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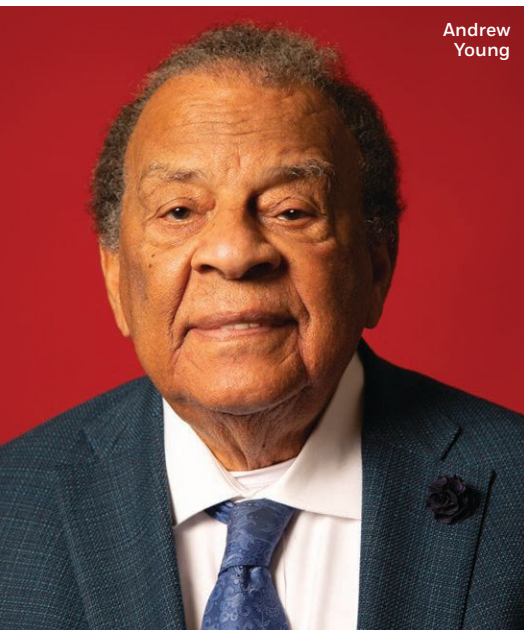
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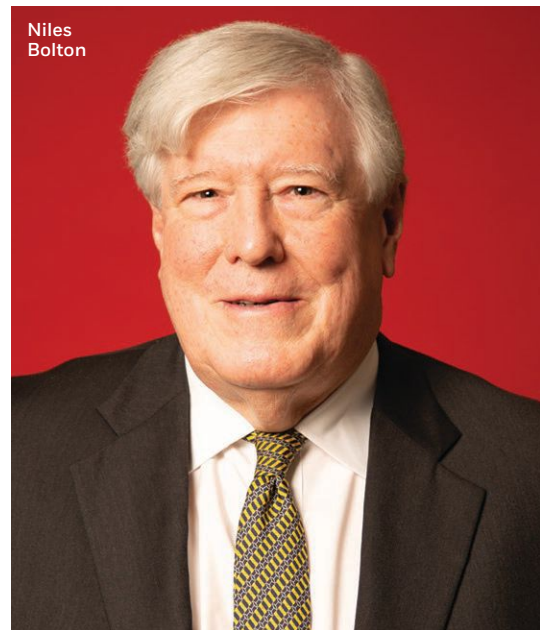
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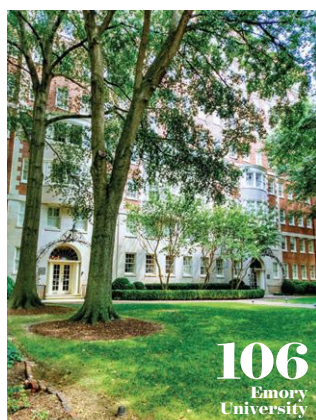
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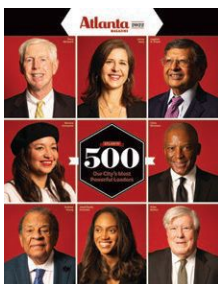
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Congratulations to Jenna Kelly, John Gregg, and Kathy Farrell for being named again in *Atlanta* magazine's top 500 most influential leaders in Atlanta. Your exceptional leadership and commitment to excellence make us better. Each of this year's honorees strengthens our community and enriches our future—thank you all.



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### HOW TO LEAD

**“Humility: to recognize and learn from mistakes, accept and embrace different perspectives, and promote recognition of others”**

**DOUGLAS GRAHAM, MD, PHD**  
Chief, Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta

▲  
This year, we asked members of the 500 to reflect on what makes a good leader. You'll find their inspiring answers scattered throughout the issue.

# Congratulations!

On behalf of the more than 33,500 employees across the Woodruff Health Sciences Center and Emory Healthcare, we salute Emory leaders selected for the **Atlanta 500**. Thank you for your vision and leadership that inspires us in our mission to improve lives and provide hope.

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# LEADERSHIP AT ITS BEST

**VERY FREQUENTLY**, my mind goes back to one of the first headlines I saw tweeted at the beginning of the pandemic that said, in short, the quality of one's leadership would be on full display during this crisis. Already feeling the pangs of an uncertainty the magnitude of which most of us had never experienced, somehow, I felt comforted by the notion that leading well during the pandemic was on someone else's mind. I was encouraged that thought leaders were offering expertise on how to dig deeper as well as truly thinking top to bottom about organizations across industries and spheres.

My circle of friends and colleagues compared notes almost daily about the changes we were seeing and how we were faring, not just as individuals but as teams within our various workforce segments. I have read a lot about companies piv-

oting to survive, but the reality is that for businesses to keep going through the pandemic, the people behind brands had to keep going. People were able to keep performing, innovating, and succeeding because of effective leadership.

Pre-pandemic, from the solace of normalcy, I thought of successful leadership in big concepts like ambition and perseverance. Don't get me wrong—those themes are still extremely useful to realizing success as a leader. But, what I've found since early 2020 is that defining leadership is in the nuances; and that is what I discovered among the Atlantans featured in this year's *Atlanta 500* issue.

What makes this list of corporate, non-profit, civic, entrepreneurial, religious, and creative leaders the cream of the crop is more than their titles or stations at the top of their organizations. It's the thoughtful way that they have gone about considering their work and the work of their companies—people first. Finding the value in people from their employees to the customers they serve and the communities they call home is what undergirds the organizations they head.

It is obvious that they have something in common in that they understand nobody rises to the top by themselves.

**KATRICE L. MINES**

*Guest Editor*



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# legends

the names who need no introduction

## BUSINESS

### Jeff Arnold

At age 28, Arnold founded WebMD and grew it into a \$1 billion revenue company. Next came the Convex Group, a media and internet investment organization that acquired HowStuffWorks, then sold it to Discovery Communications, where Arnold met Dr. Mehmet Oz, who collaborated with him to launch yet another health-focused website, Sharecare. In 2021, the company went public, debuting on Nasdaq with a valuation of nearly \$4 billion.

### J. Veronica Biggins

Biggins is currently the managing partner of the Atlanta office of Diversified Search. Previously, she served as director of presidential personnel and assistant to President Bill Clinton. She was also vice chair of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.

### Michael J. Coles

After a long career in the clothing business, Coles founded the Great American Cookie Co. with Arthur Karp in 1977. They grew an initial \$8,000 investment into the largest cookie store franchise in the United States. The serial entrepreneur has chaired the Georgia Film Commission and served on the University System of Georgia Board of Regents, the Kennesaw State University Foundation Board, and the Walker School Board.

### Lonnie G. Johnson

Johnson earned his master's degree in nuclear engineering from Tuskegee University and went on to work for the U.S. Air Force and the NASA space program. Experimenting with high-powered water guns, he invented the bestselling Super Soaker. He has since been developing the Johnson thermoelectric energy converter (JTEC), an

engine that converts heat directly into electricity, a potential source of low-cost solar power.

### R. Charles Loudermilk Sr.

Loudermilk founded Aaron's, a lease-to-own retailer, in 1955 with a \$500 bank loan. He took the company public in 1982. In 2009, the Atlanta City Council changed the name of Buckhead Triangle Park to Charlie Loudermilk Park in honor of his contributions to the neighborhood. He helped build the Omni and once owned the Atlanta Hawks and the Flames.

### Sig Mosley

As president of Imlay Investments and then managing partner of Mosley Ventures, Mosley has invested in 120 start-ups since 1990—likely making him Atlanta's most active angel investor. He helped nurture the city's technology industry.

## PROFESSIONALS

### Joel Babbitt

Babbitt is CEO of Narrative Content Group, which he founded in 2009 with Rolling Stones keyboardist Chuck Leavell, and which launched the sustainability website Mother Nature Network (sold in 2020). Narrative has created and distributed content for many of the world's leading brands, including Coca-Cola, Mercedes-Benz, and Subway.

### Emmet Bondurant

A partner at Bondurant Mixson & Elmore, Bondurant has been recognized by the *National Law Journal* as one of the top 10 trial lawyers in the United States.

### Xernona Clayton

Media pioneer Clayton worked with Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King and launched the Trum-pet Awards in 1993.

### Bob Hope

President and cofounder of Hope-Beckham communications firm, Hope was public relations director for the Atlanta Braves in the Hank Aaron era.

### Bunnie

### Jackson-Ransom

Jackson-Ransom is the president and CEO of firstClass, a public relations and marketing firm founded in 1975.

### Glen Jackson

In 1995, Atlanta native Jackson cofounded the marketing communications agency Jackson Spalding with Bo Spalding, and he continues to provide leadership for many of its clients. He's also the author of the book *Pre-eminence: What It Means and How to Sustain It*.

### Valerie Jackson

The WABE radio host was the wife of Mayor Maynard Jackson and helped prepare the city for the 1988 Democratic National Convention and the 1996 Olympic Games.

### Tom Johnson

Under Johnson's leadership, the *Los Angeles Times* received six Pulitzer Prizes. As president of CNN, he worked closely with founder Ted Turner to pioneer the 24-hour news cycle.

### Hank Klibanoff

The Pulitzer-winning author is now a professor in Emory's Creative Writing Program. He coauthored *The Race Beat*.

### Monica Pearson

Pearson was the first woman and first minority to anchor the daily evening news in Atlanta, where she worked for 37 years at WSB-TV. She has won more than 33 Southern Regional and local Emmy Awards.

### Joey Reiman

Reiman was founder and

chairman of the global consultancy BrightHouse. In 2018, he cofounded Brand New World Studios, which produces "purpose-inspired movies" to connect businesses to consumers. He also teaches creative and critical thinking at Emory University's Goizueta Business School.

### Lois Reitzes

Reitzes began working at WABE-FM 90.1, the National Public Radio affiliate in Atlanta, in 1979 as a music programmer and announcer, becoming program director in 1992. Now, she hosts *City Lights*, *Second Cup*, and other series.

### Alexis Scott

Retired as publisher of the *Atlanta Daily World*, founded by her grandfather in 1928, Scott was a longtime member of FOX 5's Georgia Gang.

### Frank Ski

Described as a rainmaker of urban radio, Ski began his career as a disc jockey and recording artist and has evolved into a radio, film, and TV personality, motivational speaker, journalist, and philanthropist. Twenty years ago, he launched the Frank Ski Kids Foundation, which exposes young people to science, technology, athletics, and the arts.

### Ted Turner

Founder of CNN, TNT, Cartoon Network, and Turner Classic Movies, the avid environmentalist donated \$1 billion to fund the United Nations Foundation.

## REAL ESTATE, ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

### Thomas E. Aderhold

Chairman of Aderhold Properties, Atlanta's premier loft apartment owner and manager, Aderhold focuses on historic properties and



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offering creatively designed residential and commercial lofts. Named chairman of the company in 2014, he has been intimately involved in the Atlanta real estate and development markets for more than 40 years.

## **Antonin Aeck**

Aeck is chairman emeritus and a founding principal of the architecture, interiors, planning, and preservation firm Lord Aeck Sargent. His career began in Paris, where he worked on completing the late Le Corbusier's final unfinished design commissions.

## **Robert L. Brown Jr.**

Brown established his firm R L Brown & Associates in 1984. He has held leadership positions with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, and many other organizations. He is a former chair of the Georgia Department of Transportation.

## **William Millard Choate**

Choate is executive chairman of Choate Construction, one of the largest commercial building contractors in the Southeast. He founded his company in 1989.

## **Jerome M. Cooper**

In 1960, Cooper cofounded Cooper Carry, an architecture and design firm based in Atlanta. He has received the Rothschild Award, the highest honor granted by the Georgia chapter of the American Institute of Architects; in 2018, the AIA named Cooper Carry its Architecture Firm of the Year. As a student, he received a Fulbright Fellowship and studied under architect Bruno Zevi in Rome.

## **Tom Cousins**

Cofounder of Cousins Properties, one of the nation's largest equity real estate investment trusts, Cousins developed Atlanta landmarks such as the CNN Center, the Omni Coliseum, 191 Peachtree Tower, Bank of

America Plaza, and Wildwood Office Park. With his wife, Ann, he established the Cousins Foundation and the CF Foundation, and they were instrumental in rehabilitating East Lake. In 2009, Cousins established Purpose Built Communities in partnership with philanthropists Warren Buffett and Julian Robertson.

## **Lawrence L. Gellerstedt III**

Gellerstedt joined Cousins Properties in 2005 when it acquired his firm, and later led the company as chairman and CEO. Through high-profile urban deals and a major merger with Parkway Properties, he led Cousins from an equity market cap of \$665 million to more than \$3.8 billion.

## **Oscar Harris**

A notable architect, fine artist, and author, Harris founded Atlanta's Turner Associates, which designed parts of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the iconic Centennial Olympic Park light towers, the MLK Visitors Center, and Georgia State Student Center, among many other prominent projects. He now spends much of his time painting and encouraging students to enter the fields of architecture, construction, and engineering.

## **Bill Johnson**

Founder of the Johnson Studio at Cooper Carry and now design adviser, Johnson is an architect and interior designer lauded for his highly personal approach to restaurant design. Since launching his restaurant-design career with Atlanta's Peachtree Cafe in the early 1980s, he's worked on local projects including Chops Lobster Bar, Seeger's, Aria, and Rathbun's.

## **Steve Selig**

During Selig's tenure as president, Selig Enterprises has helped develop key proj-

ects such as the Buckhead Triangle, Logan Circle, the Plaza Midtown, the District at Howell Mill, 12th & Midtown, and the Works. From 1976 to 1980, he served as President Carter's chief liaison with the business community, and he chaired the host committee for the 1988 Democratic National Convention in Atlanta. His family endowed the Selig Center for Economic Growth at the University of Georgia.

## **Ivenue Love-Stanley & William J. Stanley III**

Since 1978, Stanley and Love-Stanley have focused on integrating architecture and interior design. As one of the largest Black architectural practices in the South, they have been responsible for many landmark projects in Atlanta and throughout the region. Their award-winning projects include the Olympic Aquatic Center at Georgia Institute of Technology and Ebenezer Baptist Church.

## **John Wieland**

Over three decades and with more than 25,000 homes, Wieland established his company as the Southeast's leading builder of semi-custom homes. He has been inducted into the Home Builders Association of Georgia's Hall of Fame and has received the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association's lifetime achievement award.

## **GOVERNMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Nathan Deal**

Deal served as a prosecutor, judge, state senator, and U.S. congressman for Georgia's 9th District before being elected Georgia's 82nd governor in 2010 and reelected in 2014. Deal's tenure was marked by efforts in transportation, criminal justice reform, and education reform.

### **Pat Epps**

In 1965, Epps bought a small

fixed-base operation at DeKalb Peachtree Airport and launched Epps Air Service. He has grown the original facility into a hub serving local and international businesses. His many honors include the National Business Aviation Association's American Spirit Award and lifetime achievement award. Epps has also been inducted into the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame.

## **Shirley Franklin**

Inaugurated in 2002, Franklin became Atlanta's 58th mayor. She was not only the city's first female mayor, but also the first African-American woman to helm any major Southern city. A former protégé of mayors Maynard Jackson and Andrew Young, she helped bring the Olympic Games to Atlanta. She received the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award in 2005.

## **Johnny Isakson**

In 2016, Isakson became the first Georgia Republican ever to be elected to a third term in the U.S. Senate. He is also the only Georgian ever to be elected to the state House, state Senate, U.S. House, and U.S. Senate. The Atlanta native is a respected businessman with more than 40 years of experience in the real estate industry. He stepped down from the Senate at the end of 2019.

## **Keisha Lance Bottoms**

In 2018, Bottoms took office as Atlanta's 60th mayor—only the second woman to hold the city's highest municipal government seat. She's also the only mayor in city history to have been elected to all three branches of government, serving previously as a judge and city councilmember.

## **Sam Massell**

Beginning his career in real estate, Massell served 22 years in elected offices, including eight as president of Atlanta's Board of Aldermen



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and four as the city's mayor from 1970 to 1974. As mayor, Massell established MARTA and developed minority opportunities in city government. Later, he became the founding president of the Buckhead Coalition.

## Kasim Reed

Reed served two terms as Atlanta's 59th mayor, beginning in 2010. Prior to that, he spent 11 years as a member of the Georgia General Assembly, first elected in 1998 as a state representative, then serving from 2002 to 2009 in the state Senate. He's a former partner in the litigation practice of Holland & Knight, an international law firm with offices in Atlanta, where he specialized in entertainment law.

## Leah Ward Sears

Now in private practice with Smith, Gambrell & Russell, Sears was the first woman to serve as a judge on the Superior Court of Fulton County. Four years later she was appointed, and then elected, to become a justice on the Supreme Court of Georgia—the first woman and youngest jurist ever to receive that title. From 2001 to 2005, she became the presiding justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, eventually being named chief justice.

## Andrew J. Young

A protégé of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Young was a leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He helped draft the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. He was Georgia's first African-American congressman since Reconstruction. President Carter tapped him to be the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. He served two terms as mayor of Atlanta and helped bring the 1996 Olympics here. His accolades have included the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Morehouse College's Andrew Young Center for Global Leadership is named

for him, as is Georgia State University's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies.

## ARTS, SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT

### Vincent Anthony

Anthony founded the Center for Puppetry Arts in 1978. Under his leadership, the center received a record 12 Citations of Excellence from UNIMA-USA, the U.S. division of Union Internationale de la Marionnette, the international organization for the art of puppetry. A native of Sarasota, Florida, Anthony has also received a personal Citation of Excellence from UNIMA-USA—puppetry's most prestigious award.

### Zac Brown

Brown is the founder, front man, and lead vocalist for his eponymous, multiplatinum, Grammy Award-winning Southern rock group. He is a songwriter, producer, record label head, businessman, and philanthropist.

### Peter Conlon

As president of Live Nation Atlanta, Conlon books the city's top venues, from Chastain Park to State Farm Arena. He cofounded Music Midtown in 1994 with the late Alex Cooley, whom he befriended while arranging concerts for Jimmy Carter's presidential campaign. The longtime collaborators became the city's most powerful music promoters.

### Bobby Cox

A former pro infielder, Cox led major league teams for three decades, racking up more than 2,500 victories. In the 1990s, he led the Atlanta Braves to 14 straight division championships, five National League pennants, and a 1995 World Series title.

### Lisa M. Cremin

During a quarter century with the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Cremin oversaw an innovative suite of programs serving local arts organizations—including the Metropolitan

Atlanta Arts Fund, which she helped found to support small to midsized groups.

### Vince Dooley

Serving from 1963 to 1988, Dooley is the most successful football coach in the University of Georgia's history. Under Dooley, the Bulldogs won one national championship and six SEC championships. He also served as director of athletics from 1979 to 2004 and was the only person ever to be president of both the American Football Coaches Association and the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics.

### Fay Gold

Gold pioneered contemporary art in Atlanta. She operated one of the nation's top galleries here for nearly 30 years, staging groundbreaking exhibitions of artists such as Jean-Michel Basquiat, Cindy Sherman, Robert Rauschenberg, Alex Katz, Keith Haring, Irving Penn, Andres Serrano, and Robert Mapplethorpe.

### Indigo Girls

Performing together since high school, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers released a self-titled record for Epic in 1989 that became the first of six consecutive gold- and/or platinum-certified albums. One of the most successful folk duos in history, they have enjoyed a 35-year career that began in clubs around their native Atlanta. Their most recent album, *Look Long*, was released in 2020.

### Tom Key

Now retired from his longtime role as artistic director of the Theatrical Outfit, Key has appeared on many national stages as well as those of the Alliance Theatre, Kenny Leon's True Colors Theatre, and the Atlanta Opera. He has received the Governor's Award in the Humanities and the Georgia Arts and Entertainment Legacy Award.

### Chuck Leavell

A conservationist, sustainable-development advocate, tech entrepreneur, and the Rolling Stones' musical director for more than 20 years, Leavell cofounded the Mother Nature Network, which he sold in 2020. He's also a Grammy-winning keyboardist who has recorded with Eric Clapton, George Harrison, and the Allman Brothers Band, and the author of four books, including an autobiography, a children's book, and a history of American forests.

### Kenny Leon

Leon is the former artistic director of Atlanta's True Colors Theatre Company, which he cofounded with Jane Bishop in 2002 following 11 years as artistic director of the Alliance Theatre. Leon is a Tony Award-winning film and theater director whose Broadway credits include *Fences*, *A Raisin in the Sun* starring Denzel Washington, and *The Mountaintop* starring Samuel L. Jackson and Angela Bassett.

### Hala Modellmog

In 2014, Modellmog became the first female president and CEO of the Metro Atlanta Chamber. And, in 2020, she was named president and CEO of the Woodruff Arts Center.

### Billy Payne

A lawyer and real estate developer, Payne is best known as CEO of the Atlanta Committee for the 1996 Olympic Games and then president and CEO of the games themselves. He chaired Augusta National Golf Club for more than 10 years, during which women were first admitted to membership.

### Alicia Philipp

When Philipp joined the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta in 1977, the philanthropic anchor institution had \$7 million in assets. Before she retired as president in 2020, the organization had grown to more than



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\$1 billion under management, providing grants to organizations in 23 counties.

## **Camille Russell Love**

Former art gallery owner Russell Love has served as executive director of Atlanta's Office of Cultural Affairs since Bill Campbell was mayor. She oversees programs such as Chastain Arts Center, the city's Public Art Program (including Elevate), and the Atlanta Jazz Festival.

## **John Schuerholz**

A Baltimore native, Schuerholz began his baseball career with the Orioles, helping build a Kansas City Royals team that won the World Series in 1985. In 1991, he teamed up with Bobby Cox to help the Braves go from "worst to first" and win the National League pennant. Then from 1991 to 2005, the Braves finished first in their division in every completed season. He was the first general manager whose teams captured World Series titles in both the American and National Leagues.

## **Robert Spano**

Spano has served as the music director of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra since 2001, retiring at the end of the 2020-2021 season. He has led performances at the Metropolitan Opera, Carnegie Hall, and Lincoln Center, and won four Grammys. He's one of only two classical musicians in the Georgia Music Hall of Fame. A dedicated mentor, Spano is responsible for nurturing the careers of numerous celebrated composers, conductors, and performers.

## **Mary Stanley**

Stanley founded her eponymous studio in 2004 and has long been a vibrant presence on the Atlanta art scene—as a private art consultant, artist representative, and curator who's organized shows at the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, Hathaway

Contemporary Gallery, and Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia.

## **Lucinda Weil Bunnan**

Photographer Bunnan has published seven books. Her images have appeared in many public collections, including the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York, Pushkin Museum in Moscow, and the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. A photography collection at the High Museum bears her name.

## **EDUCATION & HEALTHCARE**

### **William Foege, MD, MPH**

Considered a titan of epidemiology, Foege was instrumental in the successful campaign to eradicate smallpox in the 1970s. At Emory University, he holds the title of Emeritus Presidential Distinguished Professor of International Health, in addition to being a Gates Fellow and former Carter Center leader.

### **David Satcher, MD, PhD**

A renowned physician, public health leader, and scholar, Satcher is best known for serving as the 16th U.S. Surgeon General. Prior to that, he was director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He is the founding director of the Satcher Health Leadership Institute at Morehouse School of Medicine.

### **Alana Shepherd**

Shepherd and her husband Harold cofounded Atlanta's Shepherd Center in 1975. The facility has grown from a six-bed unit to a world-renowned hospital specializing in research, medical treatment, and rehabilitation for people with spinal cord and brain injuries and other neurological conditions.

### **Louis W. Sullivan, MD**

With the exception of his four-year tenure as secre-

tary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, which ended in 1993, Sullivan was president of Morehouse School of Medicine for more than 20 years. Today, he's the chairman of the National Health Museum in Atlanta, the Washington, D.C.-based Sullivan Alliance to Transform the Health Professions, and the Georgia Global Health Alliance, which seeks to advance global health equity by facilitating collaboration among business, academic, nonprofit, and government partners.

### **Beverly Tatum**

A noted scholar, teacher, author, administrator, and race relations expert, Tatum was the ninth president of Spelman College. Tatum is a licensed clinical psychologist with an MA and PhD from the University of Michigan, as well as an MA in religious studies from Hartford Seminary, and is the author of the acclaimed 1997 book *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations about Race*.

### **Comer Yates**

A champion of education and literacy, Emory Law graduate and former high school teacher Yates has served since 1998 as executive director of the Atlanta Speech School.

## **RESTAURANTS & HOSPITALITY**

### **Bob Amick**

As a partner in Peasant Restaurants, Amick grew the company to dozens of locations nationally before selling. He helped create concepts such as Mick's and City Grill. Next came Killer Creek Chophouse, which he also sold. Finally, Amick launched Concen-trics restaurants, which have been nominated for several James Beard Awards including Outstanding Restaurateur and Best Restaurant.

### **Pano Karatassos**

When Karatassos opened Pano's and Paul's in 1979, he revolutionized Atlanta's dining scene. As founder and CEO of the Buckhead Life group, he has gone on to open more than a dozen eateries in Atlanta, as well as in South Florida. He earned the National Restaurant Association's Legend Fine Dining Award in 2008 and has been named to *Nation's Restaurant News's* Fine Dining Hall of Fame.

### **Gerry Klaskala**

Klaskala came to Atlanta after graduating from the Culinary Institute of America in 1976. He and George McKerrrow, founder of LongHorn Steakhouse, launched Canoe in 1995. He also opened Aria, which has been awarded the highest cumulative Zagat score of all Atlanta restaurants, in 2000. As a consultant, Klaskala helped launch Buckhead Diner, Horseradish Grill, Atlas, and Murphy's. He has supported the Atlanta Community Food Bank, Georgia Organics, the High Museum of Art, and Southface.

### **George McKerrrow**

McKerrrow opened his first LongHorn Steakhouse in 1981 and grew it into RARE Hospitality International, which owns LongHorn Steakhouse and the Capital Grille. He sold the company to Darden Restaurants in 2007. Cofounder and CEO of Ted's Montana Grill with Ted Turner, he is also cofounder of Aria and Canoe with chef Gerry Klaskala and Ron San Martin. McKerrrow has served on the board of the National Restaurant Association and the Culinary Institute of America. His many honors include the first Lifetime Achievement Award from the Georgia Restaurant Association.




### **Tom Murphy**

Longtime Virginia-Highland restaurateur Murphy got his start at age 11, when his father gave him and his



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Jai Ferrell on being named one  
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brother a New York-style hot dog cart. Next, he ran a cheese shop in what became Sweet Auburn Market. Then, while he was at Georgia State University, he did a feasibility study on opening a neighborhood deli. He ended up getting financing for the project, which over four decades has grown into the iconic Murphy's Restaurant on Virginia Avenue.

## Steve Nygren

Nygren opened the Pleasant Peasant in 1972 and grew the company to 34 restaurants in eight states before selling. In 1994, he, his wife Marie, and their three daughters relocated to Chattahoochee Hills, where they helped design a novel land-use plan that preserves the countryside while building a new wellness- and art-centered community. Serenbe's many awards include the Urban Land Institute's inaugural Sustainability Award, the Atlanta Regional Commission Development of Excellence, and EarthCraft's Development of the Year.

## Anne Quatrano

Quatrano has helped steer the trajectory of Atlanta's dining scene for more than two decades. She was one of the city's first chefs to showcase local ingredients prepared with precision and presented artfully. Much of what she serves at her restaurants—Bacchanalia, Star Provisions, Floataway Cafe, and W.H. Stiles Fish Camp—comes from her Summerland Farm in Cartersville. In 2003, Quatrano received the James Beard Foundation's Best Chef: Southeast award.

## Virginia Willis

Georgia-born, French-trained chef Willis is the author of *Secrets of the Southern Table: A Food Lover's Tour of the Global South and Lighten Up, Y'all: Classic Southern Recipes Made Healthy and Whole-some*, which won a 2016

James Beard Award in the category Focus on Health. Willis has appeared on *Chopped*, *Martha Stewart Living*, and other shows.

## RELIGION, NONPROFITS & ADVOCACY

### Billye Aaron

Originally an English teacher, Aaron launched her TV career in 1968 as a cohost for WSB's *Today in Georgia*, which made her the region's first African-American woman to cohost a daily, hour-long talk show. She also held many leadership positions with the Atlanta branch of the United Negro College Fund, helping launch the Mayor's Masked Ball. After retiring in 1994, she and her husband, baseball icon Hank Aaron, started the Hank Aaron Chasing the Dream Foundation to help low-income children pursue their educations.

### Sally Bethea

Bethea was the founding director and riverkeeper of Chattahoochee Riverkeeper for two decades—helping downstream communities sue the City of Atlanta and forcing it to clean up the river. She has served on the national boards of Waterkeeper Alliance and River Network, the Georgia Board of Natural Resources, and EarthShare of Georgia.

### Bill Bolling

Bolling founded the Atlanta Community Food Bank in 1979 and directed the organization until 2015. During his tenure, the Food Bank distributed more than half a billion pounds of groceries across 29 Georgia counties. As a charter member of Feeding America, the national network of food banks, he also helped launch food banks across the country.

### Jimmy Carter

The 39th president of the United States, Carter won

the Nobel Peace Prize in 2002. A longtime supporter of Habitat for Humanity, he and his wife, Rosalynn, founded the Carter Center in 1982 to promote human rights and ease suffering around the world. He is the author of more than 30 books.

### Rosalynn Carter

Carter is a longtime advocate for mental health, caregiving, early childhood immunization, human rights, and conflict resolution. A cofounder of the Carter Center with her husband, former president Jimmy Carter, she created and leads the Center's Mental Health Task Force. She also heads up the board of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving at her alma mater, Georgia Southwestern State University, in Americus, Georgia.

### Ann Q. Curry

Curry purchased Coxe Curry & Associates, a fundraising consulting firm, from prior owner Frankie Coxe in 1993, and helmed it until 2015. She has also held leadership positions with the League of Women Voters, the board of Research Atlanta, and Atlanta-Fulton Public Library. Still actively advising many clients, her major campaigns have included the \$325 million Greater Grady campaign for the Grady Health Foundation, Spelman College's \$150 million campaign, and the Piedmont Park Conservancy's \$41.2 million expansion.

### Plemon T. El-Amin

El-Amin became imam (now emeritus) of Atlanta Masjid of Al-Islam in 1985, growing its membership from 200 to more than 2,000; it's now one of the largest and most progressive mosques in the country. A leader in Atlanta's interfaith community and a close aide to the late W. Deen Mohammed, El-Amin is former director of Sister Clara Mohammed Elemen-

tary School and W. Deen Mohammed High School.

### Bernie Marcus

A cofounder of the Home Depot, Marcus has devoted himself to many philanthropic causes. He founded the Israel Democracy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank in Israel, as well as the Marcus Autism Center in Atlanta. In 2002, Marcus gave \$3.9 million to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to create an emergency anthrax response center. He also spearheaded the Georgia Aquarium.

### Charles H.

### "Pete" McTier

For many decades, McTier led the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation and several other Atlanta foundations funded by the corporate and bottling arms of Coca-Cola. He played a role in the creation of Centennial Olympic Park and the Chattahoochee River Greenway, as well as supporting the Woodruff Arts Center, Central Atlanta Progress, Emory University, and more.

### Ingrid Saunders Jones

A past national chair of the National Council of Negro Women, Jones was formerly a senior vice president of the Coca-Cola Co. and directed many of the company's philanthropic efforts, including overseeing contributions of more than \$460 million for community initiatives.

### Bryant Wright

Wright is the founder and chairman of Right From The Heart Ministries, an international media ministry, and president of international relief organization, Send Relief. He retired as the founding senior pastor of Johnson Ferry Baptist Church in 2019, where he had pastored for 38 years and grown the church to over 7,300 members.



## Lynn Smith

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President and CEO  
Synovus

Kevin Blair joined Synovus in August 2016 as executive vice president and chief financial officer. He was appointed senior executive vice president and chief operating officer in December 2018 and was named president in December 2019. Blair was elected to the board of directors in December 2020 and became president and CEO on April 22, 2021. His financial services career began at Signet Bank in Richmond, Virginia, in 1995 and has included leadership in such areas as corporate strategy, line management, strategic finance, and credit risk management.

**EDUCATION** James Madison University, George Washington University (MBA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Becoming CEO of Synovus Bank, the largest bank headquartered in Georgia. Father of four amazing children, ages 6 to 22. Led \$7.2 million United Way annual fundraising campaign in 2020, a record for the Chattahoochee Valley region.

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Banking is a noble profession. I feel we have the opportunity each day to help our clients achieve their financial goals and objectives.



**Raphael W. Bostic**

President and CEO  
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta

Raphael W. Bostic is president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, and a current voting member of the Federal Open Market Committee, the monetary policymaking body of the Federal Reserve System. In 2017, he was recognized as a Planning Pioneer by the American Planning Association's Los Angeles section, and he received an Urban Leadership Award from the Penn Institute for Urban Research in 2011. He is currently the chair of the Metro Atlanta Chamber. Bostic is a native of Delran, New Jersey.

**EDUCATION** Harvard University, Stanford University (PhD)

**HOBBIES** Birdwatching, sports

**NONPROFITS** Affordable housing, Audubon Society, Nature Conservancy, Human Rights Campaign

**BUCKET LIST** Visiting the state capitol in Honolulu to complete goal of visiting the state capitol buildings in all 50 states



**Cynthia N. Day**

President and CEO  
Citizens Bancshares Corporation and Citizens Trust Bank

Cynthia Day provides the vision and strategic direction for Citizens Trust Bank. During her tenure, the bank continues to reach many milestones, including achieving record-level earnings since the inception of the institution. Navigating unprecedented times and a rapidly changing and competitive market landscape, Citizens Trust Bank remains healthy and financially strong. These achievements continue to receive recognition as Citizens Trust Bank has been consistently named one of the top African-American-owned commercial banks in the country. On numerous occasions before it went private in 2017, the company was cited by the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* as one of Georgia's top 100 publicly traded companies.

**EDUCATION** University of Alabama

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans Award (2020), Atlanta Business League CEO of the Year (2014)



**Mike Donnelly**

Region President of  
North Georgia  
Wells Fargo

Mike Donnelly is region president of Wells Fargo consumer banking operations in North Georgia, one of the company's top three markets in total consumer households served. An active civic leader, he's held leadership positions with the Metro Atlanta Chamber, the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership, the Buckhead Coalition, the Woodruff Arts Center, and the University of Georgia Board of Visitors. Donnelly chaired the 2016-2017 campaign for the United Way of Greater Atlanta. He chairs the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education and is a past chair of Leadership Atlanta.

**EDUCATION** Radford University



**Kathy Farrell**

Head, Commercial  
Real Estate  
Truist Financial  
Corporation

Kathy S. Farrell has more than 25 years of experience in real estate finance and banking, including origination, underwriting, capital markets, workout strategies, and risk management. Currently the head of commercial real estate at Truist, Kathy held the same title with SunTrust prior to the closing of the SunTrust-BB&T merger that formed Truist in December 2019. Farrell has also served at SunTrust as chief risk officer for commercial real estate, head of the REIT banking group, and REIT senior credit officer. Previously, she was executive vice president and credit executive of commercial real estate for PNC Bank.

**EDUCATION** College of the Holy Cross

**HOMETOWN** Bridgeport, Connecticut

**FIRST JOB** Stuffing and rolling jelly doughnuts at Devore's Bakery in my hometown

**WHAT I'D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Be patient and work hard at your current job. Careers are a marathon and not a sprint.



**Ryan Glover**

Chairman  
Greenwood LLC

Ryan Glover, chairman and co-founder of the digital bank Greenwood, has more than 20 years of experience delivering products focused on the African American community. Glover, a seasoned entertainment industry vet, started Bounce TV in 2011. Bounce was the first African-American nationwide broadcast network. The Richmond, California, native also founded Noontime Records, a label responsible for more than a dozen Billboard No. 1 hits. He co-founded Greenwood in 2020 intending to help solve the generational wealth cap problem for the Black and Latinx communities. The digital bank's name pays homage to the Tulsa, Oklahoma, district of Greenwood, which was known as "Black Wall Street" in the 1920s.

**EDUCATION** Howard University

**FIRST JOB** Gas station attendant

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** With God all things are possible.

**HIDDEN TALENT** Amazing chef

**HOBBIES** Coaching youth sports

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Africa

**WHAT I'D TELL YOUR 18-YEAR-OLD SELF**

Life is a marathon, not a sprint. Keep working.



## Berwyn James "BJ" Green

Executive Vice President  
Cadence Bank

As executive vice president and Georgia commercial banking executive at Cadence Bank, BJ Green oversees the strategic development, growth, quality, and profitability of commercial activities in Georgia. With over 25 years of experience in investment banking, corporate, and commercial banking (Banc of America Securities, SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, Wachovia), the Greensboro, North Carolina, native provides oversight and direction to the commercial banking team, which is focused on meeting the banking and financing needs of clients in a variety of industries. Green is an alumnus of Leadership Georgia's Class of 2012, and is either an active or past board member of Trees Atlanta, Woodruff Arts Center, Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Metro Atlanta Chamber, Kennan-Flagler Business School Alumni Council, and St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP Georgia - Poverty Alleviation).

**EDUCATION** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Emory University (MBA)

**FIRST JOB** Mowing yards in my neighborhood for \$10

**LESSON LEARNED** Every time you get promoted it gets harder, not easier.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT** Lake Rabun



## John N. Gregg

Chairman and CEO,  
Truist Securities  
Truist Financial Corp.

John Gregg is chairman and CEO of Truist Securities, the corporate and investment banking division of Truist Financial Corporation. Prior to the closing of the SunTrust-BB&T merger to form Truist in December 2019, Gregg served as chairman and CEO of SunTrust Robinson Humphrey, and he has more than 30 years of experience in financial services. He currently serves on the board of Grady Health Foundation, where he helped establish the cycling event VeloCity, and was previously on the board of Trees Atlanta.

**EDUCATION** North Carolina State University, Duke University Fuqua School of Business (MBA)

**HOMETOWN** Charlotte, North Carolina



## Hank Halter

CEO  
Delta Community  
Credit Union

Hank Halter is an accounting and finance professional with nearly 30 years of experience overseeing finance and accounting operations at Fortune 100 companies. Since 2013, he's served as CEO of Delta Community Credit Union, one of Atlanta's largest financial institutions and Georgia's largest credit union. Halter, a CPA, came to the credit union from Delta Air Lines, where he held a variety of roles, including chief financial officer. Previously, he worked at American Airlines and Ernst & Young.

**EDUCATION** Villanova University, Duke University (MBA)

**HOMETOWN** Savannah, Georgia

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Helping lead Delta Air Lines through financial reorganization in the years after the 9/11 terrorist attacks

**FAVORITE TV SHOW** *House of Cards*

**BUCKET LIST** Convincing every consumer to find a credit union to join

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Matt Damon



## Jenna Kelly

Georgia Regional  
President  
Truist Financial  
Corporation

Jenna Kelly is the Truist regional president for Georgia, responsible for leading client management and business development efforts in the state. Prior to the 2019 SunTrust-BB&T merger, Kelly served as president of the Georgia division of SunTrust Bank. Previously, she was SunTrust's Charlotte Region president. Kelly began her career in 1993 with Trust Company of Georgia. She serves on the board of Camp Twin Lakes and the leadership council of Learn4Life.

**EDUCATION** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**HOMETOWN** Atlanta

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Leadership Atlanta class of 2019

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Banking offered the opportunity to feed my curiosity for how things work and to develop relationships in order to help companies grow.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Ask questions.

**BUCKET LIST** South America wine trip



## Randy Koporc

President and CEO  
Fifth Third Bank Georgia

Randy Koporc serves as president and CEO of Fifth Third Bank in Georgia, responsible for the growth and strategic alignment of the bank's commercial, wealth and asset management, and consumer businesses. Under his leadership, the bank has accelerated its growth in the region and worked with many local organizations to strengthen communities in the Atlanta area and beyond. Koporc has been with Fifth Third Bank since 2010; before joining the company he worked for more than two decades for Wells Fargo. He serves on the boards of the Metro Atlanta Chamber, the Westside Future Fund Development committee, Rotary Club of Atlanta, the Buckhead Coalition, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and other local groups.

**EDUCATION** University of Florida, University of Central Florida (MBA)

**HOMETOWN** Orlando, Florida

**FIRST JOB** Runway flight crew member for Delta Air Lines in Orlando

**HOBBIES** Coaching my kids in baseball, golf, traveling

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Chattahoochee River



## Aron Levine

President, Preferred and  
Consumer Banking and  
Investments  
Bank of America

Aron Levine is the president of Preferred and Consumer Banking and Investments for Bank of America as well as a member of the company's executive management team. Responsible for the growth of the Preferred business—one of Bank of America's eight lines of business, which provides banking, investing, and lending solutions to U.S. mass affluent customers—Levine also leads a team of more than 40,000 employees responsible for helping meet the financial needs of clients through the bank's Consumer Investments Group, which provides access to the investment insights of Merrill Lynch Wealth Management and the banking convenience of Bank of America.

**EDUCATION** University of Rochester

**HOMETOWN** New York, New York

**INSPIRING PERSON** Omar Bradley, one of the primary architects of the Normandy invasion, who later became general of the U.S. Army

**NONPROFITS** Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta, Horizons Atlanta, Operation HOPE



## William H. Linginfelter

President  
Regions Bank

Bill Linginfelter oversees commercial revenue growth, business model execution, and strategic planning in Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina for Regions, a Birmingham-based bank that operates throughout the South, Midwest, and Texas. Throughout his 40-year career, Linginfelter has held various management positions in the financial services industry. Prior to joining Regions in 2008, the Saint Simons Island native served as Georgia CEO for Wachovia, and before that was director of SouthTrust Bank's Enterprise Banking Division. He serves on many boards, is chair of the Georgia Allies, and is a past chair of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, and the Georgia Research Alliance.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**FIRST JOB** Paperboy on Saint Simons Island

**INSPIRING PERSON** Ronald Reagan

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** The beach

**BUCKET LIST** Italy



## Alfred L. McRae Jr.

President  
Bank of America Atlanta

In November, Alfred "Al" L. McRae Jr. became president of Bank of America Atlanta. His team includes about 5,000 workers in 120 offices. A native of Dublin, Georgia, McRae came to Atlanta to attend Georgia State University. He stresses Bank of America's commitment to serving the community and is especially concerned with racial equity. Last year, Bank of America committed \$1.25 billion nationally toward advancing racial equity and economic opportunity nationwide over a five-year period. Locally, the bank has supported the Atlanta University Center and organizations such as the Grove Park Foundation.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Proactively seek out those situations and positions that make you most uncomfortable; that's where the opportunity for growth and development will reside.

**WHAT I'D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Your reputation is the most valuable and enduring quality you will ever have.

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I have a deep passion for playing a role in the financial success of families and institutions.



## Eddie Meyers

Executive Vice President  
and Georgia President  
PNC Bank

Eddie Meyers serves as executive vice president and Georgia president for PNC Bank, and is PNC's first regional president of African-American and Latino descent. Named to his current position in 2011, Meyers previously served as executive vice president of PNC Business Credit and as senior vice president and national investment manager of Harris Williams, PNC's investment banking unit. In 2008, he helped facilitate the successful integration of National City Bank after its acquisition by PNC. A former Marine Corps captain who was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon for his service in the Gulf War, Meyers was also a running back for the Atlanta Falcons in the 1980s. He currently serves as an executive board member for the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and was a former chairman for Central Atlanta Progress and board member and officer of the Rotary Club of Atlanta.

**EDUCATION** U.S. Naval Academy, National University (MBA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** 1982 College Player of the Year, running back for the Atlanta Falcons, awarded the Combat Action Ribbon for Service in Gulf War



## David Preter

President and CEO  
Georgia's Own  
Credit Union

Dave Preter is president and CEO of Georgia's Own Credit Union, a nearly \$3 billion financial services institution. Before assuming his current role in 2011, Preter facilitated growth in the credit union industry by bolstering and executing the strategic plans of several organizations in the Midwest and Southeast. Under his leadership, Georgia's Own has seen membership grow by 24 percent and assets nearly double. Georgia's Own Foundation, which Preter created, amplifies the organization's commitment to the community by empowering local youth.

**EDUCATION** University of Missouri

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** Delivering papers at age 13, I learned that if you work harder and longer than others, you get more opportunities and better pay. That worked for my next three student jobs: caddie, fast food cook, and exterminator. I worked in my professional career too.

**FAVORITE MOVIE** The Marvel movies

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** The Varsity



## Jai Rogers

Vice President,  
Business and Community  
Development  
Delta Community  
Credit Union

Jai Rogers joined Delta Community Credit Union in 2012 as vice president of business and community development, overseeing a team responsible for identifying and developing business strategies with leading corporations throughout metro Atlanta and at multiple out-of-state branch locations. Rogers leads the execution of a comprehensive community-engagement strategy to strengthen civic, high school, and corporate collaborations. Prior to joining Delta Community, Rogers launched and directed the corporate development department at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta.

**EDUCATION** California State University, Long Beach

**INSPIRING PERSON** My mother always encouraged me to pursue my love of travel by telling me that I "can always come home" if my plans did not work out.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** My twin sister and I have the same first name.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Alaska, Bali, Costa Rica



## Jack Sawyer

Partner and  
Managing Director  
Cresset Capital  
Managing Director  
Navigation Capital

A partner and managing director for Cresset Capital in the Atlanta region, Jack Sawyer is a fiduciary attorney working in investment advisory services. He specializes in trust and estate management, charitable planning, private foundation administration, and family office services. He is also a managing director for Navigation Capital, focusing on their SPAC Operations Group. He is on the boards of several private foundations and nonprofits, including Andee's Army, the nsoro Foundation, the Atlanta Jewish Foundation, Open Hand, the Georgia Museum of Art, and the High Museum. He received the American Jewish Committee's National Human Relations Award in 2011 and has been honored by the Atlanta History Center Swan House Ball, the National Black Arts Festival, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, the United Negro College Fund Mayors' Masked Ball, Tiffany's Blue Angels, and more.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia, Mercer University School of Law (JD)

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Ruth Bader Ginsburg said, "If you want to be a true professional, you will do something outside yourself; something to make life a little better for people less fortunate than you."



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## Justin A. Sullivan

Senior Vice President and  
Market Leader  
**PNC Private Bank**

Justin A. Sullivan helps ensure that clients benefit from a full complement of investment, trust, financial planning, and private banking services to help them achieve their financial goals. He has regularly been featured on local television, national radio, and multiple written publications sharing advice on investments and financial planning and has been recognized and awarded by PNC for six consecutive years as a top-performing investment professional. In 2018, he was recognized by *InvestmentNews* magazine as one of the top 40 financial professionals under 40 years of age across the country. He currently serves on the board of X Books, a nonprofit which provides books for incarcerated individuals.

**EDUCATION** University of Pittsburgh

**HOMETOWN** Philadelphia

**FAVORITE BOOK** *Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood* by Trevor Noah

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Oktoberfest in Munich, Germany

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Center for Civil and Human Rights



## Douglas L. Williams

President and CEO  
**Atlantic Capital Bancshares**

Douglas L. Williams is president, CEO, and a director of Atlantic Capital Bank and its holding company, Atlantic Capital Bancshares. He has nearly 40 years of experience in banking, finance, and capital markets, and extensive experience in executive management roles at publicly held banking institutions. Previously, the Atlanta native was managing director and head of Wachovia's International Corporate Finance Group, with responsibility for Wachovia's investment banking and corporate finance activities in Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

**EDUCATION** Auburn University

**FIRST JOB** Corporate-banking trainee at Wachovia

**HOBBIES** Running, reading, spending time with family

**FAVORITE BOOKS** *The Last Lion*, William Manchester's three-volume biography of Winston Churchill



## Asad Abdulla

Managing Partner  
**Radazon Capital**

Asad Abdulla is the managing partner of Radazon Capital, an entrepreneurial investment fund that includes accomplished entrepreneurs and distinguished investors with a passion for growing lower-middle-market companies. Abdulla is actively involved in the Atlanta community and serves as a pro bono consultant for non-profit organizations and as a career mentor to aspiring professionals. In 2018, he was one of the Emory Alumni Association's annual 40 Under 40 honorees.

**EDUCATION** Emory University, Columbia Business School (MBA)

**FIRST JOB** Rolling burritos at Taco Bell

**WHAT I'D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Focus on developing a few distinct skills that may not always go together. Bringing these different skills together is what will differentiate you, just like the Chick-fil-A sauce magically brings together honey mustard, barbecue, and ranch in a unique and differentiated taste. What's your Chick-fil-A sauce?

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Savannah

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Downtown Decatur



## Neal Aronson

Founder and Managing  
Partner  
**Roark Capital Group**

Neal Aronson is founder and managing partner of Roark Capital Group, an Atlanta-based private equity firm that focuses on consumer and business service companies, with a specialization in franchised and multiunit business models in the restaurant, retail, consumer, and business services sectors. Affiliates of Roark have acquired 95 franchise/multi-location brands which generate approximately \$54 billion in system revenues from 64,000 locations located in 50 states and 89 countries. Prior to founding Roark, Aronson was cofounder and chief financial officer of U.S. Franchise Systems. Previously, he was a principal of Odyssey Partners, a principal and general partner at Acadia Partners (now Oak Hill Partners), and subsequently a managing director of a successor company, Rosecliff. He began his career in the corporate finance department at Drexel Burnham Lambert.

**EDUCATION** Lehigh University



## Robert Balentine

Chairman  
**Balentine**

Robert Balentine is chairman of Balentine, bringing more than 35 years of experience advising clients on matters related to their wealth and legacy. The Atlanta native has built, bought, and sold businesses and counseled many entrepreneurial clients on business and wealth management. In 2013, Balentine was the inaugural recipient of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce's Business Person of the Year Lifetime Achievement Award, and both *Barron's* and *Forbes* have named him one of the country's top wealth advisers.

**EDUCATION** Washington and Lee University

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Convincing 16 colleagues to leave secure jobs in the depths of the financial crisis to start over and build the kind of firm we would hire to manage our own money

**FAVORITE BOOK** *East of Eden* by John Steinbeck

**NONPROFITS** Southern Highlands Reserve, Garden Conservancy, Rotary International



## Andy Berg

Principal and CEO  
**Homrich Berg**

Andy Berg is the CEO of the wealth management firm Homrich Berg, which he cofounded with David Homrich in 1989 with the belief that high-net-worth individuals need access to conflict-free financial planning and investment advice. He serves on the board of directors for the Andrade Faxon Charities for Children and the "I Have A Dream" Foundation, the Leadership Council for the American Diabetes Association, the Corporate Advisory Board for the Georgia Goal Scholarship Program, Inc., and the Buckhead Coalition. He is also a contributor to financial media and has been quoted in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, and elsewhere.

**EDUCATION** Purdue University

**HOMETOWN** Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** *Barron's* top independent advisor and Hall of Fame advisor and *Forbes* Best-In-State Wealth Advisors for high net worth for Atlanta

**HOBBIES** Golf



### Michael Fierman

Managing Partner and Co-CEO  
Angel Oak Companies

Michael Fierman is managing partner and co-CEO of Angel Oak Companies, a firm focused on credit opportunities within asset management, capital markets, and mortgage lending. The Atlanta native provides strategic direction and leadership to Angel Oak's various businesses, with a focus on mortgage lending and asset management. Previously, Fierman was a cofounder of SouthStar Funding, a national wholesale mortgage lender specializing in non-agency mortgage products that funded as much as \$6.5 billion annually in non-agency mortgages.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**INSPIRING PERSON** My mother

**HIDDEN TALENT** I am an instrument-rated pilot.

**WHAT I'D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** Don't chase money. Find your passion and surround yourself with the smartest people you can find. Good things will happen.



### Martin Flanagan

President and CEO  
Invesco

Martin Flanagan has been president and CEO of Invesco since 2005. He's also a director, as well as trustee and vice chair of the Invesco Funds. Flanagan joined Invesco from Franklin Resources, where he was president and co-CEO from 2004 to 2005. He'd previously held numerous leadership positions at Franklin, including chief operating officer and senior vice president. Flanagan serves as a member of the board of the Southern Methodist University and was 2020 chairman of the Metro Atlanta Chamber.

**EDUCATION** Southern Methodist University



### James W. Hamilton Jr.

Senior Vice President and South Atlantic Regional Director  
Raymond James Financial

Jim Hamilton, senior vice president and South Atlantic regional director for Raymond James Financial, brings more than four decades of industry and client-services experience to his current role. Hamilton began his career in the financial services industry with Shearson Hayden Stone, later becoming a branch manager at Robinson Humphrey and a regional director with Morgan Keegan, which he joined in 1999. Hamilton formed his current team with his son, Jimmy, in 2014.

**EDUCATION** Mississippi State University

**FAVORITE BOOK** *A Man in Full* by Tom Wolfe

**BUCKET LIST** New Zealand

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Tom Hardy



## Fifth Third Means Business®

We know your business requires unique solutions to meet the specific moments you're navigating. That's why, at Fifth Third Bank, we have a team of local experts who understand your business. Whatever your business goals are, we're here to help you succeed.

**Let's build, together.**



## FIFTH THIRD BANK

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## Aziz Hashim

Founder and  
Managing Partner  
NRD Capital

Aziz Hashim is the managing partner of NRD Capital, a private equity firm he founded in 2014 that invests in companies that offer compelling unit-level economics, as well as in technologies that improve the profitability of operators. Its portfolio includes iconic brands such as Ruby Tuesday and Frisch's Big Boy, and fast-growing concepts like Fuzzy's Taco Shop and the Captain's Boil. Widely recognized as a leading expert in franchising, the Atlanta native is also the founder of Franklin Junction, a digital platform launched in April 2020 to help restaurants weather the COVID-19 crisis by monetizing excess kitchen and storage capacity.

**EDUCATION** University of California, Irvine

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** UCI Samueli School of Engineering Hall of Fame (2020), *Nation's Restaurant News* Power List (2018), *Restaurant Business Magazine* Power 20 (2018)

**FIRST JOB** Burger King

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Think beyond your current situation and project to where you wish to be.



## Christine Hartsellers

CEO  
Voya Investment  
Management

Christine Hartsellers is CEO of Voya Investment Management, the asset management business of Voya Financial, which helps Americans plan, invest, and protect their savings. In this leadership role, Hartsellers drives the strategic direction and operational performance of Voya Investment Management, which managed over \$253 billion in assets as of June 2021 for both affiliated and external institutions as well as individual investors. The firm, which has a more than 40-year history, is a top-25 manager of U.S. institutional and defined contribution assets across equities, fixed income, and multi-asset strategies and solutions. Hartsellers also serves on Voya Financial's executive committee.

**EDUCATION** Indiana University

**HOMETOWN** Fort Wayne, Indiana

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I participated in Junior Achievement, and I was the CFO of our JA company. I fell in love with finance as a result.

**FAVORITE BOOKS** J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* series

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Truist Park for Braves games



## Ted Jenkin

CEO  
oXYGen Financial

Ted Jenkin is the founder and CEO of oXYGen Financial, a financial services company with \$1.5 billion in assets under management. In 2017 and 2018, *Investopedia* ranked him among the top 10 financial advisers in the country. Jenkin is a featured personal-finance expert for HLN and a guest writer for the *Wall Street Journal* and CNBC. He has six advanced designations from the College for Financial Planning, and lives in Milton with his wife, Genna, and their three children.

**EDUCATION** Boston College

**HOMETOWN** Princeton, New Jersey

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** My mother was a fifth grade schoolteacher. My father passed away when I was 18 and left my mother in financial shambles. I wanted to dedicate my life to a place where I could use my mother's skills of being a teacher, but also be able to educate the masses about how to do better with their financial future.

**FIRST JOB** Dog walker

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Tom Cruise



## Donte Miller

Cofounder and  
Executive Director  
Village Micro Fund

Donte Miller is executive director of the nonprofit Village Micro Fund, which he founded in 2014 with Nathan Jones and Robin McKinnie. The organization offers support and classes to entrepreneurs in underserved communities and uses crowdfunding to invest in small businesses. VMF also created a Worker's Equity Fund that uses equity investments to turn small businesses into worker-owned cooperatives by selling shares back to employees. Previously, Miller has had work experience at Goldman Sachs, Google, and the Atlanta Micro Fund, and he's been featured on WABE and in the *Bitter Southerner*.

**EDUCATION** Morehouse College

**FIRST JOB** My first unofficial job was sweeping up hair at a local barbershop in the mall. My first real job was as an intern at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco right in the midst of Occupy Wall Street—so, a fun time.

**INSPIRING PERSON** Venture capitalist Chamath Palihapitiya



## David Nicholas

President and Founder  
Nicholas Wealth  
Management

David Nicholas is the president and founder of Nicholas Wealth Management, a private wealth management firm that helps clients—from families to corporations—navigate the world of financial markets and economics. A sought-after commentator on financial and economic matters, Nicholas also hosts a weekly radio show and has been featured on CNN, CNBC, Fox Business, *Fox & Friends*, and *CBS News*.

**EDUCATION** Kennesaw State University, University of Georgia (MS)

**HOMETOWN** Kennesaw, Georgia

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Member of the Buckhead Coalition's Diplomatic Leadership Corps, a one-time honor given in recognition of the coalition's 25th anniversary

**FIRST JOB** My lawn company I started at 15 years old



## David Panton

Managing Partner  
Navigation Capital Partners

David Panton is managing partner of Navigation Capital Partners' SPAC Opportunity Partners, an investment firm focused on building a diversified portfolio of investments in special-purpose acquisitions companies using three strategies: providing sponsor capital, leading investments in SPAC initial public offerings, and investing in and pricing private investments in public entities for SPACs. Panton is also a cofounder of Navigation Capital Partners and the chair of Panton Equity Partners, a private family office he founded in 2012. A former member of Jamaica's Senate, Panton is also an adjunct professor of finance at Emory University's Goizueta Business School.

**EDUCATION** Princeton University, Oxford University (PhD), Harvard Law School (JD)

**HOMETOWN** Mandeville, Jamaica

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Chef Rob's Caribbean Cafe & Upscale Lounge



### Eric Schimpf

Division Executive,  
Southeast  
Merrill Lynch

As division executive of Merrill Lynch's Southeast Division, Eric Schimpf oversees more than 4,400 employees, over \$2.7 billion in revenue, and \$414 billion in assets. Based in Atlanta, Schimpf's division encompasses 18 markets in the Southeast, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Schimpf serves as executive sponsor of the Merrill Lynch Wealth Management Black/African American Leadership Council and the Bank of America Black Professionals Group. He began his career at Merrill Lynch as a financial adviser in 1994.

