

**TIM GASPAR***Gaspar Insurance Services*

Tim Gaspar is the owner and principal at Gaspar Insurance Services in Woodland Hills. A lifelong entrepreneur, he started his first business in high school and ran a number of businesses while attending California State University - Northridge. Gaspar worked with Marsh & Co., an independent insurance agency in Encino, and in 2008 he purchased his book of clients from the agency and founded Gaspar Insurance. It is one of the largest

independent insurance firms in the city of Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley (as ranked by the Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley business journals). Gaspar Insurance this year was ranked by Inc. magazine as of the fastest growing companies in America. Gaspar supports a number of nonprofits focused on youth and public safety and serves on a number of boards including the Discovery Cube Los Angeles, West Valley YMCA and the Valley Industry and Commerce Association. "I am thrilled to have joined the Discovery Cube board," he said. "The northeast part of our San Fernando Valley is long overdue in getting the attention and helps it deserves."

**DAK GILINSKY***DLC Group*

Dak Gilinsky is managing director of the DLC Group, a finance and accounting consulting firm in Woodland Hills. In the past year, he was involved in the process of selling the DLC business to the Addison Group, which is the new parent. Gilinsky was promoted to manage the Orange County market in addition to its Los Angeles business. He brings to his role more than 12 years of experience across consulting and professional services in all industries. In the

past, he has launched multiple professional services businesses on the West Coast.

**TAMARA GURNEY***Mission Valley Bank*

Tamara Gurney is the founding president and chief executive of Mission Valley Bank, a community-based business bank in Sun Valley with offices in the Santa Clarita Valley. She is active with the Federal Reserve's Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council. She serves on the board of Pacific Coast Banker's Bank and serves on the board or advisory boards of the Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corp., the Valley Economic Development Corp., the Valley Economic Alliance, the Los Angeles County Business Federation or BizFed, College

of the Canyons Foundation, YMCA of Santa Clarita, Southland Sings and the San Fernando Valley Community Foundation. She was recognized by the Santa Clarita Valley Leadership Committee as the Business Person of the Year in 2012; the Business Journal named her a Trusted Advisor in 2011, and she is a past president of the California Independent Bankers Association. She said she is proud of the team at her bank for supporting the community during the economic crisis. "Our small community bank to date processed more than 330 Paycheck Protection Program loans, providing more than \$68 million in desperately needed funds. That's impactful."

**'We didn't miss a beat when the stay-at-home order was issued.'**

— Mitzi Like, LBW Insurance

**VAHID KHORSAND***BWS Financial*

Vahid Khorsand is an analyst and partner at BWS Financial, an independent equities research firm in Woodland Hills that has been ranked No. 1 for 5-year and 1-year performance by Investars. Khorsand is an appointee of Mayor Eric Garcetti to the Los Angeles Citywide Planning Commission where he was elected vice president in 2018. He is the founder and current chair of the United Chambers of Commerce's Inspirational

Women of the San Fernando Valley. He also is on the Community Advisory Group for Premier America Credit Union. He is a founding member of the West Valley Democrats and co-chair of the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley's Endorsements Committee. Prior to his appointment to the planning commission, he was on the board of the Encino Chamber of Commerce where he was a past president and board secretary of ONEgeneration among other affiliations. Khorsand said he is proud that BWS has consistently been recognized for its equities research and that the company's summer internship program has led to industry jobs for the interns.

**MITZI LIKE***LBW Insurance and Financial Services*

Mitzi Like is chief executive of LBW Insurance and Financial Services in Valencia. In addition to her management duties, she handles the firm's largest book of business. In 1977, she formed Like Financial with her father; a later merger created LBW. Today it remains a family-owned insurance agency with seven family members from three generations on staff. In 2013, Like

formed Western Resource Network, a strategic alliance with two insurance agencies in the L.A. region. She serves on the boards of the Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital Foundation and Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corp. One of LBW's high-profile clients is the city of Santa Clarita. She said she is proud that "we didn't miss a beat when the stay-at-home order was issued. We remain a high-touch 'boutique' agency (even with everyone remote), and with so much consolidation in our industry, we're finding clients really appreciate that about LBW."

**JAMES MUNTER***Bank of America*

James Munter leads a team of financial specialists for Bank of America Merrill Lynch in Encino. He is vice president overseeing client relationships within the commercial bank, which offers advisory and global financial services for companies' domestic and international operations. Munter also serves on the bank's Latino Leadership Council, which is dedicated supporting the Latino business community. He is on the board of the Boys and Girls Club of Santa Clarita.

**PATRICK NYGREN***Union Bank*

Patrick Nygren joined Union Bank two years ago as regional president of its Los Angeles and Central Coast division, which also includes Ventura, Santa Barbara and Monterey counties. From his Woodland Hills office, he oversees more than 87 branches and 580 employees. Before moving to Union Bank, he served as regional bank president for Wells Fargo, where since 2017 he led all aspects of consumer, small business and

affluent business banking throughout Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley. Nygren is on the board of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association as well as Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families, a crisis-care and residential treatment facility for foster or at-risk children. He said he is proud of the professional network he built. "I've been able to maintain strong partnerships and relationships with my previous employer and team while expanding my influence and professional network here at Union Bank," he told the Business Journal.

**ROSS PENDERGRAFT***Leavitt Group*

Ross Pendergraft is senior vice president of the Leavitt Group insurance firm in Woodland Hills, where he's responsible for growth of Leavitt Group's employee benefits initiatives in Southern California. Pendergraft's specialties include employee benefits, 401(k)'s, worksite benefits, estate planning and Medicare. He is an active board member of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association; he has been on the board since 2012

and chairs VICA's health care committee. Pendergraft is president of the East Valley Police Activity League Supporters, or PALS. He also devotes his time and money to Healing Arts Reaching Kids (HARK) and the Boys and Girls Club of the West Valley. When asked to cite a recent accomplishment, he said: "I am really blessed with a wonderful career and because of that, it has enabled me to be even more giving with my time and finances to several of my beloved charities."

**DAVID POMS***Poms & Associates*

David Poms is chief executive of Poms & Associates, an independent insurance and risk management firm in Woodland Hills that he founded in 1991. Today, the company has six branches in three states and has been repeatedly recognized as one of the 50 Best Places to Work in Insurance by Insurance Business America magazine. Poms was named the 2020 Insurance Entrepreneur of the Year by the American Business

Awards for his leadership in loss control and advocacy for child welfare and school safety issues. He has served on the board of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Foundation for the past 8 years. In the community, Poms supports Chaminade College Preparatory school; City of Hope, a private clinical research center and hospital in Duarte, Calif.; The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society; and SafeSport, a nonprofit that works to end abuse in sports. He said he is proud of how his team responded to the pandemic, "shifting seamlessly to remote work locations and doing whatever it takes to continue delivering the highest level of service to our clients and the communities in which they operate."