

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL THE 2026 INDISPENSABLES WINNERS



WE MIGHT BE ONTO SOMETHING HERE.

In the spring, the San Diego Business Journal called on its readers to nominate indispensable employees at their companies for a new awards program. We hoped to honor people who were not founders, chief executives or otherwise part of the C-suite. Having never done this before, we weren't quite sure what to expect. The response surprised us. We knew that San Diego County businesses had talented and hardworking people in their ranks. There were many more than we thought. Presented here are 145 finalists for an awards program we're calling The Indispensables. Our call to businesses was to nominate people outside the C-suite for recognition as innovators, change makers, problem solvers, mentors, department leaders, seasoned employees with institutional memory, rising stars and people who simply sweat the details.

ANNOUNCING THE 2026 INDISPENSABLE WINNERS

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL

THE 2026 INDISPENSABLE WINNERS



JENNIFER ANDERSON
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR
HAHN LOESER & PARKS LLP

Jennifer Anderson serves as the administrator and operational backbone of Hahn Loeser's San Diego office, playing a critical role in ensuring the office functions efficiently and effectively on a daily basis. She oversees and coordinates projects and events for a team of 20 employees, including 12 attorneys, ensuring workflows remain organized, priorities are aligned, and deadlines are consistently met. Her ability to manage multiple initiatives simultaneously, while maintaining clear, proactive communication, allows attorneys and staff to concentrate on client service and substantive legal work with confidence that administrative and logistical functions are being handled seamlessly. In addition, her leadership in overseeing the office budget is integral to the office's financial stability and long-term success. She diligently monitors expenditures, maintains accurate financial records, and supports prudent resource allocation, enabling the office to operate efficiently while meeting evolving operational needs.



VALERIE ATTISHA
VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
PNC BANK

Valerie Attisha is truly indispensable to PNC's San Diego market, serving as the connective tissue between our brand and the broader community. Over the past five years, her leadership has fundamentally elevated PNC's presence, transforming us into a highly visible and respected partner across the region. She expertly manages sponsorship and foundation efforts while interfacing with hundreds of organizations annually. She ensures every investment aligns with PNC's priorities and delivers meaningful community impact. Her disciplined oversight, including rigorous tracking and negotiation continues to benefit for San Diego and PNC. Beyond execution, Valerie inspires engagement across the entire market. She has dramatically expanded volunteerism and ensured that every banker actively participates on nonprofit boards, amplifying PNC's influence and embedding us deeply in the San Diego community.



PAIGE BARTELL
MANAGER, OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
LA JOLLA INSTITUTE FOR IMMUNOLOGY

Paige Bartell serves as Manager, Office of the President at La Jolla Institute for Immunology, where she is the operational backbone supporting the President/CEO, Chief Operating Officer, Chief of Staff, and Board of Directors. Her role sits at the highest levels of organizational leadership, which demands absolute discretion, exceptional judgment, and an intuitive ability to read any room, anticipate what's needed next, and act before she's ever asked. Paige's responsibilities span executive scheduling, managing every detail of quarterly Board meetings, Committee meetings, and Board dinners from logistics to communications. She serves as a secondary point of contact for Board members throughout their entire tenure, from onboarding through retirement, and oversees the corporate document repository. She plays a pivotal role in advancing the COO's most demanding work by supporting high-stakes strategic initiatives, conducting operational analysis, and leading cross-departmental coordination efforts that require the trust of every team within it.



CHRISTINE BRENNER
KIDNEY TRANSPLANT ADMINISTRATOR
SHARP HEALTHCARE

Christine is the Operations and Outreach Lead for the Sharp Kidney Transplant Program. She has spent years building community awareness and guiding patients through one of the most complex care journeys in medicine. A successful transplant requires the coordination of many experts, and Christine's knowledge and personality are central to that success. The transplant program includes a multidisciplinary team dedicated to providing the highest quality care to every patient. Transplant surgeons, kidney specialists (nephrologists), certified transplant nurse coordinators and transplant pharmacists work alongside social workers, registered dietitians and financial coordinators to deliver the extraordinary level of care called The Sharp Experience. Brenner is also a kidney donor. When her colleague Ruth Duroseau, a transplant assistant at Sharp Memorial, needed a second kidney transplant, Christine was identified as a perfect match and donated her kidney. Both are back at work today, continuing to strengthen a program that changes lives.



