bizwomen chicago business journal MENTORING

MONDAY

Monday, April 3, 2017

A speed coaching and networking event powered by bizwomen.

CHICAGO Business Journal

Agenda

8:00-8:30 AMNetworking and continental breakfast8:30-8:40 AMGuest welcome and explanation of event8:40-10:30 AMOne-on-one mentoring program

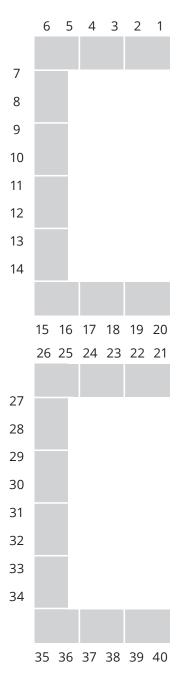
Bizwomen -

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Directions

The mentors will sit around the tables and the mentees will move tables every 7 minutes when the bell rings to end the coaching sessions. The mentees may stand in line to wait for a specific mentor. This will give mentees/guests a chance to talk among themselves and network while waiting. It's fast, fun and fulfilling as everyone gets a chance to meet new people and gain new insights.





Tanja Babich

Morning News Anchor, ABC 7 Chicago

Tanja Babich anchors ABC 7 Chicago's Eyewitness News in the Morning from 4:30 a.m. until 7 a.m. She first joined the station as a general assignment reporter and contributing anchor in January 2014 and was promoted to morning news anchor in September 2016. Tanja brings a wealth of morning news experience to Chicago viewers. She is a skilled reporter who is just as comfortable covering breaking news out in the community as she is anchoring 2 1/2 hours of news behind the desk. Tanja has a master's degree from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University and a Bachelor of Arts in government from Cornell University. She is a native of Toronto, Canada. Tanja is a proud mother who loves living in Chicago with her two daughters.



Laurie Barry

Senior Vice President, UBS Financial Services, Inc.

Laurie Barry's introduction to the world of finance started when she was nine years old assisting her mother who was legally blind with balancing her checkbook. At 16, her dad was diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's, so Laurie stepped in to handle long-term care. These hardships can be seen through her commitment to serving her clients today. As a wealth advisor, she has developed special relationships with her clients, built an all-women team and continues to mentor other women. She is a regular contributor to WCIU-TV, has been heard on WGN radio and writes for Chicago Woman Magazine. She is also a 16-year member of the Professional Women's Club of Chicago (PWCC) and further served as president of the organization.



Valerie Beck Founder/CEO, Chocolate Uplift

Chocolate expert Valerie Beck is a pioneering entrepreneur in chocolate and hospitality. Creator of the Original Chocolate Tours, which she expanded across the U.S., Valerie's business also provides chocolate services to cacao growers and artisan chocolate makers, and focuses on sustainability. Valerie also recently launched a soy-free, craft chocolate subscription box. A Chicago native, Valerie graduated from Harvard College and Harvard Law School. After practicing law in Europe and the U.S., she founded Valerie's Original Chocolate Tours and Chocolate Uplift. She started the Chocolate Freedom Project to end child slave labor on the cacao farms that produce cocao beans for big chocolate brands, and with every chocolate subscription box sold, she donates a meal to formerly trafficked kids at a West African rescue center. Valerie's mission is "Uplift Through Chocolate," because chocolate can improve our mood and the world!



Marilyn Bird District President, Robert Half

Marilyn Bird is a district president for Robert Half. In this role, she oversees operations for several lines of business, including Accountemps, OfficeTeam, Robert Half Finance & Accounting and Robert Half Management Resources, throughout Illinois and Wisconsin. In her 16 years with the company, she has held numerous leadership roles, including district director of Robert Half Legal and regional vice president. She is also a member of Menttium, an organization that provides mentoring relationships for women in a variety of industries.

In 2016, Marilyn was named to the "Women of Influence" list published by the Chicago Business Journal. Marilyn holds a master's degree in education and psychology, in addition to a bachelor's degree in psychology from Marquette University.



