

# LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: BANKING



**B**USINESS BANKERS DO MUCH MORE THAN PROVIDE FINANCIAL SERVICES AND ADVICE. HAVING THE RIGHT banker on your side can, in fact, be the difference-maker for your organization, preparing it – with the right resources, capital and guidance – for the next level of growth.

Leadership of the banking sector has faced many key challenges during the past year. The good news locally is that many of the country's top banking industry thought leaders are based in the LA region.

With 2023 now past its halfway point, and businesses focused intently on fiscal planning and protecting the bottom line, bankers are perhaps more essential than ever. There are some particularly stellar bank industry thought leaders and trusted advisors in the LA region and we've alphabetically listed some of the very best of them here, along with key information about their careers, practice and some relevant recent successes they've achieved.

These are the bankers we chose to recognize for exceptional leadership, knowledge, skill and achievements in banking across the full spectrum of banking responsibility along with the highest professional and ethical standards, and for contributions to the Los Angeles business community at large.

*Methodology: The professionals featured in these pages did not pay to be included. Their profiles were drawn from nomination materials submitted to the Los Angeles Business Journal. Those selected for inclusion were reviewed by the editorial department and chosen based on a demonstration of impact made on the profession and on the Los Angeles community.*

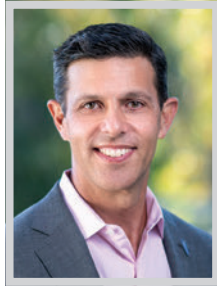
## LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: BANKING

**DAVID CAMERON**

*Executive Vice President, Personal & Business Banking  
City National Bank*

**D**avid Cameron, a seasoned financial services veteran, was promoted this past January to executive vice president of Personal & Business Banking at City National Bank. In his new role, he is responsible for overseeing the bank's support of individuals, organizations, and small to midsize businesses with annual revenues under \$40 million. With this promotion, Cameron is now a member of the bank's Executive Council.

Cameron has been instrumental in leading City National's efforts to help individual and business clients navigate this uncertain economic environment. Under his leadership, City National became one of the top lenders in the country for Small Business Administration 504 loans, which help small businesses purchase and refinance their own buildings. Cameron also led his team through the PPP and enabled Personal & Business Banking to secure more than 11,600 PPP loans for clients.

**AARON COHEN**

*EVP, Commercial & Corporate Banking  
City National Bank*

**A**fter a distinguished 27-year career at City National, Aaron Cohen was appointed in March to a newly created position as the leader of the Commercial & Corporate Banking Division. This division encompasses all of the bank's commercial lines of business: Commercial Banking, National Corporate Banking, Commercial Real Estate Banking, and Specialty Banking.

With this promotion, Cohen also joined the bank's most senior leadership team, its Strategy & Planning Committee (S&P). Before taking on his new role, Cohen was the manager of the bank's Specialty Banking division since 2020. He led colleagues across the division's six lending groups, which include structured finance, mortgage warehouse lending, franchise finance, renewable energy project finance, municipal leasing and capital finance. He also oversaw four product areas that supported the entire bank, including foreign exchange, interest rate risk management, syndications, and international banking and trade finance.

**GARRETT GIN**

*Market Executive  
Bank of America*

**G**arrett Gin is a veteran of the banking and finance industry, with more than 25 years of experience. He started his career in Southern California with Merrill Lynch in 1997 and then moved over to Bank of America in 2009.

In his role as market executive for Los Angeles, Gin works with all lines of business to help clients and communities succeed by bringing all the company's resources and expertise to bare in the company's highest growth market in the U.S., which currently has \$100 billion in consumer deposits across more than 200 financial centers, \$11 billion in lending to small, midsize, and commercial businesses, \$132 billion in wealth assets under management, and awards more than \$50 million in grants to local nonprofits – assets that have grown year-over-year under Gin's leadership. Garrett is also responsible for local market initiatives, community engagement and corporate sponsorships.

**MICHELE HAVENS**

*President, West Region  
Northern Trust*

**B**ased in Los Angeles, Michele Havens is president of the West Region at Northern Trust. In this position she is responsible for leading the company's wealth management business in the Western United States, from Washington to Texas. Havens is responsible for the investment management, trust, estate, private and banking business. She and her team work with high-net-worth families and their related charitable entities, bringing an uncompromising focus on clients. In addition, she is a member of the Northern Trust's Wealth Management Executive Committee.