**EDUCATION** U.S. Military Academy

**HOMETOWN** Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**HIDDEN TALENT** I love '80s heavy metal music, and I still play guitar every day.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATIONS** Hong Kong, Sydney

**BUCKET LIST** Skydiving with my son Cory



### John Wright II

CEO and Managing  
Partner  
Northwestern Mutual  
Goodwin, Wright

John Wright II is CEO and managing partner of Northwestern Mutual Goodwin, Wright, which consistently ranks as a leading national financial planning firm focused on mitigating risk and growing generational wealth. The firm's commitment to service has catapulted it to the number one slot among life insurance providers and number eight among financial planning and advisory firms in Atlanta. Today, Northwestern Mutual Goodwin, Wright has over \$50 billion of life insurance in force and, under Wright's leadership, assets under management have grown to more than \$7 billion. Most notably, he is committed to a culture of respect and has earned meaningful awards including Most Admired CEO, Best Places to Work, Atlanta's Healthiest Employers, and national and local D&I Corporate Champion awards. Working closely with key company leaders, he is successfully changing the "face" of the financial planning industry through his commitment to attracting diverse professionals to the career.



### Private Companies



### Arthur M. Blank

Owner and Chairman  
Blank Family of  
Businesses  
Founder  
AMB Group

Best known as cofounder of the Home Depot, Arthur Blank is now widely recognized for his diverse businesses: The Arthur M. Blank Family of Businesses portfolio includes the Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta United, PGA Tour Superstore, the Blank Family Foundation, Mountain Sky Guest Ranch, West Creek Ranch, and AMB Group, the parent company of Blank's for-profit businesses. Blank and the Falcons, in partnership with the City of Atlanta and the State of Georgia, are the private funders of Mercedes-Benz Stadium. The stadium is operated by Atlanta Falcons Stadium Co., a company also owned by AMB Group, and is home to the Falcons and Atlanta United.

**EDUCATION** Babson College

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** *Sports Business Journal* Sports Executive of the Year (2018), *Forbes* World's 100 Greatest Living Business Minds (2017), *Sports Business Journal* 50 Most Influential People in Sports Business (2016)

## Congratulations Rob Lynch!

### Papa John's International, President & CEO



Rob and the entire Papa John's family would like to say 'Thank You' for the warm welcome to the city of Atlanta. Atlanta is the new home of our second U.S. headquarters and we are proud to be a part of the fabric of such a thriving and diverse community.

At Papa John's, we believe in the power of **Bringing People Together** and inviting all voices to the table, where each person's unique flavor is valued. Together, our collective voices can have a meaningful impact. Thanks, *Atlanta Magazine*, for helping to amplify the voices of the city's most impactful leaders through this gracious recognition!



**Better Ingredients.  
Better Pizza.**





## Paul Brown

Cofounder and CEO  
Inspire Brands

Paul Brown is cofounder and CEO of Inspire Brands, a multi-brand restaurant company whose portfolio includes more than 11,100 Arby's, Buffalo Wild Wings, Sonic Drive-In, Jimmy John's, and Rusty Taco locations worldwide. Inspire is supported by more than 325,000 company team members and franchise employees.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech, Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management (MBA), Northwestern University McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science (MA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** International Foodservice Manufacturers Association Silver Plate Award (2018), *Restaurant Business* Restaurant Leader of the Year (2017), Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award Southeast (2016)

**NONPROFITS** Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Georgia Tech Foundation, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Woodruff Arts Center, Buckhead Coalition, Commerce Club, Atlanta Police Foundation



## Jill Campbell

Executive Vice President  
and Chief People and  
Operations Officer  
Cox Enterprises

Jill Campbell is the executive vice president and chief people and operations officer for Cox Enterprises, a private, family-owned communications, media, and automotive-services company with nearly \$20 billion in annual revenues and nearly 50,000 employees worldwide. Campbell leads the real estate, aviation, people solutions, facilities, security, and corporate affairs departments. She previously served as executive vice president and chief operations officer of Cox Communications, overseeing the company's day-to-day operations and ensuring companywide alignment with competitive strategies to enhance marketplace execution and grow Cox's 6 million residential and commercial customers. Campbell joined Cox in 1982 as director of communications in Oklahoma City.

**EDUCATION** University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Oklahoma City University (MBA)

**FIRST JOB** Working at my parents' park concession stands selling popcorn and cotton candy at age 12

**NONPROFITS** Girl Talk, Atlanta History Center

**BUCKET LIST** Antarctica



## Andrew T. Cathy

CEO  
Chick-fil-A Inc.

Andrew T. Cathy became the third CEO in the history of Chick-fil-A Inc. in November 2021, following in the footsteps of his father, current chairman Dan T. Cathy, and his late grandfather, founder S. Truett Cathy. With extensive experience working in Chick-fil-A restaurants and serving in multiple support center roles, Cathy is committed to ensuring the future of Chick-fil-A as a healthy, purpose-driven, global organization devoted to making a lasting, positive impact on the people and communities it serves. He is a member of Leadership Atlanta's Class of 2020.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** My high school track coach. He made a significant impact on many lives including mine.

**FAVORITE BOOK** *The Snowball: Warren Buffett and the Business of Life* by Alice Schroeder



## Dan T. Cathy

Chairman  
Chick-fil-A Inc.

Dan T. Cathy is chairman of Chick-fil-A, Inc., one of the nation's largest family-owned businesses. He was previously the company's chief executive officer, serving as CEO from 2013 until November 1, 2021, when his son Andrew T. Cathy became the third CEO in Chick-fil-A history. The son of Chick-fil-A Founder S. Truett Cathy, Dan continues to build on his late father's legacy as chairman, helping guide the business and supporting Chick-fil-A's executive leaders.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Southern University

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Sixteen years ago, I was significantly burned in an accident at my home. Through this I learned that our most difficult times in life can teach us profound things: that you're never too busy for what's important, and that it's important to lead and live with gratitude.

**HIDDEN TALENT** I'm an avid trumpet player.

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** The Varsity

**NONPROFITS** Westside Future Fund, City of Refuge, Eagle Ranch, Woodruff Arts Center, Atlanta Music Project



## Joe Christina

President and CEO  
Church's Chicken

Joe Christina, who leads the global teams for Church's Chicken and Texas Chicken, has spent his entire career in the restaurant industry—starting as an assistant restaurant manager and eventually becoming a franchisee with Burger King. As his career progressed, Christina served as Church's executive vice president of U.S. operations, providing strategic planning and execution for 1,500 restaurants and \$1.2 billion in sales. He became CEO of the company in 2016.

**EDUCATION** Quinnipiac University

**FIRST JOB** Delivering Pepsi with my father

**HIDDEN TALENT** Trivia, especially movies

**NONPROFITS** No Kid Hungry, Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital

**BUCKET LIST** Trip to Italy with my wife

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Tom Hanks



## René M. Diaz

President and CEO  
Diaz Foods

René Diaz is president and CEO of Atlanta-based Diaz Foods, a specialty-foods distributor to restaurants and grocers in 28 states, with 400 employees and sales of \$200 million. Diaz Foods was founded in 1980 and is a privately owned company. Diaz has served on the boards of Atlanta Ronald McDonald House Charities, United Way of Greater Atlanta, Leadership Atlanta, and Emory Center for Ethics, among others. Born in Cuba, he came to the U.S. at age six.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 50 Most Influential Latinos in Georgia (2018), Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta Legacy Award (2003), Leadership Atlanta class of 1994

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Paris

**HOBBIES** Art collecting



## Christian Fischer

President and CEO  
Georgia-Pacific

Born and educated in Germany, Christian Fischer became president and CEO of Georgia-Pacific in 2017. He previously served as executive vice president of the packaging and cellulose segment, responsible for GP's containerboard and kraft paper, corrugated packaging, bleached board, and cellulose businesses. He began his career with the company in 1989 as a market pulp sales manager in Europe. Fischer is on the executive committee of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and serves on the board of councilors for The Carter Center.

**EDUCATION** University of Hamburg, University of Düsseldorf

**HIDDEN TALENT** I once wanted to become a writer.

**HOBBIES** Listening to music, reading, watching movies, traveling, food

**FAVORITE BOOK** *A Month in the Country* by J.L. Carr



## S. Taylor Glover

President and CEO  
Turner Enterprises

Taylor Glover is president and CEO of Turner Enterprises, a private company that manages Ted Turner's business affairs. Glover has oversight of Turner Enterprises' landholdings, financial investments, and business interests, and works closely with Turner's philanthropic and charitable organizations, serving as an adviser to the boards of the UN Foundation, Nuclear Threat Initiative, and Turner Foundation. Previously Glover, a native of Newnan, was a senior vice president at Merrill Lynch, where he retired after nearly 30 years.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**HOBBIES** Hunting, fishing, golf

**NONPROFITS** Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Woodruff Arts Center, Nature Conservancy of Georgia



## Jim Hannan

Executive Vice President  
Koch Industries  
CEO  
Koch Enterprises

As executive vice president of Koch Industries and CEO of Koch Enterprises, Hannan is responsible for oversight of Georgia-Pacific, Infor, Molex, Koch Engineered Solutions, and Koch Investments Group, as well as Koch's logistics, communications, and public-sector groups. Previously, as CEO and president of Georgia-Pacific, he oversaw one of the world's leading manufacturers and marketers of tissue, packaging, pulp, paper, cellulose, nonwovens, building products, and related chemicals. Hannan began his career with Koch Industries in 1998 as chief financial officer in the mineral services unit.

**EDUCATION** California State University, East Bay

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** American Jewish Committee National Human Relations Award (2016), Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry PIMA Executive of the Year Award (2015), *Atlanta Business Chronicle* Most Admired CEOs (2014)

# FOR OUR 70TH ANNIVERSARY WE LOOK AHEAD TOGETHER

Atlanta seeks to make our region more equitable and more prosperous for all who call Atlanta home. It will take all of us working together to build a greater Atlanta. To learn more, visit [cfgreateratlanta.org](https://cfgreateratlanta.org). [#TogetherATL](https://twitter.com/TogetherATL)

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Community  
Foundation  
for Greater Atlanta

LEARN MORE!





## Doug Hertz

President and CEO  
United Distributors

Doug Hertz has been CEO of United Distributors since 1984. Under his leadership, the beverage distribution business has grown to be listed as one of the top 25 private companies in Atlanta. Hertz sits on the boards of Atlantic Capital Bank, Camp Twin Lakes, Georgia Power, Georgia Ports Authority, Holly Lane Foundation, and the Marcus Foundation. He has also served as chairman of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and is a minority owner of the Atlanta Falcons. A native Atlantan, Hertz began his career with KPMG in New Orleans, working in the accounting and consulting services area.

**EDUCATION** Tulane University (MBA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Hertz is chairman of Camp Twin Lakes, a facility he founded in 1989 for chronically ill and disadvantaged children. He also helped engineer the merger of Scottish Rite and Egleston pediatric hospitals to establish Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, now one of the largest pediatric healthcare systems in the country.



## James C. Kennedy

Chairman  
Cox Enterprises

James C. Kennedy is chairman and former CEO of Cox Enterprises, a privately held broadband, media, and automotive-services company founded by his grandfather, James M. Cox, in 1898. Kennedy joined in 1972 as a production assistant in Cox's newspaper division, and has held various positions including reporter, copy editor, business manager, and executive vice president/general manager. He was named chairman and CEO in 1988. During Kennedy's tenure, Cox has increased annual revenues from \$1.88 billion to nearly \$20 billion.

**EDUCATION** University of Denver

**HOMETOWN** Honolulu, Hawaii

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** A former competitive cyclist, Kennedy is a past Masters National, Pan American, and World champion in the 3,000-meter pursuit. He served as captain of a four-man team that won the Race Across America in 1992, setting a world record.

**HOBBIES** Avid outdoorsman

**NONPROFITS** Education, healthcare, sustainability



## Natalie Morhous

President  
RaceTrac Petroleum

As president of RaceTrac Petroleum, Natalie Morhous is a third-generation leader in an 85-year-old family-owned business. Founded in 1934 by Morhous's grandfather Carl Borch Sr., RaceTrac Petroleum is one of the largest family-owned and operated convenience-and-fuel retail businesses in the South. Morhous joined the company in 2012, serving in a variety of roles including vice president of energy dispatch before becoming president in 2019. Previously, she worked as a strategy and management consultant in Washington, D.C.

**EDUCATION** Connecticut College, Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania (MBA)

**HOMETOWN** Atlanta

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Convenience Store Decisions 40 Under 40 (2015)

**FIRST JOB** Camp counselor at Westminster Summer Camps in Atlanta



## Farooq B. Mughal

Chairman and  
Managing Partner  
Mughal Strategies  
Global Partners

As chairman and managing partner of Mughal Strategies Global Partners, Farooq Mughal focuses his practice on government relations, business advisory, and public engagement. Since founding the firm in 2008, Mughal has built it into a government relations powerhouse that has come to be regarded as one of the state's best. Mughal has worked with clients in nearly every sector of the economy, developing and executing business and government strategies on a diverse range of issues including international trade, agriculture, aviation, and technology. He is a member of Leadership Gwinnett's class of 2021.

**EDUCATION** Mercer University

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Everyone has a stake in the public policies enacted by federal, state, and local governments. I was inspired to make the political, legislative, and lobbying field more diverse and inclusive for all Americans.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** From my dad and mom: "Be humble and treat everyone with respect—especially those who cannot do anything for you."



## Gregg Paradies

President and CEO  
Paradies Lagardère

Gregg Paradies is president and CEO of Paradies Lagardère, a leading airport travel retailer and restaurateur in North America with more than 950 stores and restaurants in more than 100 airports. With expertise in international, national, and local brands, Paradies Lagardère works with airport, brand, and supplier partners to create memorable and positive experiences for travelers. Gregg Paradies is responsible for the company's overall business and ensuring that it continues its strong tradition of providing exceptional customer service, superior design, and award-winning store and restaurant operations and management.

**EDUCATION** University of Texas at Austin

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** You cannot do wrong by doing right.

**HOBBIES** Outdoor sports

**FAVORITE BOOK** *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap . . . and Others Don't* by Jim Collins

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Colorado



## Donata Russell Ross

CEO  
Concessions  
International

Donata Russell Ross is the CEO of Concessions International, a national food and beverage concessionaire that currently operates and manages facilities in eight major airports across the country. Russell Ross has been an integral part of Concessions International's management team for more than 35 years and previously served as president. She's also president of the Herman J. Russell Foundation—a family foundation named for Russell Ross's father, the legendary Atlanta builder—which supports community initiatives and programs focusing on entrepreneurship, youth development, and mentoring. Russell Ross has served on the boards of many organizations including the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta.

**EDUCATION** University of Pennsylvania

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** One of a handful of African-American women leading a food and beverage company

**FIRST JOB** IBM marketing rep

**LESSON LEARNED** You can't please everyone.

**FAVORITE TV SHOW** *The Wire*

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Anywhere warm and with water

## Public Companies



### Alexander C. Taylor

President and CEO  
Cox Enterprises

Alex Taylor is president and CEO of Cox Enterprises, a broadband, media, and automotive-services company with nearly \$20 billion in annual revenues and nearly 50,000 employees worldwide. He is responsible for the company's two major subsidiaries—Cox Communications and Cox Automotive—as well as the Cox Family Office and corporate functions, including investment in the company's sustainability portfolio plus financial operations, technology, human resources, and administration. Taylor is the great-grandson of former Ohio governor James M. Cox, who founded the company in 1898.

**EDUCATION** Vanderbilt University

**FIRST JOB** Reporter for the *Grand Junction Daily Sentinel* in Colorado

**HIDDEN TALENT** Author of *The Longest Cast: The Fly-Fishing Journey of a Lifetime*. All royalties from the book were donated to the International Game Fish Association for the preservation of endangered fishing sanctuaries.



### Mark Begor

CEO  
Equifax

Mark Begor was named CEO of Equifax and a member of its board of directors in April 2018. He served previously as a managing director in the Industrial and Business Services group at Warburg Pincus, a \$40 billion private equity firm with more than 120 portfolio companies. Begor spent 35 years at GE, most recently as president and CEO of its \$8 billion Energy Management business, and prior to that as president and CEO of GE Capital Real Estate. He also served as president and CEO of GE Capital Retail Finance (Synchrony Financial). Begor was a senior vice president and member of GE's Corporate Executive Council for 10 years, and a GE officer for 19 years. He also served as the chief financial officer at NBCUniversal Media and as GE's Investor Relations leader, overseeing many acquisitions and dispositions.

**EDUCATION** Syracuse University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (MBA)



### Paul Donahue

Chairman & CEO  
Genuine Parts Company

Paul Donahue currently serves as chairman and CEO of Genuine Parts Company (NYSE: GPC), a Fortune 200 global distributor of automotive and industrial parts. GPC serves its global customers from an extensive network of more than 10,000 locations in 15 countries and generates annual revenues of approximately \$18 billion. Donahue was named chairman in April 2019 after being elected CEO in May 2016. He is a 19-year veteran of GPC and has held several key management positions, including executive leadership roles at S. P. Richards Company, Genuine Parts Company's business products group, and the U.S. automotive parts group. His board memberships include Truist Bank's Board of Directors, the Shepherd Center Foundation Board of Trustees, the Carlyle Fraser Heart Center Advisory Committee, and the Metro Atlanta Chamber, where he will become chair in 2023.

**EDUCATION** University of Northern Iowa

**NONPROFITS** United Way and City of Refuge



### Rob Lynch

President and CEO  
Papa John's International

Rob Lynch became president and CEO of Papa John's International in August 2019. Prior to that, the Pittsburgh native had been brand president and chief marketing officer of Arby's Restaurant Group Inc. before being named that company's president in August 2017. He has also worked in marketing for Taco Bell, the Kraft Heinz Co., and Procter & Gamble. He was named Marketer of the Year by *AdAge* in 2015 and Outstanding Marketer of the Year in 2017 by *PRWeek*. In 2020 he was named Executive of the Year by *Restaurant Dive* and Most Transformational Brand by *QSR Magazine*. In 2021, *Forbes* named his company a Top Employer in the Pizza Industry.

**EDUCATION** University of Rochester (BA, MBA)

**FIRST JOB** Making pizzas

**SOMETHING FEW KNOW ABOUT YOU** I played college football

**HOBBIES** Golf, reading, coffee drinking

**FAVORITE TV SHOW** *Ted Lasso*

**BUCKET LIST** Visiting Australia

**NONPROFITS** Boys and Girls Club, the First Tee, St. Jude's Children's Hospital



### Craig Menear

Chairman and CEO  
The Home Depot

Craig Menear is chairman and CEO of the Home Depot, the world's largest home improvement retailer with more than 2,200 stores and 400,000 associates. Under his leadership, the company continues to focus on providing a seamless, interconnected shopping experience that blends the physical and digital worlds—leveraging the convenience of its stores, digital experiences, innovative product offerings, and reliable delivery options for professional and DIY customers. Menear was named CEO and president in November 2014 and chairman in February 2015. In his more than 20 years with the company, he has held roles spanning merchandising, supply chain, store operations, sourcing, marketing, and online. Prior to joining the Home Depot, he worked in a variety of roles in mass, home center, and specialty retailing.

**EDUCATION** Michigan State University

**INSPIRING PEOPLE** The Home Depot's founders: Bernie Marcus, Arthur Blank, and Ken Langone

**NONPROFITS** Team Depot, Junior Achievement, Salvation Army



### James Quincey

Chairman and CEO  
The Coca-Cola Co.

James Quincey is chairman and CEO of the Coca-Cola Co. Before becoming CEO in 2017, he led the company's worldwide operating units as president and chief operating officer. Previously, Quincey was president of Coca-Cola's Europe Group, comprising 38 countries including the EU, the European Free Trade Association countries, and the Balkans. The United Kingdom native also played a leading role in the merger that formed Coca-Cola European Partners, now the world's largest independent Coca-Cola bottler based on net revenues.

**EDUCATION** University of Liverpool

**HOBBIES** I love skiing. My family and I have been going to Colorado for over 25 years.

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *The Matrix*

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Atlanta BeltLine



## Alfredo Rivera

President, North America  
The Coca-Cola Co.

In 2020, Alfredo Rivera became president of Coca-Cola North America, which includes the United States and Canada. Rivera has held a number of leadership positions within the Coca-Cola Co.; before taking the helm in North America he was president of the company's Latin America group, overseeing the operations of four business units across nearly 40 countries. Rivera joined Coca-Cola in 1997 as a district manager for Guatemala and El Salvador in the Central American and Caribbean division; prior to that he had worked for two independent Coca-Cola bottlers in El Salvador and Honduras, his native country.

**EDUCATION** University of Southern Mississippi (MBA), Harvard Business School



## Ravi Saligram

President and CEO  
Newell Brands

Ravi Saligram is president and CEO of Newell Brands, whose portfolio includes Rubbermaid, Sharpie, Coleman, Yankee Candle, Crock-Pot, and many other recognizable names. A native of India, Saligram served most recently as CEO of Ritchie Bros., the world's largest onsite heavy-equipment auctioneer; before that he was CEO of OfficeMax, leading that company's 2013 merger with Office Depot. At the helm of Newell Brands since October 2019, Saligram has focused on weathering the Covid-19 pandemic and strengthening diversity and inclusion within the Atlanta-based company, which counts more than 30,000 employees worldwide.

**EDUCATION** Bangalore University, University of Michigan (MBA)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I am a marketer at heart and love building brands and businesses.

**INSPIRING PEOPLE** My daughters have engaged proactively in reverse mentoring and taught me humility. They have made me more liberal and more accepting, and shaped my views on diversity and inclusion. One piece of specific advice was to engage with employees on the elevator and talk to them about their day.



## Jeffrey Sprecher

Chairman and CEO  
Intercontinental Exchange  
Chairman  
New York Stock Exchange

Jeff Sprecher is founder, chairman, and CEO of Intercontinental Exchange (NYSE: ICE) and chairman of the New York Stock Exchange. Formed in 2000, ICE is a Fortune 500 company that designs, builds, and operates digital networks to connect people to opportunity. Through ICE's exchanges, including the NYSE, and clearing houses, they help people invest, raise capital, and manage risk. ICE's comprehensive fixed income data services and execution capabilities provide information, analytics, and platforms to help customers capitalize on opportunities and operate more efficiently. Sprecher has served as CEO since 2000 and chairman since 2002 and continues to transform, streamline, and automate industries. In 2005, ICE completed its initial public offering on the NYSE and today has a market capitalization of over \$60 billion.

**EDUCATION** University of Wisconsin-Madison, Pepperdine University (MBA)

**BOARD MEMBERSHIPS** Buckhead Coalition, Commerce Club, Metro Atlanta Chamber executive committee



## Carol Tomé

CEO  
UPS

Carol Tomé was named CEO of UPS in 2020, becoming the 12th chief executive in the company's century-plus history as well as the first woman to hold the top job. Previously, Tomé was executive vice president and chief financial officer of the Home Depot, which she joined in 1995 as vice president and treasurer. A native of Jackson, Wyoming, Tomé began her career as a commercial lender with United Bank of Denver (now Wells Fargo) and then spent several years as director of banking for the Johns Manville corporation. She serves on the boards of Grady Hospital, Atlanta Botanical Garden, and other local organizations.

**EDUCATION** University of Wyoming, University of Denver (MBA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** At the Home Depot, Tomé helped increase sales almost eight-fold to more than \$110 billion, and delivered a 450 percent increase in shareholder value.

## Retail



## Sara Blakely

Founder  
Spanx

Sara Blakely is the founder of Spanx, a global underwear brand known for inventing smarter, more comfortable solutions. Blakely was named one of *Time's* 100 Most Influential People in 2012, and was featured on the cover of *Forbes* as the youngest self-made female billionaire. Blakely has invested millions of dollars to elevate women and in 2013 she signed the Giving Pledge, a commitment to donate half her wealth to philanthropy. In October, Blackstone bought a controlling interest in Spanx. Blakely will remain as executive chairwoman of the board of directors.

**EDUCATION** Florida State University

**HOMETOWN** Clearwater, Florida

**NONPROFIT** Spanx by Sara Blakely Foundation



## Kevin Knaus

Principal  
Kevin Knaus Consulting

Kevin Knaus is an accomplished fashion-industry professional with expertise in trend forecasting, retail management, event planning, marketing, education, and international public speaking. He's achieved success in developing and capitalizing on emerging trends in fabrics, apparel, home, luxury, and entertainment. A skilled negotiator, Knaus is adept at developing cost-effective resources and solutions for all areas of business. He is experienced in multicultural environments, with more than 25 years of business related to international travel.

**EDUCATION** Central Michigan University, Georgia State University

**HOMETOWN** Lansing, Michigan

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATIONS** Paris and Mackinac Island

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACES TO VISIT** High Museum of Art, SCAD FASH



## Ann Mashburn

Chief Creative Officer  
Mashburn

Ann Mashburn, chief creative officer of Mashburn LLC, began her career in New York in 1984 as an assistant to *Vogue* fashion editor and stylist Polly Melen. She subsequently served as an editor and stylist for *Glamour*, then as a stylist for J.Crew—where she met her husband, Sid. The couple moved to Atlanta in 2007 and opened the Sid Mashburn men's shop. Ann served as chief financial officer and chief operating officer during the first three years, and in 2010 she opened the Ann Mashburn shop as a women's counterpoint. Ann and Sid shops are also in Houston, Dallas, and Washington, D.C.

**EDUCATION** University of Colorado Boulder



## Sid Mashburn

CEO and Designer  
Mashburn

Sid Mashburn serves as CEO and designer of Mashburn LLC. He began his career in New York as the first men's designer at J.Crew, and was subsequently recruited to Polo Ralph Lauren. Mashburn went on to serve as vice president of design at Tommy Hilfiger and senior vice president of design at Lands' End. In 2007 Mashburn and his wife, Ann, moved to Atlanta, where they opened the men's shop Sid Mashburn. In 2010, they expanded the business with Ann Mashburn, a women's line and shop, followed by the launch of e-commerce sites in 2011 to serve the brand's expanding customer base outside of Atlanta. Ann and Sid shops are also in Houston, Dallas, and Washington, D.C.

**EDUCATION** University of Mississippi



Technology



## Kabir Barday

Founder, President,  
and CEO  
OneTrust

Kabir Barday is president and CEO of OneTrust, a privacy, security, and third-party risk technology platform used by more than 4,000 companies in 100 countries. Headquartered in Atlanta and London, OneTrust employs nearly 1,000 people across nine global offices. Barday, who founded the company in 2016, oversees all aspects of OneTrust's product development, operations, and sales internationally. In 2019, OneTrust was one of *Forbes's* World's Most Innovative Companies. Barday sits on the advisory boards for the Future of Privacy Forum, the Center for Information Policy Leadership, the International Association of Privacy Professionals, the Cloud Security Alliance, and Shared Assessments.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award Southeast (2019), *Atlanta Business Chronicle* Most Admired CEO (2019)

**FAVORITE BOOK** *How to Win Friends & Influence People* by Dale Carnegie



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# ...and Instilling Financial Security for Generations

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## Mark Buffington

Managing Partner  
Panoramic Ventures

Since its founding in 2006, Mark Buffington has built what is now Panoramic Ventures (previously BIP Capital) into the region's most active venture capital firm and one of the most recognized brands in venture capital outside of Silicon Valley. He currently serves as Panoramic's managing partner. He has led investment rounds in more than 80 companies in numerous industries: healthcare, digital media, ed tech, enterprise SaaS, fintech, and advanced computing. Notable investments include Vendormate, Ingenious Med, QA Symphony/Tricentis, PlayOn! Sports, Huddle Tickets, Tropical Smoothie Café, Cypress.io, ConnexPay, REACH Health, Trella Health, Shareholder InSite, and Aspirion Health Resources.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech Scheller College of Business, Tulane University (MBA)

**FIRST JOB** International business analyst for Total System Services

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** There is ethical beauty in symmetry. No person in a transaction or partnership should have certainty of outcome while the other one has uncertainty.

**HOBBIES** Fly-fishing, wakesurfing



## Jewel Burks Solomon

Head of Startups, U.S.  
Google

Managing Partner  
Collab Capital

Jewel Burks Solomon is the head of Google for Startups in the U.S., which she joined in 2019. In this role, Burks Solomon works to level the playing field for underrepresented startup founders and communities by connecting them with the best of Google's products, people, and platforms. In addition to this role, she also serves as managing partner at Collab Capital, a \$50 million venture capital fund she launched to close the funding gap for Black entrepreneurs. Her work and mission is about creating more access to the technology innovation ecosystem. Prior to leading Google for Startups and Collab Capital, Burks Solomon was founder/CEO of Partpic, a startup that was acquired by Amazon in 2016, which streamlined the purchase of maintenance and repair parts using computer vision technology. After the acquisition of Partpic, the Nashville, TN, native became a product leader at Amazon's Visual Search and AR team. She led the integration of Partpic's technology and launched it as Amazon PartFinder in 2018 to the over 150 million users of Amazon's Mobile Shopping App.

**EDUCATION** Howard University

**NONPROFIT** re:imagine/ATL



## Eddie Capel

President and CEO  
Manhattan Associates

Eddie Capel serves as president and CEO of Manhattan Associates and is a member of its board of directors. Prior to assuming his current role in 2013, Capel helped lead the company as president and chief operating officer, and previously served as COO and executive vice president. Before joining Manhattan Associates in 2000, he held various positions at Real Time Solutions, leading teams that supported the supply chain strategies of companies such as Walmart, Amazon, and J.C. Penney.

**FIRST JOB** Pumping gas

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Managing through the Covid-19 pandemic

**INSPIRING PERSON** Bill Dixon, A former boss

**BUCKET LIST** Learning to pole-vault

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Bruce Willis



## Ben Chestnut

Cofounder and CEO  
Mailchimp

Ben Chestnut is cofounder and CEO of Mailchimp, an all-in-one marketing platform for growing businesses. Based in Atlanta since 2001, Mailchimp is privately held, with more than 1,000 employees and millions of global users. In 2017, Mailchimp was named Company of the Year by *Inc.* and recognized as one of the World's 50 Most Innovative Companies by *Fast Company*. A native of Hephzibah, Chestnut was named an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year in 2016. In September, software firm Intuit announced a deal to acquire Mailchimp for \$12 billion. Chestnut will remain as CEO.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech

**FIRST JOB** Grocery bagger at Fort Gordon military commissary

**HOBBIES** Mountain biking

**WHAT I'D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** When you get there, don't forget to have some fun.

**NONPROFITS** Moving in the Spirit, Atlanta Music Project, ArtsNow, Ballethnic Dance Company



## David Cummings

Partner  
Atlanta Ventures

David Cummings is an Atlanta-based tech entrepreneur who has founded 10 companies collectively valued at nearly \$1 billion, including Pardot, SalesLoft, and Terminus. He's also the founder of the Atlanta Tech Village—the U.S.'s fourth-largest tech hub—and the largest investor in Calendly, the world's most popular scheduling app. After selling Pardot, he was named Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year and one of the 100 Most Influential Atlantans by the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*. Cummings is a partner in Atlanta Ventures, which invests in subscription companies in the Southeast.

**EDUCATION** Duke University

**HOMETOWN** Tallahassee, Florida

**FIRST JOB** Mowing yards

**LESSON LEARNED** The importance of corporate culture and building a great team

**HIDDEN TALENT** Wakeboarding and wakesurfing



## Alan Dabbieri

Cochairman  
OneTrust

Entrepreneur Alan Dabbieri is cochair of OneTrust, a privacy management software platform. Dabbieri has more than 20 years of experience in building successful software companies, holding more than 25 patents or patent applications on supply chain, logistics, and enterprise mobility software. He's a founder and past chairman of AirWatch, the world's largest enterprise mobility management provider. He also founded Manhattan Associates, the world's leading supply chain execution software company.

**EDUCATION** Indiana University (MBA)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I was a chemistry major and planned to go to medical school, but my father died my senior year and I reevaluated my life. I decided to get an MBA with an emphasis in finance. Between the two, I had taken computer science courses; and when I graduated, the systems-consulting market was white-hot. This drove me to a career in software.

**FIRST JOB** Kurt Salmon Associates

**WHAT I'D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** Being tenacious is the most important quality for success.



### David Dabbieri

Board Member and  
Legal Adviser  
**OneTrust**

David Dabbieri is a board member and legal adviser for OneTrust. Previously, he was president and chief operating officer of Aware Software and, prior to that, chief operating officer at enterprise mobility management provider AirWatch, where he was responsible for all legal and operational matters and played a key role in the company's 2014 sale to VMware. Dabbieri was previously senior vice president and chief legal officer for Manhattan Associates, where he assisted the company's successful initial public offering.

**EDUCATION** Indiana University, Indiana University McKinney School of Law (JD)

**FIRST JOB** Patent lawyer for Procter & Gamble

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *My Cousin Vinny*. I love the scene where Vinny tips the prison guard who brings him to his nephew's cell, and the guard pockets it.

**NONPROFIT** Shepherd Center



### Andre Dickens

Mayor  
**City of Atlanta**

Chief Development  
Officer  
**TechBridge**

At press time, Andre Dickens had just been elected as Atlanta's next mayor. He has been a member of the Atlanta City Council and is also a businessman, nonprofit executive, engineer, speaker, deacon, and father. An Atlanta native, Dickens is also chief development officer for TechBridge, a nonprofit that drives community impact by bringing affordable technology and business expertise to other non-profit organizations. In 2018, he cofounded TechBridge's Technology Career Program, which prepares unemployed and underemployed people for careers in technology by teaching high-demand skills while helping participants land jobs in IT departments across Atlanta.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech, Georgia State University (MPA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Coauthored and passed resolutions establishing a \$15/hour minimum wage for Atlanta and affordable housing requirements around the BeltLine



### Bernie Dixon

Chairman and CEO  
**Launchpad2X**

Bernie Dixon is the founder and CEO of Launchpad2X and former chairman and CEO of Atlanta Technology Angels. She served previously as vice president of HP Services Americas, as Enterprise chief information officer for Raytheon, and as CIO for two divisions of United Technologies: Carrier and Hamilton Standard. Dixon also led the information technology practice at Booz Allen Hamilton. She began her career as a leading member of the first class of female officers within the Department of Defense.

**EDUCATION** Pennsylvania State University, University of Michigan Ross School of Business, University of Virginia Darden School of Business

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I am a real foodie. Maybe I'll do my own cookbook on my favorite snacks.

**WHAT I'D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** Life is for living and learning. Enjoy every moment of it.

# Strong leadership makes all the difference.

Regions is happy to congratulate one of our own for being named among Atlanta's 500 most powerful leaders by *Atlanta Magazine*. Bill Linginfelter's inclusion is the result of the drive and professionalism he brings to Regions every day. It's an immense honor for him and a source of great pride for us.



Bill Linginfelter  
Market Executive

1.800.regions | regions.com



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## Allyson Eman

Executive Director  
Venture Atlanta

Allyson Eman has nearly 30 years of experience in marketing, communications, sales leadership, and business development. In 2007, she became executive director for the newly created Venture Atlanta annual conference, and was promoted to CEO in January 2020. Eman has worked with key business leaders across the country and founding organizations—the Metro Atlanta Chamber, the Atlanta CEO Council, and the Technology Association of Georgia—to build Venture Atlanta, which is now the largest venture capital conference in the Southeast, with over 1,200 attendees including venture capitalists, entrepreneurs, and senior business executives. Previously, Eman was senior vice president of marketing and communications for SouthStar Funding, an Atlanta-based wholesale mortgage lender.

**EDUCATION** University of Florida

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *Legally Blonde*

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Ponce City Market

**BUCKET LIST** Italy for my 25th anniversary

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Julia Roberts. People say I look like her—I wish!



## Justin Ferrero

President and Chief  
Financial Officer  
Sharecare

Atlanta native Justin Ferrero has led financial operations at digital health company Sharecare since its founding in 2010. He's responsible for technology, finance, corporate development, and strategic partnerships. In 2021, he co-led the execution of the company's public offering, resulting in its Nasdaq debut with a valuation of nearly \$4 billion. For the past 21 years, Ferrero has worked closely with serial entrepreneur Jeff Arnold, Sharecare's chairman and CEO, overseeing all matters related to finance and corporate development for Arnold's businesses. During that time, Ferrero raised an estimated \$2 billion and has bought, integrated, and built approximately 30 businesses.

**EDUCATION** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**FIRST JOB** Dishwasher at OK Cafe

**HOBBIES** Spending time with my kids, Finn and Banks

**NONPROFIT** Casa de Amor, an amazing charity that supports those affected by child abuse and neglect



## Rob Frohwein

Cofounder and  
Kabbagehead  
Kabbage

In 2008, Rob Frohwein cofounded Kabbage in Atlanta to empower small businesses with data-driven cash-flow solutions. Kabbage has provided more than \$9 billion to small business owners, became the second-largest lender in the Paycheck Protection Program, and recently launched Kabbage Checking, a new business checking account built for the smallest businesses but fit for the largest. It has been recognized for its technology and innovation with awards from *Inc.*, *Forbes*, Glassdoor, *Fast Company*, and more. In 2020, CNBC named Kabbage one of the 50 most disruptive companies.

**EDUCATION** Dickinson College, Villanova University Widger School of Law (JD)

**INSPIRING PERSON** My wife. She is simply the most focused and earnest person I know.

**LESSON LEARNED** Persistence is so vitally important. Too many people give up too soon, and I think that's because they don't realize just how hard entrepreneurship is.



## Marc Gorlin

Founder and CEO  
Roadie

A successful Atlanta entrepreneur for almost 20 years, Marc Gorlin founded Roadie in 2014 as the first on-the-way service that connects items for delivery with drivers headed in the right direction. Previously, Gorlin cofounded and was chairman of Kabbage, which provides working capital to small and medium-sized businesses. Gorlin also cofounded the content personalization service VerticalOne. He was named an Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year in 2021. In September, UPS announced plans to acquire Roadie by the end of 2021.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**HIDDEN TALENT** I was a teenage magician. I learned about the willing suspension of disbelief, and that's helped me a lot as an entrepreneur.

**WHAT I'D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF**

When you're getting the job, don't think you're just getting the job—you're getting the keys to the whole damn building. It's not enough to connect with your boss or your immediate team. You need to make connections with people on the other side of the office.



## Michael Hayford

President and CEO  
NCR Corp.

Mike Hayford is president and CEO of NCR Corp. Previously, he served as chief financial officer and corporate executive vice president of the financial technology company FIS. Prior to that, as president and chief operating officer of Metavante Technologies, Hayford led the completion of Metavante's merger with FIS to create the world's largest financial technology company. He was instrumental in building Metavante into a global leader of financial technology with over \$6 billion of annual revenue.

**EDUCATION** University of Wisconsin, Northwestern University Kellogg School of Business (MBA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Hayford is a director of Endurance International Group Holdings and has served on the board of West Bend Mutual Insurance, for which he chairs the Audit Committee. Hayford is a certified public accountant.



## JP James

Founder and Chairman  
Hive Financial Systems

JP James is the founder and chairman of the financial technology company Hive Financial Systems, which provides end-to-end financial automation software including marketing, underwriting, loan management, and analytics architecture to a closely held portfolio of lenders. Under James's leadership, Hive grew almost 8,000 percent in revenue between 2017 and 2020. The coauthor of two patents and a visiting lecturer at Georgia State University and Georgia Tech, he is also chair of Libreum International, a multinational conglomerate with multiple global offices and hundreds of employees serving in advisory capacities for capital markets, IT and software development, accounting and bookkeeping services, and operational consulting.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech

**FIRST JOB** Computer teacher at 12 years old at Peters Township Public Library

**HOMETOWN** Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PODCAST** *Decision Vision*

**BUCKET LIST** Getting pilot type rating for a twin turboprop

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Christian Bale



## Paul Judge

Managing Partner  
Panoramic Ventures

Dr. Paul Judge is a technology entrepreneur and investor. He has co-founded three companies that were acquired and has invested in dozens. He is currently managing partner of Panoramic Ventures. Judge is also cofounder of Pindrop, TheraTrue, and Greenwood. Previously, he cofounded TechSquare Labs. In 2007 he cofounded Purewire, which was acquired by Barracuda Networks. Prior to this, he was the chief technology officer at CipherTrust, which was acquired by Secure Computing in 2006.

**EDUCATION** Morehouse College, Georgia Tech (MS, PhD)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I chose to build software companies because software and technology are changing every aspect of life. We get to change the world by building something from nothing. This also provides a new generation of wealth creation and opportunities for building diverse teams.



## Dan Kurzius

Cofounder and and  
Real Estate Leader  
Mailchimp

Dan Kurzius cofounded Mailchimp with Ben Chestnut in 2001, as a developer who also served as the company's first support agent. Kurzius built Mailchimp's support department and continues to advocate for its users through research efforts in partnership with the data science, product, and marketing teams. He also oversees Mailchimp's workspace and real estate needs, making sure the office is a place where employees feel welcome and inspired. In September, software firm Intuit announced a deal to acquire Mailchimp for \$12 billion. Kurzius will remain as Real Estate Leader. The Albuquerque, New Mexico, native was previously a DJ and sponsored skateboarder.

**EDUCATION** Self-taught LAMP (Linux, Apache, MySQL, PHP) developer



## Lynne Laube

CEO, Cofounder,  
and Director  
Cardlytics

Lynne Laube is the CEO and cofounder of Cardlytics, an advertising platform in banks' digital channels. The company is based in Atlanta with offices in London, New York, San Francisco, and India. Since taking the company public in 2018, Laube has led Cardlytics through numerous accomplishments, including partnering with some of the largest banks in the country, increasing the platform's reach to over 150 million monthly active users, and bolstering the leadership team and board of directors. Before cofounding Cardlytics in 2008 with Scott Grimes, Laube held multiple executive positions with Capital One.

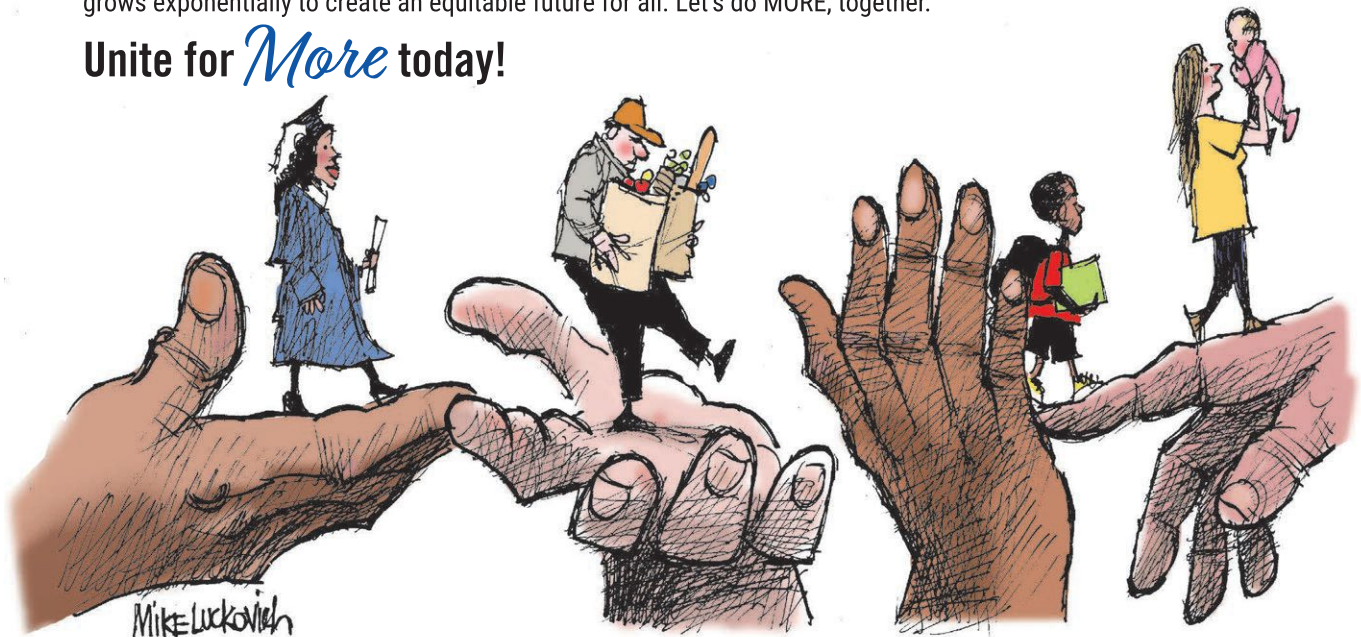
**EDUCATION** University of Cincinnati, University of Virginia Darden School of Business

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Laube recently earned honors from *Business Insider* as one of the key executives driving the country's most promising start-ups and from *Inc.* as a top-10 venture-backed female founder.

# We've improved the lives of **82,000** children, but we can do *More*.

Every child whose life we change will go on to change the lives of countless other children, families and communities. And when we work together – pooling our resources, time and energy – our community impact grows exponentially to create an equitable future for all. Let's do MORE, together.

## Unite for *More* today!



Give. Share. Volunteer. | [unitedwayatlanta.org](http://unitedwayatlanta.org)

United Way of  
Greater Atlanta





## Thomas E. Noonan

Founding Partner  
**TechOperators**

Chairman  
**TEN Holdings**

Atlanta native Tom Noonan is a founding partner of TechOperators, an early-stage technology investment firm in Atlanta, and chairman of TEN Holdings, a diversified family office investment company. Most recently, Noonan was vice president and general manager of the Energy Management business of Cisco Systems following its 2013 acquisition of JouleX, where he was cofounder and CEO. A serial entrepreneur, Noonan also cofounded and serves on the board of Endgame, which was acquired in 2019 by Elastic, and was the cofounder, chairman, and CEO of Internet Security Systems, which was acquired by IBM in 2006.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech, Harvard University

**INSPIRING PERSON** Winston Churchill

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Me



## Stephen Pair

Cofounder and CEO  
**BitPay**

Stephen Pair is the CEO of BitPay, the world's leading provider of bitcoin payment technology. In 2011, Pair cofounded BitPay with Tony Gallippi because he saw bitcoin's potential to transform payments for businesses and consumers. As CEO, he directs the day-to-day operations as well as the long-term vision of BitPay, from research and engineering to product development and information technology. Pair has 20 years of experience building software systems in the financial and telecommunications industries. Before founding BitPay, he held various roles including entrepreneur, architect, manager, team lead, and developer. He holds two patents in the field of streaming analytics.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech

**HOMETOWN** Cumming, Georgia

**FIRST JOB** Fry cook at Captain D's

**HIDDEN TALENT** Wake-surfing

**FAVORITE MOVIES** Star Wars

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Georgia Aquarium



## Kathryn Petralia

Cofounder and  
**Kabbagehead**  
**Kabbage**

Kathryn Petralia is the president and cofounder of Kabbage, a data and technology company providing small-business cash-flow solutions. A seasoned leader in financial services with more than 20 years of experience across credit, payments, and lending, Petralia helps lead Kabbage to simplify the way small businesses access the capital and financial services they need to run and grow.

**EDUCATION** Furman University

**HOMETOWN** Greenville, South Carolina

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** *Forbes* 100 Most Powerful Women of 2017

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Because tech, at its core, serves others. It can be used to give people what they need faster and better than before.

**INSPIRING PERSON** Ruth Bader Ginsburg

**FAVORITE BOOKS** *Outliers: The Story of Success* and *David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants* by Malcolm Gladwell

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Fernbank Museum of Natural History



## Tripp Rackley

Technology Entrepreneur

Tripp Rackley is an accomplished technology entrepreneur with a background building and growing successful businesses. He's founded multiple successful companies, including nFront, Firethorn, Experience, and Clutch Technologies, developing partnership strategies and driving adoption prior to their acquisitions. Rackley grew up in Roswell and has won many prestigious awards including the Ernst & Young Technology Entrepreneur of the Year Award, TechAmerica's Spirit of Innovation and Entrepreneur of the Year awards, and the MIT Distinguished Entrepreneur Achievement Award. He has been inducted into the *Bank Technology News* Innovators Hall of Fame, the Technology Hall of Fame of Georgia, and most recently the Technology Association of Georgia's FinTech Hall of Fame.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech

**LESSON LEARNED** You can't be the best at everything. Focus on what you are great at and what you love to do and be a part of a team that highlights each other's strengths and fills in each other's weaknesses.

**NONPROFITS** Marine biology research, animal conservation

## HOW TO LEAD

**“Leadership is inspiring others to be the best version of themselves. Real and true leaders are open to change and willing to be vulnerable.”**

**PAT UPSHAW-MONTEITH**

President and CEO,  
**Leadership Atlanta**



## Sanjay Sehgal

Founder, Chairman  
and CEO  
**MSys Technologies**

Sanjay Sehgal is the founder, chairman, and CEO of the MSys Group, including MSys Technologies—which designs, develops, and manages modern distributed systems and complex integrations—as well as MSys Training and Mobinius, India's leading digital transformation and mobile app company. An entrepreneur, start-up adviser, and motivational speaker with more than two decades of tech experience, Sehgal also founded Pramana and cofounded FarCare and Scentric, and successfully acquired tech companies including Clogeny and DigiFutura. In 2018, he received a Top Entrepreneur award from TiE Atlanta.

**EDUCATION** University of Delhi

**HOMETOWN** New Delhi, India

**HOBBIES** Meditation

**HIDDEN TALENT** I love singing and dancing.

**FAVORITE BOOK** *Designing Destiny: Heartfulness Practices to Find Your Purpose and Fulfill Your Potential* by Kamlesh D. Patel

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Kanha Shanti Vanam in Hyderabad, India

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Avalon



## Jeffrey S. Sloan

CEO  
Global Payments

Jeff Sloan joined Global Payments as president in 2010 and became CEO in 2013. Under his leadership, Global Payments became a Fortune 500 company for the first time in 2021. Previously, he was a partner and the worldwide head of the Financial Technology Group for Goldman Sachs in New York. Sloan pioneered the development of the payments practice in investment banking.

**EDUCATION** The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, New York University School of Law (JD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** *Institutional Investor* America's Best CEOs, *Atlanta Business Chronicle* Most Admired CEOs

**BOARD MEMBERSHIPS** Fleetcor Technologies, Inc., Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania Undergraduate Executive Board, Atlanta Committee for Progress, previous president and chair of the board of the Electronic Transactions Association



## Dawn Whaley

President and Chief Marketing Officer  
Sharecare

Dawn Whaley has been at digital health company Sharecare since its founding. She participates in the development of the overall corporate strategy and is directly responsible for marketing, strategic partnerships, and business development. In 2021, she helped take the company public at a valuation of nearly \$4 billion. Previously, Whaley was executive vice president of marketing and strategic relationships for the website HowStuffWorks, where she helped manage operations and corporate development efforts, including business development and creation and execution of the marketing strategy. She currently serves on the boards of *Forbes Travel Guide* and the American Heart Association's Metro Atlanta Division, and sits on the Metro Atlanta Chamber executive council.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Raising my wonderful daughter, Spencer

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACES TO VISIT**  
Atlanta BeltLine, Stone Mountain

**NONPROFITS** Metro Atlanta Division of the American Heart Association, whose board Whaley serves on



## Larry Williams

President and CEO  
Technology Association of Georgia

Larry Williams is president and CEO of the Technology Association of Georgia, bringing to the job more than 25 years of experience in global branding, international trade and finance, public and industrial policy, and administration and management. As former president and CEO of the Beacon Council, Miami-Dade County's official economic development partnership, Williams led the creation and execution of a new development framework to help the area grow and secure investments in today's innovation economy, resulting in \$687 million in new investment, 119 company relocations or expansions, and more than 4,500 new jobs. From 2011 to 2014, Williams helped shape Atlanta's tech sector as vice president of technology development at the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce.

**EDUCATION** North Carolina State University



## Joey Womack

Founder and CEO  
Goodie Nation

Joey Womack is the founder and CEO of Goodie Nation, a nonprofit that accelerates relationships for social entrepreneurs and diverse founders, and the founder and CEO of Amplify 4 Good, a mission-driven agency that helps large companies, nonprofits, and government agencies create social impact. With a goal to positively affect 1 billion people by 2039, Womack has worked with clients including Google, Coca-Cola, Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, and Ford Motor Co. He is also the cofounder of the Atlanta Black Tech initiative, serving as colead for the start-ups and K-12 divisions.

**EDUCATION** Florida A&M University (MBA)

**FIRST JOB** Sears call center customer support

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** Both of my parents are from historic neighborhoods in Alabama. My father is from Africatown in Mobile, where the last slaves settled, and my mother is from [Montgomery's] Centennial Hill, where Martin Luther King Jr. lived while he was at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Seychelles

## HOW TO LEAD

**“A leader needs to follow the principles of servant leadership, focusing on the success and well-being of employees and the communities to which they belong.”**

**J. HENRY WALKER IV**  
Chair and CEO, Kilpatrick  
Townsend & Stockton



## Jason W. Young

CEO  
MindBlown Labs  
Innovation Partners

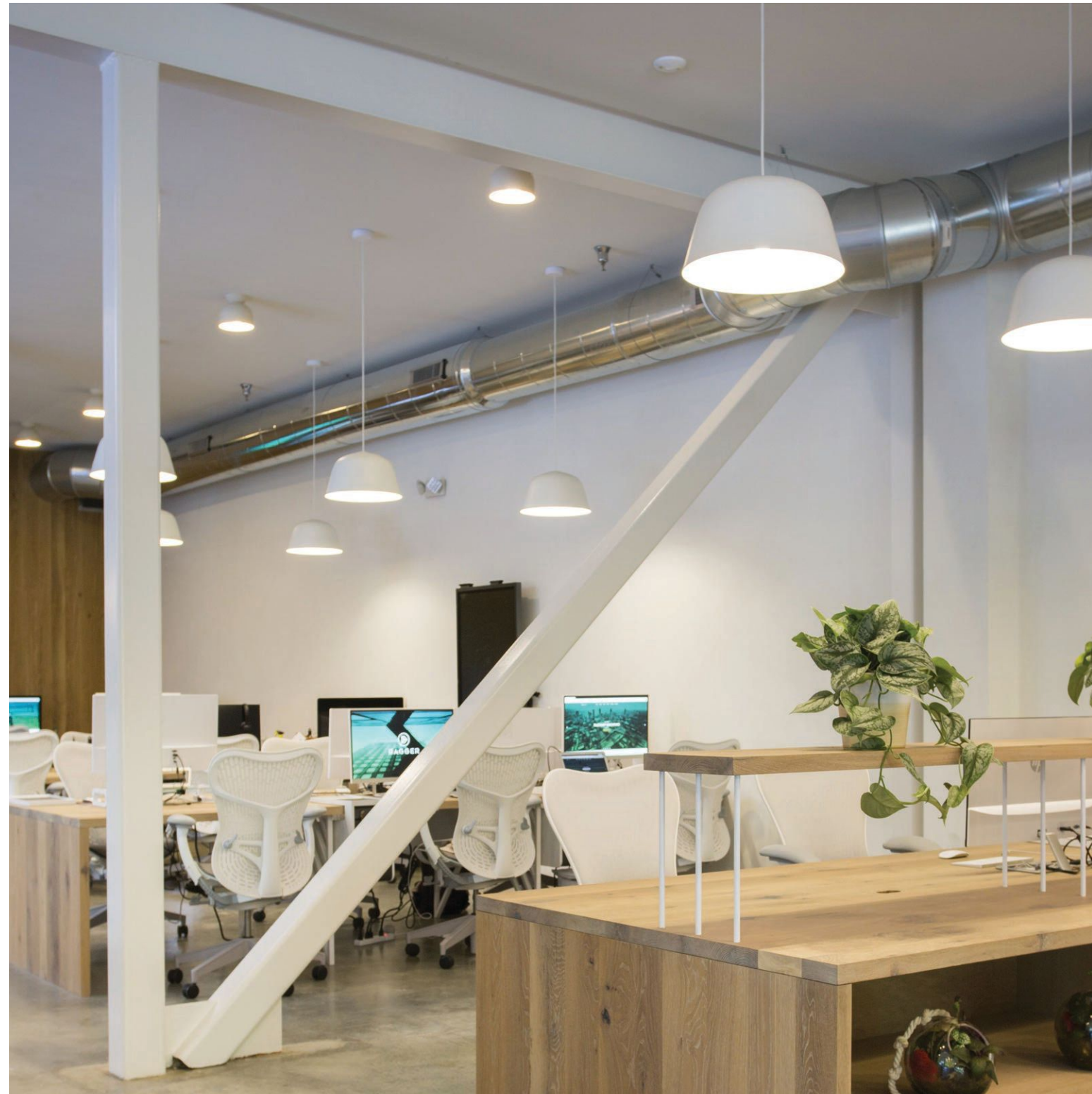
Jason W. Young is the cofounder and CEO of MindBlown Labs, an Atlanta-based financial wellness innovation lab whose mission is to empower Americans to make better financial decisions and achieve enduring financial wellness as a result. The company partners with financial institutions to develop digital solutions that connect with users on an emotional level, driving positive saving and investing behaviors. A member of the board of trustees of the National Endowment for Financial Education, Young was appointed by Barack Obama in 2014 to serve on the newly created President's Advisory Council on Financial Capability for Young Americans.

**EDUCATION** Harvard College

**HOMETOWN** Inglewood, California

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** My family struggled with money. During my sophomore year in college, those struggles came to a head when, the day after Christmas, my family was evicted. That experience impressed upon me the need to make better financial decisions and help others do the same.

**FIRST JOB** I was nine, I assisted a local plumber.



# professionals

48 Accounting & Consulting  
48 Law  
54 Marketing & Public Relations  
57 Media

**Dagger** ▶  
Photograph  
courtesy of Dagger

A portrait of Jeff Genthner, a middle-aged man with light-colored hair, wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored patterned shirt. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a wall covered with numerous framed photographs.

CONGRATULATIONS  
**JEFF  
GENTHNER**

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT &  
GENERAL MANAGER  
BALLY SPORTS SOUTH/SOUTHEAST

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**2022  
ATLANTA 500  
HONOREE**

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## Accounting &amp; Consulting


**Jimmy Etheredge**

Chief Executive,  
North America  
**Accenture**

Jimmy Etheredge is Accenture's CEO of North America and a member of the company's Global Management Committee. Prior to assuming his current role in September 2019, he was senior managing director, U.S. Southeast, responsible for 10 states. In that role, he extended Accenture's innovation hub network, including creating a new hub at Georgia Tech. An advocate of inclusive innovation, Etheredge expanded Accenture's professional apprenticeship program to Atlanta and metro D.C., creating new pathways for workers of all skill levels to thrive in the digital economy.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** *Atlanta Business Chronicle* Most Admired CEO (2018), led Accenture in championing the Safe Harbor Amendment in 2016

**FIRST JOB** Lifeguard

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Be present, stay in the moment. Focus on the conversation, issue, or task at hand. Yoga helps too!

