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NO. 4 VOL. XXXIV

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18 YEARS



Vanessa, Laura, Lisa, and Anita have completed the Certified Advisor of Personal Insurance (CAPI) Program at Wharton Executive Education. Jodie is expected to complete the program in December.



Anita Gentry
23 YEARS



Lisa M. Hill, CAPI
17 YEARS



Nancy Wright
16 YEARS



Jodie Quintal
14 YEARS



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3 YEARS



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2 YEARS



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17 YEARS

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30

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JUL
4

LYLE LOVETT AND
HIS LARGE BAND*



JUL
5

THE DOO WOP
PROJECT



JUL
6

THE MIDTOWN MEN*
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Broadway cast of Jersey Boys



JUL
7

DVOŘÁK'S NEW WORLD
SYMPHONY



JUL
12

LEGENDARY WOMEN'S
VOICES: AN EVENING
WITH CYNTHIA ERIVO



JUL
13-14

HARRY POTTER AND
THE HALF BLOOD PRINCE™
IN CONCERT



JUL
19

COPLEY SYMPHONY HALL
GALAXY QUEST™
IN CONCERT



JUL
20

COPLEY SYMPHONY HALL
BACK TO THE FUTURE
IN CONCERT



JUL
25

CONGAS AND BONGOS:
CELEBRATING "MONGO"
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JUL
26-27

HOORAY FOR
HOLLYWOOD:
A NIGHT AT
THE OSCARS



JUL
28

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AUG
1-2

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AUG
3

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4

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8

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9-10

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AUG
16-17

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AUG
18

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AUG
22

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AUG
23

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AUG
24

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AUG
25

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COVER STORY: Top Attorneys 2019 Edition

Introducing our Top Attorneys for 2019, a listing of some of the best and brightest legal minds in the region. Pictured on the cover are two of the professionals — Alexis Gutierrez and Jessica Sizemore. **PAGE 8**

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Preserving Culture Through Landscape Architecture

An essential element of a successful landscape architecture plan is understanding the culture of the people you are working with to create it and those who will be using it. For the landscape architects at Burton Studio in Solana Beach, that means learning about the culture of Qatar, and for McCullough Landscape Architecture in San Diego, about China. (Photo: Burton Studio rendering of Al Barahat square)

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Announcing the 2019 Small Business Week Award Winners

The San Diego District Office of the Small Business Administration announces this year's Small Business Week Award winners. (Photo: Sayed Ali, Small Business Person of the Year)

22



First-ever Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center Opens

Researchers at San Diego State University and the University of Southern California have opened the nation's first public resource center on thirdhand smoke, the toxic residue from tobacco smoke that can saturate homes, businesses, hotels, cars and casinos for years after the last cigarette is stubbed out.

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SAN DIEGO SCENE

Greystar completes its \$400 million luxury apartment and retail development Downtown

Construction has been completed on Park 12 — The Collection, a \$400 million four-building Downtown luxury apartment and retail community at 100 Park Plaza overlooking San Diego Bay and Petco Park.

Situated on a 3.5-acre triangular site, Park 12 is comprised of one high-rise and three mid-rise buildings — all owned and operated by Greystar. The complex encompasses 371 luxury apartments in a 37-story tower and 347 units in one six and two seven-story midrise buildings — for a total of 718 rental homes. Residences include studio, one-, two- and three-bedroom floor plans — as well as penthouse suites — with square footage spanning from 518 to 2,824 square feet, with direct access to Petco Park for San Diego Padres baseball games and other special events.

The apartment homes feature plank flooring, private patios or balconies, stainless steel appliances, quartz countertops, polished chrome fixtures and full-size washer/dryers. Rents start at \$1,909.

According to Jerry Brand, senior managing director of West Coast development for Greystar, Park 12 — The Collection was built to create a sense of community, with high-end amenities designed to fuel camaraderie and engagement.

High-end perks at Park 12 include a nearly 5,000-square-foot entertainment hub — complete with a karaoke room; a movie theater; shuffleboard, and billiards tables; a golf simulator; six TVs; multiple arcade games and a mini bowling alley. Residents also have free access to a co-working space with private offices and multiple conference rooms.

Additional amenities include an indoor/outdoor fitness center featuring top-of-the-line equipment; two pools with a sundeck and spa; underground gated parking with 1,216 spaces; a clubhouse with kitchen; resident lounge; multiple rooftop terraces with outdoor seating, fire pits and outdoor kitchen and grilling areas. Two dog runs — one for small and big dogs — are outfitted with a washing station and pet drinking fountains. An expansive lobby includes 24-hour concierge services.

Turner and Greystar Construction Companies was the builder for the project; Carrier Johnson + Culture the architect, and LRM the landscape architect.

Park 12 — The Collection

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Ronson J. Shamoun, Principal Attorney and CEO of RJS LAW, is an Adjunct Law Professor at the University of San Diego—School of Law where he teaches a Tax Practice and Penalties class. He was recently presented with the following awards:

- San Diego Metro Magazine- Best Attorney 2016
- San Diego Magazine- Top Attorney 2016
- San Diego Business Journal- Best of the Bar 2014, 2015 & 2016
- Martindale Hubbell's- AC Preeminent Rated 2014, 2015 & 2016
- San Diego Daily Transcript- Top Attorney 2014 & 2015
- San Diego Metro Magazine- 40 Under 40 - 2015



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Connect and San Diego Venture Group merger lifts up entrepreneurial startup community

Connect and San Diego Venture Group (SDVG), leaders in supporting innovation and entrepreneurs in San Diego, announced Thursday they have completed a merger to become a joint organization under the Connect name. Mike Krenn has taken the role of chief executive officer, with Dr. Silvia Mah, Ph.D., expanding her role to president and chief operating officer. The merger is effective immediately and the organizations will combine operations in the coming months.

