



# LEADERS TO KNOW:

# TRUSTED ADVISORS

We are shining the spotlight on some of the very best trusted advisors in the Valley here, along with a quick look at what makes them so good at what they do. Congratulations to the trailblazing advisors who made this list.

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

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1 | **DANNY ABIR**  
Managing Partner  
ACTS LAW

In less than a decade, Danny Abir has helped build one of the premier plaintiff firms in the greater Los Angeles region. Just this year, the firm celebrated more than \$1 billion obtained for clients.

3 | **BRENDA ALLISON**  
CEO  
Coast General Insurance Brokers

Brenda Allison has been at the helm of Coast General Insurance Brokers in Oxnard since 2007. She previously founded Allison Commercial Insurance, before acquiring Coast General and merging the two into a unified firm.

3



4 | **PAULA BAHAMON**  
Senior Vice President,  
Community Development  
Mission Valley Bank

Paula Bahamon holds the position of Vice President - Community Development Manager at Mission Valley Bank in Sun Valley. Throughout her career, she has dedicated herself to supporting and fostering the growth of small to mid-sized businesses.

2



2 | **ABIEL ACOSTA**  
Partner / Financial Planner  
Prospera Succession Partners

Abiel Acosta has worked as a financial planner and advisor for more than two decades, earning the respect of clients and colleagues. He and his team work with business owners, retirees and young families regardless of portfolio size.

4



1 | **MATTHEW BREDDAN**

*Shareholder*

The Reape-Rickett Law Firm

Attorney Matthew Breddan is a tireless advocate for his clients' rights and best interests with the goal of achieving the best possible results. Throughout his career, Breddan has helped thousands of families across Los Angeles, Ventura and beyond.



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4 | **RANDY S. GALGAS**

*Partner*

Galgas Russell LLP

Randy Galgas has been with Galgas Russell for over 38 years and is the partner in charge of Information and Technology Services. He created and currently directs the consulting department, which provides technology assessments and accounting system integration.



2

2 | **MATTHEW BURKE**

*Managing Partner*

Singer Burke Zimmer & Kogan, LLP

Matthew Burke's career exemplifies visionary leadership and a profound commitment to his clients and firm. As managing partner of Singer Burke Zimmer & Kogan, LLP, he has shaped the organization into a leader in holistic financial management.



3

5 | **TIM GASPAR**

*Founder of Gaspar Insurance;*

*Candidate for LA City Council*

Gaspar Insurance Services

With over 15 years at the helm of Gaspar Insurance Services, Tim Gaspar is a trusted advisor to his clients because of his unwavering commitment to delivering personalized, results-driven solutions, always prioritizing client needs.



4

3 | **GARY CHEN**

*Partner*

Stubbs Alderton & Markiles

Gary Chen continues to strengthen his corporate law practice, providing strategic counsel on domestic and international transactions. Chen also assists startups and emerging growth companies in securing funding and scaling operations.



5

6 | **JAMIE GONZALEZ**

*Partner*

Lagerlof, LLP

Jamie Gonzalez is a partner at Lagerlof, LLP focusing on litigation concerning probate estates, trusts, guardianships and conservatorships. Gonzalez has served on the Executive Committee of the Trusts and Estates Section of LACBA for the last three years.



6

# *Congratulations*

MISSION VALLEY BANK



**MARIA GONZALEZ**

Senior Vice President  
Central Operations Manager



**PAULA BAHAMON**

Senior Vice President  
Community Development Manager

## **2025 Los Angeles Business Journal - Inside The Valley Leaders to Know Trusted Advisor**

**Congratulations** Maria Gonzalez and Paula Bahamon for your leadership and impact in Business Banking and Community Development, driving success for our clients and the communities we serve.



**MISSION VALLEY BANK**

1 | **MARIA GONZALEZ**

*Senior Vice President,  
Central Operations Manager  
Mission Valley Bank*

Maria Gonzales holds the position of Senior Vice President - Central Operations Manager at Mission Valley Bank in Sun Valley. Throughout her career, she has dedicated herself to supporting and fostering the growth of small to mid-sized businesses.

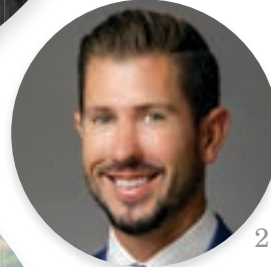


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4 | **KATHERINE HREN**

*Partner  
Ballard Rosenberg Golper  
& Savitt, LLP Practice*

Attorney Katherine Hren regularly provides advice and counsel on employment law strategy and compliance, traditional labor relations matters, claims for employment discrimination, sexual and other workplace harassment, wrongful termination and whistleblower complaints.

