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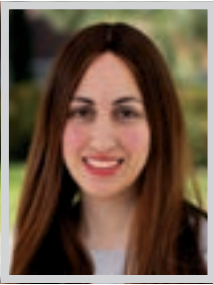
2025 HONOREES



BRIDGET AHERN
Partner
EY

Bridget Ahern has established a distinctive niche in her career at EY. In addition to being a partner in the firm’s people advisory services tax practice, she has a wealth of experience managing multi-faceted global mobility programs, with a focus on compliance, innovation, adaptability and growth. She also leads the firm’s cross-border travel team. These roles have helped her propel growth for clients across a variety of industries. Her clients have turned to her, time and again, for support with challenges related to compliance, cross-border taxes, travel, immigration and compensation.

In her 19 years in the professional services industry, Ahern has mentored dozens of women and helped lead coaching programs that create ripple effects throughout her firm.



LIMOR AMRANI
CPA, MBT
Manela & Company

Limor Amrani has been an integral part of Manela & Company since 2006, managing and reviewing highly complex tax returns for individuals, corporations, partnerships and trusts. Her expertise spans IRS and FTB audit management, estate tax planning, civil tax controversies, and specialized tax exemptions for high-net-worth clients.

Beyond technical excellence, Amrani brings innovation and foresight to her practice – advising clients on multi-state apportionment, 1031 exchanges, payroll tax matters, and non-profit exemptions, as well as guiding businesses through timely and complex relief. Amrani leads by shaping strategy and providing clarity in complex regulatory landscapes, directly impacting client success and strengthening the firm’s reputation.



SALLY AUBURY
Woodland Hills Office Lead Partner
SingerLewak

With over 30 years of experience in public accounting, Sally Aubury is well-respected in her field. At SingerLewak, Aubury helps to provide outsourced accounting and consulting services to growing companies in the private and nonprofit sectors. She also leads SingerLewak’s SL Cares program, which focuses on community engagement and impact.

Aubury has been recognized for her exceptional work, including being named one of the “Top 25 CPAs in the Valley” by the San Fernando Valley Business Journal. As a former audit partner, Aubury has extensive experience performing audits, reviews, and mergers and acquisitions for public and private companies, and participates in business consulting engagements. Before joining SingerLewak, she worked in the UK and audited resident companies and subsidiaries of US companies in the high-tech and manufacturing industries.



MEGHAN AVENDT
Director
PwC LLP

Meghan Avendt is director in PwC’s technology, media and telecom assurance practice. Avendt began her 13-year career with PwC in the Louisville, Kentucky office before spending 5 years in the Denver, Colorado office. She moved to Los Angeles in 2020 to serve several of the firm’s largest and high-profile entertainment and media clients.

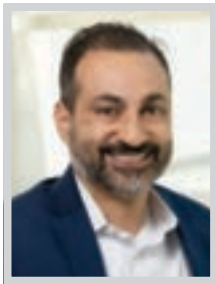
Avendt’s experience extends to clients of varying stages of maturity, including start-ups and newly public entities. She has demonstrated excellence in working with clients through highly complex accounting matters including business combinations, revenue recognition, income taxes, and goodwill and intangible asset impairment evaluations. Avendt’s additional strengths include mentoring and coaching junior staff into high performing professionals throughout the firm.



IVAN AXELROD
Chief Operating Officer
Provident Financial Management

Provident Financial Management CEO and managing director Ivan Axelrod is responsible for the day-to-day management of the firm and oversees its tax department, internal accounting, human resources and information technology departments.

Axelrod has held leadership roles at the firm since 1997, when it was sold to American Express through its current ownership structure. As CEO, he maintained a business environment that allowed the firm to meet its financial reporting requirements while expanding. Axelrod is a graduate of California State University Northridge with a Bachelor of Science in accounting and began his 18-year career with Laventhol & Horwath in 1972 – becoming a partner in 1981. He later became managing partner of the firm’s entertainment practice in Century City, which included a 40-person business management firm.



ARYAN AZARANI
Partner, Tax Services
RSM US LLP

With over 18 years of experience serving both private and public companies, Aryan Azarani has established himself as a trusted advisor in corporate tax planning and compliance. He provides international tax, ASC 740 tax provision support, and complex consulting services to clients across industries including banking, technology, life sciences, and entertainment.

Azarani is highly regarded for his ability to guide clients through accounting for income tax, uncertain tax positions, multistate issues, and purchase accounting. He has also represented clients in examinations before tax authorities, helping them navigate challenges with confidence. Azarani has been actively involved with the California Society of CPAs and the American Institute of CPAs, contributing to the professional development of peers and younger accountants.

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RUTH BALDAUF

Controller
Partner Engineering and Science, Inc.

Ruth Baldauf is controller at Partner Engineering and Science, Inc. and has been a driving force behind the company’s financial growth and operational excellence for nearly 14 years. Baldauf’s strategic acumen was prominently displayed during the company’s largest acquisition of Birdsall Services Group in 2013, when she managed the integration of complex financial elements.

Baldauf has spearheaded multiple critical software implementations, including migrations to Microsoft Dynamics GP and Deltek Vision, demonstrating her commitment to leveraging technology for enhanced financial management and reporting. Her foresight in these areas has significantly improved operational efficiency and data accuracy across the organization. Additionally, Baldauf’s commitment to the accounting profession is evident through her past service as a director on the Board of the Los Angeles Chapter of CalCPA.



TYSON BEEM

CEO
Gelfand, Rennert & Feldman LLC

As the CEO of Gelfand, Rennert & Feldman LLC (GRF), Tyson Beem is not only responsible for maintaining significant client relationships but also for the firm’s growth and collaboration across all offices both in the United States and the United Kingdom. Beem joined the Los Angeles office of GRF in 1998 shortly after graduating from the University of Southern California. He obtained his CPA license in 2003, was named a partner in 2012 and the CEO in 2022.

Beem has been recognized as one of the entertainment industry’s top business managers by The Hollywood Reporter, Variety and Billboard. Additionally, he actively participates in local college recruiting efforts to create business management and royalty accounting job opportunities for recent graduates.



GRANT BLACKMON

Senior Manager
Richey May

Rising rapidly from staff accountant to senior manager at Richey May SoCal, Grant Blackmon has consistently delivered tax expertise and professionalism while navigating some of the firm’s most challenging client engagements with clarity and confidence.

Blackmon draws upon a strong foundation of business acumen – including a Bachelor of Science in consumer affairs from California State University, Northridge. Blackmon’s professional journey is marked by steady achievement and an ability to adapt to new challenges Through leading teams, managing challenging assignments, and embodying the values of collaboration and mentorship, Blackmon is helping to shape the firm’s next generation of leadership. In a short time, he has made a positive, measurable difference for clients, colleagues and the firm.



DEBBIE CHAN

Tax Principal
BDO USA

Debbie Chan has solidified her reputation as a top accounting professional in Los Angeles, with nearly 30 years of experience developing and implementing essential tax compliance and consulting services for her clients. In 2022, Chan was named a principal in the Private Client Services (PCS) group in BDO USA’s Los Angeles office, an achievement owed to the significant emphasis she places on client relationship building.

Chan has made herself an indispensable resource for the high-net-worth individuals she serves by continually helping them overcome the tax risks they face and identifying opportunities for them to grow. Additionally, she closely collaborates with the firm’s practice team to manage projects and ensure they maintain a high degree of organization and technical competency.

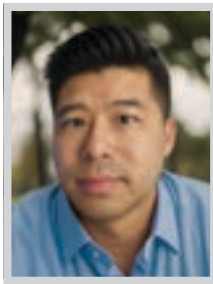


STEVE CHHUOR

Director
EisnerAmper

Steve Chhuor is the director of audit and assurance at EisnerAmper. With over 15 years of experience, he has built a career on providing audit and assurance services to emerging and middle-market companies. Chhuor’s technical expertise spans a wide array of industries – including technology, manufacturing and distribution, real estate, financial services, hospitality, and not-for-profit.

Chhuor guides clients through complex financial landscapes with a focus on strategy and long-term success. Whether it is simplifying complex technical accounting pronouncements or helping business owners navigate operational challenges, his approach is consistently pragmatic and tailored to each client’s unique needs. Chhuor’s passion for the accounting profession extends into the classroom, where he actively engages with students, sharing the wisdom he has gained over the course of his career.



ERIC CHIN

Chief Financial Officer
Akido Labs

Eric Chin is the CFO at healthcare company Akido Labs. He also serves as the audit committee chairperson for Biomerica and as a board director, treasurer and secretary for Rhode Island Primary Care Physicians Corporation. In 2025, Chin was instrumental in the success of Akido’s \$60 million Series B financing. He is heavily involved in the Los Angeles finance and accounting community and frequently serves as a speaker at numerous professional events.

Chin is a volunteer advisory board member for AI2030, a national nonprofit organization. He also volunteers his time as a fundraiser for the American Heart Association - Executives With Heart group and for the Covenant House of Los Angeles. Additionally, he serves as a mentor for students through the UCLA Alumni Association.

Excellence Recognized. Impact Realized.

Nazarian College congratulates this year's Los Angeles Business Journal's Top 100 Accountants nominees.

We are honored that 26 of these outstanding professionals are Nazarian College alumni—leaders whose achievements exemplify the power of education, dedication and community.

The David Nazarian College of Business and Economics is redefining progress, with students, business leaders and educators leading the charge in building a stronger, more inclusive tomorrow.

We are a proud sponsor of the Los Angeles Business Journal's Top 100 Accountants event.

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LINDA CHOU
Tax Partner
Lucas Horsfall

As a tax partner at Lucas Horsfall with over 15 years of experience in tax planning, consulting and compliance, Linda Chou consistently delivers exceptional value to her clients by optimizing tax savings and providing strategic guidance that supports long-term business growth. Chou has a Bachelor’s Degree from UCLA and a Master of Business Taxation from USC. Chou serves as Lucas Horsfall’s tax technical expert, ensuring that both clients and colleagues benefit from her deep knowledge of ever-changing tax regulations. She also leads the firm’s internship program, mentoring and training the next generation of accountants. For the past five years, Chou has served on the board of trustees for the Ronald McDonald House Pasadena, where she currently holds the role of secretary.



MATT COCHRAN
Audit and Assurance Partner
Lucas Horsfall

As an audit and assurance partner with over fifteen years of experience in public accounting, Matt Cochran brings a wealth of knowledge to the middle-market companies and employee benefit plans he serves. His industry focus spans construction, manufacturing and distribution, healthcare, retail, professional services, and media and entertainment, where he delivers not only audit and review services but also valuable business consulting that helps clients navigate challenges and seize opportunities. Before joining Lucas Horsfall, Cochran gained diverse experience at a regional Los Angeles accounting firm, where he worked with private, nonprofit and publicly held entities – including audits of internal control over financial reporting. His background gives him a unique perspective that strengthens his ability to guide clients with both technical precision and practical insight.



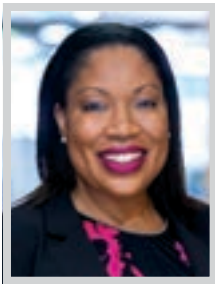
STEVE CUPINGOOD
Los Angeles Office Lead Partner
SingerLewak

Steve Cupingood helps individuals and businesses to create effective tax plans that minimize their tax liabilities while ensuring compliance with the relevant tax laws. He has extensive experience in advising clients on various business transactions, including buying and selling businesses, and mergers and acquisitions. Cupingood regularly assists clients in creating tax-efficient estate plans that ensure smooth and efficient transfer of wealth to beneficiaries. Cupingood has significant experience in advising clients on real estate activities, including buying and selling properties, structuring real estate transactions, and dealing with tax implications of real estate investments. Additionally, he is a member of several professional organizations, including the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the California Society of Certified Public Accountants.



KIP DELLINGER
Senior Tax Partner
Kallman & Company, LLP

Kip Dellinger is senior tax partner of Kallman & Company LLP and handles tax quality and risk management for the firm. He is a nationally recognized expert regarding ethical conduct standards in tax practice. He has been retained as an expert in over 70 litigation or regulatory matters involving CPA or CPA firm standards of care in tax practice. He has represented many of the country’s 20 largest CPA firms including Big 4 CPA firms on multiple occasions. Dellinger consults with insurance carriers and law firms on matters involving regulatory conduct issues. He also currently serves on the AICPA-CIMA Professional Ethics Executive Committee and is chair of the AICPA Tax Division’s Circular 230 Task Force, which recently provided written comments on IRS proposed revisions to the Circular.