Cathy Brovelli

Senior Talent Partner, LinkedIn

Cathy Brovelli is currently a senior talent partner with LinkedIn, overseeing recruitment efforts for their Global Sales Operations and Productivity organizations. Prior to that, she spent over 10 years at Accenture where much of her focus was overseeing the growth and recruitment efforts for their Corporate Function organizations plus multi-country hiring efforts. Cathy also had the amazing experience of working on long-term projects in Accenture's Bangalore, Manila, Shanghai, Moscow and Monterrey offices. Prior to that, she worked at what is now JP Morgan Chase in a variety of human resources and recruitment positions. In her free time, Cathy loves to travel, visiting friends she has made along the way and learning about history, travel and fashion.



Katie Burgoon

Executive Vice President, Global Head of Human Resources, Trading Technologies International, Inc.

Katie Burgoon has a passion for nurturing and invigorating culture and employee development through innovation, high energy and seamless execution. Katie is responsible for the areas of recruitment, retention, compensation, benefits, professional development and performance management, stretching across all 13 Trading Technologies offices worldwide. In her first year at TT, she designed and led global engagement sessions with the entire company to re-calibrate culture and reinvigorate TT's environment amidst major corporate evolutions. She is an advocate for women and minorities in STEM fields and finds her professional motivation in inspiring the next generation of thought leaders and technologists in underrepresented populations. Prior to TT, she worked at Infinium Capital Management where she served as head of human resources. Katie received her undergraduate degree from Columbia College Chicago and earned a master's degree in sociology from Loyola University of Chicago.



Linda Coberly Chicago Managing Partner, Winston & Strawn LLP

Linda Coberly is the managing partner of Winston & Strawn's Chicago office and serves on the firm's Executive Committee. She also chairs its firm-wide Appellate and Critical Motions Practice. She represents clients on appellate and strategic legal issues at all stages of litigation, from before trial to the U.S. Supreme Court, informed by her time as a law clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer. Her practice is national in reach; she has argued appeals in six federal circuits and in state supreme courts across the nation. Linda chairs the board of Heartland Alliance, serves as a trustee of Chicago's Goodman Theater and is a member of the Chicago Network, a by-invitation-only organization of women leaders in Chicago. She holds a B.A. in religion from Princeton University and a J.D. from the University of Michigan.



Susan Flinn Cobian EVP, Managing Director, HYC Health

Specializing in fixing what can't be fixed, to Susan, anything is possible. Over the course of her 30 years in healthcare advertising, she built two agencies from scratch and rebuilt three others. Her never-say-never attitude is backed by a magnetic, larger-than-life personality that instills a sense of loyalty, ownership and accountability that makes people want to make a difference by creating excellent work. Susan encourages her team to push boundaries and think independently because it takes a strong team to be a successful leader.



Lauren Dillon Founder & Collaborator, Triad Resource Group

A dynamic professional serving faith-based and social enterprise groups in their fundraising efforts for over nine years, Lauren Dillon founded Triad Resource Group to meet the specific fundraising needs of innovative organizations seeking to increase fundraising efficiencies. As a collaborative leader, she is committed to 'getting into the trenches' with clients, working together to do whatever it takes to produce real results that further their relevant missions and increase their impact. With an educational background deeply focused on communicational public administration management from DePaul University. Her degrees are coupled with a certificate in fundraising management from the Development Leadership Consortium at the University of Chicago. She is strongly committed to resourcing organizations with the knowledge and tools to achieve greater operational health.



Andrea Durbin Chief Executive Officer. Illinois Collaboration On Youth

Andrea Durbin is the Chief Executive Officer of Illinois Collaboration on Youth. A passionate and life-long advocate for young people, she leads ICOY's work to improve the lives of children, youth and their families. Over the past two years that Illinois has been without a state budget, she has expanded her role to include serving as the lead organizer and chair of the Pay Now Illinois coalition, a group of human service providers that have sued the governor and heads of several state agencies for payment on state contracts. In addition, she serves on several high-level committees and workgroups, including the Illinois Human Services Commission, representing the needs of at-risk youth and three teenage children.