"We're very fired up and happy about this merger," Krenn said. "It's all about lifting up the startup community. Connect has been a leader in entrepreneurship and early-stage educational workshops as part of the Springboard Accelerator Program, while SDVG has been on the other end of the spectrum with providing access to capital and raising money, so it all fits in super nicely. It is a big honor and a privilege, as well as a huge responsibility being asked to lead Connect. Silvia and I take it very seriously."

"Mike and I share the same value system and know that it takes a village to start and scale a successful startup," says Mah. "We're bringing our villages together to make San Diego better. There's no shortage of entrepreneurs and startups that can use help, so we are looking forward to supporting them in all aspects of their growth."

For more than 30 years, both Connect and SDVG have focused on supporting and elevating entrepreneurs in the San Diego region. Combining the deep histories and wide successes of each organization creates a powerhouse of resources such as mentorship, education, and capital for innovators. Connect will be able to serve entrepreneurs and startups throughout their growth journey, from early stage to capital raise, under one roof.

"We are ecstatic about the combined leadership of Mike Krenn and Silvia Mah," says Connect Executive Chairman Tim Scott. "Connect has traditionally focused on helping those promising entrepreneurs to be investment ready and grow in ways that

benefit the regional economy. San Diego Venture Group has done a superb job of facilitating entrepreneurs on their journey to securing capital and as a combined team, Connect with SDVG will be focused on supporting the entrepreneurial journey from idea to a successful enterprise."

The combined leadership of Krenn and Mah continues a legacy of engaged, passionate advocates for entrepreneurs at the helm of Connect. Mah is an angel investor and venture capitalist, founding partner of Ad Astra Ventures, founder of Hera Labs, and champion for diverse, women-led startups. Krenn's stewardship of SDVG has made it one of the most successful vehicles for bringing capital to San Diego in recent years, contributing significantly to the \$2.5 billion in venture capital that San Diego companies received in 2018. Krenn also has deep ties to Connect through his many years supporting San Diego's entrepreneurial community. He previously served on the board of directors, worked closely with both Bill Otterson and Barbara Bry early in his career, and was an early supporter of Connect's Most Innovative New Product Awards. During his career, Krenn has directly helped more than 50 companies raise startup capital, in excess of \$200M. He also has direct experience with startups, having worked previously as a COO and vice president at a privately funded technology startup. Krenn was also a founder of both the Tech Coast Angels and CommNexus.

All programming and events that currently exist under each organization will continue as scheduled for the immediate future, beginning with Cool Companies on April 30 at the Belly Up in Solana Beach. The boards of directors for each organization will combine, with Tim Scott remaining as executive chairman, and Eric Otterson and James Mackay serving as co-vice chairmen.

An interim website, connectsd.org, has details on the merger and will provide updates on events and programming.

The merged organization has relocated to an office building at 4110 Campus Point Court.

Interpreters Unlimited CEO wins SBA's 2019 Small Business Award

Sayed Ali, president and CEO of Interpreters Unlimited, has won the Small Business Administration San Diego District Office's 2019 Small Business Person of the Year Award. It marks the second honor for Ali this year, as he was named a semifinalist for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

The SBA award recognizes recipients for developing an outstanding, growing business, innovative products or services, increasing jobs, increasing sales, overcoming adversity and community contributions;

This is the third consecutive year that the SBA has recognized Sayed Ali and Interpreters Unlimited with an award. Last year, Ali and IU won the 2018 SBA San Diego District Director's Award for Growth Through Acquisition and two years ago they were recipients of the 2017 SBA San Diego Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year Award. No stranger to awards, IU has also been named to the Common Sense Advisory Top Language Service Providers in North America list year after year and is a four-time Inc. 5000 Fastest Growing Private Companies in America honoree.

"It's an exciting time at IU, we are thrilled with the recognition we've been receiving and look forward to what's next," said, Shamus Sayed, vice president and chief operations officer of Interpreters Unlimited. He added, "The recognition is always nice, but what means the most is being able to grow as a company and meet the increasing needs of limited English speakers and those who are deaf or hard of hearing throughout the entire country."

Ali volunteers locally, coaches and mentors local up-and-coming business leaders, and supports the local minority community and those in need. He is involved in several organizations from the nonprofit Syrian Community Network of San Diego, which assists refugee families, to donating supplies to the Deaf Community Services Center of San Diego, to his involvement with the FBI Citizens Academy of San Diego, which spreads awareness of law enforcement practices.

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SDMETRO'S TOP ATTORNEYS
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SAN DIEGO'S TOP ATTORNEYS 2019



William Eigner is a partner at Procopio, who has represented venture capitalists, angel capitalists and security firms. He has also represented a high-technology company in its sale to a well known Silicon Valley firm. He has structured the formation of an energy services company, represented the majority shareholders of a retailer in forcing the buyout of a minority partner. He has advised distributors in a dispute with their suppliers, assisted a catering company in a brand licensing transaction and joint venture. Eigner is a director of EvoNexus, a board member of FHOOSH Inc., a former trustee of La Jolla Country Day School and a past member of the Headmaster's Advisory Council at the Bishop's School. He is a trustee emeritus of the San Diego Police Foundation and a director and corporate secretary of the San Diego Venture Group. He has been recognized as a Super Lawyer as well as a Best Attorney by SD METRO Magazine. He is a graduate of Stanford University.



