



LEADERS TO KNOW: TRUSTED ADVISORS

We've shone 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.

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.



1

3 | **GEOFFREY ARROBIO**
First Vice President
Matthews

ON TRUSTED ADVISOR EXCELLENCE:

“An advisor must understand the larger US macro-economic backdrop regarding current rates and projections. Maintaining knowledge of CRE submarkets and valuations is critical. It also demands disciplined underwriting and operational leadership to drive loan execution, managing all stakeholders, from the client and attorneys to third-party vendors and title.”

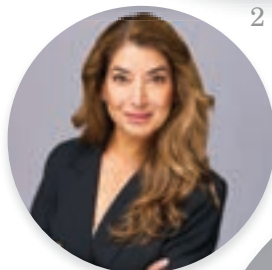


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2 | **BRENDA ALLISON**
CEO
Coast General Insurance Brokers

ON TRENDS:

“Companies are getting bigger and bigger, and that can mean there’s a greater focus on the bottom line. People are increasingly realizing how valuable it is to get the kind of customized, unique care and attention a locally based firm likes ours delivers.”



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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. Throughout her career, she has dedicated herself to supporting and fostering the growth of small to mid-sized businesses.

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.



1

4 | **DAVID DePILLO**

President

EverBank

ON TRENDS:

"I'm excited by the way data and technology are enhancing — not replacing — relationship banking. The ability to deliver more personalized insights, anticipate client needs, and move faster while still maintaining a human connection is transforming how we serve both individuals and businesses."



2

2 | **DANIELLE BRINKMAN-MALLARE**

President

Brinkman & Company, AAC

ON THE FUTURE:

"There may be a growing shift in the way people plan for retirement, with some significant changes coming to the way 401(k)s are structured, for example. It's more important than ever for people to work closely with knowledgeable experts who are familiar with and care about their specific circumstances."



3

5 | **KATHLEEN FELLOWS**

Senior Associate; Chair, Advice

and Counsel Department

LightGabler LLP

ON TRUSTED ADVISOR EXCELLENCE:

"Trusted advisors diligently stay abreast of changes in the law and offering candid advice. I strive to be responsive and provide clients with concrete information and options. People deserve to know all potential repercussions — good and bad — so they can make their best decision about how to proceed."



4

3 | **MATTHEW BURKE**

Partner, Business Management

Singer Burke,

proudly part of Mercer Advisors

CAREER ADVICE:

"People may forget what you say no matter how brilliant you may be. People won't always remember what you've done, no matter how impactful. But people will remember how you make them feel. Always lead with compassion and empathy."



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6 | **RANDY S. GALGAS**

Partner

Galgas Russell LLP

Randy Galgas has been with Galgas Russell for over 39 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.

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1 | **NICOLE GOLOB**

*Regional Managing Partner
Fisher Phillips*

ON THE FUTURE:

“The use of AI is going to continue to be a hot topic for legislatures in 2026 and beyond. With AI capabilities changing daily, and more companies turning to AI to increase functionality, the legislature is certain to focus on AI’s impact, particularly from an employment discrimination perspective.”



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4 | **CRISTA HERMANC**

*Founder; Lead Attorney
Hermance Law*

ON TRUSTED ADVISOR EXCELLENCE:

“A good trusted advisor knows to listen, not make assumptions, and ask lots of questions. It can be hard for people to think or talk about death, but it’s empowering to know your loved ones, including little ones, will always be cared for in ways you have chosen.”



2

2 | **JOE GUBIC**

*Partner
Citrin Cooperman*

Joe Gubic is a partner in Citrin Cooperman’s Audit and Attest Practice with over 20 years of experience in strategic financial management and assurance services. He supports middle-market, privately-held and private equity-backed companies across various sectors, including hospitality, manufacturing, healthcare, and technology, with local and international operations.



3

5 | **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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3 | **TAMARA GURNEY**

*President; CEO
Mission Valley Bank*

Tamara Gurney is the founding president and CEO of Mission Valley Bank, a \$741 million community-based business bank headquartered in Burbank. A San Fernando Valley native, she brings more than 40 years of banking leadership and a strong commitment to community service and economic development in the region.