Vicki Escarra Global CEO, Opportunity International

As Global CEO of Opportunity International, Vicki Escarra leads the organization's efforts to eliminate poverty. She has led several major initiatives to restructure the organization's operations to unite eight international offices under one global banner and increase global revenue to expand the organization's work. Most recently, she negotiated a ground-breaking partnership with MyBucks, a fintech company, to harness the power of digital banking and help more people in need. She has also strengthened corporate partnerships as part of the organization's plan to create 20 million jobs by 2020, impacting 100 million people through life-changing loans, savings programs, transformative services and training. Vicki began her career at Delta Air Lines where she rose to CMO, overseeing \$15 billion in revenue and a workforce of 52,000. She also served as CEO of Feeding America, where she quadrupled the revenue and doubled the number of people the organization serves.



Adrienne Fasano Americas Head of Marketing & Communications, Cushman & Wakefield

Adrienne Fasano is Americas Head of Marketing and Communications at Cushman & Wakefield. In this role, she leads the marketing and corporate communications function for North, Central and South America, partnering with executive management to develop and execute a strategy that aligns with global initiatives, supports the achievement of business objectives and financial targets, and promotes Cushman & Wakefield and its capabilities across 120 offices in nine countries. Adrienne has 25 years of strategic marketing and sales leadership experience. She played a critical role in the launch of Cushman & Wakefield's new brand and corporate identity following its merger with DTZ in September 2015. Adrienne resides in Chicago, IL with her husband and four children.



Randy Fifield Chairwoman, Fifield Companies

Randy Fifield is Chairwoman of Fifield Realty Corp., overseeing design, marketing and execution of Fifield projects in Chicago and for Century West Partners in Los Angeles. Randy did neighborhood residential development in the 90's, then partnered up with her husband, Steve, beginning in 1999 and 2001 with loft condos (Gotham and Clinton Complex: 461 units) then the 28-story apartment tower at 180 North Jefferson in 2004 (283 units). This led to the \$800 million K Station development with 2145 units in five apartment towers between 2006-2010 and the recently opened K2 (2013). A Northwestern University grad, Randy is on the boards of Prentice Hospital and Lurie Children's Hospital. In 2016, Randy was among 50 influential players in Bisnow's Los Angeles Power Women. She invites you to be inspired by urban lifestyle and modern interiors through her blog: Randy Fifield Modern Living.



Sara Fix

Co-Owner, Endure It! Sports

Sara Fix started Endure It! Sports out of her love for training and racing triathlons. Endure It! is a retail facility that sells "all things" bikes and otherwise that has to do with training and racing (triathlon/cycling/running). In addition to our retail, Endure It! is a top ranked triathlon club, both nationally and internationally. Athletes join and then compete with our club all over the U.S. and beyond. To do well, we offer all services to allow for athlete success. We have indoor cycling classes, run programs, swim team, camps, group ride, online coaching, race-specific coaching, clinics and so much more that help our athletes succeed. Endure It! is a seven day a week, 365 days a year business. Sara wears every hat in the company, from janitor, sales, coach, cheerleader, marketer, buyer and beyond.



Erika Gilchrist CEO/Founder, The Unstoppable Woman Enterprise

Assaulted as a little girl, sleeping in a van as a young adult and living in a women's shelter, Erika Gilchrist has earned the title of "The Unstoppable Woman". She is regarded as one of the most energizing, engaging and captivating speakers in the industry. She is the creator of the brazen brand, WTF – Women Thriving Fearlessly![™], which serves women in three ways: an online talk show [WomenThrivingFearlessly.com], live events [www.TheUnstoppableWoman.net] and "The Synergy Series," which publishes the stories of women in collaborative books [www.MakeMyStoryHeard.com]. As a published author of 10 books, Erika is an expert in personal development, communication and conflict management. She's been featured as one of the "15 Most Powerful Women on the South Side of Chicago," CLTV, and Rolling Out Magazine.



