICE RECEIVED Don’t make things more complicated than necessary.
HOBBIES Playing trumpet and collecting wines

Jason Kinney
Principal
Axiom Advisors

At 13, Jason Kinney helped run his mother’s campaign for state Senate. Today, he is a Sacramento-based public affairs consultant and political communications expert. He worked on the official transition team for Gov. Gavin Newsom, and he is a senior strategist to California Senate Democrats and Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg. Kinney, a former partner at California Strategies, was the statewide spokesperson for the Yes on Proposition 64 campaign and has written speeches for governors, celebrity CEOs and presidential candidates.

HOMETOWN Bloomington, Ind.
EDUCATION Princeton University, Indiana University School of Law (JD)
WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK It’s the perfect intersection between creative writing and political science.
LESSON LEARNED Politics is always a temporary job—never take it for granted.
FAVORITE MOVIE Hoosiers (of course)
WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE Failure is a prerequisite for success, not a detriment.
CHARITIES Save the Children, ACLU, Sacramento LGBT Community Center

Bob White
Founder/Chairman
California Strategies, LLC

After leaving the U.S. Coast Guard, Bob White served as Pete Wilson’s chief of staff when Wilson was an Assembly member, mayor, U.S. senator and California governor. In 1997, he founded public affairs company California Strategies. Historian Kevin Owen Starr called White’s company “the leading planning and political advocacy partnership in the state.” In 2003, White was Arnold Schwarzenegger’s campaign manager during his bid for governor of California.

HOMETOWN San Diego
EDUCATION San Diego State University
NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT Bringing talented people into public service
BEST ADVICE RECEIVED Never stop learning and growing, and share the credit for every success.
FAVORITE MOVIE The Quiet Man
FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION Bangkok
FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT The Capitol

David Ljung
President/CEO
Gilbert CPAs

David Ljung joined Gilbert—one of the largest locally owned CPA firms in the Sacramento region—in 1998. He specializes in serving a variety of nonprofit organizations, including social services, education, research, arts, environmental, health and welfare, and trade and professional associations. He provides nonprofit boards and staff with best-practice and benchmarking information to help them achieve their missions.

HOMETOWN Wahiawa, Hawaii
EDUCATION State University of New York, Plattsburgh
WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK A high school teacher recognized my interests and suggested I consider taking accounting in college. I discovered what I enjoyed most about the work was only minimally about accounting, and more about relationships with clients and employees, and the opportunity to provide guidance and help to them.
FIRST JOB Paper delivery
HOBBIES Hiking, backpacking, motorcycle adventures
FAVORITE MOVIE Glengarry Glen Ross

Craig E. Yoder
Partner
Crowe LLP

Craig Yoder has 30 years of experience—all with Crowe LLP. He started his career in the South Bend, Ind., office and worked in Ohio and Illinois before moving to Sacramento in 2015. The Sacramento office’s managing partner, he leads audit and assurance services, specializing in government, nonprofit organizations, manufacturing, distribution and other industries and disciplines.

EDUCATION Miami University
FIRST JOB Grocery store bagger/stocker
MOST INSPIRING PERSON Warren Buffett
HIDDEN TALENT I make awesome lasagnas.
FAVORITE MOVIE Local Hero
FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION The next national park! My wife and I are on a quest to see all of the U.S. National Parks together.
WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE Learn it. Teach someone else how to do it. Move to the next thing. Repeat.
CHARITY College Track Sacramento
WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB Own and run a B&B in the mountains
### Jim Craycroft
**Office Managing Partner**
KPMG LLP

Jim Craycroft joined KPMG in 1981 and became a partner in 1993. He has spent the past 11 years managing the Sacramento office. During his 38 years with KPMG, he has worked with family-held companies in the food and agricultural industries, including many of the largest food companies in California.

**EDUCATION** Babson College  
**FIRST JOB** Building-material delivery  
**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Jim Welch, a former partner, said, “Remember we are not saving lives here”—meaning do not take yourself too seriously.  
**LESSON LEARNED** Never give up; you may not be afraid to take a chance.  
**CHARITIES** First Tee of Greater Sacramento, Fisher House, Make-A-Wish  
**WHAT I’D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** Do not be afraid to take a chance.  
**WHAT MOTIVATES ME** Growing the practice for the next generation

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### Gary Jakobs
**President/CEO**
Ascent Environmental

Gary Jakobs co-founded Ascent Environmental, an environmental, natural resource, urban design and planning consulting engineering firm, in 2010. Ascent has grown from five original partners to a staff of more than 80, with offices located throughout California. Jakobs has more than 35 years of professional experience in environmental planning studies and has led the development of advanced California Environmental Quality Act workshops for the Association of Environmental Professionals since 2006.

