



# Women in BUSINESS 20<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

AN ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT TO THE ORANGE COUNTY BUSINESS JOURNAL • MAY 26, 2014

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# LEGACY OF EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP

## The George L. Argyros School of Business and Economics Together with the Board of Counselors

Congratulates board members **Patty Juarez**, regional vice president of Wells Fargo Commercial Banking, and **Nella Webster O'Grady '71**, principal at Palo Capital, Inc. for being nominated for the *Orange County Business Journal's* Women in Business Awards.

## Taking **Bold** Steps



Patty Juarez



Nella Webster O'Grady

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### 2014 Women in Business Nominees

living very closely to the brands that he developed. During this time, Culpepper, who was a silent partner in the company until Galardi's passing, had the unique opportunity to learn from and experience Galardi's passions, challenges and triumphs firsthand. Early on, it had been decided that Culpepper would carry on the family legacy and lead the company in the event of Galardi's passing. Galardi chose Culpepper as his successor of the 53-year-old company because he was confident in her ability as a leader, admired her hard-work ethic and dedication, and trusted that she would uphold the brand's core values.

#### Laura Davick, Founder/Director of External Affairs Crystal Cove Alliance, Newport Coast

As founder of Crystal Cove Alliance (CCA), Laura Davick spearheaded the campaign to prevent a planned luxury resort from taking over Crystal Cove. Davick proposed an alternative plan to restore the Cove's cottages, which included a combination of overnight rentals and educational programs. Today, CCA has become one of the most successful public-private partnership models in the history of California State Parks. As director of external affairs, Davick continues to fight for sustainability of the Cove — CCA now has numerous educational programs, the Park & Marine Research Facility and the new Berns Environmental Study Loop in the Moro Canyon section of Crystal Cove State Park. Her dedication and perseverance has brought tremendous success to the Cove and has bolstered CCA's mission of education, conservation and restoration. Davick will continue her legacy as she remains passionately committed to seeing that the final 17 cottages are restored for future generations.



#### Marjorie Del Toro, President/CEO ehs International Inc., Foothill Ranch

Marjorie Del Toro is currently president and CEO of ehs International Inc., a nationally recognized company specializing in environmental health and safety. Del Toro has extensive knowledge of water quality and the wastewater industry. Prior to founding ehs International, Del Toro was CEO and founder of JoshuaCasey Corporate Training, a highly respected and successful OSHA compliance training company. Del Toro has positively impacted many public agencies and companies in the manufacturing, construction and water/wastewater industry. ehs International's many clients include Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, JPL and the County of San Bernardino. In addition, Del Toro's extensive involvement in industry organizations demonstrates her commitment to assisting the industry in developing safe work environments.



#### Sara D'Elia, CEO The REMM Group, Anaheim

Sara D'Elia began her career at The REMM Group in 1987 as an assistant property manager. She became a certified property manager (CPM) in 1994, and led a portfolio of assets that same year as an independent contractor with REMM. After 10 years, she left REMM to work for one of Southern California's largest landlords, and then, in 2007, she joined Mesa Management. In Jan. 2014, along with two partners, D'Elia acquired The REMM Group, providing company services for more than 9 million square feet in commercial and 19 multifamily properties.



#### Karla Dennis, CEO/Enrolled Agent Cohesive, Cypress

Named "Business of the Year" by the city of Cypress and featured as one of the leading Southern California Businesses in Forbes Magazine, Cohesive Tax is the top tax preparation, tax planning and financial consulting company. Launched in 1991 by Founder and CEO Karla Dennis, Cohesive helps its clients solve their most pressing tax problems, strategically plan their tax year and help them save thousands of dollars on their tax bill. Year-round payroll, bookkeeping and accounting services are also offered to business clients. With a full staff including three other enrolled agents, Cohesive's goal is to make sure its clients pay their fair share of taxes, but do not leave Uncle Sam a tip. Most recently, Dennis launched Cohesive Wealth Solutions which helps its clients maintain and grow their wealth through a variety of investment products such as life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability insurance, annuity products and retirement planning.



#### Michelle Devine, Director of Sales Balboa Bay Resort, Newport Beach

Michelle Devine is the director of sales at Balboa Bay Resort in Newport Beach, which is part of The Meritage Collection. Devine has been with the resort over four years and earned the title of "Director of Sales of the Year" for Pacific Hospitality Group in 2012. She is responsible for leisure, group and corporate sales, as well as social catering events for Balboa Bay Resort. She leads a dynamic sales team that creates memorable and successful events for the resort's clientele. She has an extraordinary background in the hospitality industry, with a career that has spanned more than 18 years working with luxury brands such as Mirage Resorts, MGM Mirage, St. Regis Hotels and Resorts, and several independent luxury properties. Devine has also managed sales and marketing for two premier Southern California golf clubs.



#### Lindsay Dickhout, CEO Million Dollar Tan, Huntington Beach

Lindsay Dickhout started her company, Million Dollar Tan (MDT), right out of college. With a commitment to offering the highest quality sunless tanning products available, Dickhout designed Million Dollar Tan's own professional spray tanning system and sunless tanning solution. Within the first year, 100 salons and spas offered MDT professional spray tanning services, and by 2009, that number had grown to over 2,000 locations in 10 countries. Dickhout soon expanded the business further to offer a full line of retail sunless tanning products available directly to the consumer, with 24 additional products coming to market this year. Million Dollar Tan's projected revenue for 2014 is \$3.2 million.



#### Deborah Dickson, President Smith Dickson, an Accountancy Corp., Irvine

As an accountant in the 1970s, Debbie Dickson was one of few women in the profession. Not letting that hold her back, she worked in the Big 8 firms for many years and then started her own CPA practice in the 1980s. While a risky endeavor, Dickson's hard work and dedication paid off. Now, as the founder and owner of Smith Dickson, she has grown the CPA firm from a one-person practice with no formal office to a thriving company with high-level CPAs and accountants on staff. Today, the company is a preeminent market leader in