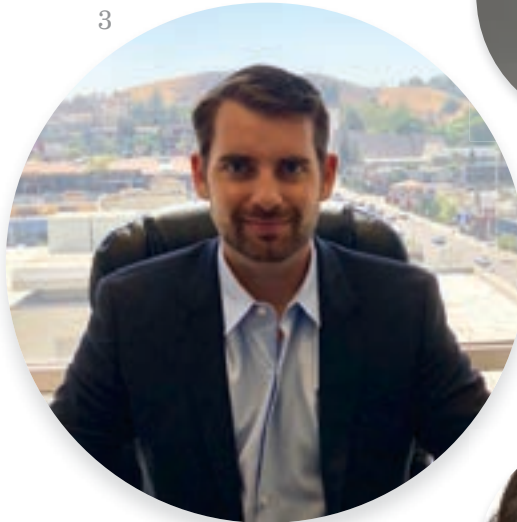


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2 | **RYAN HAWS**

*Partner  
LightGabler LLP*

With over 15 years of experience counseling businesses in all aspects of employment law, Ryan Haws has earned a reputation for developing proactive strategies to enhance workplace productivity and avoid employment disputes.



3

5 | **NICOLE KAMM**

*Partner  
Fisher Phillips LLP*

Nicole Kamm represents a broad range of clients, from small businesses to national companies, in a variety of industries. She defends employers and provides dispute resolution counsel against individual and class claims.



4

3 | **MICHAEL HILLER**

*President  
Hiller Enterprise*

When Michael Hiller started Hiller Enterprise, he wanted to help clients meet their financial opportunities. Today, he works with families, entrepreneurs, real estate investors and individuals, providing personal, one-on-one guidance to help establish a secure financial future.



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6 | **ELAINA KOGAN**

*Tax Partner  
Singer Burke Zimmer & Kogan, LLP*

Elaina Kogan is at the forefront of delivering impactful tax strategies that drive measurable results. Specializing in tax compliance and planning, she has built a reputation for her thoughtful, thorough approach and unwavering commitment to clients.



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# GALGAS RUSSELL LLP

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**We are a full-service accounting firm that provides quality accounting, auditing, tax consulting and technology services to a large variety of industries.**

Our mission at Galgas Russell LLP is to consistently exceed our clients' expectations with exceptional, personalized and trusted business advice and service.

Congratulations to our distinguished partners, **Randy S. Galgas** and **Raymond A. Russell**, for being selected as *Los Angeles Business Journal Leaders to Know: Trusted Advisors* for 2025. Their exceptional leadership and guidance in helping clients navigate complex challenges in today's dynamic business environment exemplify our firm's commitment to excellence. This recognition and our firm's inclusion in the Top Accounting Firms list for 2025 would not be possible without our outstanding team's unwavering commitment to our clients.

**We look forward to serving you.**



Randy S. Galgas, CPA, Partner

Raymond A. Russell, CPA, Partner

**GALGAS RUSSELL LLP**

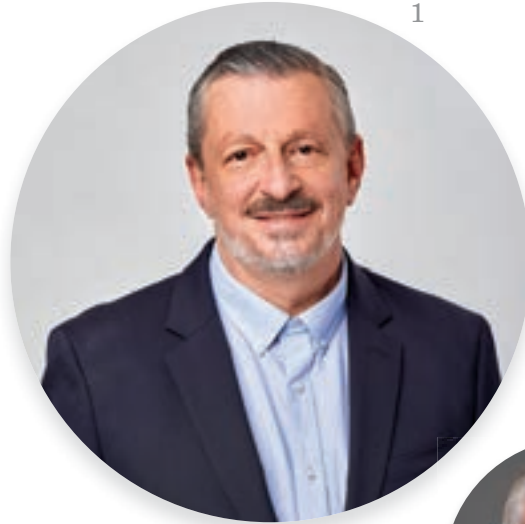
(818) 444-6700 | [gr@gr8llp.com](mailto:gr@gr8llp.com)

[gr8llp.com](http://gr8llp.com)

1 | **MARK KRUSPODIN**

*Managing Partner*  
Duffy Kruspodin, LLP

Mark Kruspodin is a visionary leader in the accounting industry with over 35 years of experience in both public and private accounting. He has built a firm renowned for its unwavering dedication to client success.



1

4 | **MARTY LEVY**

*CEO*  
Corpstrat

Marty Levy is a chartered life underwriter (CLU), registered health underwriter, a certified annuity analyst, and holds a certificate in long term care insurance credential. He is also a frequent expert contributor to many industry publications.