Jessica Sizemore is a partner at Gomez Trial Attorneys who is a passionate advocate for those who have been injured by the wrongful acts of others. She has secured over \$50 million in jury verdicts and settlements. She joined Gomez Trial Attorneys in 2007 as a paralegal and decided to attend law school to further advance her legal skills and ability to represent her clients. She returned to Gomez each summer as a law clerk while attending the University of Arizona Law School. She became a full-time attorney in 2011. In law school, she was a writer for the Arizona Law Review, fundraising chair for the Law Women's Association and a volunteer for the Wills for Heroes program. In 2010, she was named Volunteer Student of the Year by the Southern Arizona Volunteer Lawyer's Program. She lived in both Saipan and Hawaii as a child before moving to the San Fernando Valley. Sizemore has a bachelor's degree in finance from San Diego State University. She is a member of the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego, Lawyers Club and the San Diego County Bar Association. She has been awarded the Outstanding Trial Lawyer award by the Consumer Attorneys in both 2017 and 2018 and named to Super Lawyers Magazine Rising Star for San Diego in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019.



Ronson J. Shamoun is the owner of RJS Law, San Diego's leading tax law firm. His firm has a sterling reputation among all taxing entities for being steadfast advocates for its clients. Through his sizable portfolio of commercial real estate and business investments, he has developed a keen sensibility for the legal needs of business owners and investors alike. He is able to provide practical legal advice to individuals seeking tax and business services, or to persons considering business or real estate transactions. Shamoun has been honored by many different organizations including the University of San Diego Law School's Distinguished Alumni award. In 2013, and every year since he has received the prestigious AV Preeminent rating from Martindale Hubbell, an award which recognizes an attorney's excellence in legal ability and ethical practice. He teaches a Tax and Penalties class at the USD Law School. Completion of the course is required for the Master of Laws in Taxation Degree. RJS Law has been recognized as one of San Diego's Most Admired Companies by SD METRO Magazine. He holds three degrees from the University of San Diego, a B.A. undergraduate degree in accounting, a law degree and a master's of law degree in taxation.



Selected by SD METRO Magazine as one of

SAN DIEGO'S BEST ATTORNEYS 2019

ALEXIS S. GUTIERREZ

Congratulations to our Partner **Alexis Gutierrez**

– A Leader in our Law Firm, San Diego's Legal
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behalf of all your clients.

Higgs Fletcher & Mack is a full-service law firm that serves diverse individuals
and industries, and is celebrating 80 years of successfully representing
companies and people in need of exceptional legal counsel.

TOP ATTORNEYS



Gayle M. Blatt's legal practice is focused on complex and class action litigation. She is head of Casey/Gerry's complex litigation practice group, handling high profile, multi-million dollar cases. Earning a reputation nationwide for her skills and expertise, she has been appointed to prominent leadership roles in litigation related to global chip maker Intel for security flaws and technology giant Apple Inc. for device performance issues. She has served on the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee overseeing the nationwide class action litigation related to the massive data breaches revealed by Yahoo Inc. She has worked closely with firm partner David S. Casey Jr., to help pursue litigation targeting the German auto maker VW over the diesel emissions scandal, the largest in consumer class action history. Their work supported more than \$11 billion in settlements. She also worked with Casey on the Fiat Chrysler diesel emissions litigation. She serves on the board of trustees for California Western School of Law and is on the board of the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center. Blatt is a three-time winner of the Consumer Attorneys of San Diego's Outstanding Trial Lawyer Award and is consistently ranked in Best Lawyers of America. She is a graduate of Hofstra University and California Western School of Law.



Kevan McLaughlin created his law firm at the height of the 2007-08 recession and successfully grew the practice at a time when many attorneys struggled to obtain quality work. Attributes to this feat include his drive, a keen understanding of tax litigation and controversy law and his adherence to three guiding values: personal service, a concentrated practice and a commitment to his clients. McLaughlin Legal advises individuals, families and businesses in tax and estate planning matters (including drafting wills, trusts, powers of attorney, and more.) He also has extensive practice in both civil and criminal tax litigation. He is well-versed in the IRS Tax Preparer penalties code, injunctions, criminal investigations and ethics counseling. He is also a top expert in CPA Licensing Defense including California Board of Accountancy and Public Company Accounting Oversight Board investigations and IRS Office of Professional Responsibility disciplinary cases. After earning his undergraduate degree from the University of Colorado he moved to San Francisco to attend the Golden Gate School of Law. He then moved to San Diego to attend the Graduate Tax Law Program at the University of San Diego where he earned his Master of Laws in Taxation.



Anne Wenger has become one of the top estate planning law attorneys in San Diego. Having started at McLaughlin Legal just a few short years ago, she now leads the firm's Estate and Tax Planning division, and also represents clients before all federal, state and local agencies. She expertly advises clients concerning their fundamental estate plans as well as assists her clients in evaluating and implementing various tax strategies to help protect and preserve their assets. While attending Gonzaga University School of Law, she worked for the County Public Defender and later at University Legal Assistance, a clinic providing services to low-income members of the community. Wenger teaches an upper-level estate planning and tax course at San Diego State University, as well as in its Executive Program for those studying to become Certified Financial Planners. She is a member of the board of directors of the Foundation of the San Diego Boys and Girls Club of Greater San Diego. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Notre Dame and a Master of Law degree in taxation from the University of San Diego School of Law Graduate Tax Program.



