

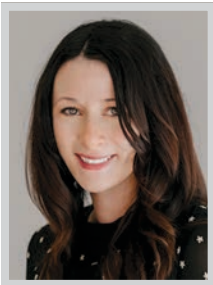
WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ACCOUNTING



Many of the nation's leading fiscal thought leaders are based in the LA region and happen to be women. We've alphabetically listed some of the very best of them here, along with key information about their careers and relevant recent successes they've achieved.

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

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ACCOUNTING



BRIDGET AHERN

Partner; People Advisory Services & Global Business Travel Compliance Leader
EY

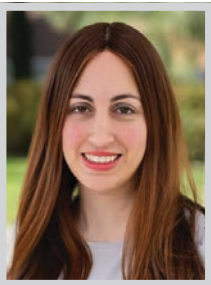
Bridget Ahern is deeply embedded leader in the Los Angeles entrepreneurial community. In addition to her client work, she serves as EY’s Entrepreneur of the Year co-director for Los Angeles, which just announced their 41st winners. Every year, she elevates dozens of local founders and celebrates the innovation happening throughout the city. In this way, she plays a pivotal role in strengthening LA’s reputation as a business- and entrepreneur-friendly community. Ahern also helps create a meaningful platform for LA based entrepreneurs—connecting them with visibility, validation, and access that can be transformational for both their businesses and their confidence as leaders. She works closely with founders across industries, and ensures they feel seen, supported, and championed.



JESSICA ALLEN

Partner
PwC LLP

Jessica Allen has made an extraordinary impact on the LA market this year through her leadership, connectivity, and unwavering commitment to our people, clients, and community. She has become one of the most visible and impactful partners across the market, supporting strategic initiatives while continuing to deliver exceptional service. Allen wears numerous hats across the market, each of which meaningfully contributes to the strength of our people and culture. She serves as the lead partner for three public companies this year and leading a client through its IPO process. She has developed a strong reputation as both a client and people connector and is consistently bringing together critical subject matter experts across her accounts to deliver the best of the firm to clients.



LIMOR AMRANI

Senior Tax Manager
Manela & Co

Limor Amrani is a senior tax manager at Manela & Co. whose depth of expertise, leadership, and sustained impact have made her stand out. With nearly two decades at the firm, Amrani plays a critical role in managing and reviewing highly complex tax matters for high-net-worth individuals, corporations, partnerships, trusts, and nonprofits. She is a trusted advisor in IRS and California FTB audit defense, civil tax controversies, estate and succession planning, and tax-exempt compliance. Amrani is also known for her forward-looking approach to tax strategy, advising clients on multi-state apportionment, 1031 exchanges, payroll tax issues, and evolving federal and state legislation. Most recently, she guided clients through CARES Act NOL carrybacks and the Employee Retention Credit, helping them unlock significant liquidity.



BELVA ANAKWENZE

Entertainment Business Manager
Abacus Financial
Business Management

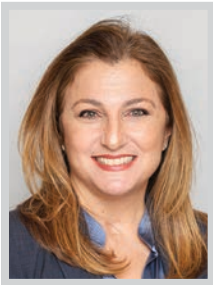
Belva Anakwenze has achieved remarkable professional success in the past 12-18 months. As principal of Abacus Financial Management Group, she has driven significant growth in client base, revenue, and employee count, further establishing the firm’s prominence in entertainment business management. Anakwenze’s industry impact has been recognized through multiple prestigious accolades, and she has expanded her thought leadership through “The Earn Up,” a YouTube financial show for creatives launched in partnership with Patreon, where she serves as host, writer, and executive producer. Her expertise was showcased at SXSW 2024, where she presented on “Wealth Creation for Creatives,” further cementing her authority at the intersection of finance and creative industries.



ANGELICA NOUVA BAIZA

Director
PwC LLP

Angelica Nouva Baiza is a director in PwC’s Asset and Wealth Management practice. She serves a diverse portfolio of multinational corporate advisors, private equity firms, and alternative investment funds. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a remarkable ability to evolve her role and expand her impact—from leading critical audit areas and coordinating cross-border procedures, to overseeing multiple audit issuances, guiding clients through complex accounting and reporting matters, and driving seamless execution across global teams. Her ability to adapt, grow, and consistently deliver high-quality results has made her an invaluable leader within the practice. One of Baiza’s most notable accomplishments has been her leadership of audits for multinational asset and wealth management clients.



NANAZ BENYAMINI

Partner, Tax Department
SingerLewak

Nanaz Benyamini has over 14 years of experience as a tax-exempt specialist, providing compliance and consulting services to nonprofit organizations. She began her career with Deloitte & Touche in 1996 and continued her career through the position of tax senior manager in Deloitte’s Los Angeles Tax Exempt Practice. Benyamini specializes in taxation of nonprofit organizations and has extensive experience advising her clients on the unique tax topics facing nonprofit organizations. Her expertise includes the tax and operational requirements of nonprofit organizations and unrelated business income. In addition to her expertise in the area of nonprofit organizations, Benyamini also has a background in for-profit taxation, including individuals, flow-through entities, and S corporations.