TAYIIKA DENNIS
Principal
Confidential

Tayiika Dennis is a proud and dedicated member of the Los Angeles accounting community, and a trailblazer for the pipeline of future CPAs. Professionally, Dennis is dedicated to servicing nonprofit organizations – providing audit, tax and consulting services. She specializes in social service organizations, with a focus on revenue streams and compliance. Dennis recently was named a Forbes America’s Top 200 CPA honoree for her years of service to CLA LLP and CalCPA, and notably for her viral redefining of the acronym of CPA to include a double meaning: ‘Coolest Profession Around.’ Dennis is also a CalCLA LA Chapter Scholarship Committee member and current AICPA Council meeting member. She currently mentors professionals in her firm, helping them navigate their career.



JEREMY DILLARD
Technical Standards Partner
SingerLewak LLP

Jeremy Dillard is an accomplished accountant with over 26 years of experience in his field. Jeremy Dillard volunteers with the AICPA to help improve the rules and guidance that CPAs follow. He is currently finishing a six-year appointment to the Private Company Council (PCC), which advises the Financial Accounting Standards Board on setting US GAAP for private companies. Prior to his appointment on the PCC, Dillard was a member of the Accounting and Review Services Committee that issues the rules and guidance that all CPAs must follow when performing reviews and compilations. Dillard’s dedication to his community is evident in his involvement as a board member for the Weingart East Los Angeles YMCA and committee member for the Pasadena Tournament of Roses.



Outstanding leadership. Exceptional results.

At KPMG, we never underestimate the power of dedicated people. That's why we want to recognize Mary Tripp, Jim Eubanks, and Mark Hughes for their outstanding contribution to the accounting industry. You've exceeded expectations and made a positive difference in the lives of so many. Discover more at kpmg.com

KPMG. Make the Difference.





2025 HONOREES



KEVIN DOMAN

Senior Manager, Financial Accounting Advisory Services
EY

Kevin Doman is a seasoned financial accounting advisor with over 13 years of experience guiding global organizations through complex transformation transactions. His expertise spans initial public offerings, SPACs, divestitures, and mergers and acquisitions, where he helps clients navigate external reporting requirements and intricate accounting challenges. Doman thrives in dynamic environments, collaborating with diverse teams to solve new problems and deliver strategic insights. His ability to simplify complexity and drive clarity has made him a trusted partner in high-stakes financial scenarios. Passionate about continuous learning, Doman brings both technical precision and a collaborative spirit to every engagement, making a lasting impact on the organizations and professionals he works with.



BRIAN DONAHUE

Partner
PwC LLP

Brian Donahue is an asset and wealth management (AWM) partner with PwC. He started his career in PwC's Boston office, worked in the London office for six months, relocated to LA to serve a significant AWM client and most recently, worked for three years in the Tokyo office, serving the firm's highest profile, global multi-national AWM clients in the city. Upon Donahue's repatriation to LA in 2023, he was sought for by one of the firm's largest AWM clients to return to serve them. Donahue has maintained a strong presence and network throughout the LA accounting community, actively speaking in conferences, sponsoring CPAs going back to school to receive advanced degrees, and recruiting accounting students from local universities.



KAYO ELKNER

Partner
Prager Metis

Kayo Elkner is a partner in the accounting and tax departments of Prager Metis, a member of Prager Metis International Group, and an accomplished CPA with over 20 years of experience in the accounting industry. Elkner specializes in accounting and tax services to individuals and closely held businesses. She has prepared individual, corporate, S corporation, and partnership income tax returns for clients in the US and internationally, including Japanese clients headquartered in Hawaii and California. She is fluent in Japanese and is a member of Prager Metis' Japan group. Before Prager Metis, Elkner joined Nagano Morita, a Japanese CPA firm. She is a member of the Japanese Business Association and the California Society of Certified Public Accountants.



JIM EUBANKS

Partner
KPMG

Jim Eubanks has over eighteen years of experience with KPMG providing federal and state income tax advisory and compliance services to publicly and privately held technology, life sciences, manufacturing, consumer market and entertainment industries. Eubanks currently leads the Business Tax Services – Integrated Partnership Solutions Practice and the KPMG Emerging Growth Practice in the Pacific Southwest. His focus is on tax planning for significant growth from a jurisdictional and operational standpoint, reducing the effective tax rate and minimizing cash tax liabilities and risk. He also has extensive experience with both corporate and complex multi-tiered partnership organizational structures. Eubanks is a member of the Tax Division of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and is on the board of the Economic Development Collaborative.



ANTHONY FERGUSON

Principal; Assurance Market Leader
BDO USA

As Southern California assurance market leader and national fintech industry leader at BDO USA, Anthony Ferguson works closely with firm leadership and principals to deliver responsive, innovative solutions in a rapidly evolving marketplace. His influence extends beyond client service, and he is deeply invested in fostering the growth and development of professionals at all career stages. Ferguson's journey at BDO began as an intern in 1993. He has since become a trusted advisor to public and private companies across a multitude of industries including technology, life sciences, and financial services, and has held leadership positions at the office, market, regional and national levels. Ferguson has been instrumental in building BDO's fintech and digital asset/distributed ledger practices and helping clients navigate complex regulatory and technical challenges.



COREY FISCHER

Firm Managing Partner
Weinberg & Company, P.A.

Corey Fischer has long been recognized as a top accountant by peers and the public companies he serves because of his technical expertise and high ethical and business standards. Since taking the helm as firm managing partner of LA-headquartered public accounting firm Weinberg & Company, he has focused on attracting a diversified team of audit professionals who share his goal of providing exceptional personal service to clients. Despite the growing trend for consolidation and acquisition of accounting firms by private equity, Fischer continues to lead one of the few remaining independent, PCAOB-registered firms in Los Angeles County. That independence, and Fischer's insistence on excellence, has resulted in a firm which has earned a top reputation based on the integrity of its audit work.

Celebrating Excellence in Accounting Leadership

Armanino is proud to honor **Tom Schulte**, named **Accounting Icon of the Year** and recognized as one of the **Top 100 Accountants for 2025** by the Los Angeles Business Journal.

We also celebrate **Parnia Pandkhou** and **Ken Teasdale**, who join Tom in being recognized as **Top 100 Accountants for 2025** by LABJ.

Their expertise, leadership and dedication continue to set the standard for excellence in the accounting profession.



Parnia Pandkhou
Partner



Ken Teasdale
Partner

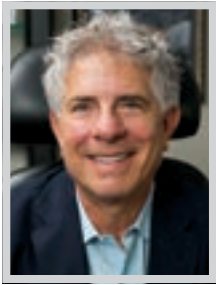


Tom Schulte
Partner

Congratulations to Tom, Parnia and Ken for these remarkable achievements!



2025 HONOREES



STEVEN FISHMAN
Partner
Fishman Block + Diamond

Steven Fishman has over 45 years of experience, specializing in real estate and high-net-worth tax planning. Fishman expertise extends across a diverse spectrum of tax, strategic and financial planning services. He is a trusted advisor to family office and real estate private equity sponsor clients with a focus on multi-generational wealth transfer, trust and estate tax returns, trust administration, private foundations, private real estate funds and structure planning, and assistance with complex transactions and issues.

In addition, Fishman is very active in the Los Angeles community, and has leadership and board roles at Stephen Wise Temple, AIPAC, the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles, Elnet, Wise Readers to Leaders, the Impact Forum, and Birthright Israel.



GLENN FRANK
Partner
David Weise & Associates, A Division of NKSFB

As a once-aspiring musician, Glenn Frank brings a unique combination of accounting expertise and passion for music to his role as a tax partner at David Weise & Associates, a division of NKSFB. Frank, in conjunction with the firm’s tour department, consults on tax and business management issues that affect both the firm’s international and domestic clients doing business in the US and abroad. He also specializes in structuring business entities, contract negotiations, and tax audit representation.

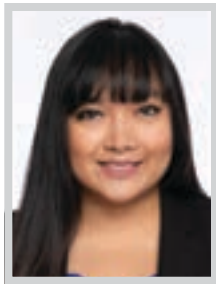
With over 30 years in the entertainment industry, Frank shares his proficiency in international and domestic tax compliance matters, providing guidance to some of the entertainment industry’s biggest names. Frank’s attention to detail, sharp analytical skills, and creative approach are unparalleled.



DAMON FRIER
Principal; Partnership Tax Solutions
Grant Thornton Advisors LLC

During his college career, Damon Frier planned to become a clinical psychologist, until a single accounting course changed his path. He became fascinated by accounting as a balanced system that draws upon business, math, law and even sales. He was especially inspired by the opportunity to use his accounting knowledge to understand diverse industries and help companies strengthen their financial health.

For the last 30 years, Frier has been creating new possibilities for privately held middle-market companies across various industries. He has spent the past 20 years in a variety of key leadership roles at Grant Thornton Advisors, including leading the firm’s Los Angeles tax services practice, the West Region privately held business tax services practice, and chairing the Southern California private equity initiative.



MARA GARCIA
CFO
Phonexa

Mara Garcia holds the role of chief financial officer at Phonexa, where she oversees the company’s accounting, finance, human resources and legal/compliance functions – while also supporting Phonexa’s Partnership Program. Garcia joined Phonexa in 2020 as vice president of finance and accounting, overseeing various financial practices and procedures.

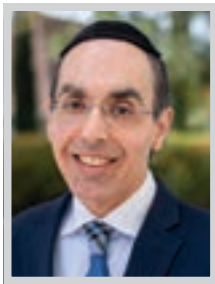
Garcia’s leadership has been recognized through numerous accolades, including nominations for the CFO Leadership Awards by Los Angeles Times B2B Publishing and the Los Angeles Business Journal, as well as being named a Top 100 Accountant by LABJ. Her involvement extends beyond Phonexa; she serves on the board of the CSUN Nazarian College Alumni Chapter and was previously vice president of the board of directors for CalCPA’s LA Chapter.



MICHELLE GERMAIN
Partner
LA Business Management, LLP

Michelle Germain is a partner at LA Business Management, LLP, a boutique tax and business management firm located in Woodland Hills. Germain provides tax, business management, advisory and bookkeeping services to a diverse list of high-net-worth individuals and small businesses.

Germain specializes in representing entertainment and real estate clients and focuses on family and estate transition planning. She also provides extensive consulting services concerning the tax implications of significant mergers and acquisitions transactions. Germain received her CPA license from the state of California in 2016. She joined LA Business Management in 2018 after working at PwC in its Los Angeles office. She excels at business development and at managing her employees, training them to be better accountants.



HOUTAN GHOLIAN
CPA
Manela & Company

As managing director at Manela & Company, Houtan Gholian specializes in federal, state and international tax consulting and compliance, serving a wide range of industries including real estate, asset management, healthcare and entertainment. His ability to craft innovative tax strategies and provide thoughtful business consulting and structuring services makes him an indispensable advisor to business owners, entities, foundations and trusts.

Gholian leads with a holistic approach – he not only ensures compliance but also helps clients identify opportunities for growth and long-term success. His depth of knowledge in complex, multi-jurisdictional tax issues allows him to guide clients through challenges with clarity and confidence, while his leadership within the firm strengthens its ability to deliver premier service.

Today: celebrate Tomorrow: accelerate.

There's no better reason to celebrate than a milestone achievement. At EY, we couldn't be happier for Bridget Ahern, Elizabeth Tellado and Kevin Doman for being recognized as part of the Los Angeles Business Journal's Top 100 Accountants. We hope you'll join us in congratulating them. Cheers!

ey.com



Bridget Ahern
Partner
People Advisory Services
Ernst & Young LLP



Elizabeth Tellado
Partner
Audit Services
Ernst & Young LLP



Kevin Doman
Senior Manager
Financial Accounting
Advisory Services
Ernst & Young LLP



The better the question.
The better the answer.
The better the world works.



Shape the future
with confidence



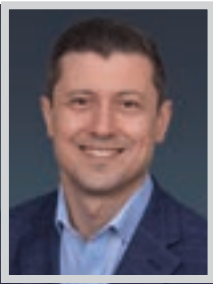
2025 HONOREES



W. SHANE GLASS
Managing Director
Gelfand Rennert & Feldman

W. Shane Glass provides business management services to recording artists and performers, singer/songwriters, athletes, directors, producers, actors, influencers, entertainers and executives. Glass has also served as tour accountant for major touring artists all over the world.