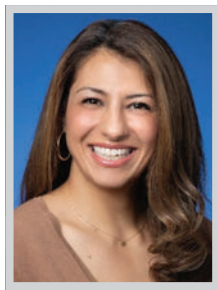
Prior to her current role, Havens served as president of the Southern California Region, president of the Los Angeles Region (2012–2019) as well as president of the Pacific Northwest Region (2009–2012). Prior to her time in Seattle, she was a portfolio manager (2000–2006) in Los Angeles. Havens began her career in New York with JP Morgan.

**JULIE HAYES**

*Managing Director; Senior Wealth Advisor  
Truist Wealth*

**J**ulie Hayes is a managing director and senior wealth advisor for Truist Wealth serving Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. She brings over 20 years of wealth management experience advising and working with a select group of high-net-worth families. Prior to joining Truist Wealth in 2021, she spent 30 years at Wells Fargo Bank.

Hayes is passionate about delivering a relevant and meaningful financial experience. She focuses on building trusting relationships with her clients. This starts by listening and working to understand priorities, goals, and family dynamics. Hayes then custom tailors a team of specialists, who will systematically manage and implement each client's plan, which may include financial and estate planning, risk, and investment management, and structuring strategic credit. Hayes also enjoys spending time serving and giving back to her community through a number of non-profit organizations.

**NEDDA ISMAILI**

*Senior Vice President;  
Commercial Real Estate Team Leader  
City National Bank*

**N**edda Ismaili is a commercial real estate team leader and is responsible for a \$2.5 billion portfolio of market rate commercial real estate loans. As an Angeleno, she felt personally compelled to "lean in" and get involved with the homeless and affordable housing crisis that is ravaging our city. She feels it is incumbent on every Angeleno to do their part to create a more equitable and just city where everyone has access to housing and education, to create not only a humane Los Angeles, but an economically and socially sound Los Angeles.

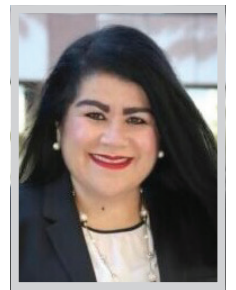
Ismaili wrote a Front-End Guidance that was approved by the Bank to support a new Affordable Housing Lending Initiative that is focused on construction, bridge, and mini-perm loans made to affordable housing developers and investors. In just over a year, they have financed the construction of 443 units of affordable housing.

**ALICE JUAREZ**

*Regional Banking Director  
Wells Fargo*

**A** 30-year financial services veteran, Alice Juarez is region bank president for Wells Fargo's Mid-Los Angeles market. In this role, she leads approximately 700 regional banking employees across 77 branches in Los Angeles County. She has been the recipient of numerous awards, including Hispanic Lifestyle magazine's "Latina of Influence," an honor it bestows annually to Latinas making a difference in their respective industries.

A proven Wells Fargo leader with expertise in working with multiple segments, including high-value customers, and in leading teams to higher performance, Juarez has been the recipient of numerous awards recognizing her extensive leadership efforts within the company. In addition, she was instrumental in the development and leadership of the Central California region's Diversity Council (as well as its subsequent expansion to Northern California) whose efforts embrace and promote diversity and inclusion in all aspects of business.

**PATTY JUAREZ**

*Executive Vice President;  
Head of Diverse Segments Commercial Banking  
Wells Fargo*

**P**romoted to executive vice president in commercial banking in January 2021 with nearly three decades of experience at Wells Fargo, Patty Juarez recently took on an additional position as the bank's head of Hispanic/Latino affairs. In this newly created role, Juarez is responsible for building a Hispanic/Latino external engagement portfolio focused on national cultural engagement, executive recruitment, business development, and stakeholder relations.

In addition to her work at Wells Fargo, she is board development chair of the Orange County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, a member of the Latinx Outreach Leadership Advisory Board at Delta Airlines, and on the advisory board of the Latino Donor Collaborative. Juárez, who has worked at Wells Fargo for more than 28 years, most recently served as director of diverse segments for commercial banking, a position she developed and grew to serve more than 5,000 clients.

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**SIMONE LAGOMARSINO**

*President & Chief Executive  
Luther Burbank Corp.*

Simone Lagomarsino, who has served as Luther Burbank’s president and chief executive since 2019, has taken on a number of new roles. Lagomarsino also leads Luther Burbank’s executive committee. In addition to her role at the company, Lagomarsino has served as chair of the Board of Directors of the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco since 2022 and as a director since 2013. She has served on the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco since 2022 and was re-elected in 2022 to a three-year term. She served as a director of Hannon Armstrong Sustainable Infrastructure Capital, Inc. from 2019 to 2022.