GALINA BERKOVICH

Partner
Duffy Kruspodin, LLP

Galina Berkovich, CPA, has helped shape the growth and evolution of Duffy Kruspodin, LLP through decades of leadership, operational innovation, and talent development. As a long-standing partner, her influence extends far beyond client engagements. She has played an instrumental role in building the systems, culture, and leadership framework that have supported the firm’s continued success and expansion throughout Southern California. One of Berkovich’s most significant accomplishments was serving as one of the original members of the firm’s Executive Committee when it was first established. During a pivotal stage of the firm’s development, she helped guide strategic decisions that strengthened operations, supported growth initiatives, and reinforced the firm’s commitment to exceptional client service.



KELLY BUCK

Partner, Audit & Assurance Services
Windes Audit | Tax | Advisory

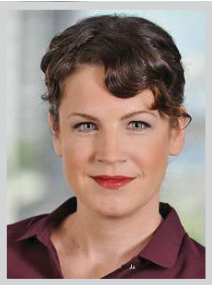
Kelly Buck is a highly respected leader within Windes and the Southern California accounting community, recognized for her technical excellence, collaborative leadership style, and commitment to developing people and organizations. As a partner in Windes’ Audit & Assurance Services practice, Buck provides audit, accounting, and advisory services to privately held businesses and nonprofit organizations throughout the Los Angeles and Long Beach regions. Her experience spans publicly traded and privately held entities across industries including professional services, manufacturing, distribution, technology, and the nonprofit sector. At Windes, Buck is a trusted partner and mentor, contributing to firm leadership, talent development, and consistent delivery of high-quality client service.



ASHLEY BURGIN

Partner
Gursey Schneider, LLP

Ashley Burgin, CPA, tax partner at Gursey Schneider, has spent more than a decade providing high-net-worth individuals, families and their closely held businesses with holistic and comprehensive corporate, income and estate tax planning services. Burgin joined the firm as an associate in 2016, and she was named partner in January of 2026. This achievement is a culmination of her ability to provide clients with the highest level of service as well as her technical mastery of evolving tax strategies and changing laws. Burgin’s tax practice is defined by her sincere engagement with every client. She is often retained during a complex transaction that demands a sophisticated advisor, and finds that these relationships endure after the transaction.



RELL BURR

Director, Administration
Fineman West & Co LLP

Rell Burr stands out from others in this field as her contributions extend far beyond the responsibilities of a traditional administrative leader, making her an indispensable part of our organization’s success and growth. Throughout Burr’s tenure, she has demonstrated an exceptional understanding of our firm’s structure, operations, and strategic goals. Her learned knowledge of how our accounting departments function has enabled her to develop and implement administrative and technology processes that support efficiency, productivity, and long-term scalability. She has been instrumental in building and refining our business processes, IT infrastructure, and Accounting systems, ensuring that our systems (people and process) effectively support the evolving needs of the firm while keeping our data safe and in compliance.



NKSFB

Congratulates
Our Partner,

Denise Hart,
on being recognized
by the *Los Angeles
Business Journal*
as one of the
**2026 Women of
Influence:
Accountants**

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ACCOUNTING



LISA CARRICK

Partner, Audit & Assurance Services
WINDES Audit | Tax | Advisory

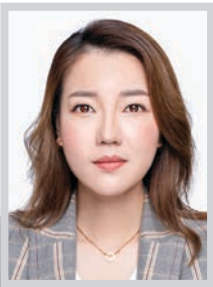
Lisa Carrick, CPA, partner in Audit & Assurance Services at Windes, is a highly respected accounting professional known for her technical excellence, client service, leadership, and commitment to developing others. Since joining Windes in 2004, Carrick has built a distinguished career spanning 22 years in the accounting profession. Her practice focuses on financial statement reporting, evaluation of internal controls, and business consulting services for privately held businesses. She also provides audit and consulting services to employee benefit plans of private and nonprofit plan sponsors, including 401(k), 403(b), profit-sharing, and employee stock ownership plans. Carrick serves clients across a broad range of industries, including construction, manufacturing and distribution, professional services, transportation and trade, and maritime.



DEBBIE CHAN

Tax Principal
BDO USA, P.C.

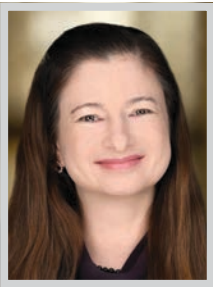
For nearly three decades, Debbie Chan has provided some of Los Angeles' wealthiest individuals with essential tax compliance and consulting services, establishing herself as one of its top accountants and most influential businesswomen. Chan has achieved this acclaim through a dedicated approach to accounting and building relationships with clients. With extensive experience in tax consulting for high-net-worth individuals, Chan is frequently sought after for her insights on emerging financial trends. In particular, she has observed how Los Angeles' wealth is increasingly driven by entrepreneurship, digital ventures, and generational transitions. Approximately 85% of her younger clients now have some form of cryptocurrency in their portfolios, and she is adept at helping clients navigate this space with prudence.



EVONNE CHEN

Partner, Tax
Forvis Mazars

Evonne Chen is a tax partner at Forvis Mazars with more than 14 years of distinguished experience in public accounting, specializing in corporate tax compliance and consulting services for multinational companies. Her industry focus spans Manufacturing & Distribution and Technology & Services, where she provides strategic tax guidance across complex domestic, international, and multi-state structures. Chen has deep technical expertise in tax provisions under ASC 740 and IFRS, including deferred tax calculations, uncertain tax positions, and effective tax rate analysis. She is highly skilled in managing global tax reporting processes, coordinating cross-functional teams, and translating complex tax concepts for both technical and executive audiences.