Danielle Humphries is an equity partner at Hahn Loeser Law. Her accomplishments reflect her life-long commitment to leadership, advocacy and compassion for others. They are integrated into her daily activities, from outstanding firm leadership, to the mentorship she provides her colleagues. She volunteers her time on various boards within the San Diego community, most specifically, Promises2Kids. While she serves as an active board member, she also volunteers as the chair of the Philanthropy Committee, which serves the diverse needs of more than 3,000 San Diego foster children. She has also been a driving force in Hahn Loeser's continued support of the San Diego Museum of Art, most recently through its sponsorship of the museum's free admission program for youth aged 17 and under in San Diego County. Humphries has earned "Best of the Bar," a top attorney in the category of Estate Planning/Probate and Trust/Tax, and San Diego Super Lawyer ' Rising Star designation. She holds both a J.D., and LL.M. from the University of San Diego School of Law.

Alexis Gutierrez is a partner at Higgs Fletcher & Mack, a respected and well-respected litigator, an active participant in the community, and a true force within San Diego's legal community. For over 20 years, he has successfully provided business and employment counseling and complex commercial litigation to public and private entities, as well as nonprofit organizations. His extensive trial experience covers a wide variety of complex cases in federal and state courts, and before numerous administrative agencies including the Department of Fair Employment and Housing, the Equal Employment Commission and the Division of Labor Standards, the California Labor Commissioner and the National Labor Relations Board. He has litigated numerous business disputes to verdict, including those brought by entities, individuals and class plaintiffs. He currently chairs Higgs, Fletcher & Mack's Litigation Department in addition to serving on the firm's executive and management committee. He serves on the board of directors for United Way of San Diego, and on the board of directors for the San Diego North Economic Development Council. He obtained a defense verdict on behalf of Groupe Zodiac Aerospace, defeated certification of 11 sub-class wage and hour class against Hilton Carlsbad Resort and Spa, and Hilton Garden Inn. He obtained a de-certification of 120,000 member-class in *Hale v. Sharp Healthcare*, and defeated certification of 80,000 member class in *Terrazas v. Memorial Health Services*. He holds his B.S. from Cal Poly and his J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law.




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Congratulations to our partner, Gayle M. Blatt, selected by *San Diego Metro Magazine* as one of the 2019 Best Attorneys in San Diego.

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TOP ATTORNEYS



Earl Pott is a shareholder with Klinedinst PC whose practice is focused on white-collar criminal defense cases, among them professional licensing litigation, professional liability defense, vehicular manslaughter, sexual assault, vehicular manslaughter, fraud and embezzlement. He has substantial experience in matters involving criminal securities fraud, false claims, and political corruption, and has defended professional licenses before the medical, nursing, and psychology boards. Pott has served as a guest judge and commentator at trial advocacy seminars at California Western School of Law and the California Public Defenders Association's Annual Trial Skills Workshop, and has taught for the National Institute for Trial Advocacy.



Leah Strickland Leah Strickland, a partner at Solomon Ward Seidenwurm & Smith LLP, is a skilled litigator with a practice encompassing business and employment litigation and intellectual property disputes. She advises individuals and businesses in resolving disputes prior to the start of litigation and represents clients after litigation has begun in both federal and state court actions. For the past nine years, Strickland has served as a member of the San Diego County Bar Association Intellectual Property Section, working to advance the development of intellectual property laws. She also is active in the Association of Business Trial Lawyers, San Diego chapter.



Robin Wofford a partner at Wilson Turner Kosmo, is a leading litigator in business and employment law who is making strides to diversify the legal industry by creating more opportunities for minority and women-owned law firms throughout the country. Wilson Turner Kosmo is the largest certified women-owned law firm in San Diego. She is showing companies that diversity and inclusion is key to their success. With more than 30 years of trial experience, Wofford has resolved a myriad of disputes for employers regarding wage and hour class actions, wrongful termination, discrimination, sexual harassment and trade secret disputes. She has effectively defended both wage and hour as well as consumer class actions and numerous appeals before the Ninth Circuit and various state appellate courts.



Andrea N. Myers is a partner at Seltzer Caplan with a very successful litigation career at one of San Diego's most prestigious law firms. She has settled several multi-million dollar disputes, involving business fraud, trust administration and real property claims. In both state and federal court, she represents clients ranging from Fortune 500 companies to private commercial entities in complex business disputes, employment litigation and professional liability defense. She leads the firm's Marketing Committee and is responsible for promoting the firm's growth. Additionally, she oversees Associate Training which focuses on the skills that young attorneys need for successful careers. Her philanthropic activities include the Junior League of San Diego, the San Diego Bowl Game Association's "Red Coat" Committee and serves on the board of the Urban Discovery Academy. Myers holds a B.A. in economics and government from Claremont McKenna College and a J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law.



Robert Shields is a partner at Wilson Turner Kosmo who has represented automotive, motorcycle, automotive component parts and industrial equipment manufacturers in high-stakes lawsuits for nearly 20 years. He is also devoted to celebrating and helping provide services to San Diego's diverse special needs community. Since 2000, his team

has taken approximately 3,500 cases to resolution. Shields primarily represents national and international manufacturers who have either been sued for damages in catastrophic injuries or in litigation involving breach of warranty claims based on the Song-Beverly and Magnuson-Moss Warranty (also known as the "lemon law") acts and consumer fraud statutes.