Prior to joining Luther Burbank, Lagomarsino served as president and CEO of the Western Bankers Association and as a director of Pacific Premier Bancorp. She previously held executive positions at financial institutions including City National Bank and Hawthorne Savings.

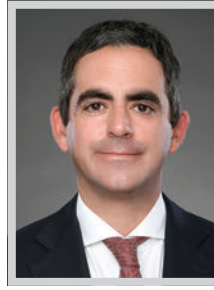


**BONNIE LEE**

*President and Chief Executive Officer  
Hanmi Financial Corporation & Hanmi Bank*

In May 2019, Bonnie Lee became the first female CEO in the Hanmi Bank’s 40-year history and became one of only ten female CEOs in the public banking industry. She joined Hanmi in August of 2013 as senior executive vice president and chief operating officer and was promoted to president in 2018.

Since becoming CEO, Lee has led the bank through a significant multi-year business transformation positioning Hanmi for strong growth. During her tenure, Hanmi has strengthened and grown its balance sheet, diversified its loan portfolio, invested in back-end technology to improve operations and data analytics, increased loan production, enhanced digital banking capabilities, improved the customer experience, and invested significantly in training the next generation of bankers. Under her leadership, the bank has also formalized and expanded its successful Corporate Korea Initiative to provide financial services to South Korean companies operating in the US.

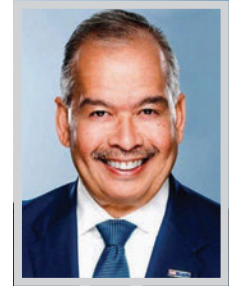


**MICHAEL MAGHAKIAN**

*Senior Relationship Manager  
Northern Trust*

Michael Maghakian serves as vice president for Northern Trust’s LA Region Wealth Management Group, based in Century City. In his relationship management role, Maghakian advises individuals, families, trusts, private equity firms, foundations, and non-profit organizations, with a special emphasis on the unique credit and capital needs of high-net-worth individuals throughout the Greater Los Angeles Region. Maghakian’s typical transactions include commercial real estate financing, aircraft loans, yacht lending, subscription lines of credit, investment secured lines of credit, and residential mortgages.

Maghakian spends his time volunteering for his local chapter AYSO, in addition to his involvement with the United Way and Junior Achievement. He more recently took on a head coach role for his younger son’s local-league recreational basketball team.



**RUDY MEDINA**

*Senior Vice President, Commercial Banking  
U.S. Bank*

U.S. Bank Southern California market president, Rudy Medina is the senior vice president who leads the commercial banking team within Los Angeles, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Inland Empire, Orange, and San Diego Counties. Medina co-leads the U.S. Bank and Southern California senior leadership team that helps establish and implement the overall strategic direction for growth in Greater Los Angeles Area and Southern California.

Medina maintains focus on adding new products and services to continue to meet the needs of U.S. Bank’s current and potential client base. He’s investing in digital technology for commercial banking and has a clear vision for how it’s going to improve the customers and bankers experience. Medina believes commercial banking products must be competitive and address clients’ needs as he and his team have an opportunity to differentiate through digital excellence.



**CONGRATULATIONS WAYNE WARD**

Senior Vice President and West Los Angeles Regional Manager

**NAMED A LEADER OF INFLUENCE: BANKING**

BY THE LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

CB&T salutes Wayne and the other honorees. Thank you!

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## LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: BANKING

**NOOR MENAI**

President & CEO  
CTBC Bank USA

Under Noor Menai's stewardship, over the last two years, CTBC Bank USA's assets grew from just over \$3 billion to more than \$5 billion, positioning CTBC as an LA Top Ten bank, in terms of assets. Additionally, Menai was named deputy global head of international business for the Taipei-based CTBC Bank, one of Asia's largest global banks with over \$240 billion in assets.

Under Menai's leadership, over the past 18 months, CTBC expanded its traditional physical presence, opening new branches in Diamond Bar, Hacienda Heights, Irvine-Jeffrey, Temple City and Torrance. Menai's national banking achievements play an outsized role compared to leaders of larger LA banks. In 2022, he was appointed as the Advisory Board of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco and he also continued to serve on FDIC's Subcommittee on Supervision Modernization, appointed by then FDIC Chairman Jelena McWilliams.