SUZANNE DeJONG

Partner; Americas Risk Consulting
Business Leader
EY

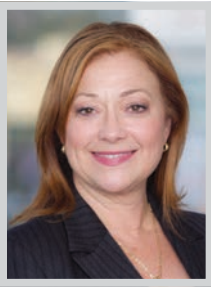
Suzanne DeJong is a highly respected leader with more than 30 years of professional experience advising organizations on risk, governance, and long-term value creation. As a senior leader of EY's Americas Process & Controls, Risk Management, and Regulatory Compliance practices, she supports public and private clients across industries—helping boards, audit committees, and executive teams navigate an increasingly complex and fast-changing risk environment with clarity and confidence. For over seven years, DeJong has served on the Los Angeles Leadership committee for 50/50 Women On Boards. She curates and leads high-impact panel conversations and other events, connecting women leaders from across the city for valuable conversations.



KATIE HAGEN

Director
Gelfand, Rennert & Feldman

As a director at GRF, Katie Hagen advises a diverse portfolio of clients across film, television, music, as well as high-net-worth individuals. She works closely with individuals, families, and businesses on a range of financial, tax, and operational matters, often during key transition periods. Hagen has built a reputation for being more than a technical expert. She serves as a trusted advisor who takes a highly hands-on approach to every client relationship, remaining closely involved in both strategic planning and day-to-day decision-making. Her clients rely on her not only for financial guidance, but also for practical problem-solving, sound judgment, and steady leadership as they navigate increasingly complex financial landscapes. Hagen regularly collaborates with attorneys, wealth advisors, insurance professionals, agents, and other advisors.



DENISE HART

Principal
NKSFB, LLC

Denise Hart joined Nigro Karlin Segal & Feldstein, LLP in 1984 and helped build the firm's payroll compliance audit practice alongside managing partner Mickey Segal. She has been pivotal to the firm's growth, which now includes more than 650 employees. With over 40 years of experience, Denise is a trusted advisor to fund administrators and trustees of multi-employer Taft-Hartley funds. She has worked with some of the entertainment industry's largest Taft-Hartley trust funds to design and implement rigorous audit programs. Hart's work has helped labor and employer trustees resolve collective bargaining interpretation disputes and increase contributions owed to the funds on behalf of participants. The audit results generated under her leadership have recovered tens of millions of dollars for plan participants.



MELANIE HOROWITZ

Principal
GHJ

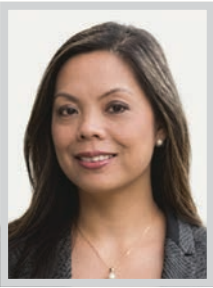
Melanie Horowitz, CPA, is a significant leader at GHJ and plays a major role in the Nonprofit Practice. Her dedication to excellence and impactful contributions to her community make her a standout leader in accounting for the Los Angeles region. As a key member of GHJ's Audit and Assurance Leadership and Strategy team, Horowitz assists with shaping departmental strategy, driving audit quality initiatives and leading projects that advance the firm's strategic vision. Horowitz provides audit and consulting services to a diverse range of nonprofit clients, including organizations that offer social services like child development, mental health and educational services. Her expertise helps these organizations maintain financial stability and compliance and enables them to focus on their critical missions.



CATHY HYODO

Market Managing Partner,
Greater Southwest Region,
Grant Thornton Advisors LLC;
Partner, Audit Services, Grant Thornton

Cathy Hyodo is an exceptional leader whose more than 30 years in the accounting profession have been marked by innovation, strategic impact and an unwavering commitment to developing others. Her career reflects both extraordinary professional achievement and a values-driven leadership philosophy that has shaped organizations, clients and colleagues across the industry. As the market managing principal for Grant Thornton's Greater Southwest offices, including Los Angeles, Hyodo leads hundreds of tax, audit and advisory professionals while guiding the firm's operational and client-service strategy across one of its most dynamic markets. Since taking on this role in 2018, she has expanded the firm's regional presence and strengthened key client relationships.



MALVE ILDEFONSO

Partner
BDO USA, P.C.

Malve Ildefonso is an assurance principal for BDO Los Angeles' Asset Management practice and one of California's top public accountants in alternative investing. Over the course of her two-decade career, Ildefonso has built a reputation for delivering audits of the highest quality and serving as a trusted business advisor for fund managers. Ildefonso's status as one of the top authorities in her field, coupled with her dedication to mentoring and leading BDO's local assurance teams, make her a woman of influence across the firm, her industry, and LA's business community. Since joining BDO in 2018, Ildefonso has played a pivotal role in expanding the reach and impact of BDO's Los Angeles office. Her leadership is clearly demonstrated in her work overseeing numerous audit engagement teams.