Bill Hunter is a principal at Fish & Richardson who is a leading patent attorney with significant experience advising individuals, start-up companies, universities, research institutes and technology and manufacturing companies. With a company's patent portfolio often its largest and most important asset, Hunter's role is critical to his clients' successes. His practice

incorporates many facets of patent law including patent prosecution and counseling, patent strategy and analysis, development and management of patent portfolios, patent opinions, due diligence investigations, and post-grant proceedings. Hunter participates in Fish' annual "Patent Lab," which trains the firm's newly-hired attorneys and technical specialists across its 10 U.S. offices in best practices for patent prosecution.

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**CONGRATULATIONS
DANIELLE HUMPHRIES!
SAN DIEGO BEST ATTORNEYS**

Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP salutes our *San Diego Metro* Best Attorney award recipient, Danielle Humphries.

Danielle's commitment and dedication to her clients and to her community make her truly deserving of this honor. Congratulations to Danielle and all the *San Diego Metro* 2019 San Diego Best Attorneys honorees!

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TOP ATTORNEYS



Shawn Hagerty is a partner at Best Best & Krieger LLP, a national leader at the intersection of land use planning and water quality. Across the state, he ensures water quality standards are crafted and executed in a fair yet aggressive and effective manner. He strategically helps cities, counties and special districts maintain clean water systems devoid of stormwater pollution. Hagerty also bridges the efforts of public agencies and private developers to comply with state and federal water regulations, including the Clean Water and Safe Drinking Water acts. Recently, he worked with the Port of San Diego on a two-year, multi-organization effort to implement water quality measures across the Port's diverse maritime operations.



Lauri Stock After serving seven years as a U.S. Navy officer, Lauri Stock began her legal career with the San Diego City Attorney's Office, first as a deputy city attorney and later as a police legal adviser. Her extensive prosecutorial trial experience was a natural segue into family law. After having her own family practice for more than 20 years, Stock joined Solomon Ward Seidenwurm & Smith LLP in 2012. She brought a wealth of knowledge into her practice in the areas of divorce, dissolution and legal separation, child custody and visitation, child and spousal or partner support, adoption and mediation. She is an experienced mediator, serving as a settlement Family Court judge (pro tem) and appointed minor's counsel.



Meryl Maneker Meryl Maneker, a partner at Wilson Turner Kosmo, works to protect businesses in high-stakes class actions, primarily in the employment and consumer protection fields. With more than 30 years of experience, Maneker coordinates the firm's class action practice group, both handling and overseeing many of its cases, but also educating its 30-plus attorneys about current litigation and legislative measures that impact this area of the law. Maneker has successfully defended businesses of all sizes, and from a broad spectrum of industries, in wage-and-hour class actions in both state and federal court. Her work has helped clients fight allegations of misclassification, failure to provide meal breaks and lack of expense reimbursement, among other claims.

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Preserving Culture through Landscape Architecture

Placemaking around the world

By Delle Willett

An essential element of a successful landscape architecture plan is understanding the culture of the people you are working with to create it and those who will be using it.

For the landscape architects at Burton Studio in Solana Beach, that means learning about the culture of Qatar, and for McCullough Landscape Architecture in San Diego, about China.

It means business meetings by Skype at midnight, allowing for a 13-hour time difference. Speaking through an interpreter. Flying halfway around the world to meet face-to-face. Staying for a few hours, days, weeks, months or even years.

Burton Studio

In 2010, Burton was invited to participate in an international competition mandated by Her Highness Sheikha Moza bint Nasser of Qatar, who was responding to an urgent need to protect the nation's cultural and architectural heritage.

In one generation Qatar, an Arab country on the Persian Gulf, transformed from a largely nomadic society into a prosperous and influential Gulf state. As a result, public life in the capital city of Doha increasingly moved indoors, and exterior public spaces were largely treated as uninhabited transitional spaces between glass towers.

Says Patrick Baldwin, principal of Burton Studio, "We won the assignment using a distinctly hand-crafted feel, both in our presentation and proposed solutions, in our ability to bring detail to the forward-thinking aspirations of the project, and by respecting the heritage and culture of Qatar while also looking toward the future of Doha as an international city."

The contract was to create a new public center for Doha. Called Msheireb—"a place to drink water"—this new public realm would invite city-dwellers to step outside and enjoy an array of different activities. The project covers 77 acres with initial construction that began January 2010 with completion planned for 2020.

"When we won the competition we were told, 'Everything you draw must be rooted to Qatar in some way. The space must be comfortable for the user,'" says Baldwin.

With that mandate, Burton Studio designed from 2010 to 2013, working with 18 design architects, executive architects, and engineers out of London, Spain, Germany, and the U.S.

A jewel of Msheireb is Al Barahat Square, the region's largest covered public square at over two acres. Close in size to Venice's Piazza San Marco, the Al Barahat was envisioned by the design



Burton Studio rendering: Al Barahat square, the region's largest covered space at over 2 acres.



McCullough Landscape Architecture rendering: Terraced seating elements allow direct interaction to the river, connecting the users to the water.



Patrick Baldwin, principal of Burton Studio.

team as an outdoor Majlis, — place of sitting, where friends are received and entertained.

A stunning highlight of the new center city is the plaza floor. Made from five colors of hand-cut, hand-polished regional stone, each precisely placed to create a giant carpet reflective of Qatari pattern.

From May to October, it is essential that shade be provided, and temperatures controlled so that Al Barahat is usable for public activities.