Prior to merging his team with Gelfand Rennert & Feldman in 2024, Glass was the president of business management at The Colony Group (TCG), a nationally recognized independent wealth advisory and business management firm. Previously, he co-founded and was the managing partner of a boutique business management firm that merged into TCG. Earlier, he served as a managing director at a large international accounting and business management firm. Glass has also focused his time on assisting multiple non-profits for veterans, substance prevention, youth and adult programs for impairments.



GREG GLATER
Partner
CohnReznick

An audit partner and technology leader with over 18 years of experience, Greg Glater consistently delivers world-class client service. He has played a pivotal role in helping clients navigate complex business transactions including acquisitions, dispositions, restructurings, public offerings, and intricate share-based compensation arrangements. His deep expertise and strategic insight help enable clients to make informed decisions during critical phases of their growth.

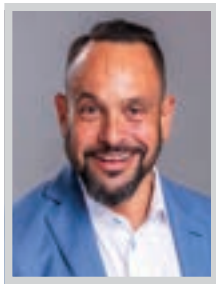
Glater supports clients from initial incorporation to achieving international scale and multi-billion-dollar revenues. His extensive experience allows him to offer clients insightful perspectives on the financial, operational, and strategic challenges they face at every stage of growth. Glater has also grown the practice through introducing innovative approaches, expanding service capabilities, and driving strategic initiatives that have strengthened the firm's position in the market.



MICHAEL GOOD
Partner
CohnReznick

Michael Good currently serves a diverse portfolio of non-profit entities, educational institutions, foundations, affordable housing organizations, social service and healthcare providers, and professional associations – many of which are subject to complex audit requirements including OMB Uniform Guidance, CDE/CDSS, and HUD. His ability to navigate regulatory frameworks have made him a trusted advisor to organizations that rely on his guidance to help maintain compliance and financial integrity.

As the West Coast leader of the not-for-profit and education practice and co-leader of the higher education practice, Good drives strategic growth and innovation across service lines. He previously served as social services practice leader and continues to shape firm-wide initiatives through his roles on the leadership committee for the not-for-profit and education practice and the affordable housing practice.



HOWARD GROBSTEIN
Partner
Grobstein Teeple LLP

Native Angeleno Howard Grobstein has been a local, trusted expert in forensic accounting and fiduciary support for over thirty years. A graduate of California State University, Northridge, Grobstein swiftly honed an entrepreneurial edge in the accounting profession, finding creative ways to serve clients beyond the transactional opportunities typical of a consulting practice.

In 2013, he formed Grobstein Teeple, an accounting and consulting firm headquartered in LA. Under his leadership as managing partner, the firm has expanded from eight to over fifty professionals, offering full-service accounting and consulting services to individuals and middle-market businesses. Grobstein specializes in all matters of business consulting including business valuation, business management, back-office accounting, fractional CFO services, transactions and due diligence.



KEITH HAMASAKI
Principal, Assurance & Advisory
EisnerAmper

As a Certified Public Accountant, Keith Hamasaki is passionate about simplifying the complex and bringing together a collaborative team that can help build a better future. With nearly two decades of experience advising clients on technical matters and improving accounting processes, Keith specializes in identifying key performance indicators through business intelligence and technical audit services to emerging and middle-market companies.

As someone who has consistently helped clients overcome challenges, Hamasaki has developed an expertise in a variety of industries, including manufacturing and distribution, consumer products, real estate, private equity funds, technology, digital marketing, professional services, not-for-profit organizations, and employee benefit plans. Further, Hamasaki leads the firm's KROST Business Intelligence practice that transforms a company's accounting infrastructure with key performance metrics.



PATRICIA BELL HARIK
Managing Partner
Harik Thompson

Patricia Harik currently holds the position of managing partner at Harik Thompson CPAs, where she is responsible for leading the tax department and specializes in tax consulting, estate and trust planning and administration, as well as family wealth and business succession advisory services. She is an active member of the South Bay Estate Planning Council, demonstrating her dedication to staying well-informed and refining her expertise in the constantly evolving field of estate planning.

Harik earned a Bachelor's degree in Business/Economics and French literature from the University of California at Santa Barbara, and a Master's Degree in Taxation from Golden Gate University. She strongly believes in maintaining a work/life balance and adopts a team-oriented approach to problem-solving, ensuring that clients receive high-quality, friendly service.

CHEERS TO EXCELLENCE!

Richey May is proud to recognize
Rick Schenkel and Grant Blackmon
for being named among the *Los Angeles Business Journal's*
“Top 100 Accountants” for 2025.



RICK SCHENKEL
Top 100 Accountant



GRANT BLACKMON
*Top 100 Accountant
Emerging Leader*

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MAY**

**Formerly Sobul, Primes
and Schenkel**

"Richey May" is the brand name under which Richey, May & Co., LLP and RM Advisory LLC provide professional services. Richey, May & Co., LLP and RM Advisory LLC practice as an alternative practice structure in accordance with the AICPA Code of Professional Conduct and applicable law, regulations and professional standards. Richey, May & Co., LLP is a licensed independent CPA firm that provides attest services to its clients, and RM Advisory LLC and its subsidiary entities provide tax and business consulting services to their clients. RM Advisory LLC is not a licensed CPA firm.



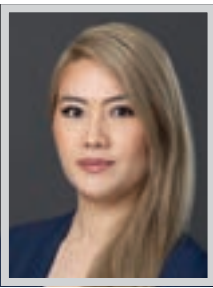
2025 HONOREES



LAUREN HAVERLOCK
Principal
Baker Tilly

Lauren Haverlock has built her career around one simple but powerful belief: accounting can be a tool for good. For over 15 years, she has dedicated herself to serving not-for-profit organizations and individuals who are passionate about giving back. Her clients are the institutions at the heart of Los Angeles, including schools, hospitals, food banks, environmental groups, and cultural organizations that lift up the local community every day. Her expertise allows these organizations to thrive, partnering with clients to ensure they can focus on improving the lives of others.

Within Baker Tilly, Haverlock’s impact is equally profound. As the tax office leader for the Los Angeles region, she guides both strategy and people with compassion and purpose.



JADE HOANG
Principal
Baker Tilly

Jade Hoang is an exceptional accounting professional whose journey and leadership embody perseverance, innovation and inclusiveness. Originally from Denmark, she came to the United States to pursue her studies and has worked her way up the ranks through dedication, resilience and a commitment to excellence.

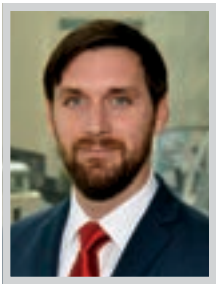
As a woman and a minority in the field, Hoang played an instrumental role in building a new department early in her career, shaping its culture around belonging, collaboration and accountability. She combines deep technical experience with a compassionate leadership style, mentoring and advocating for other women and underrepresented accounting professionals. Her presence and voice have elevated her work and the people around her, making her a standout in the industry.



DAMON HOUTERMAN
Principal
Baker Tilly

Damon Houterman is a standout in the accounting profession. With more than 20 years of experience and more than 500 transactions evaluated globally, ranging from \$5 million to \$30 billion. His journey began with a passion for investing and a drive to clarify complex financial decisions. Standout projects include those where he could apply his understanding of deal dynamics to help position clients in a meaningful way.

Through his commitment to helping clients navigate high-stakes M&A deals, Houterman delivers measurable value and coaches leadership to make sound business decisions. As a dedicated mentor, Houterman takes immense pride in training team members and developing a broader sense of community. The training and mentor programs he has helped develop highlight his leadership skills.



MARK HUGHES
Partner
KPMG

Mark Hughes is global lead partner at KPMG and leads some of the firm’s largest private equity accounts. He is a leader in KPMG’s Deal Advisory practice and leads due diligence (financial, tax, IT, commercial operation, integration), transaction structuring, accounting advisory, agreement vetting and post close assistance for private equity clients. He has more than 20 years of professional experience in the UK and US, including 14 years focused within M&A.

Hughes has advised significant private equity clients on a wide array of due diligence, accounting structuring, carve out issues and financial reporting aspects of transactions. He has extensive experience across industries and primarily focuses on technology and sports transactions. He has deep international experience having led cross-border deals.



JEFFREY HYLDAHL
Co-Managing Partner
Fineman West & Co LLP

Jeff Hyldahl started at Fineman West as a young staff and earned his role over the years and is a vital partner in the firm. In his leadership position, Hyldahl consistently demonstrated a forward-thinking approach that prioritizes inclusivity, innovation and the well-being of the team.

Hyldahl embodies a quiet strength, makes decisions not just for the sake of progress, but for the people who make that progress possible. Time and time again we have watched him navigate complex situations with empathy and foresight. In a time when leadership requires more than just traditional (old way of thinking and doing) authority, he has shown that being ahead of the curve means understanding and acting on the diverse needs of the organization.



ROBERT HYMERS
Managing Partner
Pinnacle Tax Services

Robert Hymers, with several years of both tax and auditing experience at Ernst & Young, worked in the firm’s core assurance practice performing audits of public and private companies, specifically in the real estate industry. He was a member of EY’s National Tax Group.

Hymers is the founder and managing partner of Pinnacle Tax Services, Inc. and specializes in providing tax and accounting services for a host of different industries. Pinnacle Tax specializes in helping small and mid-sized businesses located in the greater LA area maintain tax compliance. He also have a specialty in assisting cannabis companies with the rigorous tax compliance including Section 280E reporting requirements. Hymers was also a managing partner of a multi strategy Hedge Fund from 2019 to 2023.

2025 HONOREES

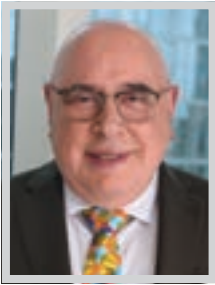


CATHY HYODO

Market Managing Partner, Greater Southwest Region,
Grant Thornton Advisors LLC;
Partner, Audit Services, Grant Thornton LLP

Cathy Hyodo’s career spans more than three decades of exceptional leadership, marked by innovation, strategic growth and a relentless focus on people. As the market managing principal of Grant Thornton’s Greater Southwest offices – including Los Angeles – and a former member of the firm’s Partnership Board, Hyodo has played a pivotal role in shaping the direction of one of the largest professional services firms in the country.

Since taking leadership of the LA office in 2018, Hyodo has overseen hundreds of professionals across tax, audit and advisory, driving both client service excellence and operational growth. Her leadership has expanded the firm’s regional presence while fostering a culture defined by mentorship, flexibility and innovation. Hyodo is also recognized as a leading voice in the technology sector.



STEVEN JAGER

Partner
Fineman West & Company

Steven L. Jager, partner at Fineman West & Company, is a distinguished leader in the accounting profession with more than 40 years of experience advising businesses and their owners on tax planning, compliance, income tax controversy, and strategic business consultancy. Over the course of his career, he has become a trusted advisor to professionals, entrepreneurs and small businesses across Los Angeles and beyond.

Jager’s practice is uniquely versatile, serving a wide range of industries including physicians, attorneys and their closely held corporations, real estate operators and brokers, insurance agents, professional athletes, entertainment industry executives, teachers, university professors and members of the clergy. He is admitted to the Bar of the United States Tax Court, giving him the ability to litigate cases when necessary.



ALBERT JANG

Partner
Kim & Lee, LLP

Albert Jang, CPA, is a recognized leader in international business consulting and high-net-worth individual tax planning. As managing partner of Kim & Lee, LLP and founder of KL Global Consulting, LLC, he delivers strategic solutions in multi-jurisdictional tax planning, asset protection, and estate structuring for multinational corporations and affluent individuals, consistently achieving optimal results while ensuring compliance with complex international regulations.

Jang’s leadership extends far beyond his professional achievements. He has served as president of the Korean American Chamber of Commerce, fostering economic growth and cross-cultural partnerships, and as a board member for the Korean American Special Education Center, where he supports programs serving disadvantaged children with special needs. He also serves on the board of the Korean American Foundation, advancing philanthropic initiatives that strengthen community welfare.



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Congratulations to Stephen Lee and Gary Zhang for being recognized as two of the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* Top 100 Accountants of 2025!