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6 | **KATHERINE HREN**

*Partner
Ballard Rosenberg Golper & Savitt, LLP*

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.



THE REAPE-RICKETT LAW FIRM



**Congratulations to
Managing Shareholder
James P. Reape, Esq. and
Shareholder Matthew A.
Breddan, Esq. for being
named 2026 Leaders to
Know: Trusted Advisors**

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The Reape-Rickett Law Firm is dedicated to providing the highest level of family law services across Southern California. Our mission is to protect our clients' rights and their children while empowering them with knowledge and information to move forward. Reape-Rickett is the firm of choice when results matter.

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1 | **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.



2

4 | **ELAINA KOGAN**

Partner, Tax Services
Singer Burke,
proudly part of Mercer Advisors

ON TRENDS:

“I’m most excited by the increasing integration of tax, data, and technology. Advanced analytics and improved system connectivity give us the opportunity to deliver more proactive, customized planning. This shift enables deeper insight, stronger collaboration, and more meaningful, measurable outcomes for clients.”



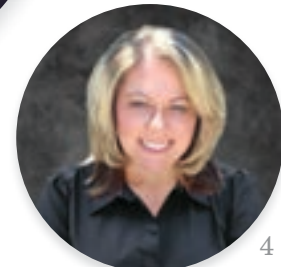
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2 | **LEE KLEINMAN**

*Senior Vice President;
Business Development Officer*
Business Finance Capital CDC

ON TRENDS:

“There are ongoing efforts to assist the manufacturing segment by already offering lower SBA 504 second mortgage rates to manufacturers and in process is legislation to increase the borrowing limits for manufacturers.”



4

5 | **MARK KRUSPODIN**

Managing Partner
Duffy Kruspodin, LLP

ON TRUSTED ADVISOR EXCELLENCE:

“Being a trusted advisor today means showing up with technical insight, yes, but also with perspective and care. People need someone who can cut through the noise, help them make sound decisions, and stay in it for the long haul. That’s how trust is built — and kept.”



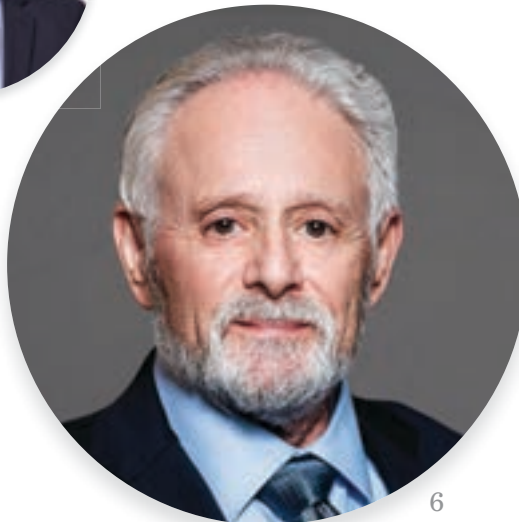
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3 | **DENA KLOTZ**

Senior Counsel; Managing Attorney
Lagerlof, LLP

ON TRUSTED ADVISOR EXCELLENCE:

“Being an exemplary trusted advisor leader in the Valley means listening first, understanding each client’s full story, and providing clear guidance with integrity. It requires consistency, empathy, and a long-term commitment to helping individuals and families navigate complex decisions with confidence.”



6

6 | **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.

1 | LINDSAY LAWRENCE

*EVP; Group Head, Deposit Services
EverBank*

ON CAREER ADVICE:

“Speak up sooner and trust your instincts. Confidence grows with experience, but it’s important to recognize the value you bring early on.”



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3

3 | JANICE MILLER

*Managing Partner
Miller Haga Law Group, LLP*

ON TRUSTED ADVISOR EXCELLENCE:

“Know what your clients want – and perhaps more importantly – what clients don’t want from outside counsel. And know that competitors can work together cooperatively for the benefit of their clients.”