To cool off the plaza, Burton worked with a U.S. architect and German engineering team to

develop the concept of a shade structure that is anchored between two six-story buildings, closed during the day and open at night to allow accumulated heat to rise from the space. At ground level, pedestrian-scaled canopies provide additional shade and cooling for restaurant terraces.

During design, Burton embarked on an extensive period of research, visiting both urban and rural sites throughout the region, meeting with notable Qatari plant scientists, consulting with the Qatari Foundation, and working with horticultural consultants. both local to the project site and of international reputation.

Burton Studio developed a plant palette that meets the project goal of representing the history of Qatar through native materials and looking forward using adaptive plant materials.

The project roads, all composed of stone cobbles, are lined with an organizational frame of street trees and groundstory, and once inside this frame, the jewels of the project— public squares and courtyards—are punctuated by a vibrant diversity of plants and mature trees that were often sourced from Qatari farms to provide day-one comfort.

The result is a sustainable, efficient landscape, weaving Msheireb into the broader City of Doha.

“We feel incredibly honored to be part of this project and getting to know the culture of Qatar. It was a true collaboration with a team of amazingly gifted designers from around the world. The work challenged our studio daily – which often led to our best design work,” says Baldwin.

McCullough Landscape Architecture

David McCullough, principal of McCullough Landscape Architecture, is part of a GAFCON-led international team of architects, urban planners, transit planners, lighting and other designers, working on a 1,200-acre project in Shanghai, envisioned to be the Silicon Valley of China.

McCullough came into the project in Phase Two about 1.5 years ago and will be doing Phase Three and Four, the final phase, as well.

Phase One, which takes up about 1/8th of the property, is

complete, with a lot of major tech type companies including Intel, Microsoft, SanDisk, and Infosys, to name a few.

With over 800 acres, Phase Two includes building a 90+ acre lake, “Purple Lake,” which has a series of canals with multimillion-dollar waterfront, yacht homes. Phase Three, which began this January, includes a closer look at the resort-style hotel and the adjacent children’s park, inspired by the developer’s grandchildren.

Being built along the Huangpu River, which runs through Shanghai, when the project is complete there will be a large lake, two prominent universities, housing for educators and staff, several hotels, senior housing, a hospital, an equestrian center, an elementary, middle and high school, an aquarium, an arboretum, a large park, an indoor entertainment complex that includes ski slopes, an ice rink and a water park, canals with yacht slips and upscale water-front homes, high-rise office buildings, retail, restaurants, a subway transit center, a children’s park, a resort-style hotel, and a library tower.

Just 10 miles outside of Shanghai, this project is being built by a wealthy Chinese businessman on land that has been mainly agriculture and old villages.

The project is currently called Zizhu chuangxla which translated means indigenous innovation, self-governed or self-determined. This is a term frequently used by the Chinese government, academics, and businesses to describe the Chinese technology-led economic transformation in the past decades.

A five- to 10-year endeavor, Zizhu is moving quickly because the Chinese don’t have the same processes as Westerners have. Even though they are highly concerned about safety, there are fewer regulations, codes, public deliberation, and committees. Not to mention having a workforce of 35 million people to tap.

“We are working on the project at the same time they are. Before we were even done with the lake plans, they were digging it.”

The Chinese have a different business culture. “They hire us for our newest ideas, our vision more than for the technical implementation. They want the bigger picture: how wide are the streets, what areas are dedicated to pedestrians, what areas are public, what are private, where cars are prohibited.”

Explained McCullough, “We come up with the design-intent items and then send them to the developers who go right to work with workers who are trained from toddler-age to work from the left side of their brains, paying attention to detail, being precise and technologically savvy.”

For the planting plans, the Chinese team has a landscape architect who works with McCullough on plant selection. “We walked with him and took notes of types of planting



David McCullough, principal of McCullough Landscape Architecture.

materials, noting elements that do or don't work there. We also suggested the type of trees," says McCullough.

McCullough, who has completed multiplw projects in China, says, "I am a big proponent of understanding context. It's good to understand who your client is and what their culture is. We go through a process called design development. Using our design ideas, an organization called the 'design bureau,' an academy of several thousand Chinese people, does the detailed drawings on CAD."

McCullough is in direct communication with the client and the Shanghai team. Despite the 13-hour time difference and language challenges, communication works well as there are people in both places who speak English and Chinese, using face-to-face meetings, Skype, email and phone. Sometimes, even though they may understand English, there are times when meanings may not be fully grasped, and a translator is needed.

This is McCullough's third project in China. He's looking forward to working on future projects with the Chinese people who he finds are "mutually loyal to employers and employees, very serious about education, perfectionists, and incredibly progressive."

Team architects on this project include Gafcon, Gensler, Perkins Eastman, Fentress Architects, AVPR Skyport, Lockard Creative, Animate Digital, City Design and Studio Fink.

Photos courtesy of McCullough Landscape Architecture and Burton Studio.



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Announcing the **2019** Small Business Week Award Winners

The SBA San Diego District Office announces its 2019 Small Business Week Award winners:



Small Business Person of the Year

Sayed Ali, President and CEO, Interpreters Unlimited Inc. (San Diego)

Sayed Ali is an accomplished entrepreneur, with a keen sense of supply and demand. In 1966, he immigrated to the United States from India to pursue his education in electronic engineering. After 20 years as a successful engineer, Sayed Ali left his chosen profession for entrepreneurship. He obtained a loan from the Small Business Administration in 1987 and defied all odds building a successful corporation, Creative Host Services (CHS), from scratch. By 1997, CHS expanded exponentially and traded on NASDAQ before it was acquired by Compass Group in 2004. In 2007, with another SBA loan, he acquired his current business, Interpreters Unlimited Inc., a company matching linguists to the businesses who need them.