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Lake Glenville, North Carolina

**BUCKET LIST** Snowboarding in Japan


**Ed Heys**

Managing Partner  
**Deloitte & Touche**

With more than 30 years of experience in professional services, Ed Heys is the Atlanta and Birmingham managing partner of Deloitte & Touche, responsible for strategy, operations, talent, and business development for the multistate practice. He oversees more than 2,500 Deloitte professionals based in Georgia and Alabama. As lead client service partner and advisory partner, Heys is responsible for managing relationships with some of Deloitte's most significant clients in the region. Deloitte is one of the world's largest consulting firms.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia


**Richard Kopelman**

Managing Partner  
and CEO  
**Aprio**

Richard Kopelman serves as CEO and managing partner of Aprio, a nationally recognized, CPA-led business advisory firm. With more than 25 years of experience in public accounting, Kopelman has earned a reputation for providing clients, from start-ups to billion-dollar enterprises, with the highest level of service. Recently Kopelman has directed several strategic combinations for Aprio, expanding the firm into the Charlotte, Nashville, and New York markets.

**EDUCATION** University of South Florida

**FIRST JOB** Selling funeral services (age 12) with my mother

**HOBBIES** Traveling, skiing, sailing

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *Smokey and the Bandit*

**BUCKET LIST** Morocco


**F. David Leiter Jr.**

Managing Partner,  
Atlanta Offices and  
Mid-South Hub  
**KPMG**

F. David Leiter Jr. is the managing partner of KPMG's three Atlanta offices as well as the accounting firm's mid-South hub, which includes Nashville, Birmingham, Memphis, Knoxville, and Jackson. In addition to leading the almost 2,000 people in these offices, Leiter is a partner in the firm's Business Tax Services practice. With nearly three decades of experience in the field, Leiter provides multinational tax services to a broad range of KPMG's audit and nonaudit clients and has served as a lead partner for numerous Fortune 1000 and other publicly traded and private companies.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia (MAcc)

**HOMETOWN** Marietta, Georgia

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Leadership Atlanta class of 2009

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Accounting is the language of business.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Put people first.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Paris


**Glenn Mitchell**

Atlanta Managing Partner  
**Ernst & Young**

As Atlanta managing partner for Ernst & Young, a U.S. member firm of the global EY organization, Glenn Mitchell oversees more than 2,200 professionals across EY's service lines of tax, consulting, assurance, strategy, and transactions, and is strongly connected to the approximately 1,500 IT and advisory professionals in Alpharetta. Since returning to Atlanta with his family in 2015, Mitchell has joined the boards of the United Way of Greater Atlanta, Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Morehouse School of Medicine, and Woodruff Arts Center, among others.

**EDUCATION** Auburn University

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** *Atlanta Business Chronicle* Most Admired CEO (2018), Leadership Atlanta class of 2017

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** When I moved my family out of Atlanta to take a leadership position with EY

**HIDDEN TALENT** I'm a pretty good cook.


**Javier Becerra**

Assistant General  
Counsel, Marketing  
Advisory Department  
**Primerica**

Javier Becerra works in the general counsel's office of the financial services marketing company Primerica as an assistant general counsel in the marketing advisory department. Previously, he was a junior counsel at Imerys and a project attorney at King & Spalding. Becerra currently serves as president of the Georgia Hispanic Bar Association. He's also a board member and copresident of the Atlanta chapter of Echelon, the emerging-professionals arm of the Salvation Army, and chair of the Corporate Counsel Committee of the Young Lawyers Division of the Georgia State Bar.

**EDUCATION** Georgia College & State University, Indiana University Maurer School of Law (JD)

**HOMETOWN** La Boca, Cuba

**LESSON LEARNED** Do not let your failures define you. Use those failures as lessons and keep pushing forward until you reach your goal.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** When I was four years old, I escaped from Cuba with my family and others on a boat built by my family. We were rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Navy and taken to Guantanamo Bay, where I lived for six months as a refugee until we were granted asylum.



## Theodore I. Blum

Managing Shareholder and Chair, Atlanta Corporate Practice  
**Greenberg Traurig**

Ted Blum is the managing shareholder of Greenberg Traurig's Atlanta office, as well as chair of the Atlanta Corporate Practice. With expertise in corporate and business law, mergers and acquisitions, venture capital, and corporate finance, he leads and advises on complex business transactions and provides counsel on day-to-day operations. He's also a member of the boards of the Woodruff Arts Center and the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival, general counsel to and a member of the board of advisers for the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, and chair of a Rotary Club of Atlanta task force on human trafficking.

**EDUCATION** University of Michigan, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law (JD)

**HOMETOWN** Champaign, Illinois

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Rotary Club of Atlanta Ivan Allen Club Service Award (2019), *Atlanta Business Chronicle* Most Admired CEOs (2016), *The Best Lawyers in America* (2007-2020), *Georgia Super Lawyers* (2006-2019)

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** The great Hank Aaron showed me that his success in business is important, but more important is his dedication to the community.



## Althea Broughton

Partner  
**Arnall Golden Gregory**

Althea Broughton is a partner at Arnall Golden Gregory and cochair of the firm's Real Estate Practice, representing developers, government agencies, and tax credit investors in affordable housing and mixed-income development transactions, mixed-use and urban redevelopment transactions, transactions involving the use of public-private partnerships, and conventional real estate transactions. The Atlanta native has played a critical role in the creation or preservation of tens of thousands of units of affordable housing. Broughton served recently as board chair for Literacy Action; other present and past board memberships include Drew Charter School, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Atlanta, Atlanta BeltLine Partnership, and the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

**EDUCATION** Emory University, University of Virginia (JD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** *Atlanta Business Chronicle* Women Who Mean Business (2019), Leadership Atlanta class of 2013

**WHAT I'D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** Don't let fear hold you back.



## Janine Brown

Partner in Charge, Atlanta Office  
**Alston & Bird**

Janine Brown is the partner in charge of Alston & Bird's Atlanta office, with experience handling multibillion-dollar domestic and international transactions focusing primarily on M&A, joint ventures, and strategic alliances. Brown served eight years as chair of Alston & Bird's Corporate Technology Practice Group and is currently cochair of the Atlanta Office Diversity Committee. She's also on the boards of Spelman College, Georgia Justice Project, and the Woodruff Arts Center.

**EDUCATION** University of Michigan, Duke University School of Law (JD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Featured in *The Best Lawyers in America* continuously since 2001

**FIRST JOB** Counter clerk during high school at the Fannie May candy shop in Kalamazoo, Michigan

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** My husband, daughter, and I have traveled across the U.S., Canada, and the U.K. to see all of Shakespeare's plays.



## Mawuli Mel Davis

Founding Partner  
**Davis Bozeman Law Firm**

Mawuli Mel Davis leads the Civil Rights Division of Davis Bozeman and has represented and helped organize legal support for activists engaged in protests including the Occupy movement, Moral Mondays, and Black Lives Matter. He is a cofounder of Let Us Make Man and the Black Man Lab. In 2019 Davis received the Ben F. Johnson Jr. Public Service Award, the highest honor given by Georgia State University College of Law.

**EDUCATION** United States Naval Academy, Bowie State University (MPA), Georgia State University College of Law (JD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Named humanitarian of the year by the Atlanta chapter of the NAACP, the Kappa Alpha Sigma chapter of Phi Beta Sigma, and the Atlanta alumni chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, and an outstanding advocate of the year by the American Civil Liberties Union, the Urban League, the Southern Center for Human Rights, and the Gate City Bar Association. The DeKalb Lawyers Association named the Mawuli Davis Legal Warrior Award in his honor.



## Jonathan E. Eady

Managing Partner  
**Arnall Golden Gregory**

Jonathan E. Eady is managing partner at Arnall Golden Gregory, where his practice focuses on counseling business and real estate clients in connection with various types of financing, development, investment, acquisition, and operational matters. Eady represents clients in all aspects of the real estate development process, with an emphasis on mixed-use urban redevelopment transactions; he also represents clients in the long-term care and global supply chain industries. Eady has been recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* and *Georgia Super Lawyers*.

**EDUCATION** Emory University, University of Georgia School of Law (JD)

**HOMETOWN** Oxford, Georgia

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I like solving complex problems involving people and money.

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Worked on developing the legal and financial model that helped transform the face of public housing revitalization in Atlanta and across the U.S.

**FIRST JOB** Cook at Burger King

**FAVORITE BOOK** *The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien



## Sharon Gay

Senior Counsel  
**Dentons**

As senior counsel of the Atlanta office of the world's largest global law firm, Sharon Gay works at the intersection of government, business, and public policy. She helps governments and businesses do business with one another, especially in the areas of land use and zoning, tax allocation districts and other economic development incentives, transportation, public-private partnerships, and state and local government affairs. She's worked with public- and private-sector clients to amend state and local laws to facilitate brownfield redevelopment, community improvement districts, and water and wastewater privatization projects.

**EDUCATION** Vanderbilt University, Emory University School of Law (JD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Coordinated the successful effort to amend the Georgia Constitution to confirm that school systems could participate in tax allocation districts to support community redevelopment

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Saint Barthélemy

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Atlanta Botanical Garden



## Kevin A. Gooch

Partner  
**Holland & Knight LLP**  
Chairman of the Board  
**100 Black Men of Atlanta**

Kevin Gooch is a financial services attorney in Holland & Knight's Atlanta office. With a diverse practice, he has the most experience serving as outside general counsel as well as negotiating and documenting large debt transactions on behalf of financial institutions or corporate borrowers. Over the course of his career, Gooch has closed loan transactions and restructurings worth over \$20 billion. He worked previously for McKenna Long & Aldrich (now Dentons), Alston & Bird, and DLA Piper. Gooch is the youngest board chair in the history of 100 Black Men of Atlanta and an adjunct professor at the University of Georgia School of Law.

**EDUCATION** Emory University, University of Georgia School of Law (JD)

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Success is leased, not owned, and rent is due every darn day.

**FAVORITE SONG ABOUT ATLANTA** "Player's Ball" by OutKast

**FAVORITE EVERYDAY RESTAURANT** Taqueria del Sol

**BUCKET LIST** I want to visit South Africa, particularly the place where the Atlantic Ocean and Indian Ocean met.



## Robert D. Hays

Chairman  
**King & Spalding**

Robert D. Hays is the fifth chairman in King & Spalding's 130-year history, currently serving his fifth term. During his tenure, the firm has opened 21 offices and created a global platform. It has launched offices in Tokyo, Los Angeles, Chicago, and Brussels and marked a number of milestones, including \$1 billion in revenue and 1,100 lawyers. A nationally recognized trial lawyer, Hays led the firm's Tort and Environmental Practice Group for 12 years. He is a summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a Morehead scholar. Hays earned his law degree from Vanderbilt University Law School, where he was selected to the Vanderbilt Law Review and was a Patrick Wilson scholar.

**EDUCATION** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Vanderbilt University Law School (JD)



## Michael E. Hollingsworth II

Managing Partner,  
Atlanta Office  
**Nelson Mullins Riley  
& Scarborough**

When Michael E. Hollingsworth II was named managing partner of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough's Atlanta office, he was 38—one of the youngest lawyers to hold such a position at a large Atlanta firm. In the decade since, Hollingsworth has led the growth of the office from 83 to 155 lawyers. He's also cohead of the firm's Mergers & Acquisitions Group and its Investment Management Group, focusing on middle-market corporate transactions including mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, and joint ventures.

**EDUCATION** Tulane University, Samford University Cumberland School of Law (JD), University of Alabama School of Law (LLM)

**FIRST JOB** Sales clerk for my parents' sporting-goods store

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Gulf Coast beaches

**NONPROFITS** Empty Stocking Fund, Woodruff Arts Center, City of Refuge

**BUCKET LIST** Family trip to Africa at some point

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Jason Bateman



## Candis Jones Smith

Partner  
**Lewis Brisbois  
Bisgaard & Smith**

Candis Jones Smith is a partner in the Atlanta office of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith and a member of the firm's General Liability practice. Since 2011, Smith's practice has focused on insurance defense, premises liability, personal injury, and medical malpractice; she has a strong track record in automobile liability and tort/premises liability trials with demands of \$1 million or more. Her clients have included several Fortune 500 companies, numerous insurance carriers, and a major metropolitan transit authority. She has successfully tried and won federal and state jury and bench trials.

**EDUCATION** Spelman College, Georgia State College of Law (JD)

**HOMETOWN** Atlanta, Georgia

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Super Lawyers Rising Star (2019-2021)

**FIRST JOB** Party City



## Wab Kadaba

Chair, Global Intellectual  
Property Department  
**Kilpatrick Townsend  
& Stockton**

As global chair of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton's Intellectual Property Department, Wab Kadaba leads a team of more than 300 attorneys in offices across the U.S. and Asia. He concentrates his practice on litigation related to intellectual property as well as strategy and management of intellectual property and technology issues; his experience in patent, trade dress, and trade secret litigation matters has involved technologies as diverse as software, telecommunications, e-commerce, medical devices, footwear, and chemical compositions.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech, Case Western Reserve University (MA), University of North Carolina School of Law (JD)

**FIRST JOB** Dunkin' Donuts at age 14

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** My father told me to complete my education because it is that which no one can ever take away from me.

**BUCKET LIST** A bike-riding trip through Tuscany



## Linda A. Klein

Senior Managing  
Shareholder  
**Baker Donelson**

Linda A. Klein is senior managing shareholder at Baker Donelson and a past president of the American Bar Association, the world's largest voluntary professional association. As the first woman to serve as president of the State Bar of Georgia, she devised a proposal and advocated for the state to allocate funding for lawyers to help indigent victims of domestic violence. Klein served as managing partner of Gambrell & Stolz beginning in 2001, leading the firm's 2007 merger with Baker Donelson.

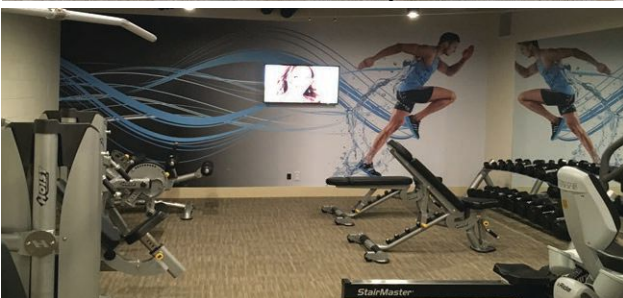
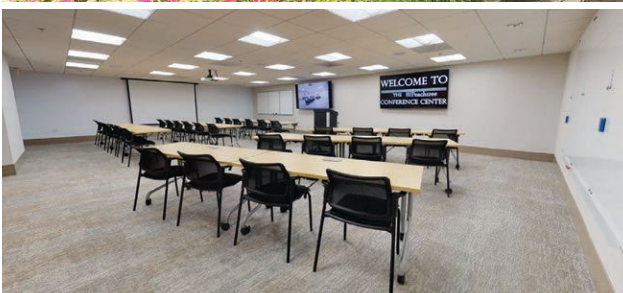
**EDUCATION** Union College, Washington and Lee University School of Law (JD)

**HIDDEN TALENT** I collect Shirley Temple memorabilia and can even impersonate her.

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Center for Civil and Human Rights

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATIONS** Big city: Toronto; leisure: Hawaii; Old Europe: Zagreb, Croatia

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## Ernest LaMont Greer

Co-president  
Greenberg Traurig

Ernest Greer is copresident of Greenberg Traurig, an international law firm of over 2,200 attorneys in 40 locations. He was a vice president of the firm from 2013 to 2015 and Atlanta managing shareholder for nearly a decade. As managing shareholder, he directed the growth of the Atlanta office, which has more than 100 attorneys. Greer has also maintained an active legal practice, trying cases across the country, and is past chairman of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce—the first lawyer to serve in that capacity in the chamber's 100-year history.

**EDUCATION** Harvard University, Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law (JD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** A Corporate Recipient, National Bar Association, 40th Annual Mid-Year Conference Heman Marion Sweatt Award (2020), Women Works Media Group, Law and Justice Awards, Man of the Year and Georgia's Most Powerful and Influential Attorneys (2019), National Law Journal Equality Trailblazer (2019), Gate City Foundation Hall of Fame (2018), *Atlanta Business Chronicle* Corporate Diversity Champion (2018), Boy Scouts of America Atlanta Area Service Award (2015)



## Cesar C. Mitchell Jr.

Partner  
Dentons

A partner at Dentons, Cesar C. Mitchell Jr. is a member of the firm's Public Policy team as well as the head of its interdisciplinary Local Government Solutions practice, which bridges the public and private sectors to meet the challenges facing local and state governments in the U.S. Mitchell is past president of the Atlanta City Council, where he served two four-year terms as an at-large member while maintaining a legal practice in which he brought his policy advocacy, regulatory compliance, and real estate experience and relationships to bear. An Atlanta native, Mitchell serves on the boards of Hands On Atlanta and the Midtown Alliance.

**EDUCATION** Morehouse College, University of Georgia School of Law (JD)

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** What people are fussing about ain't always what they are mad about.

**LESSON LEARNED** The best way to get your next initiative done is to tell people about your last initiative.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I have to keep a box of tissues handy when watching romantic comedies.



## Simon R. Malko

Managing Partner  
Morris, Manning  
& Martin

Simon R. Malko brings more than 20 years of courtroom and law firm experience to his leadership role at Morris, Manning & Martin, where he is the third and youngest managing partner in the firm's 42-year history. His approach is to leverage technology and innovation to position the firm for new challenges and opportunities. Malko began his legal career in New York City, where he represented Fortune 50 companies and large investment banks.

**EDUCATION** Emory University, Fordham University School of Law (JD)

**FIRST JOB** Mowing lawns

**HIDDEN TALENT** I am a very good cook.

**LESSON LEARNED** Never let your ego get in the way of your success.

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Gu's Dumplings at Krog Street Market

**BUCKET LIST** Learning to play the bagpipes

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Edward Norton



## Erica V. Mason

Labor & Employment  
Partner  
Akerman

Twenty years ago, Erica Mason left a successful career running a multimillion-dollar record label to attend law school. Today, she is a nationally recognized employment law partner whose business experience helps her defend clients in federal court litigation or advise executive leadership teams on how to protect their three biggest assets: employees, company culture, and brand reputation. In 2019, Mason joined Akerman's newly minted Atlanta office, where she leads a diverse, multilingual team that assists clients with everything from employment law issues to routine HR advice to class actions. Clients range from start-ups to Fortune 100 companies. Her pro bono and community service have included her tenure as president of the Hispanic National Bar Association.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University, University of Pennsylvania Law School (JD)

**LESSON LEARNED** Your toughest boss or those who seemingly give you the hardest time are often those who teach you the most.



## Gerald L. Pouncey Jr.

Chairman  
Morris Manning  
& Martin LLP

Gerald L. Pouncey Jr. is chairman of Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP. A senior partner in the firm, he also heads the environmental and infrastructure practices. His primary focus is the acquisition, disposition, and/or the redevelopment of properties with significant environmental impact; mergers, investments, and financing related to such properties; and the development and implementation of green energy technologies and strategies. He lectures nationally on these topics. The Opelika, Alabama, native has led efforts in the permitting, financing, acquisition, redevelopment and regulatory closure of numerous industrial properties, mines, and landfills throughout the United States. Pouncey is the past chairman of the board of directors for the Council for Quality Growth, the Georgia Brownfield Association, the Walker School, and Cobb Landmarks and Historical Society.

**EDUCATION** Auburn University, University of Georgia (JD)

**HOBBIES** Golf, fly fishing

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** London



## Steven H. Sadow

Criminal Defense Attorney  
Steven H. Sadow PC

The sole practitioner at the firm Steven H. Sadow PC, Steve Sadow is a nationally known criminal defense attorney who has practiced law for 42 years. He's also special counsel for Schulten Ward Turner & Weiss, where he serves as head of the firm's white collar and high-profile criminal defense section. Sadow's criminal trial and appellate practice focuses on white collar crime, including healthcare, cyber, securities and tax fraud, RICO, drugs and firearms, murder, and forfeiture. Notable successful high-profile representations have included rappers/entertainers T.I., Rick Ross, Usher, and Ty Dolla Sign; Howard K. Stern (Anna Nicole's attorney); and Steve Kaplan (owner of the former Gold Club).

**EDUCATION** Marietta College, Emory University School of Law (JD)

**HOMETOWN** Trotwood, Ohio

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** It was a calling. I knew I wanted to be a criminal defense attorney at age 11.

**HIDDEN TALENT** College pocket-billiards champion

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *My Cousin Vinny*



### Lizanne Thomas

Partner-in-Charge,  
Southeast U.S. Region  
**Jones Day**

Lizanne Thomas leads Jones Day's corporate governance team and is partner-in-charge of the firm's Southeast U.S. Region. Experienced in shareholder activism, public and private mergers and acquisitions, takeover preparedness, and executive compensation, Thomas participates in about 100 board meetings per year as counsel to a number of public companies. She represents special committees in control and conflict transactions, as well as in internal investigations. Thomas also lectures on governance to leading business organizations, companies, and universities.

**EDUCATION** Furman University, Washington and Lee University School of Law (JD)

**BOARD MEMBERSHIPS** Atlantic Capital Bancshares, Popeyes Louisiana Kitchen, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Georgia Research Alliance, Washington and Lee University, Woodruff Arts Center.



### J. Henry Walker IV

Chair and CEO  
**Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton**

Henry Walker is the chair and CEO of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, an international law firm with more than 600 lawyers in 20 offices. Walker oversees the strategic direction and growth of the firm; as leader of its executive committee, he works closely with members to define and execute the firm's strategic objectives. Walker is a member of the board of directors and executive committee of the Metro Atlanta Chamber and the board of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce; he's also chair of the Georgia Chamber's Law and Judiciary Committee. In 2019, the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* named him one of the city's Most Admired CEOs.

**EDUCATION** University of Virginia, Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law (JD)

**HOMETOWN** Griffin, Georgia

**FIRST JOB** The summer after I turned 16, I worked in the maintenance department of Dundee Mills, a textile mill in Griffin.



### Mark D. Wasserman

Managing Partner and  
Co-CEO  
**Eversheds Sutherland**

With more than three decades of experience in corporate law, Mark Wasserman has been the managing partner of Eversheds Sutherland (U.S.) LLP for 16 years and is the co-CEO of Eversheds Sutherland Limited. He's represented and advised private and public companies in the U.S. and internationally, and has counseled clients on a range of business matters, especially mergers and acquisitions and issues relating to federal and state securities laws. He also serves as chair of the Emory Law Dean's Advisory Board.

**EDUCATION** Clemson University (MA), Emory University School of Law (JD)

**FIRST JOB** Owned and operated my own lawn service

**HIDDEN TALENT** I was an all-American fencer in college.

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** The BeltLine



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## John C. Yates

Partner  
**Morris, Manning  
& Martin**

A pioneer in technology law, John C. Yates launched Morris, Manning & Martin's technology practice more than 38 years ago and has practiced exclusively in that area ever since. Under his leadership, the firm's technology practice has represented more than 1,000 tech companies and offers comprehensive legal and corporate services to start-ups, growing tech companies, and investors. A prolific author and leading voice in technology law, Yates has been cited by the U.S. Supreme Court and quoted in publications including the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Economist*.

**EDUCATION** Duke University, Duke University School of Law (JD)

**HOMETOWN** Cincinnati, Ohio

**FIRST JOB** Library assistant in Charlotte, North Carolina. I'll never shelve another book!

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** The beaches of South Carolina



## Sally Q. Yates

Partner  
**King & Spalding**

With the Department of Justice for 27 years, Yates rose through the ranks of assistant United States attorneys to become U.S. attorney in Atlanta, deputy attorney general, and acting attorney general. As deputy AG from January 2015 through 2017, she was the second-highest-ranking official in the department. She directed all U.S. attorneys' offices and DOJ law enforcement agencies, including the FBI, DEA, ATF, U.S. Marshals Service, and the Bureau of Prisons. A lecturer at Georgetown University Law Center, she has specialized in white-collar crime and tried high-profile public cases such as the ones against former Atlanta mayor Bill Campbell and Olympic bomber Eric Rudolph.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia, University of Georgia School of Law (JD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** A fellow and state chair of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Yates has received the Luminary Award from the Southern Center for Human Rights.



## Kristin Cowart

Founder and CEO  
**Brave Public Relations**

With expertise in media relations, reputation management, crisis communications, new product launches, and partnership marketing, Kristin Cowart founded the boutique firm Brave Public Relations in 1999. The company has worked with notable Atlanta brands including mall developer Simon, Pike Nurseries, PGA Tour/Tour Championship, Fox Theatre, and Legoland Discovery Center. Before founding Brave, Cowart worked in London for the global public relations firm Edelman, directing campaigns for clients including Ericsson and IMAX. Prior to that she was an account supervisor at Golin in Atlanta.

**EDUCATION** Boston College

**HOMETOWN** Tampa, Florida

**FIRST JOB** Waitress. I was horrible!

**INSPIRING PERSON** My grandfather. He started as a busboy at Morrison's Cafeteria and worked his way up to CEO of the company—with only an eighth-grade education.



## Catherine Ann Downey

CEO and Creative Director  
**CATMEDIA**

In 1997, Catherine Ann Downey founded the creative agency CATVIDEO, changing the business's name in 2011 to CATMEDIA to reflect the ways Downey seeks out and embraces technological advances, and the evolving ways people use media. A Virginia native, Downey was previously a promotions manager for Team America and the director of marketing and broadcast promotions for a Memphis television station. In these and other positions, she honed her skills in media buying, staff and project management, and writing, directing, and producing.

**EDUCATION** George Mason University

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Leadership Atlanta class of 2019, Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year Southeast finalist (2016)

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Raising and supporting four kids as a single parent and educating them all through the parochial school system, Saint Pius, and college

## HOW TO LEAD

**“Leaders need to have humility and be vulnerable enough to share their personal journey, including failures.”**

**OMARI HENDERSON**

Partner and Co-founder,  
ZuCot Gallery



## Robin Fitzgerald

Chief Creative Officer  
**BBDO Atlanta**

Robin Fitzgerald is the chief creative officer for the ad agency BBDO Atlanta, and the first female chief creative officer at any BBDO agency in the U.S. Prior to joining BBDO Atlanta in 2016, Fitzgerald spent 15 years in Los Angeles at Crispin Porter + Bogusky—working with brands including Netflix, Old Navy, and PayPal—and TBWA\Chiat\Day, where clients included Gatorade and Nissan. Fitzgerald's work has been featured on *NBC Nightly News* and NPR, nominated for an Emmy, and parodied on *Saturday Night Live*.

**EDUCATION** University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**HOMETOWN** Fort Hood, Texas; Panama; Hilo, Hawaii; Omaha, Nebraska

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Five Cannes Lions in 2019. Seven Effie Awards, including five gold, in 2020.



### Mark S. Fogas

Executive Vice President  
and Atlanta Office  
Managing Director  
Epsilon

Mark S. Fogas currently serves as executive vice president of strategic consulting, advanced analytics, and campaign operations for Epsilon, a division of Publicis Groupe, and as managing director of the firm's Atlanta office. Fogas has more than 30 years of strategic marketing, advanced analytics, product development, and governmental affairs experience, having spent the majority of his career leading teams in the development, execution, and measurement of multichannel marketing programs for brands like AT&T, the NFL, 24 Hour Fitness, the NBA, and Brookdale Senior Living.

**EDUCATION** University of Alabama at Birmingham, Louisiana Tech University (MA)

**FAVORITE BOOK** *The Second Battle of New Orleans: The Hundred-Year Struggle to Integrate the Schools* by Liva Baker



### Rashida Gayle

Founder and CEO  
Twenty Six  
Marketing Agency

In 2020, Rashida Gayle founded Twenty Six Marketing Agency, a sports and entertainment firm that maximizes clients' brand exposure and income while creating culture and meaningful brand collaborations. The founder of several successful companies with a focus on talent representation, public relations, and digital media, Gayle has secured her clients over \$10 million in deals with companies including Pepsi, Reebok, and Marriott. Gayle was previously vice president of talent marketing at GSE Worldwide.

**EDUCATION** Florida State University

**HOMETOWN** Fort Lauderdale, Florida

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I love everything about sports. My job is to make people money, but my legacy is to make space and foster a culture of support for underrepresented folks, exchanging wisdom with my peers and those to come.



### Genna Keller

Principal  
Trevelino/Keller  
Communications Group

Genna Keller served in executive leadership positions with global public relations firms for 16 years before launching her own agency with longtime colleague Dean Trevelino in the early 2000s. Together they created a digital public relations and marketing firm that is nationally ranked in all of their practice areas. Passionate about emerging companies and projects in the Atlanta area, Keller serves in advisory roles with Tech Alpharetta, Keiretsu Forum, Hub404, and others and recently played a significant role in helping Atlanta land the 2021 HHS SBIR/STTR Conference—a national conference designed to educate health and bio-oriented small businesses about America's Largest Seed Fund.

**EDUCATION** Wake Forest University

**WHAT I'D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Do not be afraid of hard work, follow-up, and nondigital interactions.

**100 Black Men of Atlanta Inc.**

CONGRATULATES

**LOUIS E. NEGRÓN, SR.**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

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## Liz Lapidus

Owner  
**Liz Lapidus PR**

A longtime leader in Atlanta's public relations community, Liz Lapidus started her eponymous firm in 1997. Lapidus has promoted the city's top restaurants, retailers, developers, nonprofits, arts organizations, and health and beauty experts, and her work has been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, *Better Homes and Gardens*, and *Food & Wine*. She's on the advisory boards of Dad's Garage and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, and has previously held board positions with the AIDS Memorial Quilt, the Atlanta Contemporary Art Center, and the Hambidge Center.

**EDUCATION** University of Alabama

**HOMETOWN** Miami, Florida

**FIRST JOB** Pushing a cookie cart around Coconut Grove during a blazing Miami summer. So not as glam as it sounds.



## Carolyn Sloss

Vice President  
**Allied Integrated Marketing**

As vice president of Allied Global Marketing, an international agency with 22 offices, Sloss's client list contains multiple entertainment and lifestyle brands including Walt Disney Studios, Paramount Pictures, Universal, Fox Searchlight, Netflix, Cirque du Soleil, MotorTrend Auto Shows, and Van Michael Salon. A Florida native, Sloss serves as a lead adviser from account planning to brand strategy and activation. She was recently honored with the 2019 Synergy Award given by the African American Film Critics Association for her impactful commitment in the arts and entertainment community.

**EDUCATION** Auburn University

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I am a great ping-pong player!

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Greece

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACES TO VISIT** Sun-Trust Park and Mercedes-Benz Stadium

**NONPROFITS** LifeLine Animal Project, Atlanta Film Festival, Girl Scouts



## Vince Thompson

Founder, Chairman,  
and CEO  
**MELT**

Vince Thompson founded MELT in 2000 and built the company into one of the nation's leading events and sports marketing agencies. In addition to its 20-year representation of the Coca-Cola Co., MELT also represents Aflac and other national companies. Thompson also built MELT University into one of the industry's most successful internship and career development programs; his book *Build Brand You: Insights for Pursuing Your Dreams*, a guide to building personal brands, published in 2020. In 2018, the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* named Thompson one of its Most Admired CEOs.

**EDUCATION** Auburn University

**HIDDEN TALENT** I played the saxophone in high school.

**HOBBIES** Exercising, fishing, fine wine, cigars

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Chops Lobster Bar

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Jeremy Piven



## Dean Trevelino

Principal  
**Trevelino/Keller Communications Group**

Dean Trevelino had 16 years of experience in executive leadership positions at global public relations firms before he and longtime colleague Genna Keller launched Trevelino/Keller Communications Group in the early 2000s. Together they created a digital public relations and marketing firm that has been ranked as high as the fourth-fastest-growing firm in the U.S. by *O'Dwyer's*, and recognized as one of the best North American firms to work for by *PRovoke* (formerly *Holmes Report*). Trevelino is a member of the Forbes Agency Council; he's also a competitive ultrarunner and former Division I college athlete.

**EDUCATION** Pennsylvania State University, University of Alabama (MA)

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Rebounding from the loss of a parent as a college student

**HIDDEN TALENT** Closet modern architect

**BUCKET LIST** Run 100 miles in 24 hours

## HOW TO LEAD

**“Be willing to reach out to new people, organizations, and communities—looking to build bridges of greater understanding with a desire to collaborate in making our world a better place.”**

**MARIA SAPORTA**  
Founder, [SaportaReport.com](http://SaportaReport.com)



## Forrest Tuff

Founder and CEO  
**One Vision Productions**

Forrest Tuff is the founder and CEO of One Vision Productions, a multimedia production company with clients ranging from small businesses and government agencies to Fortune 100 companies. Every year since 2015, One Vision Productions has been listed as one of Atlanta's Best and Brightest Companies to Work For by the National Association for Business Resources. A professional speaker, author, and business mentor, Tuff also works to educate aspiring entrepreneurs on how to start successful businesses and attract clients. The Atlanta native hosts the *Tuff Talk Show* and has received credits on more than 200 films.

**EDUCATION** Western Carolina University

**FIRST JOB** Chick-fil-A

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** A career-ending injury as a Division I college basketball player. I had to refocus my efforts from becoming a professional basketball player to becoming a professional businessman.



### Donald Albright

President and Cofounder  
**Tenderfoot TV**

Donald Albright is an entrepreneur, producer, and the president of the content creation company Tenderfoot TV, which he cofounded in 2016 with Payne Lindsey, and which produces an array of entertainment media including podcasts, live shows, television, film, and other digital products. Since its launch, Tenderfoot TV has released multiple successful podcast franchises including *Up and Vanished*, *Atlanta Monster*, *Radio Rental*, and *To Live and Die in LA*, hosted by the award-winning journalist Neil Strauss. Through Tenderfoot TV, Albright has forged partnerships with media companies including iHeartRadio, NBCUniversal, HBO, Netflix, Cadence13, and Issa Rae's label Raedio.

**HOMETOWN** San Jose, California

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** iHeartRadio Audible Audio Pioneer Award (2020), Webby Crime & Justice Podcast Award (2020), iHeart Best True Crime Podcast (2019)



### Meredith Artley

Editor in Chief and Senior Vice President  
**CNN Digital Worldwide**

Meredith Artley is the editor in chief and a senior vice president of CNN Digital Worldwide, where she oversees the creation, programming, and publishing of CNN's journalism on CNN.com, CNNi.com, and CNN Business across mobile, social, desktop, and a variety of emerging platforms and products. A former president of the board of directors of the Online News Association, she leads a global team of hundreds of reporters, producers, and editors.

**EDUCATION** University of Missouri

**FAVORITE BOOKS** *An American Marriage* by Tayari Jones

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** The Elder art installation by Masud Olufani in Freedom Park, across from the David T. Howard Middle School.



### Tara August

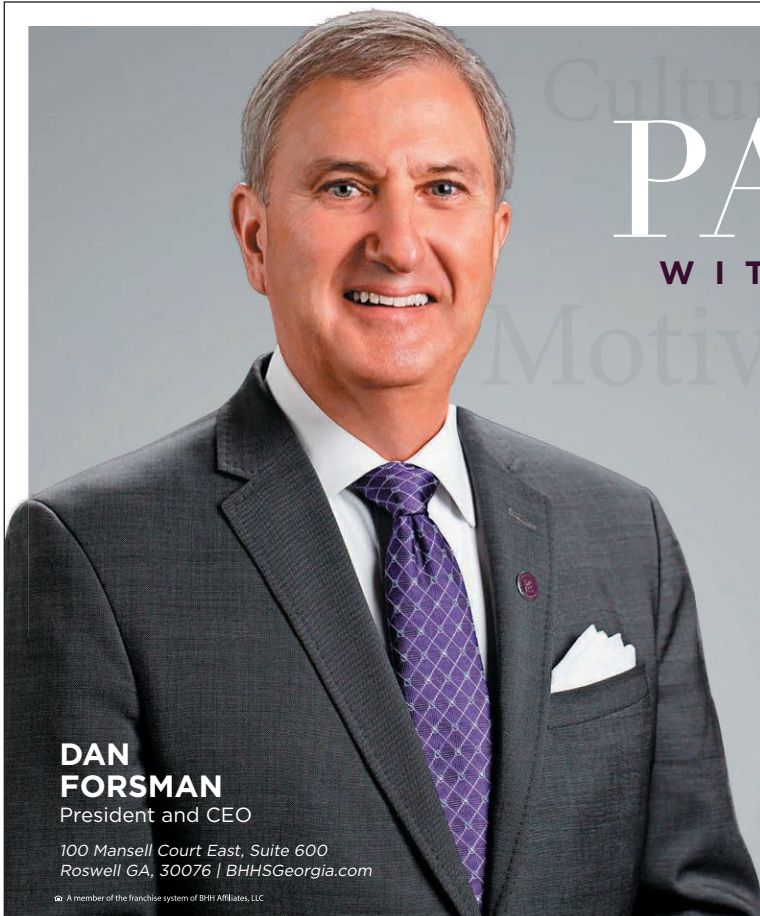
Senior Vice President,  
Talent Services and  
Special Projects  
**Turner Sports**

Tara August is senior vice president of talent services and special projects for Turner Sports and *Bleacher Report*, overseeing Turner Sports' roster of on-air announcers across digital and linear platforms. August facilitates on-air production, sales, marketing, and promotional activities, with an emphasis on serving as the primary liaison to all sports teams, leagues, agents, and celebrities to facilitate contract negotiations and special guest bookings. She also manages the production development of features and special projects for TNT, TBS, and NBA TV networks for Turner Sports' linear properties and digital platforms.

**EDUCATION** San Diego State University, University of San Francisco (MA)

**HOMETOWN** Sacramento, California

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Seven-time Emmy winner



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President and CEO

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## Brandon Butler

Vice President  
of Solutions  
and Delivery  
**Dagger**

Brandon Butler is vice president of the advertising agency Dagger and executive director of its in-house media company, Butter.ATL. Since its launch in 2019, Butter—a 2020 Webby Award nominee—has developed original programming featuring Atlanta figures such as Killer Mike, Goodie Mob, and DJ Screw, and gained more than 70,000 followers including Chrissy Teigen, Big Boi, and Tim McGraw. Butler, a seasoned marketing and creative leader, has previously led successful creative and digital teams at Accenture, Edelman, Public Broadcasting Atlanta, and NBA Digital. He's also an in-demand speaker and panelist who has appeared alongside former mayor Kasim Reed, Belt-Line planner Ryan Gravel, and others.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Southern University, Georgia Tech (MBA)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I have a deep love for the city of Atlanta. Launching Butter in partnership with Dagger allowed me to turn Butter into a love letter for the city and its culture.



## Ryan Cameron

Media Personality

A two-time Emmy winner and a member of the Georgia Radio Hall of Fame, Ryan Cameron was the longtime host of Atlanta's top morning radio show on V103. He's a host on WAMJ Majic 107.5/97.5 and a partner at the branding firm Rakanter. Cameron was the first African American announcer in the history of the Atlanta Hawks. In 2002, he launched the Ryan Cameron Foundation Leadership Academy, which provides opportunities for rising high school students.

**EDUCATION** University of West Georgia

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** From Deion Sanders: "If you have more than one skill, get more than one check."

**HIDDEN TALENT** Karaoke ninja

**FAVORITE MOVIES** *Men in Black* and *Trading Places*

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Costa Rica



## Pola Changnon

General Manager  
**Turner Classic Movies**

Pola Changnon is the general manager of Turner Classic Movies, which is part of WarnerMedia; she oversees daily operations including strategy, business development, marketing, branding, digital initiatives, programming, and on-air campaigns. Taking the helm in 2020, Changnon has overseen the successful launches of the first virtual TCM Classic Film Festival, the first TCM podcast, and the three-month programming series Women Make Film. Previously Changnon, an Atlanta native, was TCM's senior vice president of marketing, studio production, and talent; she has also been a vice president at the Cartoon Network and a producer at Colossal Pictures, and has consulted on projects for Nickelodeon, CBS, Viacom, and Hanna-Barbera.

**EDUCATION** Duke University, Northwestern University (MA)

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Holly Hunter



## Jennifer Dorian

President and CEO  
**Public Broadcasting Atlanta**

As president and CEO of Public Broadcasting Atlanta, Jennifer Dorian oversees Atlanta's NPR station, 90.1 WABE, and PBS station, ATL PBA, bringing Atlanta a relevant mix of national public media and award-winning local news and programming. Dorian joined PBA following a 20-year career with Turner Broadcasting, where her last post was general manager of Turner Classic Movies. She was named *Working Mother Magazine's* "Working Mother of the Year" in 2017 and has a Lifetime Achievement Award from the American Marketing Association Atlanta chapter.

**EDUCATION** Emory University, University of Texas at Austin (MBA)

**FIRST JOB** Driving new cars from the dealerships to a radio installation shop. It would have been better if I knew how to drive a stick shift. I did learn a lot about Atlanta roads before GPS existed, though.

### HOW TO LEAD

**"True leadership is about pulling others up; to help, inspire, and encourage in all we do. This support and mentorship approach brings out the best in people and empowers them."**

**IVAN SHAMMAS**  
General Manager,  
Telemundo Atlanta



## Erick Erickson

Host, *The Erick Erickson Show*  
**WSB Radio**

Author and nationally syndicated columnist Erick Erickson is one of the most popular local hosts in the country and was the voice of evening drive time on WSB for 10 years. His show airs live noon to 3 p.m. each weekday. He has been a guest host for Rush Limbaugh and a frequent panelist on NBC's *Meet the Press*, HBO's *Real Time with Bill Maher*, and other programs. The *Atlantic* called Erickson the most influential conservative in America. He's currently working on his master of divinity degree at Reformed Theological Seminary.

**EDUCATION** Mercer University, Mercer University School of Law (JD)

**FAVORITE BOOK** *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Blocked by Kasim Reed on Twitter. Attacked by President Trump.



## Jeff Genthner

Senior Vice President and General Manager  
**Bally Sports South**

Jeff Genthner is the senior vice president and general manager of the Sinclair-owned regional networks Bally Sports South and Bally Sports Southeast. A 42-year industry veteran, Genthner played a pivotal role in developing Bally Sports South/Southeast (formerly FOX Sports South/Southeast) into the nation's largest regional sports network. Under his leadership the networks have garnered over 100 Emmy Awards and numerous other national awards for production and marketing excellence. A native of Cold Spring Harbor, New York, Genthner began his career in 1980 at SportsChannel New York and has launched or managed eight regional sports networks.

**EDUCATION** Michigan State University

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** From Cablevision founder Charles Dolan: "You never learn when speaking, only when listening."



## Sanjay Gupta, MD

Neurosurgeon  
Chief Medical Correspondent  
**CNN**

Emmy-winning chief medical correspondent Sanjay Gupta plays an integral role in CNN's reporting on health and medical news for all of the network's domestic and international shows, and he contributes to CNN.com. His medical training and public health policy experience inform his reporting from war zones and natural disasters. Gupta is also a member of the staff and faculty at Emory University School of Medicine and an associate chief of neurosurgery at Grady Memorial Hospital. An Atlanta resident, he regularly performs surgery at Emory University and Grady hospitals.

**EDUCATION** University of Michigan, University of Michigan Medical School (MD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Author of three *New York Times* bestselling books: *Chasing Life*, *Cheating Death*, and *Monday Mornings*. Named one of *People's* Sexiest Men Alive in 2003.



## Jenn Hobby

Radio Host  
**Star 94.1**

An Atlanta radio and television personality for more than 18 years, Jenn Hobby is the host of Star 94.1's Jenn & Friends morning-drive radio show, the first and only woman-anchored morning radio show with male cohosts in Atlanta. Her radio career has included WBTS-FM (95.5 The Beat), WWWQ-FM (Q100), and WKHX-FM (Kicks 101.5), and her television work includes HLN, CNN, Georgia Public Broadcasting, and Fox 5 Atlanta. Hobby earned a Gracie Award for her work in radio and an Emmy for her TV work at GPB. In 2010, she was a guest host on *Live! with Regis and Kelly*.

**EDUCATION** Florida State University

**HOMETOWN** Saint Petersburg, Florida

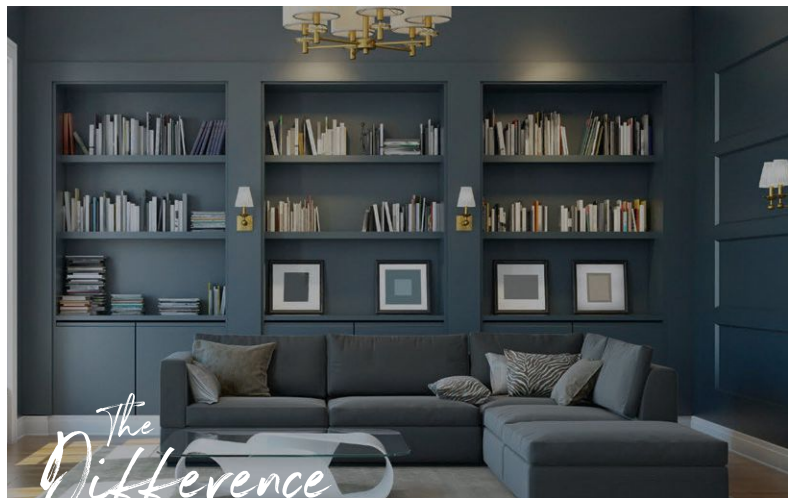
**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Our daughter's cancer battle changed our lives. What matters most became crystal-clear: family, love, and good health. The rest is just details.

**HIDDEN TALENT** I am a kayaker and have kayaked the rapids in the Ocoee River.



**JENNI BONURA**  
President & CEO

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## Payne Lindsey

CEO and Cofounder  
Tenderfoot TV

Payne Lindsey is a director and documentary filmmaker who cofounded the content-creation company Tenderfoot TV with his friend and business partner Donald Albright. The company has launched several hit podcast series including *Up and Vanished*, *Atlanta Monster*, and *Radio Rental*, all of which Lindsey hosts; he's also an executive producer of *Monster: The Zodiac Killer*, *Insomniac*, and others. In 2020, he brought *Up and Vanished* to the small screen as a docuseries for Oxygen. Most recently Lindsey partnered with *Disgraceland* host Jake Brennan on the podcast *Dead and Gone*, which investigates the cases of Grateful Dead fans who have died or gone missing.

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** iHeartRadio Best True Crime Podcast for *Up and Vanished* (2019)

**FAVORITE TV SHOW** *Breaking Bad*

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Maine

**BUCKET LIST** Direct a film or TV series



## Mike Luckovich

Editorial Cartoonist  
*Atlanta Journal-Constitution*

Following stints at South Carolina's *Greenville News* and the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*, Seattle native Mike Luckovich became an editorial cartoonist for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in 1989. His work has garnered him two Pulitzer Prizes as well as a Reuben Award, the highest honor bestowed by the National Cartoonists Society. Luckovich's cartoons are syndicated in 150 newspapers, and his latest collection, *A Very Stable Genius*, was published in 2018.

**EDUCATION** University of Washington

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award (1994), Pulitzer Prize for Editorial Cartooning (1995, 2006)

**HIDDEN TALENT** I'm a pretty good dancer.

**FAVORITE BOOK** *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* by Frederick Douglass

**LESSON LEARNED** Some people you can't change.



## Wes Moss

Managing Partner  
Capital Investment  
Advisors

Wes Moss is the managing partner of Capital Investment Advisors, a \$2.8 billion registered investment adviser in Sandy Springs. He's also a financial columnist for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, the host of the weekly call-in show *Money Matters* on 95.5 WSB, the editor of WesMoss.com, and the author of three books, including *You Can Retire Sooner Than You Think*. *Barron's* has named him one of its top 1,200 independent financial advisers every year since 2014, and in 2020 it listed him as one of the country's top 100 advisers.

**EDUCATION** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**HOMETOWN** Coatesville, Pennsylvania

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** When I was growing up, my dad was a large-animal vet. After going with him on a 5 a.m. farm call, I decided there was no way I wanted to do that for a living. So I picked up a copy of the *Wall Street Journal*, and I was hooked.



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Airi Igarashi, Photo by Rachel Neville.



## Tom O'Brien

President  
Weather Group

Tom O'Brien is president of the Weather Group, the parent company of both the Weather Channel and the over-the-top streaming service Local Now, and executive vice president of Allen Media Group. As network president, O'Brien works to ensure that the Weather Channel remains the top-rated and most widely distributed weather network in the U.S. A longtime television and digital business executive, O'Brien was previously a corporate officer for Nexstar Media Group, where he led digital and revenue growth efforts. Prior to that he spent 14 years at NBCUniversal, including stints as president and general manager of NBC's flagship station, WNBC, and executive vice president and chief revenue officer of CNBC.

**EDUCATION:** Syracuse University

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK:** I've been fascinated with television and the outdoors my entire life. I can't think of a better place to combine these two passions than the Weather Channel.



## Michael Ouweleen

President  
Adult Swim

Michael Ouweleen is the president of Adult Swim, which is part of WarnerMedia. Ouweleen is responsible for all aspects of content planning, development, windowing, marketing, and creative for Adult Swim and its properties globally across all company-owned platforms and third-party partners. As a primary driver of Cartoon Network's global brand and a principal force behind its strategy for more than 20 years, Ouweleen has held senior content and brand positions including chief marketing officer for Cartoon Network, Boomerang, and Adult Swim, and senior vice president of programming and development at Cartoon Network. He was a key member of the team that championed and launched Adult Swim.

**EDUCATION** Georgetown University

**HOMETOWN** Rochester, New York



## Lisa Respers France

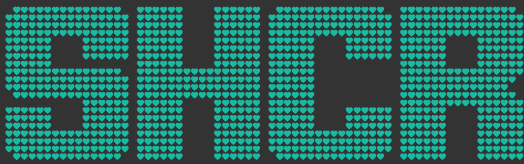
Senior Writer,  
Entertainment  
CNN

Lisa Respers France is a senior entertainment writer for CNN Digital in Atlanta. A 12-year veteran of CNN's entertainment team, France has covered everything from the deaths of Michael Jackson and Prince to how race factors into criticism of Meghan Markle; her writing looks past the guilty pleasure of pop culture to reveal the deeply serious stories at the intersection of national politics and justice. France previously served as an editor of the alumni magazine for Saint John's University and, before that, as a journalist for the *Baltimore Sun*. She got her start in journalism in 1994 at the *Los Angeles Times*. Her short stories have appeared in two anthologies.

**EDUCATION** University of Maryland, Baltimore County

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I once appeared on an episode of *America's Most Wanted*. Not as a criminal, though—as a journalist.

Georgia grown. Nasdaq listed.

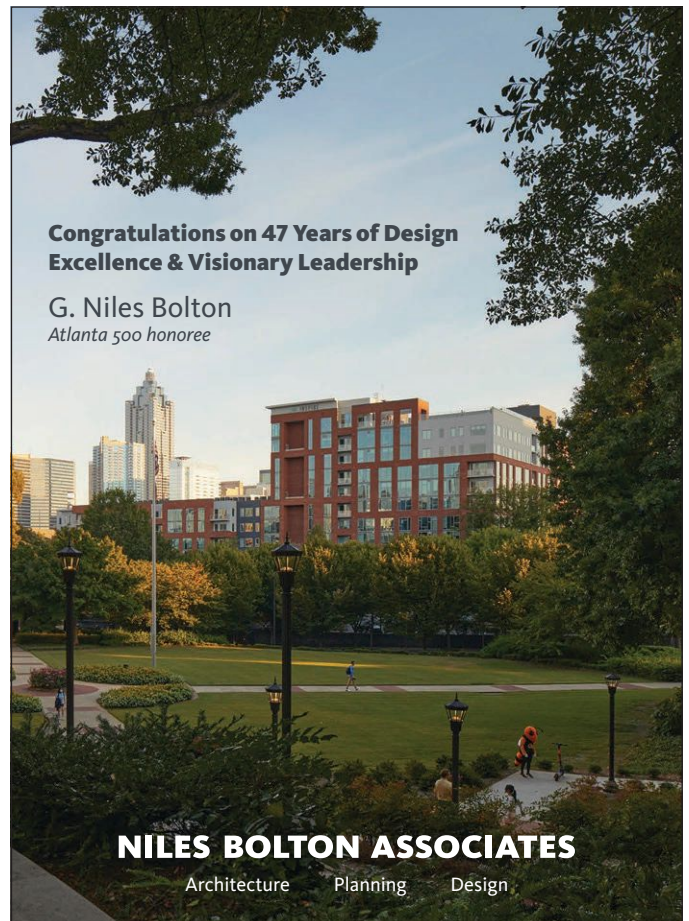


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## Rashad Richey

Radio and Television  
Personality  
**News & Talk 1380 WAOB,  
V-103, CBS46 News**

Not just the host of *The Rashad Richey Morning Show* on News & Talk 1380 WAOB—and Atlanta's favorite talk news radio host, according to a 2019 AJC poll—Rashad Richey is also an Emmy-nominated political analyst for CBS46 News, a political commentator on V-103, and a professor at Beulah Heights University. He's also a regular commentator on MSNBC and Fox News, and was recently appointed to Piedmont Atlanta Hospital's board of directors. Previously, Richey was the political director and chief strategist for the Democratic Party of Georgia.

**EDUCATION** Beulah Heights University (MBA), Clark Atlanta University (EdD), Scofield Graduate School & Theological Seminary (PhD)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I had a tough life growing up. Despair, poverty, and a general lack of access surrounded the communities I lived in. Today I seek to transform the narrative of those same communities through education, mentorship, civic engagement, and economic empowerment.



## Kevin Riley

Editor  
**Atlanta Journal-Constitution**

Kevin Riley, a longtime employee of Cox Enterprises, was named editor of the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* in January 2011. He started his career in 1983 at Cox's original newspaper, the *Dayton Daily News* in Ohio, while a student at the University of Dayton; since taking the helm at the AJC he's led a rejuvenation of the newsroom with an emphasis on investigative journalism. He also writes a column in Sunday editions of the paper.

**EDUCATION** University of Dayton

**FAVORITE BOOK** *Catch-22* by Joseph Heller

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** He who knows not, and knows he knows not, is better than he who knows not and knows not he knows not.

**FIRST JOB** Washing dishes in a bar

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* was a 2017 Pulitzer Prize finalist in National Reporting.



## Dale Russell

Senior I-Team Reporter  
**FOX 5**

Senior investigative reporter Dale Russell is the FOX 5 I-Team's government watchdog. An Atlanta native, he began media work as a freelance newspaper and magazine writer. His 40 years of investigative stories have helped shape Georgia's political history, toppling people in power, exposing waste and corruption, sparking criminal investigations, and changing laws. He's broken important stories while covering some of the nation's biggest events, including the Atlanta child murders of 1979-1981, the Olympic Park bombing, and the 9/11 attacks.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** More than 50 journalism awards, including broadcasting's highest honor: the George Foster Peabody Award

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I once won a stand-up comedy contest at the Great Southeast Music Hall.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** I hate confrontations. It was kind of a problem for this job.



## Teya Ryan

CEO  
**Georgia Public  
Broadcasting**

Los Angeles native Teya Ryan was named CEO of GPB Media—the fourth-largest public broadcasting system in the country, counting nine television stations and 19 radio stations—in 2009. Her experience includes roles in broadcast management, production, and content creation. Previously, she was executive vice president for three CNN networks: CNN, CNN Headline News, and CNN U.S. Ryan is cochair of the Georgia Literacy Commission and a member of the board of councillors of the Carter Center.

**EDUCATION** University of California, Berkeley

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Created the first live interactive TV talk show, CNN's *Talkback Live*

**FIRST JOB** One that paid me: working on the *Vancouver Sun*

**HOBBIES** Travel. Travel. Travel. Sheer adventure.

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** A young Candice Bergen

## HOW TO LEAD

**“Successful  
leaders  
provide a  
pathway for  
others to  
thrive in what  
they love to  
do and what  
they do best.”**

**JENNIFER  
HIDINGER-KENDRICK**  
Senior Director  
Community Engagement,  
Giving Kitchen



## Maria Saporta

Founder  
**SaportaReport.com**

An Atlanta native who began her full-time journalism career in 1980 with the *Macon Telegraph*, Maria Saporta was a longtime *Atlanta Business Chronicle* columnist and reporter and is the founder of SaportaReport.com, where a stable of veteran contributors provide updates on business, urban, and civic issues in metro Atlanta and beyond. In 2008, she wrapped up a 27-year career with the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, during which she was a business and civic columnist for more than 17 years. She is also part of a group launching a new journalism nonprofit, as a sister outlet to SaportaReport.com, called Atlanta Civic Circle.

**EDUCATION** Boston University, Georgia State University (MA)

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** My first language was French, and I didn't know English when I entered kindergarten.



## Kim Severson

National Food Correspondent  
*New York Times*

Kim Severson is a national food correspondent for the *New York Times*, and previously the paper's Southern bureau chief and a staff writer in the dining section. Severson has won several awards for news and feature writing, including the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for her contributions to the team that investigated workplace sexual harassment and abuse against women, four James Beard Foundation awards, and the Casey Medal for Meritorious Journalism for her work on childhood obesity in 2002.

**EDUCATION** Michigan State University

**FIRST JOB** Cleaning cages in a vet's office

**HOBBIES** Softball—playing and coaching my kid's team

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I secretly want to be a stand-up comedian.

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Any farmers market



## Ivan Shammas

General Manager  
**Telemundo Atlanta**

Ivan Shammas is general manager of Telemundo Atlanta, a Spanish-language station providing award-winning local news and programming to the area's expansive Latino population. Counting more than 20 years of experience in Spanish-language media, Shammas oversees Telemundo Atlanta's local and national advertising sales, news, programming, marketing, and community-affairs initiatives. Before joining the station in 2013, Shammas spent more than a decade as national account manager for Univision Atlanta. He currently serves as board chair for the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and is on the board of the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University

**HOMETOWN** Toronto, Canada

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** *Georgia Trend* 100 Most Influential Georgians (2020), Leadership Atlanta class of 2015



## Sam Zamarripa

Chairman and Director  
**Mundo Hispánico**

In 2018, Sam Zamarripa led a group of investors in the purchase of *Mundo Hispánico*—Georgia's largest Spanish-language publication, and the third-largest Spanish-language site in the country—from Cox Media Group. A prolific entrepreneur, Zamarripa is also the CEO and director of Intent Solutions, a company focused on the development of smart, portable technologies designed to dispense prescription medications. He served two terms in the Georgia Senate, currently sits on the Carter Center's board of councillors and on the board of trustees of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and is the author of two novels.