FRANCES KALLMAN

Managing Partner
Kallman & Company, LLP

Frances Kallman serves as managing partner of Kallman & Company, LLP, a mid-sized CPA firm headquartered in Brentwood, where she leads the firm with vision, resilience, and a deep commitment to client service. Under her leadership, the firm has successfully navigated significant periods of disruption, including the COVID-19 pandemic and more recently, the Los Angeles wildfires. Through Kallman's strategic focus on both operational continuity and employee safety, KCO maintained uninterrupted service to its clients, especially during these challenging times when clients needed tax and accounting guidance most. Kallman recently participated in a panel with City National Bank West Coast Year-End Planning Webinar. Under Kallman's leadership, KCO has grown from just a few professionals in 1997 to a team of nearly 45 today.

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ACCOUNTING



DEBBIE KIM
Tax Partner
EY

Debbie Kim is a partner in EY’s Global Compliance & Reporting practice and a highly respected leader in the Los Angeles market. Throughout her career, she has built a reputation not only for technical excellence, but for the care and consistency with which she invests in people.

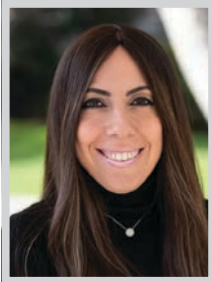
As a senior leader in a demanding profession, Kim has navigated complex client environments while deliberately making space for mentoring others. She is known for guiding early-career professionals, future leaders, and peers with thoughtfulness and honesty—particularly women who are balancing ambition with uncertainty. Her mentorship focuses on growth, confidence, and long-term success, not quick wins. By consistently lifting others as she leads, Kim has helped shape a stronger, more supportive professional community in Los Angeles.



ANGELICA KOCHAROVA
Managing Director
CBIZ CPAS P.C.

Angelica Kocharova has built an exceptional career defined by technical excellence, leadership, and the ability to guide organizations through complex and high-stakes financial milestones. As a partner in the Assurance Services Division of CBIZ’s Downtown Los Angeles office, she brings a depth of experience that spans both private and public companies, ranging from early-stage, pre-revenue entities to Fortune 500 organizations.

Kocharova most notable accomplishments include enhancing consistency, reliability, and efficiency of assurance services, and supporting clients through transformative transactions such as initial public offerings, debt offerings, and business combinations, as well as leading Sarbanes-Oxley 404 implementations and compliance audits. She consistently delivers in high-pressure environments.



YOCHEDVED LEVYCHAIM
Tax Manager
Manela & Co

One of Yocheved Levychaim’s most significant professional accomplishments has been developing and managing a substantial client portfolio while cultivating long-term relationships built on trust, responsiveness, and technical expertise. During her 17-year tenure with the firm, Levychaim has grown her practice to oversee more than \$3 million in annual client revenue and has become a trusted advisor to closely held businesses, real estate investors, and high-net-worth individuals.

What sets Levychaim apart is her ability to combine deep tax and accounting expertise with a practical understanding of each client’s business objectives and personal financial goals. She takes a proactive, solutions-focused approach, helping clients navigate complex tax and financial matters.



ANDREA LINK
Partner; Practice Leader,
Business Management
SingerLewak

Andrea Link is a highly accomplished tax practitioner and business advisor with extensive experience in entertainment, family wealth, and estate planning. She is a member of AICPA, CalCPA, and MPTE, and holds a B.A. in Biological Sciences with a minor in Art History from UC Davis, and a Masters in Taxation from Golden Gate University.

Link has worked with high net worth individuals, startups, and entertainment industry clients, including film and TV production, concert production and promotion, and loan-out corporations. She also has experience working with international entertainers. Before joining SingerLewak, Andrea co-owned Laurand Management, a boutique tax and business management practice in Century City.



KARLA LUNA
Partner
BPM

Karla Luna, tax partner at BPM LLP, is a distinguished leader whose impact spans client excellence, firm growth, and the advancement of diversity within the accounting profession. With more than 25 years of experience, she has built a reputation for delivering strategic, high-value tax guidance to privately held companies and high-net-worth individuals while actively shaping a more inclusive and representative leadership pipeline. Luna’s career reflects not only exceptional technical achievement but also a deep and sustained commitment to expanding opportunities for others.

Luna combines deep technical expertise with a proactive and client-centric mindset, advising across tax planning, compliance, and consulting. She consistently identifies opportunities to enhance client outcomes.

FINEMAN WEST
& COMPANY

Congratulations to
Jia Zhou, Jadie On
and **Reil Burr**

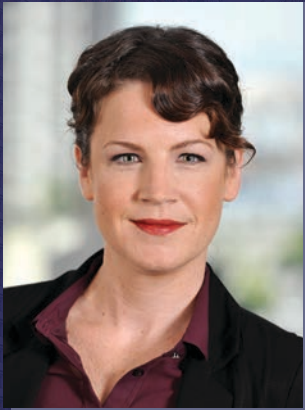
for being recognized by the
Los Angeles Business Journal
as Women of Influence: Accountants.



Jia Zhou
Tax Director



Jadie On
Director of
Accounting Services

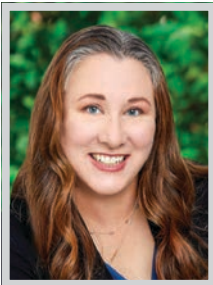


Reil Burr
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GINA McLEOD

Partner; Tax Practice Leader
GHJ

Gina McLeod, J.D., LLM, leads GHJ's Tax Practice, overseeing a team of more than 100 professionals in corporate and partnership tax, SALT, international tax, high net worth, M&A and more. With over 25 years of public accounting and tax leadership experience, her background allows her to manage a cross-functional tax practice that partners with clients and provides tailored strategies.