Minority-Owned Small Business of the Year

Cindy Espinoza, CEO, Espinoza's Clean Sweep (Fallbrook/Murrieta)

CEO Cindy Espinoza started her business 14 years ago with the purchase of her first street sweeper, with money she saved while working other jobs. Cindy started with one client and now has over 140 annual contracts. Sales have also increased consistently over the past few years, with 2018 being the best year ever. Cindy has grown her business with guidance from the business advisers at the North San Diego SBDC, as well as, by attending their various workshops.



Veteran-Owned Small Business of the Year

Elizabeth Valenzuela Banker, CEO/President, Shore Solutions Inc. (Chula Vista)

Shore Solutions sells worldwide to the military, as well as, federal, state and local agencies, offering a wide variety of products including tactical gear, industrial supplies, office supplies and more. Banker, a Navy veteran, purchased Shore from her former employer in late 2015. Shore has since expanded the scope of its logistical support services worldwide to cover all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces and other governmental agencies. Shore currently has 19 employees, more than half of which are veterans, and 40 percent of them are service disabled veterans representing Navy, Marine Corps, Army, and the National Guard.



Woman-Owned Small Business of the Year

Stacey Anfuso, president/CEO, and Karina Arushanyan, director of business development and strategic operations, La Jolla Logic Inc.

La Jolla Logic, founded by Stacey Anfuso, is an advanced technology and information system security solution provider headquartered in Southern California. The professional staff has technical, programmatic, and executive leadership experience spanning over 20 years supporting the US Department of Defense, academic institutions, and the commercial sector. LJJ has had a growth in revenue and employee count, new contract awards in L.A. and Washington, D.C., areas and a corresponding ten-fold increase in office space size since inception.



Anthony Vigil Award for Growth in the Wholesale Desserts Industry

Diane Anderson, CEO/CFO & Vincent Garcia, COO, Opera Patisserie (San Diego)

Opera Patisserie was started in 2002, in a 1,000-square-foot commercial kitchen, converted garage space, by current CEO Diane Anderson's husband, a French chef, and COO Vincent Garcia, who is also a French chef, with an extensive background in hotel and restaurant service. Anderson found their original kitchen and started out as their bookkeeper. The business grew and Diane spearheaded the acquisition of a new 10,000-square-foot facility, in 2007 and became CEO in 2008.



SBA District Director's Award for Overcoming Adversity

Fernanda Carpraro, CEO/Founder, Cookies con Amore (San Marcos)

Cookies con Amore was born in 2005 when, after 20 years spent as successful restaurateurs, CEO and Founder Fernanda Carpraro and her husband Angelo followed their dream to start a bakery and share their "Nonna's" famous Italian cookies with the world. In 2017, they purchased a new 30,000-square-foot facility, for which over \$1.65 million in capital was raised, with assistance provided by the North San Diego SBDC, and included a \$600,000 SBA-guaranteed loan. They now have 40 different types of cookies and product lines sold throughout the U.S. and Canada; have 49 employees; and have increased their sales exponentially, in the past year.



SBA District Director's Award for Growth in the Workforce Training Sector

Deborah Wooldridge, CEO/Founder, ttInnovations (Carlsbad)

Debbie Wooldridge started DW Training and Development Inc., dba ttInnovations, 17 years ago from an idea she had to help businesses improve their performance through effective training strategies and programs. ttInnovations has grown dramatically since then to a team of 98 creative members working on over 200 projects a year for her clients, which include large U.S. companies such as Amazon, Bank of America, and Volvo. In 2018, because of a business development initiative that Debbie undertook in 2017 and 2018 to expand her client base, ttInnovations had considerable revenue growth and a 44 percent increase in new business contracts in varying industries.



SBA District Director's Award for SBA Mission Support

Lisa Bentson, Volunteer, SCORE San Diego

Lisa Bentson has worked in the referral marketing industry for the past 25 year and is currently the president and CEO of Leads Club. She specializes in small business marketing and customer service, and also creates workshops and presentations for marketing purposes. She and her partner/mother Ali Lassen created the well-known "Focused Networking" workshop.



Jill Andrews Advocacy Award for Outstanding Small Business Assistance in the Technology Sector

Mysty Rusk, Director, The Brink Small Business Development Center at USD

As the director of The Brink SBDC, Rusk focuses on growing impact-oriented businesses in San Diego County along with connecting entrepreneurial efforts throughout the community. Targeting technology based firms, in 2018, she helped start several new businesses, and provided guidance to create growth in existing businesses, through mentoring, providing training opportunities, and sharing high-powered connections from her vast network of contacts. She launched "She Founders," a networking and training group that connects women in business to learn from one another; and launched a free monthly education series featuring workshops focused on the unique strengths and opportunities of women founders.



Small Business Development Center Excellence and Innovation Center Award

Carla Holland, Director, South San Diego Small Business Development Center (National City)

Carla Holland has been with the San Diego SBDC Network since 2014 and has a team of eight business advisors. In 2018 the South San Diego SBDC provided over 4,300 hours of business advising to over 1000 clients and provided training to over 600 participants. The South San Diego SBDC specializes in assistance with accessing capital. Over the years they have developed close relationships with regional lending institutions and have become an integral part of the financing process with those institutions



Financial Services Champion of the Year

Christopher Rodewald, Vice President, US Bank SBA Division (San Diego)

Chris Rodewald joined U.S. Bank in 2010, after becoming one of the top five producers and a member of the President's Club in Lehman Brother's SBA Division. He is a coach, mentor and advocate for the small businesses he champions. He spends countless hours beyond his 40-hour work week, before and after the normal banker's hours, mentoring his clients to help them prepare for funding and even after they are funded. During the past 10 years Rodewald has been responsible for helping small businesses obtain over \$220 million in SBA-guaranteed loans.