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Stephen Lee
Partner
slee@citrincooperman.com



Gary Zhang
Partner
gzhang@citrincooperman.com



2025 HONOREES



MARIJANE KANTZABEDIAN

Partner
Miller Kaplan

Marijane Kantzabedian is a key contributor to the high-performance culture at Miller Kaplan. With 18 years of experience, she has specialized in financial statement audits for the entertainment, media and technology sectors, focusing primarily on private companies and exempt organizations. Kantzabedian’s deep understanding of audit principles, combined with her ability to tailor services to each client’s needs, has resulted in the establishment of many enduring client relationships.

In addition to her primary role, Kantzabedian is an active member of the quality control committee. In this capacity, she helps ensure compliance with industry, state, and federal audit regulations by monitoring and reporting on policy updates, thereby supporting both the firm and its clients in maintaining high standards.



MIRIAM KAPLAN

Partner; CAS Practice Leader
Duffy Kruspodin, LLP

Miriam Kaplan, MBA, CPA, is a partner and the Client Advisory Services practice leader at Duffy Kruspodin, LLP, where she is driving one of the firm’s most strategic growth initiatives: helping businesses gain timely, accurate visibility into their financial performance. Kaplan leads a team delivering outsourced accounting, fractional controller and CFO services, and data-driven financial insights to small and mid-sized enterprises across Southern California. She brings a modern, technology-enabled approach to advisory, equipping business owners with clear, actionable intelligence on liquidity, solvency, profitability and operational efficiency.

Her impact extends well beyond process improvements. Under her leadership, clients are empowered to scale sustainably, prepare for transactions, and make critical decisions with foresight rather than hindsight.

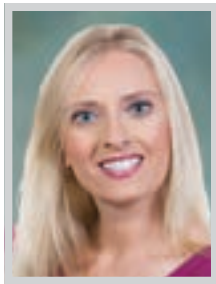


ANDREW KLINT

Managing Director, Grant Thornton Advisors LLC
Grant Thornton

Andrew Klint is a managing director in Grant Thornton’s Los Angeles audit practice, specializing in asset management clients across the LA market. He supports both public and private entities in meeting financial reporting objectives, raising capital and advancing business goals.

With 14 years at Grant Thornton, Klint has developed deep knowledge across private equity and private credit funds, specialty lenders, mortgage REITs, fintech, loan servicers and asset managers. His technical depth spans fair value accounting, securitizations, mortgage servicing rights and derivative instruments. He also brings experience in HUD compliance reviews, Regulation AB examinations and M&A advisory. Klint’s two-year rotation with the German member firm of Grant Thornton International Ltd expanded his global network and deepened his ability to deliver cross-border solutions for clients.



STACEY KORMAN

Partner
EisnerAmper

Stacey Korman’s 25 years of experience in the public accounting profession is characterized by her consistent commitment to excellence, leadership and client service. As an outsourced service partner for mid-market, she has been a true leader of accounting professionals, fostering a collaborative team and a growth-oriented environment.

Korman takes pride in being a mentor to staff, developing their technical skills and professional confidence. Her leadership philosophy centers on empowerment, accountability and collaboration. She leads by example and doesn’t shy away from rolling up her sleeves to support the team or tackle complex challenges directly. She is particularly proud of the dozens of team members who have achieved senior and manager roles both in both public and private accounting under her guidance.



JASON A. KREIN

Tax Partner, Tax Services
RSM US LLP

With more than 23 years of accounting and finance experience, Jason A. Krein has built a career specializing in private equity and venture capital. He previously led the private equity industry practice for Los Angeles and the West region at RSM US LLP, where he established himself as a trusted technical resource in partnership taxation.

Krein regularly advises on complex matters including purchase and sale transactions, income allocation provisions, and tax-efficient structuring for private equity and venture capital funds. His client work spans diverse industries, from manufacturing and media to transportation and e-sports. Through his leadership and technical acumen, Krein continues to deliver significant value for clients while elevating RSM’s reputation in the private equity sector.



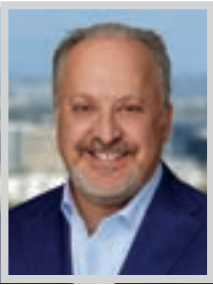
RAFFI KURKJIAN

President
RGK Accountancy, P.C.

Raffi G. Kurkjian exemplifies the highest standards of excellence, leadership and service in the accounting profession. Since joining CalCPA in 2016, Kurkjian has consistently demonstrated a deep commitment to advancing the profession, supporting fellow accountants, and giving back to the community.

Currently serving as the president of the Los Angeles Chapter of CalCPA, Kurkjian plays a pivotal role in shaping the direction of one of the most influential chapters in California. His leadership is marked by innovation, collaboration and a relentless drive to elevate the profession. Under his guidance, the chapter has expanded its outreach, strengthened member engagement, and fostered a culture of mentorship and inclusion. He is a passionate advocate for the profession, regularly promoting CalCPA to peers and encouraging active participation among accountants at all career stages.

2025 HONOREES



STEVE LANDAU
Partner
NKSFB, LLC

Throughout Steve Landau’s career, he has always focused on more than what the numbers say, but rather how they impact his clients. Landau has more than 20 years of experience in business management. Over that time, his clients have included internationally renowned musicians, entrepreneurs, film directors and athletes.

Landau’s focus is business management and he specializes in comprehensive tour planning and operations; structuring new business; budgeting; cash flow analysis; financing and purchasing large assets; tax and estate planning; and family office services. Prior to working in business management, Landau worked in the film and television industry as a talent manager. He served on the board of Shomrei Torah Synagogue for seven years, four as the treasurer. His charitable focus is on educational institutions.



DANIEL LEE
Partner
Duffy Kruspodin, LLP

Daniel Lee, CPA, is a partner in Duffy Kruspodin’s Beverly Hills office, where he helps guide families, entrepreneurs and business owners through their most complex financial decisions. Promoted to partner in 2023, Lee represents the next generation of leadership at Duffy Kruspodin, bringing more than two decades of experience in tax, family office, and trusts and estates services to clients across Los Angeles.

In addition to his extensive work with high-net-worth families, Lee is also one of the firm’s leaders in the professional services industry, advising law firms, medical practices, and other closely held service organizations. He understands the unique financial and operational challenges these businesses face and delivers tailored strategies to help them remain competitive, compliant and sustainable.



STEPHEN LEE
Tax Partner
Citrin Cooperman

Stephen Lee, partner at Citrin Cooperman’s West Los Angeles office, brings over 30 years of tax experience, specializing in real estate and private equity. He advises REITs, real estate funds, leveraged buyouts, growth equity, debt funds, and management firms, guiding clients across structuring, acquisitions, operations, and dispositions. Before Citrin Cooperman, he spent 15 years at Ernst & Young and more than seven years at PwC, serving as engagement partner for Fortune 500 public REITs and private real estate funds. His expertise, leadership and client impact make him a standout candidate.

Lee contributes to the accounting and real estate communities by providing technical training on partnership and REIT taxation, helping elevate industry knowledge and professional standards.



LABJ Top 100 Accountants Honorees



ICON

MIKE SOVIK, CPA



EMERGING LEADER

MATT COCHRAN, CPA

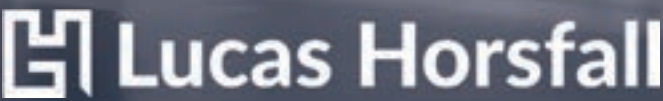


INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITY IMPACT

LINDA CHOU, CPA, MBT

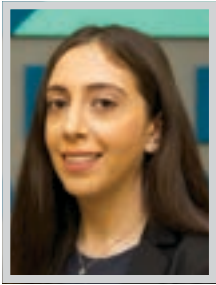
CONGRATULATIONS!

From all of us at Lucas Horsfall to our LABJ Top 100 Accountants honorees, **Matt Cochran**, **Mike Sovik**, and **Linda Chou**. Your leadership and commitment to excellence inspire us all.





2025 HONOREES



MARY LEYLEKYAN
Senior Manager, Audit
Miller Kaplan

Mary Leylekyan joined the Miller Kaplan team in 2018, most recently serving as a senior audit manager where she leads audits across a wide range of industries, including employee benefit plans, nonprofit organizations, and privately held companies. Beginning her accounting career in the private sector at a manufacturing company, she dedicated four and a half years to gaining valuable operational experience before moving into public accounting.

Leylekyan has played a key role in leading a firm-wide risk assessment initiative that refined audit methodology and increased consistency across engagements. She is recognized not only for delivering high-quality work under pressure, but also for her commitment to mentoring junior staff and supporting the growth of her team.



HARRY LIN
Founder
Harry C. Lin, CPA A Professional Corporation

Harry Lin, CPA, MBA, is a distinguished tax professional whose leadership and contributions have left a meaningful and lasting mark on both his firm and the broader community. With decades of experience, Lin has built an exceptional practice that delivers comprehensive tax and financial advisory services to a wide spectrum of clients, including individuals, small and mid-sized enterprises, multinational corporations, and ultra-high-net-worth individuals – particularly within the Chinese and Taiwanese communities in the United States.

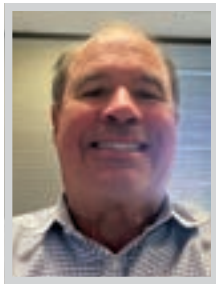
Renowned for his expertise, integrity and client-first approach, Lin serves as a trusted advisor to a prestigious clientele that includes internationally recognized entertainers, scholars, political figures and corporate leaders. His ability to consistently deliver timely, precise and high-quality work has earned him a reputation as the go-to accountant in his field.



MICHAEL LIN
CPA
Harry C. Lin, CPA A Professional Corporation

Michael Lin, CPA, MBT, is a visionary accounting professional whose innovative leadership is helping redefine the future of the profession. As a strategic leader at a prominent CPA firm, Lin is driving the transformation of a traditional practice into a technology-forward, client-centered organization – focusing not only on tax compliance, but also on long-term wealth preservation and multigenerational financial planning.

Serving a diverse portfolio that spans individuals, small businesses, multinational corporations, and ultra-high-net-worth clients – particularly within the Chinese and Taiwanese communities in the United States – Lin is known for delivering exceptional service marked by precision, integrity and a deeply personalized approach. He has earned a strong reputation as the trusted advisor of choice for clients seeking both technical expertise and human connection.



STEVEN MANDEL
CPA
Smith Mandel & Associates, LLP

With more than 40 years of distinguished experience in accounting, auditing and taxation, Steve Mandel has established himself as a trusted leader and advisor in the financial community. Throughout his career, Mandel has guided businesses of all sizes in strengthening their financial records, optimizing tax planning, and navigating complex regulations. His expertise spans multiple areas, including taxation, financial forecasting, pension and profit-sharing plans.

What sets Mandel apart is not only his technical skill, but also his dedication to building strong, lasting relationships with his clients. Known for his accessibility and relationship building, he consistently goes beyond tax matters to support clients with broader financial and business strategies. Mandel ensures his clients receive practical insights that add real value to their businesses.



JOSH MARTIN
Co-Founder; Partner
Martin Business Management

Josh Martin is a trusted advisor to some of the most prominent names in entertainment, sports and digital media. A licensed CPA, Martin brings over a decade of experience in tax strategy, business management and financial oversight for high-net-worth individuals, multinational enterprises, and multigenerational families. Martin is known for his sharp financial acumen, discretion and a deep commitment to client success. Martin is widely regarded for his ability to guide clients through every phase of wealth creation and preservation.

Martin acts as a personal CFO to a diverse roster of clients – including NBA athletes, chart-topping musicians, award-winning actors and digital creators with millions of subscribers, helping them scale their income, optimize their financial lives and build long-term value.

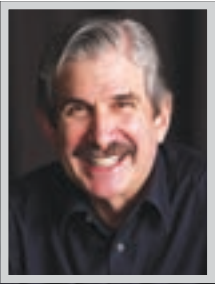


DAVE McLEAN
Managing Director
Stout

Dave McLean has 20 years of experience providing accounting and reporting advisory services to public and private-sector clients. He has extensive expertise across a broad range of industries, including technology, media and entertainment, consumer products, and life sciences.