McLeod also currently serves in a significant role on GHJ's Executive Committee, helping to oversee and guide the firm's executive strategy. McLeod was a partner at a Big Four firm prior to joining GHJ in 2023 and delivered tax services and strategy across industries, including filmed entertainment, food and beverage, manufacturing and distribution, and media and advertising.



JAMIE MONTANIO

Partner
Citrin Cooperman

Jamie Montanio's career is anchored by an exceptional two-decade track record of elite financial stewardship, making her a standout leader in the accounting and wealth management sectors. Her most prominent career accomplishment is her sustained, 20-plus-year reputation as an indispensable, highly reliable resource for an incredibly demanding client base. Navigating the financial intricacies of high-net-worth individuals, entertainers, real estate operators, and professional service firms requires a rare blend of deep technical mastery and absolute discretion.

What truly sets Montanio apart from others in her field is her commitment to a high-touch, concierge-style consulting model. She has redefined her practice around forward-looking, comprehensive wealth management.

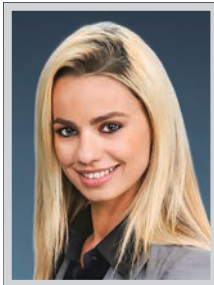


NATALIE MURVIN

Partner
Gursey Schneider, LLP

Natalie Murvin, CPA/CFF, partner at Gursey Schneider in Los Angeles, is one of California's most respected forensic accountants, practicing exclusively in family law litigation. She handles complex divorce and family law matters involving high-net-worth individuals and high-value estates, including those with sophisticated trust structures. Her technical expertise and courtroom credibility, earned over decades in practice, have positioned her as the go-to forensic expert for family law attorneys dealing with the most challenging family law cases.

Murvin's work includes cash flow analysis for spousal and child support, net spendable income analysis, business valuations, asset division calculations, equity compensation, retirement plan allocations, reimbursement claims, and marital lifestyle analyses.



ANUSH NERSISYAN

Director
CohnReznick

Over the past 15 years, Anush Nersisyan has built a distinguished career in public accounting, establishing herself as a highly respected leader in the financial services industry, with deep specialization in private credit and debt funds, hedge funds, fund of funds, private equity and venture capital funds, real estate funds, registered investment advisors, and Special Purpose Acquisition Companies. She has consistently demonstrated the ability to lead highly technical, high-pressure engagements. She has also made meaningful and lasting contributions to the development of her teams, the advancement of her practice, and the broader success of the firm.

Nersisyan is extensively involved in public capital markets transactions, including participation in 17 public offerings related to SPACs.



LILIT NERSISYAN

Audit Principal
Withum

Lilit Nersisyan is a principal in Withum's Los Angeles office with 14 years of experience working with clients in the financial services industry. She specializes in financial reporting, GAAP, GAAS and alternative investment audits.

Nersisyan began her career at KPMG and joined Withum in July 2023. In her current role, she supported the expansion of Withum's Financial Services niche when Withum opened on the West Coast. Along with Withum's West Coast niche leader, she has built up the national practice by connecting East and West Coast teams, expanding regional clientele, and training new hires. Since joining Withum, she has scaled team from three to 14 high-performing professionals, expanding presence across multiple West Coast offices and driving firm growth.

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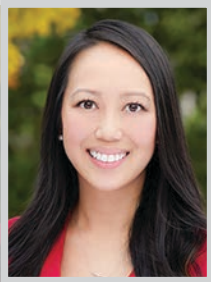
Let's talk about your business.



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WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ACCOUNTING



MARY ANN NGUYEN
Senior Tax Director
Gelfand, Rennert & Feldman

As the senior tax director at Gelfand, Rennert & Feldman LLC, Mary Ann Nguyen leads one of the largest and most dynamic tax practices in Los Angeles, overseeing a team of more than 170 tax professionals who serve clients in the entertainment, sports, and ultra-high-net-worth sectors. Her career has been defined by a commitment to elevating the standards of tax practice, driving efficiency, accuracy, and scalability across the firm, while championing the development of the next generation of tax leaders.

Nguyen’s role sits at the intersection of technical excellence, operational strategy, and people leadership. She is responsible for designing and implementing the processes, procedures, and workflows that enable the firm’s tax department to operate at a high level each year.



KELLY O’NEIL
Lead Managing Director
CBIZ CPAS P.C.

Kelly O’Neil, CPA, is a highly accomplished audit and assurance leader whose career reflects both sustained excellence and meaningful impact across the accounting profession. A shareholder in the Los Angeles office and Southern California Attest Practice Leader, O’Neil has been a trusted advisor to clients since 2007, bringing strategic insight to complex financial challenges.

Recognized nationally for her work in audit and consulting, O’Neil serves public and large privately held companies across a diverse range of industries, including many backed by private equity and venture capital. Her ability to navigate intricate accounting matters—particularly in areas such as compliance, operations, and internal control environments—has made her an invaluable partner to corporate management teams.



JADIE ON
Director, Accounting Services
Fineman West & Co LLP

Jadie On has made a meaningful and lasting contribution by building and leading our bookkeeping department while expanding our accounting and business management services across a variety of industries, including entertainment, real estate, manufacturing, public relations and marketing, and legal industry. On identified an important need within the firm and helped bridge a critical gap between bookkeeping, tax, and audit services.