San Diego Procurement Technical Assistance Center San Diego Contracting Opportunities Center Team (National City)



Rachel Fischer, director (on temporary reassignment)

Brett Housholder, acting director

Luz Velasco, acting deputy director

Tricia Ferrand, project procurement adviser

Rosalva Sandoval, project clerk

Since program inception, the PTAC has provided over 6,207 small businesses with one-on-one technical assistance, and helped those businesses obtain over \$1.35 billion in federal, state, and local government contracts, and federal innovation grants. Minority-owned small businesses have received \$769.5 million (59) of those contracts. The PTAC staff participates and volunteers on many councils and advisory boards, aiming to increase business/contracting opportunities and business growth for small and diverse businesses.

Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year

Michelle Gongora, Business Services Manager, California Department of Transportation, San Diego



Committed to advancing opportunities for veterans, Gongora leads a team dedicated to participating in and providing on-going support through resources, training, and mentorship to enhance small business ownership and obtain financial opportunities within Caltrans, as well as various public, local, state, and federal agencies. In 2018, Gongora and her team participated in more than 70 small business and veteran outreach events throughout San Diego and Imperial Counties.

Women in Business Champion of the Year

Candace Friedman, President, ACME Safety and Supply Corp. (National City)



Candace Friedman is proud of her success as a woman business owner in a predominantly male industry. She is even more proud of the successes all women-owned businesses are experiencing now and her role in making that happen. Her desire to help women has inspired many to start or expand their businesses. Candace loves to share her wisdom, inspiring women to “Go for it” like she did 20 years ago when she quit her job and never looked back.

First-ever Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center Opens

SDSU partnership with USC to raise public awareness of hazards of toxic contamination left behind –years later–by smoking and vaping

By Jeff Ristine | SDSU

Researchers at San Diego State University and the University of Southern California (USC) have opened the nation's first public resource center on thirdhand smoke, the toxic residue from tobacco smoke that can saturate homes, businesses, hotels, cars and casinos for years after the last cigarette is stubbed out.

Funded by revenues from a cigarette tax increase approved by California voters in 2016, the Thirdhand Smoke Resource Center will offer educational materials, workshops and additional resources on the hidden substances and the health hazards they pose.

A new website, thirdhandsmoke.org, is the centerpiece of the effort to increase public awareness of thirdhand smoke.

"There's a big illusion that when tobacco smoke disappears, we're safe," said SDSU psychology professor Georg Matt, director of the resource center. "Unfortunately, some of the most toxic compounds cling to surfaces. They get embedded in carpets, they coat walls, they penetrate into walls. They become part of the indoor environment."

The particle and vapors also become embedded in ceilings, carpets, furniture, cabinets, bedding and toys and have been detected years after smoking has stopped. They impact hotel and motel patrons, apartment tenants, resale homebuyers and taxi or ride-hailing passengers in places exposed to previous smoking.

In a recent study of 220 San Diego County apartments, smoke residue was detected in all 220 units despite very few of them housing smokers as tenants at the time. In some units, the levels were as heavy as those of smoking rooms at hotels.

According to Matt, the center and its website are intended to "make the public more aware of thirdhand smoke" and help create indoor environments free of tobacco smoke pollutants.

Health hazards

Residue from smoking tobacco and vaping electronic cigarettes includes a mixture of toxic chemicals known to cause cancer and asthma. These chemicals can affect respiratory and cardiovascular health and may reduce the body's ability to heal and fight infection.

Infants, small children and pets are particularly vulnerable because of the carpets and other surfaces they come into contact with or put into their mouths.

Repainting a home or apartment does not eliminate heavy thirdhand smoke contamination, Matt said. "You really have to gut the interior and rebuild, he said. "Take out the drywall and the floors if you really want to get that stuff out."

"You can imagine someone with a pack-a-day habit over a 10-



Residue from smoking tobacco and vaping electronic cigarettes includes a mixture of toxic chemicals known to cause cancer and asthma. (Photo: DodgertonSkillhouse)

year period," Matt said. "There are massive amounts of nicotine as well as other carcinogens that just stay behind."

In cars driven by heavy smokers, he said, "there's not really a solution." Thirdhand smoke pollutants are in the upholstery, ceiling liners and ventilation system.

In addition to its educational materials, the center will conduct workshops and webinars for health professionals, health advocates, policymakers, apartment and hotel managers, car dealers and members of the general public who want to learn more about thirdhand smoke. The center also plans to develop do-it-yourself test kits for measuring thirdhand smoke and will work with businesses and community groups to test for thirdhand smoke pollution.

SDSU and USC are both members of the Thirdhand Smoke Research Consortium funded by California's Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program, created by the state Legislature from Proposition 56 of 2016. The \$2-per-pack tax—the first successful cigarette tax increase since 1998—was approved with more than 64 percent of the vote. Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the University of California, Riverside, and the University of California, San Francisco also participate in the consortium.

The Center can be reached at contact@thirdhandsmoke.org or 619-594-3018.

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