**EDUCATION** UC Santa Barbara  
**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** As an idealistic student in Santa Barbara, I wanted to find a job where I could make a difference in environmental outcomes.  
**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** You aren’t paid to punch a clock; you are paid to do a job and do it the best way you can.  
**FAVORITE BOOK** Freedom by William Safire  
**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Land Park  
**BUCKET LIST** Watching my youngest son play baseball for Plitzer College

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### Scott Hooker
**President**
Buehler

As president of Buehler, a fast-growing structural engineering firm, Scott Hooker focuses on strategic leadership and creating enduring relationships. He has been with the firm since 1988. Notable work projects include terminals A and B at Sacramento International Airport, Golden 1 Center, the $1.6 billion Midfield Satellite Concourse at LAX, and the Bridge District in West Sacramento. At one time, Hooker worked as a framing carpenter; that’s when he began to develop a sense for how structural systems worked.

**HOMETOWN** Sacramento  
**EDUCATION** Cal Poly San Luis Obispo  
**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I have always been interested in how things work; I was that kid who was constantly taking things apart. For the most part, I could put them back together and they still worked.  
**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.  
**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I was a high jumper in college.  
**FAVORITE MOVIE** The Princess Bride  
**WHAT I’D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** Do anything with a degree in engineering.

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### William Warne
**Chairman/Partner**
Downey Brand LLP

William Warne has resolved, arbitrated and tried numerous litigation matters in state and federal courts involving real estate, intellectual property, class actions, wildfires, partnership disputes and health care. He and his team recently defended Sierra Pacific Industries in the Moonlight Fire action. He was also the lead trial attorney for Park Cattle Company; the plaintiff agreed to pay Warne’s client $165 million, one of the largest civil settlements in Nevada’s history.

**EDUCATION** Sacramento State University, UC Hastings College of the Law (JD)  
**FIRST JOB** Dishwasher at Farrell’s Ice Cream Parlour  
**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Litigating against the government is enormously challenging.  
**FAVORITE BOOK** The Last Lion by WilliamManchester  
**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Nimbus, with a kayak  
**NOT ABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT** Representing a client in the 2019 bankruptcy of a publicly traded company.

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### Melissa N. Sanchez
**Founding Attorney**
Harvest Law Group

Melissa N. Sanchez founded Harvest Law Group in 2012 to offer regulatory and legal services, including guidance regarding compliance with laws, to California’s cannabis industry. She started advocating for the industry in 2009 as a sole practitioner. She organized and moderated the Continuing Education of the Bar’s first legal education class on medical cannabis, and she is the co-founder and executive director of Restore California, an organization that raises funds to restore land destroyed by illegal cannabis cultivation.

**EDUCATION** UC Hastings College of the Law, UC Berkeley (BA)  
**NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT** Named one of 100 most influential attorneys by Business Journals in June 2019  
**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** By helping to educate people in the industry about how to comply with the laws, and advancing the cannabis laws here in California, I think we can create a sustainable, regulated cannabis industry and help reduce drug-related violence.  
**HOBBY** Taking pictures for my puppy’s Instagram account @loishepresa

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### Nancy Walker
**Vice President/Major Accounts Manager**
Kleinfelder

Before joining Kleinfelder in 2013, Nancy Walker owned her own consulting engineering firm. She has 30 years of experience and specializes in water resources. Currently, she is the operational, strategic and business development lead for Kleinfelder in Northern California, the Central Valley area and northern Nevada. Founded in 1961, the firm provides engineering, environmental and construction services to its clients. It has 60 offices in the United States, Canada and Australia. Walker’s previous experience includes working with AECOM as its western region water practices lead, and with MWH Global as the climate change strategies lead.