ALEJANDRO CABALLERO FERNÁNDEZ
SENIOR SPECIALIST, MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
THE SAN DIEGO LGBT COMMUNITY CENTER

As Senior Specialist of Marketing and Communications at The San Diego LGBT Community Center, Alejandro Caballero Fernández is an essential marketing strategist to The Center's team, whose work strengthens every aspect of our organization. Alejandro consistently exceeds expectations across executive, internal, and digital communications, translating strategy into action with precision and creativity. He plays a key role in executing the marketing and communications strategy for The Center's fundraising campaigns, helping elevate its brand, engage audience, and drive donations. His data-driven approach led to a 121.7% increase in social impressions in one year. His leadership on internal systems, launching a communications dashboard, and supervising interns has improved efficiency and team capacity. Beyond results, Alejandro is a trusted, calming presence who keeps projects aligned, meets tight deadlines, and strengthens cross-team collaboration. His ability to manage competing priorities while delivering high-impact work makes him truly indispensable.

Endeavor Bank

Congratulations

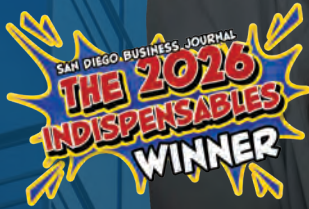
TO OUR INDISPENSABLE
JANETTE CASTRO!

This well-deserved recognition reflects Janette's exceptional leadership, accountability and unwavering commitment to our people and our culture.

Janette has earned the trust of employees and management alike through her professionalism, sound judgment and ability to navigate even the most sensitive situations with care and integrity.

As Endeavor Bank continues to grow, Janette's focus on building a high-performing culture, attracting exceptional talent and supporting our employees has made her an indispensable member of our leadership team.

Congratulations, Janette, on this well-deserved honor.



CARLSBAD
Administrative Office

DOWNTOWN
Branch Office

EAST COUNTY
Branch Office

LOS ANGELES/INLAND EMPIRE
Northern Division

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THE 2026 INDISPENSABLES WINNERS



GISELLE CAMPOS
SVP & SENIOR CREATIVE DIRECTOR
INNOVISION MARKETING GROUP

Giselle Campos is a rare creative unicorn. She not only conceptualizes breakthrough campaigns, but she also has the artistic ability to bring them to life in ways that emotionally connect with clients and audiences alike. Her creative instincts and strategic thinking have helped define the soul of the InnoVision brand. Giselle joined InnoVision Marketing Group when the company was still in its earliest stages. She bought into the vision, did the work, weathered adversity, and over the last 13 years became one of the foundational pillars of the organization. Giselle's loyalty, leadership, resilience, focus, and commitment have helped shape InnoVision's culture, strengthen its client relationships, mentor its team, and build the foundation of what the company is today. Quite simply, InnoVision would not be what it is without her.



JANETTE CASTRO
HR PEOPLE & CULTURE
ENDEAVOR BANK

In her role as HR People & Culture at Endeavor Bank, Janette Castro manages employee relations, performance management, onboarding, benefits administration, compliance, payroll coordination, policy development and leadership support for its 85-member team. Her ability to balance operational needs with a people-first approach while remaining adaptable, responsive and solutions-oriented in a fast-paced environment makes her essential to her team. She has helped build and streamline HR processes during a period of rapid growth and organizational change within the bank. Part of this growth meant a rapid expansion of staff and geographical reach. Recently, Janette began leveraging approved AI tools to streamline administrative HR processes and create more time for employee engagement and support. She also implemented the bank's recognition merit program, where employees earn points toward gift cards for above-and-beyond performance, and created a "Total Compensation Package" to better educate employees about their benefits and reinforce how much the bank prioritizes its employees.