Ginnette Harvey

Vice President, Specialist Staffing Group

As Vice President of Specialist Staffing Group, Ginnette Harvey has been responsible for the green-field development of their business that currently generates \$25 million in annual revenue and hits corporate profitability targets. Her remit includes setting the strategic direction for the region by assessing market and growth opportunities, and managing their client portfolio, as well as planning for and developing internal talent. Over the past five years, Ginnette has developed four sales directors and organically built a salesforce of over 60 people. In 2016, she further increased Specialist Staffing Group's footprint within the Midwest with the opening of their second office in Minnesota. In addition to her business accolades, she also focuses on giving back through the company's corporate Diversity & Inclusion and CSR initiatives. Last summer, she hosted an auction benefiting their corporate charity partner SOS Children's Villages that raised over \$34K.



Noreen Heron President, Heron Agency

Noreen Heron is the President of Heron Agency, one of the city's top PR, advertising and social media firms for hospitality and lifestyle clients. She started the agency in 2000, and her company now represents many of the hottest hotels, restaurants, productions and events in Chicago as well as throughout the country. Noreen is a highly networked, connected woman who is considered a rainmaker and trusted business consultant for her many clients. A resident of Lincoln Park, she is a single mom of two beautiful children and an active member in the local community.



Patricia Jones

CEO & Managing Director, Patricia Jones Inc.

Patricia Jones is CEO & managing director of Patricia Jones Inc., a unique global management consulting firm based in Chicago, providing service offerings within business transformation, innovation, merger integration, organizational effectiveness and cultural change. She has spent 30+ years in key leadership positions with responsibility for improving the business, technology and people aspects of organizations. In the last nine plus years, she has been operating as the CEO & managing director of Patricia Jones Inc. Prior to establishing her own firm, she spent four years at Accenture where she held multiple executive leadership positions and was responsible for leading client engagement teams as well as developing the Global Strategy & Human Performance consulting practice. As a merger integration executive, she's held responsibility for nine successful mergers.



Michelle Joseph CEO & Founder, PeopleFoundry

Michelle Joseph is the founder and CEO of PeopleFoundry Inc. Michelle and her organization have developed a unique and successful recruitment model to identify and build organizations' talent. PeopleFoundry specifically targets technology and digital firms experiencing high-growth periods. Michelle's main responsibilities as CEO include the strategic development and growth of People-Foundry, operational planning and continuously adapting to a national landscape of talent. She regularly partners with founders and CEOs to help expand the human capital of their businesses.



Ari Krzyzek

Creative Director & Chief Designer, Chykalophia

Co-founder of Chykalophia, Ari Krzyzek offers through this design studio a unique and vibrant international perspective. Exhibiting innovative flair enhanced by latest techniques, her designs serve an array of interests – commercial, promotional or personal – to achieve her clients' goals. The captivating vitality of her design garnered Ari recognition as winner of the Annual Design Award for Best Product Packaging Design in 2010. Ari has also worked in a corporate environment, executing email campaigns as digital designer for Sears Holdings Corp.

She founded Creative Women's Co. to share her expertise and facilitate meaningful exchange among enterprising peers in today's vast marketplace. Moreover, she participates as a member of committee leaders in Women Tech Founders Chicago, mentors UI students at Designation.io and is available for speaking engagements to elucidate both general and UI/UX design principles.



Carmen Lonstein Senior Vice President, General Counsel, Clayco Inc.

Carmen Lonstein serves as senior vice president, general counsel of Clayco Inc., a global architectural, engineering, design-build and construction firm. She was previously at Baker & McKenzie LLP, where she was chair of the firm's Financial Restructuring Practice Group in North America. After more than 26 years of experience representing clients in complex commercial, real estate, corporate, and financial matters and related litigation in U.S. courts, Carmen has focused for the past three years on complex real estate transactional matters as well as serving as general counsel, advising Clayco on a wide range of corporate, finance, employment and litigation matters. She also routinely handles corporate acquisitions, the start-up of new ventures, and negotiating domestic and international contracts necessary for Clayco to deliver new projects on-time and as-promised to its clients.