**EDUCATION** New College of Florida, Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs (MPA)

**LESSON LEARNED** Failure is a given. Anyone who has not failed has been propped up with someone else's money or they are afraid of the truth.



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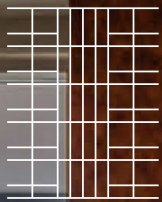


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Architecture & Design



**Lucy Aiken-Johnson**

Founding Partner  
ai3

As a founding partner of ai3 in 2004, Lucy Aiken-Johnson has helped lead the firm to more than 40 awards for architecture, interior design, and product development. The firm has designed more than 50 restaurants and clubs around Atlanta. Aiken-Johnson also helped establish the Day One Workshop, a vision session developed to listen deeply to clients' stories and imagine the possibilities. A practicing interior designer since 1994, she is known for her ability to discover stories deeply informed by the client's vision and articulate design solutions by telling the meaningful stories behind them.

**EDUCATION** Auburn University

**HOMETOWN** Tucker, Georgia

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** My AP art teacher recommended the Studio Op Design Program in Auburn's school of architecture. I'm fortunate my passion for storytelling has aligned to make this a lifelong career.

**FIRST JOB** Chick-fil-A, North DeKalb Mall

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Being the youngest and only woman in the room



**Jordache K. Avery**

Principal and Owner  
Xmetrical

Jordache Avery is the founder and sole principal of the architecture firm Xmetrical, which specializes in high-design residential/multifamily and commercial urban infill development. Avery's homes have consistently been selected to appear in the architectural tour associated with the annual Atlanta Design Festival, and many of his projects have been highlighted in both print and digital media. He is a member of the National Organization of Minority Architects and the American Institute of Architects; in 2017, his Overbrook project was a finalist for AIA Atlanta's residential design awards. Avery serves on the governing board of the Atlanta Neighborhood Charter School in Grant Park.

**EDUCATION** Florida A&M University

**HOMETOWN** Jacksonville, Florida

**FIRST JOB** Youth mentor at a summer camp

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I've loved buildings and cities since I was a kid. My father was a city planner and brought home plans of things to come.

**FAVORITE SPECIAL OCCASION**

**RESTAURANT** Kevin Rathbun Steak



**John Bencich**

Founding Principal  
Square Feet Studio

With his wife, Vivian, John Bencich is the founding principal of Square Feet Studio and an architect with over 20 years of experience designing new uses for old buildings. He's been an adjunct faculty member at Georgia Tech and Kennesaw State University, and performed years of volunteer work with the American Institute of Architects, serving as Atlanta chapter president in 2012. The Virginia native's work has been recognized by the Atlanta Urban Design Commission, Urban Land Institute, International Interior Design Association, and American Institute of Architects.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Do what you say you are going to do, do the work well every time, and clients will come.

**HOBBIES** Flatwater kayaking, backpacking, hiking, biking

**BUCKET LIST** Hiking along the Via Dinarica in Croatia



**Vivian Bencich**

Principal  
Square Feet Studio

Vivian Bencich and her husband, John, founded Square Feet Studio in 2001 with the desire to seamlessly combine interior design and architecture in one distinctive practice. A registered interior designer with a background in architecture, Bencich strives in her work to honor the relationship between interior design and the larger context of a building's history and urban environment. A skilled listmaker and confirmed Luddite, the North Carolina native enjoys guiding clients through the design process with determination, passion, and humor.

**EDUCATION** Vanderbilt University, Georgia Tech (MArch)

**HIDDEN TALENT** I'm pretty good at ping-pong.

**HOBBIES** Yoga

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Nantucket or Paris

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Kimball House and now Watchman's



**G. Niles Bolton**

Chairman and CEO  
Niles Bolton Associates

G. Niles Bolton is chairman and CEO of Niles Bolton Associates, a professional design firm founded in 1975. Headquartered in Atlanta, with an additional office in Washington, D.C., NBA has completed projects in 49 states and 16 countries. Bolton, who served in Vietnam with the Army Corps of Engineers, spent 10 years on the Georgia Board of Architects & Interior Designers. He's a director and past chair of the Buckhead Coalition and an emeritus trustee of the Georgia Tech Foundation, and remains highly involved with local community organizations and various national professional associations.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech

**HOBBIES** Photography, travel, hunting, fishing

**FAVORITE BOOK** *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand

**BUCKET LIST** Machu Picchu



**David Dymecki**

Principal and Managing Director, Atlanta Office  
Perkins and Will

As managing director of Perkins and Will's Atlanta office, David Dymecki leads a staff of 150 working across numerous practice areas and disciplines: architects, landscape architects, urban designers, interior designers, and branded-environments specialists. Dymecki's experience spans more than three decades, with a specific focus on the programming, planning, and design of athletic and recreation projects. The Philadelphia native has lectured, written, and presented on a variety of topics, from athletic and recreation master planning to design guidelines and trends to facilities renovation.

**EDUCATION** Washington University, Princeton University (MArch)

**FIRST JOB** Following graduation, spent five years working for Michael Graves Architecture & Design

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Piedmont Park and the Atlanta Botanical Garden. Great place to exercise, relax, and spend time with my wife.

**BUCKET LIST** Learn how to fly-fish and enjoy the outdoors in the South



## Robert Halverson

President, CEO, and  
Chairman of the Board  
**Portman Architects**

Throughout his more than 25 years in practice, Robert Halverson's work has centered on the notion that urban development is codependent on human-scale design. He began his tenure at Portman Architects in 2007 after working at Davis Brody Bond and Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. In 2020, following his acceptance to serve as board member for both the School of Architecture at Syracuse University and the executive advisory board of the School of Design at Georgia Institute of Technology, he embraced the dual position of CEO and chairman for the firm. Halverson's portfolio encompasses diverse typologies. He is licensed to practice in 10 states.

**EDUCATION** Syracuse University, Yale University (MArch)

**WHY THIS FIELD OF WORK?** To realize my passion for creating catalytic urban developments that support the resiliency of community and physical place

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** The most compelling challenge as an architect lies in addressing project limitations with optimal design solutions to achieve the best return for our clients.



## Robert J. Maricich

Chairman and CEO  
**International Market Centers**

Robert Maricich is chairman and CEO of International Market Centers, which he was instrumental in creating. As CEO of World Market Center Las Vegas, he helped raise over \$1 billion to purchase a spate of showroom properties in High Point, North Carolina, merging them into a single entity that's the world's largest operator of showroom space for the furnishing, home decor, rug, and gift industries. In 2018, IMC acquired AmericasMart Atlanta, creating the world's largest permanent marketplace in these industries.

**EDUCATION** Montana State University

**FIRST JOB** I drove an ice cream truck—one of those that went through the neighborhoods—ringing a bell and selling ice cream.

**INSPIRING PERSON** Teddy Roosevelt

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** American Home Furnishings Hall of Fame (2020)



## Bobby McAlpine

Architect, Founder,  
and President  
**McAlpine**

Envisioning home as a timeless, graceful, and emotionally evocative place, Bobby McAlpine designed his first house at the age of five and hasn't stopped since. He founded his firm in 1983 and has designed homes for clients around the world. Today, with offices in Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, and New York, the McAlpine firm comprises an eclectic family of architects and interior designers. McAlpine has authored four books, including the bestselling 2010 *The Home Within Us* and 2017's *Poetry of Place*.

**EDUCATION** Auburn University

**HOBBIES** Raiding Europe for antiques and artifacts

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Lake Martin, Alabama

**BUCKET LIST** Bali

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Colin Firth



## Lew Oliver

Owner and Principal  
**Lew Oliver**

Lew Oliver is an Atlanta-based urbanist, master planner, and designer with more than a decade of experience advancing New Urbanism and residential design. The principal of his eponymous firm, Oliver is a preferred design consultant of the renowned New Urbanist firm DPZ; he was instrumental in the design and development of downtown Woodstock, Vickery Village, and Serenbe, and has worked on scores of other projects nationally and internationally. Oliver designs with each community's values, vernacular, and climate in mind.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech

**HIDDEN TALENT** I love building sandcastles.

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Inman Park

**NONPROFITS** Sierra Club, Wesley Glen Ministries, Congress for the New Urbanism

**BUCKET LIST** Eastern Europe, Morocco, Iceland

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Bradley Cooper



## Matthew Quinn

Principal  
**Design Galleria Kitchen and Bath Studio**

Matthew Quinn is the co-owner and principal of Design Galleria Kitchen and Bath Studio and the Matthew Quinn Collection boutique showroom. He and his firm have worked with renowned designers and architects throughout the world. Finding inspiration through his frequent travels, Quinn narrates each design, working with designers, architects, homeowners, and craftsmen. His current product lines are designed with Art for Everyday, AKDO, Francois & Co., La Cornue, Julien: Home Refinements, MTI Baths, Sun Valley Bronze: Reveal Designs, and Hafele America. He has published *Quintessential Kitchens* by Matthew Quinn: Volume One and *Quintessential Kitchens and Spaces* by Matthew Quinn: Volume Two. In 2020, Quinn opened the second location of Design Galleria Kitchen and Bath Studio in the new Nashville Design Collective in Tennessee.

**EDUCATION** University of Florida, Art Institute of America

**FIRST JOB** Dishwasher

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** The recession

**NONPROFIT** Meals on Wheels Atlanta



## Kyle Reis

President and CEO  
**Cooper Carry**

Kyle Reis joined Cooper Carry in 2006 and was made principal in 2019. He led Cooper Carry's Urban Design and Planning Studio until 2021, when he was elected as the firm's president and CEO. His architecture background and over 15 years of planning experience have led to his passion for quality urban design, community building, and his holistic perspective of the industry. Reis is responsible for guiding Cooper Carry's strategic vision and for the overall success of the company. He is a member of the American Institute of Architects, an Association of Certified Planners, Georgia Planning Association, and several others. He was a member of the ULI Center for Leadership Class of 2016, previously chaired the ULI Mentor Program, and currently serves on the national ULI Travel Experience and Trends Council.

**EDUCATION** University of Notre Dame, Georgia State University (MBA)

**FIRST JOB** Delivered newspapers

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Italy

**WHO WOULD PLAY YOU IN A BIOPIC** Jay Leno



## Janet Simpson

President  
tvdsdesign

As the third president to serve tvdsdesign in its 50 years, Janet Simpson is implementing new programs to empower more voices and encourage new ideas around servant-leadership, young leaders, and the company's culture and values. In two decades as a workplace interior designer, Simpson spearheaded three "career-building" projects: the recent 400,000-square-foot renovation and consolidation of Fiserv's headquarters in Alpharetta, the new headquarters for Mattress Firm in Houston, and the first Cox headquarters building at the Perimeter in Atlanta.

**EDUCATION** Auburn University

**HOMETOWN** Montgomery, Alabama

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Staying in the same profession I got my degree in. How many people can say that these days?

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** It was either architecture or law, and I decided I'd be happiest creating environments that make people feel good.



## Kevin Songer

Principal, Co-Managing  
Director  
Gensler Atlanta

Kevin Songer is a national and local thought leader in the retail design industry with over 15 years of experience. He is the retail practice area leader for Gensler's Southeast region with extensive experience in national and international retail design and construction and has been instrumental in the growth of Gensler's retail business across the region. In 2019, Songer was named as a *design:retail* 40 Under 40 honoree. He is a member of the American Institute of Architects and the Retail Design Institute.

**EDUCATION** Auburn University

**NOTEABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS** National Council of Architectural Registration Boards Registered Architect, Georgia & Alabama, LEED Accredited Professional

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Find a way to say yes but know how to say no.

**FAVORITE BOOK AND MOVIE** *The Count of Monte Cristo*

**NONPROFIT** Boys & Girls Club of Metro Atlanta



## Tory Winn

Principal, Co-Managing  
Director  
Gensler Atlanta

Tory Winn is a principal and co-managing director of the Gensler Atlanta office where she leads client relationships, talent development, office operations, and business development. Her success as a director stems from her ability to connect with and inspire people. With over 30 years of experience, Winn brings her vast industry knowledge to all phases of design and has overseen projects and teams designing for a wide array of clients including the Coca Cola Co., Humana, Baker Donelson, and others. She began her career in Gensler's Washington D.C. office and relocated to Atlanta to lead the project team for NationsBank's headquarters. She left to run her own business, then returned to Gensler in late 2017 as co-director of the office's Work Studio.

**EDUCATION** BS, Florida State University

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I was in the *Nutcracker* at the Fox Theater as a child.

**HOBBIES** Flea markets, furniture design, live music

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Fernbank Forest

## Commercial Contractors



## Chris Bontrager

Atlanta Business  
Unit Leader  
DPR Construction

Chris Bontrager joined DPR Construction in 2000, filling multiple operations and management roles before being named leader of the Atlanta business unit in 2016. He has more than 24 years of construction industry experience and has been in the Atlanta market since 2000. Bontrager is responsible for leading overall business operations, development, and sales efforts in Atlanta with a focus on DPR's core markets, including construction in higher education, commercial office, advanced technology, healthcare, and life sciences. DPR's portfolio of work ranges from large-scale new construction to small tenant improvements and special projects.

**EDUCATION** Auburn University

**HOMETOWN** Gadsden, Alabama

**FIRST JOB** Working for my family's residential construction business

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Your priorities in life are balls that you juggle every day. Some of the balls are made of glass, some are made of rubber. You must decide which of your priorities are glass and which are rubber. You drop a glass ball, it's gone forever. Drop a rubber ball and it will bounce back.



## Doug Davidson

Chairman and CEO  
New South Construction

Atlanta native Doug Davidson is chairman and CEO of New South Construction, which he founded in 1990 and has grown into one of Georgia's most respected construction firms. Davidson was associated general contractors president in 2008 and construction education foundation president in 2001. New South's current projects include Atlantic Yards, a two-building office complex overlooking I-75/I-85 at Atlantic Station; Emory University's new Rollins School of Public Health, Building III; Pace Academy's Lower School addition; and Isakson Living's luxury 55-and-over community at Peachtree Hills Place.

**EDUCATION** Auburn University

**FIRST JOB** Pike Nurseries

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

**HOBBIES** Golf, boating, and skiing

**FAVORITE BOOK** The Bible

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Truist Park



## Albert G. Edwards

Founder and  
Managing Director  
Corporate  
Environmental Risk  
Management

Albert G. Edwards is the managing director of Corporate Environmental Risk Management, a regional engineering, environmental, and program management firm that he launched with the late Marcus L. Reese in 1995. His responsibilities include chairing CERM's management committee and providing day-to-day leadership and strategic direction to its business management, project delivery, and client management functions. With more than 25 years of experience in the industry, Edwards has helped organizations throughout the country manage environmental, engineering, infrastructure, and capital projects. He also served in the U.S. Army Reserve as a quartermaster officer and is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

**EDUCATION** Mississippi Valley State University, Southern Polytechnic State University (MBA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** First college graduate in my family, CERM's Job Shadowing Program (20+ Years), U.S. Department of Commerce's Minority Construction Firm of the Year (2020), PSMJ A/E/C Building a Better World Award (2019), ACEC Engineering Excellence National Recognition Award (2018)



## Michael Hatcher

President and CEO  
**Sovereign Construction & Development**

Michael Hatcher is the president and CEO of Sovereign Construction & Development, which specializes in commercial interior renovations and construction management. Hatcher, who founded the firm in 2007, brings a wealth of experience related to integrated project delivery and collaborative construction practices, and believes construction should be a vehicle for innovation and a platform for inspiration.

**EDUCATION** Morehouse College, Georgia Tech (MS, PhD)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Construction is the most creative profession in the world, and I always wanted my talents expressed on the canvas of the built environment.

**WHAT I'D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** If you have an entrepreneurial idea, do it. Do not hesitate, and have no doubt.

**FIRST JOB** Shoveling snow in New Jersey

**HIDDEN TALENT** I am a grill master.



## Thomas Holder

Chairman and CEO  
**Holder Construction**

Thomas "Tommy" Holder joined Holder Construction in 1976, filling various positions in operations and management before becoming chairman and CEO in 1997. Holder Construction is a national commercial construction services firm consistently ranked among the nation's top 100 contractors. The firm works in both the public and private sectors and is experienced in corporate headquarters, office buildings, and data and technology centers, among others. Clients include UPS, the Coca-Cola Co., and Emory University.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Past chair of the board of Kennesaw State University, member of the boards of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and the College of Charleston

**FIRST JOB** Pumping gas at BP

**WHAT I'D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** Take full advantage of your education.

**INSPIRING PERSON** My dad, Robert Holder



## Dan Kaufman

East Region President  
**JE Dunn Construction**

Dan Kaufman began his career at JE Dunn (formerly R.J. Griffin) in 1997 as a project engineer, working his way up to division manager by 2007. Under his leadership, the Atlanta South Division of R.J. Griffin completed over \$523 million worth of construction projects and planted seeds in markets that helped bolster the company through the global economic downturn. In 2010, Kaufman was promoted to president of JE Dunn's East Region, comprising offices in Atlanta, Savannah, Tampa, Charlotte, and Nashville.

**EDUCATION** University of Florida (MA)

**FAVORITE TV SHOW** *60 Minutes*

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** A little island in Belize: Cayo Espanto

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Date night with my wife at the oyster bar at Ford Fry's the Optimist

**BUCKET LIST** Run a 100-mile trail race in under 30 hours



# EXCITED FOR THE NEW OPPORTUNITIES THAT 2022 BRINGS

[cousins.com](https://cousins.com)



## Meredith Leapley

Founder and CEO  
Leapley Construction

In 1999, at age 26, Leapley came to Atlanta from Washington, D.C., and founded a commercial contracting firm in a city where she had few professional connections. Now one of Atlanta's top interior general contractors, Leapley Construction reaches over \$85 million in annual revenue and serves clients including Coca-Cola, Kaiser Permanente, and Norfolk Southern. In 2016, *Investopedia* named the firm one of its Top Five Women-Owned Businesses in Atlanta, and Leapley was recognized as a YWCA Woman of Achievement.

**EDUCATION** University of Maryland  
**HOMETOWN** Silver Spring, Maryland

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Believe! I could not have built Leapley without believing in the vision.

**BUCKET LIST** To share my story and bring more connections, ideas, and inspiration to others

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** A 40-something Diane Keaton



## C. David Moody Jr.

CEO  
C.D. Moody Construction

C. David Moody Jr. founded C.D. Moody Construction in 1988. Now one of the U.S.'s largest African-American-owned construction companies, his firm has appeared every year for more than two decades on *Black Enterprise* magazine's list of the nation's top 100 black-owned industrial/services companies. The firm has undertaken more than 150 commercial projects valued at over \$2 billion, including Mercedes-Benz Stadium, the new home of the Cyclorama at the Atlanta History Center, and the Maynard Jackson International Terminal.

**EDUCATION** Morehouse College, Howard University

**INSPIRING PERSON** My grandfather James Moody Sr., who came to America at 17 in 1901 from British Honduras. He knew no one here. I admire his courage and thirst for education.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Overcoming the trauma of childhood sexual abuse

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Stone Mountain Park

**NONPROFITS** Boy Scouts, CHRIS 180, Morehouse College, Georgia Center for Child Advocacy



## Brent Reid

CEO  
Winter Companies

Brent Reid is the CEO of Winter Companies—the parent of Winter Construction, which does commercial building, and Winter Environmental, which works on abatement, sustainability, and decontamination projects. He joined in 1984 as a project engineer and has worked in a variety of capacities, opening an office in Denver and helping create Winter Environmental. Reid took over as head of Winter in 2001; in 2009, he and the other members of the senior management team purchased the former owner's full interest, and he has continued as CEO since.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech, University of Chicago (MBA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Leadership Atlanta class of 1998, emeritus board member of Georgia Tech School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, past chair of the Council for Quality Growth, treasurer of the Midtown Alliance



## Rob Taylor

President  
Brasfield & Gorrie

Rob Taylor built his entire career at Brasfield & Gorrie, opening the Atlanta office in 1984 and helping the firm establish a strong reputation in the market. Even after a host of successful projects—including the Georgia Dome, Georgia Aquarium, 12th & Midtown, and SunTrust (now Truist) Park—he remains passionate about working with his teams, supporting them when they face challenges, and bolstering their efforts, commitment, and desire to excel.

**EDUCATION** Auburn University

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** From high school coach Jim Cavan: "No substitution for hard work. Hard work can overcome lack of talent."

**HOBBIES** Golf, hunting

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *Remember the Titans*

**NONPROFITS** Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Make-A-Wish Foundation



## Chondra Webster Myers

President  
WEBMyers Construction

Chondra Webster Myers is president of WEBMyers Construction, the largest woman/minority-owned interior general contractor in Georgia, specializing in commercial interiors. Since founding the business in 2015, Myers has grown it into an enterprise that generates more than \$10 million annually, with clients including Grady Health System, Kaiser Permanente, and Walgreens. A native of Inglewood, California, Myers has more than 25 years of industry experience, and previously held leadership positions at H.J. Russell & Co. and Leapley Construction.

**EDUCATION** California State University, Los Angeles

**LESSON LEARNED** Protect your children at all times.

**HOBBIES** Traveling, bowling, tennis

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Spain

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** My bed

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Sanaa Lathan or Tiffany Haddish

## Commercial Real Estate Brokers



## David Birnbrey

Chairman and Co-CEO  
The Shopping Center Group

David Birnbrey is chairman and co-CEO of the Shopping Center Group, an Atlanta-based retail real estate service provider with 22 offices throughout the United States. He is responsible for strategic planning as well as the overall management of the brokerage operation. Birnbrey began his career in 1980 as a general commercial real estate sales and leasing associate specializing in industrial properties, joining TSCG in 1984. A member of the International Council of Shopping Centers and the Commercial and Retail Development Council of the Urban Land Institute, he's a frequent contributor to media platforms including CNBC and Fox News and speaks regularly to industry and civic groups.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**HOMETOWN** Atlanta, Georgia

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Along with the rest of our management team, I've been involved in the construction and perpetuation of a 35-year-old company that has survived and thrived through numerous economic cycles.

**INSPIRING PERSON** My father; the best advice I ever received is everything he ever said.



## Richard Bowers

President and CEO  
Richard Bowers & Co.

Richard Bowers is president and CEO of Richard Bowers & Co., one of Atlanta's premier privately held commercial real estate firms, which engages in the leasing and sale of office, industrial, retail, land, and investment properties. Since its 1980 founding, the company has continued its growth by adding affiliate companies to satisfy emerging and global commercial real estate needs: RB Management currently manages 75 properties, and Facilitec and Office Interiors specialize in interior architecture, interior design, and building architecture. Bowers has personally completed over 1,800 requirements throughout metro Atlanta, amounting to more than 17 million square feet of space either leased or sold.

**EDUCATION** United States Military Academy, Georgia State University (MBA)

**HOMETOWN** Decatur, Illinois

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Attending West Point



## Chris Carter

Founder  
Vantage Realty Partners

Chris Carter began his commercial real estate career in 2001 with Cartel Realty, concentrating on in-town urban Atlanta: assembling land, repositioning buildings, and representing various groups in their acquisitions and dispositions of investment, retail, and office properties. With Gene Rice, Carter founded Vantage Realty Partners in 2007. Through its deep-rooted community involvement, Vantage has developed a reputation for being one of the top commercial brokerage and investment firms in Atlanta's urban core, with a passion for historical preservation, proper urban planning, and promoting arts and nonprofit organizations.

**EDUCATION** College of Charleston

**HOMETOWN** Charleston, South Carolina

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** The dynamic of parenting a severely retarded, nonverbal eight-year-old child. It's been my greatest challenge and absolutely my greatest reward, as it's truly enlightened me to what's important in life.



## Monetha Cobb

Regional Managing  
Director, Atlanta  
Franklin Street

An industry leader in the Atlanta commercial real estate market, Monetha Cobb serves as regional managing director of Franklin Street's Atlanta office. In this role, she oversees each of the firm's business lines, while implementing strategic growth initiatives to expand Franklin Street's talent, market share, and capabilities across the retail, office, industrial, multifamily, and healthcare real estate sectors. In addition to her regional managing director role, Cobb also serves in a companywide capacity as senior vice president of retail services with responsibility for guiding and growing teams that represent retail tenants and landlords on a rapidly expanding national scale. Since joining Franklin Street in 2010, as a founding member of its Atlanta office, Cobb has played a significant role in boosting the firm's visibility in Atlanta and throughout the Southeast. The Manchester, Georgia, native also serves as a member of Franklin Street's board of directors, which guides the company's overall direction and growth strategy.

# GROW

At the core of our DNA, MAC's GROW efforts focus on recruiting new companies to the region in addition to retaining and growing the businesses that call Atlanta home.

# ADVOCATE

As a catalyst for a more prosperous and vibrant region, MAC advocates for state and regional policies that enhance quality of life and protect our world-class business environment.

# PROMOTE

MAC's promotion efforts include robust marketing and communications that set metro Atlanta apart, in addition to initiatives like ChooseATL, attracting and retaining the top talent shaping our region.



METRO ATLANTA CHAMBER | 191 PEACHTREE STREET | SUITE 3400 | ATLANTA, GA | 30303



## John Ferguson

President, Southeast Division  
CBRE

John Ferguson is president of the Southeast Division of CBRE, which he's led since 2011. Ferguson oversees operations in Atlanta, Birmingham, Charlotte, Charleston, Columbia, Greenville, Jackson, Memphis, Nashville, and Savannah, and is the primary relationship manager for CBRE's joint-venture offices in Raleigh and Greensboro, North Carolina. Prior to his presidency, Ferguson served as the executive managing director for the Southeast, and before that as market leader for CBRE's Atlanta office, where he was responsible for the activities of more than 500 professionals across the full spectrum of the company's business lines. Ferguson has three times received CBRE's President's Award, recognizing his outstanding performance as Atlanta market leader.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia  
**HOMETOWN** Athens, Georgia



## Robert S. Mathews

President and CEO,  
Atlanta Office  
Colliers International

Bob Mathews has been CEO of the Atlanta office of commercial real estate firm Colliers International since 2004. Colliers Atlanta has more than 70 brokers, 280 employees, and 107 million square feet under management, generating more than \$3.3 billion in annual transaction volume. Mathews served six years in the U.S. Army after college graduation, then joined the personnel consulting and recruiting firm Lendman Associates. He entered the commercial real estate field in 1984 with a job at Portman Barry, joining Colliers International in 1991.

**EDUCATION** North Georgia College and State University, University of Southern California (MS)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Reserve Officers Training Corp Hall of Fame (2016), Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors Silver Phoenix Award (2012), Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors Realtor of the Year (2009)



## John F. O'Neill III

President, Central Region  
Cushman & Wakefield

John F. O'Neill III is the president of Cushman & Wakefield's Central Region. The Atlanta native also serves on the firm's global advisory board. O'Neill has been involved in several major transactions, including InterContinental Hotels Group, Carter's, Primerica, and Graphic Packaging International. He's a graduate of Leadership Atlanta and is active in the Rotary Club of Atlanta, Woodruff Arts Center, and Metro Atlanta Chamber.

**EDUCATION** College of Charleston, University of Georgia Terry College of Business (MBA)

**FIRST JOB** Cutting grass

**HOBBIES** Sports with my three sons

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Ireland

**BUCKET LIST** Africa with my family



## Michael J. Sivewright

Market Director  
JLL

As market director for JLL's Atlanta region, Michael Sivewright provides overall leadership focused on supporting existing client accounts, developing new business opportunities, and enterprise management across all service lines. Sivewright has more than 25 years of real estate experience with a strong focus on transactions, development, corporate outsourcing, and large-portfolio oversight. Previously, he was chairman of the Jones Lang LaSalle Banking Industry group and leader of Jones Lang LaSalle's corporate real estate relationship with Bank of America, representing a staff of more than 900.

**EDUCATION** University of Kentucky

**BOARD MEMBERSHIPS** Chair of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Leadership Council, member of the executive committee of the Buckhead Coalition and boards of Central Atlanta Progress, Midtown Alliance, Woodruff Arts Center



## Pamela J. Smith

President and CEO  
Smith Real Estate Services

Pamela J. Smith is the president and CEO of Smith Real Estate Services, a full-service commercial real estate and construction services firm whose core competencies include right-of-way land acquisition services, commercial brokerage, development management and consulting, agency construction management, and project management services. Smith established the real estate services business in 1984, adding Smith Construction Services in 1999 to address a public- and private-sector need for quality agency construction management services. As a commercial real estate broker, she has negotiated leases valued at over \$20 million on behalf of the U.S. General Services Administration for federal agencies around the country. In 2021, Smith was named an Urban Land Institute Atlanta WLI Leader and one of Atlanta Business League's 100 Women of Influence.

**EDUCATION** Rutgers University, New York University (MPA), Georgia State University (MS)

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Always have a plan B.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Successfully extricating myself from an abusive marriage. The life lesson I learned was that I would rather be happy and single than married and miserable.



## T. Dallas Smith

President and CEO  
T. Dallas Smith & Co.

T. Dallas Smith is the president and CEO of T. Dallas Smith & Co., which since its 2007 founding has grown to be the largest African-American-owned pure tenant representation firm in the country, having effectively negotiated projects nationwide exceeding \$15 billion in value. Smith began his career in commercial real estate in 1982, working under Thomas W. Tift at Atlanta Air Center Realty; in 1989 he became the first African-American broker at Cushman & Wakefield of Georgia. In 1995, he joined the African-American-owned construction and management firm H.J. Russell. In 2020, Smith was appointed to the board of regents of the University System of Georgia.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors Realtor of the Year (2018), *Atlanta Business Chronicle* Most Admired CEO (2017)

**FIRST JOB** Dishwasher at Steak 'n Shake on Old National Highway in College Park

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I was born a comedian. Everyone knows I spend a lot of time enjoying a good laugh, but what they don't know is that I actually performed as a comedian for 15 years.

## Commercial Real Estate Sponsors



### Chris Ahrenkiel

Executive Vice President  
Selig Enterprises

As an executive vice president at Selig Enterprises, Ahrenkiel leads the firm's office division, with a focus on activating many of Selig's land holdings with office developments. His current efforts include the development of 1105 West Peachtree, Atlanta's largest office building under construction. Ahrenkiel also sits on the firm's investment committee and focuses a substantial amount of time on community and civic engagement. In 2017, he graduated from Leadership Atlanta and remains actively involved. In 2015, he was named one of the *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* 40 Under 40 and is consistently recognized on the publication's list of Who's Who in Commercial Real Estate.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia, Georgia State University Robinson College of Business (MBA)

**HOMETOWN** Dortmund, Germany

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Leadership Atlanta class of 2017, *Atlanta Business Chronicle* 40 Under 40 (2015)

**FIRST JOB** Selling encyclopedias door-to-door in Upstate New York and Pennsylvania



### David Allman

Founder and Chairman  
Regent Partners

David Allman is owner and chairman of Regent Partners, an Atlanta real estate investment and development company that has developed or acquired more than \$2.5 billion in real estate assets—including the \$500 million, 2.2 million-square-foot Concourse Complex and the Sovereign, a 50-story mixed-use project in Buckhead and the tallest building to be built in Atlanta in 25 years. An Atlanta native, Allman is active in numerous real estate, civic, and ministry initiatives, and has been in the commercial real estate business since 1980.

**EDUCATION** Dartmouth College

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Founding chairman of the Buckhead Community Improvement District, past chairman of the Atlanta District Council of the Urban Land Institute, member of the board of councilors of the Carter Center

**NONPROFIT** Opportunity International Nicaragua



### Steve Baile

Chief Operating Officer  
Selig Development

As chief development and operating officer, Steve Baile oversees Selig Development's commercial and mixed-use development platform. With Selig since 2014, Baile is recognized as one of Atlanta's leading developers, with a dossier accounting for more than 4.5 million square feet of commercial, hospitality, residential, and mixed-use developments and acquisitions. Notable projects include the Plaza Midtown, 1010 Midtown, and the multiphase, mixed-use 12th & Midtown initiative. Baile's ventures represent more than \$2.5 billion in the Atlanta region since 2004.

**EDUCATION** Auburn University

**HIDDEN TALENT** I love to tinker and fix things. My kids think I can fix anything (a little preemptive propaganda hasn't hurt).

**HOBBIES** Golf, travel

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *The Outlaw Josey Wales*

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Younger Clint Eastwood



### Ambrish Baisiwal

CEO and Chairman  
Portman Holdings

As CEO, Ambrish Baisiwal is responsible for the management and profitability of Portman Holdings. Bringing two decades of global real estate experience to the job, he oversees operations including real estate development, investment, and capital raising in the U.S., China, India, and South Korea. In 2020, Portman Holdings added two business platforms: Portman Residential and Portman Industrial. Prior to joining Portman, Baisiwal was development director of Aldar Properties in Abu Dhabi, responsible for a portfolio in excess of \$30 billion. Previously, he was development manager for the Greater Union Organisation, and has held senior positions with Coopers & Lybrand Consulting and the Tata Group.

**EDUCATION** University of Rajasthan, Melbourne Business School (MBA)

**BOARD MEMBERSHIPS** Atlanta BeltLine Partnership, Central Atlanta Progress, Zoo Atlanta Leadership Council, Urban Land Institute Livable Communities Council



### Vivian Baxter Barnes

Chief Financial Officer and Operating Officer  
Ackerman & Co.

Vivian Barnes joined Ackerman & Co. in 1996. She directs asset and property management services, financial services, and day-to-day operations, overseeing the financial administration of the company, its developments, and the properties it manages. Barnes began her career in commercial real estate and financial services more than 25 years ago. Prior to joining Ackerman, she managed financial services for commercial, retail, industrial, and construction projects with Carter and Cushman & Wakefield.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Southwestern State University

**HOMETOWN** Dawson, Georgia

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I enjoy my diverse job responsibilities and the ever-changing dynamics of commercial real estate.

**INSPIRING PERSON** Charles Ackerman

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Surviving the loss of my 24-year-old son



### James R. Borders

CEO  
Novare Group

James R. Borders is CEO of Novare Group, an Atlanta-based real estate investment and development company. Borders began his career as an attorney with Atlanta firm King & Spalding. In 1992, he founded the predecessor to Novare Group; since then the firm has developed more than 16,000 multifamily residences in 50 communities, including 39 high-rises in Atlanta, Austin, Charlotte, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Nashville, Orlando, Raleigh, and Tampa. Novare Group's Atlanta developments include the SkyHouse communities, Atlantic House, Twelve Hotels, the Biltmore, SouthLawn, and numerous high-rise condominiums.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech, University of Georgia Terry College of Business (MBA), University of Georgia School of Law (JD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Novare Group has been recognized with two Urban Leadership Institute Project of the Year awards and three Projects of Excellence.

**BOARD MEMBERSHIPS** Buckhead Coalition, Midtown Alliance, Central Atlanta Progress, Georgia Advanced Technology Ventures, Tanner Medical Foundation, Georgia Tech Foundation



## Matt Bronfman

Principal and CEO  
Jamestown

Matt Bronfman is a principal and the CEO of Jamestown. He joined the company in 1998 as general counsel, and in 2002 was named managing director and chief operating officer. Bronfman became CEO in 2012. He's led the acquisition, redevelopment, and oversight of more than \$20 billion of real estate, including Chelsea Market in New York and Ponce City Market in Atlanta. Bronfman also serves as board president for the Jamestown Charitable Foundation, which supports nonprofits to help make cities more enjoyable places to live and work. He has been recognized as a leader in the industry and is a recipient of the Real Estate Roundtable President's Circle Award.

**EDUCATION** Tufts University, Northwestern University (JD)

**INSPIRING PEOPLE** Jamestown chairman Christoph Kahl and my father, Alan Bronfman

**WHAT I'D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** It's better to be tired than bored.

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PODCAST** *How I Built This*



## Colin Connolly

President and CEO  
Cousins Properties

As president and CEO of Cousins Properties and a board member, Colin Connolly is responsible for the business's new investments, dispositions, asset management, market leadership, development, and operations. He joined Cousins in 2011 as senior vice president, became senior vice president and chief investment officer in 2013, executive vice president and chief investment officer in 2015, and executive vice president and chief operating officer in 2016. Prior to joining Cousins, Connolly worked at Morgan Stanley as an executive director and, before that, vice president.

**EDUCATION** Washington and Lee University, University of Virginia Darden School of Business (MBA)

**FAVORITE BOOK** *The Pillars of the Earth* by Ken Follett

**FAVORITE DESTINATION** Any beach

**WHAT I'D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** Have a plan but write it in pencil not pen so you can make changes.



## Mark Dishaw

Principal  
Trammell Crow Co.

As a managing director for Trammell Crow's Atlanta Business Unit, Mark Dishaw is responsible for sourcing and overseeing new industrial development and investment opportunities throughout the greater Atlanta market. Since joining Trammell Crow in 2013, Dishaw and his team have developed approximately 2.3 million square feet. His expertise includes development, acquisitions, asset management, construction management, marketing, and financial analysis. During his 30-year career, Dishaw has managed the development, leasing, acquisition, and property management of more than 18 million square feet of commercial real estate valued at \$700 million. Dishaw previously served as director of industrial development at MeadWestvaco and chief operating officer of Republic Property Co.

**EDUCATION** University of Connecticut

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Dishaw is a member of NAIOP and the 2012 class of Leadership Charleston.



## Jeffrey S. Fuqua

Principal  
Fuqua Development

Jeffrey S. Fuqua is the cofounder of Fuqua Development. He was previously a board member, partner, and president of the Sembler Co., where—in his 24-year tenure—he developed more than 14 million square feet in over 80 projects valued at \$4 billion. During Fuqua's time at Sembler, the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* named the company a Top Developer for 11 consecutive years starting in 2000. Its major real estate projects in Atlanta include the Prado, Town Brookhaven, Edgewood Retail District, Lindbergh Plaza, Perimeter Place, and Lenox Marketplace. In Florida, Fuqua developed Legacy Place in Palm Beach Gardens and Boynton Town Center in Boynton Beach. He has served on the boards of the Perimeter Community Improvement District and the DeKalb Police Alliance.

**EDUCATION** University of Denver



## Jack N. Halpern

Chairman and CEO  
Halpern Enterprises

Jack Halpern is chairman and CEO of Halpern Enterprises, where he has been employed since 1978. The family-owned business leases, manages, and develops shopping centers as long-term investments. An Atlanta native and a graduate of the Westminster Schools, Halpern has served as chairman of the board of the Epstein School, chairman of the board of trustees of the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, and cochair of the Marcus Jewish Community Center of Atlanta, and is active in numerous other nonprofits. Halpern and his wife, Lynne, have three children and five grandchildren.

**EDUCATION** Harvard University, University of Georgia School of Law (JD)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** After practicing law for three years, I received an offer from my father, Bernard Halpern, to become in-house counsel at Halpern Enterprises, our family's commercial real estate company. Unfortunately, my father died two years later, and I had to assume greater responsibility. Real estate proved to be a great way for me to apply both my legal training and analytical skills.



## Jim Irwin

President  
New City

As president of New City, Jim Irwin directs the company's real estate development and consulting operations as well as new business pursuits. Over the course of his career, Irwin has been responsible for nearly \$700 million of new investment nationwide. Prior to founding New City in 2016, Irwin was senior vice president at Jamestown, leading the development of Ponce City Market—one of the largest and most significant historic renovations then underway in the U.S.

**EDUCATION** Dartmouth College, Emory University Goizueta Business School (MBA)

**FIRST JOB** Worked in a bike shop

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Oregon

**WHAT I'D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** Take more art classes



## Robin C. Loudermilk Jr.

President and CEO  
The Loudermilk Cos.

Robert C. "Robin" Loudermilk is president and CEO of the Loudermilk Cos., an asset-based real estate development, investment, and management company. Prior to founding LCO, he served as president, CEO, and director of the retailer Aaron's, and before that worked for Coldwell Banker Commercial Real Estate Services and Stratton Construction. An Atlanta native, Loudermilk is a member of the Rotary Club of Atlanta. Currently chairman of the Atlanta Police Foundation, he also founded the Buckhead Alliance, a public safety organization.

**EDUCATION** University of Alabama

**BOARD MEMBERSHIPS** Genuine Parts Co., Shepherd Center, Buckhead Community Improvement District, Midtown Alliance

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** To follow my passion for changing real estate in Atlanta

**HOBBIES** Hunting, fishing



## Egbert L.J. Perry

Chairman and CEO  
Integral

Egbert L.J. Perry, a native of Antigua and Barbuda, is chairman and CEO of Integral, which he cofounded with a mission to "create value in cities and (re) build the fabric of communities." A community development, commercial real estate, and construction professional since 1979, Perry spent the 1980s and early '90s helping grow an Atlanta real estate and construction company into the nation's third-largest African-American-owned business. Since its founding in 1993, Integral has become respected for its expertise in affordable, workforce, luxury, and mixed-income housing, often as components of master-planned, mixed-use, and transit-oriented developments.

**EDUCATION** University of Pennsylvania (MS), Wharton School (MBA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** In 1990, Perry was the 11th graduate in the University of Pennsylvania's history to be named to the Gallery of Distinguished Engineering Alumni.



## Tim Perry

Managing Partner  
North American  
Properties

Tim Perry is responsible for advancing North American Properties' value-add acquisitions and redevelopment program and adding to the firm's portfolio of commercial properties. Perry has driven North American Properties' acquisition strategy for over a decade serving as North American Properties' vice president of acquisitions in 2009, director of investments in 2012, and chief investment officer in 2015. He previously led the acquisition, due diligence, capitalization, and disposition teams for landmark communities Atlantic Station, Colony Square, Newport on the Levee, and Avalon; capitalization of the transformational development of Stadium Centre in Tallahassee; and the debt/venture capitalization of over 35 projects in excess of \$2.3 billion total value.

**EDUCATION** Rhodes College

**FAVORITE TV SHOW** *Beat Bobby Flay*

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## Michael Phillips

Principal and President  
Jamestown

As a principal and the president of Jamestown, Michael Phillips is a driving force behind celebrated adaptive-reuse developments including Chelsea Market in New York, Ghirardelli Square in San Francisco, and Ponce City Market in Atlanta. He's nationally recognized for his creative leadership and his ability to build distinctive urban communities. The Atlanta native is the vice chair of the James Beard Foundation and sits on the boards of Friends of the High Line and the Real Estate Board of New York.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Paris

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Float-away Cafe

**NONPROFIT** James Beard Foundation



## Norman Radow

CEO  
The RADCO Cos.

When he established the RADCO Cos. in 1994, Norman Radow's vision came from a lifelong passion to improve both neighborhoods and people's lives. RADCO's first project was the redevelopment of a distressed 53-story hotel, office, and condominium tower that later became the Four Seasons Hotel Atlanta. Prior to founding RADCO, Radow was a real estate litigation, workout, and transactional lawyer. As chairman of the Kennesaw State University Foundation Board of Trustees, he oversaw the expansion of the 33,000-student university in metro Atlanta. The campus doubled in size during his 13-year tenure, with the addition of \$500 million in new buildings that Radow helped finance and develop. Radow is currently a member of the New York Law School Board of Trustees. RADCO is one of the largest apartment owners in Atlanta and one of the leading private capital companies of its kind in the country. Radow also writes a blog, *Coffee (and Real Estate) with Norm*.



## H. Jerome Russell Jr.

President  
H.J. Russell & Co.

As president of H.J. Russell & Co. and Russell New Urban Development, H. Jerome Russell's focus is on the firm's strategic direction and new business development. Over his more than 25-year career, Russell has experience with beverage distribution, consumer marketing, banking, construction, and real estate, which has led him to his current role as the lead owner over the \$250 million real estate portfolio and chairman of the newly formed Herman J. Russell Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (RCIE). In 1997, he was named to the board of Citizens Trust Bank, and was part of two successful mergers taken on by Citizens Trust Bank. He's a member of the Urban Land Institute, Atlanta Rotary, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Tiger 21, and the board of councillors of the Carter Center.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University

**BOARD MEMBERSHIPS** Citizens Trust Bank Loan Committee chairman, West End CID, Metro Atlanta YMCA, Georgia Department of Economic Development, Georgia Historical Society, Central Atlanta Progress, Concessions International, Russell Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, H.J. Russell & Co.



## Michael B. Russell

CEO  
H.J. Russell & Co.

Michael B. Russell became CEO of H.J. Russell & Co. in 2003 and also serves as vice chair of its sister company, Concessions International. He worked for Portman Architects for three years after graduating from college. Russell has spent most of his career with H.J. Russell & Co., serving in a variety of executive and nonexecutive positions such as cost estimator, project manager, business developer, and division VP. As CEO, he is responsible for the overall strategic direction of the four major divisions within the company (construction, program management, property management, and development), which is recognized as one of the largest Black-owned construction and commercial real estate companies in the country. The Atlanta native has been involved in the construction industry since his youth.

**EDUCATION** University of Virginia, Georgia State University Robinson School of Business (MBA)

**INSPIRING PERSON** Developer and architect John Portman

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Past president of the Association of Builders and Contractors of Georgia



## Tim Schrager

Founder and CEO  
Perennial Properties

Tim Schrager is the CEO of Perennial Properties, an Atlanta real estate development and property management company he founded in 1988. Meeting what Schrager saw as a need for quality housing choices in older neighborhoods with deteriorating rental stock, Perennial Properties has focused on infill development in gentrifying areas, specializing in high-end apartment projects with street-level retail. In three decades, Schrager and Perennial have been responsible for the development of numerous multifamily communities, as well as multifamily and retail mixed-use developments, in Georgia and Florida. Perennial also owns and operates Midtown Bowl.

**EDUCATION** University of Southern California

**HOMETOWN** Omaha, Nebraska

**FIRST JOB** Picking weeds and digging ditches for irrigation

**HOBBIES** Art collecting, visiting art museums and galleries

**FAVORITE BOOK** *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** New York City



## Lisa M. Ward

Senior Vice President and  
Managing Director  
Core5 Industrial Partners

At Core5 Industrial Partners, Lisa Ward's chief responsibilities include business development and capital deployment in the southeastern United States. Over her 25-year commercial real estate career, Ward has overseen more than 30 million square feet of industrial investment sales and leases for a total market value of over \$1 billion. Since 1997, she has consistently ranked among the top five industrial producers in Georgia by NAIOP and the Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors.

**EDUCATION** University of Southern Mississippi, University of South Carolina Darla Moore School of Business (MBA)

**FIRST JOB** Banking

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Africa

**BUCKET LIST** Ski the sand dunes in Namibia

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Meg Ryan



## Bonneau Ansley III

Founder  
Ansley Atlanta  
Real Estate

Atlanta entrepreneur Bonneau Ansley is the top-selling real estate agent in the metro housing market, having built, developed, and sold more than \$1 billion in a career spanning just 15 years. In 2015, he launched Ansley Atlanta Real Estate to offer his clients, team, and Atlanta a locally owned, more personal, service-oriented real estate experience with strong technology drivers. A fifth-generation Atlantan, Ansley was named Entrepreneur of the Year by the Buckhead Business Association in 2018. Ansley has also been ranked as Georgia's number one small team in sales volume by the *Wall Street Journal*/REAL Trends.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**HOBBIES** Surfing, golf, tennis

**WHAT I'D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** Say yes all the time in your 20s and 30s and just figure it out. When you are over 40, learn how to say no.

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** The Painted Pin

**NONPROFIT** Children's Healthcare of Atlanta



## Glennis Beacham

Owner and Founder  
Beacham & Co., Realtors

Even though she is the principal of her own firm, Glennis Beacham continues to sell real estate full-time by choice. A managing broker runs the day-to-day operations of the company so Beacham can focus on what she loves most: selling houses. Prior to founding Beacham & Co. in 2006, Beacham was the top agent for 13 years at one of Atlanta's oldest and largest real estate companies. She's sold more homes priced \$1 million and higher than any other agent in Atlanta real estate history, and in 2011 was the 13th realtor (and the first Georgian) to be inducted into Who's Who in Luxury Real Estate's Billionaires Club. Beacham began her real estate career in 1982.

**EDUCATION** Auburn University

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Regaining my financial footing after my divorce

**FAVORITE BOOK** I love all the Harry Potter books.

**NONPROFITS** Winship Cancer Institute, in honor of my father

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Meryl Streep



## David Boehmig

President and Founder  
Atlanta Fine Homes  
Sotheby's International  
Realty

As president of Atlanta Fine Homes Sotheby's International Realty, David Boehmig has a hand in every aspect of the company's work. His 20-plus years of experience in residential real estate are complemented by an additional decade in commercial banking, where Boehmig focused on real estate and small-business financing. The Atlanta Realtors Association named him Realtor of the Year in 2006 and a Captain of Industry in 2010. Boehmig serves on the board of directors of First Multiple Listing Service.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University

**FIRST JOB** Mortgage loan officer for Georgia Federal Bank

**HIDDEN TALENT** I speak Korean.

**FAVORITE BOOK** *Never Split the Difference* by Chris Voss

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Kind mercy wins over harsh judgment every time.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Lake Como, Italy



## Jenni Bonura

President and CEO  
Harry Norman, Realtors

As president and CEO of Harry Norman, Realtors, Jenni Bonura oversees the operations of 15 sales offices while managing partnerships in the mortgage, title, and insurance ventures. Taking an active role in every aspect of the business, the Miami native particularly enjoys luxury-home marketing and sales, new-home and high-rise marketing and sales management, and coaching the current and next generations of sales leaders. Bonura started her career in real estate in 2002 as a sales agent.

**EDUCATION** Samford University

**FIRST JOB** I had two jobs the first summer that I was 16: as an intern at an engineering firm and a server at an ice cream shop.

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** South City Kitchen

**BUCKET LIST** Hang gliding



## Kay Evans

Co-owner and Cofounder  
Keller Williams Realty  
International, Southeast  
Region

Kay Evans received her real estate license in 1978, marking the beginning of a long and successful career in sales, brokerage, and real estate education. In 1999, with Bob Kilinski, Evans cofounded Keller Williams Realty's Southeast Region, helping grow the company to a dominant position in the Atlanta real estate market. In multiple years, the Southeast has been Keller Williams's top-performing region. Evans and her husband, Glen, have a son, a daughter, and five granddaughters.

**EDUCATION** University of Louisiana at Lafayette

**FAVORITE BOOK** *The Traveler's Gift* by Andy Andrews

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Meryl Streep or Bette Midler! Why not?



## Daniel T. Forsman

President and CEO  
Berkshire Hathaway  
HomeServices Georgia  
Properties

As president and CEO, Daniel T. Forsman has led Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Georgia Properties to become the market leader for real estate companies in metro Atlanta—distinguishing itself in overall sales, listing inventory, sales of new homes, and growth in luxury market share. Under his leadership, Georgia Properties has been nationally recognized for its innovations in marketing and technology and was the first-ever real estate company to win the coveted MAX Award from Georgia State University's Robinson College of Business and the *Atlanta Business Chronicle*, edging out many *FORTUNE* 500 companies. Forsman invented TeamBuilder, an incentive program that rewards agents and employees for registering and recruiting other productive agents.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**FIRST JOB** Deckhand (striker) on a shrimp boat in Georgia

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** The mountains of North Georgia or river swamps of South Georgia. I am at ease most when out in nature.

**BUCKET LIST** Take a three-month trip to see the United States with my wife and best friend, Rhonda



## Ben Hirsh

Broker and Owner  
**Hirsh Real Estate,**  
**Buckhead.com**

At the age of 18, Atlanta native Ben Hirsh sold his established landscaping company to a competitor and set out to travel across the globe. His excursions led him to more than 40 countries. Upon his return, Hirsh turned his focus to real estate in Buckhead, founding Hirsh Real Estate. He was soon named one of *Realtor* magazine's 30 Under 30 top real estate agents in North America. According to the Atlanta Realtors Association, Hirsh is the top-producing individual realtor in Atlanta based on sales volume, with personal sales nearing \$80 million in 2018.

**FIRST JOB** I started a lawn care company at the age of nine and sold it to enable world travels at 18.

**HOMETOWN** Atlanta

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Being told that I was "not Buckhead enough" for a premier listing assignment by a prominent potential client was the rejection that pushed me to buy Buckhead.com and become the top real estate agent in Buckhead.

**HOBBIES** I love gardening and hope to have my own little farm in Buckhead one day.



## Jenny Pruitt

Founder and CEO  
**Atlanta Fine Homes Sotheby's International Realty**

Jenny Pruitt, a third-generation Atlantan, is revered as a community advocate and philanthropist and respected nationally as a visionary real estate leader. Her strong business acumen has led to more than five decades of success in the Atlanta residential real estate arena. Pruitt began her real estate career in 1968 before establishing Jenny Pruitt & Associates in 1988. In 2007, she and her business partner, David Boehmig, opened Atlanta Fine Homes Sotheby's International Realty. The company's 475 agents are among the most accomplished real estate professionals in metro Atlanta.

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Atlanta Realtors Association Sally Washburn Lifetime Achievement Award (2016), Council for Quality Growth Four Pillar Tribute (2016), Atlanta Realtors Association E.A. Isakson Award (2006), YWCA of Greater Atlanta Academy of Women Achievers (2004)

**HOBBIES** Reading, painting angels, walking

**FAVORITE TV SHOW/MOVIE** *Blue Bloods*, *Forrest Gump*

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Find your passion so work will never seem like work.



## Christa Huffstickler

Founder and CEO  
**Engel & Völkers Atlanta**

In 2017, Christa Huffstickler joined the Engel & Völkers international network to open Engel & Völkers Atlanta, which has two dedicated divisions: one for new home sales and one for general brokerage real estate. A winner of the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association's Obie Award, Huffstickler has specialized in residential real estate for nearly two decades, and has worked on some of Atlanta's premier condominium, townhome, and single-family-home communities. She currently manages over half a billion dollars in new home development listings.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**HOMETOWN** I was a military brat always moving from city to city, so I consider Atlanta to be my hometown.

**INSPIRING PERSON** My mother

**HOBBIES** As simple as it sounds, my favorite way to spend my time is with my three girls gardening or planting flowers. We love digging in the dirt and growing and nurturing our plants. My green thumb came from my dad, and I have been sharing this passion as an adult with my own children.



## Kevin Levent

President and CEO  
**BH&G Real Estate Metro Brokers and Coldwell Banker Commercial Metro Brokers**

Kevin Levent, president and CEO of Better Homes and Gardens Real Estate Metro Brokers and Coldwell Banker Commercial Metro Brokers, has been in the business for more than 35 years and is recognized nationally as an industry leader. He manages both brands as well as the mortgage, insurance, and title divisions of Metro Brokers, which has 2,400 sales associates in 26 offices throughout the region. An Atlanta native, Levent is a licensed broker in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and North and South Carolina.

**HIDDEN TALENT** I have a contractor's license for residential and light commercial structures.

**HOBBIES** ATV riding

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Stone Mountain

**BUCKET LIST** Getting my kids married



## David J. Tufts

President and Principal  
**Ansley Developer Services**

David Tufts is a national sales and marketing expert specializing in new-construction residential real estate developments. He is one of the nation's most prolific development-sales professionals, having sold more than 25,000 new-construction residences. After a decade of real estate sales in New York City, Tufts started the Condo Store in Atlanta in 1993. Achieving a billion-dollar year in 1999, Tufts merged his company with Coldwell Banker, growing the combined entity into one of the largest and most profitable new-home-sales companies in the country. Tufts joined Bonneau Ansley in 2016 to create Ansley Developer Services.

**EDUCATION** Williams College

**HOMETOWN** Boston, Massachusetts

**HIDDEN TALENT** Frustrated artist

**HOBBIES** Sailing, swimming, painting

**NONPROFITS** Human Rights Campaign, Humane Society, Cape Ann Museum

### HOW TO LEAD

**"A leader is authentic, builds trust through commitment to the team, and inclusive of ideas from everyone."**

#### WAB KADABA

Chair, Global Intellectual Property Department, Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton



## Steven DeFrancis

Founder and CEO  
Cortland

Steven DeFrancis has more than 25 years of experience in complex multifamily development and management. He founded Cortland in 2005 to focus on in-town, mixed-use, multifamily developments. Since then, Cortland has expanded into a global, vertically integrated, multifamily real estate investment and management company. With a focus on providing a hospitality-driven approach to apartment living, Cortland is one of the largest multifamily owners in the United States and manages more than 60,000 apartment homes nationwide. He is a member of the Buckhead Coalition and serves on the board of the Atlanta Neighborhood Development Partnership. He is also a member of the Real Estate Roundtable, the Urban Land Institute, and the National Multifamily Housing Council.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia Terry College of Business

**FIRST JOB** Busboy at Fuddruckers

**FAVORITE TV SHOW** *Billions*

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** The Varsity



## Tom Hill

East Region President  
D.R. Horton

As East Region president of Texas-based D.R. Horton—the country's largest new-home builder by volume, Tom Hill is involved in all aspects of land acquisition, development, construction, sales, and operations for more than 10 D.R. Horton divisions across the Southeast. A native of Mount Olive, North Carolina, he's been in the homebuilding industry for 25 years, joining Horton in 1997.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I have always had a passion for real estate, dating back to my early days, when my parents would look at homes for themselves. That, fortunately, led me into a career where I have been able to do what I enjoy each day. We build a lot of homes each year, but knowing that we are building them one at a time for a particular family, where their dreams and children will flourish, is a great feeling.

**FIRST JOB** Bussing tables at a Chinese restaurant. A tough boss at a young age will shape you.

**INSPIRING PERSON** My father, who always worked hard and taught me to value every dollar, dime, and penny, and the importance of family



## Ryan R. Marshall

President and CEO  
PulteGroup

In 2016, Ryan R. Marshall was promoted to president and CEO of PulteGroup, one of the nation's most geographically and product-diverse homebuilders. With operations in 26 states, the company serves all major consumer groups through its family of national brands, which includes Pulte Homes, Centex, Del Webb, DiVosta Homes, and John Wieland Homes and Neighborhoods. Marshall most recently served as PulteGroup's president, with responsibility for the company's homebuilding operations and its marketing and strategy departments. Previously, he was executive vice president of homebuilding operations, and he's also served as Southeast area president, Florida area president, division president in both South Florida and Orlando, and area vice president of finance.

**EDUCATION** University of Utah, Arizona State University (MBA)



## Rod Mullice

Managing Partner  
Windsor Stevens

Rod Mullice is the managing partner at Windsor Stevens, a development firm that aims to create vibrant, walkable, and livable urban communities close to mass transit. Since 2009, Mullice has closed more than \$150 million in transactions in urban development, financing, and acquisitions, and he led the team that renewed the lease of a 217,000-square-foot office building in College Park for the Federal Aviation Administration's Southern Region headquarters. He also conceived, planned, financed, and managed the construction of the Pad on Harvard, a \$20.9 million apartment community next to the College Park MARTA station.