**EDUCATION** CSU Humboldt, Mackay School of Mines at University of Nevada, Reno (MS)  
**NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT** Inspiring young engineers through her work with the American Council of Engineering Companies
Gerald M. Lenahan graduated magna cum laude from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, received his Illinois state teaching credential and briefly taught English at a public high school. He joined the firm in 1981 and is now the senior managing partner. His practice is devoted to workers’ compensation defense and claims of unlawful termination. Lenahan argued Rodriguez v. WCAB before the 5th District Court of Appeal, which resulted in a published opinion with statewide significance.

HOMETOWN Chicago
EDUCATION University of Illinois, UC Davis (JD)
WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK I have two older brothers who are attorneys in Chicago. I always expected to attend law school, so when I was accepted at UC Davis and joined the firm as a student law clerk, my path was set.
FIRST JOB McDonald’s
BEST ADVICE RECEIVED Don McMurchie, the founder of the firm, said, “It’s not a mistake until it can’t be fixed.”
HOBBIES Yard work and gardening
FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT de Vere’s Irish Pub

Courtney Linn is in charge of strategic corporate legal initiatives at Golden 1 Credit Union. Before joining Golden 1, he was a partner in the Sacramento office of Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP, where he focused on representing financial services companies in regulatory enforcement and Bank Secrecy Act and Anti-Money Laundering compliance matters. He previously served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the Eastern District of California and clerked for U.S. District Judge William B. Shubb.

EDUCATION UC Davis (BA, JD)
WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK I thought I could be a good lawyer and help clients solve problems.
FIRST JOB Doorman-valet
MOST INSPIRING PERSON Flannery O’Connor
TOUGHEST CHALLENGE First person in my family to graduate from college and law school
FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION Squam Lake, N.H.
WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE Listen more. Talk less.
BUCKET LIST Golf in Scotland

Joe Salazar Jr. is a member of the energy and environmental practice at Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP, a national law firm with headquarters in Los Angeles. He represents a range of public- and private-sector clients, focusing on environmental contamination, remediation and redevelopment. He has obtained 25 verdicts in state and federal courts in various matters, including environmental, crop damage, real estate and business-related litigation.

EDUCATION Stanford University, UCLA School of Law (JD)
NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT Helped grow the Sacramento office from 14 attorneys to nearly 40
FIRST JOB Wrangling shopping carts for a Gemco department store
FEW PEOPLE KNOW My wife, Tori, is the first elected female district attorney for San Joaquin County.
HOBBIES Fly-fishing and duck hunting
FAVORITE BOOK Lawrence in Arabia by Scott Anderson

Andy Stroud joined Hanson Bridgett in 2013. As outside litigation counsel, he has served California governors Gray Davis, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Jerry Brown and represented the state of California in complex and high-profile actions. His specialties include litigating intellectual property claims for copyright and trademark infringement, misappropriation of trade secrets, and unfair competition. He has represented the late rock-'n'-roll photographer Jim Marshall and lectured on copyright law at UC Berkeley Boalt Hall and the McGeorge School of Law.

EDUCATION Claremont McKenna College, Santa Clara University School of Law (JD)
WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK I never really thought about anything else.
FIRST JOB Dishwasher at Round Table Pizza
MOST INSPIRING PERSON My good friend Vona Weiss, daughter of Holocaust survivors, lover of life
HIDDEN TALENT I am a dog whisperer.
FAVORITE TV SHOW Project Runway
FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT de Vere’s Irish Pub
WHAT MOTIVATES ME My sons

Janlynn Fleener has represented businesses, government agencies and others for more than 20 years and has been the lead trial counsel for many regional companies. Currently, she is representing a global manufacturer of car seats in California and in class actions across the country. She has volunteered with the Arts & Business Council of Sacramento, Business Volunteers for the Arts, and the Crocker Art Museum’s Art Service Group.

HOMETOWN San Jose, Calif.
EDUCATION Santa Clara University (BA, JD)
NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT I graduated first in my class from law school.
WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK As a kid, I was a bookworm who loved school.
FIRST JOB I worked at a car wash—everything from vacuuming cars to washing windows to driving the cars off the conveyor line.
BEST ADVICE RECEIVED Not taking risks is the riskiest career move of all.
HOBBY Working on the 1917 house my husband and I purchased last year.
FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION Paris

Russell J. Austin is one of the founding partners at Murphy Austin Adams Schoenfeld LLP. With extensive experience in commercial real estate and business law, he has planned, negotiated and documented a variety of real property transactions and supporting documentation. Austin has served as a visiting professor of law at UC Davis and McGeorge School of Law.