Jennifer Lukas-Bourgeois CEO & Founder, Ti22 Marketing

Ti22 Marketing's CEO, Jennifer Lukas-Bourgeois, or "JLB," brings 20 years of strategic marketing, brand building, sampling strategy, collegiate marketing, event experience, field marketing, athlete development and leadership. With a strong background in sports, beverages and brand building, JLB provides insights into athlete and sports marketing. JLB began her early career working with ESPN Summer and Winter X Games. In 1996, JLB was one of the individuals who set the foundation for the Red Bull Energy Drink brand in the U.S. until 2014. JLB has over 1,200 events, 20 million cans sampled, and 1,000 marketing and collegiate campaigns under her belt. She now shares this expertise to build the brands of individual athletes and products. Her experience has shaped brands with clients including Brent Sopel (2010 Stanley Cup Champion), RESQWATER Proactive Recovery Drink, KICS Cup International Youth Soccer Tournament, Premiere Boxing Champions, Kill Cliff Recover Beverage and DMK Restaurants.



Karen McGuigan

General Manager, Hyatt Centric The Loop Chicago

Karen McGuigan started her career as a front desk clerk in 1987 at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare. She continued with Hyatt for 15 years all in the Chicago area and held almost every department head position, mostly in the rooms discipline. One of the most interesting jobs she held was director of security at Hyatt Regency Chicago. She opened the Renaissance O'Hare in 2005 as director of operations and then became GM in 2007 and stayed there until April 2014. Karen joined the pre-opening team as GM for Hyatt Centric, the first lifestyle brand in their portfolio. Born and raised in Chicago, Karen is married to Mike, a Hotel GM as well, and they have two great sons, Bill and Ryan.



Dorri McWhorther Chief Executive Officer, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

Dorri McWhorter became the CEO of the YWCA Metropolitan Chicago in March 2013. She has embarked upon a journey to transform the 140-year-old social service agency to a 21st century social enterprise. Dorri is moving the agency into the digital age by re-launching the TechGYRLS program, which focuses on developing STEM awareness for girls ages nine through 14 and introducing 3D: Developing Digital Diversity, which provides web and mobile application development training to adult women. Dorri was included in the inaugural list of "The Blue Network," comprised of the top 100 innovators in Chicago, by Chicago Tribune's Blue Sky Innovation. In Spring of 2015, the YWCA launched its own e-commerce site, YShop.org, which provides carefully curated goods and services from businesses that support the mission of the YWCA. In 2016, McWhorter was recognized by Good City Chicago, receiving its Innovative Leader Award.



Treasa Miller

Cosmetics Manager, Saks Fifth Avenue

Treasa Miller redefined her career at age 30, by following a mantra to 'do what you love'. That decision lead her to a job and a promotion into management at Marshall Fields. A hidden entrepreneurial drive combined with that experience lead her to a small business opportunity with Sephora, which in turn prepared her for the present experience at Saks. A personal philosophy of 'Sales through Service' has resulted in continued growth and success. Treasa has an established reputation as an influential agent of change within specialty, luxury and multi-unit environments.



Krisi Rossi O'Donnell Chief Recruiting Officer, LaSalle Network

Krisi Rossi O'Donnell has over 10 years of experience in the staffing and recruiting industry and has placed professionals in technology, accounting, finance and executive leadership positions. As chief recruiting officer, Krisi manages 40+ people across three business units. She is responsible for managing the internal process for identifying, qualifying and placing candidates, as well as helping to strategize the expansion and growth of LaSalle Network. Krisi started her career at LaSalle in February 2004 as a junior project manager. She has earned numerous internal accolades and was subsequently promoted to unit manager in 2007, associate director in 2010, director in 2012, managing director in 2012, vice president of staffing and recruiting in 2013, and chief recruiting officer in 2015. Krisi has a B.A. from St. Louis University.



Jean Regan

President & CEO, TranzAct Technologies Inc.