**EDUCATION** Savannah State University, Harvard Graduate School of Design (AMDP)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** During college, I became fascinated with building and infrastructure and the impact it had on our community, so I got a job working with an engineering firm that was rebuilding the Atlanta sewer system. It was a natural progression to structures as we seek to maximize clean water and share the many benefits of urban-core living.

### HOW TO LEAD

**“Character is the cornerstone of being a successful and respected leader.”**

**GERALD L. POUNCEY**

Chairman, Morris, Manning & Martin



## Pam Sessions

President  
Hedgewood Homes

As owners and operators of Hedgewood Homes, Pam Sessions and her husband, Don Donnelly, have designed and built more than 4,000 houses in the Atlanta region since 1989, including award-winning, smart-growth homes in neighborhoods such as Vickery Village, Woodstock Downtown, Alpharetta City Center/Voysey, and Manchester. Prior to beginning her homebuilding career, Sessions—who received her bachelor's in fine arts from the University of Georgia—studied photography with Ansel Adams and worked with the landscape photographer and writer Dave Bohn.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**HOMETOWN** Atlanta, Georgia

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Congress for New Urbanism Charter Award (2008), Urban Land Institute Development of Excellence Award (2006), *Professional Builder* National Builder of the Year (2003)

**FAVORITE BOOK** *Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner

**FAVORITE TV SHOW** *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*

# government & infrastructure

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**Delta Airlines** ▶

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Two Sparrows Village  
Bill Vogel  
WorkSmart

## Civic Leaders


**Leona Barr-Davenport**

President and CEO  
Atlanta Business League

Leona Barr-Davenport is president and CEO of the Atlanta Business League, Atlanta's oldest minority business development and advocacy organization. As president, she works with the board of directors to increase access to business opportunities for minorities, with specific emphasis on the development of businesses owned or operated by African Americans. Barr-Davenport has more than 25 years of experience in customer service, program development, organizational management, and fundraising for associations and youth-oriented programs.

**EDUCATION** Benedict College, Clark Atlanta University School of Business (MBA)

**HOMETOWN** Johnsonville, South Carolina

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Atlanta Hospital-ity Hall of Fame (2019), Carver College honorary doctor of divinity (2014)

**LESSON LEARNED** The first step is showing up.

**BUCKET LIST** Tour of Africa and becoming an adjunct professor

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Angela Bassett


**Chris Clark**

President and CEO  
Georgia Chamber of Commerce

Chris Clark is the longest-serving president and CEO in the century-plus history of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce. Previously, he served as commissioner of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and as deputy commissioner for the Georgia Department of Economic Development. A graduate of Leadership Georgia, Clark has frequently been named one of *Georgia Trend's* 100 Most Influential Georgians and one of the *Atlanta Business Chronicle's* Most Influential Atlantans.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Southern University, Georgia College & State University (MA)

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I'm a huge, massive Par-rothead. I've seen Jimmy Buffett over 25 times.

**FAVORITE BOOK** *The Old Man and the Boy* by Robert Ruark

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Montana

**WHAT I'D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF**

You're lucky they hadn't invented camera phones yet! Real lucky!

**BUCKET LIST** Fly-fishing in New Zealand

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** A young Michael J. Fox


**Shan Cooper**

Executive Director  
Atlanta Committee for Progress

Shan Cooper is the executive director for the Atlanta Committee for Progress, which was founded in 2003 to provide leadership on economic growth and inclusion for all Atlantans, and which includes more than 40 chief executives, university presidents, and civic leaders. Previously, Cooper was chief transformation officer of the packaging company WestRock, responsible for recycling and waste services, procurement, enterprise logistics, and information technology. Prior to that, she served as vice president and general manager of Lockheed Martin Aeronautics. She plans to leave ACP and start her own business in early 2022.

**EDUCATION** Emory University Goizueta Business School (MBA), Rutgers University

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** *Black Enterprise* Top 300 Most Powerful Executives in Corporate America (2017), YWCA of Greater Atlanta Academy of Women Achievers (2016), *Georgia Trend* Most Respected Business Leader (2015), U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology Pioneer Award (2013)


**Jerry E. Gonzalez**

CEO  
Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials

Jerry Gonzalez is the founder and CEO of the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials, a statewide nonprofit and nonpartisan organization with a mission to increase civic engagement and leadership development of the Latino community across Georgia. A native of Laredo, Texas, Gonzalez also leads the GALEO Latino Community Development Fund, which promotes voter registration and education, community education, and leadership development.

**EDUCATION** Texas A&M University, Georgia State University Andrew Young School of Policy Studies (MA)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I made a conscious effort to dedicate my work toward improving our state.

**FIRST JOB** Closer at Wendy's

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** GALEO was a start-up 15 years ago.

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Friend's pool in East Atlanta

**BUCKET LIST** Trip to South Africa

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Jeff Bezos, we have the same hair stylist.


**Ryan Gravel**

Founder  
Sixpitch

Chamblee native Ryan Gravel is best known for his Georgia Tech master's thesis, which presented a vision for what would become the Atlanta Belt-Line. But he's also a planner, designer, and author whose work centers on the cultural aspects of urban design, exploring how its intimate relationship with our way of life can illuminate a brighter path forward for cities. The founder of the urban design consultancy Sixpitch and the ideas-focused nonprofit Generator, Gravel was the lead author of the Atlanta City Design and is the author of *Where We Want to Live: Reclaiming Infrastructure for a New Generation of Cities*.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech (MA)

**FIRST JOB** Typing bar codes into a computer in the back room of a music store at Ansley Mall. I guess it was Turtle's, but I'm not sure.

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *Blade Runner 2049*

**LESSON LEARNED** The ideas we need are often unpopular, unwanted, and underfunded.

**BUCKET LIST** Road trip #2 across America with my family, from Los Angeles to Atlanta


**Kevin Green**

President and CEO  
Midtown Alliance

Kevin Green joined the Midtown Alliance as president and CEO in 2011. Previously, he was executive director of the Clean Air Campaign, a Georgia nonprofit working in partnership with transportation management associations and public and private institutions to improve air quality and reduce traffic. Green was formerly vice president of environmental affairs for the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and practiced law for a decade; his litigation experience includes state and federal trial and appellate courts across the Southeast.

**EDUCATION** James Madison University, Emory University School of Law (JD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** I am the drummer in my 18-year-old daughter Mia Green's band.

**FIRST JOB** Delivering Sheetrock off a flatbed truck

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Vietnam (so far)

**WHAT I'D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** When the alarm clock rings and you aren't excited to go to work, it's time to do something different.

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Oakland Cemetery (it's strangely affirming)



## Shannon W. James Sr.

President and CEO  
Aerotropolis  
Atlanta Alliance

Shannon W. James Sr. is president and CEO of the Aerotropolis Atlanta Alliance, a public-private partnership working to improve the regional economic competitiveness of the area around Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. A native of Albany, Georgia, James accepted the top job at Aero-ATL in 2018 following a successful 15-year career in banking. Beginning his career as a part-time teller and customer service representative, James later became the first African American accepted into the management trainee program at the Park Avenue Bank, then went on to serve as vice president of commercial banking for both SunTrust and BB&T.

**EDUCATION** Valdosta State University

**INSPIRING PERSON** My mother

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Becoming a father, because I've never met my father

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Center for Civil and Human Rights

**FAVORITE SONG ABOUT GEORGIA** "Georgia" by Field Mob and Ludacris ft. Jamie Foxx

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Michael B. Jordan



## Kali Kirkham Boatright

CEO  
Greater North Fulton  
Chamber of Commerce

Kali Kirkham Boatright is the CEO of the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce, coming to the organization from the Douglas County Chamber, where she served as CEO from 2004 to 2018. In a 14-year career at her previous workplace, Golden Key International Honor Society, Boatright rose from regional director to chief operating officer.

**EDUCATION** University of Missouri

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Nonprofit management in many ways chose me. I thought I would become a writer, but I went to work for Golden Key right out of college and thrived in an environment where I wore many hats and worked with new leaders each year.

**FAVORITE BOOK** *The Alienist* by Caleb Carr

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Australia

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Atlanta BeltLine

**BUCKET LIST** Empty-nesting!



## Katie Kirkpatrick

President and CEO  
Metro Atlanta Chamber

In 2020, Katie Kirkpatrick became president and CEO of the 160-year-old Metro Atlanta Chamber. Previously, she was the organization's chief policy officer, serving as the link between the metro Atlanta business community and local and national government. Before joining the Metro Atlanta Chamber in 2007 as vice president of environmental affairs, she worked as director of environmental engineering for the poultry producer Gold Kist. Kirkpatrick serves on the GRACE Commission, which aims to end human trafficking in Georgia, and as vice chair for the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District.

**EDUCATION** Auburn University

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Leadership Atlanta class of 2012

**FIRST JOB** Coaching a neighborhood swim team

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** As a working mother, there will be times that you can't give 100 percent to both jobs. Just know that whatever you can give, it is enough and better than most.

**FAVORITE EVERYDAY RESTAURANT** Jalisco Mexican Restaurant at Peachtree Battle



## Odetta MacLeish-White

Director, Georgia  
Initiatives  
Center for Community  
Progress

Odetta MacLeish-White is the director of Georgia Initiatives for the Center for Community Progress. In this role, she creates partnerships and strategies for improving vacant, abandoned, and deteriorating properties. Prior to joining CCP, she was managing director for the TransFormation Alliance, a partnership of nonprofits, government agencies, and businesses working with residents of impacted communities in shaping better health, climate, and economic outcomes through arts and culture-based community engagement, and by improving housing, transit, and jobs access. The Cambridge, Massachusetts, native was also a senior program director with Enterprise Community Partners' Southeast market.

**EDUCATION** Harvard Radcliffe University, Duke University School of Law (JD, LL.M.)

**LESSON LEARNED** I re-learn every day that clear communication is vital to the health of every type of relationship.

**HOBBIES** Reading and nurturing a container garden on my back deck.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Any beach!



## Veronica Maldonado-Torres

President and CEO  
Georgia Hispanic  
Chamber of Commerce

Veronica Maldonado-Torres is the newly appointed president and CEO of the Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. With over a decade of experience as a small business champion and supplier diversity advocate, Maldonado-Torres is a catalyst of growth for both small businesses and large corporations, bringing thought-leadership and innovation to the supplier development space. Prior to joining the GHCC, she successfully guided the development and growth of more than 150 firms across multiple industries ranging from \$1 million to \$100 million in annual revenue in her role as program director for the Georgia Mentor Protégé Connection. There, she fostered over 131 *FORTUNE* 500 corporate relationships, and supported the supplier development efforts of more than 41 corporations.

**FIRST JOB** My first official job at 15 was as a hostess in a restaurant. That experience served me well. I love making people feel welcome and valued.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Cartagena, Colombia. My family hometown!



## Rohit Malhotra

Founder and  
Executive Director  
Center for Civic  
Innovation

Rohit Malhotra is the founder and executive director of the Center for Civic Innovation, which seeks to eliminate inequality by empowering people to design public policy from the ground up. With a background in social entrepreneurship, digital communication, open data, and community organizing, Malhotra was an Ash Innovation Fellow in the Obama White House's Office of Management and Budget, working on social impact bonds and pay for performance, and in 2015 was awarded the prestigious Echoing Green Global Fellowship. In 2020, Malhotra was named to the Emory Alumni Association's annual class of 40 Under 40.

**EDUCATION** Emory University, Harvard University Kennedy School of Government (MA)

**HOMETOWN** Atlanta, Georgia

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I chose to work at the intersection of public policy and finance because I believe that our city needs more effective solutions to address widening inequality in Atlanta. Inequality disproportionately impacts people who share skin color and a story with my family, and like my family, I love my city too much not to fight for it.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Call your mom.



### Sharon Mason

President and CEO  
Cobb Chamber  
of Commerce

Sharon Mason has held six different leadership positions with the Cobb Chamber of Commerce since 2005; she climbed to president and CEO in January 2018, bringing more than 18 years of chamber and nonprofit leadership experience to the position. In addition to sitting on multiple boards, Mason serves on the Regional Business Coalition Executive Committee, the Council for Quality Growth Board of Directors, and was named by Governor Nathan Deal to the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority Board (GRTA) in 2018 and continues to serve on this board.

**EDUCATION** Samford University

**FIRST JOB** Special Times Gift Shop in Snellville

**FAVORITE TV SHOW/MOVIE/BOOK** *Parks and Recreation*, *Wonder Woman*, all John Maxwell books

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATIONS** Saint John, Saint Thomas, Saint Maarten

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Chattahoochee River trails

**NONPROFITS** MUST Ministries, Center for Family Resources, liveSAFE Resources



### William Pate

President and CEO  
Atlanta Convention &  
Visitors Bureau

As president and CEO of the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau, William Pate promotes one of the city's top economic drivers: tourism. He was vice president of the host committee that managed the 2018 College Football Playoff National Championship and board member of the host committee for Super Bowl LIII in 2019. In 2020, the American Marketing Association's Atlanta chapter awarded Pate its Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2019 he was honored as Herman J. Russell CEO of the Year by the Atlanta Business League. The *Atlanta Business Chronicle* has honored Pate multiple times as one of Atlanta's Most Admired CEOs.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University (MA)

**HOMETOWN** Decatur, Georgia

**FIRST JOB** When I was 12 years old, I raked leaves for Mrs. Brumbelee at \$2 an hour.



### A.J. Robinson

President  
Central Atlanta Progress  
and Atlanta Downtown  
Improvement District

Since 2003, Knoxville native A.J. Robinson has been president of Central Atlanta Progress—a private business association and advocacy organization started in 1941—and the Atlanta Downtown Improvement District. Both groups are committed to making the Atlanta community, specifically downtown, more livable, vital, and diverse. Previously, Robinson was president of the real estate company Portman Holdings, where he managed all aspects of the firm's real estate development processes, including property and asset management of SunTrust Plaza and AmericasMart.

**EDUCATION** Emory University, Harvard Business School (MBA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Being a founder of the Center for Civil and Human Rights

**FIRST JOB** Forklift driver for my father's company



### Taifa Smith Butler

President and CEO  
Georgia Budget and  
Policy Institute

As president and CEO of the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, Taifa Smith Butler leads a team whose mission is to improve economic opportunity for all Georgians. The organization examines the state's budget, taxes, and public policies in order to provide analysis and propose equitable solutions. Butler, who joined GBPI in 2011, counts more than 25 years of experience in strategic communications, public policy research, and data analysis in the public, nonprofit, and private sectors.

**EDUCATION** Mount Holyoke College, Carnegie Mellon University (MS)

**FIRST JOB** Gift shop cashier at Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia

**FAVORITE TV SHOW** *This Is Us*

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** From James White: "Being a public servant is not about having your name in lights, it's about solving public problems."



### Melinda C. Sylvester

President and CEO  
Greater Georgia  
Black Chamber of Commerce/  
Tel-Mel Media & Publishing Co.

Melinda C. Sylvester is the president and CEO of the Greater Georgia Black Chamber of Commerce, which she founded in 2016. Sylvester's chamber career started when she led the Greater Southwest Louisiana Black Chamber of Commerce in the early 2000s. The St. Martinville, Louisiana, native is also the founder and publisher of Tel-Mel Media & Publishing Co. LLC and publishes *Faith & Soul News Magazine*. She also established the chamber's Bridge Builders Accelerator Academy, which fosters economic growth with equity, diversity, and inclusion. She also does public relations and branding.

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Tyler Perry Studios. It's magical, just going in the area for visitors.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION:** Senegal, Africa

**NONPROFIT** Greater Georgia Black Chamber "Bridge Builders"

**WHO SHOULD PLAY YOU IN A BIOPIC** Kerry Washington



### Pat Upshaw-Monteith

President and CEO  
Leadership Atlanta

Pat Upshaw-Monteith became president and CEO of Leadership Atlanta in 2005, having started with the organization in 1992 as co-executive director. In her time at the helm, she's participated in the present and future growth of Atlanta by imparting to new generations of leaders the values that have traditionally been central to the area's success. Previously, Upshaw-Monteith served for 13 years as associate general manager of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

**EDUCATION** Albany State University, Bowling Green State University (MA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** When appointed to my position with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, I had the distinct honor of being one of the first African Americans hired in management by a major symphony orchestra.

**FAVORITE BOOK** *David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants* by Malcolm Gladwell



## Kyle Wingfield

President and CEO  
Georgia Public Policy  
Foundation

As an opinion columnist for nine years at the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, Kyle Wingfield wrote often about state politics and policy, focusing especially on education and school choice, transportation, healthcare, and state and local taxation. In April 2018, he joined the Georgia Public Policy Foundation as president and CEO, gaining a hands-on role in helping shape public policy at the state level after having written about it for many years.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** UGA Grady College John E. Drewry Young Alumni Award (2006)

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** For all the new parents out there: Never try to make a happy child happier.

**FIRST JOB** I spent a summer working in the dining hall at a Boy Scout camp near Rome. I made \$35 a week—\$32.32 after taxes.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Jekyll Island



## Sherry Boston

District Attorney  
Stone Mountain  
Judicial Circuit

District attorney for the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit since 2017, Sherry Boston oversees the prosecution of felony offenses filed in the Superior Court of DeKalb County. She's the second female district attorney in the history of the office. Previously, she served as DeKalb County solicitor general—the elected official overseeing the prosecution of misdemeanor crimes—and was the first woman appointed as municipal court judge for the City of Dunwoody. Boston has also worked in private practice handling thousands of misdemeanor and felony criminal cases in metro Atlanta.

**EDUCATION** Villanova University, Emory University School of Law (JD)

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I have a twin sister. Yes, really!

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Mexico

**HOBBIES** I love to cook and have recently become obsessed with the Instant Pot. Truly, I'm obsessed with it!



## Carmalita L. Gumbs

Councilwoman  
City of South Fulton

Carmalita Gumbs is a member of the South Fulton City Council as well as the cultural and community affairs manager for the healthcare provider ChenMed, where she's launched a range of wellness programs for Atlanta-area seniors, including pop-up dental clinics, salons, farmers markets, and other initiatives. Throughout the pandemic, Gumbs has worked to make sure seniors have access to food and other supplies while sheltering in place. The winner of multiple awards and a frequent featured guest speaker, Gumbs was recently recognized by State Rep. Sharon Beasley-Teague for her outstanding public service and her role in ensuring the welfare of the citizens of Georgia.

**EDUCATION** Norfolk State University, Strayer University (MBA, MPH)

**FIRST JOB** In the country working at a potato grader

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I love people. I love being a resource, and I am passionate about my community.

**LESSON LEARNED** Everyone and everything is not for you and you cannot force it.

**FAVORITE MOVIES** *Grease*, *Grease 2*



## Eugene E. Jones Jr.

President and CEO  
Atlanta Housing

Eugene E. Jones Jr. is president and CEO of Atlanta Housing, the Southeast's largest public housing authority, which serves more than 25,000 families, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities. With 35 years of experience in housing and construction, Jones has served in leadership positions in cities across the U.S. and Canada. In Chicago, he was president and CEO of the nation's second-largest housing authority from 2015 to 2019. Jones was president and CEO of the Toronto Community Housing Corporation from 2012 to 2014, served as executive director of housing authorities in Detroit and Indianapolis, and has held key roles in housing agencies in Kansas City and San Francisco.

**EDUCATION** University of Albuquerque, New Mexico Highlands University (MBA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Author of *Housing Humans: A Vicarious Memorandum*

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Politicians

**FIRST JOB** U.S. Air Force

**HOBBIES** Basketball

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Greece

**NONPROFIT** Big Brothers Big Sisters of America



## Jen Jordan

Attorney  
Shamp Jordan  
Woodward  
State Senator  
Georgia State Senate

Consistently recognized as one of the top lawyers in the state, Jen Jordan is an attorney who specializes in complex civil cases and stands up for those the system has failed. In 2015, Jordan brought suit against then secretary of state Brian Kemp over a data breach that exposed the personal information of Georgia voters. She was elected to the Georgia legislature in a 2017 special election—breaking a Republican supermajority in the state Senate—and won reelection in 2018. She is currently running to become Georgia's Attorney General.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Southern University, University of Georgia School of Law (JD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** In 2019, with the legislature debating a bill that would strictly limit access to abortion, I delivered a dissent that went viral, drawing more than 3 million views on a single platform.

**FIRST JOB** Historical extra at Mossy Creek Festival. I would put on period clothing and be a hostess for visitors to the arts and crafts festival in Middle Georgia.



## Timothy J. Keane

Commissioner of  
Planning  
City of Atlanta

As Atlanta's commissioner of planning, Tim Keane leads design, zoning, buildings, housing and community development, preservation, transportation planning, and other aspects of Atlanta's growth. A native of Charlotte, he was appointed to the position in 2015. Previously, Keane worked in Charleston, South Carolina, as director of planning, preservation, and sustainability, and as planning director for Davidson, North Carolina.

**EDUCATION** University of North Carolina at Charlotte (MS)

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** One of 12 kids. Six sisters and five brothers.

**LESSON LEARNED** Planning isn't about taking notes.

**FAVORITE BOOK** *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck

**WHAT I'D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** Get a haircut.

**BUCKET LIST** Learning to golf



## Eloisa Klementich

President and CEO  
Invest Atlanta

Eloisa Klementich is president and CEO of Invest Atlanta, Atlanta's economic development authority. As CEO, she is leading an economic mobility strategy which has generated more than 47,803 new jobs and \$8 billion in new capital investment, supported \$7.1 million of small business funding and created 7,824 affordable housing units across the city. Previously, she worked as special assistant for economic development at the U.S. Economic Development Administration and served as California's assistant deputy secretary for economic development and commerce. She also worked as a consultant for Mexican president Vicente Fox.

**EDUCATION** Pitzer College, Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey (MBA), University of California, Los Angeles (MA), University of La Verne (DPA)

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** From my father: "Nothing lasts forever."

**BOARD MEMBERSHIPS** International Economic Development Council, Women's Entrepreneurship Initiative, Goodwill of North Georgia, Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs, Atlanta Technical College, Atlanta Emerging Markets, Westside Future Fund



## Felicia A. Moore

Former President  
Atlanta City Council

Felicia Moore was recently defeated in a runoff with Andre Dickens to become Atlanta's next mayor. Formerly president of the Atlanta City Council, she has spent nearly three decades as a public servant, beginning as president of Riverside Neighborhood Association. She then served as chair of Neighborhood Planning Unit D, becoming an advocate for community economic development. Moore was subsequently elected as Atlanta city councilmember for District 9, serving for 20 years prior to her election as council president. She's also a licensed real estate broker and resident of the Historic Collier Heights community.

**EDUCATION** Central State University, Central Michigan University (MS)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Instrumental in the opening of a Publix supermarket in Northwest Atlanta where there hadn't been a grocery store in decades. Authored and passed Mattie's Call, an alert system to find wandering adults and others who have dementia or other mental disabilities. Authored legislation to implement independent procurement review officers; author of and an unyielding advocate for legislation that resulted in the establishment of Atlanta's first inspector general and independent compliance office.



## Dawn Luke Arnold

Executive Vice President  
and Chief Operating  
Officer  
Invest Atlanta

As executive vice president and chief operating officer of the city's official economic development agency, Dawn Luke Arnold oversees Invest Atlanta's community development, finance, information technology, human resources, operations, and investment services departments. Previously, she served as the organization's senior vice president of community development, responsible for providing leadership and strategic direction in the successful execution of a shared vision of comprehensive community development, quality affordable housing, and economic growth in Atlanta's 10 tax allocation districts. Arnold also managed and operated Invest Atlanta's multifamily and single-family housing bond portfolio of approximately \$1.8 billion and more than 20,000 units of housing.

**EDUCATION** Spelman College, Georgia State University (MBA)

**HOMETOWN** LaGrange, Georgia

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** After having been homeless for a short period of time, then living in substandard housing, I made it my life's mission to ensure that people are able to have decent, safe, sanitary, and affordable housing.



## Robert J. Murphy

Special Agent in Charge,  
Atlanta Field Division  
U.S. Drug Enforcement  
Administration

Counting more than 28 years of law enforcement experience, Robert J. Murphy serves as special agent in charge of the Atlanta Field Division of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. He leads hundreds of special agents, task force officers, intelligence research specialists, diversion investigators, and other employees assigned to Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Murphy began his career in 1991 as an officer in the Orlando Police Department.

**EDUCATION** Florida State University

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Three-time recipient of the U.S. Department of Justice Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force's National Case of the Year Award

**INSPIRING PERSON** I was working at Publix supermarkets through college. A Tallahassee Police Department officer who worked security at the Publix talked me into doing a ride-along one night, and I was hooked.

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Kevin Bacon



## Lauren "Bubba" McDonald

Commissioner  
Georgia Public Service  
Commission

Following 20 years as a state representative, Lauren "Bubba" McDonald was appointed to the Georgia Public Service Commission in 1998 by Governor Zell Miller, and then reelected in a special election later that year. He held the seat until 2002. McDonald returned to the commission in 2008 and served as chairman. He was reelected to the commission in 2014 and 2020. He is also a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Committee on Electricity and an executive member of the Nuclear Waste Strategy Coalition.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Started funeral home business with son in 1997 and now own three funeral homes.

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Zell Miller talked me into it.

**FIRST JOB** Soda jerk in Commerce Drug Company

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** Won first place in Georgia boys choir solo at age 12

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** The Varsity



## David Nahmias

Chief Justice  
Supreme Court  
of Georgia

Chief Justice David E. Nahmias was appointed to the Supreme Court of Georgia in 2009 by Governor Sonny Perdue, elected to a full six-year term in 2010, and reelected without opposition in 2016. An Atlanta native and the son of immigrants from Egypt and Germany, Nahmias practiced with a large law firm in Washington, D.C., before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office in Atlanta in 1995. As a federal prosecutor, he worked extensively on the investigations into the Centennial Olympic Park bombing and subsequent attacks by Eric Rudolph. Following the September 11 attacks, Nahmias became one of the Justice Department's leading terrorism prosecutors, and in 2004 President George W. Bush appointed him U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Georgia.

**EDUCATION** Duke University, Harvard Law School (JD)

**FIRST JOB** Youth soccer referee. Calling fouls and not calling fouls, with people complaining either way, is good training to be a judge.

**WHAT I'D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Work very hard at whatever you are doing, and always be open to new and unexpected opportunities.



## Russell K. Paul

Mayor  
Sandy Springs

Elected mayor of Sandy Springs in 2013 and just reelected to a third term, Russell K. "Rusty" Paul brings more than 40 years of government experience to the job. A former state senator, he was elected to Sandy Springs' founding city council in 2005 and has served on the city's charter-review commission and development authority. Paul also worked for the first Bush administration's Department of Housing and Urban Development as assistant secretary for congressional and intergovernmental relations.

**EDUCATION** Samford University

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I'm a chick-flick aficionado; I'm addicted to the Hallmark Channel.

**FIRST JOB** Picking cotton at age six

**LESSON LEARNED** Politics is a team sport, and you have to build relationships, looking for common ground with people who disagree or have a different set of solutions than yours.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** My cabin at the farm on which I grew up [near Birmingham]—land that has been in my family since 1880



## Patrise Perkins-Hooker

County Attorney  
Fulton County

As county attorney for Fulton County, Patrise Perkins-Hooker is responsible for the civil legal needs of one of Georgia's largest counties. She leads a staff of over 40 and provides legal advice to seven commissioners and more than 45 departments. Before joining the county attorney's office in 2016, Perkins-Hooker was vice president and general counsel for the Atlanta BeltLine and a partner at the law firm Hollowell Foster & Gepp. In 2014, she became the 52nd president of the State Bar of Georgia—the first African American and third woman to fill that role. She currently serves on the board of John Marshall Law School.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech, Emory University School of Law (JD), Emory University Goizueta Business School (MBA)

**FIRST JOB** Six Flags Over Georgia ride operator

**LESSON LEARNED** Even with bad bosses, a few good team members can still accomplish miracles!

**HIDDEN TALENT** I am an excellent cook.

**FAVORITE BOOKS** All of John Grisham's novels



## Robb Pitts

Chairman  
Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Robb Pitts was elected in 2017 as chairman of the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, having previously served on the board from 2002 to 2014. Pitts also served two decades on the Atlanta City Council, including a stint as president from 1997 to 2001. As a Fulton commissioner, he advocated for diversification of revenue sources to relieve tax burdens on property owners. Pitts is also a former college professor and registered real estate broker.

**EDUCATION** Ohio University, Academia Hispano Americana, Kent State University, La Universidad Interamericana, Emory University (MA)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I wanted to effect positive change and ensure that taxpayers receive the services they pay for in a more cost-effective and efficient manner.



## Sheikh Rahman

State Senator  
Georgia State Senate

Senator Sheikh Rahman, a Democrat, is the first immigrant and first Asian American to serve in the Georgia State Senate. He is also the first Muslim Georgia Legislator. Elected in 2018, he represents the 5th Senate District in the heart of Gwinnett. Rahman is the chairman of the Gwinnett Senate Delegation and the secretary of the Urban Affairs Committee. He also serves on the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Economic Development and Tourism, Government Oversight, and Special Judiciary committees. Rahman grew up in Bangladesh, where his country was devastated by the Bangladesh Liberation War of Independence in 1971. At 13, Rahman was kidnapped at gunpoint as a prisoner of war. He came to America in 1981, becoming a citizen in 1995.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS** Received the Rising Environmental Leader Award 2021 from the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators. In 2019, *Georgia Asia Times* named him the 25th Most Influential Asian American in Georgia.



## David Ralston

Speaker of the House  
Georgia House of Representatives

Ellijay native David Ralston has served as speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives since 2010, and as a state representative since 2002. A champion for job creation and economic development, Speaker Ralston has been a driving force behind many legislative accomplishments which have made Georgia the top state in the nation for business year after year, such as Georgia's Transportation Funding Act of 2015 and the state's first-ever cut to the income tax rate in 2018. He began his legal career in 1980 as an associate at the Athens firm of Cook, Noell, Tolley & Aldridge. Three years later, Ralston returned to his North Georgia roots and opened the Law Offices of David E. Ralston in Blue Ridge, where he's practiced for the past 30 years.

**EDUCATION** North Georgia College and State University, University of Georgia School of Law (JD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** *Georgia Trend* Georgian of the Year (2011)



## Vic Reynolds

Director  
Georgia Bureau of Investigation

Vic Reynolds was appointed director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigation in February 2019 by Governor Brian Kemp. In this position, he leads an agency of over 900 employees. Reynolds is the former district attorney of Cobb County, where he was elected twice. He has also served as a police officer and as the former chief magistrate judge of Cobb County, and he was a partner in the law firm of Berry and Reynolds. He has been published in both local and national print and is the author of *Georgia Objections at Trial*, which is in its second edition.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Southern University, Georgia State University College of Law (JD)

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I enjoy playing the guitar, although not very well.

**FIRST JOB** Delivering newspapers

**HOBBIES** Working out, especially Krav Maga. And I try to read two books a month.



### Lee Thomas

Deputy Commissioner,  
Film, Music & Digital  
Entertainment  
**Georgia Department of  
Economic Development**

Lee Thomas is a deputy commissioner at the Georgia Department of Economic Development and division director of the Georgia Film Office. She's helped Georgia become one of the top filming locations in the world, overseeing growth from \$250 million to \$2.9 billion in direct spending in the state. A native Atlantan, Thomas pursued doctoral studies in New York before returning to the city in 1996 to work for the Georgia Film and Videotape Office as a project manager, becoming a location specialist for the office in 1998 and director of the film division in 2010.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia, Georgia State University (MA), New York University

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** *Georgia Trend* Georgian of the Year (2019)

**INSPIRING PERSON** Jimmy Carter

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** We owned a restaurant and campground in Rabun County from 2010 until January 2020. It was initially an adventure renovating and running it, but it became way too much to handle!



### Michael L. Thurmond

CEO  
**DeKalb County  
Government**

Pursuing his top priority of restoring faith in county government, CEO Michael L. Thurmond's accomplishments include a comprehensive Covid-19 response strategy in which DeKalb distributed personal protection equipment countywide; established a small business loan program; partnered with south Georgia farmers to provide fresh produce and protein to families fighting food insecurity; incentivized vaccination events; provided virtual youth summer employment and training opportunities; and implemented a multimillion-dollar crime interruption and prevention strategy—all while delivering essential county services during the pandemic. Substantial progress was also made on ensuring accurate water bills, implementing a \$600 million SPLOST-funded capital improvement initiative, and renegotiating a sewer consent agreement. Thurmond has earned the reputation of being a “turnaround expert” after fundamentally transforming the culture and enhancing operations of organizations such as Georgia Division of Family & Children Services, Georgia Department of Labor, and DeKalb County School District.

**EDUCATION** Paine College, University of South Carolina School of Law (JD)



### Fani T. Willis

District Attorney  
**Fulton County District  
Attorney's Office**

Fani T. Willis is the district attorney for Fulton County. As a career trial lawyer with deep and broad prosecutorial experience, she has led over 100 jury trials and has prosecuted hundreds of murder cases. Willis has prosecuted many other serious crimes, including crimes against women and children. Her 19 years of experience as a prosecutor have given her a deep commitment to focusing her office's prosecutorial efforts on the most dangerous offenders and removing them from society. She has also served as chief judge of the city of South Fulton. She and her husband, John Clifford Floyd III, have two daughters.

**EDUCATION** Howard University, Emory University School of Law (JD)

**FIRST JOB** Cashier at Bradley's department store in Laurel, Maryland

**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** My dad, who was a Black Panther, civil rights activist, and criminal defense attorney.

**FAVORITE BOOK AND MOVIE** *The Godfather*

## Transportation



### Pat Wilson

Commissioner  
**Georgia Department of  
Economic Development**

As commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, Pat Wilson leads the agency responsible for creating jobs and investment opportunities in Georgia through business recruitment and expansion, workforce development, and international trade and tourism, as well as the arts, film, and music industries. Before being appointed to the position in 2016 by Governor Nathan Deal, Wilson served as the organization's chief operating officer, and was previously director of government affairs in the administration of Governor Sonny Perdue.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Georgia was named the number one state in the nation for business for five consecutive years by both *Site Selection* and *Area Development* magazines.

**FIRST JOB** Picking peaches

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I love karaoke.

**HOBBIES** Baseball, football, softball, and my kids' sports at Northside Youth Organization

**FAVORITE BOOK** *In the Garden of Beasts: Love, Terror, and an American Family in Hitler's Berlin* by Erik Larson



### Allison Ausband

Executive Vice President,  
Chief Customer  
Experience Officer  
**Delta Air Lines**

Previously, as senior vice president of in-flight service, Allison Ausband led a global team of 21,000 flight attendants and supervisory and support personnel, as well as Delta's onboard global food and beverage operations. Under Ausband's leadership, Delta's in-flight service team achieved all-time customer satisfaction scores. She previously served as vice president for reservation sales and customer care. Ausband began her career at Delta in 1985 as a flight attendant. Currently, she is Delta's executive sponsor for human trafficking and leads their annual Breast Cancer Research Foundation campaign.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Saint Barthélemy

**HIDDEN TALENT** Before taking to the skies, I was a radio announcer.

**NONPROFIT** I lead Delta's efforts in the fight against human trafficking.

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Diane Lane



### Ed Bastian

CEO  
**Delta Air Lines**

As CEO of Delta Air Lines since 2016, 20-year company veteran Ed Bastian helms a team of 80,000 global professionals. Under his leadership, Delta has become the world's most awarded airline, named top U.S. airline by the *Wall Street Journal*, most admired airline worldwide by *FORTUNE*, and most on-time global airline by *FlightGlobal*. In 2018, *FORTUNE* named Bastian among the World's 50 Greatest Leaders, and in 2019 he was elected to the membership of the Council on Foreign Relations.

**EDUCATION** Saint Bonaventure University

**HOMETOWN** Poughkeepsie, New York

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I was 25 before I first stepped foot on an airplane.

**FAVORITE BOOK** *Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap and Others Don't* by Jim Collins

**NONPROFITS** Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research, Polaris Project



## Balram "B" Bheodari

Airport General Manager  
**Hartsfield-Jackson  
Atlanta International  
Airport**

As leader of the nation's busiest airport, Balram "B" Bheodari oversees all facets of airport governance, including operations and a multibillion-dollar capital improvement program designed to pave the way for Atlanta's growth over the next 20 years. Focused strategic planning, a comprehensive safety and security platform, and a full-bodied customer experience program are his priorities, in addition to completing the airport's critical capital program on schedule and within budget. Bheodari is a retired Army aviator who has had an extensive career in aviation executive management. The native of Guyana rejoined the airport leadership team in 2016 after serving as the chief operating officer for the Houston Airport System. Before joining HAS, he served more than three years as the Atlanta airport's deputy general manager.

**EDUCATION** U.S. Army; Troy University

**FIRST JOB** High school teacher

**HOBBIES** Cricket

**FAVORITE BOOK** *Good to Great* by Jim Collins



## Rahim Charania

Founder and Managing  
Director  
**Woodvale**

Rahim Charania is the founder and managing director of Woodvale, an alternative investment firm based in Atlanta. Over a career that spans 20 years, Charania has formed and grown multiple organizations that have made significant impacts in their respective industries and in Georgia, including American Fueling Systems — one of the largest alternative fueling companies in the United States — and the media campus Three Ring Studios in Newton County. Charania serves on the board of Georgia State University's Robinson College of Business, as well as on the advisory council of GSU's Center for International Business, Education, and Research.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University (MBA)

**HOMETOWN** I was born in Pakistan but moved to the United States as a child, so I always consider my hometown to be Stone Mountain.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Listen more than you speak.

**LESSON LEARNED** When things are at their toughest and life seems to be hopeless, that is the time you need to work the hardest and when you need to recommit yourself to your goals and your vision.



## Jai Ferrell

Assistant General  
Manager, Commercial  
Revenue Development  
**Hartsfield-Jackson  
Atlanta International  
Airport**

Jai Ferrell is the assistant general manager of Commercial and Concession Services and head of Marketing for Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, which she joined in 2015. While her professional impact is global in reach, her passion is making a granular impression on the communities she frequents. She lends her expertise as a board member for the Andrew & Walter Young YMCA and The Wilson Academy (DeKalb County). Core revenue-generating initiatives aside, Ferrell serves as the marketing lead for ATL's human trafficking initiative, bringing awareness to the millions of passengers that travel to and through the airport annually. The Atlanta native's award-winning career spans 15 years, including work in entertainment television, consumer products and sports contributions to WarnerMedia (formerly Turner), CNN, Major League Baseball, Viacom, and BET Networks.

**EDUCATION** Spelman College, Georgia State University (MA)

**FIRST JOB** Summer camp counselor for the City of Atlanta's Best Friend Program

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Grant Park



## Roderick McLean

Vice President and  
General Manager,  
Air Mobility  
& Maritime Missions  
**Lockheed Martin**

Roderick McLean is vice president and general manager of the Air Mobility & Maritime Missions line of business at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics in Marietta, responsible for the C-130 Hercules transport, the C-5 strategic airlifter, and other aircraft. McLean is also site general manager for the 5,000-employee Marietta facility. Since joining in 1994 as a radar systems engineer, McLean has held a variety of roles in the company, most recently as vice president and general manager of Lockheed Martin's F-16/F-22 Integrated Fighter Group programs in Fort Worth, Texas. He serves on the board of directors for the Metro Atlanta Chamber and the board of councilors for the Carter Center.

**EDUCATION** North Carolina A&T State University, Georgia Tech (MA), University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business (MBA)

**HOMETOWN** Jacksonville, North Carolina

**FIRST JOB** Drove a school bus in high school at 16 and a half years old

**HIDDEN TALENT** I enjoy playing classical music on the piano.



## Russell R. McMurry

Commissioner  
**Georgia Department of  
Transportation**

In 2015, Russell R. McMurry was appointed by the State Transportation Board as commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation—the \$3.5 billion, almost 4,000-employee state agency responsible for building, maintaining, and operating the 10th-largest transportation system in the country. McMurry began his career with the department in 1990 as an engineering trainee and has served in a variety of roles including construction project manager, district engineer, director of engineering, and chief engineer.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Southern University

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** *Georgia Trend* Georgian of the Year (2018)

**FIRST JOB** At 13, stocking shelves and taking inventory for a building-supply company

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I race motocross. I began riding at the age of 10 and still ride today.

**FAVORITE BOOK** *The Great Bridge: The Epic Story of the Building of the Brooklyn Bridge* by David McCullough



## Jeffrey A. Parker

General Manager  
and CEO  
**MARTA**

Jeffrey A. Parker is the general manager and CEO of the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority. Beginning his transportation career in 1985 with the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, Parker has more than 30 years of experience in both public and private transportation, including as MARTA's senior director of transportation operations and commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation. Prior to taking the helm at MARTA in 2018, Parker was vice president of the Georgia/Alabama/Tennessee District of the architecture and engineering consulting firm HNTB.

**EDUCATION** Northeastern University

**BOARD MEMBERSHIPS** Georgia Chamber of Commerce, Georgia Transportation Alliance, Central Atlanta Progress, Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce



### Lynn Smith

Director of Real Estate, Property Management, and Development  
**Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport**

As director of real estate, property management, and development for Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Lynn Smith works with stakeholders to strategically improve the significance of the airport's real estate holdings, mainly commercial real estate assets. She brings more than 25 years of commercial real estate experience to the role, having previously worked for Cushman & Wakefield and Paradigm Asset Management. In 2006, Smith effectively created the Global Diversity Summit, a conference aimed at providing a national networking forum for women and minorities in the commercial real estate industry.

**EDUCATION** Columbia University, Southern Polytechnic State University

**FIRST JOB** Health food store

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Curating and managing a major portfolio is challenging and rewarding.

**INSPIRING PERSON** New York artist, educator, and consultant Ari Melenciano

### Utilities



### Michael Braswell

President, Retail Energy  
**Southern Company Gas**

Michael Braswell is president of retail energy for Southern Company Gas, responsible for ensuring the expansion and continued success of the company's retail energy operations in multiple states. Braswell is also CEO of SouthStar Energy Services, which serves nearly 700,000 customers; in Georgia it conducts business as Georgia Natural Gas. A Dunwoody native, he has more than 25 years of experience in the natural gas industry and has worked in both regulated and nonutility environments.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech, Georgia State University (MBA)

**FIRST JOB** At the Georgia Tech Research Institute while I was a student at Georgia Tech

**HOBBIES** I'm a bicycling and exercise enthusiast.

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *The Shawshank Redemption*

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Antigua



### Pedro Cherry

President and CEO  
**Atlanta Gas Light**

Pedro Cherry, president and CEO of Atlanta Gas Light, is an energy-industry leader with more than 20 years of experience in finance, operations, external and governmental affairs, customer service, and economic and business development roles in domestic and international arenas. A native of Windsor, North Carolina, Cherry took the helm of Atlanta Gas Light in August 2020. Prior to that, he spent almost 10 years in various positions at Georgia Power, rising to the position of executive vice president of customer service and operations.

**EDUCATION** Auburn University (MBA)

**FIRST JOB** Picking tobacco on the farms of North Carolina in the summer

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Always be a student of the business.

**HOBBIES** Golf, traveling, watching college and professional sports

**FAVORITE ATLANTA RESTAURANT** Canoe

**NONPROFITS** Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Zoo Atlanta



### Bentina Chisolm Terry

Senior Vice President for Metro Atlanta and Corporate Relations  
**Georgia Power**

Bentina C. Terry is senior vice president for metro Atlanta and corporate relations for Georgia Power, the largest subsidiary of Southern Company. Terry is responsible for operations, sales, customer service, and economic and community development, as well as external affairs activities for 1.4 million customers across metro Atlanta and statewide responsibility for Georgia Power's work in underserved communities. She began her career at Southern Company in 2001 and has held a variety of roles within the business. Board memberships include the Atlanta BeltLine Partnership, Leadership Atlanta, and the Atlanta Police Foundation.

**EDUCATION** North Carolina State University, University of Michigan Law School (JD)

**HOMETOWN** Fayetteville, North Carolina

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** First senior African-American officer in two major Southern Company subsidiaries and the first woman in several officer positions



### John Dwyer

President  
**AT&T Prepaid Wireless Portfolio**

John Dwyer is the president of AT&T's Prepaid Wireless Portfolio, which consists of Cricket Wireless and AT&T Prepaid. Previously, he led the customer experience effort for AT&T Mobile and Business Solutions, led the retail sales operations team, and served in sales and customer service leadership roles at AT&T, Cingular Wireless, and Pacific Bell Mobile Services. Dwyer serves on the executive board of directors of Junior Achievement of Georgia, the board of directors of 3DE, the executive committee of the Metro Atlanta Chamber, and the Boy Scouts Atlanta Area Council.

**EDUCATION** University of Wisconsin, University of Chicago (MA)

**HOMETOWN** Chicago, Illinois

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I wanted to be in a growth industry, and over the last 25 years wireless communications has seen tremendous growth, innovation, and transformation.



### Tom Fanning

Chairman, President, and CEO  
**Southern Company**

A native of Sandy Springs, Tom Fanning has been chairman and CEO of Southern Company since 2010. He's worked for the energy giant for more than 35 years, holding 15 different positions in eight business units—most recently as chief operating officer, responsible for Southern Company's generation and transmission, engineering and construction services, research and environmental affairs, system planning, and competitive generation business units. Previously, Fanning was president and CEO of Gulf Power.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech (MA)

**FIRST JOB** Financial analyst

**HIDDEN TALENT** I have coached youth sports in Atlanta for decades and was the 2018 recipient of the CEO Coach of the Year Award, the highest honor bestowed by the American Football Coaches Foundation.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Maine

### Top Georgia Officials

**BRIAN P. KEMP** Governor | **GEOFF DUNCAN** Lieutenant Governor | **CHRIS CARR** Attorney General | **BRAD RAFFENSPERGER** Secretary of State | **RAPHAEL WARNOCK** U.S. Senator | **JON OSSOFF** U.S. Senator | **HANK JOHNSON** Representative, 4th Congressional District | **NIKEMA WILLIAMS** Representative, 5th Congressional District



## Kimberly S. Greene

Chair, President, and CEO  
Southern Company Gas

Kimberly Greene is the chair, president, and CEO of Southern Company Gas, the leading natural gas company in the industry. She ensures the safe delivery of natural gas to more than 4.2 million utility customers in Georgia, Illinois, Tennessee, and Virginia. In addition, she oversees the nonutility businesses that deliver energy-related products and services, wholesale gas services, and gas midstream operations, including gas pipeline investments and storage and fuels. She is a strong advocate for emerging technologies, innovation, and STEM-related education. Greene serves as an oil and natural gas liaison colead for the Electric Subsector Coordinating Council, the principal liaison between the federal government and the energy sector on security issues. She is a member of the Alabama Engineering Hall of Fame.

**EDUCATION** University of Tennessee, University of Alabama at Birmingham (MS), Samford University (MBA), Harvard Business School (AMP)



## Kevin Greiner

President and CEO  
Gas South

Kevin Greiner has served as Gas South's president and CEO since the company's founding in 2006. Gas South is one of the Southeast's largest energy marketers, providing natural gas to more than 300,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in competitive markets in Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Gas South also operates a growing wholesale energy marketing operation and is an owner/investor in several solar energy projects. Since its founding, Gas South has doubled its customer base, while growing its sales volumes and workforce by 400 percent. In 2020, Gas South announced the acquisition of Infinite Energy, which more than doubled Gas South's revenues to nearly \$1 billion. The merged company is the largest retail natural gas provider in competitive markets in the southeastern U.S.

**EDUCATION** Wesleyan University, University of Michigan (MBA, MS)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** YMCA of Metro Atlanta Volunteer of the Year (2017)

**FIRST JOB** Working in a bagel shop on Long Island



## Venessa Harrison

President  
AT&T Georgia

As president of AT&T's Georgia operations since 2018, Venessa Harrison is responsible for developing the overall strategic direction of AT&T's public policy and corporate activities across the state. Working with state and local policymakers and business and community leaders, she focuses on new technologies that drive innovation and create jobs and on providing educational and economic opportunities that improve the quality of life for all Georgians. A native of Raleigh, North Carolina, Harrison began her telecommunications career as a telephone operator. Prior to her current position, she served for six years as president of AT&T North Carolina.

**EDUCATION** University of Phoenix

**FIRST JOB** Employed in the utility billing department of the city of Raleigh, North Carolina

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** Until now, most people did not know that I have an illogical fear of cats.

**WHAT I'D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF**

Always be authentic and remember: Girls compete, women empower.

**HOBBIES** I love playing cards.



## Michael L. Smith

President and CEO  
Oglethorpe Power

Michael L. Smith has served as president and CEO of Oglethorpe Power, one of the largest energy producers in Georgia, since 2013. He previously worked for Georgia Transmission as senior vice president and chief financial officer, and later as president and CEO. Prior to that, he was the first executive director of the Committee of Chief Risk Officers, a non-profit trade association incorporated in 2002 to compile best practices and standards for risk-management activities for the energy industry.

**EDUCATION** Louisiana State University (MBA)

**FIRST JOB** Worked offshore in Gulf of Mexico oil fields

**FAVORITE BOOK** *A Confederacy of Dunces* by John Kennedy Toole

**LESSON LEARNED** Every problem has a solution.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Ireland



## Russell Stokes

President and CEO  
GE Aviation Services  
Chairman  
GE Power Portfolio

Russell Stokes is president and CEO of GE Aviation Services and chairman of GE Power Portfolio. Stokes has more than two decades of experience at GE, including seven years at GE Aviation, where he served as the sourcing general manager as well as services chief risk officer and customized service agreements finance leader. Most recently, he was president and CEO of GE Power Portfolio; he remains its chairman, reporting to GE Chairman and CEO Larry Culp and advising the Power Portfolio business leadership teams.

**EDUCATION** Cleveland State University

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Center for Civil and Human Rights. The lunch counter sit-in simulation is something I will never forget and that all people could learn from by experiencing.

**NONPROFITS** Junior Achievement of Georgia, Usher's New Look

**WHAT I'D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** If you aren't multilingual already, invest in your future by learning other languages.



## Christopher C. Womack

Chairman,  
President, and CEO  
Georgia Power

Chris Womack was named chairman, president, and CEO of Georgia Power, the largest subsidiary of Southern Company, in 2021. He leads Georgia Power in serving its 2.6 million customers across the state. Prior to his current role, he served as executive vice president and president of external affairs for Southern Company. The Greenville, Alabama, native joined Southern Company in 1988 and has held several leadership positions within Southern Company and its subsidiaries. Prior to joining Southern Company, Womack worked on Capitol Hill for the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. Womack is a member of the board of directors of Essential Utilities Inc. He currently chairs the board of the East Lake Foundation and is on the national board of the First Tee.

**EDUCATION** Western Michigan University, American University (MPA)

**FIRST JOB** Capitol Hill legislative aide

**HOBBIES** Fishing, hunting, gardening

**BUCKET LIST** Hook a Marlin

A full-page photograph of an Atlanta Braves player in a grey road uniform with red piping and a red cardinal logo on the chest. He is wearing a navy blue cap with a white 'A' and is captured in a celebratory pose, running on the dirt base path with his mouth open in a shout. His right arm is raised high, holding a black baseball glove, while his left arm is also raised with a clenched fist. The background shows the green grass of the infield and a dark blue outfield fence with the words 'WORLD SERIES' in large white letters.

# arts, sports & entertainment

Arts 94  
Film, Music & Entertainment 97  
Sports 99

◀ Atlanta Braves  
Photograph by  
Bob Levey/  
Getty Images

ABUNDANT GROWTH  
COMES FROM  
NURTURING  
OPPORTUNITY



Intentional investments planted by state leaders over decades have cultivated our pro-business reputation and resulted in an impressive record of growth for Georgia.



WE **SPEAK** BUSINESS

[Georgia.org](http://Georgia.org)

## Arts



### Susan V. Booth

Jennings Hertz Artistic Director  
**Alliance Theatre**

Since 2001, Susan Booth has brought national attention to Atlanta's theater scene as artistic director of the Alliance Theatre, where she's launched six productions to Broadway, won a Regional Theatre Tony Award, and directed world premieres by Pearl Cleage, Natasha Trethewey, John Mellencamp, and Stephen King. She has also initiated the Palefsky Collision Project for teens, the Alliance/Kendeda National Graduate Playwriting Competition, the Reiser Atlanta Artists Lab, and local producing partnerships and regional collaborative productions. Booth has directed productions at theaters including the Goodman, the La Jolla Playhouse, and the Actors Theatre of Louisville, and has taught at Northwestern, DePaul, and Emory universities.

**EDUCATION** Denison University, Northwestern University (MA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Led the Alliance through an off-campus season that produced plays in 13 locations across the city, while building a new theater to return to in our 50th year

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Johnnetta Cole told me to stop worrying about filling someone else's shoes. "Get your own shoes," she said.



### Monica Campana

Founder and Executive Director  
**Living Walls**

A native of Peru, Monica Campana moved to the United States in 1998. As the founder and executive director of the mural program Living Walls, The City Speaks, she's facilitated the creation of more than 100 public murals throughout the metro Atlanta area from a diverse array of national and international artists. Campana has also served as curator at WISH ATL and project manager for Philadelphia's Open Source, and curated an exhibition at Moscow's Art-mosphere biennale.



### Susan Bridges

Owner and Director  
**Whitespace Gallery**

For 15 years, Atlanta native Susan Bridges curated pop-up shows around the city in churches, U-Haul facilities, shipping containers, and an underground parking garage. In 2006, she opened Whitespace Gallery in a former carriage house behind her Victorian home in Inman Park. Today, the gallery represents more than 40 local and national artists, who've shown work at the Smithsonian Institution, the Venice Biennale, and Art Basel Miami Beach.

**EDUCATION** University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

**FIRST JOB** Receptionist, ad agency

**WHAT I'D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** Everything's going to be okay.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I love to dance.

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** My garden



### Pearl Cleage

Distinguished Artist in Residence  
**Alliance Theatre**

Pearl Cleage is the author of 15 plays, eight novels, two books of poetry, two books of essays, a book of short stories, and a memoir. She worked in politics as speechwriter/press secretary to Mayor Maynard Jackson and as a consultant in many local political races. She has worked with the Palefsky Collision Project at the Alliance for 10 years as a playwright and mentor, and recently completed her first animated feature for young audiences with *Sit-In*, a story of movements, past and present. She is the wife of author Zaron W. Burnett Jr., with whom she recently collaborated on *In My Granny's Garden*, a book for the Mayor's Summer Reading Club, with illustrations by Radcliffe Bailey. She is the mother of one daughter and the grandmother of five.

**EDUCATION** Spelman College

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** *New York Times* bestselling author, nationally produced playwright

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** From John Lewis: "Make good trouble."

**BUCKET LIST** Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon



### Yehimi Cambrón Álvarez

Artist, Activist, and Public Speaker

Yehimi Cambrón is an artist, activist, and public speaker born in Michoacán, Mexico, and raised in Atlanta, whose work focuses on celebrating the humanity, resilience, and contributions of immigrants. Cambrón's series *Family Portrait* was displayed at the High Museum in 2019 and the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia in 2020. In June 2020, she completed her tallest mural to date, *We Give Each Other the World*, a community-responsive piece cofunded by the National Endowment for the Arts and the City of Hapeville. In August 2020, Cambrón completed *Monuments: Atlanta's Immigrants*, a mural at the Home Depot Backyard at Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

**EDUCATION** Agnes Scott College

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** *Atlanta Business Chronicle* 40 Under 40 (2020), Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce 50 Most Influential Latinos in Georgia (2018-2020)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I am an artist because I don't know how else to exist. Creating art has allowed me to create certainty for myself throughout my life, which has been especially significant and affirming for me as an undocumented immigrant living in the South.



### Annette Cone-Skelton

President, CEO, and Founding Director  
**Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia**

Annette Cone-Skelton founded the Museum of Contemporary Art of Georgia in 2000 with a mission to support the state's artists. MOCA GA is currently home to more than 1,000 pieces, as well as a library and a voluminous archive. A longtime educator, curator, and editor, Cone-Skelton is also a respected artist whose work is collected in the National Museum of Women in the Arts and the High Museum, among other places. She received the Governor's Award for the Arts & Humanities in 2012 and Atlanta Contemporary's Nexus Award in 2019.

**EDUCATION** Atlanta College of Art

**HOMETOWN** LaGrange, Georgia

**HIDDEN TALENT** Played the French horn in high school

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Atlanta Botanical Garden

**NONPROFITS** Hambidge Center for the Creative Arts & Sciences, Idea Capital, MOCA GA

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Barcelona



## Omari J. Henderson

Founder and Partner  
ZuCot Gallery

Omari J. Henderson has managed to infuse his educational background, business acumen, and love of art to strike a delicate balance between his passion, personal, and professional life. As a social engineer, the complexities of engineering are about problem-solving, and Henderson has done just that by bringing his expertise to the art world and has seamlessly figured out how to “engineer” the oftentimes intimidating worlds of business and art to bring it into the hearts, minds, and homes of communities and implement change. Currently, he also serves in Strategy & Innovation for Chick-fil-A.

**EDUCATION** Tuskegee University

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Since my youth, art has always been a real passion. I was not skilled in creating work, but really appreciated what I saw my father and other artists create (across many platforms). I’ve always been an innovator with an entrepreneur mindset.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** You have a responsibility to build a legacy that can propel generations to come.

**FAVORITE BOOK** Any book by Walter Mosley



## Onaje Henderson

Partner/Gallery Director  
ZuCot Gallery

Onaje Henderson is a partner and gallery director of ZuCot Gallery in Atlanta. Under his leadership, ZuCot has advanced the careers of countless African-American artists and currently stands as the largest African-American fine arts gallery in the Southeast. A community educator, Henderson regularly collaborates with art enthusiasts, high-end collectors, and corporate executives to promote the necessity of owning one's culture and has also advised countless clients on art selection. The Decatur native is also a member of the Fulton County Arts Council and sits on the boards of Hammonds House Museum and *Art Papers*.

**EDUCATION** Tuskegee University

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Talk less, listen more.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Building a business that has the ability to adapt and pivot with the times or circumstances is paramount to staying viable and profitable.

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *Kill Bill*

**NONPROFITS** Hammonds House, *Art Papers*, Youth Challenge Inc.



## Veronica Kessenich

Executive Director  
Atlanta Contemporary

As executive director of Atlanta Contemporary, Veronica Kessenich led the art center's transition to daily free admission in 2015—and has seen a subsequent attendance increase of more than 109 percent. She continues to work alongside staff to create and implement unique programs and strategic funding initiatives to maintain free admission. Prior to becoming executive director in 2015, Kessenich was Atlanta Contemporary's development director, closing out a \$625,000 capital campaign and reimagining the center's annual ART PARTY fundraiser. Kessenich is also an adjunct instructor in the art history department of Agnes Scott College.