**STEVE O'CONNELL**

President and Chief Executive Officer  
California Credit Union

Steve O'Connell is President and CEO of California Credit Union, a \$4.5 billion financial institution headquartered in Glendale. Under his leadership for the past 11 years, the credit union has achieved outstanding financial performance and introduced numerous innovations to achieve significant transformation, growth, and member service enhancements across every area of operations.

Through O'Connell's guidance, the credit union's 2022 financial performance was among the highest in the organization's history, increasing assets by \$140 million to a total of \$4.5 billion, ending the year with a net worth ratio of 9.66% and realized net income of \$24 million. Consumer lending reached all-time highs, including funding a record 11,000 auto loans, with total loan production at nearly \$1.2 billion. At the same time, the member experience was improved at every touchpoint and new internal operational efficiencies were implemented to further safeguard member resources.

**IRENE H. OH**

Executive Vice President; Chief Financial Officer  
East West Bancorp Inc. and East West Bank

Irene Oh joined East West in 2004 and has served as chief financial officer since 2010. As CFO of East West Bancorp and East West Bank, she oversees the finance, accounting, treasury and investor relations functions; sales teams including cash management, foreign exchange and interest rate contracts and corporate facilities.

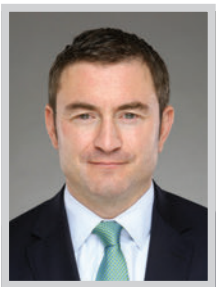
A certified public accountant, Oh began her financial career in 1999 as an auditor with Deloitte in Los Angeles and in the Cayman Islands and spent two years with Goldman Sachs prior to joining East West. She is on the board of Terreno Realty Corp. and serves on the board and as audit committee chair of the United Way of Greater Los Angeles. Oh was a board member of PS Business Parks, Inc. from 2021 to 2022. She received a bachelor's degree from California State University, Los Angeles and a master's degree in accounting from the University of Southern California.

**DIEDRA PORCHÉ**

National Head, Community Business and Development  
JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Diedra Porché is the national head of community and business development for JPMorgan Chase. In this role she is responsible for the continued success and strategic direction of the Community and Business Development team. She also leads the firm's financial health strategy across the country, where her team works to build trust in underserved local communities while providing resources to help drive economic equity for our Black and Hispanic/Latino communities nationwide.

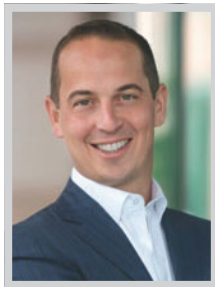
Porché is also the diversity, equity and inclusion lead of the Los Angeles Market Leadership Team – overseeing the racial equity business commitments and understanding local vulnerabilities. During her 27 years with Chase, Porché has held several senior leadership positions across the firm in Retail, Business Banking, and the Commercial Bank. Prior to her current role, she was the divisional director of California for Business Banking where she led a team of more than 400 bankers.

**MATT RECHNER**

Senior Vice President; Banking Practice Leader  
Northern Trust

Matt Rechner is a senior vice president and banking practice leader for Northern Trust, Los Angeles with oversight for the region's lending and depository business. He is responsible for advising high net worth individuals, families, their businesses, trusts, foundations and non-profit organizations from a capital advisory perspective. Prior to moving to Los Angeles, Rechner led Northern Trust's banking practice in San Diego for four years. He has over 18 years of banking and wealth management experience.

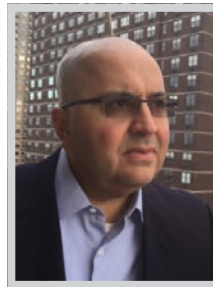
Outside of his work for Northern Trust, Rechner is also a corporate board member of the Children's Hospital Los Angeles and is currently active in the United Way, his church, and other local charitable organizations.

**TONY SCIARRINO**

Head of Middle Market Banking, Pacific Segment  
JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Tony Sciarrino is the Pacific Segment executive for JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s Middle Market Banking & Specialized Industries (MMBSI) business on the West Coast. He is responsible for leading teams of commercial bankers in California, Oregon, Alaska, Hawaii and Washington which deliver the firm's global capabilities to local clients to help them achieve their strategic goals and growing the MMBSI business in those states. He is based in Los Angeles and serves on MMBSI's executive committee.

Sciarrino leads teams of commercial bankers in more than 25 offices who offer services including credit and financing, digital payments, treasury services, and international banking to businesses. He has driven banking relationships with a number of prominent LA-based brands including ALO Yoga, Barry's Bootcamp and Sweetgreen. Sciarrino also leads JPMorgan's national business development team.