Jean Regan directs the operational and financial activities of TranzAct. As such, she leads their strategic initiatives, oversees new product development and handles the financial aspects of the corporation. She is also a member of Vistage, the National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD), the National Association of Female Executives and the National Association of Professional Woman, which recognized her as the 2012/13 VIP Woman of the Year. She is a member of the AICPA, the Illinois CPA Society and is licensed by the State of Illinois as a Certified Public Accountant. She has a B.S. in accounting with high honors from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and a Masters of Management with a minor in finance from Northwestern University. Her blog, Lessons in Life and Logistics, features her thoughts on how economic factors impact our industry as well as reflections on family and women's leadership.



Gabriela Rodil Entrepreneur, Gabriela Rodil, LLC.

Gabriela, or Gabby, Rodil was born and raised in Brazil. Gabby has lived or had extended assignments in over 20 countries, including Canada, Mexico, China, Belgium, France, Argentina, Guatemala, Italy and the U.S. All that travel, immersion in other cultures and interaction with people has allowed her to develop an artful way to communicate with a broad range of personalities, functions, and across diverse cultures. Gabby is strong in bridging cultural gaps among diverse groups of people using interpersonal intelligence. In her 18+ years of experience in multiple industries and markets, she became a multilingual, global executive focused on transforming businesses to achieve greater success. She has a strong background in finance, strategic planning, IT, operations, risk management, human resources and leadership. Gabby is passionate about everything that she does; from speaking, hosting seminars and retreats to strategic consulting and coaching. She guides, motivates, and inspires individuals and businesses across the globe.



Carmita Semaan Founder & President, Surge Institute

Carmita Semaan is founder and president of the Surge Institute, which aims to change the face of leadership in education. The Surge Fellowship trains, supports, connects and elevates emerging diverse education leaders. After starting her career as an engineer and strategist for Fortune 500 companies, Carmita elected to follow her passion for changing lives through education. With a burning desire to lead initiatives that benefit underserved youth, she has blazed a trail in urban education for over a decade. Carmita holds an MBA from Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management, and a BS in chemical engineering from the University of Michigan. She received a 2016 Chicago Business Journal's Women of Influence Award.



Louise A. Silberman Owner & Chief Experience Officer, Summits of Chicago

Louise A. Silberman, CMM, has been the owner and "chief experience officer" of Summit Executive Centre for more than 19 years. In March of 2015, Louise opened a second property, Summit West. As the only certified Women's Owned Business in the meetings industry, she created a niche business for herself as well as pioneered the concept of a conference center in an urban environment. Prior to opening The Summit's of Chicago, Silberman held sales manager positions at the KPMG Center for Leadership Development and Hyatt Hotels. She has served on the Board of Directors for Meeting Professionals International Chicago Area Chapter (MPI-CAC) as well as both the North America and International Board of Directors for IACC. Silberman received the Pyramid Award, IACC's highest individual honor for long lasting commitment to education in 2014.



Kelly Stickel Founder and CEO, Remodista

Kelly Stickel is the founder and CEO of Remodista, a social think tank examining global retail disruption. A collaborative thinker, she is focused on understanding the layers of disruption in retail and translating insights into actionable items for retail brands using community as a business model.



Christal Stinson Director of Development, Women's Business Development Center



Angela Tenuta Executive Vice President, Marketing, Intouch Solutions

Angela Tenuta is a force within the quickly-growing healthcare marketing space. She commands a unique blend of forward-thinking innovation, a steady hand through change, and a keen eye on the opportunities that present at the intersection of health, digital and tech. She is often at the forefront of recognizing industry and market trends and opportunities. Seeing those opportunities, she is not afraid to lead her teams into new territory or disrupt existing approaches to meet the future. Angela has worn many hats in her 18-year marketing career. She is currently an executive vice president at Intouch Solutions, the largest independent healthcare agency in the US. Angela leads the Intouch Chicago office as well as five cross-location departments.



Tara Torbik Office Commercial Real Estate Broker, CBRE

Tara Torbik specializes in the leasing and sale of suburban Chicago office properties for CBRE. Since 2013, she has assisted in over 90 lease and sale transactions for a total of over 1,000,000 square feet of office space. Tara is a strong leader in her community and has been recognized for this. In 2015, she was a recipient of the Daily Herald Business Ledger Top 20 under 40 Suburban Professional Award. This award goes to professionals that are excelling in their field, influencing growth and quality of life in their area, and demonstrate the ability to positively impact their community through professional accomplishments and community involvement. Tara is also highly involved with the Oak Brook Chamber of Commerce, CBRE Women's Network Group, and volunteering with the DuPage Senior Citizens Council and JDRF.