HEATHER CRAMER
VICE PRESIDENT, SALES
SNAKE OIL COCKTAIL COMPANY

Heather Cramer serves as our Vice President of Sales, a title that technically describes her role but falls well short of capturing what she actually does. On paper, she oversees sales strategy, manages the pipeline, develops client proposals and contracts, coordinates with marketing, and leads her team across multiple event venues. In reality, she is the reason the whole operation holds together. She is the person everyone calls, and the person who always picks up. What makes Heather extraordinary is the combination of her relentless availability and her genuine care. In a fast-paced environment where urgency is the baseline and pressure is the default, it would be understandable to become transactional, but Heather does the opposite. Her door is always open. Working in event hospitality means working with clients during some of the most important, emotionally charged moments of their lives, events might define people's lives. Heather understands this deeply.



STEPHANIE DEPPENSMITH
VICE PRESIDENT, OPERATIONS
SAN DIEGO REGIONAL EAST COUNTY
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

As the Vice President of Operations, Stephanie Deppensmith oversees Events, Membership, Marketing & Programs at the San Diego Regional East County Chamber of Commerce. Her ability to multitask with several departments is such a key factor in the success of the Chamber. She understands the vision of the organization and is great with relationships through the community. Stephanie is a vital to the operations, especially as the Chamber continues to seek more opportunities to lift up the entire business community in East County and through San Diego County.



JENNIFER HELLMAN
MARKETING DIRECTOR
DEL MAR FAIRGROUNDS

Jennifer Hellman is Marketing Director at the Del Mar Fairgrounds, host of the San Diego County Fair. She has held that position since 2016, after holding the positions of Media Buyer and Deputy Manager for more than 10 years before that. In October 2020, during the COVID pandemic, her Marketing Department went from a team of 13 down to just herself. For 19 months, Jennifer held down the fort at the Fairgrounds as a one-person Marketing Dept., while having to promote the 2021 Home Grown Fair, a mini-Fair of sorts, with no staff, relying solely on outsourced vendors. Today, Jennifer's Marketing Dept. is still a team of only three year-round permanent employees, who, with the support of an outsourced agency, produce the work previously created by a team of 13, all thanks to her leadership.



CONGRATULATIONS, VALERIE ATTISHA!

The PNC Bank team in San Diego congratulates you on being recognized by the San Diego Business Journal as a 2026 Indispensable!

We celebrate your unwavering dedication, leadership and commitment to creating lasting impact on our clients, colleagues and the community. This well deserved recognition truly reflects the passion, professionalism and excellence that you bring to your work each and every day.

Thank you for being an indispensable member of #TeamPNC! We are grateful for all that you do and are proud to work alongside you.

Congratulations on this outstanding achievement!



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LIZA HEREDIA
MANAGER, VOLUNTEER SERVICES
FATHER JOE'S VILLAGES

As Manager of Volunteer Services at Father Joe's Villages (FJV), Liza Heredia provides strategic and operational leadership for one of the organization's most critical functions: volunteer engagement. She oversees a program that mobilizes more than 6,300 volunteers annually, directing recruitment, onboarding, placement, engagement, retention, and recognition while supervising a staff team and managing the systems that support thousands of volunteer interactions each year. What makes Liza truly indispensable is that FJV could not operate at its current scale without volunteers, and volunteers would not be engaged, equipped, and connected to the mission without her leadership. Every day, volunteers expand the organization's capacity to provide meals, housing, healthcare, childcare, education, and supportive services to thousands of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. Liza ensures those volunteers are effectively recruited, trained, coordinated, and supported, transforming community goodwill into direct service and measurable impact.