**EDUCATION** Saint Mary's College, University of Saint Andrews (MPhil)

**HOMETOWN** Atlanta

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I fundamentally believe that we need art in order to understand our place in the world.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** What's the worst thing they'll say, no? Who cares. Just ask again.

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *Blow-Up*



## Gennadi Nedvigin

Artistic Director  
Atlanta Ballet

In 2016, Gennadi Nedvigin became the fourth artistic director in the 87-year history of the Atlanta Ballet. Born in Russia, Nedvigin was accepted into the prestigious Bolshoi Ballet Academy at age 10, and joined the Moscow Renaissance Ballet upon graduation. He joined the San Francisco Ballet in 1997; promoted to principal dancer three years later, Nedvigin has performed as Albrecht in *Giselle*, Nutcracker Prince in *The Nutcracker*, and Mercutio in *Romeo and Juliet*. Since joining Atlanta Ballet, Nedvigin, with choreographer Yuri Possokov, assembled a world-class design team and created a world premiere production of *The Nutcracker* for Atlanta Ballet in 2018, followed by the company's debut performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in 2019. Under Nedvigin's guidance, the Company has grown to 39 dancers and has established the Academy training program and Atlanta Ballet 2, a top-tier performance ensemble.

**EDUCATION** Bolshoi Ballet Academy

**FIRST JOB** Soloist dancer at Moscow Renaissance Ballet

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Isadora Duncan Dance Awards (2001, 2010, and 2017), Erik Bruhn Prize (1999)



## Ann-Carol Pence

Cofounder and  
Associate Producer  
Aurora Theatre

Ann-Carol Pence is the associate producer of Lawrenceville's Aurora Theatre, which she cofounded 20 years ago with Anthony Rodriguez. Under their leadership, the theater has grown from 120 to 5,000 season subscribers; it produces 800 events annually for 80,000 visitors, and is the second-largest theater in Georgia by membership and budget. This year, the company moved into its new \$35 million, 59,500-square-foot Lawrenceville Arts Center. Pence continues her work as an advocate of radical inclusion, creating space where people of all backgrounds gather to celebrate the arts. She's also been a pianist and/or musical director in productions nationally and in Atlanta.

**EDUCATION** James Madison University

**HOMETOWN** Harrisonburg, Virginia

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** As a musician by trade, I believed Gwinnett County deserved and could sustain a professional theater, capable of producing world-class musicals in a way I had not seen produced in Atlanta.

**FIRST JOB** Church organist at age 12

**INSPIRING PERSON** Oprah Winfrey, the most influential self-made businesswoman in America



## Anthony Rodriguez

Cofounder and Producing  
Artistic Director  
Aurora Theatre

Anthony Rodriguez is the producing artistic director of Aurora Theatre, which he cofounded 20 years ago with Ann-Carol Pence, and which is now the second-largest professional theater in Georgia. Rodriguez negotiated the relocation of the theater to downtown Lawrenceville, where it opened in 2007. And, this year, the company moved into its new \$35 million, 59,500-square-foot Lawrenceville Arts Center. An Atlanta native, Rodriguez is a graduate of the Atlanta Regional Commission's Regional Leadership Institute, and in 2016 was the first Latino and the first arts leader to serve as chair of the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's 50 Most Influential Latinos in Georgia, Governor's Award for the Arts & Humanities (2016)

**FIRST JOB** Running a jackhammer

**HIDDEN TALENT** I'm an excellent cook.

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *All That Jazz*

**BUCKET LIST** Dive the Great Barrier Reef



## Michael Rooks

Wieland Family Curator of Contemporary and Modern Art  
**High Museum of Art**

Since joining the High Museum in 2010, Michael Rooks has curated or managed dozens of exhibitions and increased the museum's collection by a quarter, including work by Julie Mehretu, Monir Shahroudy Farmanfarmaian, and Kara Walker. He was also commissioner and cocurator of the U.S. pavilion at the 12th International Architecture Exhibition at the 2010 Venice Biennale. A 2015 Atlanta Contemporary Nexus Award winner, Rooks previously held curatorial positions at the Museum of Contemporary Art Chicago, Honolulu's Contemporary Museum, and the Honolulu Academy of Arts.

**EDUCATION** School of the Art Institute of Chicago (MA)

**HOMETOWN** Ottawa, Illinois

**FIRST JOB** Paper route

**LESSON LEARNED** The necessity of compromise to enjoy the pleasure of consensus-building

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I opened an antique shop in Chicago, specializing in 18th- and 19th-century decorative arts, which covered the cost of my graduate school.

**BUCKET LIST** Manila



## Lauri Stallings

Founding Artist  
**glo**

As the founder of the dance company glo, conceptual artist and choreographer Lauri Stallings has transformed the Atlanta dance scene, collaborating with artists including Robert Spano, Janelle Monáe, and Big Boi. Stallings's work has been commissioned and presented by venues including the Center for Civil and Human Rights, the High Museum of Art, Art Basel Miami Beach, and the Zuckerman Museum of Art. In 2018, she received the Hudgens Prize from the Hudgens Center for Art & Learning. She is also a MOCA GA Fellow (2017) and Rome Prize nominee (2013). In 2019, Stallings was the first choreographer in residence at the High Museum of Art and shared her choreographies in the XII Florence Biennale, where she was one of 400 artists representing 55 countries.

**EDUCATION** Point Park University

**HOMETOWN** Gainesville, Florida

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** We lost my oldest brother to AIDS.

**FAVORITE TV SHOW** *Deadwood*



## Rand Suffolk

Nancy and Holcombe T. Green Jr. Director  
**High Museum of Art**

Randall Suffolk became the High Museum's director in November 2015. Since his arrival, he has championed a commitment to community engagement, placing particular emphasis on collaboration, inclusivity, and access. To support these objectives, the museum has reduced admission fees, focused programmatically on the demographics of its audience, reinstalled its entire collection, and added numerous important acquisitions.

**EDUCATION** Connecticut College, Columbia University (MA), Bryn Mawr College (MA)

**HOMETOWN** Tallmadge, Ohio

**FIRST JOB** Waiter

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Always live within walking distance of the office.

**HOBBIES** Cycling



## Troy T. Taylor

Founding Partner and Owner  
**ZuCot Gallery**

Troy T. Taylor is a founding partner and owner of ZuCot Gallery, the largest African-American-owned fine art gallery in the Southeast. Its mission is to promote original works of art by living African-American artists. Taylor has helped to develop a go-to-market strategy that was highly indexed at attracting the growing wealth of the city's young African-American professional population. He has amassed a client list of over 1,000 collectors, and a social media following of over 10,000 followers. He has also developed an educational program with the Atlanta Public school system where over 2,500 students visit the gallery during the school year.

**EDUCATION** Penn State, University of Pennsylvania (MS)

**FAVORITE HOBBY** Boating

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *Star Wars*

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Singapore

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Georgia Aquarium



## Allan C. Vella

President and CEO  
**Fox Theatre**

Allan C. Vella has worked in the facility management field since 1986, managing theaters, arenas, amphitheaters, and exhibition facilities. His experience spans a wide range of events, including NCAA tournaments, MLB and NHL games, ballet, concerts, and presidential visits. As president and CEO of the Fox Theatre, Vella is responsible for all operations and programming. The Fox averages 200 performances and hosts more than 600,000 guests annually, with events ranging from rock concerts to Broadway, ballet, comedy, and movies.

**EDUCATION** University of Iowa

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Assisting with recovery efforts for Southeast Texas after Hurricane Rita

**HIDDEN TALENT** I'm an amateur rock drummer. My realization that a future as a successful musician was highly unlikely led me to my career.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Saint George Island



## Anna Walker Skillman

Owner  
**Jackson Fine Art**

Anna Walker Skillman is the owner of Jackson Fine Art, a Buckhead gallery that emphasizes a mix of 20th-century and contemporary fine art photography. With a degree in art history, Walker Skillman began her career at the Haines Gallery in San Francisco, moving to Atlanta in 1993 to manage the studio of artist Todd Murphy. Joining Jackson Fine Art in 1998, she purchased the gallery in 2003 from Jane Jackson, who founded it in 1990. Jackson Fine Art's clients include the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the High Museum of Art, and the Art Institute of Chicago.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia



## John Welker

Artistic and Executive Director  
**Terminus Modern Ballet Theatre**

With four other veterans of the Atlanta Ballet, John Welker cofounded Terminus Modern Ballet Theatre in 2017 after a long career in dance. Debuting as a professional dancer at age 16, the Ohio native spent 22 years as a principal dancer for the Atlanta Ballet, where he performed lead roles in productions including *Romeo and Juliet*, *Giselle*, *The Four Seasons*, and *Seven Sonatas*. In 2010, he founded the contemporary dance company Wabi Sabi, which commissioned 35 new works over seven years.

**EDUCATION** Kennesaw State University

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Dance combines athleticism, spirituality, science, and art into the human form, and when combined, dance becomes a powerful communicator—there is nothing else like it.

**FIRST JOB** Newspaper route with the *Columbus Dispatch*

**HIDDEN TALENT** I can hit a high G-flat into an F-sharp with my voice. It's extraordinarily terrible.

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *The Godfather: Part II*



## Tomer Zvulun

General and Artistic Director  
**The Atlanta Opera**

Tomer Zvulun has been general and artistic director of the Atlanta Opera since 2013, directing more than 15 new productions including *Dead Man Walking* and *The Flying Dutchman*. During Zvulun's tenure the opera has tripled its fundraising and doubled its annual number of productions; his focus on innovation has led to a Harvard Business School case study, a TED Talk, and an International Opera Awards nomination. A celebrated director, Zvulun has staged work at the Washington National Opera, the Seattle Opera, and internationally; prior to coming to Atlanta, he spent seven seasons on the Metropolitan Opera's directing staff.

**EDUCATION** Open University of Tel Aviv

**HOMETOWN** Ashqelon, Israel

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Opera's combination of music, theater, and design is the most powerful artistic style I was ever exposed to.

**FIRST JOB** Worked in the Israeli opera in every entry position imaginable: usher, stagehand, prop operator



## Kenny Blank

Executive Director  
**Atlanta Jewish Film Festival**

Kenny Blank is executive director of the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival—the largest film festival in Atlanta and the world's preeminent Jewish film fest. A communications and journalism veteran, Blank worked for Atlanta mayors Maynard Jackson and Bill Campbell in the early 1990s, and won an Associated Press award for special coverage of the 1996 Olympics as a producer at WSAV-TV in Savannah. Most recently, Blank was an executive producer for WXIA-TV, where he received an Emmy for breaking-news coverage. A recipient of the IMAGE Film Award and Atlanta Contemporary's Nexus Award, Blank previously chaired the Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund.

**EDUCATION** New York University

**HOMETOWN** Atlanta, Georgia

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Four things that can never be recovered: the stone after it's thrown, the word after it's spoken, the occasion after it's missed, and the time after it's gone.

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *Lawrence of Arabia*

**FAVORITE VACATION DESTINATION** Hilton Head Island, South Carolina

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Jake Johnson



## Christopher Bridges (Ludacris)

Musician and Actor

Rapper and actor Ludacris was born Christopher Brian Bridges in Champaign, Illinois, and moved to Atlanta as a teenager. One of the first Dirty South rappers to achieve mainstream success, Ludacris rose to the number four slot on the U.S. Billboard 200 with his 2000 major-label debut, *Back for the First Time*. *Forbes* has included Ludacris more than once on its annual Hip-Hop Cash Kings list, citing his diversified income streams including album sales, Soul by Ludacris headphones, Conjure cognac, and acting roles in the *Fast and the Furious* movie franchise. He founded the Atlanta record label Disturbing tha Peace and has won Screen Actors Guild, MTV Video Music, and Grammy awards. In 2002, Ludacris started the Ludacris Foundation, which uses music and the arts to connect with urban youth.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University



## Radric Davis (Gucci Mane)

Musician

Born Radric Davis in Bessemer, Alabama, the rapper known as Gucci Mane moved to East Atlanta at the age of nine and is considered one of the architects, along with T.I. and Jeezy, of trap music. In a dozen studio albums, Gucci Mane has collaborated with artists as diverse as Marilyn Manson, Drake, Lil Wayne, and Selena Gomez, and is credited with boosting the careers of Nicki Minaj, Future, and Young Thug. He's also the author of a 2017 memoir, *The Autobiography of Gucci Mane*, that helped fuel his career reinvention following a three-year stint in prison.



## Jermaine Dupri

Musician and Producer  
**So So Def Recordings**

A renowned producer, singer, and songwriter, Jermaine Dupri founded So So Def Recordings in 1993 as a joint venture with Columbia Records—and helped put Atlanta on the national hip-hop map. Dupri has produced and written hits for Kris Kross, Monica, Usher, Jay-Z, Janet Jackson, and Mariah Carey, and released several albums of his own. In 2018, he joined the Songwriters Hall of Fame as the youngest songwriter ever inducted, at age 45—and only the second hip-hop artist following Jay-Z.

**HOMETOWN** Asheville, North Carolina



## Jim Farmer

Festival Director and  
Executive Director  
**Out on Film**

Jim Farmer has served as the festival director and executive director of Out on Film, Atlanta's LGBTQ+ film festival, since 2008. Under his leadership, the festival has won ArtsATL's Beacon Award for Community Engagement and the Center for Civic Innovation's Civic Impact Award, and received an Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences grant for its visiting-filmmaker series. It was also named an Oscar-qualifying festival in 2020, one of only six LGBTQ+ film festivals in the world. Farmer has been an Atlanta Pride grand marshal as well as a longtime arts writer for outlets including *ArtsATL*, *Georgia Voice*, and *Project Q Atlanta*.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**HOMETOWN** Milledgeville, Georgia

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Leading Out on Film's growth from a seven-day film festival to its current incarnation as an 11-day festival and becoming one of the most respected LGBTQ+ film festivals in the country

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I am incredibly shy.

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Dan Levy



## Donald Glover

Actor, Writer, Director,  
and Musician

Raised in Stone Mountain, Donald Glover is the creator, writer, producer, and director of the FX series *Atlanta*, which debuted in 2016 and has received numerous Emmy and Golden Globe awards. As an actor, he's appeared in *Magic Mike XXL*, *Spider-Man: Homecoming*, *The Martian*, and *Solo: A Star Wars Story*. Glover joined the writing team of the NBC sitcom *30 Rock* while he was a student at New York University, and his musical alter ego, Childish Gambino, has garnered seven Grammy nominations, winning an award for *Redbone*. In 2017, Glover was named among *Time*'s 100 Most Influential People.

**EDUCATION** New York University



## Montero Lamar Hill (Lil Nas X)

Musician

Hill is a rapper, singer, songwriter, and media personality whose genre-bending work has made him an international star. He first gained national attention for his 2019 country rap single, "Old Town Road," which made him the most-nominated male artist at the 62nd Annual Grammy Awards, where he won Best Music Video and Best Pop Duo/Group Performance. The song also earned two MTV Video Music Awards, including Song of the Year, and the American Music Award for Favorite Rap/Hip Hop Song. The song, with a remix featuring Billy Ray Cyrus, became the longest chart-topper in U.S. history. He is the first openly LGBTQ+ Black artist to win a Country Music Association award. This year, he released his official full-length debut, *Montero*, which featured Doja Cat, Elton John, Megan Thee Stallion, and Miley Cyrus.

**EDUCATION** University of West Georgia

**HOMETOWN** Atlanta



## Kevin Lee (Coach K)

Cofounder and Chief  
Operating Officer  
**Quality Control Music**

Kevin Lee, a.k.a. Coach K, is the cofounder and chief operating officer of Quality Control Music and the manager of some of Atlanta's biggest hip-hop stars. His roster of acts has included Migos, Lil Yachty, Jeezy, and Gucci Mane. With his Quality Control partner, CEO Pierre "Pee" Thomas, Coach K also runs the music and entertainment management firm Solid Foundation.

**EDUCATION** Saint Augustine's University



## Janelle Monáe

Musician

With albums including *The ArchAndroid*, *The Electric Lady*, and *Dirty Computer*, Janelle Monáe creates music that pushes the boundaries of rock, funk, hip-hop, R&B, and electronica. As a musical innovator, the eight-time Grammy nominee has been influenced by Prince, Stevie Wonder, and George Clinton, and is the founder of the Atlanta record label Wondaland. Monáe is also an actress (*Moonlight*, *Hidden Figures*), CoverGirl model, and activist who's spoken up on behalf of LGBTQ+ rights and raised money for Flint, Michigan, following the contamination of its water.

**HOMETOWN** Kansas City, Kansas



## Will Packer

Film Producer  
**Will Packer Productions/  
Will Packer Media**

Will Packer has produced and executive-produced a wide range of movies that have grossed more than \$1 billion worldwide at the box office, including 10 films that have opened at number one. Packer's most recent films include *The Photograph*, *Little*, and *What Men Want*. *Girls Trip* and *Night School* were the highest-grossing comedies for 2017 and 2018, respectively. Packer's television, digital, and branded-content company, Will Packer Media, produces episodic scripted and unscripted series including the documentary series *The Atlanta Child Murders* on ID; *The Disappearance of the Millbrook Twins* on Oxygen; *Ready to Love* and *Put a Ring on It* on Oprah Winfrey's OWN network; *Central Ave*, a newsmagazine on Fox stations; *Bigger* on BET+; *Fight Night* podcast on iHeartRadio; and *Blackballed* on Quibi.

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Motion Picture for *Girls Trip* (2018), BET Award for Best Movie for *Think Like a Man* (2013), Florida A&M University Meritorious Achievement Award (2007)



## Frank Patterson

President and CEO  
Trilith Studios

Frank Patterson is the president and CEO of Trilith Studios, the second-largest purpose-built film studio in North America, where the films *Avengers: Endgame*, *Spider-Man: Homecoming*, and *Passengers* were produced, among others. Most recently, he led the transition of the studio from a facilities business to an ecosystem intentionally built for the creative industries. Prior to Trilith, Patterson co-founded and served as the CEO of Pulse Evolution Corporation, a technology company that produces hyper-realistic digital humans for live and virtual reality applications. While at Pulse, Patterson produced the immersive live production of Michael Jackson's "Slave to the Rhythm" at the Billboard Music Awards, which featured an original performance by Pulse's digital human likeness of the late Michael Jackson.

**EDUCATION** Baylor University (MA)



## Antwan Patton (Big Boi)

Musician

Antwan André Patton, aka Big Boi, is a songwriter, rapper, record producer, and actor. As the iconic Southern hip-hop duo OutKast, Big Boi and collaborator André 3000 created a string of platinum-selling albums, won six Grammys, and created the soundtrack for the 2006 film *Idlewild*—which the pair also starred in. Big Boi's first solo album, *Sir Lucious Left Foot: The Son of Chico Dusty*, debuted at number three on the Billboard 200 chart upon its release in 2010. He's collaborated with Missy Elliott, Beyoncé, and Jay-Z, and helped launch the careers of Janelle Monáe and Killer Mike. Born in Savannah, Big Boi is also the founder and CEO of the Big Kidz Foundation, which is dedicated to promoting leadership skills, fostering exposure to the humanities, and developing social consciousness in young people.



## Tyler Perry

Actor, Director, and  
Producer  
Tyler Perry Studios

One of the most commercially successful African-American filmmakers in history, Tyler Perry created his famous character Madea on the stage before bringing her to the screen in 2005's *Diary of a Mad Black Woman*, which grossed more than \$50 million. In 2008 in Atlanta, he opened Tyler Perry Studios—the country's first major African-American-owned film studio. In 2019, Perry opened a new production facility, one of the nation's largest, on the site of the former Fort McPherson. Perry has also created television shows including *House of Payne*, served as an executive producer of the Lee Daniels film *Precious*, and starred in David Fincher's *Gone Girl*, among other acting projects.

**HOMETOWN** New Orleans, Louisiana

## Sports



## Michael Render (Killer Mike)

Musician  
Run the Jewels

Michael Render might be as famous for his activism as for his music: Raised in the Adamsville-Collier Heights neighborhood, the Grammy-winning rapper served on Keisha Lance Bottoms's mayoral transition team and was a prominent supporter of Bernie Sanders. Render's advocacy on behalf of the #BankBlack movement helped move an estimated \$60 million to Black-owned banking institutions, and he was appointed to the board of the High Museum of Art. In 2020, he partnered with Bounce TV founder Ryan Glover and former Atlanta Mayor and civil rights activist Andrew Young to create Greenwood Bank, a Black-owned online bank that caters to economically underserved Black and Latino communities across the United States. Render performs as Killer Mike in the hip-hop duo Run the Jewels. Recently, he launched a television talk show, *Love & Respect with Killer Mike*, on PBS and Revolt TV.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Alice Mary Johnson, an executive of the Atlanta Area Commission on Children and Youth, taught me how radical Martin Luther King Jr. was. She and James Orange, an organizer with King, raised me in terms of my politics.

**HIDDEN TALENT** I was a visual artist first.



## Carlos Bocanegra

Vice President and  
Technical Director  
Atlanta United

In 2015, Carlos Bocanegra joined Atlanta United as vice president and technical director following a 15-year professional career, which included stops in the MLS, English Premier League, Spain, France, and Scotland. In college, he played at UCLA, where he was a national champion. Bocanegra was twice a FIFA World Cup participant, captaining the United States in 2010 in South Africa. As an executive, he has won three trophies with Atlanta United and oversees the day-to-day soccer operations of the club, including the scouting department, the USL team, and the Academy. In 2021, he was inducted into the National Soccer Hall of Fame.

**EDUCATION** University of California, Los Angeles

**FIRST JOB** Pizza Royal

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Wherever you move, the weather will never be as perfect as it is in Southern California.

**NONPROFITS** Bert's Big Adventure, Soccer in the Streets

**BUCKET LIST** Aspen for New Year's



## Stephen Cannon

CEO  
AMB Sports and  
Entertainment

Stephen Cannon is CEO of AMB Sports and Entertainment, leading the for-profit arm of Home Depot cofounder Arthur M. Blank's family of businesses, including the Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta United, Mercedes-Benz Stadium, and the PGA Tour Superstore. Previously, Cannon served as president and CEO of Mercedes-Benz USA, which generated record sales under his leadership, with annual revenues exceeding \$20 billion. Cannon also oversaw the relocation of MBUSA's headquarters from New Jersey to metro Atlanta. An Army veteran who served as a first lieutenant in West Germany during the fall of the Iron Curtain, Cannon speaks fluent German and graduated with academic honors from West Point.

**EDUCATION** United States Military Academy

**HOMETOWN** Paterson, New Jersey

**FIRST JOB** In high school, my brother and I owned a house-painting business that helped pay for college.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Spend time outside your comfort zone. You'll learn more about who you are, what you're capable of, and what more you have to learn.



## Dan Corso

President  
Atlanta Sports Council

Dan Corso is president of the Atlanta Sports Council, the arm of the Metro Atlanta Chamber that serves as a recruiter for major regional, national, and international sporting events. The ASC was instrumental in the selection of Atlanta as the site for the 2018 College Football Playoff National Championship, Super Bowl LIII in 2019, and the 2020 NCAA Men's Final Four (ultimately canceled due to Covid-19). Corso is also president of the Atlanta Football Host Committee, which helped plan the CFP National Championship. He serves on the boards of the Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau and College Football Hall of Fame. Prior to joining the ASC in 1999, Corso was vice chair of the festival division for the 1998 Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl.

**EDUCATION** Florida State University



## Darren Eales

President  
Atlanta United

As the first president of Atlanta United, Darren Eales led the soccer club in its record-breaking 2017 inaugural season. In addition to assembling the club's front office and developing its brand identity, Eales led its on-field progression, hiring integral members to join the technical staff, including vice president and technical director Carlos Bocanegra. Since joining Atlanta United, Eales has twice been named Doug Hamilton Executive of the Year by Major League Soccer. The club won its first MLS Cup in 2018 in front of a record crowd of 73,019 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium—the earliest expansion team to win an MLS Cup since 1998. In MLS play, Atlanta owns each of the top 13 most attended matches in league history.

**EDUCATION** Brown University, University of Cambridge (MA)

**HOMETOWN** Cambridge, England

**FIRST JOB** Worked on a farm (I lasted for three days!)

**FAVORITE BOOK** *The Luck of the Bodkins* by P.G. Wodehouse

**FAVORITE FILM** *Clueless*

**NONPROFIT** Soccer in the Streets



## Allison Fillmore

Executive Director  
Tour Championship

Allison Fillmore is executive director of the Tour Championship, the finale to the PGA Tour, which takes place each year at East Lake Golf Club. Fillmore leads the tournament's efforts toward building an enhanced fan experience while further cementing the event's status in Atlanta's social and business landscape. With an extensive background in the sports and entertainment industry, Fillmore previously served as vice president of sales for Atlanta Motor Speedway, vice president of ticket sales and services for the Atlanta Dream, and ticket sales manager for the Atlanta Falcons.

**EDUCATION** Ohio University

**HOMETOWN** Westlake, Ohio

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I played on the U.S. Junior National Team for racquetball and trained at the U.S. Olympic training center and always wanted to get into the business of sports. I was always fascinated as to how an event was run.

**NONPROFITS** First Tee of Metro Atlanta, March of Dimes

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Saint Simons Island



## Steve Koonin

CEO  
Atlanta Hawks

As CEO since 2014, Steve Koonin oversees all business, financial, and strategic operations of the Atlanta Hawks Basketball Club and State Farm Arena and represents the owners as the head of the organization. Under Koonin's leadership, State Farm became the new naming-rights partner for the team's venue; following a \$192.5 million renovation, the rechristened State Farm Arena was named Best New Concert Venue by Pollstar in 2020, and the Hawks ranked first in the NBA for Overall Game Experience. The team also built a state-of-the-art practice and training facility at the Emory Sports Medicine Complex in Brookhaven. An Atlanta native and a veteran of the entertainment and marketing industries, Koonin previously served as president of Turner Entertainment Networks. He's also on the executive committee of the Metro Atlanta Chamber.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Atlanta Sports Council Lifetime Achievement Award (2020)

**BOARD MEMBERSHIPS** Georgia Aquarium, Rubicon Global, Fox Theatre



## Terry McGuirk

Chairman  
Atlanta Braves

As chairman of the 2021 World Series Champions Atlanta Braves since 2001, and the team's CEO until 2018, Terry McGuirk oversees all aspects of the MLB franchise. Major changes during McGuirk's tenure at the helm have included the team's 2007 sale to Liberty Media and the construction of what is now Truist Park, the \$672 million new home the Braves moved into in 2017. McGuirk began his career in 1972 as an intern at Ted Turner's recently acquired television station in Atlanta, rising through the ranks to eventually become chairman and CEO of Turner Broadcasting System.

**EDUCATION** Middlebury College



## Rich McKay

President and CEO  
Atlanta Falcons

Rich McKay became president and CEO of the Atlanta Falcons in 2011, having first been hired by owner and chairman Arthur M. Blank in 2004 to serve as the team's general manager. During McKay's tenure, the Falcons have made it to the playoffs seven times, attended three NFC Championship Games, and played in Super Bowl LI. In addition to his Falcons duties, McKay played a central role in the development, opening, and operation of Mercedes-Benz Stadium. McKay previously spent 10 years as general manager of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

**EDUCATION** Princeton University, Stetson University College of Law (JD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Listed as one of the NFL's 100 most influential businesspeople of all time by the *Athletic* in 2019



## Renee Montgomery

Co-owner/Vice President  
**Atlanta Dream**

Renee Montgomery is part owner and vice president of the WNBA Atlanta Dream. Montgomery has won three Girls State Basketball Championships and graduated from the University of Connecticut as a two-time All-American in 2009. She was drafted fourth in the WNBA and won two WNBA championships while also being named an All-Star and Sixth Woman of the Year in her 11-year professional career. She retired in 2021 after sitting out the 2020 season to focus on social reform and justice. Montgomery also serves as a sports analyst for NBA/ESPN and is a celebrity host to numerous media outlets and host of her weekly podcast *Montgomery & Company*.

**EDUCATION** University of Connecticut

**FIRST JOB** My first "real job" was being a broadcaster for NBA TV.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Control your controllables.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Opting out of the 2020 WNBA season

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *Love Actually*

**WHO SHOULD PLAY YOU IN A BIOPIC** Yara Shahidi



## Amy Phuong

Vice President,  
Government Relations  
**Atlanta Hawks and  
State Farm Arena**

Amy Phuong is vice president of government relations for the Atlanta Hawks and State Farm Arena—a position that signifies an expansion of the Hawks' efforts to unite the broader Atlanta community through basketball while deepening the organization's relationships with local and state leaders. Prior to joining the Hawks in 2019, Phuong spent nearly a decade in public service. As parks and recreation commissioner, she oversaw some of Atlanta's most ambitious park projects, including Westside Park at Bellwood Quarry, the Grant Park Gateway, and the largest strategic expansion to date of Piedmont Park. An Atlanta native, Phuong was also the city's first chief service officer.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech (MBA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** *Atlanta Business Chronicle* 40 Under 40 (2017), *Georgia Asian Times* 25 Most Influential Asian Americans in Georgia (2015)

**FIRST JOB** Server at Baskin-Robbins

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATIONS** Patagonia, South Africa

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACES TO VISIT** Grant Park, Oakland Cemetery



## Derek Schiller

President and CEO  
**Atlanta Braves**

As president and CEO of the 2021 World Series Champion Atlanta Braves, Derek Schiller manages all business functions of the front office and sets the strategic vision for the Braves business. Schiller joined the Braves in 2003 as senior vice president of sales and marketing and became executive vice president of sales and marketing in 2007. As part of the Braves' executive leadership team, he was instrumental in securing plans for what is now Truist Park and the Battery Atlanta and played a pivotal role in the design and execution phases of the project.

**EDUCATION** Vanderbilt University

**HOMETOWN** Colorado Springs, Colorado

**FIRST JOB** Selling ice cream sandwiches—Chipwiches, to be specific. I think I ate more than I sold!

**FAVORITE MOVIES** Anything with Clint Eastwood, including the old spaghetti westerns

**NONPROFITS** Jack & Jill Late Stage Cancer Foundation

**BUCKET LIST** Heli-skiing in Canada or Alaska

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Clint Eastwood (the version from *High Plains Drifter*)



## Travis Schlenk

President of Basketball  
Operations and  
General Manager  
**Atlanta Hawks**

A veteran of the NBA for more than 20 years, Travis Schlenk joined the Atlanta Hawks in May 2017 after 13 seasons with the Golden State Warriors, including the final six as assistant general manager. Schlenk hired Lloyd Pierce as head coach in 2018, and under his guidance the team has acquired Trae Young, John Collins, Kevin Huerter, De'Andre Hunter, and Cam Reddish, adding veteran center Clint Capela at the 2020 NBA trade deadline. Schlenk oversees operations as the Hawks continue to build on their goals of adding young talent and preparing for the future in terms of salary cap and roster flexibility.

**EDUCATION** Bethel College, Wichita State University (EdM)

**HOMETOWN** Selden, Kansas

**FIRST JOB** Working on my grandfather's farm in western Kansas

**FAVORITE TV SHOW** *Billions*



## Kirby Smart

Head Coach  
**Georgia Bulldogs**

In 2015, Kirby Smart was appointed head football coach at the University of Georgia, his alma mater. He has claimed four SEC Eastern Division championships, one SEC title, and—as of press time—three bowl victories and an appearance in one national championship game. Smart's 2019 Bulldogs became the first team in Bulldogs history to win 11 or more games in three straight seasons. Previously, Smart was a defensive coordinator at the University of Alabama, and has coached at Valdosta State University, Florida State University, and Louisiana State University. The son of a high school football coach, Smart played defensive back during his college career.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia, Florida State University (MS)



## Dominique Wilkins

Vice President of  
Basketball and Special  
Adviser to the CEO  
**Atlanta Hawks**

Represented by an 18,500-pound bronze statue at the entrance to State Farm Arena, Dominique Wilkins is one of Atlanta basketball's most celebrated players. The 13th all-time leading scorer in league history, Wilkins played 12 seasons with the Atlanta Hawks, leading the team to the playoffs in eight. Today, he serves as Hawks VP of basketball and special adviser to the CEO, and offers team analysis during broadcasts on FOX Sports Southeast.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**HOMETOWN** Washington, North Carolina

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, Georgia Sports Hall of Fame, Atlanta Sports Hall of Fame, National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame, Boys & Girls Clubs of America Alumni Hall of Fame

**INSPIRING PERSON** My mom

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Growing up in Baltimore with a single parent

**BUCKET LIST** Egypt

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Denzel Washington



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◀ Georgia State  
University  
Photograph courtesy of GSU

2036

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH EMORY UNIVERSITY

# CELEBRATING AN ATLANTA TREASURE

Born in Emory University Hospital to a distinguished Atlanta family, **Catherine Shropshire Hardman** is a champion for the Emory Brain Health Center. Her mission is to help Emory advance understanding of mental health and its connection to brain diseases.

"There's not enough knowledge about these diseases," she says, "and so many families are affected by them. Investing in Emory is my way of purposeful sharing and helping others."

At Emory, Mrs. Hardman's donations support brain health research, education, and patient care in psychoanalysis, trauma, anxiety, addiction, dementia, autism, and more. She also funded a new space for the Emory University Psychoanalytic Institute on the Executive Park campus in Brookhaven.



**INVESTING IN PEOPLE FOR THE BENEFIT OF PEOPLE**

[2036.emory.edu](https://2036.emory.edu)

EMORY

K-12



## Frank Brown

CEO  
Communities in  
Schools of Atlanta

As CEO of Communities in Schools of Atlanta, Frank Brown oversees the organization's mission to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. CIS of Atlanta has programs in 65 public schools in Atlanta and Fulton, Clayton, and DeKalb counties. Previously, Brown was the first executive director of the Butler Street Community Development Corporation (formerly the historic Butler Street YMCA) and director of civic engagement and activation at Points of Light.

**EDUCATION** Johnson C. Smith University, University of South Carolina School of Law (JD)

**INSPIRING PERSON** Thurgood Marshall

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Restoring CIS of Atlanta back to prominence after the organization nearly closed in 2013

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I love practicing yoga.

**WHAT I'D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Life is more difficult if you're not prepared to seize opportunities that present themselves.

**BUCKET LIST** To lead a national nonprofit that has impact across the country



## Ed Chang

Executive Director  
RedefinED atlanta

Ed Chang is the founding director of RedefinED Atlanta, whose mission is to ensure a high-quality education for every student in the city. A longtime champion of public schools, Chang began his career as a physical therapist before entering the education profession as a seventh-grade science teacher. He spent five years teaching at Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School in Southeast Atlanta before going on to found KIPP STRIVE Academy in 2009. Following that, Chang focused on coaching and strategy for school leaders and districts across the country.

**EDUCATION** Washington University, Mercer University (MA), National Louis University (CAS)

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** My first year of teaching was simultaneously the most challenging and rewarding time of my life.

**HIDDEN TALENT** I won a mechanical-bull-riding contest once upon a time.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Machu Picchu

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PODCAST** *Everyday Dope*



## Ron Clark

Teacher and Author  
The Ron Clark Academy

"America's educator" Ron Clark is the cofounder of the Ron Clark Academy, an Atlanta middle school that serves as a demonstration school for educational best practices. In the past 10 years, Clark and his staff have provided professional development for more than 85,000 educators. Known for his innovative teaching methods and work with children from various educational and socioeconomic backgrounds, Clark is the author of *The Essential 55: An Award-Winning Educator's Rules For Discovering the Successful Student in Every Child*.

**EDUCATION** East Carolina University  
**HOMETOWN** Chocowinity, North Carolina

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Andrew J. Young International Leadership Award (2017), NAACP President's Award (2011)

**LESSON LEARNED** As long as I am helping others and seeking to be a good person, what others think isn't worth a hill of beans.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I won the Showcase Showdown on *The Price Is Right*.



## F. Stuart Gulley

President  
Woodward Academy

Stuart Gulley is the seventh president of Woodward Academy, the largest college-preparatory school in the continental United States, with 2,400 students. Previously, he served as president of LaGrange College, and before that in several administrative capacities at Emory University, including associate vice president for university development and church relations. An ordained United Methodist minister, Gulley is the author of *The Academic President as Moral Leader: James T. Laney at Emory University, 1977-1993*, published by Mercer University Press.

**EDUCATION** Vanderbilt University, Emory University Candler School of Theology (M.Div.), Georgia State University (PhD)

**HOMETOWN** Nashville, Tennessee

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Education is crucial for the growth and development of individuals and communities. It is a privilege to be part of helping people and communities to become all they are meant to be.

## HOW TO LEAD

**"The only constant thing in life is change. Leaders should be able to embrace it instead of fear it."**

**TOMER ZVULUN**  
General and Artistic Director,  
The Atlanta Opera



## Lisa Nicole Herring

Superintendent  
Atlanta Public Schools

Lisa Nicole Herring became superintendent of Atlanta Public Schools in 2020. She came to APS from Birmingham City Schools, which she led through a significant transformation by stabilizing leadership, improving system performance, and increasing student achievement. Herring built strong civic and corporate partnerships to provide innovative and equitable opportunities for all students across the diverse Birmingham community. The Macon native also served as chief academic officer for Jefferson County Public Schools in Louisville, Kentucky, a system with more than 100,000 students, where she successfully restructured the academic division and led the district's strategic plan.

**EDUCATION:** Spelman College, University of South Carolina (EdM, EdS), Georgia Southern University (EdD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS:** Helped launch the Birmingham Promise, which provides college tuition assistance and apprenticeship opportunities to local students, and Ed Farm, a public schools partnership with Apple, Alabama Power, TechBirmingham, and city leadership to build technology skills in students, teachers, and community members



## Mike Looney

Superintendent  
Fulton County Schools

Mike Looney became superintendent of Fulton County Schools in 2019, having served in similar positions in Williamson County, Tennessee, and Butler County, Alabama. Under his leadership in Butler County, the school district realized significant student achievement gains, improved the graduation rate, and established its first magnet school. A public educator since 1994, Looney has also been a classroom teacher, assistant principal, principal, and assistant superintendent. Prior to entering education, Looney was a finance manager and served for seven years in the U.S. Marines.

**EDUCATION** Jacksonville State University (EdM), University of Alabama (EdS, EdD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents (TOSS) Superintendent of the Year (2016), Greenville, Alabama, Citizen of the Year (2008)



## Tony Roberts

President and CEO  
Georgia Charter  
Schools Association

As president and CEO of the Georgia Charter Schools Association since 2007, Tony Roberts is the leading advocate for Georgia's public charter schools. Under his leadership, Georgia's voters approved a 2012 amendment giving birth to the State Charter Schools Commission, making Georgia the first in the nation to pass such a ballot issue. The number of charter schools has grown by 329 percent to 112, and students attending charters have grown by 232 percent to over 70,000 students.

**EDUCATION** Carson-Newman College, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (MDiv, ThM, PhD)

**FIRST JOB** Working in a gas station in the days of full service to customers

**HIDDEN TALENT** I can do plumbing, electrical, and carpentry work with the best of them. I own two power nailers, for instance!

**HOBBIES** Collecting and playing vinyl records and turntables, travel, home improvement

**FAVORITE BOOK** *The Power of Intention* by Wayne W. Dyer



## Higher Education



## Raheem Beyah

Vice President for  
Interdisciplinary Research  
Georgia Institute  
of Technology

Cofounder  
Fortiphed Logic

Raheem Beyah is Georgia Tech's vice president for interdisciplinary research, executive director of the online masters of cybersecurity program, and a professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. An internationally recognized expert in the areas of cyber-physical systems security, network monitoring, and network security, Beyah has secured millions of dollars to support his research program at Georgia Tech, served as associate editor or guest editor for numerous journals in his field of expertise, and published more than 140 technical articles concerning security and networking. The Atlanta native is also the cofounder of the industrial security company Fortiphed Logic.

**EDUCATION** North Carolina A&T State University, Georgia Tech (MS, PhD)

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I'm a huge fan of mindfulness meditation.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** The myth of meritocracy

**HOBBIES** Weight training

**FAVORITE BOOK** *Leadership: In Turbulent Times* by Doris Kearns Goodwin



## M. Brian Blake

President  
Georgia State University

M. Brian Blake was named Georgia State University's eighth president in June 2021. He came to Georgia State after serving over six years combined as executive vice president for Academic Affairs and Provost at George Washington University and Drexel University. His research has received more than \$12 million in funding, and he is an author of more than 200 scholarly publications in the areas of software engineering and internet computing. The first Black president in the university's 114-year history, Blake grew up in Savannah and attended Benedictine Military Academy. He and his wife, Bridget, have two sons, Brendan and Bryce.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech, Mercer (MA), George Mason University (PhD)

**FIRST JOB** My first full-time role was a software engineer at Lockheed Martin.

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *Inception*

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Miami

**BUCKET LIST** Trip to Scotland to explore the wonders of single malt.

## HOW TO LEAD

**“Leading from conviction helps us connect with others, build consensus, and foster collaboration while invoking change.”**

**C.J. STEWART**

Cofounder and CEO LEAD,  
LEAD Center for Youth



## Ángel Cabrera

President  
Georgia Institute  
of Technology

In 2019, Ángel Cabrera became the 12th president of the Georgia Institute of Technology, one of the leading and most research-intensive public universities in the nation. During his first year as president, he steered the institution through the Covid-19 pandemic and produced a new strategic plan focused on impact, access, and inclusive innovation. Previously, Cabrera served a seven-year stint as president of George Mason University. From 2004 to 2012, he was president of the Thunderbird School of Global Management, which is now part of Arizona State University. Born in Madrid, Cabrera is the first native of Spain to serve as president of an American university.

**EDUCATION** Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Georgia Tech (MS, PhD)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Education is the best tool we have to shape the world for the better. I have always been an educator at heart and have always known I would be in education one way or another.

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Carnegie Corporation of New York Great Immigrant (2017), Aspen Institute Henry Crown Fellow (2008), *Businessweek* Star of Europe (2004)



## James Curran, MD

Dean and Professor  
Emory University Rollins  
School of Public Health

Before becoming dean of Emory's Rollins School of Public Health in 1995, James Curran spent 25 years at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, reaching the rank of assistant surgeon general. In 1981, he was tapped to lead the investigation into the first cases of a mysterious new disease now known as AIDS. The author of nearly 300 scientific publications, Curran led the CDC's research and public health activities in response to the worldwide HIV/AIDS pandemic. Curran is also codirector of the Emory Center for AIDS Research. In 2009, the Rollins School's dean of public health position was named the James W. Curran Dean of Public Health in his honor.

**EDUCATION** University of Notre Dame, Harvard University (MPH), University of Michigan (MD)



## Gregory L. Fenves

President  
Emory University

In 2020, Gregory L. Fenves became the 21st president of Emory University, joining the school from the University of Texas at Austin, where he had served as president for the previous five years. During Fenves's 12 years in leadership at UT Austin, including a stint as dean of the engineering school, the university recruited world-class faculty while retaining an impressive network of current faculty, broadened cross-disciplinary research, and significantly increased extramural research funding. As president, Fenves strengthened graduate education and resources; 48 graduate programs at UT Austin are now ranked in the top 10 nationally.

**EDUCATION** Cornell University, University of California, Berkeley (MS, PhD)

**FIRST JOB** My first real job was as a computer programmer in 1974, back when computers took up the entire room.

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *Annie Hall*

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Paris

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PODCAST** *Buried Truths* on WABE, hosted by Emory's own Hank Klibanoff



## George T. French Jr.

President  
Clark Atlanta University

In 2019, George T. French Jr. became the fifth president of Clark Atlanta University, the largest United Negro College Fund institution in the country. Prior to his appointment, French served for 13 years as the president of Miles College. A nationally recognized leader in higher education and educational policy, French has served three secretaries of education under two presidents as a congressional appointee to the National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity. He is a three-term board member for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' Commission on Colleges.

**EDUCATION** University of Louisville, Miles Law School (JD), Jackson State University (PhD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Under French's leadership at Miles College, the institution maintained fiscal stability and growth with a composite financial index among the top 10 percent of HBCUs in the nation. His awards include *Birmingham Spotlight* Man of the Year, NAACP Man of the Year, and the Higher Education Leadership Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award.



## Dan Immergluck

Professor, Urban  
Studies Institute  
Georgia State University

Dan Immergluck, a professor in the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University, is the author of four books, more than 60 scholarly articles, numerous book chapters, and scores of research reports. An expert on housing, neighborhood change, real estate, and community development, he's been a consultant to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S. Department of Justice, testified several times before Congress, and served as a visiting scholar at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta.

**EDUCATION** Northwestern University, University of Michigan (MPP), University of Illinois at Chicago (PhD)

**HOMETOWN** Detroit, Michigan

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I have a passion for making cities more just and equitable.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Raising teenagers

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I once wrote a press release for Illinois state senator Barack Obama.

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Buford Highway



## Kevin James

President  
Morris Brown College

In 2020, Kevin James became president of Morris Brown College, a historically Black college founded in 1881, where he had been interim president since 2019. James, the college's 19th president, is responsible for the leadership and management of all aspects of college operations and for the college's strategic direction. A native of Columbia, South Carolina, James has served in various executive-level roles in higher education and within the nonprofit sector. Immediately prior to joining Morris Brown, he was interim CEO of 100 Black Men of America, whose mission is to improve the quality of life and enhance educational and economic opportunities for all African Americans.

**EDUCATION** South Carolina State University, Winthrop University, Troy University (MS), Nova Southeastern University (EdD)

**FIRST JOB** Cook at McDonald's

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** If possible, find a way to say yes.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Resurrecting Morris Brown College. MBC is on track to become the first HBCU in history to earn its accreditation back 20 years after losing it.



## Linda A. McCauley

Dean and Professor  
Nell Hodgson  
Woodruff School  
of Nursing, Emory  
University

A global leader in environmental health, Linda A. McCauley is the dean of Emory University's Woodruff School of Nursing. For over 20 years, McCauley has spearheaded innovative research on children's environmental health, vulnerable workers and occupational health, environmental justice, and the impacts of climate change on human health. She currently cochairs the National Academy of Medicine's Committee on Primary Care. In 2020, McCauley was named to the Environmental Protection Agency's Children's Health Protection Advisory Committee and received an honorary fellowship in the Royal Academy of Nursing for the international impact of her work.

**EDUCATION** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Emory University Nell Hodgson Woodruff School of Nursing (MSN), University of Cincinnati (PhD)

**HOMETOWN** High Point, North Carolina

**INSPIRING PERSON** My mother was a nurse and I grew up seeing how her work was such a defining factor of who she was.

**HIDDEN TALENT** Played women's soccer 30 years ago



## Valerie Montgomery Rice, MD

President and Dean  
Morehouse School  
of Medicine

Valerie Montgomery Rice is the sixth president of Morehouse School of Medicine and the first woman to hold the position. Before joining Morehouse in 2011 as executive vice president, Montgomery Rice was founding director of the Center for Women's Health Research at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, one of the nation's first research centers devoted to studying diseases that disproportionately affect women of color. An infertility specialist and researcher, she was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2016.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Institute of Technology, Harvard Medical School (MD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Atlanta Business League Visions of Excellence Award (2018), Horatio Alger Association of Distinguished Americans Horatio Alger Award (2017), Trumpet Awards Foundation Vanguard Award (2015), American Medical Women's Association Elizabeth Blackwell Medal (2011)



## Jere W. Morehead

President  
University of Georgia

Jere W. Morehead became the University of Georgia's 22nd president in 2013. Previously, he held other key administrative roles, including senior vice president for academic affairs and provost. Morehead has been a faculty member of the Terry College of Business since 1986, coauthored several books, and published scholarly articles on legal topics ranging from export controls to jury selection. He was an assistant U.S. attorney from 1980 to 1986.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University, University of Georgia School of Law (JD)

**HOMETOWN** Lakeland, Florida

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** University of Georgia Josiah Meigs Award for Excellence in Teaching (2001), University of Georgia Richard B. Russell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (1995), Terry College of Business Teacher of the Year Award (1988, 1998)

**WHAT I'D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Never compromise your integrity or trust.



## Loretta Parham

CEO and Director  
Atlanta University  
Center Robert W.  
Woodruff Library

Loretta Parham is the CEO and library director at Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center, shared by Clark Atlanta University, Interdenominational Theological Center, Morehouse College, and Spelman College. Under Parham's leadership, the library received the Association of College & Research Libraries' 2016 Excellence in Academic Libraries Award, and in 2017 Parham was honored as ACRL's Academic/Research Librarian of the Year. With more than 30 years of experience in the field, Parham has also been director of the library at Virginia's Hampton University, deputy director of the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, and district chief of the Chicago Public Library.

**EDUCATION** Wittenberg University, Southern Illinois University, University of Michigan (MLIS)

**HOMETOWN** Cleveland, Ohio

# Congratulations

to Atlanta's Outstanding Business Leaders

We're thrilled to see our exceptional leaders on this inspiring list. Our heartfelt congratulations go to Piedmont's President and CEO, Kevin Brown, and to Monica Hum, Colorectal Surgeon, and Chief Medical Officer, Piedmont Rockdale Hospital.

**Piedmont**  
*Real change lives here*



## Alvetta Peterman Thomas

President  
Southern Crescent  
Technical College

As the president of Southern Crescent Technical College, Alvetta Thomas oversees a \$33 million budget and the operations of five campus locations spreading over eight counties in Georgia's South Atlanta region. Under her leadership, Southern Crescent Technical College developed strategies to become a data-driven institution thereby excelling in key performance indicators leading to high levels of student success. As the 6th largest technical college in Georgia, Southern Crescent Technical College is the third highest producer of graduates for the past three years. Recently, Southern Crescent Technical College was named as one of 150 U.S. Community Colleges eligible for the 2023 Aspen Prize. Prior to Southern Crescent Technical College, Thomas served as the president of Atlanta Technical College.

**EDUCATION** Alabama State University, Clark Atlanta University (MA), University of Georgia (EdD)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Education is an equalizer. I chose this field of work to help others achieve success and economic equality.



## Mary Schmidt Campbell

President  
Spelman College

Mary Schmidt Campbell became the 10th president of Spelman College in 2015. A major cultural force in New York City before moving to Atlanta, Campbell began her career at the Studio Museum in Harlem, serving for 10 years as director. In 1987, she became the city's cultural affairs commissioner, followed by more than two decades as dean of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. In 2009, President Barack Obama appointed Campbell vice chair of the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities. She is the author of the award-winning biography *An American Odyssey: The Life and Work of Romare Bearden*.

**EDUCATION** Swarthmore College, Syracuse University (MA, PhD)

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Spelman's number one goal is to graduate 100 percent of the women who enroll. As a college community our challenge is to find a successful pathway to graduation and a lifetime of career possibilities for each and every one of our 2,100 students.



## Victoria Seals

President  
Atlanta Technical College

Victoria Seals became the sixth president of Atlanta Technical College in 2016. Under her leadership, the college has established effective industry partnerships and student success initiatives—boasting a 98 percent job placement rate. Her service and leadership were recognized in 2020 by the Association of Community College Trustees, who named her Southern Region CEO of the Year. The *Atlanta Business Chronicle* has twice recognized her as one of Who's Who in Education and as a Most Admired CEO in 2020. One of Atlanta Business League's Top 100 Women of Influence, she has received the South Fulton Chamber Educator of the Year and the Year Up Atlanta Urban Empowerment Awards. She has also been honored by the Urban League of Greater Atlanta.

**EDUCATION** Spelman College, University of Georgia (MA, EdS, EdD)

**HOMETOWN** Norwood, Georgia

**HIDDEN TALENT** I am a grill master!



## Jagdish N. Sheth

Charles H. Kellstadt  
Professor of Business  
Emory University  
Goizueta Business  
School

Jagdish N. Sheth is the Charles H. Kellstadt Professor of Business at Emory University's Goizueta Business School. The author or coauthor of numerous books and hundreds of scholarly papers, Sheth is known globally for his work in consumer behavior, relationship marketing, competitive strategy, and geopolitical analysis. He has over 50 years of combined experience in teaching and research, including at the University of Southern California, Columbia University, and MIT. Sheth and his wife, Madhu Sheth, established the Sheth Family Foundation to support charities in the United States and India. In 2020, Sheth received the Padma Bhushan award, one of the highest civilian honors bestowed by the Indian government.

**EDUCATION** Loyola College, University of Pittsburgh (MBA, PhD)

**HOMETOWN** Chennai, India

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I chose the field of marketing and consumer behavior because I was very interested in what motivated consumers to buy certain products and brands. I was also interested in globalization and the impact of geopolitical dynamics on markets, trade, and investments.

### HOW TO LEAD

**“Have the ability to align with the needs of your employees while keeping them focused on the vision and goals of the organization. Be transparent and visible all of the time.”**

#### KEVIN LEVENT

President and CEO, BH&G  
Real Estate Metro Brokers and  
Coldwell Banker Commercial  
Metro Brokers



## David A. Thomas

President  
Morehouse College

In 2018, David A. Thomas became the 12th president of Morehouse College. Under his leadership, Morehouse has expanded its profile as a national center for thought leadership on civil rights. Thomas has used his platform as president of Morehouse to speak out against injustice as the nation faces two pandemics—Covid-19 and the persistence of systemic racism. With more than 30 years of experience in the business of higher education, Thomas has served as a professor and executive leader at mostly Ivy League institutions.

**EDUCATION** Yale College, Columbia University (MA), Yale University (MPhil, PhD)

**HOMETOWN** Kansas City, Missouri

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Nationally known for his research on managing diversity in the workplace, Thomas has written two books and numerous academic articles.



## Paula S. Wallace

President and Founder  
Savannah College of Art  
and Design

Paula Wallace founded the Savannah College of Art and Design in 1978; and as president has led the university's expansion to locations in Atlanta and Lacoste, France, and pioneered SCADnow, which provides virtual instruction. With more than 100 academic degree programs and more than 15,000 currently enrolled students, SCAD has prepared more than 50,000 alumni for creative professions worldwide. Over a decade ago, Wallace founded the university's collaborative design studio, SCADpro, and today she leads one of the foremost community service studios, SCAD SERVE, which harnesses the university's expertise to address the world's most pressing social challenges. Widely respected as an author, filmmaker, and podcast host, she is also the founder of three teaching museums: the SCAD Museum of Art in Savannah, SCAD FASH Museum of Fashion + Film in Atlanta, and SCAD Retour en 1856 in Lacoste.

**EDUCATION** Furman University, Georgia State University (EdM, EdS)



## Leocadia I. Zak

President  
Agnes Scott College

Leocadia I. Zak was appointed the ninth president of Agnes Scott College in 2018, and under her leadership the school has achieved record enrollment, launched graduate programs, and been recognized as the most innovative national liberal arts college in the country by *U.S. News & World Report*. Zak has an extensive background in international economic development and international project finance. In 2010, she was appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as director of the U.S. Trade and Development Agency. Zak first joined the agency in 2000; prior to entering public service, she was an attorney in Boston for 18 years.

**EDUCATION** Mount Holyoke College, Northwestern University School of Law (JD)

**HOMETOWN** Lynn, Massachusetts

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Under Zak's leadership, the U.S. Trade and Development Agency was recognized for five consecutive years as one of the best places to work in the federal government, as measured by the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey.

**FIRST JOB** Working in a veterinary clinic



## Tom Andrews

President and CEO  
Saint Joseph's Health  
System and Mercy Care

In 2003, Tom Andrews became president of Mercy Care, a healthcare provider that serves Atlanta's homeless population, and in 2012 he was named president and CEO of Saint Joseph's Health System, which comprises Mercy Care, Mercy Care Foundation, and Mercy Care Rome. Recognized for his leadership in combating tuberculosis, Andrews was previously president of the consulting firm Independent Physician Strategies.

**EDUCATION** Ohio State University

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I was drawn to healthcare at a very young age when I witnessed my mother die unnecessarily due to the nonmanagement of a chronic disease.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I love dogs. I want to buy a farm and adopt 100 of them.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Always do the right thing.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Losing my mother at age 12

**HOBBIES** Tennis, golf, hiking



## Kevin Brown

President and CEO  
Piedmont Healthcare

Kevin Brown joined Piedmont Healthcare as president and CEO in 2013. Formerly, he was CEO of Swedish Health Services in Seattle. Under his leadership, Piedmont has doubled in size, with more than 750 locations, including 11 hospitals serving markets that represent 70 percent of the state's population. Brown has been an advocate for transparency. Piedmont was among the first hospitals to post online patient reviews and emergency room wait times, allow patients to schedule appointments online, and offer a 24-7 virtual care app.

**EDUCATION** University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Arizona State University (MHSA)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I purposely chose the nonprofit side of healthcare because, at the end of the day, we are here to make a positive difference for our patients without having to worry about shareholder interests. I also grew up in the industry. My father was a rural hospital CEO and my mother was a nurse practitioner.

## HOW TO LEAD

**“Leaders must listen well, understand and value differences, and give their teams the opportunity to be part of a bigger-than-them vision.”**

**JIM REESE**  
President and CEO,  
Atlanta Mission



## Carol H. Burrell

President and CEO  
Northeast Georgia  
Health System

Carol H. Burrell has served as president and CEO of Northeast Georgia Health System since 2011. Under her leadership, Northeast Georgia Medical Center in Gainesville, the system's flagship hospital, has garnered state and national acclaim, including recognition by Healthgrades as one of the country's 50 Best Hospitals. Burrell also led the construction of NGMC Braselton, the state's first new hospital in 20 years that wasn't a replacement or a relocation, and helped the system acquire its third hospital, NGMC Barrow, in 2017. In 2018, she was an *Atlanta Business Chronicle* Women Who Mean Business honoree. *Georgia Trend* named her its Most Respected Business Leader in 2017 and, for seven years in a row, has placed her on a list of 100 Most Influential Georgians.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Southern University, Emory University, Central Michigan University (MHA)

**HOMETOWN** Carl, Georgia

**FIRST JOB** Teaching private piano lessons

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Sometimes in life, you are going to have to choose between doing something that will make people like you or respect you. Always choose respect.



## Walter J. Curran Jr., MD

Professor Emeritus,  
Department of  
Radiation Oncology  
**Emory University  
School of Medicine**

Walter J. Curran Jr. is the former executive director of Emory University's Winship Cancer Institute, the first and only cancer center in Georgia designated by the National Cancer Institute; Curran is also the first radiation oncologist to serve as director of an NCI-designated cancer center. A widely regarded expert on the management of patients with locally advanced lung cancer and malignant brain tumors, he's been a principal investigator on numerous NCI grants and has served as a group chair and principal investigator of NRG Oncology—the largest of the five NCI-funded National Clinical Trials Network groups. Curran is also a professor emeritus in and former chair of Emory's Department of Radiation Oncology. Previously, he was a professor and chair of radiation oncology at Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia and clinical director of Jefferson's Kimmel Cancer Center.