Through On’s efforts, client information flows more efficiently between departments, resulting in stronger internal processes. She has played a key role in reviewing, strengthening, and modernizing many of the firm’s client service procedures, helping the firm operate more effectively while maintaining a high standard of quality.



YELENA PAPIRYAN
Partner
Duffy Kruspodin, LLP

Yelena Papiryan, CPA, has distinguished herself as a highly respected tax advisor whose expertise in international taxation has helped clients successfully navigate increasingly complex global business and compliance environments. As a partner at Duffy Kruspodin, LLP, she has built a reputation for delivering sophisticated tax guidance while making complex issues understandable and actionable.

A defining accomplishment of Papiryan’s career has been her leadership in developing and expanding the firm’s international tax specialization group. Recognizing the growing needs of clients with international operations, investments, and reporting obligations, she helped establish specialized capabilities that support cross-border tax planning, compliance, and risk management.



TARA PARKER
Partner
BPM

Tara (Wilson) Parker is a trailblazer in the accounting profession and a transformative leader at BPM LLP. In November 2024, she made history as the firm’s first Black woman partner. With more than 17 years of public accounting experience, Parker is recognized for her deep technical expertise in partnership taxation and real estate investments. She advises clients in real estate, professional services, consumer business, and manufacturing, and most recently launched BPM’s first REIT-focused tax practice.

Parker’s client impact is significant. She has guided clients through multimillion-dollar commercial property acquisitions, designed innovative tax structures for investment funds, and provided trusted counsel on complex stock option strategies.



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WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ACCOUNTING

CONGRATULATIONS

Stacey Summers, Tax Manager, and Kori Schneider, Director of Business Management

We are incredibly proud to celebrate this outstanding recognition and to have such inspiring leaders represent Lucas Horsfall and our shared values. Your dedication, passion, and commitment to excellence reflect the very best of who we are and the impact we strive to make every day.



STACEY SUMMERS
Tax Manager

KORI SCHNEIDER
Director of Business Management

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WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ACCOUNTING



ALYSON PATTIE
Partner
Citrin Cooperman

Alyson Pattie’s career trajectory is defined by a rapid, intentional ascent and an exceptional ability to drive high-level business strategy, making her a standout professional in the accounting field. Achieving the role of partner within just over a decade of accounting experience is a rare and significant milestone, demonstrating her exceptional technical acumen, leadership capabilities, and business development skills. This rapid advancement is particularly impressive given that she executed a pivotal, mid-career pivot from banking to accounting, successfully re-engineering her professional path to achieve top-tier leadership.

Pattie’s most significant career accomplishment to date is her proven track record as a trusted advisor to small and mid-size companies across highly complex, diverse sectors.



MARIA PEARMAN
Partner; Food and Beverage Practice Leader
GHJ

Maria Pearman is GHJ’s Food and Beverage Practice leader and a fractional CFO at Blueprint CFO, a fractional CFO firm acquired by GHJ in 2025. As a nationally recognized expert in the beverage alcohol space, Maria has built her career around helping beverage companies — from startups to established producers — optimize financial performance and find success during complex transitions. She, as a fractional CFO, supports clients with their internal accounting processes, financial reviews, budgeting, cash flow forecasting, financial strategy and succession planning.

Pearman regularly teaches for respected organizations, such as the University of Vermont’s Business of Craft Beer program and the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States Academy.



KARINE PHILIPPON
Managing Partner
Forvis Mazars

Karine Philippon is the managing partner for the Forvis Mazars’ California and Arizona market. She has 20 years of experience in public accounting, with a focus on assisting clients with business acquisitions and audits of middle-market to multinational publicly traded corporations under IFRS and US GAAP. She has an extensive background serving technology, media, manufacturing, and distribution companies as well as service organizations.

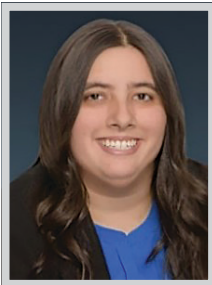
Philippon has assisted startup and emerging growth companies with audit and consulting services as they grew into larger companies, raised capital, and prepared for their exit strategy. Her clients are primarily owned by private equity or venture capital firms. She also has substantial experience in international group audits as component auditor or group auditor.



KIMBERLY RAVENELL
Partner
Withum

Kim Ravenell is the tax practice leader in Withum’s Encino office. She has over 30 years of experience providing tax planning and compliance services for high-net-worth individuals and closely held businesses of all sizes. She prides herself on her responsiveness to her clients and on providing the best client service possible.

Since becoming a partner at Martini Iosue and Akpovi in 2021, Ravenell has led the tax department through regulation changes and challenges brought about by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the CAREs Act and Paycheck Protection Program and the One Big Beautiful Bill. Ravenell also guided the team through the merger with Withum in 2022, which involved significant process changes. Over the years, Ravenell has also mentored dozens of team members.



JACKIE RICHMAN
Director
CohnReznick

Jackie Richman has spent over 10 years working in public accounting and has become a leader in the CohnReznick’s not-for-profit industry practice, supporting a wide array of organizations. She has guided her clients through challenging audits and a constantly evolving compliance landscape, helping improve the financial and operational management of organizations that strengthen their local communities.