KELSEY KIRMA
SENIOR LOAN COORDINATOR
ENTERPRISE BANK & TRUST

With nearly two decades of banking industry experience, the past 13 years of which have been in commercial lending specifically, Kelsey Kirma brings a wealth of knowledge to her role as Senior Loan Coordinator at Enterprise Bank & Trust in San Diego. She provides high-level commercial lending support to a wide variety of clients, establishing a proven track record of success across a diverse range of sectors, including non-profits, small businesses and commercial and industrial clients. Kelsey serves as a central point of contact across all stages of the lending process, coordinating with partners, legal counsel, borrowers and third-party vendors to drive seamless closings on high-profile and impactful commercial real estate projects. Her support makes a meaningful difference and has enabled partners to close significant lending for San Diego businesses. She goes above and beyond to streamline loan processes for clients through efficient project management, strategic relationship building and proactive thinking.



JANE KRONENBERG
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO,
KNAUSS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Jane Kronenberg consistently performs at an exceptional level and has become a critical contributor to the growth, visibility, and success of Industry & Employer Relations at the Knauss School of Business. Through her relationship-building skills and commitment to student success, Jane expanded employer and alumni engagement initiatives including Alumni/Employer in Residence, Talent on Tap, Industry Panels, Hire San Diego, virtual information sessions, and recruitment programming. Through her outreach efforts, she successfully engaged leading organizations including Morgan Stanley, Deloitte, McKinsey, Google, Meta, and the Padres, significantly increasing student access to recruiters, internships, experiential learning opportunities, alumni, and employment pathways. Jane played a key role in delivering 46 events that engaged 754 unique students representing approximately 1,200 student attendances, along with 370 employers and 138 alumni participants. One of her most significant accomplishments was rebuilding and relaunching the Alumni/Employer in Residence program, resulting in 23 participating alumni/employers and 170 student appointments.



ALANNA MARKEY
SVP & GENERAL MANAGER
INNOVISION MARKETING GROUP

Alanna Markey is one of the most strategic thinkers I have ever worked with," says InnoVision founder and CEO Ric Mili. Alanna has an extraordinary ability to lead with clarity, calmness, professionalism, and trust. People naturally gravitate toward her leadership because they know she cares deeply and consistently delivers. Her creative instincts and strategic thinking have helped define the soul of the InnoVision brand. Alanna joined InnoVision Marketing Group when the company was still in its earliest stages. She bought into the vision, did the work, weathered adversity, and over the last 13 years became one of the foundational pillars of the organization. Her loyalty, leadership, resilience, focus, and commitment have helped shape InnoVision's culture, strengthen its client relationships, mentor its team, and build the foundation of what the company is today. Quite simply, InnoVision would not be what it is without her.



KRISTIN MARTINEZ
VICE PRESIDENT, EVENTS
FAST FORWARD EVENTS

As Vice President of Events at Fast Forward Event Productions, Kristin Martinez leads the strategy, operations, and execution of nationally recognized consumer and trade events, including the San Diego Food + Wine Festival and SommCon Conference & Beverage Expo. With more than 17 years of experience in event production and operations, she oversees the systems, logistics, budgets, partnerships, staffing, and cross-functional coordination required to deliver large-scale live experiences. Kristin serves as the operational backbone of the organization, connecting leadership, marketing, sales, sponsors, vendors, venues, and production teams to ensure every detail aligns and every event delivers on its promise. Her role spans operational planning, sponsor fulfillment, technology implementation, attendee experience, and on-site execution. Known for her calm leadership, strategic thinking, and detail, Kristin consistently solves complex operational challenges before they impact the attendee or partner experience and plays a critical role in the company's continued growth and success.

CONGRATULATIONS JEN ANDERSON!

You are "Indispensable" to Hahn Loeser



HAHN LOESER
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CONGRATULATIONS!

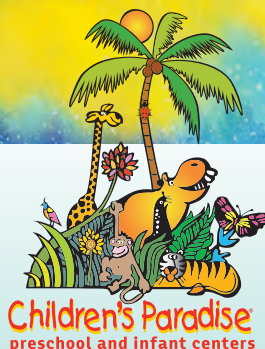
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FINALIST**

IMPACT
THAT
LASTS!