2

2 | **BARRY KURTZ**

*Chair, Franchise and Distribution Practice Group*  
Lewitt Hackman

A certified specialist in franchise and distribution law, Barry Kurtz is the chair of the Franchise and Distribution Practice Group at Lewitt Hackman in Encino. His department is one of the largest of its kind in California.



3

5 | **JONATHAN LIGHT**

*Managing Partner*  
LightGabler LLP

Jon Light has more than 40 years of experience in employment law and has been successful in jury trials, appellate cases, Labor Commission hearings and binding arbitration claims involving a wide array of employment-related matters.

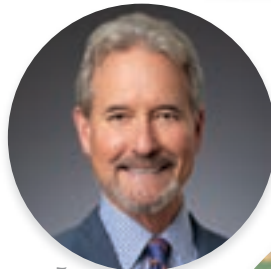


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3 | **BRIAN LACHER**

*Partner*  
Nava Benefits

Brian Lacher is a relentless advocate for employers and employees, consistently finding innovative solutions to reduce costs while ensuring access to high-quality healthcare. His dedication has resulted in millions of dollars in savings for clients.



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6 | **JANICE MILLER**

*Managing Partner*  
Miller Haga Law Group, LLP

Janice Miller is a highly recognized legal advisor with over 25 years of experience as an innovative general counsel. She serves clients in corporate, business and real estate transactions, employment law, location-based entertainment and regulatory compliance.



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# CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR ESTEEMED PARTNERS,  
PROFESSIONALS & FELLOW HONOREES



Matthew Burke



Elaina Kogan

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL: INSIDE THE VALLEY'S

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**Most Influential Leaders to Know: Trusted Advisors 2025**

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LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL

Inside  
The **VALLEY**

2025 TOP ACCOUNTING FIRMS

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and careers over the last five decades.*

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1 | **TERRI HILLIARD OLSON**

*Managing Partner*  
Terri E. Hilliard, PC

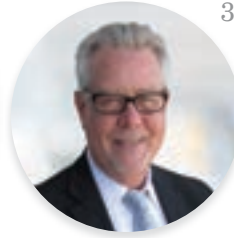


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Terri Hilliard Olson has built an exceptional legal career spanning over 25 years, specializing in estate planning, elder law, business succession and special needs planning. Her ability to listen deeply and provide clear, actionable advice sets her apart.

3 | **JAMES REAPE**

*Managing Shareholder*  
The Reape-Rickett Law Firm



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Reape-Rickett managing shareholder James Reape has represented families throughout Southern California for over 40 years, having co-founded the firm to bring high-quality family law representation to the Santa Clarita Valley.

2 | **DAVID RAWI**

*Senior Counsel*  
Lagerlof, LLP



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David Rawi is a dedicated and personable litigation and transaction lawyer with 15 years of experience in the healthcare and business sectors. An expert on the healthcare sector, he has built trusted relationships with many in the medical field.



4

4 | **SARAH REZNICK**

*Founder and Financial Advisor*  
Sherfina Advisors

Sarah Reznick exemplifies what it means to be a trusted financial advisor through her unwavering dedication to her clients' financial well-being and her deep understanding of the challenges they face.



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**Congratulations to Janice L. Miller, Esq.**

Managing Partner, Miller Haga Law Group

**and all those selected as Leaders to Know: Trusted Advisors 2025!**



1 | **MITCH ROSENBERG**

*CEO / Owner*

MDR Insurance & Financial Services

Mitch Rosenberg is a certified financial planner, chartered life underwriter, chartered financial consultant and certified public accountant. As a financial services professional for 40 years, he is dedicated to a personalized approach to financial planning.



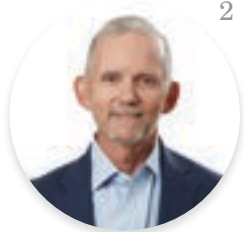
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2 | **RICHARD ROSENBERG**

*Partner*

Ballard Rosenberg Golper & Savitt

Attorney Richard Rosenberg has spent his entire career assisting management defend and risk manage workplace related legal matters and proposed personnel transactions. He has built a reputation as a labor law strategist who is both fair and trustworthy.



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3 | **RAYMOND RUSSELL**

*Partner*

Galgas Russell LLP

Ray Russell is responsible for accounting and auditing services, management advisory services and income tax planning and compliance at Galgas Russell. With over 33 years of experience in public accounting, he consults with clients regularly in starting businesses.



3

4 | **HANNAH SWEISS**

*Partner*

Fisher Phillips LLP

As a partner and co-chair of the Healthcare Industry Group at Fisher Phillips, Hannah Sweiss is a well-known, trusted litigator and key advisor to employers in a variety of industries.



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Your team of Trusted Advisors for

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**Employee Benefits**

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Professionals

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