**EDUCATION** Dartmouth College, Medical College of Georgia (MD)



## Carlos del Rio, MD

Chair, Hubert Department  
of Global Health  
**Emory University Rollins  
School of Public Health**

Carlos del Rio is a distinguished professor of medicine at Emory University School of Medicine and a professor of global health and epidemiology at Emory's Rollins School of Public Health. He serves as the executive associate dean of Emory University School of Medicine at Grady Health System, and is the codirector and principal investigator at the Emory Center for AIDS Research. Del Rio is the foreign secretary of the National Academy of Medicine, chair of the PEPFAR Scientific Advisory Board, and a member of the UNAIDS Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee. Before joining the Emory faculty in 1996, del Rio was executive director of CONASIDA, the agency of the Mexican government responsible for AIDS policy.

**EDUCATION** Instituto Cumbres, Universidad La Salle (MD)

**HOMETOWN** Mexico City, Mexico

**INSPIRING PERSON** J. Willis Hurst, former chair of the Emory University Department of Medicine

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *Casablanca*

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Paris

**NONPROFIT** Atlanta Symphony Orchestra



## Douglas K. Graham, MD, PhD

Chief, Aflac Cancer and  
Blood Disorders Center  
**Children's Healthcare  
of Atlanta**

Douglas Graham is chief of the Aflac Cancer and Blood Disorders Center of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta. A physician scientist with clinical expertise in the treatment of children with leukemia, he has been actively involved in the Children's Oncology Group, and currently serves on the Acute Myeloid Leukemia Disease Steering Committee. He is president-elect of the American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology and also leads an active research laboratory focusing on developing novel therapeutics for pediatric cancer. Graham's team has developed a new cancer drug that is now in early phase clinical trials at Emory University. As leader of the Aflac Cancer Center, Graham is committed to developing a comprehensive program that will provide outstanding clinical care for children in Georgia and throughout the Southeast. He is helping lead the recruitment of cancer and hematology researchers who will be able to directly impact the development of new treatments for pediatric hematology/oncology patients.

**EDUCATION** Wake Forest University, University of North Carolina (MD, PhD)

**HOMETOWN** Carthage, North Carolina



## Gulshan Harjee, MD

Chief Medical Officer  
**Clarkston Community  
Health Center**

Gulshan Harjee is the chief medical officer at Clarkston Community Health Center, a non-profit free health clinic serving the immigrant, refugee, and uninsured populations of metro Atlanta. Following three decades in private practice, Harjee co-founded CCHC in 2013 and committed herself to it fully in 2016. The clinic has since served more than 10,000 patients, provided free mammograms, insulin, and dental care to asylum seekers, refugees, and immigrants, and offered educational experiences to hundreds of area medical and nursing students. Harjee oversees clinical operations and quality of care while forging new collaborations with medical training programs and spearheading a capital campaign. With a recent \$2.5 million pledge from a Texas philanthropist, the center now plans to build a larger facility just south of Clarkston.

**EDUCATION** Morehouse School of Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine (MD)

**HOMETOWN** I was raised on a sisal farm in a Karanga village of 500 about an hour from the town of Moshi, Tanzania.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** The sudden death of my 52-year-old husband by senseless gun violence in 1999



## Patrice A. Harris, MD

Past President  
**American Medical  
Association**

Psychiatrist Patrice A. Harris, MD, MA, FAPA, has diverse experience as a private practicing physician, public health administrator, patient advocate, and medical society lobbyist. She was elected to the American Medical Association Board of Trustees in June 2011 and served as secretary (2014-2015) and chair (2016-2017). She was elected the 174th president (2019-2020) of the AMA. Currently, Harris continues in private practice and consults with both public and private organizations on health service delivery and emerging trends in practice and health policy. An adjunct professor in the Emory department of psychiatry and behavioral sciences, she is an avid sports fan, who cheers on her Atlanta Falcons and West Virginia Mountaineers.

**EDUCATION** West Virginia University (MA), West Virginia University School of Medicine (MD)

**HOMETOWN** Bluefield, West Virginia

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I was a majorette/twirler in junior high and high school.

**LESSON LEARNED** Leaders often stand between the "no longer" and the "not yet." They must remain humble. It is about the work, not the title.



## John M. Hauptert

CEO  
**Grady Health System**

As CEO of Grady Health System since 2011, John Hauptert leads the safety-net healthcare system that serves DeKalb and Fulton Counties and operates the primary Level I trauma center and burn center for metro Atlanta. Previously chief operating officer at Parkland Health & Hospital System in Dallas, Hauptert began his career in healthcare management at Dallas's Methodist Health System, where he became president of one of the system's hospitals and executive vice president for corporate services and business development. On the national level, Hauptert served on the board of the American Hospital Association from 2018 to 2020 and will become Chair-Elect in 2022. He also chairs the AHA's Strategic Leadership Group for Urban Hospital Sustainability.

**EDUCATION** Trinity University (MS)

**HOMETOWN** Fort Smith, Arkansas

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, recipient of the ACHE Regent's Award, 2018-2019 board chair of the Georgia Hospital Association, former board chair of America's Essential Hospitals



## Monica A. Hum, MD

Colorectal Surgeon,  
Managing Partner, and  
Founder  
**ATL Colorectal Surgery**

Monica Hum is managing partner of ATL Colorectal Surgery, a specialized practice she started and expanded within 10 years to a partnership of five high-volume surgeons. She is the first female physician elected as president of the medical staff of Piedmont Atlanta Hospital, a member of the Piedmont Healthcare board and the MD Anderson Cancer Network, and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and the American Society of Colon & Rectal Surgeons. A native of New York, Hum began practicing in Atlanta in 2003 after fellowship training at the Cleveland Clinic Florida and general surgery residency at Saint Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital.

**EDUCATION** Boston University, Emory University Goizueta School of Business (MBA), State University of New York Downstate Medical Center College of Medicine (MD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** The first to perform several endoscopic surgeries at Piedmont

**FIRST JOB** Soda girl

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** During my freshman year in college, my mother quit smoking. A year later, she was diagnosed with lung cancer and died during my senior year.



## Donna W. Hyland

President and CEO  
**Children's Healthcare  
of Atlanta**

Donna Hyland has overseen monumental growth and achievement at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, first as chief financial officer, then as chief operating officer, and now as president and CEO. She was instrumental in the 1998 merger of Egleston Children's Health Care System and Scottish Rite Children's Medical Center, and the later additions of Hughes Spalding and Marcus Autism Center, into what is now one of the largest pediatric healthcare systems in the country.

**EDUCATION** Western Kentucky University

**FIRST JOB** An intern for a judge

**FAVORITE BOOKS** Patrick Lencioni's leadership books

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Italy or the beach

**WHAT I'D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Try new experiences and push yourself to keep learning.



## Kim H. Jones

Executive Director  
**NAMI Georgia**

As executive director, Kim Jones is responsible for the strategic management and financial operations of NAMI Georgia, a statewide nonprofit dedicated to raising awareness of mental health. Since taking the helm in 2015, Jones has built stronger relationships with affiliates, leaders, and members throughout the state to support NAMI Georgia's efforts to help families and individuals seeking recovery from mental illness. She is also a cofounder of the Georgia Mental Health Policy Partnership. Previously, Jones was part of the senior-level management team of Goodwill of North Georgia. She has 25 years of experience in nonprofit management, education, training, marketing, and business development, and served for more than eight years as a mayoral appointee to Dacula's Planning and Zoning Board. In 2019, she was appointed by Speaker of the House David Ralston to the state's Behavioral Health Reform and Innovation Commission, where she sits on the Hospital and Short-Term Stay Subcommittee.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**HOMETOWN** Dunwoody, Georgia

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** What gets measured gets done.



## Jonathan S. Lewin, MD

EVP, Health Affairs  
**Emory University**  
CEO and board chair  
**Emory Healthcare**

Jonathan Lewin, a radiologist and pioneer in interventional and intraoperative magnetic resonance imaging, came to Emory University in 2016 as executive vice president for health affairs and as president, CEO, and board chair of Emory Healthcare. An inventor on more than 35 patents related to MR technology, he has published more than 200 peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts. Previously, he was senior vice president of integrated healthcare delivery for Johns Hopkins Medicine and radiology chair at Johns Hopkins University. In November, he announced plans to step down, but he will stay on until Emory finds a replacement.

**EDUCATION** Brown University, Yale School of Medicine (MD)

**HOMETOWN** Cleveland, Ohio

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** There is no privilege greater than the opportunity to improve human health and well-being.

**FIRST JOB** Movie theater usher

**HIDDEN TALENT** Playing jazz saxophone

**WHAT I'D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Never waste the opportunity to make someone feel valued and respected.

## HOW TO LEAD

**“Successful  
leaders must  
be open to  
continuous  
learning.”**

**CAROL SARGENT COLLARD**  
CEO, CaringWorks Inc.



## Sarah A. Morrison

President and CEO  
**Shepherd Center**

Sarah A. Morrison is president and CEO of Shepherd Center, which she joined in 1984. Since then she's held a variety of leadership roles, including vice president of clinical services, director of the Spinal Cord Injury Program, director of the medical/surgical and ICU programs, manager of the Spinal Cord Injury Day Program, physical therapist, and physical therapy supervisor. Morrison has written many peer-reviewed publications, presented nationally and internationally, and participated in research studies; in 2003, she received the award for Clinical Excellence in Neurology from the Neurology Section of the American Physical Therapy Association.

**EDUCATION** University of Miami, Georgia State University (MBA, MHA)

**HOMETOWN** Fredonia, New York

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** While on the University of Miami diving team, I injured my back severely enough to be in a body cast for nine months. During my recovery, I underwent physical therapy and realized what I wanted to do with my life—help others recover.

**FIRST JOB** Baskin-Robbins



## Robert Quattrocchi

President and CEO  
Northside Hospital

Robert Quattrocchi is president and CEO of the Northside Hospital health system, which provides care to more than 4.3 million patients annually; Quattrocchi oversees a system reaching across 25 counties with five acute-care hospitals, over 250 outpatient facilities, 4,000 providers, and 24,500 employees. In 2017, the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* named Quattrocchi one of the area's Most Admired CEOs, and he was included in a list of the country's top 100 CEOs in the 2019 Glassdoor Employees' Choice Awards. He was also one of the 25 best CEOs of 2020, ranked by female employees across large companies, on the career website Comparably. Quattrocchi has been part of Northside Hospital's senior management team since 1987; prior to assuming the top job in 2004, he served as chief operating officer and executive vice president of finance and administration, chief financial officer, and director of fiscal services.



## Suresh S. Ramalingam, MD

Executive Director  
Winship Cancer Institute  
of Emory University

Dr. Suresh Ramalingam serves as executive director of Winship Cancer Institute of Emory University, Georgia's only National Cancer Institute-designated Comprehensive Cancer Center. Ramalingam is past president of the Georgia Society of Oncology and a member of the board of Georgia CORE. He is a fellow of the American Society of Clinical Oncology and a Georgia Cancer Coalition Distinguished Cancer Scholar. The Chennai, India, native's present research involves developing immune checkpoint inhibitors and improving outcomes for patients with EGFR mutation. He has authored more than 350 scientific publications. He serves as editor-in-chief of *CANCER*, a peer-reviewed journal of the American Cancer Society.

**EDUCATION** Kilpauk Medical College, India (MBBS)

**NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS** Developed new treatment options for lung cancer

**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** Mahatma Gandhi

**LESSON LEARNED** No success is everlasting, and no setback is permanent.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Alaska

**NONPROFIT** India Literacy Project



## Candice L. Saunders

President and CEO  
WellStar Health System

As president and CEO of Wellstar Health System, Candice Saunders oversees one of the largest and most integrated health systems in Georgia, with 25,000 employees and 11 hospitals. Under her leadership, Wellstar opened the nation's second-largest and busiest emergency department, Wellstar Kennestone Hospital, during the height of the pandemic; established the state's largest multilevel trauma network; and has navigated through one of the most challenging periods in healthcare history. Saunders also led Wellstar to embark on an 18-month listening tour to redefine the standard for Georgia healthcare, which inspired the campaign "More Than Healthcare. PeopleCare."

**EDUCATION** University of South Florida, University of Alabama at Birmingham (MBA, MHA)

**HOMETOWN** Fort Lauderdale, Florida

**FIRST JOB** Administrative assistant

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives, Georgia Hospital Association W. Daniel Barker Leadership Award (2017), National Association of Female Executives Healthcare Champion (2015)



## Anne Schuchat, MD

Principal Deputy Director  
Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

First joining the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 1988 as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer, Anne Schuchat has filled a number of leadership roles within the organization, including acting director; she's currently principal deputy director. The author of more than 230 scientific articles, chapters, and reviews, Schuchat has played key roles in CDC emergency responses including to the 2009 H1N1 flu pandemic and the 2003 SARS outbreak in China. She was elected to the National Academy of Medicine in 2008.

**EDUCATION** Swarthmore College, Dartmouth Medical School (MD)

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Testing an Ebola vaccine in Sierra Leone in the midst of an epidemic

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** Hiked the length of Vermont (on the long trail) after high school

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Kate Winslet already did (see *Contagion*).



## Pamela Stahl

President  
Anthem Blue  
Cross and Blue Shield  
in Georgia

Pamela Stahl is the president of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Georgia, and has more than 25 years of experience across the healthcare spectrum. She joined Anthem in 2018 as vice president of the company's sales operations and effectiveness team; previously, she served as chief commercial officer for InVivo Therapeutics, a biomaterials and biotechnology company. Stahl has also held leadership positions at UnitedHealth Group, Merck, Astra Merck, AstraZeneca, Orphan Medical (acquired by Jazz Pharmaceuticals), and American TeleCare.

**EDUCATION** Saint Olaf College

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Built the marketing and sales organization for the first in-home, video-based telemedicine company in the United States two decades ago

**HIDDEN TALENT** I know how to bake a pretty darn good gingersnap cookie. My mother took first place at the Nebraska State Fair many years ago with this family recipe.

**HOBBIES** I love interior design. We bought a charming house in Atlanta that was built in 1938, and that gives me plenty of opportunity to dream about possibilities.



## Bassam Tomeh, MD

CEO  
First Medical Care

Bassam Tomeh became the CEO of First Medical Care after acquiring the practice from his mentor, Dr. Gulshan Harjee. Tomeh, whose practice serves refugees and immigrants from Middle Eastern, African, and Asian countries with cultural sensitivity and care, has a special interest in disease prevention and primary care for ages 15 and up. An Atlanta native, Tomeh serves as an active voting member on the Emory Healthcare Board of Managers and DeKalb Physicians Hospital Organization board and is a member and fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians and a member of the National Arab American Medical Association. He is an associate professor at Mercer University School of Medicine.

**EDUCATION** Emory University, Medical College of Georgia (MD)

**INSPIRING PEOPLE** My father, Dr. Mohamed Tomeh, and Dr. Gulshan Harjee. These two invaluable public servants taught me that it is vitally important to be an active part of our patients' lives and that compassion and commitment should be foremost.

**NONPROFITS** Al Farooq Masid of Atlanta and RAKSHA, which advocates for the South Asian community



## Kathleen E. Toomey, MD

Commissioner and  
State Health Officer  
**Georgia Department  
of Public Health**

As commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Health, Kathleen E. Toomey oversees 159 county health departments in 18 health districts and has helped lead the response to the coronavirus pandemic in Georgia, fostering critical partnerships with hospitals, physicians, and other healthcare organizations, business leaders, the agricultural community, and statewide public health and community organizations. Formerly, she was director of Fulton County's Department of Health and Wellness. She is an epidemiologist and board-certified family practitioner with a long career in national and global public health, including a stint as Botswana country director for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

**EDUCATION** Smith College, Harvard Medical School (MD), Harvard School of Public Health (MPH)



## Rochelle P. Walensky, MD

Director  
**Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention**

Rochelle Walensky is the 19th director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the ninth administrator of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Her pioneering research has helped advance the national and global response to HIV/AIDS, and she is an expert on the testing and treatment of deadly viruses, including Covid-19. Formerly, she was the chief of the division of infectious diseases at Massachusetts General Hospital (2017-2020) and professor of medicine at Harvard Medical School (2012-2020). She has been recognized internationally for her work to improve HIV screening and care in South Africa and nationally for motivating health policy and informing clinical trial design and evaluation.

**EDUCATION** Washington University, Harvard School of Public Health (MPH), Johns Hopkins School of Medicine (MD)



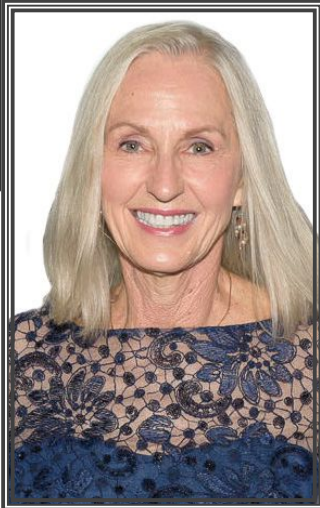
## Vonda Wright, MD

Chief  
**Northside Hospital  
Orthopedic Institute  
Sports Medicine**

Vonda Wright is the inaugural chief of sports medicine at the Northside Hospital Orthopedic Institute. A board-certified orthopedic surgeon and internationally recognized authority on active aging and mobility, Wright is the founding director of the Performance and Research Initiative for Masters Athletes (PRIMA) at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, where she was the inaugural medical director of the UPMC Lemieux Sports Complex. Wright cares for a wide range of athletes and active people, including members of the Georgia State Panthers, Olympic track and field athletes, and dancers in the Atlanta Ballet.

**EDUCATION** Wheaton College, Rush-Presbyterian-Saint Luke's Medical Center (MS), University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine (MD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Writing *Fitness After 40* (2008) and creating a nonprofit, Women's Health Conversations



**CHRIS 180 congratulates  
President & CEO Kathy Colbenson, LMFT**

*Thank you for being a visionary leader  
committed to our mission of healing children,  
strengthening families and building community!*

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**CHRIS180.org**

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WORK MAKES THIS RECOGNITION POSSIBLE.

**TOM  
O'BRIEN**

PRESIDENT, WEATHER GROUP  
EVP, ALLEN MEDIA GROUP

WEATHERGROUP



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL HONOREES OF THE ATLANTA BUSINESS COMMUNITY  
FROM YOUR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES AT WEATHER GROUP.



# restaurants & hospitality

116 Food, Restaurants & Chefs  
118 Hospitality & Tourism

Masterpiece ▶  
Photograph by  
Andrew Thomas Lee



# A SMART new way to keep your employees covered designed with small business in mind



As a small business, you have a new option that makes it easier and more affordable to offer health benefits. The Georgia Chamber of Commerce and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield (Anthem) are working together to bring businesses like yours the Georgia Chamber SMART Plan (SMART). With SMART, small businesses can now:

- Participate in a larger, alternative-funded pool .
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- Select from a variety of plan designs.

**There are a number of reasons why it is SMART to choose Anthem**  
**You can draw on our long history of building partnerships with Georgia businesses and employees.**



**Neighbors.** You live and work in the same community as our associates.



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**Experience.** You are backed by a company that has been serving millions of members in Georgia for more than 80 years.



**Connected.** Your plan will focus on each member's whole health journey, with options for special discounts on vision, dental, and life and disability products.

## For predictable rates, competitive benefits, and affordable coverage

You can count on a SMART plan from Anthem. To learn more, ask your health insurance agent or the Georgia Chamber for a referral to a participating broker.

**Food, Restaurants & Chefs**

**Hugh Acheson**

Chef and Restaurant Owner

Hugh Acheson is the chef-owner of Five & Ten and the National, located in Athens, Georgia, as well as Empire State South, Spiller Park Coffee, and his newest venture, By George, in Atlanta. The latter is a French restaurant in the historic Candler Hotel. Acheson is also the founder of Seed Life Skills, a classroom curriculum that teaches real-life skills through hands-on culinary instruction, conscious consumer economics, and DIY design principles. In 2012, the James Beard Foundation recognized him with its Best Chef: Southeast award and a cookbook award for *A New Turn in the South*.

**HOMETOWN** Ottawa, Ontario

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Hospitality, food, and beverage are the endless topics I could learn about every day.

**FIRST JOB** Dishwasher at Bank Street Cafe in Ottawa

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** From my father: "Try empathy."

**HIDDEN TALENT** Sewing

**FAVORITE BOOK** *The English Patient* by Michael Ondaatje


**Karen Bremer**

CEO  
Georgia Restaurant Association

With more than 46 years in the hospitality industry, Karen Bremer is the CEO of the Georgia Restaurant Association. GRA serves as the unified voice of one of the largest industries in the state, representing more than 19,000 food-service and drinking places in Georgia, with total sales over \$25 billion and more than 500,000 jobs. Bremer is the former owner of Dailey's and City Grill restaurants and was the president of Peasant Restaurant Group.

**EDUCATION** Hillsborough Community College

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Closing a business

**HOBBIES** Cooking, decorating, travel

**NONPROFITS** The Giving Kitchen, Atlanta Community Food Bank, No Kid Hungry

**BUCKET LIST** Paris with my husband


**Alton Brown**

Chef and TV Host

Alton Brown began his television career in college as a cameraman, then spent eight years directing TV commercials. He enrolled in culinary school in the early 1990s with the goal of making food shows. Today Brown has been on the Food Network nearly 20 years, most prominently as the writer, host, and showrunner of *Good Eats*. He's hosted *Iron Chef America* and *Cutthroat Kitchen*, written eight books on food and cooking, and toured two live culinary variety shows. A Marietta resident, Brown has won two James Beard Awards and a Peabody. He and his wife, designer Elizabeth Ingram, created the popular *Quarantine Quitchen* YouTube series during the pandemic.

**EDUCATION** New England Culinary Institute, University of Georgia

**HIDDEN TALENT** Fronts the Alton Brown Trio

**HOBBIES** Flying, scuba diving, motorcycles


**Federico "Fred" Castellucci III**

President and CEO  
Castellucci Hospitality Group

Federico "Fred" Castellucci III is the president and CEO of Castellucci Hospitality Group. He has been working in the restaurant business his entire life, holding his first job as an 11-year-old in a bakery in Rhode Island. As a teenager, he began working in the family business, holding various roles in the kitchen, including cook and kitchen manager, before going on to study hospitality at Cornell University. Following graduation in 2007, he relocated back to Atlanta to rejoin the family business, taking over Sugo in Johns Creek. After turning that business around, he focused on expansion and developing more CHG concepts. Castellucci went on to open the Iberian Pig in Decatur (2009), Double Zero in Sandy Springs (2011; it relocated to its current location in Emory Village in 2016), and Cooks & Soldiers on the Westside (2014). Bar Mercado, Recess, and the Iberian Pig Buckhead followed. Castellucci serves on the board of the Georgia Restaurant Association and is actively involved as a mentor, adviser, and investor in various early-stage hospitality technology companies. In 2018, he was honored as Restaurateur of the Year at the GRACE Awards.


**Sterling Coleman**

Founder and CEO  
SJAC Food Groups

Sterling Coleman is CEO of SJAC Food Groups. An experienced concession operator, he founded the company in 2001 and built it into the largest African American Xaxby's licensee group, with 13 stores in 12 cities. Since 2014, SJAC has owned and operated the top-grossing location in the entire Xaxby's system. SJAC is also a joint-venture partner with SSP America in the Raleigh-Durham International Airport, managing several fast-casual concepts and international brands. Under Coleman's leadership, SJAC is a committed community partner, extending companywide support to nonprofit and faith-based organizations, schools, youth groups, and law enforcement.

**EDUCATION** Tennessee State University

**HOMETOWN** Saint Louis, Missouri

**FIRST JOB** My first real paycheck came when I worked at Brightside Saint Louis. Brightside focuses on improving the Saint Louis community's quality of life by creating a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable neighborhood.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Starting a business while working through the dissolution of my previous marriage


**Ford Fry**

Chef and Owner  
Ford Fry Restaurants

Ford Fry's culinary inspirations cover many years and much of the country, from training at Vermont's New England Culinary Institute to work as a fine-dining chef in Florida, Colorado, and California. A Texas native, Fry has a long list of Atlanta restaurants to his name, including BeetleCat, JCT Kitchen, King + Duke, Marcel, no. 246, Little Rey, the Optimist, St. Cecilia, and Superica — and has been featured in *Bon Appétit*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, and other publications.

**EDUCATION** New England Culinary Institute

**HOBBIES** Playing and collecting guitar gear

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATIONS** I love the combo of pre- or post-Christmas skiing (current favorite is in Jackson Hole) and beaches of Mexico (Tulum).

**NONPROFITS** Georgia Organics, Giving Kitchen, Camp LIFE, Kula Project



## Kevin Gillespie

Owner, Chef, Cookbook Author, and Speaker  
**Red Beard Restaurants**

Chef and restaurateur Kevin Gillespie signed up to compete on Bravo's *Top Chef* in 2009 to save Wood-fire Grill, his acclaimed but financially struggling Atlanta restaurant. Today, Gillespie's brand continues to grow. His 2013 cookbook debut, *Fire in My Belly*, earned a James Beard Award nomination; Gillespie has since launched Gunshow in Glenwood Park, Revival in Decatur, and Gamechanger in Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Most recently, he opened Cold Beer along the Atlanta BeltLine and Ole Reliable in the Georgia-Pacific Center.

**EDUCATION** Art Institute of Atlanta

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Gillespie was one of three finalists and a "fan favorite" on *Top Chef*. He was named a 2015 and 2017 semifinalist and 2016 finalist for the James Beard Foundation's Best Chef: Southeast award.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Join a gym and go three times a week. This came from my first culinary instructor. This is a very physically demanding job. I wish I had listened to him!

**HIDDEN TALENT** Voted best dancer in eighth grade



## Eddie Hernandez

Chief R&D and Executive Chef  
**Taqueria del Sol**

Born in Monterey, Mexico, Eddie Hernandez learned to cook in his grandmother's restaurants. At 16, he came to the United States with dreams of being a drummer; when that didn't pan out, he found work in an Atlanta-area Mexican restaurant. There, Hernandez quickly made his mark, laying the groundwork for his business partnership with Taqueria del Sol CEO Mike Klank. The pair opened the first Taqueria del Sol on Atlanta's Westside in 2000. In 2018, he released his first cookbook, *Tur-nip Greens & Tortillas*.

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** It chose me. One of the things about knowing how to cook is that you can feed yourself anything you want anytime.

**HIDDEN TALENT** I like to paint. It's a stress relief for me. When I paint, I forget about everything.

**NONPROFITS** Hogs for the Cause, Atlanta Community Food Bank, Atlanta Botanical Garden



## Linton Hopkins

Chef and Owner  
**Hopkins and Co.**

Linton Hopkins is the internationally acclaimed chef and owner of Hopkins and Co., the Atlanta-based restaurant group that includes Holeman and Finch Public House, Holeman and Finch Bottle Shop, H&F Burger, Hop's Chicken, and C. Ellet's. The Atlanta native is known for his deceptively simple cooking style that celebrates local produce and community-driven cuisine, with restaurants that embody his Southern heritage.

**EDUCATION** Emory University, Culinary Institute of America

**FIRST JOB** Dishwasher at the Easy Way Out, right near Peachtree Battle

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Remaining relevant and connected in the everyday individual lives of all our team members—in a company that's always growing

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Saint George Island with my wife and two kids



## Robby Kukler

Founding Partner  
**Fifth Group Restaurants**

Founding partner Robby Kukler leads Fifth Group Restaurants' operations, marketing, and people and culture teams while focusing on vision-based company growth and concept-development opportunities. Over nearly three decades, Fifth Group Restaurants' chefs, initiatives, and businesses—which include South City Kitchen, Ecco, Lure, and La Tavola—have been featured in the *New York Times*, *Southern Living*, *Garden & Gun*, and elsewhere. A native of Flint, Michigan, Kukler is a longtime member of and advocate for Atlanta Community Food Bank, as well as a frequent industry speaker and adviser.

**EDUCATION** Michigan State University

**HIDDEN TALENT** I'm an avid swimmer and cyclist.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Mountain ranges of the western United States

**BUCKET LIST** I'd love to participate in the Bosphorus Cross-Continental Swim in Istanbul—a four-mile, open-water challenge that is the world's only transcontinental swim, connecting the Asian and European continents.



## Michael Lennox

Owner  
**Electric Hospitality Co.**  
Founder  
**ATL Family Meal**

Atlanta native Michael Lennox owns and operates Ladybird Grove and Mess Hall, Golden Eagle, and Muchacho. Lennox opened Ladybird in 2014 along the Atlanta BeltLine Eastside Trail; in 2016, he added a 250-seat outdoor space called the Grove, which features a beer garden and retro camper bar. In 2017, in a former rail depot on the Eastside Trail, he opened the cocktail bar Golden Eagle and the coffee and taco shop Muchacho, which nods to 1970s Venice Beach. His is also the founder of ATL Family Meal. During the pandemic, the group delivered meals to unemployed restaurant workers. Now, they are transforming from an emergency program into a sustainable nonprofit.

**EDUCATION** Hampden-Sydney College, Wake Forest University School of Law (JD)

**FIRST JOB** Bulldog Movers at age 16

**INSPIRING PERSON** My grandmother

**NONPROFITS** The Giving Kitchen, Open Hand Atlanta, Atlanta BeltLine Partnership, ATL Family Meal

**BUCKET LIST** A good night's sleep



## Rui Liu

Owner and Head Chef  
**Masterpiece**

Rui Liu is the head chef at Masterpiece, a Sichuan restaurant in Duluth that he opened in 2014. A celebrated chef in his native China, Liu came to the United States in 2008 on an O-1 visa—granted to "individuals of extraordinary ability or achievement"—to work at Tasty China in Marietta; from 2010 to 2014, he was head chef at Fung Mei in Duluth. In 2018, Liu was a semifinalist for the James Beard Foundation's Best Chef: Southeast award, and Masterpiece has been widely lauded, including by *Zagat*, *Eater Atlanta*, *Condé Nast Traveler*, and *Creative Loafing*. Liu is the author of three books on food carving: *Food Carving Flowers*, *Food Engraving Bird Worm Fish*, and *Agar Engraving*.

**EDUCATION** Harbin University of Commerce, Travel Culinary Institute

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I love to eat lots of foods and preparing authentic food has always been my passion.

**INSPIRING PERSON** My mother

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Learning English

**FAVORITE SONG ABOUT GEORGIA** "Georgia on My Mind" by Ray Charles

**BUCKET LIST** Open another restaurant



## Harold L. Martin Jr.

CEO  
Taco Mac

Harold L. Martin Jr. is the CEO of Taco Mac, an Atlanta-based restaurant company with 27 locations in Georgia and Tennessee. Prior to investing in and leading the acquisition of Taco Mac in 2018, Martin served as interim president of Morehouse College, his alma mater. He started his career as a management consultant in the Atlanta office of McKinsey & Co. before leaving to become a principal investor in the food and hospitality sectors. In 2019 the Georgia Restaurant Association awarded Taco Mac its GRACE Award for Restaurateur of the Year in the Large/Corporate category.

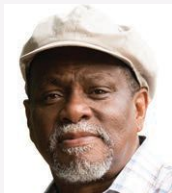
**EDUCATION** Morehouse College, Yale Law School (JD), Harvard Business School (MBA)

**FIRST JOB** Busboy at Kerner House, a diner in my hometown of Kernersville, North Carolina

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** From Benjamin Elijah Mays: "Whatever you do, strive to do it so well that no man living and no man dead and no man yet to be born could do it any better."

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Mary Mac's Tea Room

**NONPROFITS** Morehouse College, Camp Twin Lakes



## K. Rashid Nuri

Founder and CEO  
The Nuri Group

K. Rashid Nuri founded and leads the Nuri Group, part of his 50-year career of building communities on the foundation of agriculture. The Nuri Group advocates for urban agriculture at the local, regional, and national levels, working not just with urban farmers and farming organizations but also educators, legislators, urban planners, and others. In 2006, Nuri founded the Truly Living Well Center for Natural Urban Agriculture, which has grown into Atlanta's premier urban agricultural organization, growing food, providing jobs, and educating communities on nutrition and self-sufficiency. Previously, Nuri oversaw 2,200 employees as deputy administrator in the Department of Agriculture for the Clinton administration.

**EDUCATION** Harvard College, University of Massachusetts Amherst (MS)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** My work chose me through what I experienced as a calling from God. The call answered my quest to contribute to the full liberation and prosperity of Black people in America.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGES** White supremacy and capitalism



## Todd Richards

Chef, Owner, Culinary Director, and Author  
**Richards' Southern Fried, Jackmont Hospitality**

Todd Richards is known for his contemporary cooking style rooted in soul and Southern cuisine. A self-taught Chicago native, he's twice been a semi-finalist for the James Beard Foundation's Best Chef: Southeast award. Richards is co-owner of Lake & Oak BBQ and the culinary director of Jackmont Hospitality, overseeing award-winning restaurants One Flew South and Chicken + Beer at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. He's previously helmed the kitchens of prestigious Atlanta hotels and restaurants including the Four Seasons, the Ritz-Carlton, and Villa Christina.

**EDUCATION** University of Illinois at Chicago

**HIDDEN TALENT** I'm a musician and a DJ.

**NONPROFITS** Wholesome Wave Georgia, Edna Lewis Foundation

**BUCKET LIST** Buying a boat

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Forest Whitaker



## Alice Rolls

President and CEO  
Georgia Organics

Alice Rolls has devoted her entire career to the environment. Since eating is an environmental act, Rolls has focused much of her work on supporting organic farmers and the growth of regenerative agriculture. She has led the nonprofit Georgia Organics through a surge of public interest in healthy, local foods and farms over the past 16 years. Previously, the Virginia native led EarthShare of Georgia, which supports 70 environmental organizations, and established the Nature Conservancy's Georgia chapter in its early years.

**EDUCATION** University of Virginia

**INSPIRING PERSON** Rachel Carson is my shero.

**LESSON LEARNED** Don't let perfect get in the way of good.

**HIDDEN TALENT** Former Division I athlete

**BUCKET LIST** Visiting the Canadian Rockies



## Steven Satterfield

Chef and Co-owner  
Miller Union

Steven Satterfield is the executive chef and co-owner of Miller Union, located in Atlanta's Westside neighborhood. Since opening in 2009, the restaurant has been recognized by national publications such as *Bon Appétit*, *Food & Wine*, and *Esquire*. Deeply committed to Atlanta's progressive culinary community, Satterfield holds leadership positions with Chefs Collaborative and Slow Food Atlanta. In 2017, he won the James Beard Foundation's Best Chef: Southeast award, and the website *Eater* included Miller Union on its annual list of the country's Most Essential Restaurants.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** In 2015, Satterfield released his first cookbook, *Root to Leaf: A Southern Chef Cooks through the Seasons*, to broad acclaim.

**HIDDEN TALENT** Singer, songwriter, guitarist with indie rock band Seely

**NONPROFITS** Southern Foodways Alliance, Georgia Organics



## Frederick W. Cerrone

Founder and Chairman  
Hotel Equities

Frederick W. Cerrone is founder and chairman of Hotel Equities, a development and management company with more than 100 hotels in its present portfolio. Cerrone began his five-decade hospitality career as a desk clerk at Boston's largest hotel; a general manager by the age of 21, and twice recognized as general manager of the year by national hotel franchises, he launched Hotel Equities in 1989. Cerrone is chairman of Marriott's Fairfield Inn franchise advisory board. Before embarking on a hospitality career, Cerrone served in the United States Marine Corps.

**EDUCATION** Miami Dade College, Georgia State University Robinson College of Business (MBA)

**HOMETOWN** Westwood, Massachusetts

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** HotelWorld Network Hotelier of the Year (2009)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Hospitality is a people-centered business and people are my passion.

### Hospitality & Tourism



## Tony Conway

Founder and CEO  
Legendary Events

In 1997, after 20 years in the luxury-hotel industry, Houston native Tony Conway formed Legendary Events, an award-winning company whose clients include Tyler Perry, Elton John, and Oprah Winfrey; the company has planned complex high-profile events honoring the likes of Barack Obama, George W. Bush, and Bill Clinton. Legendary Events also owns and operates the Buckhead special-events venues the Estate and Flourish.

**EDUCATION** University of Houston

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** My first book, *Tony Conway | Legendary Events*, was published in May 2018.

**WHAT I'D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** Do it all again and continue to take calculated risks!

**NONPROFITS** Meals on Wheels, Shepherd Center, Andee's Army, LifeLine, nsoro Foundation

**BUCKET LIST** Producing more international events



## Mary Beth Cutshall

Founder &  
Managing Partner  
Amara Capital

With nearly 30 years of hospitality experience, Mary Beth Cutshall is founder and managing partner of Amara Capital, founded as a vehicle for women investors to gain access into hospitality real estate and ownership. The New Hampshire native has been actively leading teams, growing organizations, and increasing real estate portfolios for over 25+ years representing over \$1.3 billion in hotel real estate valuations. Cutshall is a known c-suite innovator and visionary in the hospitality industry.

**EDUCATION** University of Nevada, Las Vegas

**FAVORITE BOOK** *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Patagonia

**WHAT I'D TELL MY 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** Relax, the best is yet to come!

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACES TO VISIT** O4W and Virginia-Highland



## Frank Poe

Executive Director  
Georgia World Congress  
Center Authority

Frank Poe was named executive director of the Georgia World Congress Center Authority in 2010. He's led negotiations for new public-private partnerships on the state-owned campus, including the Chick-fil-A College Football Hall of Fame, Junior Achievement Discovery Center, Mercedes-Benz Stadium, and the new hotel Signia Hilton. Poe was also instrumental in securing more than \$25 million in private-sector financial support for the most recent renovations of Centennial Olympic Park. Currently, Poe serves on the board of advisers for the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and the board of directors for Central Atlanta Progress.



## Erica Qualls-Bathey

Area General Manager/  
General Manager  
Marriott International/  
Atlanta Marriott Marquis

Erica Qualls-Bathey is the area general manager for Marriott International with responsibilities for the Atlanta market and general manager of the Atlanta Marriott Marquis. She is responsible for ensuring guest and associate satisfaction, managing the hotel's finances and assets, owner relations, and fostering business alliances that promote Marriott International. The Philadelphia native joined Marriott in 1993. Honors include General Manager of the Year by Marriott International, YWCA Women of the Year, the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau Hospitality Hall of Fame, Atlanta Business League's Leadership Award, Atlanta Business League's Women of Influence Hall of Fame, and Atlanta Technical College Bridge Builder Award.

**EDUCATION** San Jose State University

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** The Covid-19 pandemic. The disruption to our business and the rhythm of life.

**FAVORITE BOOKS** All Philippa Gregory and Beverly Jenkins novels

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Zoo Atlanta with my grandchildren

**BUCKET LIST** Trip to Africa and Singapore



## Mit Shah

Founder and CEO  
Noble Investment Group

In 1993, Mit Shah founded Noble Investment Group, which has made \$4 billion of income and value-add investments in upscale hotels throughout the United States, including numerous investments throughout Atlanta and the region. As CEO, he provides overall strategic guidance for the Noble organization and heads its investment committee. Shah presently serves as nonexecutive chairman of the board of CorePoint Lodging and serves on owner boards for Marriott International and Hyatt Hotels.

**EDUCATION** Wake Forest University

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Youngest trustee and youngest officer of the board of trustees for Wake Forest University

**FAMILY** Married 24 years to Dr. Reshma Shah, a family practitioner; they're parents to Arjun and Roshni.



## Ryan Wilson

Cofounder and CEO  
The Gathering Spot

As CEO of The Gathering Spot, which he cofounded with T.K. Petersen, Ryan Wilson oversees a private membership club that serves as a home for Atlanta's creative class, business professionals, and entrepreneurs. In 2020, the club opened a new location in Washington, D.C., and announced plans for future expansion to Los Angeles. The company also operates a digital platform, TGS Connect. With venture capitalist Paul Judge, Wilson is part owner of the annual A3C hip-hop festival.

**EDUCATION** Georgetown University, Georgetown University Law Center (JD)

**FIRST JOB** Working at my parents' first company, Ryla Teleservices, at the age of 14. I was responsible for updating the business records for one of their largest clients.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Overwhelm the problem. Work aggressively to find solutions.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I've been known to wait in line a time or two for new releases of tech products or sneakers.

**FAVORITE TV SHOW** *The Wire*

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** South Africa



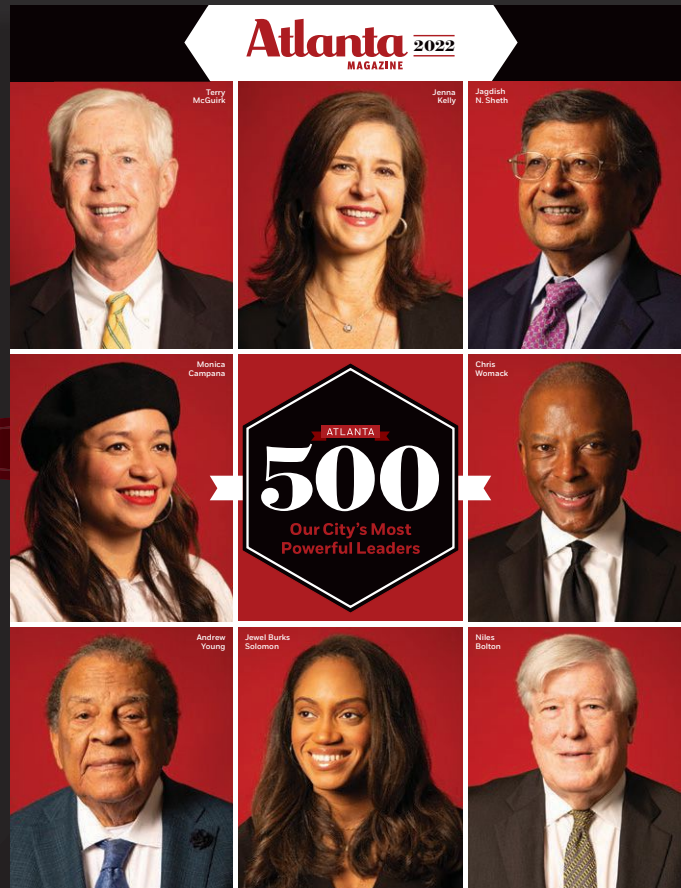
# religion, nonprofits & advocacy

Advocacy 122  
Nonprofit Organizations 125  
Religion 135

★ Georgia  
Aquarium

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## Advocacy



## Stacey Abrams

Founder and Chair  
Fair Fight

After serving 11 years in the Georgia House of Representatives, including seven as minority leader, Stacey Abrams became the Democratic nominee for governor of Georgia in 2018. The first Black woman to receive a major-party nomination in a gubernatorial race in the United States, Abrams got more votes than any Democrat in the state's history. Following the election, Abrams launched the organization Fair Fight to mobilize voters, advocate for electoral reform, and fight voter suppression. In January 2019, she was tapped to give the Democratic response to the State of the Union address.

**EDUCATION** Spelman College, University of Texas LBJ School of Public Affairs (MPAff), Yale Law School (JD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Founded the New Georgia Project, which submitted more than 200,000 registrations from voters of color between 2014 and 2016

**FIRST JOB** Speechwriter for a congressional candidate

**INSPIRING PERSON** Johnnetta Cole



## Liz Coyle

Executive Director  
Georgia Watch

Liz Coyle oversees the operations, programs, and staff of Georgia Watch, the state's leading non-profit consumer-advocacy organization. Georgia Watch advocates for policies that improve individual and family financial security, increase access to affordable healthcare, and lower the energy burden on struggling families. In addition to her role with Georgia Watch, in 2018, Coyle accepted an appointment to the Consumer Advisory Board of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. She is also vice chair of the Smart Energy Consumer Collaborative board of directors and is board chair of the Historic Fourth Ward Park Conservancy and the BeltLine Network.

**EDUCATION** University of Virginia

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I've been standing up for people I think are being wronged my whole life.

**HIDDEN TALENT** I love to cook, especially on Sundays listening to TED Talks!

**FAVORITE TV SHOW** I'm a huge fan of Rachel Maddow.

**FAVORITE PLACE TO VISIT** Rural Georgia, especially driving on country roads



## Xochitl Bervera

Director, Organizer,  
and Strategist  
Racial Justice  
Action Center

Xochitl Bervera is the director of the Racial Justice Action Center, whose mission is to engage in transformative organizing to build the grassroots leadership, power, and capacity of marginalized communities in metro Atlanta; the organization's current work includes a campaign to replace the Atlanta City Detention Center with a facility dedicated to wellness and freedom. Bervera has more than 20 years' experience building community power and waging campaigns to dismantle the criminal legal system. She has incubated and founded six social justice organizations in Louisiana and Georgia led by those most affected by criminalization, policing, and incarceration, including Women on the Rise and the Solutions Not Punishment Collaborative.

**EDUCATION** Sarah Lawrence College, New York University School of Law (JD)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I chose organizing to end criminalization in particular because our criminal legal system, as a vestige of slavery, remains one of the primary pillars of American racial injustice and because I have witnessed the devastation it causes to individuals, families, and communities.

**FAVORITE BOOK** *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi



## Dázon Dixon Diallo

Founder and President  
SisterLove

Dázon Dixon Diallo is the president of SisterLove, the first women's HIV and sexual and reproductive justice organization in the southeastern United States, which she founded in 1989. A widely celebrated advocate, Diallo is also a member of In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, a cochair of the Act Now: End AIDS coalition, and a founding member of the SisterSong reproductive justice collective. She has served on the Office of AIDS Research Advisory Council for the National Institutes of Health and on the board of the National Women's Health Network. Diallo has an honorary doctorate from Spelman College and was among 30 Atlantans featured on murals installed citywide ahead of the 2019 Super Bowl.

**EDUCATION** Spelman College, University of Alabama at Birmingham (MPH)

**HOMETOWN** Fort Valley, Georgia

**LESSON LEARNED** Not everyone is who they say they are, and almost everyone will show themselves. So keep your eyes open and believe what they show you, not what you hear and feel.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** From Miss Johnnie Mae, 75-year-old receptionist, circa 2001: "Baby, you gon' just have to be happy despite the bullshit!"



## Stephanie Cho

Director, Democracy  
Lab South  
Asian Americans  
Advancing Justice-  
Atlanta

Formerly the executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta, Stephanie Cho will be heading up Democracy Lab South, a new initiative from AAAJA, the organization which advocates for the civil and human rights of Asian Americans in Georgia and the Southeast. Her new project will focus on environmental justice work in Atlanta and AAPI political power building in a few other southern states. Bringing more than 20 years of experience in labor and community organizing, strategic planning, and fundraising at the local and national levels, Cho was previously the Los Angeles director of the Restaurant Opportunities Center, where she worked to raise industry standards and wages for LA's restaurant workers. She has been a community organizer, program director for LGBTQ+ youth programming, director of training for a national fellowship program, labor organizer, and organizational consultant.

**EDUCATION** Portland State University

**HOMETOWN** Pyeongtaek, South Korea

**FIRST JOB** Restaurant Bon Ton

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Being on my own at 17

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I was a welder in college.



## Jeff Graham

Executive Director  
Georgia Equality

Jeff Graham is the executive director of Georgia Equality, which works to advance fairness, safety, and opportunity for LGBTQ+ communities throughout Georgia. Graham began advocating on LGBTQ+ and AIDS issues as a college student in the mid-1980s, and has been involved in a wide variety of grassroots and legislative advocacy campaigns since. Over the past 25 years he's served as either executive director or board member for a number of local and national organizations working on issues related to gay and transgender rights, access to healthcare, community empowerment, and HIV/AIDS.

**EDUCATION** Trinity University

**HOMETOWN** Loveland, Colorado

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Linda Smith Lowe Health Advocacy Award (2017), League of Women Voters of Georgia Health Advocate Award (2016), Health Initiative Healing Angel Award (2014), National Center for Human Rights Education Human Rights Guardian Award (2004)

**FIRST JOB** Costume designer



## Billy Michael Honor

Director of Faith and Civic Engagement Organizing  
New Georgia Project

Billy Michael Honor is a progressive public scholar, faith leader, and organizer involved with the New Georgia Project, whose Loose the Chains campaign partners with religious organizations to promote voter turnout. Honor regularly speaks at churches, conferences, colleges, and community events and is a media commentator on issues related to contemporary faith and culture. His work on voter mobilization earned him recognition from the Center for American Progress, which named him one of 15 faith leaders in the nation to watch in 2020. Honor also facilitates an independent public scholarship brand called Truth on the Loose, which promotes social commentary and criticism on faith, culture, and politics.

**EDUCATION** Beulah Heights University, Emory University (ThM), Interdenominational Theological Center (MDiv)

**HOMETOWN** Orlando, Florida

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I organize people of faith because I believe they are important to the work of building a more inclusive democracy and providing moral imagination to help society envision more just ways of being a nation.

**FIRST JOB** Child actor on Nickelodeon



## Kwajelyn Jackson

Executive Director  
Feminist Women's Health Center

Kwajelyn Jackson is the executive director of the Feminist Women's Health Center, overseeing the organization's operations, abortion clinic, civic engagement, and education and outreach teams. First hired in 2013 as community engagement coordinator, Jackson has led the expansion of FWHC's statewide and national programming, deepened community partnerships, and worked to prevent new abortion restrictions proposed in the Georgia legislature. Prior to joining FWHC, Jackson was the program manager for WonderRoot Community Arts Center. A respected voice on reproductive justice at the national level, Jackson is on the boards of All-Options, Abortion Care Network, and the Black Mamas Matter Alliance.

**EDUCATION** Spelman College, Georgia State University Andrew Young School of Policy Studies (MS)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** First black woman to lead Feminist Women's Health Center in the organization's 43-year history

**INSPIRING PERSON** Gloria Washington (maternal grandmother)

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** You do not have to set yourself on fire to warm up the room for everyone else.



## Bee Nguyen

National Policy Adviser  
New American Leaders

Representative, District 89  
Georgia House of Representatives

Bee Nguyen serves in the Georgia General Assembly as a representative of House District 89, which includes parts of Atlanta and DeKalb County. She's also the national policy adviser for New American Leaders, which promotes the political participation of first- and second-generation Americans. Prior to being elected in 2017, Nguyen served as chief of staff for Georgia Representative Sam Park. She's also worked for the resettlement agency Boat People SOS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Georgia Budget & Policy Institute. Nguyen is the founder of Athena's Warehouse, which supports high school girls in Atlanta.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University (MA, MPA)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** As the daughter of refugees, I have spent my life trying to honor the courageous legacy of my parents. While I know this is an impossible feat, the work I do is rooted in my family story.

**FIRST JOB** Grocery worker at Winn-Dixie in Augusta

**HOBBIES** I got a skateboard for my 39th birthday, but I'm still pretty wobbly.



## Phi Nguyen

Executive Director  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta

Phi Nguyen is the executive director for Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta. In her previous role, she was the litigation director, where she focused on impact litigation in the areas of voting rights and immigrant justice. Since joining AAJA-Atlanta in early 2017, Nguyen has helped block a Georgia law that restricted voters' rights to an interpreter at the polls and represented a class of Vietnamese immigrants suing the federal government over the indefinite nature of their detention in ICE prisons. Previously, Nguyen practiced as a medical malpractice trial lawyer for eight years. Growing up in the South as a Vietnamese American with refugee parents, Nguyen's life experiences formed into her passion to protect and expand the civil rights of AAPIs and other marginalized communities. Outside of her legal practice, Nguyen co-produces *Wake Up, Atlanta*, a web series dedicated to educating and civically empowering AAPI millennials in Georgia.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia, Georgia State University (JD)

**FIRST JOB** Administrative assistant at a child neurology office

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** You gotta be who you are.



## Tiffany Roberts

Community Engagement and Movement-Building Counsel  
Southern Center for Human Rights

Tiffany Williams Roberts, a civil rights and criminal defense attorney, joined the Southern Center for Human Rights in 2018 as community engagement and movement-building counsel. A founding member of the Atlanta chapter of Black Lives Matter, she chairs the Ebenezer Baptist Church Social Justice Ministry, cochaired Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms's Progressive Agenda Working Group Criminal Justice Commission, and has served on the City's task force to reimagine the Atlanta City Detention Center. Roberts cofounded Building Locally to Organize for Community Safety, a police accountability organization, and Lawyers United for a New Atlanta, which supports criminal justice reforms, and is an instructor at Georgia State University College of Law.

**EDUCATION** Emory University, Georgia State University College of Law (JD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Southern Center for Human Rights Gideon's Promise Award (2018), NAACP Atlanta Jubilee Day Award (2018)

**INSPIRING PERSON** Ida B. Wells, an African-American journalist and activist

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I sang in Emory's all-female a cappella group, the Gathering.



## Rebecca Serna

Executive Director  
Atlanta Bicycle Coalition

Rebecca Serna is the executive director of the Atlanta Bicycle Coalition, a group founded in 1991 to improve biking conditions in the city. Since Serna took the helm in 2007, the coalition has launched the open-streets project Atlanta Streets Alive, created bike valets at Atlanta festivals, and organized successful campaigns for an Atlanta Department of Transportation and a Vision Zero policy, which aims to eliminate traffic fatalities. A native Atlantan, Serna was previously an intern with the Georgia Department of Transportation and a Fulbright scholar in Bogotá, Colombia, where she studied participatory planning practices and innovative public transportation projects.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia, Georgia State University Andrew Young School of Policy Studies (MS)

**HOBBIES** Wading in creeks, growing food, reading novels, watching great TV, and my new hobby, porch drinking

**NONPROFITS** ACLU, Atlanta Community Food Bank, Los Vecinos de Buford Highway, The Bail Project



## Azadeh Shahshahani

Legal and Advocacy  
Director  
Project South

Azadeh Shahshahani works to protect the human rights of immigrants and Muslim, Middle Eastern, and South Asian communities throughout the Southeast. She helped produce a widely read 2017 report, *Imprisoned Justice*, exposing conditions in two of Georgia's largest immigration detention centers. Her recent work includes documenting violations at the Irwin County Detention Center, including invasive gynecological procedures without consent. She also played a key role in convincing the City of Atlanta to stop detaining immigrants in the city jail. A past president of the National Lawyers Guild, Shahshahani previously worked as the national security and immigrant-rights project director with the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia.

**EDUCATION** University of Michigan (MA), University of Michigan Law School (JD)



## Nathaniel Q. Smith

Founder and Chief  
Equity Officer  
Partnership for  
Southern Equity

Nathaniel Smith founded and serves as chief equity officer of the Partnership for Southern Equity, which promotes racial equity and shared prosperity for all. PSE focuses on energy equity, economic inclusion, and equitable development, and created the South's first equity-mapping tool, the Metro Atlanta Equity Atlas. PSE led a coalition of diverse stakeholders to support a \$13 million transit referendum that expanded MARTA into a new county for the first time in 45 years. PSE continues to support the equity ecosystem through the Covid-19 pandemic through its Covid-19 Rapid Relief Fund. The fund distributed \$100,000 to more than 20 organizations through an initial investment from the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta and the United Way of Greater Atlanta and has now grown to more than \$400,000.

**EDUCATION** Morehouse College, New School (MS)



## Sara J. Totonchi

Executive Director  
Southern Center for  
Human Rights

As executive director of the Southern Center for Human Rights, Sara Totonchi leads a team with a mission of dramatically transforming the criminal justice system: SCHR seeks to end capital punishment, mass incarceration, and other practices that deprive poor and marginalized people of equality, dignity, and justice. Totonchi and SCHR worked in partnership with Governor Nathan Deal's Georgia Council on Criminal Justice Reform to promote commonsense criminal justice reforms.

**EDUCATION** Berry College

**HOMETOWN** Glenview, Illinois

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Led successful campaign to end cash bail in Atlanta Municipal Court (2018), named a Strengthening Democracy Fellow with the Rockwood Leadership Institute (2017), led successful advocacy to create a statewide public defender system in Georgia (2003)



## Nsé Ufot

Activist, Community  
Organizer, CEO  
New Georgia Project

Nsé Ufot is the CEO of the New Georgia Project, a statewide effort to register all eligible, unregistered Georgians of color. By 2019, the group had registered almost half a million Georgians in all 159 of the state's counties. Previously, Ufot worked as assistant executive director for the Canadian Association of University Teachers—Canada's largest faculty union—and for the American Association of University Professors, where she was a senior lobbyist and government relations officer. A naturalized citizen, Ufot was born in Nigeria and raised in southwest Atlanta.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech, University of Dayton School of Law (JD)



## Rev. James "Major" Woodall

State President  
Georgia NAACP

Rev. James "Major" Woodall is the president of the Georgia NAACP and an associate minister at Marietta's Pleasant Grove Baptist Church. A Silver Life member of the NAACP, Woodall has served as state president of the Georgia NAACP's Youth & College Division, state chairman of its Young Adults Committee, and vice president of the Bulloch County Branch. He ran for state representative in 2016, has served as a legislative aide in the Georgia General Assembly, and is an eight-year veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve, where he was an intelligence analyst.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Southern University, Morehouse School of Religion (MDiv)

**HOMETOWN** Riverdale, Georgia

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** From Marion Christopher Pugh: "Your job is not to save the world. You're only here to give it a choice."

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Going to seminary in a pandemic while leading the Georgia NAACP during a summer of uprisings

**FAVORITE GEORGIA PRO SPORTS TEAM** Atlanta Falcons

**CAUSES** #BlackLivesMatter



## Andrea I. Young

Executive Director  
American Civil Liberties  
Union of Georgia

Andrea Young joined the ACLU of Georgia as executive director in 2017. Under her leadership, the organization has grown in influence, impact, donor support, and membership, battling injustice and inequality through the courts, legislative advocacy, and community engagement. Young has taught leadership and social policy at Georgia State University, was the founding executive director of the Andrew J. Young Foundation, and created the Making of Modern Atlanta project, which included an archive, documentary film, and book. She is the author of *Life Lessons My Mother Taught Me* and the coauthor, with Andrew Young and Harvey Newman, of *Andrew Young and the Making of Modern Atlanta*.