McLean advises publicly traded and privately owned companies on technical accounting matters, financial reporting, SEC regulations, IPO readiness, M&A, and capital raising transactions. McLean has advised clients on more than 20 IPO transactions over the past ten years. He works closely with CFOs and corporate boards to help companies navigate the complexities of technical accounting, financial reporting, internal controls, and changing regulations. McLean’s goal is to provide best-in-class customer service to companies of all sizes to help them achieve their business transformation goals.

2025 HONOREES



ANDY MINTZER
Principal
Hemming Morse, LLC

Andrew M. (Andy) Mintzer, CPA, brings over 40 years of distinguished experience to the accounting profession, including 17 years with Ernst & Young. In 2025, he was awarded the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) Gold Medal Award of Distinction – the Institute’s highest honor, recognizing his profound and enduring impact on the profession, his leadership in ethics and standards setting, and his advocacy for the public interest.

A recognized leader, Mintzer served as chair of the California Society of CPAs – the largest state CPA society in the US – during the 2016-17 term, and was elected in 2021 to a three-year term on the Board of Directors of the Association of International Certified Professional Accountants. His professional excellence has earned multiple national and regional honors.



PIYUSH MODI
Director
CBIZ

At CBIZ, Piyush Modi serves as a trusted advisor to high-net-worth individuals, family offices, and real estate groups, guiding them through highly complex tax matters with a focus on both compliance and strategic planning. A cornerstone of his contributions has been leading the seamless transition of hundreds of entities into the firm’s systems, ensuring accuracy, efficiency, and long-term tax optimization for clients. His expertise spans intricate partnership structures, 1031 exchanges, and bonus depreciation strategies, all areas that demand technical depth and precision.

Beyond technical work, Modi is passionate about developing future leaders in the profession. He actively mentors younger staff and fosters collaboration across offices, which strengthens client service and builds a culture of growth and excellence within the firm.



CHIKARA “RICKY” NAGANO
Partner
Prager Metis

Ricky Nagano is a partner in the Accounting and Attest Department at Prager Metis. He is also the leader of the firm’s Japanese Global Services Group. In this role, Nagano provides financial and business strategy consultancy to Japanese companies operating in or looking to develop operations in the US, as well as domestic companies interested in expanding their businesses into Japan.

Nagano, having been brought up and educated in both Japan and the US, specializes in providing accounting, audit, tax and consulting services to Japanese-speaking American clients across a wide range of industries, including entrepreneurs, individual clients, and information technology companies. Nagano also believes in giving back to his community. He is a treasurer and supporter of Support-of-People-in-Need, which supports poverty-stricken families and communities in his local area.



Don't Just Grow. Emerge.

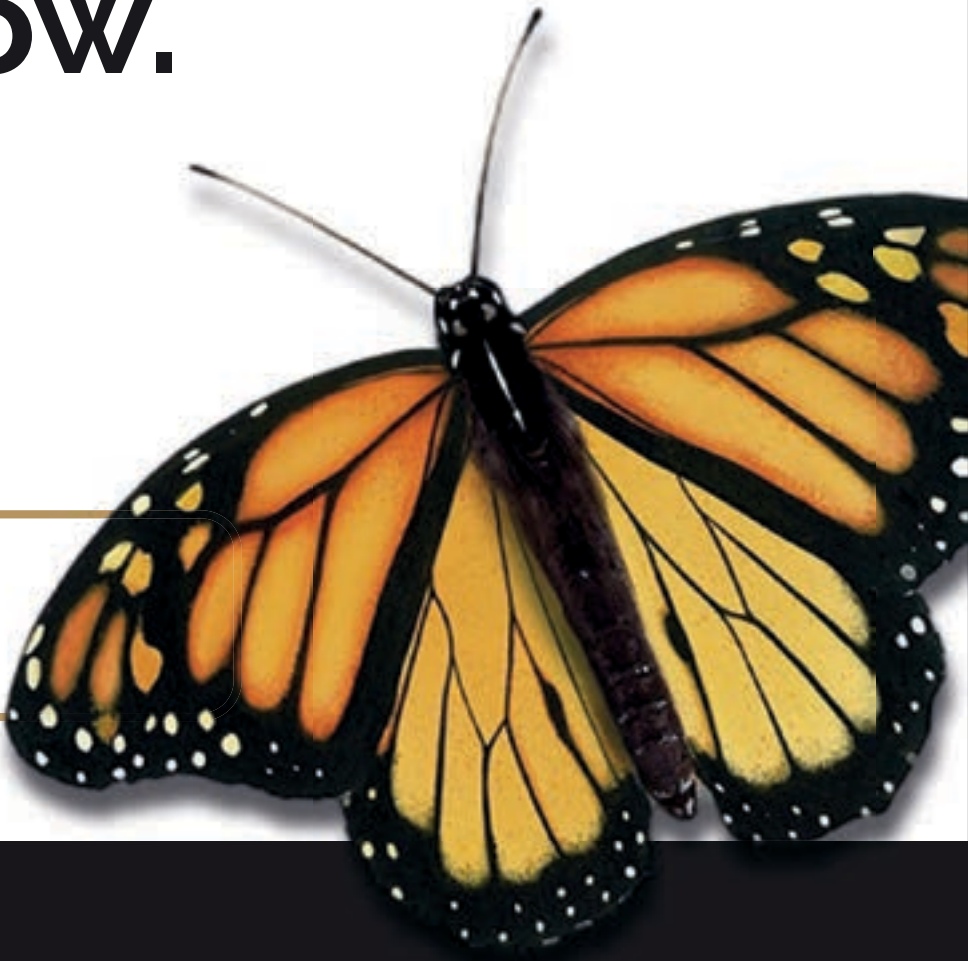
To flourish in today’s business environment, you must adapt and grow. At EisnerAmper, we build tailored pathways for scalable success and emerging growth.



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HELPING DRIVE GROWTH FOR
LOS ANGELES AREA BUSINESSES





2025 HONOREES



SATPAL NAGPAL
Partner
GHJ

Satpal Nagpal, CPA, leads GHJ’s Audit and Assurance Practice, overseeing a team of national employees that serve leading clients throughout Los Angeles and the country. With a passion for technology and knack for developing efficiencies and process improvements, Nagpal goes above and beyond his mandate by streamlining procedures and always being on the forefront of technology adoption.

Nagpal leads the implementations of new technologies and out-of-the-box solutions that make the Audit and Assurance Practice better equipped to take on larger clients with complex needs and remain resilient in a competitive field. In the past few years, Nagpal optimized the firm’s remote audit framework that made it easier to serve clients with the highest quality of communication and support, regardless of where clients are located.



LIZBETH NEVAREZ
Partner
GHJ

Lizbeth Nevarez, CPA, is the Nonprofit Tax Practice leader at GHJ, where she leverages her extensive experience in public accounting and nonprofit leadership to drive impactful change. Leading that practice, Nevarez has played a vital role in shaping the future of nonprofit tax strategy. The nonprofit industry is constantly facing changes, and she strives not only to keep her clients in tax compliance, but to educate nonprofit leaders and partner with them to support their organizations through to success. Recently promoted to partner, Nevarez’s leadership and dedication to her clients and colleagues have been instrumental in her career progression.

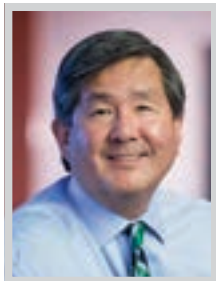
Beyond her leadership at GHJ, Nevarez frequently presents at speaking engagements and teaches courses on Form 990 and private foundations.



WENDY ON
Co-Managing Partner
Fineman West & Co LLP

Wendy On took over as co-managing partner after the sudden passing of Fineman West & Co’s founder and managing partner of over 20 years during the pandemic in 2021. Her leadership has been crucial in guiding the firm through challenging times and she has done so with a focus on inclusivity, community engagement, and staff development.

Under On’s leadership, the firm’s overall headcount has grown and it has never had more women and people of color at the firm and in leadership/management positions. She has consistently gone above and beyond in her role, demonstrating exceptional expertise, leadership and dedication. Her contributions have not only elevated the performance and culture of the firm, but have also paved the way for the next generation of leaders in the industry.



CHARLES OSAKI
Adjunct Faculty
Cerritos College

Charlie Osaki is a tough leader that possesses a wealth of knowledge and is always willing to share it with his students and peers. Osaki has been an important part of the Los Angeles chapter and has volunteered his time to educate and guide Cerritos College’s Chapter in an effort to build the pipeline. Osaki was instrumental in the success of the College’s Summer Leadership Program where accounting professionals mentor students from junior colleges schools in Los Angeles. For the second year in a row, Osaki raised over \$15,000 for the school’s Los Angeles Scholarship Program that awards top accounting students at Los Angeles College and Universities.

Osaki has made a name for himself because of his passion for the profession, success of his students, valuable mentorship, and willingness to prepare students for the future.



PARNIA PANDKHO
Partner
Armanino LLP

Former CFO and controller, Parnia Pandkhrou has over 15 years of public and private accounting experience. She serves clients in a wide range of industries, including retail, entertainment, bioplastics, technology and real estate. Taking a comprehensive approach, inclusive of operational aspects, she provides expertise in financial planning and analysis driven by KPIs.

Pandkhrou has showcased expertise in interim CFO roles, successfully navigating mergers and acquisitions while integrating corporate cultures and optimizing business functions. She has spearheaded the establishment of business outsourcing services in new, challenging markets, particularly within the real estate and cannabis industries. Throughout her career, Pandkhrou has achieved notable milestones that emphasize her impact on financial management and corporate growth. She has provided crucial leadership during pivotal transitions.



JOSEPH PANGRAZIO
Chief Accounting Officer
Hanmi Bank

Joseph A. Pangrazio, CPA, is a 40-year banking and accounting veteran whose career began in the 1980s auditing banks in public accounting. Today, as chief accounting officer at Hanmi Bank, he plays a critical role in providing the investor and analyst community with financial information that is accurate, timely and reliable. This track record reflects not only technical expertise but also a commitment to integrity and trust in financial reporting.

In addition, Pangrazio’s mastery in leading complex, cross-department collaboration sets him apart. Preparing quarterly earnings and SEC filings in a public banking environment requires seamless coordination across finance, risk, operations, legal, and investor relations. Pangrazio has built trusted partnerships throughout the Hanmi Bank organization that ensure consistency, anticipate challenges, and uphold the highest standards of transparency.

2025 HONOREES



DAVID PAPOTTA

Partner

Hyperion Accounting Group

David Papotta has several areas of expertise, including business management including fractional CFO and controller related services for businesses and administration of high-net-worth individuals’ estates; forensic accounting including fraud investigations, due diligence services, and other agreed-upon procedures; tax return preparation including income tax provision and planning procedures; and attest engagements including audits of private businesses, nonprofit organizations, and 401(k) plans.

Additionally, Papotta has served as partner or principal for many years with large local public accounting firms with at least 35 staff members providing audit, tax and consulting services to private and public businesses, NPOs, and high-net worth individuals. He has served in the accounting professional for over 25 years. He also served as a corporate controller for an employee-owned S-Corporation with \$57 million of annual revenues.



MARK PARISER

Partner

Dunn, Pariser & Peyrot

Mark Pariser has built his career on guiding clients through the most complex and sensitive aspects of financial management, ensuring their professional success translates into long-term financial stability. At Dunn, Pariser & Peyrot, he is known for his ability to see the full picture of a client’s financial life and create strategies that not only protect their assets but also allow their wealth to grow in a sustainable, intentional way.

Pariser’s clients – ranging from actors, musicians and directors to entrepreneurs and executives – turn to him because he brings order to complicated financial landscapes. Whether it is structuring businesses, managing royalty streams, forecasting cash flow, or integrating tax and estate planning, Pariser creates systems that are tailored, forward-looking and resilient in the face of change.



ANANT PATEL

Partner

GHJ

Anant Patel, CPA, CM&AA, is the Advisory Services practice leader at GHJ and a member of its Executive Committee. With more than 30 years of experience in accounting and advisory services, Anant has dedicated much of his career to leadership roles that drive firmwide growth and lasting client impact. He oversees GHJ’s advisory practices, which include client accounting and advisory services, cybersecurity, data and analytics, forensic services, profit participation services and transaction advisory services. He works closely with practice leaders and their teams to ensure engagement success, a client-centric approach and an internal environment of continuous learning.

Patel directly contributes to shaping GHJ’s strategy and driving organizational growth in a competitive industry. Anant works closely with other firm leaders to ensure this platform for growth can stay successful.