2 | JONATHAN FRASER LIGHT

*Managing Partner
LightGabler LLP*

ON TRENDS:

“I acknowledge that employees sometimes receive poor treatment from managers or co-workers, or procedural issues aren’t handled correctly at times (meals, overtime, etc.), but it is impossible (literally, impossible) for an employer to do everything right.”



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4 | PATRICK NYGREN

*SVP; Head of Retail Banking
EverBank*

ON TRENDS:

“There is a growing focus on holistic financial solutions. Clients increasingly want advisors who can connect the dots into one cohesive plan. That shift elevates the role of the advisor in meaningful ways.”

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Singer Burke

Congratulations Matthew Burke and Elaina Kogan

ON BEING NAMED 2026 LEADERS TO KNOW: TRUSTED ADVISORS

In the Los Angeles Business Journal

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1 | **TERRI HILLIARD OLSON**

Managing Partner
Terri E. Hilliard, PC

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. She listens deeply and provides actionable advice.

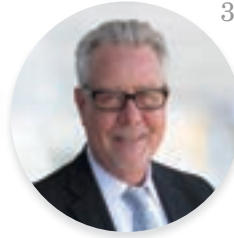


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3 | **JAMES REAPE**

Managing Shareholder
The Reape-Rickett Law Firm

With four decades of experience, James Reape understands the immense impact family law matters can have on his clients and their children. Reape is dedicated to identifying and analyzing his clients' situations to provide solutions-based strategies that help families transition while minimizing stress and uncertainty.



3

2 | **DAVID POMS**

Founder; CEO
Poms & Associates Insurance Brokers

ON TRUSTED ADVISOR EXCELLENCE:

“An exemplary trusted advisor leads with integrity, listens deeply, and builds lasting relationships. It means being accessible, invested in the community, mentoring others, and consistently helping local businesses grow.”



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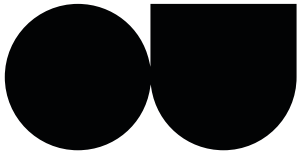
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4 | **SARAH REZNICK**

Founder
Sherfina Advisors

ON THE FUTURE:

“People are becoming more aware of not just how important it is to plan for retirement, but to plan for life’s unexpected changes.”



OFFICE UNTITLED

OFFICEUNTITLED is pleased to announce the promotion of Christianne Jordan to Principal and Diane Thepkhounphithack to Director.



Thepkhounphithack

Diane Thepkhounphithack, Director

Diane’s leadership is grounded in clarity and follow-through. With experience across design and project management, she has led technically demanding projects at OU including 1527 Lincoln, 2919 Wilshire, and 2800 28th Street. She also founded and leads the

firm’s mentorship program and is active in ULI’s Grow Mentorship program, AIA Los Angeles, and the Laotian American National Alliance.

Together, these promotions recognize leadership shaped through sustained responsibility for both the work and the people behind it.

OFFICEUNTITLED is a diverse collective of architects, designers, and strategists working fluidly between Los Angeles and New York. Led by Co-Founders Benjamin Anderson, Christian Robert, and Shawn Gehle, alongside Partner and Chief Operating Officer Lindsay Green, the firm has built a culture rooted in curiosity, rigor, and long-term investment in people.



Jordan

Christianne Jordan, Principal

Christianne approaches leadership as stewardship of design quality, process, and teams. Since joining the firm in 2018, she has guided complex projects from concept through execution, including the Cayton Children’s Museum, Edwards Lifesciences Master Plan, and AVA Arts District LA. Beyond

project work, she founded the firm’s Sustainability Action Squad, leads its AIA 2030 Commitment efforts, and contributes to firmwide QA/QC and BIM initiatives.

1 | **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.



1

3 | **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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2 | **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.



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4 | **KENDALL VanCONAS**

Managing Partner

Arnold LaRochelle Mathews VanConas & Zirbel

ON THE FUTURE:

“The sandwich generation (those who care for children and their parents) is growing quickly. Making sure all three generations are cared for is something that will become essential to plan for – I’m glad more people are being proactive about it.”



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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 2026!