**EDUCATION** Swarthmore College, Georgetown University Law Center (JD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Worked as a U.S. House and Senate aide and nonprofit leader to end apartheid in South Africa, establish the Martin Luther King Jr. national holiday, and expand support for working families, reproductive healthcare, and early childhood education

**FAVORITE TV SHOW** *Lovecraft Country*, made in Atlanta by Misha Green, Jordan Peele, and J.J. Abrams

## Nonprofit Organizations



### Leonard L. Adams, Jr.

Founder and CEO  
Quest Community  
Development  
Organization

Leonard L. Adams Jr. is the founder and CEO of Quest Community Development Organization, which invests in affordable housing and provides services to underserved people. Adams has increased the grassroots organization's annual operating budget to \$4.5 million, with \$39 million in current assets, and secured over \$100 million in government grants and subsidy support for affordable housing. A native of Detroit and an Army veteran, Adams has years of experience in developing affordable and supportive housing communities in challenged neighborhoods on Atlanta's Westside and in Knoxville, Tennessee. Adams serves on Knoxville College's board of trustees and on the Enterprise Community Leadership Council.

**EDUCATION** Knoxville College, Kennesaw State University (MBA)

**FIRST JOB** Snow-shoveling specialist and newspaper deliverer



### John Ahmann

President and CEO  
Westside Future Fund

John Ahmann is president and CEO of the Westside Future Fund, a nonprofit formed by public, private, and philanthropic partners to promote the development of Atlanta's Westside neighborhood. Ahmann has been driven for more than 25 years to improve the way communities and institutions function in Atlanta. Following a stint as a U.S. House of Representatives staffer, he worked for the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games and later for the Metro Atlanta Chamber. In 2004, Ahmann became executive director of the Atlanta Committee for Progress. He also has his own public affairs consulting firm and served two terms on the City Schools of Decatur Board of Education.

**EDUCATION** Emory University, Yale School of Management

**HOMETOWN** Atlanta, Georgia



### Paige Alexander

CEO  
The Carter Center

Paige Alexander joined The Carter Center as CEO in June 2020. Alexander has had a distinguished global development career, with over two decades of experience spanning the government and non-profit sectors. She has held senior leadership positions at two regional bureaus of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), covering missions and development programs in 25 countries. Between 1993 and 2001, Alexander was USAID's deputy for the Europe region with a focus on immediate post-conflict reconstruction in the Balkans. The Atlanta native held several roles in the Bureau for Europe and the Newly Independent States Task Force, including chief of staff, acting director for the Democracy and Governance Office, deputy director of the Bosnia Task Force, and country desk officer. After leaving for 10 years to work in a leadership role in the non-profit sector, Alexander returned to USAID in 2011 in the Senate-confirmed position of assistant administrator for Europe and Eurasia.

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### Terri L. Badour

Regional Executive  
**American Red Cross of Georgia**

Now at the helm of the American Red Cross of Metropolitan Atlanta, Terri Badour became the first female executive of the Red Cross of Georgia in 2011, leading the organization as it responded to disasters from home fires to hurricanes, offered services to members of the armed forces and their families, organized blood collection, engaged volunteers, and provided health and safety training.

**EDUCATION** Western Michigan University, Florida State University (MS)

**HOMETOWN** Saline, Michigan

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Junior League of Atlanta Isolene Campbell Founder's Circle Award, YWCA Academy of Women Achievers (2012), president of the Junior League of Atlanta (2001-2002), founder and first president of the Atlanta chapter of the Executive Women's Golf Association (1992)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I've always been drawn to service and giving back to my community. It's a privilege to represent this iconic, worldwide emblem and to help others during the worst of times.



### Mark Banta

President and CEO  
**Piedmont Park Conservancy**

Mark Banta is president and CEO of the Piedmont Park Conservancy, a donor-funded organization that enhances and preserves the park as a cultural and recreational resource for Atlanta. Prior to the Conservancy, Banta served as president of Klyde Warren Park in Dallas, the construction of which he oversaw, and general manager of Centennial Olympic Park for 16 years, beginning with its opening in 1996.

**EDUCATION** Berry College

**HOMETOWN** Unincorporated DeKalb County (now Brookhaven, Georgia)

**INSPIRING PERSON** My mother, who encouraged a love of the outdoors. "With five children, Mom's rule was, 'If the sun is out, kids are out.'"



### James "Jay" Bailey

President and CEO  
**Russell Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship**

James "Jay" Bailey is president and CEO of the Russell Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, an incubator, accelerator, and innovation lab launched in 2019 to empower African-American entrepreneurs and small-business owners. An Atlanta native, he is also the founder of the private equity firm Greenwood Archer, which seeks to build wealth in underserved communities, and the former CEO of Operation HOPE's Southeast region. Widely lauded for his leadership, Bailey was recognized at the White House in 2012 as one of eight Champions of Change: In the Footsteps of Martin Luther King Jr. honorees.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** To change lives, change my community, and plant seeds that will grow trees whose shade I may never sit under.

**HIDDEN TALENT** I'm a cattle farmer. I drive a tractor and can call the cows with the best of them.

**FAVORITE BOOK** *Building Atlanta: How I Broke through Segregation to Launch a Business Empire* by Herman J. Russell with Bob Andelman

**BUCKET LIST** A trip to Egypt



### Rodney D. Bullard

VP, Corporate Social Responsibility  
**Chick-fil-A**  
Executive Director  
**Chick-fil-A Foundation**

Rodney Bullard leads community-engagement, philanthropic, and sustainability strategy as vice president of community affairs for Chick-fil-A and executive director of the Chick-fil-A Foundation. Bullard previously served as an assistant U.S. attorney prosecuting complex criminal cases, for which he received the Department of Justice Director's Award. Bullard released his first book, *Heroes Wanted: Why the World Needs You to Live Your Heart Out*, in 2018.

**EDUCATION** U.S. Air Force Academy, University of Georgia Terry College of Business (MBA), Duke University School of Law (JD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** White House fellow working at NASA, congressional legislative liaison in the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Don't ever let the expectations of others limit your expectations for yourself.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I love to sing. (Whether I can sing or not is a matter of debate.)

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Cyclorama at the Atlanta History Center



### Maurice Baker

Manager,  
Community Relations  
**Georgia Natural Gas**

Saint Louis native Maurice "Moe" Baker is manager of community relations for Georgia Natural Gas, which serves nearly half a million customers as part of Southern Company, one of the largest energy companies in the United States. At GNG since 2002, Baker supervises community relations, philanthropy, and volunteer programs, and has been responsible for millions of dollars in charitable giving for the company. He began his career as manager of WSB-TV/Radio's Consumer Action Center.

**EDUCATION** Boston University

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Yolanda King advised me to always bring a tape recorder to an interview. I was working for my high school newspaper at the time.

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** South Africa

**HIDDEN TALENT** I'm actually a pretty good painter.

**FAVORITE TV SHOWS** *Blackish*, *60 Minutes*



### Julio C. Carrillo

Chief Operating Officer  
**Families First**

In 2020, Julio Carrillo became chief operating officer at Families First, one of Atlanta's oldest family service organizations, where he is launching a new strategic plan and managing a major virtual shift in operations and program delivery due to the coronavirus pandemic. Carrillo joined Families First from TechBridge, a nonprofit that provides technology tools and resources to other organizations fighting poverty, where he served most recently as interim CEO. A native of Bogotá, Colombia, Carrillo gained years of experience in corporate supply chain and inventory management before shifting to the nonprofit sector, joining Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metro Atlanta in 2006.

**EDUCATION** Universidad Autónoma

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Created the first mentoring program for Hispanics/Latinos in Atlanta, which was later introduced in other locations in Georgia and eventually to more than 120 agencies in the United States through Big Brothers Big Sisters

**INSPIRING PEOPLE** Bill Bolling and Ann Cramer

**HIDDEN TALENT** I make a delicious paella.



## Juliet Cohen

Executive Director  
**Chattahoochee  
Riverkeeper**

Juliet Cohen joined Chattahoochee Riverkeeper in 2008 as general counsel and has served as executive director since January 2015. She previously worked as a staff attorney for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit, as a program manager for the South Carolina More Than a Port project of the Coastal Conservation League in Charleston, and for the environmental-education organization Earth Force in Washington, D.C.

**EDUCATION** University of Miami, American University Washington College of Law (JD)

**HOMETOWN** San Juan, Puerto Rico

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I grew up surrounded by and immersed in pristine tropical waters and rain forests and developed a love and respect for the natural world.

**LESSON LEARNED** Learn to understand how other people think and work.

**BUCKET LIST** I want to visit all of the national parks.



## Kathy Colbenson

President and CEO  
**CHRIS 180**

A licensed marriage and family therapist with 40 years of experience, Kathy Colbenson has been the CEO of CHRIS 180 since 1987. Under her leadership, CHRIS 180 has grown to include foster homes and counseling centers across metro Atlanta, a permanent supportive housing program, a comprehensive community program designed to strengthen families, a drop-in center and integrated health clinic for youth and young adults experiencing homelessness, an adoption program, and much more—all focusing on behavioral health, recovering from the impact of childhood trauma, and helping people develop the skills necessary for self-sufficiency. CHRIS 180 also opened the Southeast's first outreach program for LGBTQ+ youth experiencing homelessness and created the first supportive housing program in the state for homeless youth and youth aging out of foster care.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University, University of West Georgia (MA)



## Jasmine Crowe

Founder and CEO  
**Goodr**

Jasmine Crowe is an award-winning social entrepreneur, TED speaker, and leader. In 2017, after years of feeding people experiencing homelessness from her own kitchen, she launched Goodr, a sustainable waste management company that leverages technology to combat hunger and reduce food waste. Since the launch in 2017, Goodr has been responsible for providing over 30 million meals to people across the United States and has diverted over 3 million pounds of surplus food that would have ended up in a landfill. Under her direction, Goodr also launched a grocery delivery program providing weekly groceries to senior citizens and children in virtual school. In fall 2021, Crowe partnered with recording artist, Gunna, and launched the first in-school free grocery store in Atlanta. She will be releasing her first children's book, *Everybody Eats*, this year.

**EDUCATION** North Carolina Central University

**FIRST JOB** I've always been an entrepreneur at heart. In middle school, I started a business teaching kids gymnastics called Tumble Tots.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** The best advice I received was from my dad. No matter how tough the day was going, he would always say, "Joy comes in the morning."



## Charlene Crusoe-Ingram

CEO  
**Meals On Wheels Atlanta**

After serving on the Meals On Wheels Atlanta (MOWA) board of trustees for six years, Charlene Crusoe-Ingram stepped into the role of CEO in 2015. As CEO, Crusoe-Ingram leads the organization's work to end senior hunger in Atlanta, overseeing the delivery of more than 500,000 meals annually as well MOWA's social enterprise business, Purposeful Gourmet Foods, which generates revenue to support MOWA's mission. Crusoe-Ingram, a native of New Albany, MS, brings a wealth of corporate experience to her position, including senior leadership roles at Abbott Laboratories, the Coca-Cola Co., and NDC Health (now part of McKesson Pharmacy Systems). She is an alum of Leadership Atlanta and has been honored as a supporter and leader by the National Black Arts MBA Conference. She has been featured as a strategic human resources professional in *Beverage Digest*.

**EDUCATION** Bradley University (BA, MA)

**HOBBIES** Flower arranging

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Paris

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** High Museum



## Brian Davis

President and CEO  
**Georgia Aquarium**

Brian Davis is Georgia Aquarium's president and CEO. Davis brings with him more than 25 years of experience in senior leadership roles within zoological and educational institutions. Prior to Davis's most recent role at Georgia Aquarium, he was the president and CEO of the Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk, CT. Davis has also held education and administrative roles in Cobb County's school system, New York Aquarium, and Zoo Atlanta. The Rosell, New Jersey, native has held various positions at Georgia Aquarium since 2003. He became the first Black chair of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums board, the accrediting body for zoological institutions in North America.

**EDUCATION** Rutgers University, Georgia State University (MA, PhD)

**FIRST JOB** Wendy's. I can recall being very excited to earn my own money and take trips to the shore. The job taught me a great deal of discipline.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** My mother, Joyce Davis, would often tell me, "You have two ears and one mouth for a reason; so we can listen twice as much as you speak."



## Thomas W. Dortch Jr.

National Chairman  
**100 Black Men  
of America**

Thomas W. Dortch Jr. is a founding member and the national chairman of 100 Black Men of America, which seeks to positively influence the lives of inner-city youth and improve at-risk communities. Dortch led an expansion of its mentoring program to more than 125,000 young people and grew the organization from 43 to 102 chapters. An entrepreneur, he holds other positions including chairman and CEO of Atlanta Transportation Systems and the consulting firm TWD, and chairman of Lancor Parking.

**EDUCATION** Fort Valley State University, Clark Atlanta University (MA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Trustee for Florida A&M University and Clark Atlanta University, chairman of the boards of the Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority and the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame Foundation

**INSPIRING PERSON** My father, Thomas W. Dortch Sr.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Defeating one of the deadliest cancers documented

**HIDDEN TALENT** I blend wines.

**WHAT I'D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** True leaders don't seek followers, they inspire them.



## Curley Dossman Jr.

President  
**Georgia-Pacific  
Foundation**

The president of the Georgia-Pacific Foundation since 1994, Curley Dossman Jr. leads the organization's charitable-giving program, which focuses on four areas: education, environment, enrichment, and entrepreneurship. He also oversees Georgia-Pacific's community-affairs efforts, including national disaster relief. Previously, Dossman spent a decade as the state vice president of government affairs for AT&T.

**EDUCATION** Morehouse College, Washington University School of Law (JD)

**HOMETOWN** Ville Platte, Louisiana

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Supported Georgia-Pacific's leadership role in securing funding for the restoration of Ebenezer Baptist Church, past board chair of 100 Black Men of America

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I have a law degree.

**HOBBIES** Travel, golf

**FAVORITE BOOK** *The Firm* by John Grisham



## George A. Dusenbury IV

State Director, Georgia  
and Alabama  
**The Trust for Public Land**

As Georgia state director for the Trust for Public Land, George Dusenbury oversees the organization's work on urban parks, green infrastructure, and the Chattahoochee River. TPL is partnering with the City of Atlanta to build the 16-acre Rodney Cook Sr. Park in Vine City, and working with the Atlanta Regional Commission, Cobb County, and the City of Atlanta to create a master plan for a 100-mile stretch of the Chattahoochee River from Buford Dam to Chattahoochee Bend State Park. In November, Dusenbury was elected to Decatur's City Commission.

**EDUCATION** Cornell University, Emory University School of Law (JD)

**PREVIOUS POSITIONS** Commissioner of the Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation, executive director of Park Pride, legislative director and district director for Congressman John Lewis

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Get in the way.

**INSPIRING PERSON** Congressman John Lewis

**HIDDEN TALENT** Freestyle rapping for my family (though only my wife seems to enjoy it).



## David Eidson

President and CEO  
**Coxe Curry & Associates**

David Eidson is president and CEO of Coxe Curry & Associates, a fundraising consulting firm that works with major local institutions including the Bobby Jones Golf Course Foundation, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Grady Health Foundation, Trees Atlanta, and the YMCA of Metro Atlanta. He joined the organization in 2012 after 27 years in the financial sector. Previously, Eidson was chairman and CEO of the SunTrust subsidiary RidgeWorth Capital Management, where he worked with non-profit boards and finance committees to oversee the management of their organizations' investable assets.

**EDUCATION** Auburn University

**HOMETOWN** Birmingham, Alabama

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** The first 27 years of my professional career I worked in various parts of the SunTrust organization, and I was introduced very early in my career to the non-profit community. SunTrust encouraged me to be involved in leadership roles—on various boards and on committees of nonprofits. That exposure to those organizations created a desire to be more involved, and I decided I wanted to turn my avocation for the non-profit world into my vocation.



## Frank Fernandez

CEO  
**Community Foundation  
for Greater Atlanta**

Frank Fernandez joined the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta in 2020. Formerly with the Blank Foundation, he led the Westside Neighborhood Prosperity Fund, a program designed to contribute to the revitalization of Vine City, English Avenue, Castleberry Hill, and adjacent neighborhoods. He also supported the foundation's efforts in global giving, health access, and community development. An expert on housing, transportation, and economic development, Fernandez served for eight years as executive director of Green Doors, a non-profit group devoted to transforming lives and neighborhoods for people in need in the Austin metro area. He has worked extensively to help create housing solutions across the income spectrum.

**EDUCATION** Harvard University, University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs (MPA)

**FIRST JOB** Landscaper for my high school to pay for tuition

**HOBBIES** Reading, watching sports, hiking

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** La Sagrada Familia in Barcelona



## Nancy A. Flake Johnson

President and CEO  
**Urban League of  
Greater Atlanta**

Nancy Flake Johnson returned to Atlanta from Detroit in 2008 to become president and CEO of the Urban League of Greater Atlanta and engage her passion for promoting economic development and equity by empowering African-American youth, adults, and families. By building partnerships, Johnson increased the League's impact on housing, education, business development, and employment in underrepresented communities. She started her career as an accountant and was the first woman to lead the Howard University Small Business Development Center.

**EDUCATION** Howard University, DePaul University (MS)

**HOMETOWN** Detroit, Michigan

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** *Atlanta Business Chronicle* Women Who Mean Business (2020)

**INSPIRING PERSON** Congressman John Lewis for his courage, unwavering strength, and commitment to breaking down systems of oppression and institutional racism, fighting for justice and voting rights, and making life better for Black people in this country, and for his unbiased love for all people



## Lisa Y. Gordon

President and CEO  
**Atlanta Habitat  
for Humanity**

Shortly after joining Atlanta Habitat for Humanity in July 2015, Lisa Gordon set a new course for the non-profit homebuilder to become a catalyst for holistic neighborhood revitalization. Atlanta Habitat is focused on increasing homeownership, investing in targeted neighborhoods, and building capacity to preserve quality affordable housing options in Atlanta. Previously, Gordon was vice president and chief operating officer of the Atlanta BeltLine and a cabinet member in the administration of former Atlanta mayor Shirley Franklin.

**EDUCATION** Georgetown University, Syracuse University (MPA), Nova Southeastern University (MAcc)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** YWCA of Greater Atlanta Academy of Women Achievers (2017), National Academy of Public Administration fellow (2016)

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** From Mayor Shirley Franklin: "Self-preservation is the first rule. If you don't save yourself, you cannot help others."

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I self-published a book on marriage and relationships.



## F. Sheffield Hale

President and CEO  
Atlanta History Center

F. Sheffield Hale became president and CEO of the Atlanta History Center in 2012. Previously, he was chief counsel of the American Cancer Society and a partner at Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton, where he practiced corporate law. An Atlanta native, Hale is a trustee of the Partners for Sacred Places, the Buckhead Coalition, and the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau, and trustee emeritus of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He is past chair of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, the Atlanta History Center, and the Judicial Nominating Commission of Georgia.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia, University of Virginia School of Law (JD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Buckhead Business Association Sam Massell Bullish on Buckhead Award (2015), Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation Mary Gregory Jewett Award for Lifetime Preservation Service (2014), State Bar of Georgia Justice Robert Benham Award for Community Service (2001)

**FIRST JOB** Clerk at Brookwood Hardware

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** It's the last 5 percent that counts.



## Michael Halicki

Executive Director  
Park Pride

Since 2013, Michael Halicki has served as the executive director of Park Pride, the Atlanta-based nonprofit that engages communities to activate the power of parks. Under his leadership, Park Pride works with government, philanthropic partners, and more than 150 Friends of the Park groups toward a vision of an Atlanta strengthened by and united through great parks, trails, and green spaces. His guidance in fundraising, public relations, advocacy, and program development has earned Park Pride national recognition, as well as four-star designation by Charity Navigator and GuideStar's Platinum Seal of Transparency for several years running.

**EDUCATION** Indiana University, Georgia State University (MPA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Graduate of the Institute for Georgia Environmental Leadership (2013) and the Atlanta Regional Commission's Regional Leadership Institute (2009)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I care deeply for our city and the role parks can play in strengthening neighborhoods and communities. Neighborhoods without parks aren't neighborhoods—they are just housing.

**FIRST JOB** Newspaper delivery boy



## Paul Russell Hardin

President  
Robert W. Woodruff Foundation

Russ Hardin directs a broad range of charitable giving as president of the Robert W. Woodruff Foundation, Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation, Lettie Pate Evans Foundation, and Lettie Pate Whitehead Foundation. With combined assets of more than \$13.08 billion at the end of 2019, the foundations primarily support organizations in metro Atlanta. They were created by Robert W. Woodruff, a philanthropist and former president of the Coca-Cola Co., and the family of Joseph B. Whitehead, one of the original Coca-Cola bottlers.

**EDUCATION** University of Virginia, Duke University School of Law (JD)

**BOARD MEMBERSHIPS** Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co., Genuine Parts Co., SunTrust Bank Atlanta Advisory Council, Commerce Club

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Opportunity for impact

**FIRST JOB** Newspaper delivery boy

**WHAT I'D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Work at something you love.

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Truist Park



## Jennifer Hiding-Kendrick

Co-founder,  
Senior Director  
Community Engagement  
Giving Kitchen

Jen Hiding-Kendrick, along with her late husband, Ryan Hiding, is a co-founder of Giving Kitchen, a nonprofit that offers emergency assistance to food service workers. She advises on brand awareness and community involvement. As spokesperson, she has received the Community Hero Award from the Atlanta Braves and Fox Sports South, and has been featured on the covers of *Entrepreneur* and *Atlanta* magazine. As co-founder of the acclaimed Staplehouse Restaurant, she was a key member of the team that earned *Bon Appétit* magazine's Best New Restaurant in America in 2016 and a nomination as Best New Restaurant by the James Beard Foundation. Joining GK full-time in 2019, she was proud to share the stage with colleagues in receiving the James Beard Foundation's 2019 Humanitarian of the Year award.

**EDUCATION** Indiana University

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** The death of my husband when I was just 31

**HOBBIES** Turning my house into a haunted house for Halloween and hanging with my rad husband and young son

**BUCKET LIST** A trip back to Australia sometime in adulthood. I studied abroad while in college and have always wanted to return.



## Clyde A. Higgs

President and CEO  
Atlanta BeltLine

As president and CEO of the Atlanta BeltLine since 2019, Clyde A. Higgs leads the executive team in overseeing the design and construction of transit, trails, and parks, plus affordable housing, economic development, real estate, external affairs, and procurement. Higgs joined the BeltLine organization in 2015 as chief operating officer; previously, he served as executive vice president of a collaborative, multibillion-dollar revitalization and economic development effort led by the state of North Carolina and real estate developer Castle & Cooke. He has 20 years' experience in economic development, real estate, intellectual property, technology, strategic planning, design, real estate development, grant and donor funding, government relations, and urban innovation.

**EDUCATION** University of South Alabama, East Carolina University (MPA)

**FIRST JOB** Shrimp boat laborer

**HIDDEN TALENT** Ping-pong champion!

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Appointed by Texas Governor Rick Perry to the Texas Emerging Technology Venture Fund for early-stage companies working on innovations in the fields of biotechnology, healthcare, energy, and information technology.



## Raphael Holloway

CEO  
Gateway Center

Raphael Holloway is CEO of the Gateway Center, which provides services and stable housing for people experiencing homelessness. Holloway has more than 25 years of experience in the social services arena, specializing in the behavioral health, correction, homelessness, and public health sectors. Before joining the Gateway Center in 2016, he was chief operations officer for Families First and, prior to that, director of the HIV unit of the Georgia Department of Public Health. He serves on the advisory council for Agape Youth and Family Center and on the board of the Georgia Supportive Housing Association, and is a member of Leadership Atlanta's class of 2020.

**EDUCATION** Bowling Green State University (MA)

**HOMETOWN** Toledo, Ohio

**INSPIRING PERSON** Muhammad Ali

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Being temporarily homeless at 15

**FAVORITE BOOK** *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe

**FAVORITE SONG ABOUT GEORGIA** "Georgia on My Mind" by Ray Charles

**BUCKET LIST** Skydiving



## Kwame Johnson

President/CEO  
Big Brothers Big Sisters  
Metro Atlanta

Kwame Johnson is president and CEO of Big Brothers Big Sisters Metro Atlanta, overseeing the largest and most effective youth mentoring agency in Georgia. Prior to his current position, Johnson served as executive director of the Greater Atlanta Region for PowerMyLearning, where he increased the organization's revenue by 65 percent and program reach by 115 percent within three years. Johnson has received national recognition for his work to include the Social Entrepreneur Program of the Year Award from the Manhattan Institute. The Syracuse, New York, native recently received the *Atlanta Business Chronicle* 2020 Most Admired CEO Award and the Atlanta Business League 2020 Men of Influence Award. He is a recent graduate of Leadership Atlanta.

**EDUCATION** University of Maryland; NYU, Babson, and Harvard University (Executive Education Certificates in Nonprofit Strategy and Fundraising)

**FIRST JOB** Snow shoveler in Syracuse

**SOMETHING FEW KNOW ABOUT YOU** I can jump over 50 inches in the air.



## Cheneé Joseph

Executive Director  
Historic District  
Development  
Corporation

Cheneé Joseph is the executive director of the Historic District Development Corporation, Atlanta's oldest surviving community development corporation, which has spearheaded nearly four decades of urban revitalization work in Sweet Auburn. Previously, Joseph served as a project consultant at Draper & Associates, where she managed budgets and schedules for various capital improvement and demolition projects totaling \$17 million in the Atlanta Housing Authority portfolio. She was also AHA's senior manager of neighborhood revitalization, planning and implementing neighborhood stabilization and development projects to meet the goals and strategies outlined in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Choice Neighborhoods program for Ashview Heights, Vine City, and the Atlanta University Center. Joseph is chair of the Atlanta BeltLine Affordable Housing Advisory Board.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University, Georgia Tech (MA)

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Havana, Cuba

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PODCAST** *Archive Atlanta*



## Jay Kaiman

President  
The Marcus Foundation

As president of the Marcus Foundation, Jay Kaiman's role is to facilitate the philanthropic vision of Bernie Marcus, cofounder of the Home Depot. The foundation focuses its giving on children, medical research, free enterprise, Israel, and Jewish causes. Kaiman joined the foundation in 2002. He moved to Atlanta in 1996 to become Southeast director of the Anti-Defamation League.

**EDUCATION** University of Florida

**HOMETOWN** Pensacola, Florida

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Anti-Defamation League Milton A. Senn Award for Professional Excellence (1999)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Inspired by the opportunity to have impact on making a difference in people's lives, fulfilling the entrepreneurial agenda set forth by Bernie Marcus. Serving in this capacity is an honor and true adventure—approaching problems with creative ideas and solutions.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I collect hourglasses. Time is our most precious treasure.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Life balance



## Dena Kimball

Executive Director  
The Kendeda Fund

As executive director of the Kendeda Fund, Dena Kimball leads a philanthropic organization that seeks to empower communities to solve their problems, particularly by supporting underrepresented voices and leaders willing to challenge conventional thinking. She also oversees the fund's Girls' Rights program, which aims to empower girls worldwide. Kimball previously served as vice president of network support for Teach for All and vice president of alumni affairs and deputy vice president of admissions for Teach for America.

**EDUCATION** Emory University, Harvard University Kennedy School of Government (MPP)



## Bernice A. King

CEO  
Martin Luther King Jr.  
Center for Nonviolent  
Social Change

A global thought leader, orator, and peace advocate, Bernice A. King advances her parents' legacy as CEO of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. Since taking the helm in 2012, she's guided an expansion of the center's Nonviolence365 education and training initiative, engaged young people around the country in interactive virtual talks, launched a series of Beloved Community conversations on difficult racial issues, and updated the King Center campus. In 2020, the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation gave King its Phoenix Award, which recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to society.

**EDUCATION** Spelman College, Emory University (MDiv, JD)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Spoke in her mother's stead at the United Nations at age 17, spearheaded the global event Let Freedom Ring and Call to Action to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, authored *Hard Questions, Heart Answers*

**FIRST JOB** Summer camp counselor

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Don't make a decision in anger.



## Raymond B. King

President and CEO  
Zoo Atlanta

In 2010, Raymond King became president and CEO of Zoo Atlanta, the city's oldest cultural institution and one of its largest. During his tenure, King has grown attendance from 675,000 to 1 million annually, and led the institution in raising more than \$63 million in philanthropic support to modernize the facilities—more than was raised cumulatively in the past 25 years. King previously spent 22 years with SunTrust Banks, most recently as senior vice president for community affairs in Atlanta, and has chaired and served on numerous boards.

**EDUCATION** Georgia Tech

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** United Way Chairman's Award (2009), Woodruff Arts Center Charles R. Yates Award for Outstanding Service (2003)



## Lauren Koontz

President and CEO  
YMCA of Metro Atlanta

The first woman president and CEO in the history of the YMCA of Metro Atlanta, Lauren Koontz leads the organization's efforts to ensure that all people—especially children—experience an equal opportunity to fully reach their potential. She works to make the YMCA a best-in-class provider of education, wellness, and youth development programs designed to strengthen Atlanta communities. Koontz joined the organization in 2012 as its chief development officer and became executive vice president in 2016. Previously, she served in leadership roles at Coxie Curry & Associates, Emory University School of Medicine, Mount Vernon Presbyterian School, and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia, Georgia State University Robinson College of Business (MBA)

**HOMETOWN** Saint Simons Island, Georgia

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** 2016 recipient of the YMCA's highest honor: the "Sully" Award, named for Thomas Sullivan, YMCA's founder in the U.S. Koontz was one of *Atlanta* magazine's Women Making a Mark in 2020.



## Gaurav Kumar

President  
Andrew J. Young  
Foundation

Gaurav Kumar is president of the Andrew J. Young Foundation. After taking over in April 2020, he organized Covid-19 aid to Liberia; and, this year, he played a critical role in sending oxygen concentrators to India during the second wave of Covid in that country. Prior to that, Kumar worked with Ambassador Andrew Young at his foundation on world-changing innovations in the role of director/social innovations. A native of India, Kumar previously worked at the National Monuments Foundation, where he developed the initial plan of the \$45 million Rodney Cook Park in Vine City, which opened in July 2021. He also oversaw the construction and placement of the statue of U.S. Rep. John Lewis in the park.

**EDUCATION** Birla Institute of Technology and IRIMEE, Jamalpur, India; Georgia State University (MS); IGNOU, India (MA)

**FIRST JOB** Engineer at Indian Railroads

**HIDDEN TALENT** I'm a very good singer and play guitar!

**BUCKET LIST** To write a book



## Terence Lester

Founder and Executive  
Director  
Love Beyond Walls

Terence Lester is a minister, speaker, community activist, and the founder of Love Beyond Walls, a nonprofit focused on poverty awareness and community mobilization; among other things, the organization offers temporary shelter to people experiencing homelessness, a grocery program that supports hundreds of families, and clothes, laundry, handwashing, and grooming services to people in need. A native of Atlanta, Lester has been featured in *USA Today* and on *Good Morning America*, and he's the author of a number of books, including *I See You: How Love Opens Our Eyes to Invisible People*.

**EDUCATION** American InterContinental University, Atlanta Bible College, Liberty University (MA, EdM)

**FIRST JOB** A shoe store in Greenbriar Mall

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Never be a public success and a private failure.

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *Coming to America*

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PODCAST** *The Diversity Gap*

**BUCKET LIST** Have a film made about my life!

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Michael B. Jordan



## Milton James Little Jr.

President  
United Way of  
Greater Atlanta

Milton J. Little Jr. became the first African-American president of United Way of Greater Atlanta in 2007. In the role, he's helped raise more than half a billion dollars for local community needs and redirected the organization's focus to increasing the well-being of the region's children. Before joining United Way of Greater Atlanta, the largest United Way in the United States, Little served as chief operating officer and interim president of the National Urban League. He serves on many boards and advisory groups, including the Southern Education Foundation and the J.W. Fanning Institute at the University of Georgia.

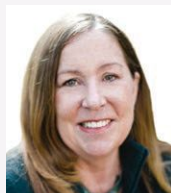
**EDUCATION** Morehouse College, Columbia University (MA)

**HOMETOWN** Roosevelt, New York

**FIRST JOB** Busboy at Jones Beach State Park, Long Island, New York

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** To live a life of service in honor of my parents, who taught me the value of making a difference in the lives of others.

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I've studied Eagle Claw kung fu and the Israeli fighting style Krav Maga for many years, and I meditate.



## Mary Pat Matheson

President and CEO  
Atlanta Botanical Garden

Its leader since 2002, Mary Pat Matheson has built the membership of the Atlanta Botanical Garden to more than 40,000. She spearheaded a \$55 million capital campaign, completed in 2012, that doubled the garden to 30 acres and added a visitor center, parking facility, canopy walk, and edible garden. A more recent \$50 million campaign provided other enhancements, including a new restaurant and renovated children's garden. Matheson was also responsible for the development of a 185-acre satellite garden in Gainesville.

**EDUCATION** University of Utah (EMPA)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** The job really chose me when a colleague of my husband's called one day to say there was a position for a horticulturist at a new botanical garden. I got the job and was hooked forever.

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** American Horticultural Society Professional of the Year (2005), Public Broadcasting Atlanta Lexus Leader of the Arts. Past president of the American Public Gardens Association. Responsible for introducing Atlanta to the work of internationally acclaimed artists such as Dale Chihuly, Henry Moore, and Niki de Saint Phalle through garden exhibitions.



## Ciarra McEachin

State Executive Director  
Susan G. Komen Breast  
Cancer Foundation

Ciarra McEachin is the state executive director for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation in Georgia. In this role, she oversees community and development initiatives throughout the Peach State in support of the breast cancer community. The Salisbury, Maryland, native is a career fundraiser who has worked for other notable organizations, including her alma mater Hampton University, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and UNCF. McEachin is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., the Atlanta Business League, and the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

**EDUCATION** Hampton University

**NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS** Established the Annual Fund at Hampton University, raising over \$1 million in just five years; Secured the largest one-time gift to Georgia Piedmont Technical College; Secured Susan G. Komen's first national corporate partnership with a multimillion-dollar Black-owned beauty brand.

**FIRST JOB** Chick-fil-A

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Antigua



### Carol R. Naughton

President  
**Purpose Built Communities**

Carol Naughton is president of Purpose Built Communities, a nonprofit dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty in urban neighborhoods nationwide. She previously served as executive director of the East Lake Foundation and general counsel for the Atlanta Housing Authority, where she played an instrumental role in revitalizing traditional public housing communities into economically viable, self-sustaining, mixed-income communities. Naughton was a key member of the leadership team that transformed AHA into a national leader in community development.

**EDUCATION** Colgate University, Emory University School of Law (JD)

**FIRST JOB** Camp counselor at Tawasentha Park in New York

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** When someone offers to help, let them.

**FAVORITE BOOK** *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee

**BUCKET LIST** Alaska



### Rev. Louis Enrique Negrón, Sr.

Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer  
**100 Black Man of Atlanta Inc.**

Louis Negrón was named executive director and chief operating officer of the 100 Black Men of Atlanta in February. Born and raised in Oakland, California, Negrón gained his first nonprofit experience as an intern with the Children's Defense Fund. After a decade-long stint in higher education, he returned to the nonprofit world, where he worked with agencies such as Year Up, United Way of Atlanta, United Way of Transylvania County, Operation HOPE, and Supportive Housing Communities.

**EDUCATION** Morehouse College, Central Michigan University (MA), Mercer University at the McAfee School of Theology (MA)

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** In 2016, I had a stroke. I also went through a divorce. Those two experiences lead to my spiritual awakening.

**WHAT YOU'D TELL YOUR 18-YEAR-OLD SELF** Value your time and respect yourself. Don't worry about what others think. Follow your heart.



### Michelle Nunn

President and CEO  
**CARE USA**

Michelle Nunn joined CARE USA as president and CEO in 2015, introducing an ambitious strategy to reach 200 million people by 2020. Nunn has devoted her career to public service, cofounding the volunteer-mobilization organization Hands On Atlanta, growing it into a national network, and overseeing its merger with the Points of Light Foundation. She served as CEO of the resultant organization, Points of Light—the world's largest dedicated to volunteer service—from 2007 to 2013.

**EDUCATION** University of Virginia, Harvard University (MPA)

**FIRST JOB** Park ranger. I operated the elevator of the Washington Monument one summer.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Entering into the political arena in my run for U.S. Senate in 2014 was the hardest thing I have ever done. And it was awfully tough to lose. Fortunately, I had family and friends to lift me up and put things in perspective.

**HIDDEN TALENT** I am still pretty good at basketball and can sometimes beat my teenager in H-O-R-S-E!



### Keith T. Parker

President and CEO  
**Goodwill of North Georgia**

Keith T. Parker is president and CEO of Goodwill of North Georgia, one of the largest non-profit organizations in the Southeast. It spans a 45-county territory, 67 stores, 53 attended donation centers, and 13 career centers. Goodwill employs over 3,000 team members, each of whom plays a direct or supporting role in the organization's donated goods retail operations and its career services. Store revenue enables Goodwill to connect tens of thousands of North Georgians to jobs every year. Before joining Goodwill in 2017, Parker served as CEO of transit systems in several cities, including San Antonio, Charlotte, and, most recently, Atlanta.

**EDUCATION** Virginia Commonwealth University (MURP), University of Richmond (MBA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Member of the Department of Homeland Security's National Infrastructure Advisory Council since 2016, American Public Transportation Association Outstanding Public Transportation Manager (2015), Texas CEO of the Year (2011 and 2012)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I love the purity of Goodwill's mission to put people to work. Nothing changes a person's life more than finding sustainable employment.



### Gigi Pedraza

Founder and Executive Director  
**Latino Community Fund**

Gigi Pedraza is the founding executive director of the Latino Community Fund in Georgia, a grantmaking public charity dedicated to catalyzing investment and promoting collaborative work in the Latinx/Hispanic community. LCF Georgia amplifies the diverse voices within the community through advocacy, research, and leadership development, builds capacity in community-based organizations, and directly invests in families and Latinx-led member organizations through scholarships and grants. Playing an active role in Georgia's Latinx community, Pedraza is a social entrepreneur and experienced professional in the areas of general management, strategy, operations, marketing, and development.

**EDUCATION** College of Tourism and Hospitality, University of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (MA)

**HOMETOWN** Lima, Peru

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Georgia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Hall of Fame (2020), National Football League Hispanic Heritage Leadership Award (2018)

**FIRST JOB** I made clay figurines with my mom to make money in Peru when I was 12-14 years old.



### Jennifer Pipa

CEO, Georgia Region  
**American Red Cross**

As CEO of the American Red Cross in Georgia, Jennifer Pipa oversees the execution of the humanitarian organization's mission across the state. In fiscal year 2019, under Pipa's leadership, the Georgia Red Cross helped 14,000 people following home fires and other disasters, installed more than 11,000 free smoke alarms, and collected more than 200,000 units of blood. Pipa began her Red Cross career in 2004 as a volunteer; she became a paid staffer shortly after leading a service center that aided Hurricane Katrina evacuees in Raleigh, North Carolina. Before coming to Georgia in 2019, Pipa was regional executive of the Red Cross of Central Florida.

**EDUCATION** North Carolina State University  
**HOMETOWN** Raleigh, North Carolina

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Raising an incredibly smart and kind daughter, Madison. Testifying before the Senate Commerce Committee in 2018.

**FIRST JOB** Waitress at Outback Steakhouse

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Supporting a Red Cross shelter with no water, no power, and no communications



## Jonathan T.M. Reckford

CEO  
Habitat for Humanity  
International

Under the leadership of CEO Jonathan T.M. Reckford, Habitat for Humanity International has greatly expanded its impact, serving 125,000 individuals annually when he arrived in 2005 and more than 7 million in 2019. Before coming to Habitat, Reckford was executive pastor at Christ Presbyterian Church near Minneapolis. He spent much of his earlier career in executive and managerial positions at for-profit companies including Goldman Sachs, Marriott, Walt Disney, and Best Buy.

**EDUCATION** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Stanford Graduate School of Business (MBA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Member of the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the World Economic Forum's Urban Steering Committee; author of the book *Creating a Habitat for Humanity: No Hands but Yours*

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I believe that a safe, decent, affordable home is the foundation for a better life for a family.

**FIRST JOB** Delivering the Chapel Hill newspaper beginning in fifth grade



## James H. Reese

President and CEO  
Atlanta Mission

Atlanta Mission president and CEO James Reese considers it a privilege to see lives altered every day, and witness people coming off the streets, asking for help, and finding their way out of homelessness and into a new life. Prior to Atlanta Mission, he was CEO of Randstad North America, chief operating officer of the Honey Baked Ham Co. and CCCi, and division vice president of Frito-Lay. He also managed General Foods' Maxwell House Coffee plant and cofounded First Coast Manufacturing Association, which today includes more than 300 Florida manufacturers. Reese is a board member of the Chick-fil-A Foundation and D&W Fine Pack, and past chair of Citygate Network.

**EDUCATION** Western Michigan University

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Rebranding of 70-year-old organization to Atlanta Mission, capital expansion at Atlanta Mission's facility (Potter's House), acquisition of Atlanta Day Shelter for Women and Children, execution of a new client-focused services model

**FIRST JOB** Collection agency



## Eric M. Robbins

President and CEO  
Jewish Federation of  
Greater Atlanta

Eric Robbins came to the Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta in 2016 with a vision to increase its relevance in the community and share its inspirational story. For the previous 12 years he led Camp Twin Lakes, a network of camps for children with serious illnesses and other life challenges. Since joining the federation, Robbins's transformational mindset has enabled the organization to articulate a modern vision of its role, which has led to a growth in overall philanthropic giving, new program and partnership opportunities, and a renewed spirit of collective community among the organizations that serve Jewish Atlanta.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University, Yeshiva University (MSW)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Georgia State University Alumni of the Year (2017), *Atlanta Business Chronicle* Who's Who in Nonprofits (2014, 2015, 2016), Leadership Atlanta class of 2009

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Cancer

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I was in a Subaru commercial.



## Carol Sargent Collard

Founder, CEO  
CaringWorks Inc.

Carol Collard became a passionate participant in the fight to reduce homelessness while working for Progressive Redevelopment Inc. In 1998, Collard returned to school to study social work and ultimately earned a PhD in the field. The New Orleans native has worked for more than 20 years in supportive housing and in grappling with the complex issues that can result in homelessness. Her combined expertise has given her the ability to operate a non-profit agency with a caring heart and a mind for business. At CaringWorks, which she co-founded, she oversees a 90-plus member team that operates supportive housing and behavioral health programs across metro Atlanta. She is a licensed master social worker and is also an associate professor of social work at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw.

**EDUCATION** Loyola University, New Orleans; University of Georgia (MSW, PhD)

**HOBBIES** Travel, reading, discovering new restaurants



## Jill Savitt

President and CEO  
National Center for Civil  
and Human Rights

In January 2019, Jill Savitt was named CEO of the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. A longtime human rights advocate with special expertise in genocide prevention, she was formerly acting director of the Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. She also curated the exhibit on global human rights at the CCHR, while consulting with other organizations such as Human Rights Watch, Human Rights First, Freedom House, and Physicians for Human Rights. In 2007, Savitt founded and directed Dream for Darfur, which successfully pressed the Chinese government to change its policies on Sudan in the lead-up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

**FIRST JOB** Radio reporter

**INSPIRING PERSON** Eleanor Roosevelt

**LESSON LEARNED** Change is the only constant.



## Lain Shakespeare

Corporate Citizenship  
Director  
Mailchimp

As Mailchimp's director of corporate citizenship, Lain Shakespeare leads a program that now invests \$2 million a year in the Atlanta community. Another of Shakespeare's initiatives, Mailchimp Community College, is a partnership with the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta that connects employees with civic leaders with the aim of fostering greater equity. A native of Decatur, Shakespeare was formerly executive director of the Wren's Nest, dedicated to the legacy of his great-great-great-grandfather, the folklorist Joel Chandler Harris.

**EDUCATION** Kenyon College

**FIRST JOB** Summer-league swim coach at Cherokee Town Club

**FAVORITE BOOK** *Absalom, Absalom!* by William Faulkner

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Taking Amtrak to New Orleans

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Robert Redford 40 years ago, or present-day Tilda Swinton



### C.J. Stewart

Cofounder and CEO  
**LEAD, LEAD Center  
for Youth**

A former Chicago Cubs outfielder, C.J. Stewart founded the non-profit organization LEAD—which stands for Launch, Expose, Advise, Direct—with his wife, Kelli, to empower an at-risk generation to lead and transform their city. For young men who have completed LEAD's Ambassador program, 100 percent have graduated from high school and 93 percent have enrolled in college. As founder and CEO of the player development firm Diamond Directors, Stewart has worked with clients including Jason Heyward (Chicago Cubs), Andruw Jones (former Atlanta Brave), and Kyle Lewis (Seattle Mariners).

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** Baseball can provide valuable life lessons and access to educational and civic engagement opportunities. My wife, Kelli, and I committed our lives in 2007 to using baseball as a vehicle to help Black boys in the inner city of Atlanta overcome three curveballs that threaten their success: crime, poverty, and racism.

**FIRST JOB** Cutting grass in my neighborhood in Northwest Atlanta

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Greatness can't be imposed. It has to come from within. But it does live within all of us.



### Kelli Stewart

Cofounder and Chief  
Operating Officer  
**LEAD, LEAD Center  
for Youth**

Kelli Stewart is the chief operating officer of the non-profit organization LEAD, which she cofounded with her husband, C.J. Standing for Launch, Expose, Advise, Direct, LEAD aims to create positive outcomes for at-risk youth through a combination of athletics, education, and service. Born in Atlanta and raised in rural Oglethorpe County, Stewart also oversees the baseball player development firm Diamond Directors with her husband. LEAD provides inner-city boys with the same opportunities to excel in life through baseball as the Stewarts' clients receive through Diamond Directors.

**EDUCATION** Kennesaw State University Coles College of Business

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I had to navigate a lot of trauma as a child. Living with addiction in my household, surviving abuse, etc., got me acquainted with oppressive systems at an early age. Although I didn't understand what they were at the time, as I've grown in knowledge I understand more about systemic racism and how it keeps Black communities in despair and disarray. I've always wanted to be a part of dismantling it.



### Steve Stirling

President and CEO  
**MAP International**

As president and CEO of MAP International since 2014, Steve Stirling helps provide life-saving medicine to 14 million people around the world each year. His passion is personal: As an infant in South Korea, he contracted polio, which could have been prevented by a vaccine. He previously worked for pharmaceutical firms including Johnson & Johnson and American Home Products, and for nonprofits World Vision, Heifer International, and ChildFund International. Stirling's autobiography, *The Crutch of Success: From Polio to Purpose, Bringing Health & Hope to the World*, was published in 2019.

**EDUCATION** Cornell University, Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management (MBA)

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I transitioned from the corporate world to nonprofits in order to be a voice for voiceless children.

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** All things are possible.

**TOUGHEST CHALLENGE** Overcoming obstacles related to having polio

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I took a dog-mushing class at the University of Alaska.



### Tené Traylor

Fund Adviser  
**The Kendeda Fund**

As a fund adviser at the Kendeda Fund, Tené Traylor oversees the organization's Atlanta portfolio, leading major investments that drive equitable access to high-quality K-12 education and economic justice, with an emphasis on long-term affordability, community wealth building, and accessible quality transit. She also manages a national portfolio dedicated to restoring and reclaiming dignity for formerly incarcerated people. Before joining Kendeda in 2016, Taylor was a senior program officer for the Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, leading its community development and neighborhood transformation grantmaking for nearly a decade. She's the cofounder and current board chair of the Atlanta Wealth Building Initiative.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University, University of Georgia (MPA)

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** My mother reminds me often to rest. She says, "Rest your body before your body rests you."

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I am a Marvel and DC Comics fan.

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *Imitation of Life*



### Laura Turner Seydel

Chairperson  
**Captain Planet  
Foundation**

Laura Turner Seydel, an environmental advocate and eco-living expert, is chairperson of the Captain Planet Foundation, which seeks to inspire and empower generations of environmentally aware children. She cofounded and is board chair of Mothers and Others for Clean Air and cofounded Chattahoochee Riverkeeper. Turner Seydel serves on the boards of the Turner Foundation, United Nations Foundation, Nuclear Threat Initiative, Waterkeeper Alliance, League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, and Children & Nature Network.

**EDUCATION** Oglethorpe University

**HOMETOWN** Atlanta, Georgia

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** I believe it is our moral responsibility to protect the natural systems that support all life—our water, air, biodiversity, and land. We must create a sustainable and healthy future for our children and future generations.

**HOBBIES** Horseback riding, travel

**FAVORITE BOOKS** *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*, edited by Paul Hawken, and *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder* by Richard Louv



### Fay Twersky

President and Director  
**Arthur M. Blank Family  
Foundation**

As president and director of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, Fay Twersky also serves on the executive leadership team of the Blank Family of Businesses—the full portfolio of socially minded enterprises, including the Atlanta Falcons, Atlanta United, PGA TOUR Superstore, Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Mountain Sky Guest Ranch, Paradise Valley Ranch, and West Creek Ranch. The Philadelphia native joined the Blank Family Foundation from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation in Menlo Park, California, where she served as vice president. She created, launched, and led Hewlett's Effective Philanthropy Group, an internal team dedicated to organizational effectiveness and responsible for guiding strategy, evaluation, and organizational learning.

**EDUCATION** University of California-Berkeley, MIT (MA)

**HOBBIES** Swimming, Cycling

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Jerusalem

**BUCKET LIST** Cycling with friends through the south of France



## Jason Ulseth

Riverkeeper  
**Chattahoochee Riverkeeper**

A Georgia native who grew up fishing and boating on the Chattahoochee River, Jason Ulseth developed an early love for the waterway and the natural environment. In 2015, he took on the role of riverkeeper for the Chattahoochee Riverkeeper organization, serving as spokesperson and lead advocate for river protection. Previously he was CRK's technical programs director. Ulseth also serves as the group's patrol boat captain and is licensed as a merchant marine officer by the U.S. Coast Guard.

**EDUCATION** University of Georgia

**HIDDEN TALENT** I can juggle swords.

**WHAT I'D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Public speaking is not as hard as you think it is.

**FAVORITE ATLANTA PLACE TO VISIT** Chattahoochee River National Recreation Area

**BUCKET LIST** Catching a record brown trout



## DePriest Waddy

CEO  
**Families First**

DePriest Waddy is CEO of Families First, a 130-year-old organization that seeks to build resilience in underserved communities. Under Waddy's leadership, Families First is improving outcomes for more than 17,000 individuals and families annually by providing them with mental health support, coaching, foster care, adoption, early education, parenting skills, and supportive housing. A longtime executive with experience across a range of nonprofits, Waddy joined Families First in 2019 after serving as executive director of the Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity, one of the largest community action agencies in Alabama.

**EDUCATION** University of Alabama, Kennesaw State University (MBA)

**HOMETOWN** Birmingham, Alabama

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS** Leadership Atlanta class of 2021, Leadership Birmingham class of 2019, Leadership Gwinnett class of 2016

**FIRST JOB** Dishwasher in high school

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** Use the good silver and drink Champagne for no reason.

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *The Long Kiss Goodnight*



## Kyle Waide

President & CEO  
**Atlanta Community Food Bank**

Kyle Waide is president and CEO of the Atlanta Community Food Bank, overseeing the distribution of nearly 75 million pounds of food and grocery products each year through a network of 700 local and regional partner non-profit organizations across 29 Georgia counties. Prior to being named CEO, Waide served for three years as vice president of partner operations, leading the organization to record-breaking years of food distribution to the hungry. Prior to joining the food bank, he held several management roles at the Home Depot Inc. He currently serves as chair of the Southeast Regional Cooperative and vice chair of the Georgia Food Bank Association.

**EDUCATION** Harvard University, University of Arizona (MFA)

**NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS** Completed \$57 million capital campaign resulting in the construction of the largest single food bank facility in the world

**FEW PEOPLE KNOW** I attended the MFA / Writers Workshop at the University of Arizona as a short story writer and essayist.



## Religion



## Peter S. Berg

Senior Rabbi  
**The Temple**

Peter Berg became senior rabbi of The Temple, a Reform synagogue in Atlanta, in 2008—the fifth such leader since 1895. An advocate for social change, he is committed to teaching, building community, and addressing the needs of his congregants. Berg is president of the Atlanta Rabbinical Association and serves as a chaplain for the Georgia State Patrol. He serves on numerous boards and works with advocacy groups on issues including civil rights, the death penalty, gun safety, and hate crimes.

**EDUCATION** George Washington University, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (MA and rabbinic ordination)

**HOMETOWN** Ocean Township, New Jersey

**FIRST JOB** Cashier at a thrift store

**HOBBIES** Skiing

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Jerusalem

**WHO'D PLAY ME IN A BIOPIC** Actor and filmmaker Peter Berg



## Olu Brown

Lead Pastor  
**Impact Church**

Olu Brown is lead pastor of Impact Church, launched in 2007. The Lufkin, Texas, native has grown the church from a core founding group of 25 to an average weekly attendance of 1,800. He also led the congregation to purchase and develop a 76,000-square-foot warehouse on a 10-acre site in East Point, where the church moved in 2014. Brown is the author of *4D Impact: Smash Barriers Like a Smart Church* and, with other Impact leaders, *Zero to 80: Innovative Ideas for Planting and Accelerating Church Growth*.

**EDUCATION** Jarvis Christian College, Gammon Theological Seminary (MDiv)

**NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT** In 2016, named as one of the fastest-growing UMC churches in the USA.

**FIRST JOB** Landscaping as a teenager with my brother

**MOST INSPIRING PERSON** Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

**FAVORITE MOVIE** *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington*

**FAVORITE TRAVEL DESTINATION** Africa



## John Foster

Senior Pastor  
**Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church**

A former academic who taught electrical engineering and computer science at institutions including Tuskegee University and Morehouse College, John Foster brought technological advances like live video and audio streaming to Big Bethel AME Church, where he serves as senior pastor. He's also focused on enhancing youth and young-adult ministries. Foster previously served as pastor for AME churches in Georgia, North Carolina, and Texas, and has held administrative positions including vice provost, dean, and department head at various academic institutions.

**EDUCATION** Tuskegee University, Interdenominational Theological Center (MDiv), Stanford University (MS, PhD)

**HOMETOWN** Cincinnati, Ohio



## Louie Giglio

Pastor  
Passion City Church

Louie Giglio is pastor of Passion City Church and the original visionary of the Passion movement, which exists “to call a generation to leverage their lives for the fame of Jesus.” Since 1997, Passion has gathered college-aged young people in events across the U.S. and around the world. Passion 2022 will start the new year in Mercedes-Benz Stadium with more than 60,000 college students. Giglio is the bestselling author of *Not Forsaken*, *Goliath Must Fall*, *Indescribable: 100 Devotions about God & Science*, *The Comeback*, *The Air I Breathe*, and *I Am Not but I Know I Am*.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (MDiv)

**HOMETOWN** Atlanta, Georgia



## Michael R. Griffin

Public Affairs  
Representative  
Georgia Baptist  
Mission Board Public  
Affairs Ministry

In 2014, Mike Griffin became the public affairs representative for the Georgia Baptist Convention, representing 1.4 million Georgia Baptists at the Capitol and speaking on religious issues around the state. In April 2010, an *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* article on “Georgia Influencers” ranked Griffin at 11th among Republicans with the most influence at the Capitol. A Southern Baptist pastor for 35 years, Griffin is also a former president of the board of Ten Commandments Georgia and a past vice president of Georgia Right to Life, where he also served as a lobbyist and state field director. He is the former senior pastor at Liberty Baptist Church in Hartwell.

**EDUCATION** Baptist College of Florida

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** The very unique work of being a pastor and a lobbyist goes back to when God called me to preach when I was 16. I preached my first sermon at Dawson Street Baptist Church in Thomasville, Georgia, in 1977.

**FIRST JOB** Working in sheet metal for the purpose of installing heating and air-conditioning duct work

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** From my father: Never leave a job undone. Always complete your work. Always do your best.



## Richard Kannwischer

Senior Pastor  
Peachtree  
Presbyterian Church

Rev. Richard Kannwischer has served as senior pastor of Peachtree Presbyterian Church since January 2017. Before he arrived at Peachtree, Kannwischer was lead pastor at Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach, California, for seven years. He has served as a trustee of all undergraduate and graduate schools he attended, and currently serves on the board of the Fox Theatre.

**EDUCATION** Trinity University, Princeton Theological Seminary (MDiv), Fuller Theological Seminary (DMin)

**HOMETOWN** Waco, Texas

**WHY I CHOSE THIS WORK** To help reveal the delight and impact of a life with God

**BEST ADVICE RECEIVED** From former professor Dallas Willard: “God’s primary aim is not getting us into heaven as much as getting heaven into us.”



## Andy Stanley

Senior Pastor  
North Point  
Ministries

Andy Stanley cofounded the nondenominational North Point Community Church in Alpharetta in 1995 with a vision of creating churches that “unchurched people love to attend.” It’s now the second-largest church in the nation. North Point Ministries encompasses six churches in the metro Atlanta area and a global network of more than 70 churches. Stanley’s online messages and sermons are accessed over a million times a month, and he’s the author of more than 20 books.

**EDUCATION** Georgia State University, Dallas Theological Seminary (MA)

**NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENT** Named one of the 12 “most effective preachers in the English-speaking world” in a national survey by the George W. Truett Theological Seminary of Baylor University



## Robert C. Wright

Bishop  
Episcopal Diocese  
of Atlanta

Robert C. Wright is the 10th bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, which encompasses 116 worshipping communities in North and Middle Georgia. He has been a vocal opponent of the death penalty and an advocate for Medicaid expansion, and he addressed the Georgia legislature on gun control. Wright helped establish the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing. Before his election as bishop in 2012, he served as rector of Saint Paul’s Episcopal Church in Atlanta.

**EDUCATION** Howard University, Virginia Theological Seminary (MDiv)

**LESSON LEARNED** The best evidence of strength is the combination of perseverance wrapped in genuine kindness.

**HIDDEN TALENT** I am a certified aircraft mechanic with an FAA license.

**HOBBIES** Rebuilding old cars

**FAVORITE BOOK** *The Fire Next Time* by James Baldwin

**WHAT I'D TELL A RECENT GRADUATE** Reach out! Ask questions! Relax and stay positive.

**BUCKET LIST** A trip to Ethiopia



## Michael Youssef

President  
Leading the Way

In 1988, Michael Youssef created Leading the Way ministry “for people living in spiritual darkness to discover the light of Christ.” What began as a small, Atlanta-based radio ministry now transmits across the globe in 25 languages on television as well as the radio. Youssef also founded the evangelical congregation Church of the Apostles in 1987 with fewer than 40 adult members; today it has a congregation of 3,000. He is the author of more than 30 books.

**EDUCATION** Moore Theological College, Fuller Theological Seminary (ThM), Emory University (PhD)



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