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Building a Legacy of Leadership



Congratulations to **Kim Ravenell, Withum Partner** and **James Theobald, Withum Principal**, named among Los Angeles Business Journal’s Top Accountants of 2025.

[withum.com /los-angeles](https://withum.com/los-angeles)



2025 HONOREES



SHANNON PEARCE
Director
CBIZ

Shannon Pearce is a director at CBIZ whose career reflects both technical expertise and exceptional leadership within the Los Angeles accounting community. Over more than a decade with the firm, she has built deep specialization in the real estate, gaming and entertainment industries, key drivers of Southern California’s economy. In 2023, Pearce distinguished herself as the CBIZ manager with the highest net revenue under management in California, demonstrating her ability to deliver measurable results and trusted client service. She also showcased her thought leadership by serving on the Real Estate Trends panel, further reinforcing her expertise in this critical sector.

Pearce is equally dedicated to the growth of others. She mentors career advisees, plays an active role in campus recruiting, and participates in Provisors.



JILLIAN PHAN
Partner
Meloni Hribal Tratner LLP

Jillian Phan is a partner and a certified public accountant. She directs Meloni Hribal Tratner’s assurance practice and has over 25 years of experience in auditing, taxation and accounting. Her related areas of expertise include financial statement audits and reviews as well as other accounting related projects for clients in the foodservice, manufacturing, wholesale, distribution, franchises, real estate, entertainment and gaming industries. She performs employee benefit plan audits; plans and coordinates corporate acquisitions, mergers, and spinoffs; provides tax planning and compliance for individuals, partnerships and corporations; and represents clients during audits by governmental agencies.

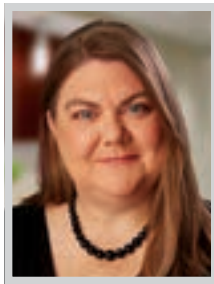
Phan currently serves on the state board of CalCPA as Secretary/Treasurer and also served as chapter president of the CalCPA - Los Angeles Chapter in 2014-205.



KARINE PHILIPPON
Managing Partner, California & Arizona Assurance
Forvis Mazars

Karine Philippon serves as the managing partner of Mazars’ Los Angeles office. She started her career in the Mazars Paris office and has more than 15 years of experience in public accounting, with a focus on assisting clients with business acquisitions and audits. Philippon also leads the Technology & Media Practice globally and is a member of the firm’s Executive Board. Philippon built the Los Angeles Forvis Mazars office, and ran and grew the technology practice for the company in the US and globally. She is member of the French Trade Advisors – CCEF Southwest Section.

With a focus on assisting clients with business acquisitions and audits of middle-market to multinational publicly-traded corporations under IFRS, US GAAP and French GAAP, Philippon has an extensive background serving manufacturing and technology companies as well as service organizations.



KIMBERLY RAVENELL
Partner
Withum

Kim Ravenell is the tax practice leader in Withum’s Encino office. She has over 30 years of experience providing tax planning and compliance services for high-net-worth individuals and closely held businesses of all sizes. She prides herself on her responsiveness to her clients and on providing the best client service possible.

Ravenell began her career at Deloitte & Touche in Los Angeles and joined Martini Iosue and Akpovi in January 2000. Since becoming a partner in 2021, Ravenell has led the tax department through regulation changes and challenges brought about by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the CAREs Act and Paycheck Protection Program and the One Big Beautiful Bill. Ravenell also guided the team through the merger with Withum in 2022, which involved significant process changes.



LORNA MOUTON RIFF
Lead Managing Director
CBIZ

Lorna Mouton Riff exemplifies the qualities of a top professional in the accounting field through her wisdom, intuition and unique ability to relate to both clients and staff. She takes on an extraordinary workload while still making time to mentor and develop her team, ensuring that others have ample opportunities to grow under her guidance.

Riff serves as a reliable frame of reference, balancing technical expertise with leadership and compassion. Her ability to manage the pace and complexity of cases with precision is remarkable, and she continues to inspire new generations of accountants by modeling excellence, innovation and integrity in the profession. Riff is deeply committed to giving back to the Los Angeles community through her time, expertise and dedication to uplifting others.



MIKLOS RINGBAUER
President
MiklosCPA, Inc.

Focusing on supporting the success of businesses and enterprise leaders and their customers, MiklosCPA under the stewardship of Miklos Ringbauer brings expertise and value to clients through customized accounting solutions. The firm’s experience has been built on working in diverse sectors, which has provided him with a unique and distinctive advantage when developing solutions as a leading advocate assisting entrepreneurs.

Ringbauer leads a firm with services are tailored around an in-depth understanding of each client’s business coupled with web services that bring real-time data and analytics communicated in plain language. Executives and decision makers fully understand their financial picture and have the ability to make educated choices on how to grow their ventures.

2025 HONOREES



SCOTT ROBERTS
Director
PwC LLP

Scott Roberts is director in PwC’s Banking and Capital Markets assurance practice, who has also provided significant contributions to PwC’s Asset and Wealth Management and Insurance practices during his 15 year tenure with PwC. He has served some of the firm’s largest and most complex clients on the west coast, while also spending significant time serving some of PwC’s largest clients in New York and Washington DC.

Roberts has deep technical accounting knowledge across a breadth of specialized areas including credit losses, loan accounting, servicing rights, securitization, consolidation, derivatives, revenue recognition and navigating the IPO process which has allowed Roberts to guide many clients through their challenging accounting matters. Roberts has also focused on matters impacting our clients in emerging markets, including the Fintech and digital assets industries.



JOSEPH RUST
Partner
Prager Metis

Joe Rust is the chief strategic innovation officer and managing partner for the Western Region at Prager Metis. He has been practicing accounting for over thirty-five years. As CSIO, Rust oversees and advises on all aspects of strategic focus, direction and execution and encourages a culture of innovation. He works closely with our team to implement new solutions to serve our clients better and supports our growing team.

Rust takes great pride in providing high-value service to his clients, including acting in a strategic planning role for his business management clients and advocating for his royalty and profit participation clients. Over several decades of experience coupled with technology, Rust and his team have created a unique process of recovering royalties and providing services to clients.



RICK SCHENKEL
Managing Partner
Richey May

Richard (Rick) Schenkel is an innovator and leader whose career proves that at the heart of accounting lies unwavering commitment to client clarity, well-being and the human side of financial stewardship. Schenkel’s ethos – going beyond traditional advisory to empower clients with true clarity and confidence – is woven throughout his vast achievements.

As co-founder and managing partner of Richey May SoCal (formerly Sobul, Primes & Schenkel), Schenkel spearheaded the firm’s Entertainment Division, blending his industry experience and deep relationships to redefine service for high-profile clients and families. He built long-lasting bridges between experts across fields, ensuring that clients receive not only technical excellence, but also the wisdom needed to reach meaningful goals – whether greater profitability or a richer, more balanced life.

GELFAND, RENNERT & FELDMAN congratulates our business managers **Tyson Beem & Shane Glass** on being named among the **Top 100 Accountants**.

Your **expertise, integrity,** and **dedication** set the standard for excellence in **accounting, business management** and **beyond**.

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REC



2025 HONOREES



CINDY SCHOELEN
Partner, Advisory
BPM

Cindy Schoelen, partner at BPM LLP, is a transformative leader who has shaped the accounting profession in Southern California for over three decades. Her journey from IRS agent to entrepreneurial firm founder to BPM Partner exemplifies the grit, adaptability and client-focused mindset needed to shine bright as an accountant in Los Angeles.

As a pioneer for women in accounting, Schoelen overcame systemic barriers in the 1980s to build a thriving practice. She leveraged her unique background in tax, audit and advisory services to become a trusted advisor to a diverse client base, including many long-term relationships spanning more than 20 years. Schoelen’s holistic approach integrates strategic financial guidance with a deep understanding of her clients’ businesses and personal goals.



THOMAS SCHULTE
Managing Partner
Armanino LLP

Thomas Schulte, the managing partner of Armanino LLP, is a self-proclaimed “Southern California Lifer” and has spent most of his career in the audit side of Armanino, RBZ, and Arthur Andersen. But business development has always been on the back side of his business card. As of 1/1/22 it is now on the front of his business card as he now chairs the Southern California Growth Office of Armanino.

Schulte’s more than 40 years of experience in Southern California and his in-depth knowledge of the deep bench of Armanino experts provides a deep network that allows him to help organizations in lots of different ways other than accounting and compliance. He is always willing to help – and that is what he is known for.



KARLA SHARAN
Assurance Manager
Forvis Mazars

Karla Sharan serves as an experienced manager in assurance at Forvis Mazars, where she leads audit engagements across a diverse portfolio of clients in the technology, services and commercial product sectors. She is known for her technical excellence, collaborative leadership style, and ability to build strong relationships with both clients and team members. Sharan plays a critical role in project management, risk assessment, and delivering high-quality assurance services that meet regulatory requirements and client expectations.

Beyond her client work, Sharan is deeply involved in the firm’s recruiting, where she helps identify and attract top talent. She also serves as a mentor and career coach to junior staff, guiding them through their professional development and helping them navigate the early stages of their careers.



LEWIS SHARPSTONE
Founder
Lewis Sharpstone & Co.

Lewis Sharpstone, the founder of Lewis Sharpstone & Co., has successfully conducted over 1,500 nonprofit audits and served over 225 nonprofit organizations, large and small and in all sectors of the nonprofit community as their CPA.

Sharpstone has an incredibly positive reputation within the accounting profession and has developed strong relationships by always being helpful and having a great attitude. Sharpstone was the CalCPA Chair from 2018-2019 and has played a large role within the Society. He has also served on several CalCPA committees such as Non-Profit and Nominations and also has been a member of State Council to represent the profession in Sacramento. He also is an adjunct professor at California State University, Long Beach and a strong supporter of building the pipeline for the profession.



LIEL SHEMTOV
Partner
Miller Kaplan

Liel Shemtov has swiftly advanced in his career, rising from a first-year staff auditor to partner in under 10 years. Since achieving this milestone, Shemtov has delivered exceptional financial statement audit services across employee benefit plans, labor organizations, and the hospitality industry. Before joining Miller Kaplan, he gained valuable experience as an accountant for small family businesses and as a project manager for a construction company.

Shemtov excels in guiding clients through complex audit processes and addressing critical issues, such as helping hospitality clients retain their business licenses. His impactful leadership has empowered both clients and colleagues to make informed decisions amidst the ever-changing landscape of the industry. Committed to the highest ethical standards, Shemtov ensures that clients’ interests are protected, and the firm’s reputation remains strong.



MARK SILAH
Partner
NKSFB, LLC

Mark Silah is a senior tax partner at NKSFB. He has been with the firm for over 26 years and serves on the firm’s Executive Committee and is part of the leadership team in the Private Client Tax group. During his time at the firm, he has played a significant role in its growth from a 175 person firm with a single Los Angeles office to a more than 650 person firm with multiple offices in Los Angeles and New York.

With clientele that includes legendary sports stars, musicians, touring bands, actors, directors, producers, corporate executives, entrepreneurs, wealthy families and single family offices, Silah serves as a trusted advisor. He focuses on comprehensive income tax planning, multi-generational wealth transfer planning, philanthropy planning, single-family office advisory, and tax controversy representation.

2025 HONOREES



MIKE SOVIK
Tax Partner
Lucas Horsfall

As one of the legacy partners instrumental in the establishment building of Lucas Horsfall, Mike Sovik has been a driving force behind the firm’s sustained growth and reputation for excellence. Throughout his tenure, he has successfully led multiple departments, including accounting and tax, showcasing his breadth of expertise and commitment to advancing the firm’s capabilities.

Equally notable is Sovik’s profound dedication to mentorship and professional development. Over the years, he has guided numerous individuals who began as interns and have since risen to serve as partners, leaving a lasting imprint on the next generation of leaders within the firm. As a senior executive partner and respected industry leader, he has consistently demonstrated integrity, vision and an unwavering commitment to the profession.



MATTHEW SPRAGUE
Audit Partner; M&A Director
Hedman Partners LLP

Matthew Sprague has 15 years of public accounting experience providing hands-on, high quality assurance and accounting services to clients in a variety of industries, including manufacturing and distribution, financial services, nonprofit and technology and media services. Sprague has deep expertise in providing audit, review and compilation services to closely held and/or private equity backed middle-market companies and enjoys working with and advising business owners on accounting issues and business transactions.