HOMETOWN San Gabriel, Calif.
EDUCATION UC Santa Barbara, UC Berkeley School of Law (JD)
FIRST JOB Cook’s assistant in a small Italian restaurant in San Gabriel
HOBBY Wayfaring (walking and hiking adventures in distant places)
FAVORITE MOVIE Vertigo
FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION Scotland
WHAT I’D DO IF I DIDN’T DO THIS JOB I wouldn’t even want to contemplate this question.
WHAT MOTIVATES ME Solving difficult challenges for our clients
BUCKET LIST I don’t have one of those.
Roger Dreyer has tried more than 150 civil jury trials. As the trial attorney for the family of Jennifer Strange in 2007, he won a verdict of $16.7 million, the largest wrongful-death verdict for noneconomic damages in Sacramento County. As the lead trial lawyer for the Oakland Raiders, he achieved a verdict in the amount of $34 million, the largest fraud verdict in Sacramento County.

**EDUCATION** UC Davis, UC Hastings College of the Law (JD)

**FIRST JOB** Working for Southern Pacific laying track and building tunnels in the Sierra

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** My high school counselor, when I told him there were too many lawyers in 1974: “There is always room at the top.”

**HOBBIES** Skiing, basketball and my work

**FAVORITE MOVIE** The Verdict

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** There is always room at the top.

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Golden 1 Center

**CHARITIES** NFR, Sacramento Child Abuse Prevention Center

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Malcolm Segal started his career as an assistant district attorney in New York City and later was appointed special attorney-in-charge of a U.S. Department of Justice federal grand jury strike force in Texas. He moved to California and joined the U.S. Attorney’s Office in San Francisco. From there, he worked for the Eastern District of California as chief of the criminal division. Since 1985, he has represented international, regional and local companies, as well as professionals in medicine, law, real estate and agribusiness.

**EDUCATION** City College of New York, St. John’s University School of Law (JD)

**FIRST JOB** Selling ladies’ shoes

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Do what’s right and let the chips fall where they may.

**HOBBY** Reading while enjoying a glass of wine or bourbon and an excellent cigar

**FAVORITE MOVIE** The Godfather

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** London

**FAVORITE SACRAMENTO PLACE TO VISIT** Biba Restaurant

**BUCKET LIST** I’m living it now.

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Steven Felderstein represents clients in all aspects of bankruptcy and out-of-court workouts. Currently, he is co-counsel to California’s attorney general in PG&E’s Chapter 11 case. He has played a significant role in many of the largest bankruptcy cases in the nation, including the Chapter 11 cases of Texaco, Enron, Dexel Burnham, PG&E, Pacific Lumber and Worldcom and the Chapter 9 cases of Vallejo, Stockton and San Bernardino. He also represented Merle Haggard in his Chapter 11 case.

**HOMETOWN** Rochester, N.Y.

**EDUCATION** University of Buffalo, UC Hastings College of the Law (JD)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** To help people solve problems

**FIRST JOB** Fourth-grade teacher in Buffalo, N.Y.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Focus on becoming good at what you do and the rest will take care of itself.

**FAVORITE BOOK** Team of Rivals by Doris Kearns Goodwin

**FAVORITE TV SHOW** The Wire

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Tina Thomas specializes in environmental, land use and natural resource litigation, including compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Subdivision Map Act and California Endangered Species Act. She helps developers and governmental agencies navigate complex environmental review and entitlement processes. Her practice focuses on infill and mixed-use development, and she has served as legal counsel for numerous cutting-edge projects that incorporate smart-growth principles.

**EDUCATION** Stephens College, University of San Diego (JD)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I was intrigued by the flexibility of a law degree and the different career paths it might provide.

**FIRST JOB** Working for my dad in his vet hospital

**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** Mike Remy, my former partner of 25 years, who passed away.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I have cycled on five continents.