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Enrolling
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LONA SEITZ
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



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GINA OSUNA-SUTTON

EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR
DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO PARTNERSHIP

Gina Sutton is the definition of an indispensable employee and trusted team member. As Executive Administrator for the Downtown San Diego Partnership, Gina plays a critical role in supporting the daily operations, leadership coordination, and mission execution of one of the region's most visible urban management organizations. In her role, Gina primarily supports President and CEO Betsy Brennan and COO Justin Apger, while simultaneously serving as a vital connector across every department within the organization. She manages complex calendars, high-level board communications, special projects, community engagement coordination, and countless operational details with remarkable professionalism, grace, and positivity. What makes Gina truly exceptional is not simply her ability to juggle competing priorities at a high level — it is the spirit in which she does it. Gina consistently approaches every interaction with kindness, humility, and a genuine desire to help others succeed.



FREDDY RAMIREZ

ASSISTANT RESALE STORE MANAGER
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

Freddy Ramirez is an integral member of Community Resource Center's Encinitas Resale Store. CRC's Resale Stores generate critical funding for programs that support neighbors experiencing domestic violence, hunger and homelessness, while also providing clothing, furniture and household items to program participants and keeping donated goods out of landfills. Freddy's work is essential to making that impact possible every day. In his role, Freddy oversees the donation and receiving area and is often the first point of contact donors have with CRC. His professionalism, courtesy and sincere gratitude help donors feel appreciated and connected to CRC's mission, encouraging continued support. He ensures donations are received, sorted, priced and moved to the sales floor in a timely manner, helping maintain a steady flow of merchandise that directly supports store revenue and CRC programs. He is the backbone of CRC's resale stores, and the Encinitas store's continued growth and success would not be possible without him.



DAVID SALISBURY

DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC CLIENT DEVELOPMENT
MINTZ

David Salisbury, Director of Strategic Client Development at Mintz, based in San Diego, is an indispensable force behind Mintz's client growth, market expansion, and long-term strategic success. One of the original founders of Mintz San Diego in 2006, David helped establish the firm's West Coast presence and has since played a central role in its evolution into a key hub within the national platform. More than that, David knows everyone in the San Diego office. He has been the through-line of our culture and our mission for 20 years. Whenever something important is happening, David has critical knowledge and insight that helps make it work. He is a unique talent among law firm business development professionals in San Diego because he is engaged and engaging beyond our walls. His deep insight into our team enables him to make connections that benefit the community and our firm.



BARBARA SOLORZANO

SENIOR OPERATIONS DIRECTOR
CENTRIC

As a Senior Operations Director at CENTRIC, Barbara Solorzano plays a very important role in keeping the agency operating efficiently across departments, projects, clients and community initiatives. Over the course of 15 years with the organization, she has grown alongside the company, holding positions that include Marketing Coordinator, Project Coordinator, Project Manager, and now Senior Operations Director. Barbara oversees operational workflows, project logistics, internal coordination and day-to-day organizational processes that support agency operations and client success. She manages timelines, team alignment, deliverables schedule, and helps maintain clear communication across multiple departments and stakeholders. Her work supports a wide range of projects, including public outreach campaigns, community engagement initiatives, events and client programs throughout the San Diego region. What makes Barbara indispensable is her consistency, leadership, and ability to keep operations moving forward. She is often the central point of coordination across teams, helping solve problems before they escalate and ensuring projects remain organized.



KARINA SOUSA

CORPORATE SECRETARY & TREASURER
DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO KIWANIS CLUB & FOUNDATION

Karina is the volunteer glue that has indispensably held together the SD Region's original Kiwanis Club, Kiwanis Foundation and annual Laurels for Leaders signature event organizations for the past 15-plus years. She has served as both Club and Laurels Signature Event Board Presidents in the past and subsequently gravitated to all-important volunteer Corporate Secretary role for all three entities, in addition to covering the organizations' Treasurer roles when needed. Her duties include managing monthly Club Speaker Lunches at the Westgate Hotel, managing the calendar for multiple Community Service + Member Perks events, managing Club Social interaction gatherings and managing the Club/Foundation's annual signature events: the Foundation's Annual Giving Day celebration and the Annual Laurels for Leaders celebration of every High School ASB President across the entire SD County region. Reporting to three separate nonprofits with three separate Board Presidents, she skillfully multi-tasks all of the above.