Prior to joining Hedman Partners, Sprague was a director at a national accounting firm, serving middle-market public and private companies. Sprague is active in accounting societies as a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and California Society of Certified Public Accountants, where he serves on the board of directors of the Los Angeles Chapter.



KORY STOEHR
Tax Market Managing Principal
BDO USA

Kory Stoehr has built a reputation as one of Los Angeles’ top accountants, pairing technical expertise with visionary leadership to strengthen BDO USA’s local presence and deliver meaningful results for its clients.

Since joining BDO USA in 2015 as a tax principal, Stoehr has been instrumental in growing the firm’s tax practice, overseeing services for clients ranging from large corporations to high-net-worth individuals. In 2021, he achieved one of his proudest professional accomplishments when he was named managing principal of BDO USA’s Southern California tax practice, responsible for overseeing client services across Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Diego. In this leadership role, Stoehr has applied the same entrepreneurial qualities and ambition to the practice that fueled his own professional success.



Congratulations to our Partners
Wendy On, Jeffrey Hyldahl
and **Steven Jager**

for being recognized by the
Los Angeles Business Journal
as 2025 Top 100 Accountants.



Pictured from L to R: Jeffrey Hyldahl, Wendy On and Steven Jager.



2025 HONOREES



ALEX STURM

Managing Shareholder; Chairman
Cohn Handler Sturm | An Accountancy Corporation

With over 22 years of experience in public accounting, Alex Sturm has built an empire of clients through his unmatched expertise and professional approach. His deep understanding of the accounting field and his innovative strategies have consistently led to significant contributions to his firm and the profession as a whole.

Sturm’s role transcends the traditional boundaries of public accounting. He has been instrumental in developing and implementing advanced accounting practices that have not only improved efficiency within our firm but also provided immense value to our clients. His proactive approach and forward-thinking mindset have enabled Cohn Handler Sturm’s clients to navigate complex financial landscapes successfully. Sturm goes above and beyond for his team, always providing support and fostering a collaborative environment that encourages growth and excellence.



CAROL SURUKI-CARMANY

Principal
Baker Tilly US

Carol Suruki-Carmany has practiced public accounting since 1991. Formerly serving as partner in charge of the Los Angeles locations of Moss Adams LLP, she has significant experience in accounting, auditing, and general business and management consulting, serving multigenerational family-owned and private equity-managed manufacturers, distributors, and other consumer product companies.

Suruki-Carmany provides assurance services to middle-market clients that sell products to retail and distribution channels including mass, club, grocery, e-commerce, restaurants, spas and hotels. Her clients include companies with worldwide international subsidiaries. She is also an expert writer and speaker on investments, M&A and the food and agriculture industry, among other topics. She has also served on the board of the California Society of Certified Public Accountants.



NORM TAMKIN

Partner
HCVT

Norm Tamkin leads the Encino office tax practice for HCVT and has over 33 years of experience addressing the tax needs of his clients, including complex planning issues and estate and trust planning in conjunction with estate attorneys. Tamkin’s clients include high net worth individuals, closely held businesses, and flow through entities. He leads the firm’s Real Estate Tax practice.

Tamkin’s industry experience is vast and includes real estate syndication, ownership and development. He has extensive subject matter specialization in partnership taxation addressing allocations, capital maintenance, among other matters. In addition to serving clients in real estate, his clients include professional service businesses in the medical, legal, investment and banking professions. He has successfully represented his clients in providing tax controversy assistance during IRS and FTB audits.



Smith Mandel & Associates, LLP
CPAs and Advisors

Congratulations

To Steve Mandel for being recognized as a
Top 100 Accountant by the Los Angeles
Business Journal



At Smith Mandel & Associates, LLP we make sense of your dollars with creativity, strategy, and just the right amount of personality. While other firms talk spreadsheets, we talk solutions.

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2025 HONOREES



KEN TEASDALE
Partner
Armanino LLP

In addition to being the growth leader for Southern California audit at Armanino, Ken Teasdale is also the board chair of the Armanino Foundation which has granted thousands of dollars to Southern California nonprofit organizations and has recently concentrated on SoCal fire victim relief. This experience makes Teasdale particularly well suited to chair Armanino’s extensive nonprofit Foundations practice. He also has an expertise in the beauty and cosmetics industry and has an impressive clientele to back that up.

While Teasdale’s principal devotion has been in the public accounting world he has prior experience as the CFO of a publicly held company based in Southern California. This experience has made an imprint on how he believes Armanino clients should be served across all Armanino audit relationships.



ELIZABETH TELLADO
Partner
EY

In the last 19 years, Elizabeth Tellado has been integral to the building and ongoing success of EY’s Banking and Capital Markets team. Her career has mirrored the evolution of the financial services landscape in California. From traditional banks and broker-dealers to alternative lenders and fintech disruptors, Tellado has helped clients navigate seismic shifts in the market. As fintech – particularly payments companies – has become a major force, she has guided these organizations through a nuanced, constantly evolving, and hyper-competitive sector.

Tellado’s deep understanding of the regulatory environment has been critical for tech-driven companies, many of which lack financial and audit expertise. Her ability to translate complex compliance requirements into actionable strategies has made her an indispensable advisor.



JAMES THEOBALD
Tax Principal
Withum

James Theobald is a tax principal in Withum’s Los Angeles office. He has over 30 years of experience providing tax planning and compliance services for high-net-worth individuals and closely held businesses of all sizes across a diverse range of industries. He is a highly technical accountant, advising entities throughout the business lifecycle from the start-up and growth stages through maturity and exit planning. He displays exemplary commitment to teamwork and client service, and his peers, mentees, supervisors and clients describe him as an unsung hero and a rock to lean on.

Theobald prides himself on providing exceptional client service and always goes the extra mile to exceed client expectations and provide peace of mind. His client-centric approach means he refuses to compromise quality or miss deadlines.

Congratulations

Prager Metis is proud to recognize

Kayo M. Elkner, CPA
Partner

Chikara "Ricky" Nagano, CPA
Managing Partner - Torrance Office

Joseph Rust, CPA, CFP
Chief Strategic Innovation Officer

for being honored as *Los Angeles Business Journal's* Top 100 Accountants!

As a Top 50 accounting firm with offices in North America, Europe, and Asia, Prager Metis has experts around the world that can provide the level of advice and expertise you need to make **your world, worth more.**

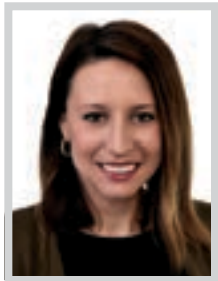
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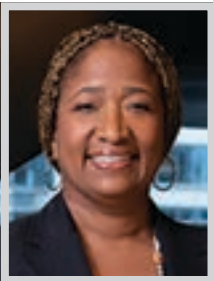
2025 HONOREES



MARY TRIPP
Partner
KPMG

Mary Tripp is an audit partner at KPMG’s Los Angeles office, bringing over 16 years of diverse experience in serving a wide range of clients, from large multinational corporations to innovative start-ups. Her expertise is predominantly in the consumer and retail sectors, but she also has significant experience in industrial products, real estate services, and media. Currently, Tripp is the trusted partner for several major retail clients, a leading multinational public real estate services company, and various mid-sized tech and consumer products firms.

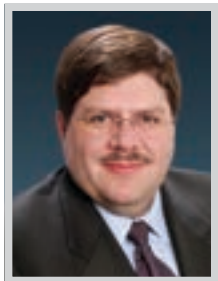
In her role as the growth leader for the consumer goods and retail industries within the Pacific Southwest Business Unit, Tripp excels at connecting clients and prospective clients with the right KPMG experts to meet their needs.



DARCY WILSON-JONES
Partner, Assurance Services
RSM US LLP

With more than 27 years of experience in public accounting, Darcy Wilson-Jones is a partner at RSM and serves as the Assurance Practice leader for the Los Angeles office. She is also a former member of the firm’s Board of Directors. Wilson-Jones advises privately held and private equity-backed companies across industries including media and entertainment, aerospace, and manufacturing. She is widely respected for her expertise in mergers and acquisitions, revenue recognition, and complex restructuring.

Beyond her technical excellence, Wilson-Jones’ leadership within the firm has included serving as the former national media and entertainment practice leader, a role she held until mid-2023. She also led RSM’s First-Choice Advisor Journey, coaching professionals nationwide to deepen client relationships through collaboration, curiosity and courageous thinking.



MARC WOLF
Financial Services Industry Practice Leader; Assurance Partner
CohnReznick

Marc Wolf, CPA, serves as the leader of CohnReznick’s Financial Services South/West Industry practice. A partner in the Accounting and Assurance department, he has more than 41 years of diverse experience in audit, tax, and consulting services specializing in hedge funds, fund of funds, private equity funds, venture capital funds, real estate funds, private REITs, Regulated Investment Companies, registered investment advisors, and broker-dealers.

Wolf’s experience includes advising companies on organizational structures, supervision of audits, and ongoing consultation with management regarding various operational, transactional and tax matters. He also advises companies on various regulatory issues impacting the industry. Wolf regularly lectures on a wide variety of topics at securities industry and family office conferences. He was previously the alternative investments market leader for KPMG’s Pacific Southwest region.



GARY ZHANG
Partner
Citrin Cooperman

Gary Zhang, partner at Citrin Cooperman, brings over 11 years of expertise in US taxation, specializing in asset management and real estate. He advises REITs, partnerships, financial institutions, and high-net-worth individuals on complex compliance, planning and structuring matters. Zhang stands out for his technical excellence, client impact, and leadership within the profession.

Zhang provides tax compliance and consulting services, including tax planning, structuring and transactional consultation. His experience also includes private equity funds investing in real estate, investment advisors, broker-dealers, fund of funds, and institutional investors within the investment management industry. Zhang actively participates in professional associations including the AICPA, NAEA, and ASCEND, where he contributes to mentorship, education and advancing diversity in accounting. Additionally, he shares his expertise through published insights.

CONGRATS
TO THE
Los Angeles
Business Journal’s
TOP 100
ACCOUNTANTS
2025

SPECIALTY AWARDS



ACCOUNTING ICON AWARD

THOMAS SCHULTE

Partner
Armanino LLP

Throughout his career, Armanino LLP partner Tom Schulte, has forged a reputation, not only as a superb accountant, but also as an impactful philanthropist. A true Southern California lifer, Schulte has spent most of his career in the audit side of Armanino, RBZ and Arthur Andersen. But business development was always on the back side of his business card. As of January 2022, it moved to the front of his business card as he now chairs the Southern California Growth Office of Armanino. Schulte’s more than 40 years of experience in Southern California and his in-depth knowledge of the deep bench of Armanino experts provides a powerful network that allows Schulte to help organizations in many ways beyond traditional accounting and compliance. In Schulte’s own words, “I’m here to help...” and that is what he has become known and admired for. He is also a dedicated philanthropist and experienced public, private and nonprofit company board member. Passionate about giving back, Schulte has chaired the Boards of Easter Seals of Southern California, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (Southern California and State) and the Los Angeles Business Council. He has had board leadership positions at Exceptional Children’s Foundation, the San Fernando Valley Girl Scout Council, the Playa Vista HOA, the California Association of Nonprofits and the UCSB Alumni Association. He has held committee positions at The Grammy Museum, the Los Angeles County Library Association and Our House. He has also served on several private and public company boards.



COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD

MICHAEL GOOD

Partner
Cohn Reznick

An audit partner and technology leader with over 18 years of experience, Greg Good has developed a reputation for delivering consistently superb client service. He has played a pivotal role in helping clients navigate complex business transactions including acquisitions, dispositions, restructurings, public offerings, and intricate share-based compensation arrangements. Good’s influence extends far beyond his immediate client engagements – he has made a meaningful and lasting impact on his colleagues and the broader accounting profession as he is deeply invested in nurturing the next generation of accounting professionals. He has actively mentored and supported numerous early-career accountants, helping them build strong foundations and advance in their careers. Good is also committed to giving back to the Los Angeles community through mentorship, volunteerism and professional leadership. He volunteers for the mentorship program at California State University, Northridge where he supports aspiring accounting professionals by sharing his industry experience, offering career guidance, and helping students build confidence as they prepare to enter the workforce. His involvement reflects a genuine dedication to education and the development of future leaders in the field. In addition to his mentorship work, Good has participated in civic initiatives such as volunteering programs with Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship where he helps empower young people from under-resourced communities by sharing insights on business, finance and entrepreneurship. Good also plays a role in professional networking and development groups such as ProVisors’ Los Angeles Valley chapter where he supports peer learning and community building among professionals across the region.