**ROBERT SETRAKIAN**

Chairman, Golden State Bank;  
Chairman and CEO, Golden State Bancorp

Robert Setrakian was a partner and co-founder of a Fortune-500 company. After completing a successful sale of the company, Setrakian went on to be the CFO of Converse Bank Armenia, where he served for over four years. Following his tenor at Converse Bank Armenia, Setrakian moved back to the United States where he purchased Golden State Bank (GSB). GSB at the time was a near-failed bank, with total assets of approximately \$75 million. Throughout the nine years that Setrakian has spearheaded the bank's development and growth as executive chairman, the bank has grown to over \$750 million.

Today, Setrakian leads a team of over 70 employees and is successfully navigating the banking industry in a niche Southern California market. Setrakian has also been an active member of the Armenian Community. He is a member of the Armenian Educational Foundation that promotes scholarships and educational opportunities to underprivileged students.

**DANIEL K. WALKER**

Chair; Chief Executive  
Farmers & Merchants Bank

As a great-grandson of a pioneer, who rode a horse across the country to seek his fortune, the grandson of a man who started his career cleaning windows and washing sidewalks, and the son of a man who started out operating an elevator, Daniel K. Walker learned early the value of hard work. When Farmers & Merchants Bank of Long Beach's reins were passed to him in 2002, after years of building his skills, he was ready. During recessionary times, he calmly navigated F&M through the rocks and shoals of a disaster to safety and unprecedented growth.

Now, under Walker's leadership, Farmers & Merchants Bank has grown to just over \$11.7 billion in assets and is now among the top 100 banks in the country. F&M Bank is poised for thoughtful expansion with two more offices in Orange County this year.

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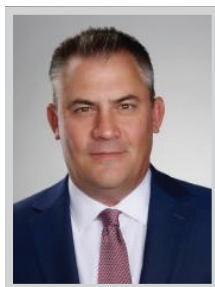


**WAYNE WARD**

Senior Vice President & Regional Manager,  
Greater Southern California  
California Bank & Trust

California Bank & Trust's Wayne Ward is a well-known industry expert who has broad and extensive leadership experience in financial services in both government and private sectors. He has more than 35 years of commercial banking and leadership experience in driving revenue growth and profitability in sales and commercial banking organizations. He has spent his entire career in the financial services industry, starting out as a national bank examiner with the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency in the US Treasury Department. This role gave him strategic insight and a deep understanding of the industry.

Ward joined California Bank & Trust in 2007. After spending one year managing the Long Beach office, Ward was promoted to manage the Greater Southern California West Region in November 2008, where he manages 14 business banking offices throughout West Los Angeles, the South Bay, and the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys.



**TODD WILSON**

Regional President, Greater Los Angeles  
PNC Bank

Todd Wilson is the regional president for PNC Bank for the Greater Los Angeles metropolitan area. Wilson joined PNC in 2021 and oversees the bank's operations in Los Angeles including business development and client relationships. He also leads the delivery of PNC's community commitment value and philanthropic focus.

Wilson's experience includes 25 years in a variety of senior executive operating roles as well as private equity, leverage lending, and specialty finance. Wilson also served as managing director for the City of Los Angeles where he developed and led the city's strategy to support small and mid-sized businesses. Wilson and his family have called Los Angeles home for nearly two decades and he is active in several community and philanthropic activities. Prior to PNC, Wilson served as chief operating officer at Fortifi Financial.

CONGRATULATIONS TO  
THE LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL'S  
**2023**  
**LEADERS**  
**OF INFLUENCE:**  
**BANKING**

**NOMINATE TODAY**



**LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL**  
**LEADERS OF INFLUENCE:**  
**INSURANCE**

The Los Angeles Business Journal's 2023 Leaders of Influence: Insurance custom content is coming up... A dedicated section in the September 11 issue will recognize your outstanding professionals in the industry. Nominees will be selected based on their professional achievements, community leadership, milestones, and notable accomplishments during the past 12-18 months.

**NOMINATION DEADLINE**  
**FRIDAY, JULY 21**

**Visit [labusinessjournal.com/nominate](http://labusinessjournal.com/nominate)**



**Congratulations**  
**Steve O'Connell, President and CEO**  
**of California Credit Union**

For Being Nominated as

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**California** 90 **CREDIT UNION** YEARS