Richman has earned the trust of the not-for-profit entities she has worked with by helping them adopt complex accounting standards and operational improvements. She has developed deep technical expertise in numerous industry-specific areas including federal and state organizations, higher education institutions, and foundations.



Congratulations
Frances Kallman

On being recognized as one of the
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2026 Women of Influence
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“We are all women of influence!”



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WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ACCOUNTING



LORI ROCK
Managing Director
CBIZ

Lori N. Rock’s career is distinguished by deep technical expertise, sustained leadership, and a consistent record of delivering high-impact results for a broad range of clients. As a managing director in CBIZ’s California region, Rock has built a nearly 20-year career in public accounting focused on complex tax compliance and strategic business consulting. Her work spans both publicly traded and privately held companies across diverse industries—including retail, distribution, manufacturing, technology, and service sectors.

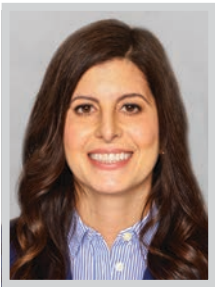
One of Rock’s most notable strengths is her specialization in accounting for income taxes and uncertainty in income taxes, highly technical areas that require precision, sound judgment, and a deep understanding of regulatory standards.



JACKIE SAWIRIS
Partner
Duffy Kruspodin, LLP

Jackie Sawiris, EA, MBA, MAFM, has established herself as a dynamic leader known for her strategic thinking, client advocacy, and commitment to advancing specialized advisory services. As a partner at Duffy Kruspodin, LLP, she plays an important role in shaping the firm’s future while helping clients address increasingly complex financial and business challenges.

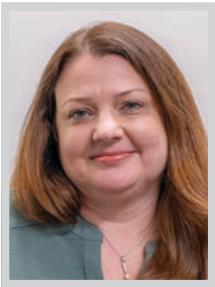
A major milestone in Sawiris’ career was her admission to partner in 2025, recognizing her leadership, professional accomplishments, and contributions to the firm’s continued growth. This achievement reflects years of dedication to serving clients, developing specialized expertise, and helping drive strategic initiatives across the organization. Sawiris currently oversees the firm’s Industry Specialization Group.



AMANDA SCHLANK
Partner, Assurance & Advisory
SingerLewak

Amanda Schlank joined SingerLewak in 2006 and brings extensive public accounting experience as an auditor serving privately held companies, publicly traded companies, and nonprofit organizations. She advises on complex accounting and financial matters, with areas of expertise that include internal controls, financing transactions, mergers and acquisitions, SEC compliance and reporting, and audits performed in accordance with the Uniform Guidance.

Schlank serves clients across a broad range of industries and is known for her practical, solution oriented approach. She excels at translating complex accounting requirements into clear, actionable guidance that supports strategic decision making and long-term business objectives.



KORI SCHNEIDER
Business Management Director
Lucas Horsfall

Kori Schneider first joined the Gettleson, Witzer & O’Connor (now Lucas Horsfall) team as an intern in the summer of 2003. Now as a director, Schneider works on a portfolio of business management and tax clients that includes leading Hollywood talent, both on and off camera, as well as successful real estate professionals and investors/entrepreneurs many of whom have been with her for over a decade.

Schneider experience and vast expertise in a wide range of fields enable her to serve as a trusted member of her clients’ professional advisory teams, working closely with their attorneys and investment brokers. She plays an integral role in such specialties as human resources and personnel management, budgeting and financial planning, estate planning, real estate acquisitions, project management and tax planning.



CYNTHIA SCHOELEN
Partner
BPM

Cindy Schoelen, partner at BPM LLP, is a transformative leader whose decades-long career has significantly shaped the accounting profession in Southern California. With more than 30 years of experience, her path from IRS agent to entrepreneurial firm founder to BPM partner reflects a rare combination of technical expertise, business acumen, and people-centered leadership. She is widely recognized for her ability to build lasting client relationships, develop high-performing teams, and guide organizations through periods of meaningful change.

Schoelen’s leadership has been particularly impactful during times of transition. She played a critical role in guiding her team through its 2023 combination with BPM, leading due diligence efforts and helping determine the strategic fit for the future.



CELEBRATING
EXCELLENCE

Congratulations to Katie Hagen and Mary Ann Nguyen on being recognized in the Los Angeles Business Journal's 2026 Women of Influence: Accounting



grflp.com



Katie Hagen
Director



Mary Ann Nguyen
Senior Tax Director

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE: ACCOUNTING



STACEY SUMMERS
Tax Manager
Lucas Horsfall

Stacey Summers is a CPA who has worked in tax, accounting, and advisory for over 3 decades in the Southern California area. Summers brings elite expertise in tax compliance, strategic accounting, and comprehensive business consulting. Recognized for her deep technical acumen, Summers serves as a trusted advisor to a diverse portfolio of clients.

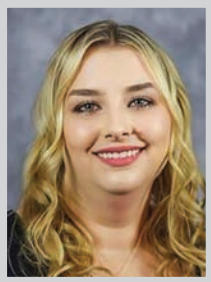
As a member of the Estate and Trust team at Lucas Horsfall, Summers heads the department in preparation of court-admissible fiduciary accountings in compliance with the California Probate Code. Partnering with trust and estate attorneys, professional fiduciaries, and individual executors, she handles the process of reconstructing financial records and formatting the mandated statutory schedules.