SPECIALTY AWARDS



EMERGING LEADER OF THE YEAR

KARLA SHARAN

Assurance Manager
Forvis Mazars

Karla Sharan serves as an experienced manager in assurance at Forvis Mazars, where she leads audit engagements across a diverse portfolio of clients in the technology, services and commercial product sectors. She is known for her technical excellence, collaborative leadership style, and ability to build strong relationships with both clients and team members. Sharan plays a critical role in project management, risk assessment, and delivering high-quality assurance services that meet regulatory requirements and client expectations.

Beyond her client work, Sharan is deeply involved in the firm’s recruiting, where she helps identify and attract top talent. She also serves as a mentor and career coach to junior staff, guiding them through their professional development and helping them navigate the early stages of their careers.

Sharan is also an active contributor to inclusion and development initiatives within her firm being part of the People Advisory Council, advocating for a workplace culture that values diversity, equity and continuous learning. Her voice is trusted and respected in conversations around belonging and representation. In the past, Sharan has also actively participated in other I&D firm initiatives as well as Women Leadership initiatives.

In addition, Sharan is a dedicated professional and community advocate who exemplifies leadership through service. She uses her platform and experience to uplift others – especially through her mentorship of students and young professionals.

Sharan mentors students at her alma mater, California State University, Northridge (CSUN) and other universities in Los Angeles, where she provides guidance to Latino students pursuing careers in accounting and business.



Congratulations to

ALBERT JANG, CPA

– for being named among the Los Angeles Business Journal’s Top 100 Accountants for a fourth consecutive year and 2024 Community Impact Award honoree.



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SPECIALTY AWARDS



MOST INNOVATIVE FIRM OF THE YEAR

GRANT THORNTON

Grant Thornton has established itself as one of the most innovative firms in professional services, redefining how accounting, audit, tax and advisory work are delivered through a blend of technology and human insight. The firm’s commitment to innovation is exemplified by its groundbreaking “alyx” platform, an intelligent digital ecosystem that combines automation, advanced analytics, and artificial intelligence to transform client service delivery. alyx integrates seamlessly across the firm’s offerings, enabling teams to work smarter and faster while providing clients with deeper insights and more agile solutions.

What sets alyx apart is its versatility — it’s not just a single tool, but a suite of digital solutions that can automate repetitive tasks, analyze complex data sets, and even predict trends through machine learning. By freeing professionals from routine work, alyx empowers them to focus on strategic problem-solving and value creation for clients. The platform also enhances collaboration by connecting experts across service lines and geographies, ensuring clients receive holistic, data-driven advice in real time.

Beyond alyx, Grant Thornton continues to foster a culture of innovation through its investment in digital transformation, continuous learning, and experimentation with emerging technologies such as blockchain, predictive analytics, and cloud-based solutions. The firm’s ability to merge technological sophistication with its hallmark personalized service sets it apart from competitors. In an industry often criticized for slow adaptation, Grant Thornton has positioned itself at the forefront of digital innovation — proving that the future of professional services is both human and intelligent.



COMMUNITY IMPACT FIRM OF THE YEAR

RSM US LLP

In 2014, RSM US LLP established the RSM US Foundation to enhance the giving activities that were already happening in its offices across the country. A tax-exempt public charity, RSM’s foundation is dedicated to building tomorrow’s middle market leaders by enhancing educational outcomes through programs for individuals to have a career path to become an entrepreneur or middle market business leader; and supporting organizations committed to providing a more stable environment for youth in the areas of hunger, housing or health, which will help them excel in education.

The RSM US Foundation, the firm and its people contributed \$8.7 million to charitable causes in 2024. Since its launch in 2015, the RSM US Foundation’s charitable activities total \$51.1 million to support causes aligned with its mission.

Also, every year, RSM’s “Power of Love” program makes a significant impact on youth in the community by supporting more than 100 charities across the United States, Canada, India and El Salvador through dedicated fundraising and volunteering efforts.

In 2024, RSM’s people raised more than \$5 million to go toward local organizations and volunteered more than 63,000 hours. These efforts included beautifying local schools, creating community gardens, serving meals, participating with youth in squash tournaments, packing backpacks, engaging in local literacy programs and more.

Another highlight occurred when more than 1,100 of RSM’s employees and their families showcased their commitment to stewardship and the Power of Love program by raising \$365,740 during a 5K run/walk along the Las Vegas strip during RSM’s biennial owners’ meeting.



SPECIALTY AWARDS



FIRM CULTURE & LEADERSHIP AWARD

LUCAS HORSFALL

Lucas Horsfall is a highly respected accounting and business advisory firm known for its exceptional firm culture, visionary leadership, and unwavering commitment to both clients and employees. Headquartered in Southern California, the firm has built a reputation not only for technical excellence in audit, tax and consulting services, but also for cultivating a workplace that empowers people to grow, collaborate and lead with purpose.

What truly distinguishes Lucas Horsfall is its culture of mentorship and inclusion. Leadership at the firm takes an active role in developing talent, emphasizing open communication, professional growth, and a genuine sense of belonging. Team members at all levels are encouraged to voice ideas, innovate, and take ownership of their work — fostering an entrepreneurial spirit within a supportive framework. This people-first philosophy translates into remarkable client service, as motivated professionals bring both expertise and enthusiasm to every engagement.

The firm's leadership is also recognized for its progressive approach to change and adaptation in a rapidly evolving industry. By embracing technology, hybrid work flexibility, and continuous learning, Lucas Horsfall stays ahead of the curve while maintaining a strong human connection. The partners lead by example, demonstrating integrity, accountability and empathy — values that shape every interaction within the firm and beyond.

Ultimately, Lucas Horsfall stands out as a model of how an accounting firm can combine technical excellence with a deeply human culture, producing not only superior business outcomes but also lasting professional fulfillment for its people.

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Educating the Next Generation of Accountants Who Lead with Purpose

At the David Nazarian College of Business and Economics, accounting education goes beyond textbooks and test scores. It’s about preparing students to lead—with expertise and a sense of service to their community.

That mission is evident in the Bookstein Low Income Taxpayer Clinic where accounting students put their skills to work helping low-income taxpayers resolve complex tax problems—at no cost. From negotiating with the IRS to representing clients in US tax court, students handle real cases guided by experienced faculty.

The clinic, named for longtime donors Harriet and Harvey Bookstein, provides support for individuals and families who can’t afford professional tax representation. Each year, the LITC handles around 120 cases, offering students hands-on experience that bridges classroom learning with public service.

“This is experiential learning at its best,” said Lucy Nalbandian, who serves as the LITC coordinator and is a professor for the school’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance or VITA program. “Our students gain the technical skills to succeed in the profession—and the human perspective to make a difference once they get there.”

LEARNING BY DOING

Under the supervision of faculty members, LITC students work on every aspect of client cases—from the first intake meeting to final resolution. If a case continues beyond a semester, students document the progress for the next team

member who will take it forward.

“They’re doing the kind of work professionals do every day—communicating with tax agencies, filing petitions and negotiating settlements,” said Nalbandian. “It’s real-world experience that builds both confidence and competence.”

Through that experience, students learn how their growing expertise can improve lives.

Vivek Gudhka, a professional accountancy major, says the most rewarding part of the clinic is seeing the relief on clients’ faces.

“These are people who come in worried and overwhelmed,” said Gudhka. “When their tax problems are finally resolved, you can see the stress lift. It’s incredibly rewarding to know you played a role in that.”

CONFIDENCE THROUGH SERVICE

The students often encounter complicated, high-stakes situations—sometimes involving years of correspondence and extensive financial documentation.

Arno Nizamian, another professional accountancy major, recalls a recent case where he and Nalbandian discovered an IRS error that reduced a client’s \$300,000 liability to zero.

“That was huge,” he said. “You realize how much impact careful attention and accurate analysis can have. It makes everything we’re learning feel very real.”

MENTORSHIP THAT MATTERS

Behind every student’s success are dedicated

mentors who bring decades of experience to the program. The LITC’s faculty team ensures each case meets professional and ethical standards while empowering students to take ownership of their work.

Nalbandian said the LITC team shares the same goal: to prepare students to enter the accounting profession ready to lead.

“They don’t just leave here with technical proficiency—they leave with compassion, resilience and an understanding of what ethical leadership looks like,” she said.

BUILDING A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

Nazarian College Dean Chandra Subramaniam says programs like the LITC and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance or VITA Clinic are part of the college’s broader commitment to integrate experiential learning across its programs.

“As dean, I look for ways to give our students an edge—preparing them for career advancement and success from the start of their professional lives,” Subramaniam said. “One way we do this is by allowing them to take what they learn in the classroom and apply it in real-life work scenarios.”

NAZARIAN COLLEGE’S ACCOUNTING PROGRAM

Professor Rishma Vedd, Ph.D., is chair of the Nazarian College’s Department of Accounting. Professor Rafael Efrat, Ph.D., is the Bookstein Chair in Taxation, and manages the LITC and



VITA programs.

Nazarian College earned dual accreditation from the AACSB for both its general business and accounting programs, a recognition achieved by fewer than two percent of business schools worldwide. This dual accreditation validates the high academic standards of its accounting program, which offers a bachelor of science in accountancy and master’s degrees in Professional Accountancy and Taxation.

Learn more about Nazarian College’s accounting programs and community clinics at csun.edu/nazarian/accounting.

Transformation, Not Tradition

By DENISE LeDUC FROEMMING

Today’s CPAs go far beyond managing ledgers and balancing books. They sit at the intersection of business strategy, technology and leadership and provide insight to help guide businesses through uncertainty — and opportunity.

As the business landscape evolves at a dizzying pace, the CPA profession transforms right alongside it. Discussions about debits and credits have evolved to include sustainability, data analytics, cybersecurity, blockchain and, of course, artificial intelligence.

Management consultant Peter Drucker once said, “The only skill that will be important in the 21st century is the skill of learning new skills.” And the accounting profession has taken this to heart, constantly adapting by learning new technologies, rethinking traditional processes and applying a 360-degree view to the organizations they serve.

CPAs are adapting — and instilling in the next generation — a growing trend in the business world: T-shaped learning. Rather than have deep knowledge and expertise in one area, CPAs are bringing to the table a broad base of knowledge across disciplines, combining deep financial skills with a working understanding of data, risk management, operations, human behavior and strategy. This blend makes them indispensable partners in decision-making.



Instead of remaining in the comfort zone of compliance and reporting, the accounting profession is leaning into its growing role as a strategic partner that helps shape the future of the businesses CPAs advise. Transformation, not tradition, is the path forward.

The CPAs who thrive today are those who help make sense of a noisy world. They connect the dots between financial data and organizational direction to help leaders make confident, informed decisions. They see patterns others might miss and translate complexity

into clarity — something every CEO, business owner and investor needs.

These characteristics are what distinguishes the professionals featured in this year’s Top 100 Accountants list and showcase the best of what the profession represents: integrity, insight and innovation. They’ve adopted a forward-thinking mindset and recognized that financial data doesn’t exist alone. It’s integral with operations, marketing, human resources and technology.

The business environment will only contin-

ue to be more competitive and organizations from startups to Fortune 500 companies will depend on CPAs for numbers — and perspective. Whether it’s dealing with regulatory change, assessing risk or evaluating the impact of emerging technologies, CPAs offer the insight that turns data into direction.

While grounded in traditional accounting, CPAs are branching into IT consulting, forensic accounting, AI, information systems, cryptocurrency advisory work and more. Their analytical skills, ethical foundation and strategic mindset help them to add value wherever finance meets innovation.

Those who are embracing this evolution can testify to the rewards. Along with enhancing their careers, they’re elevating the businesses, clients and communities they serve.

At its core, CPAs have always helped others make sense of financial data. And while that purpose hasn’t changed, it does carry even more weight. Numbers still need to add up—but what matters, too, is what those numbers mean and how they inform wise decisions.

The power of the CPA profession to translate data into direction, uncertainty into confidence, and information into impact is definitely something worth celebrating within the accounting community and the entire business world.

Denise LeDuc Froemming, CPA, CAE, MBA is president & CEO of CalCPA.