Living Every Value

Congratulations to **Tien Tran Noble**, 2026 San Diego Business Journal Indispensables Finalist.



Tien Tran Noble

Executive Support Manager

Tien keeps Options For All moving forward behind the scenes. As Executive Support Manager, she supports four senior leaders, prepares the quarterly Board packets and monthly newsletters that keep leadership informed, and was entrusted to oversee an additional coordinator in Northern California. Recognized for anticipating needs before they arise, Tien has earned all five of OFA's Values Pins, a distinction that reflects her unwavering commitment to every core value that defines our culture.



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JESS STANPHILL
ELEMENTARY TEACHER
COUNTRY MONTESSORI SCHOOL

Jess Stanphill doesn't have "Operations" in her title. What she has is a multi-age classroom of 45 students, organizational instincts of a Fortune 500 executive, and institutional knowledge that keeps a school running smoothly day in and day out. As an Elementary Teacher at Country Montessori School (CMS) since 2019, Jess does what great operators do: she creates conditions where everyone around her can do their best work. Her classroom runs on consistency, preparation, and trust. Families know she'll communicate. Students know what to expect. Colleagues know she'll follow through. In six years, she's taught nearly 300 San Diego students across 260 families, with a classroom retention rate of 95%. She also serves as CMS's literacy specialist, running dedicated reading groups for every kindergarten through 3rd grade student. But Jess isn't just educating the next generation of San Diegans. She's teaching them to take care of the community they'll inherit.



MEGAN STORER
CHIEF OF STAFF
211 SAN DIEGO

Meg Storer is Chief of Staff at 211 San Diego, the region's trusted hub connecting hundreds of thousands of San Diegans to critical community, health, and disaster resources every year, 24/7, in more than 200 languages. She is responsible for government and public affairs, philanthropy, board relations, and executive operations — vital to every aspect of 211's service to the community. Integral to the growth of 211 for more than 20 years, Meg was solely responsible for securing the 2-1-1 dialing code for San Diego, navigating the complex regulatory process that launched the organization's trajectory. Today, as Chief of Staff, Meg serves as the agency's keystone, providing high-level guidance to the Executive Team and Senior Staff while overseeing the External Affairs division. Her strategic leadership has secured critical partnerships with municipalities and first responders, positioning 211 as a vital component of the region's disaster response and military/veteran support systems.



MELISSA URIBE
DIRECTOR, ACCOUNTING
SENTRE INC.

Melissa Uribe joined SENTRE in September 2007 as a Controller and has grown alongside the organization ever since, earning her way to Director of Accounting through nearly two decades of dedication and demonstrated excellence. Her rise reflects the SENTRE value of thinking and acting like an owner — accountable, invested, and never walking past a problem. As Director of Accounting, Melissa oversees the full spectrum of the organization's financial operations — financial reporting, audit support, tenant billing, accounts receivable and payable, budget preparation, CAMs, and cash management. A Cal Poly San Luis Obispo graduate with a Business Administration degree concentrated in Accounting and Finance, she also holds a Certified Management Accountant designation and brings over a decade of project management expertise to her role. Melissa leads, manages, and holds accountability across her department — not just in title, but in practice. Her meticulous attention to detail, institutional knowledge, and steady leadership make her essential to SENTRE.



CLAUDINE VAN GONKA
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY RELATIONS & MEDIA
SAN DIEGO BLOOD BANK

Claudine Van Gonka is a vital leader at San Diego Blood Bank, where she has advanced the organization's lifesaving mission for 21 years. She has strengthened internal operations, supported cross-functional initiatives, and helped execute programs that impact donor engagement, community partnerships, public awareness, and organizational effectiveness. Claudine is known for bringing people, priorities, and processes together in a highly regulated, mission-driven healthcare environment. Colleagues rely on her to solve problems, coordinate complex projects, support executive leadership, and keep important initiatives moving forward — all with professionalism and a solutions-oriented mindset. She is also a trusted public face of San Diego Blood Bank. Through media relations and community outreach, she regularly represents the organization across television, radio, print, and digital platforms. Claudine's institutional knowledge, collaborative leadership, and dedication to staff, donors, partners, and the community make her essential to San Diego Blood Bank's success.