Amy Trainer

Senior Director, Strategic Development, Intouch Solutions

Amy Trainer has over 15 years of experience within the pharmaceutical and biotech companies. She has successfully partnered with marketing teams and the C-suite to create and deliver strategic solutions. Amy's expertise is developing and executing strategic marketing and communication plans while transforming business issues and customer insights into tactical solutions to deliver results.

She is well known for the ability to initiate new relationships, build trust quickly and ultimately bring business to a close. She has a persistence and a tenacity that are the trademarks of her success as well as an ability to think on her feet. In addition, Amy does all of this in such way that she has built unwavering client relationships.



Mary Ann K. Travers Valuation Services Practice Leader, Crowe Horwath LLP

Mary Ann has more than 25 years of consulting experience, specializing in the valuation of businesses and business interests, intangible assets, liabilities and complex securities in connection with mergers and acquisitions, financing, income and estate tax planning, litigation support services, economic analyses, accounting matters, regulatory requirements and recapitalizations. Her valuation studies have been used for financial reporting, litigation, tax, acquisition, regulatory and accounting purposes. Mary Ann leads Crowe's women's initiative, Women Leading @Crowe, and was a recipient of CPA Practice Advisor's 2013 Award for Most Powerful Women in Accounting. Mary Ann has also served as an economic consultant and investment banker. An accredited senior appraiser, Mary Ann worked in valuation with a Big Four firm for more than 12 years where she led a national industry line before joining Crowe to serve as the national valuation services group practice leader.



Kate Vein

Sr. Vice President, Elevate

As senior vice president, Kate oversees strategic partnerships and business development for Elevate. She has 18 years of experience in digital agencies and process management, 12 of them with Elevate. Kate has worked with an extensive list of Elevate clients including Hanes, Redken 5th Ave NYC, Tootsie Roll, Kérastase, Mario Tricoci, Centro and Pureology. Prior to Elevate, Kate was manager of delivery management at Digitas, where she directed business operations and digital project management for several Fortune 500 clients. She began her career in online media with the Los Angeles-based company L90, Inc. Kate holds a Bachelor of Science in integrated marketing communications from Abilene Christian University. She currently sits on the board for ACU's Morris & Mitchell student-run advertising agency.



Stacy Wells

Regional Vice President, Wells Fargo

Stacy Wells is responsible for leading a team of commercial bankers who manage and develop customer relationships for not-for-profit healthcare providers and insurers in a 12-state territory across the central region of the U.S. Stacy has more than 30 years of commercial banking experience. Prior to assuming her current position in 2012, she was a relationship manager and senior vice president on the HFS team. Prior to joining Wells Fargo in 2006, Stacy was a relationship manager and vice president for the Middle Market Commercial Division at Fifth Third Bank in Indianapolis. Stacy earned her B.S. in finance and business economics from Indiana University in Bloomington, and her MBA from Butler University in Indianapolis. She is active in her community and is currently a volunteer for Spark Ventures, a Chicago-based non-profit that helps lift children out of poverty.



Jennifer Wilken Financial Advisor, Edward Jones

Jennifer Wilken has held various leadership roles at Edward Jones including training and mentoring financial advisors and working to increase the number of women advisors. Jennifer has led events for women, enabling them to collaborate and learn from one another, and spoke at the Women's Leadership Forum. Jennifer has served in leadership roles in community organizations like the Darien Chamber of Commerce, Benedictine University Women's Leadership Council and was nominated for the "Young Entrepreneurial Award" by Athena International.

Jennifer is a long-standing member of the American Association of University Women, an organization that works to empower women and girls. She has also been involved with the Dare to Dream conference where Latina students and their mothers/mentors come together to focus on the value of education. Jennifer earned her bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University and has earned the Accredited Asset Management Specialist (AAMS) designation.



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