JANESSA THRASHER
Senior Manager
PwC LLP

Janessa Thrasher’s career reflects both technical excellence and remarkable resilience. She specializes in managing complex cross border tax income tax provision audits for SEC and private filers, navigating multinational tax matters with precision, analytical rigor, and a commitment to delivering high quality results in demanding regulatory environments.

Known for an exceptional work ethic, Thrasher has earned a reputation for embracing challenges that others shy away from. What distinguishes her from her peers is not only her exceptional technical ability, but also her capacity to connect with people from every background and every corner of the world. She has a rare ability to build meaningful relationships that strengthen communication, accelerate learning, and drive results.



JESSICA TOMLINSON
Director
Citrin Cooperman

Jessica Tomlinson has established herself as a highly technical and disciplined leader in the tax accounting sector, currently serving as a director at Citrin Cooperman. What makes her stand out is her rare synthesis of deep technical expertise and personal discipline. She possesses an M.S. in Taxation from California State University, Northridge, and maintains a CPA license, providing a robust educational foundation that complements her nearly two decades of practical experience.

Beyond her day-to-day role, Tomlinson has demonstrated high-level analytical capabilities, including authoring technical articles—such as her summary of complex partnership tax audit rules published in the *Journal of Taxation*. This capacity distinguishes her as a thought leader rather than just a practitioner.



BELLA WANG
Tax Partner; International Tax Leader
WINDES Audit | Tax | Advisory

Bella Wang joined Windes in 2000 and is a partner in the firm’s Tax Department and the practice leader for the firm’s International Tax practice. Wang’s professional experience includes tax planning and consulting for businesses of all sizes, as well as corporations, partnerships, and high-net-worth individuals. She works closely with business owners and investors, specializing in international tax considerations, planning, and compliance on inbound and outbound transactions.

Wang serves clients in the real estate, transportation, technology, manufacturing, distribution, e-commerce, professional services, healthcare, and restaurant industries. Wang has helped many clients secure the Research and Development, Work Opportunity, and California Competes Tax Credits.



JIA ZHOU
Tax Director
Fineman West & Co LLP

Jia Zhou is a director at Fineman West & Company, a full-service accounting and business advisory firm based in Los Angeles. In her role, Zhou leverages her extensive expertise to provide clients with tailored financial solutions, contributing significantly to the firm’s mission of understanding clients’ stories and guiding them toward financial success.

Zhou plays a pivotal role in leading the firm’s accounting and business advisory services. She works with clients in a wide range of manufacturers (apparel, furniture, jewelry), distribution, real estate, media/entertainment, e-commerce, international trading, etc. Her leadership and dedication have been instrumental in fostering client relationships and driving the firm’s growth. Zhou is committed to community engagement and promoting diversity.

Women in Business are Good for Business

Women Business Collaborative (WBC), led by CEO Gwen Young, represents a coalition of the world’s most influential companies and 87 organizations dedicated to advancing women in business. WBC advocates for data-driven results that prove the impact of women on business success.

Even though for decades there has been consensus among business leaders on the importance of increased representation by women, recent debates have questioned the role of women in the workforce. WBC is setting the record straight. Women in business are indeed good for business.

WBC has identified key facts informed by data that reinforce the power of women in business:

- 14 million women-owned businesses in the U.S. represent 39.1% of all U.S. firms, employ 12.2 million people, and generate \$2.7 trillion in revenue (Wells Fargo)
- Organizations with 30% or more women on executive teams are 27% more likely to outperform on profitability (McKinsey & Company)
- Companies with above-average diversity generate 19% more innovation revenue than their less diverse counterparts (Boston Consulting Group)
- The share of majority women-owned businesses rose from 15.6% to 20.3%—doubling participation in the market since 2020—and their revenues have helped drive economic growth (Small Business Administration)
- Minority Women Business Enterprises (MWBEs) generated \$67 billion in revenue, created 221,000 U.S. jobs, and contributed \$19.5 billion in wages (National Minority Sup-



‘These aren’t just gaps — they’re failures to recognize an undeniable business advantage. The time to close these gaps isn’t tomorrow. It’s now.’

GWEN YOUNG
Women Business Collaborative

plier Development Council)

Women drive business forward. They make up 57% of the workforce yet hold only 8.72% of CEO positions and 28% of board seats. Women founders receive only 2% of venture capital funding. Women still only make 84

cents to the dollar, with women of color earning less than that.

“These aren’t just gaps—they’re failures to recognize an undeniable business advantage. The time to close these gaps isn’t tomorrow. It’s now,” said Young. “WBC calls on leaders to recognize that supporting women in business

isn’t just the right thing to do—it’s the smartest business decision.”

Women Business Collaborative (WBC) is an unprecedented alliance of more than 85 women’s business organizations and hundreds of business leaders building a movement to achieve equal position, pay, and power for all women in business. Through collaboration, advocacy, action, and accountability, WBC mobilizes thousands of diverse professional women and men, business organizations, public and private companies to accelerate change.

The organization believes that working in silos, change will not occur. WBC convenes with its partners, champions, and sponsors to move faster together toward its action initiative goals.

Learn more at wbccollaborative.org.