CHELSEY WELLS
SR. EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
AEVEX

Chelsey Wells serves as a Senior Executive Assistant at AEVEX, providing direct support to the Executive Chairman of the Board and leading the administrative operations of corporate headquarters. In this role, she has become an indispensable partner to the leadership team, expertly aligning schedules, priorities, and focus for executives across the organization. She is also a critical liaison between AEVEX's leadership and the Board of Directors, a responsibility that proved vital during AEVEX's IPO in April 2026. Chelsey's ability to navigate complex demands, keep stakeholders aligned, and maintain seamless communication was instrumental in ensuring the organization remained coordinated throughout this high-stakes process. Beyond her strategic contributions, Chelsey excels in the operational elements that keep the business running smoothly. She effectively coordinates meetings, travel, events, and cross-functional projects through close collaboration with geographically dispersed assistants and leaders. Her professionalism, resourcefulness, and calm, solutions-oriented approach make her a trusted and invaluable asset to the company.

Service That **SCALES** IMPACT

Congratulations to **Brandan Kelly**, 2026 San Diego Business Journal Indispensables Finalist.



Brandan Kelly
Director of Operations

Brandan Kelly keeps Options For All running at its best. As Director of Operations, he leads the infrastructure supporting 400+ employees and 2,000+ clients across California. His leadership secured funding for OFA's SmarTech pilot, generating hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings that were reinvested into our people and programs. A finalist for SWPP Workforce Management Professional of the Year and a previous San Diego Business Journal Veteran of the Year, Brandan exemplifies service, innovation, and operational excellence.



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Bizhan Abdali
San Diego Futures Foundation

Manny Abril
Reach Healthcare

Stephanie Adamczyk
Ryan Companies US, Inc.

Pamela Alvarado
Serving Seniors

Jennifer Anderson
Hahn Loeser & Parks LLP

Amanda Andrade
A-Star Staffing

James Arp
Belmont Village Senior Living - La Jolla

Avery Arthur
Noah Homes

Laura Atkinson
World Amenities, Inc.

Julianne (Juli) Attaway
Tyson & Mendes, LLP

Valerie Attisha
PNC Bank

Randy Baddo
ITJ USA

Natalia Barclay
Crowe PR

Paige Bartell
La Jolla Institute for Immunology

Sammi Beatrice
Scatena Media Group

Dan Beck
Snapp & Associates (ALKEME San Diego)

Ediz Benaroya
CashCo

Natalie Bertalotto
Xceptional

Clarisa Blattner
XiFin, Inc.

Steven Bossi
Atlantis Group

Christine Brenner
Sharp HealthCare

Lisa Bridges
Social Advocates for
Youth (SAY) San Diego

Isabella Broaddus
Mission Edge

Elyse Broussard
Innovative Commercial Environments

Dr. Megan Burton
Cathedral Catholic High School

Kristi Byers
Architects Mosher Drew

Alejandro Caballero Fernandez
The San Diego LGBT Community Center

Giselle Campos
InnoVision Marketing Group

Adriana Cardona
Sapient Logic

Janette Castro
Endeavor Bank

Connie Cepeda
San Diego Gas & Electric (SDGE)