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Martha Clark Lofgren, who co-founded Brewer Lofgren, specializes in advocacy before government agencies on land entitlement, regulatory issues, transportation funding, affordable housing and economic development. She uses her experience as Folsom’s city manager and city attorney from 1994 to 2006 to negotiate deals and find collaborative solutions. Lofgren has served in leadership roles with the Sacramento Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, Valley Vision, American Leadership Forum, Folsom Lake College Foundation and 8 Street Theatre.

**EDUCATION** Wellesley College, UC Davis (JD)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** My father was the county counsel for Santa Clara and San Diego counties. He retired as a superior court judge. He motivated me toenter the legal field and also to be a public lawyer.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Be nice—from my mother, before I went to meet with The Sacramento Bee editorial board to talk about a sewer spill.

**CHARITIES** American Heart Association, KVIE

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Stan Van Vleck represents clients on a variety of issues, including protecting their rights and securing and protecting permits or licenses, and in government procurement cases. He has worked for a U.S. senator and a California governor, and he has been recognized by Siemens as its top advocate in the United States. As legal counsel to former mayor Kevin Johnson, he helped keep the Kings in Sacramento. He is president of Van Vleck Ranch, his family’s Rancho Murietta ranch.

**EDUCATION** Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, McGeorge School of Law (JD)

**FIRST JOB** Building miles of fence on a ranch

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** A business partner advised me when I was getting married to let your spouse do her thing and don’t say no unless it causes blood or bankruptcy.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** The untimely passing of my parents

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Wherever my family is, that is where I like to be.

**WHAT I’D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Love life. It is precious and so brief.
Photography credits

**Arts, Sports + Entertainment**
Shaun Burner: Wes Davis
Matina Kolokotronis: Sacramento Kings
Eddie Meehan: Jose Barajas
Liv Moe: Gregory Urquiaga
Vivek Ranadive: Sacramento Kings
Amy Seiwert: Keith Sutter

**Business**
Laura Good: Tia Gemmell
David E. Ritchie Jr.: Image Outfitters Photography
Virginia A. Varela: Gordon Lazzarone

**Education + Health Care**
Jorge Aguilar: Sacramento City Unified School District
William Duncan: Image Outfitters
Derk Garcia: Dante Fontana
Garry Maisel: Rudy Meyers Photography
Gary S. May: UC Davis

**Food + Agriculture**
Thaddeus Barsotti: Bill Goidell
Brad Cecchi: Stephanie Russo

**Government + Civic Leaders**
Mona Alf: Melanie Mages
Michael Ault: Downtown Sacramento Partnership
David Baker: Ryan Greenleaf
Gina Barbato-Knepp: Hope Harris
Xavier Becerra: California Department of Justice
Caroline Beteta: Visit California (photo by Max Whittaker)
Amanda Blackwood: Tia Gemmell
Sister Libby Fernandez: Gale Filter
David Heiststuman: Beth Baugher, True Love Photo
Kelly Hopkins: Heather Prettyman Photography
Jason Jacobs: The Sacramento Zoo
Arlen Orchard: SMUD
Rivkah Sass: Ilana Sass

**Professionals**
Marcos Breton: Sacramento Bee
Martha Clark Loigren: Terence Duffy
Mary Gonsalves Kinney: Tyler and Christina
Lauren Gustus: McClatchy
Leyla Jaworski: Nicole Dianne Photography
David B. Lee: Jason Sinn
Faith Lopez: Tom Wright
Chris Pappas: Jeff Thibodeaux
Kassy Perry: Chantal Elder
Meghan Phillips: Codie Ann Blackman
Rebecca Plumb: Create + Gather
Curtis Popp: Wes Davis
Liz Salmi: Ana B. Ibarra for Kaiser Health News
Estelle G. Saltzman: Kent Lacin
Melissa Sanchez: Lebasi Photography
Anne Staines: Karieanne Munstedt
Jeff vonKaenel: Sacramento News & Review
Lila Wallrich: Jayson Carpenter
Amber Williams: Jacob Reid

**Real Estate**
Rachel Bardis: Brianne Chaney
Katherine Bardis-Miry: Brianne Chaney
Mark Friedman: Bill Santos
Shaun Alston was selected as one of the **TOP 40 MOST Successful Realtors in Sacramento**, Top Producer for three of the most coveted categories by HomeLight.com. Shaun is also a Masters Club Continuing Life Member—Top 1% of all Agents in the Region selling 76% more.

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