

LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL
presents

THE LOS ANGELES

JULY 2017

500



THE MOST INFLUENTIAL
PEOPLE IN LOS ANGELES





LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

Anna Magzanyan

THE LOS ANGELES BUSINESS JOURNAL DEBUTED THE LA500 LAST YEAR TO ENSURE THAT we were at the forefront of the business community and engaged with people who shape the market. I'm delighted to bring you our second annual signature publication, one that again profiles the people in Los Angeles who make an impact.

Looking through this book and seeing so many individuals who have impacted this community with their business accomplishments, civic leadership, and philanthropic efforts was an exciting experience for me. This year's edition continues and advances our tradition of offering readers a publication presenting the region's leaders – its dealmakers, financiers, visionaries, and grinders.

We think the profiles we offer will give readers an up-close look at the people shaping the business and social fabric of the region.


Anna Magzanyan
Publisher & CEO

THE LOS ANGELES 500

50 | CIVIC LEADERS

SHEILA JAMES KUEHL

Supervisor, Third District
Los Angeles County



Sheila James Kuehl, representing Los Angeles County's Third District, was elected on Nov. 4, 2014, and assumed office on Dec. 1 of the same year. Since then, she has collaborated on or undertaken a number of initiatives and motions to improve quality of life and reform systems in the county. She is chairwoman of First 5 Los Angeles, and on the boards of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Exposition Construction Authority, and L.A.'s Local Agency Formation Commission. Kuehl previously served eight years in the state Senate and six years in the Assembly. She is the founding director of the Public Policy Institute at Santa Monica College and, in 2012, was Regents' Professor in Public Policy at UCLA. She was the first woman in California history to be named speaker pro tempore of the Assembly, and the first openly gay or lesbian person to be elected to the California Legislature. In her youth, she was known for her portrayal of Zelda Gilroy in the TV series "The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis."

- ENJOY MOST** I like working every day to help our residents have a better chance in every aspect of life.
- TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** The hardest thing I ever did was coming out, but it turns out that it gave me a reputation almost instantly for honesty and courage which any politician would kill for.
- PROUDEST MOMENT** Passing the Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2000.
- BEST ADVICE** Don't be afraid. I'm very proud that I wasn't too frightened to run for office as a gay person.
- MOST EXCITED** The county's "Green Power" initiative, giving consumers new energy options and creating clean energy jobs in California.
- FUN FACT** I was a child actress and starred in "The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis."
- ALMA MATERS** BA, UCLA; JD, Harvard Law School.
- BUCKET LIST** To sing in a show at the new Ford Theater.
- BEVERAGE** Unsweetened ice tea.
- HOBBY/PASSION** Going to the movies.
- FAVORITE DESTINATION** Sacramento to see my sister.

JESSICA LALL

Chief Executive
Central City Association



Jessica Lall is president and chief executive of the Central City Association, where she represents the interests of more than 400 businesses, trade associations, and nonprofit organizations that employ more than 350,000 people in Los Angeles County. Prior to joining CCA, she served as executive director of the South Park Business Improvement District, where she envisioned and implemented a nationally lauded public art initiative, expanded district boundaries, launched innovative pilot programs, and elevated the neighborhood with a strategic branding and economic development plan. Lall was previously senior policy director in the Department of Economic and Business Policy group for former Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and also served as communications director for

Austin Beutner's mayoral campaign. She serves on the board of Metro Charter Elementary School and Coro Southern California.

- ENJOY MOST** I love the people I get to work with. It is where I derive most of my energy and inspiration.
- PROUDEST MOMENT** Completing my first Olympic Distance Triathlon 7 months after I tore my MCL in a skiing accident.
- BEST ADVICE** When you are in a position to help someone - do it. Connections and relationships are what make the world go around.
- FUN FACT** I spent most of my years growing up in Texas and England.
- BUCKET LIST** To hike Machu Picchu in Peru.
- ALMA MATER** BA, USC.
- HOBBY/PASSION** Travel and engage in physical activities like hot yoga, mountain biking, skiing, horseback riding, and scuba diving.

NORMAN LEAR

Chairman
Act III Communications



Norman Lear began his television writing career in 1950, going on to create hit shows such as "All in the Family," "Sanford and Son," and "Good Times." Concerned about the growing influence of radical religious evangelists, Lear decided to leave television in 1980 and formed People for the American Way, a nonprofit organization designed to speak out for Bill of Rights guarantees and to monitor violations of constitutional freedoms. Lear's business career continued in 1982, when Tandem Productions and his other company, T.A.T. Communications, were folded into Embassy Communications, which was sold in 1985. Lear then created and is currently chairman of Act III Communications, a multimedia holding company with interests in television, motion pictures, and licensing. He has also founded the Business Enterprise Trust and the Norman Lear Center at the USC Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. In 1999, President Bill Clinton bestowed him with the National Medal of Arts.

MARY LESLIE

President
Los Angeles Business Council



Mary Leslie is president of the Los Angeles Business Council, an advocacy and educational organization dedicated to serving local businesses. For more than 70 years, the council has been an influential link between business and government, and has impacted public policy issues related to education, housing, and environmental sustainability. Under her leadership, the nonprofit has developed a national reputation as a catalyst for innovative policy in the fields of housing, transportation, renewable energy development, clean tech, and more. Leslie is also president of Leslie & Associates, a consulting firm that specializes in nonprofit management, strategic planning, and government affairs.

- PROUDEST MOMENT** When sustainability policies like energy efficiency and renewables became accepted ways of doing business not outliers.
- BEST ADVICE** Tenacity matters, after the hard work of getting

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ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

Director
Los Angeles Initiative



During a career in public life spanning nearly four decades, Zev Yaroslavsky has been at the forefront of Los Angeles County's biggest issues. He was elected to Los Angeles City Council in 1975; then in 1994, he was elected to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. Yaroslavsky is now director of the Los Angeles Initiative at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs and the Department of History.

investments in Southern California. His overall commercial real estate experience also includes his role as founding chairman and chief executive of Arden Realty Inc., a real estate investment firm focused on commercial office markets. Ziman served as Arden's chairman and chief executive from its inception in 1990 until its sale in mid-2006 to General Electric Co. in a \$4.8 billion deal. In 2006, Ziman also co-founded AVP Advisors and AVP Capital, the exclusive adviser to American Value Partners.

ENJOY MOST

All of the aspects of commercial real estate, acquisitions, management, leasing and financing. Not taking on too much.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE
PROUDEST MOMENT**

My family, my three honorary doctorates, and receiving the UCLA Gold Medal, UCLA's highest award.

MOST EXCITED

My ability to make a difference.

BEST ADVICE

Be honest, and preserve your reputation as impeccable.

BEVERAGE

Sparkling water.

CAR YOU DRIVE

Mercedes S550 Cabriolet AMG Convertible, BA, USC; JD, USC

ALMA MATERS

FUN FACT

I attended USC dental school at age 19 and quit the second day.

BUCKET LIST

Bhutan.

RICHARD ZIMAN

Chairman
Rexford Industrial



Richard Ziman's industrial real estate career includes more than 40 years of industrial real estate investment experience overseeing his personal, family, and foundation-related

“CCA is committed to proactive leadership focused on advancing the development of Downtown Los Angeles by advocating for effective and thoughtful planning, supporting and attracting business, and enhancing the quality of life.”

MARTHA SAUCEDO,
CCA CHAIR AND AEG
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

CCA
CENTRAL CITY
ASSOCIATION
OF LOS ANGELES

CCA advances policies and initiatives that enhance Downtown's vibrancy and increase investment in the region.

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