Justin Chavez
Wakeland Housing

Ternisha Christian
Community HousingWorks

Cindy Collins
Community Resource Center

Jennifer Cortes
The Patriot Group

Stephanie Cox
Clark Hill PLC

Heather Cramer
Snake Oil Cocktail Company

Amy Crumbacker
UC San Diego Division of Extended Studies

Holly Davis
Schaffer Family Law Group

Stephanie Deppensmith
San Diego Regional East
County Chamber of Commerce

Joel DeVos
Wilson Turner Kosmo

Patricia Diaz
Community Resource Center

Gabriela Dreher
Banker's Hill Law Firm, APC

Tony Escalante
San Diego Association of REALTORS

Jennifer Evans
Hyphn (formerly bkm OfficeWorks)

Josie Flores Clark
City of National City

Jessica Gatien
Neighborhood Healthcare

Jennifer Gattey
SENTRY INC

Meghan Golden
Kilowatt Events

Javier Gomez
City Heights Community
Development Corporation

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Richard Gonzalez
Turner Construction Company

Shannon Gonzalez
United Way of San Diego County

Mae Goodjohn
Athena

Anita Handson
National University

Jennifer Hellman
Del Mar Fairgrounds

Liza Heredia
Father Joe's Villages

Eric Hernandez
UCSD Shiley Eye Institute /Division of
Community Ophthalmology

Valerie Hernandez
Hooper Lundy & Bookman, P.C. (HLB)

Torrey Herndon
ICCWP Industries

Paul Hunter
Foley & Lardner LLP

Erika Hurt
Boutique Recruiting

Alexandra Huryn
Villa Musica | San Diego's
Community Music Center

Danielle Itani
Innovative Employee Solutions (IES)

Bobby Kalar
Turner Construction Company

Brandan Kelly
Options For All

Regina Key
Destination Concepts inc

Tatiana Khasanova
Rancho BioSciences

Kelsey Kirma
Enterprise Bank & Trust

Kali Knaack
San Diego Tourism Authority

Sarah Kolvas
The San Diego LGBT Community Center

Alec Konstantin
Sanford Heisler Sharp McKnight

Jane Kronenberg
University of San Diego |
Knauss School of Business

Jonathan Kuo
KES Inc.

Monica Larson
Creative Capital
Management Investments LLC

Nikki Llanto-Matamor
The Westgate Hotel and
AquaVie Fitness + Wellness Club

Karry Louangmilith
Duckor Metzger & Wynne, APLC

Margaret Lutz Chantung
Intesa Communications Group

Cézanne Manjarrez
Turner Construction Company

Stan Mann
Sevens Legal Criminal Lawyers

Alanna Markey
InnoVision Marketing Group

Jacqueline Marroquin
Boys & Girls Clubs of South County

Peter B. Maretz
Jackson Lewis

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Paige Miller
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The San Diego LGBT Community Center

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Tay Richardson
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Violet Rieger
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"We are so proud that Jess is being recognized as one of the winners."



JANE KRONENBERG

USD/Krauss School of Business

"Thank you so much, I'm thrilled :)"



STEPHANIE DEPPENSMITH

San Diego Easty County Chamber of Commerce



CLAUDINE VAN GONKA

San Diego Blood Bank

"Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity!"



JENNIFER ANDERSON

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"Wow! Thank you so much for this recognition. I was both surprised and honored to learn that I had been nominated (and selected)."



ALANNA MARKEY

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"Congratulations to all the nominees and I am honored to be in such great company! You can only be indispensable with an incredible team like the one at InnoVision to rally around you!"



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"How exciting! Thank you so much for sharing the good news!"



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"I am beyond honored to be recognized by your journal!"



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"I'm deeply thankful for this recognition, which reflects everything our InnoVision culture celebrates: empowering people to grow and thrive"



KARINA SOUSA

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"I was notified that I'm a 2026 Indispensable Winner - wow I'm honored"



LIZA HEREDIA

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"Thank you so much for this amazing news, and I am honored. I feel proud to know that my good work has an impact in our communities. Thank you."



KRISTIN MARTINEZ

Fast Forward Events

"What an honor! Thank you so much! I am so grateful for the recognition!"



ALEJANDRO CABALLERO

The San Diego LGBTQ Community Center

"Thank you so much for this recognition. I am honored to be included alongside so many talented professionals making a difference in our San Diego community."