



## Leadership L.A. Class of 2009

Leadership L.A.

Leadership Southern California



**Ray Alston**

**Tarzana, CA**

Ray Alston most recently served as a senior marketing manager in the Los Angeles office of Deloitte LLP. Alston has more than 15 years of experience in the financial services and technology industries. Prior to Deloitte, he worked in the institutional equities division at Goldman Sachs, and in sales and marketing at Hewlett Packard. Alston graduated with an M.B.A. from the University of Michigan and a B.S. in industrial engineering from Stanford University.



**Joseph Booth**  
**Managing Director, Corporate Public Affairs**  
**ALL Student Loan**

**Los Angeles, CA**

Joseph Booth manages ALL Student Loan's outreach efforts to high schools, nonprofit organizations, policy makers, and the media. ALL Student Loan is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing resources and programs for students and families so they can succeed in education beyond high school. Booth has extensive experience in the nonprofit sector, having served as manager of public affairs for Student Loan Funding; assistant vice president for KnowledgeWorks Foundation; and executive director of the Scott Community Foundation. A native of Cincinnati, Booth graduated from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University with an M.P.A., and magna cum laude from Xavier University with a B.A. in political science.



**Chris Cahhal**  
**Lieutenant**  
**Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department**

**Chino, CA**

Chris Cahhal has served with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department for 23 years, where he has worked on a variety of assignments in custody division, field operations division and court services. Currently, Lt. Cahhal serves as the director of the Law Enforcement Sharing Program in the department's technical services division, where he manages a variety of programs that implement new technologies and data sharing between law enforcement entities to enhance their performance and effectiveness. Lt. Cahhal is currently working on his B.A. from California State University, Long Beach, and received his A.A. in administration justice from Long Beach City College.



**Rob Carpenter**  
**Executive Director**  
**Building LA's Future**

**Pomona, CA**

Rob Carpenter is a serial business and social entrepreneur, writer, political activist, social commentator, public speaker and nonprofit founder. He has worked in the White House office of political affairs; been a policy advisor to a former U.S. House Speaker; and served as the special assistant to the CEO of Teach For America, where he helped start the Political and School Leadership Initiatives in 25 states. Carpenter has also started multiple national and international organizations including a public affairs, strategy and communications consulting firm and an emerging Web 2.0 e-commerce company. He is currently the executive director of nonprofit Building LA's Future, lauded as the "most exciting thing to happen to L.A. in decades," which helped pass Measure R that is expected to generate transportation revenue in L.A. County. He also contributes to the Los Angeles Business Journal, writing on the intersection of business, economics, politics, culture and society. Carpenter earned his B.A. in public policy and political philosophy from Claremont McKenna College.



**Andy Carrasco**  
**Public Affairs Manager**  
**Southern California Gas Company**

**Northridge, CA**

Andy Carrasco has been with the Southern California Gas Company since 2001, but has been in the energy field for more than 18 years. He is currently the public affairs manager for the Southern California Gas Company serving his district in Los Angeles, which covers the cities of Montebello, Commerce, Vernon, Cudahy, Bell, Maywood, Huntington Park and communities of east Los Angeles. Previously, Carrasco was an account executive for the Gas Company, servicing industrial and commercial customers located in the San Fernando Valley and eastern Ventura County areas. He has also held positions with the Los Angeles Department of Water & Power. Carrasco received a B.D. in mechanical engineering from California State University, Northridge.



**Ryan Dietz**  
**Senior Vice President & Regional Director of Wealth Management**  
**Wachovia Bank, NA**

**Pasadena, CA**

Ryan Dietz is senior vice president and regional director of Wachovia Wealth Management for greater Los Angeles. An L.A. resident of more than 30 years, Dietz has spent his entire professional career here. Dietz also serves as a director of Five Acres, a children's aid organization, and as director and secretary of The Chapman Charitable Foundation, which provides grants to organizations that deliver services to disadvantaged youth throughout California. Dietz lives in Pasadena with his wife, Maggie, and their two children, Abbey and Henry.



**Camilla Eng**  
**Deputy City Attorney, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power**  
**City of Los Angeles**

**Los Angeles, CA**

As renewable energy counsel to the Department of Water & Power, Camilla Eng represents and advises on a range of energy business projects relating to renewable energy generation, purchase and transmission. She previously managed all outside counsel for the City of Los Angeles and its annual budget of over \$30 million. As counsel to the City's Department of Airports, where she practiced real estate and state and federal regulatory law, Eng advised on various issues including the LAX Master Plan. She has been honored as one of the nation's "Best Lawyers Under 40" by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and was awarded a 2008 American Marshall Memorial Fellowship by the German Marshall Fund. Eng serves as president-elect of the Southern California Chinese Lawyers' Association; trustee to the Los Angeles County Bar Association; and president of the Asian Pacific City Attorney Association, in addition to serving on the boards of other community organizations including the California Minority Counsel Program, Chinatown Service Center and the Asian Pacific American Friends of Theater, Center Theater Group. A native San Franciscan, Eng received her B.A., cum laude, from the University of California, Davis and her J.D. from Hastings College of the Law.



**Andrea Gibson**  
**Manager, Los Angeles Community Relations**  
**The Walt Disney Company**

**Burbank, CA**

Andrea N. Gibson has been with The Walt Disney Company for more than 15 years and is currently manager of Los Angeles community relations, where she is responsible for furthering Disney's outreach mission of brightening the lives of children and families in need. By developing and implementing programs and events in the community that focuses on children, Gibson establishes and maintains partnerships with organizations that have a similar philanthropic mission such as Boys & Girls clubs and City Year. Gibson serves on the board for Foothill Family Service and is a graduate of Leadership Burbank and Riordan Volunteer Leadership Development. A native of Los Angeles, Gibson is married to Errick Gibson and is the mother of two children. She received her B.A. from the University of Southern California in sociology with an emphasis in criminology; graduated from Los Angeles Trade-Technical College with a degree in business data processing, and has completed courses in management and organization from USC's School of Business.



**Nicole Gomes**

**Attorney**

**Holme Roberts & Owen LLP**

**Venice, CA**

Nicole D. Gomes hails from a small farm town in the Central Valley. She relocated to Los Angeles to attend the University of Southern California, where she got her B.A. in psychology; then migrated back up north to attend Stanford Law School, where she got her J.D. Gomes currently practices litigation and employment law in downtown Los Angeles for the full-service law firm of Holme Roberts & Owen LLP (HRO). In November 2008, HRO moved office locations and became the only law firm to reside at L.A. Live. Gomes has been a beach town resident since she moved back to the Los Angeles area, and loves living in Venice.



**Claudia Gutierrez**

**Associate Attorney**

**Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, LLP**

**Downey, CA**

Claudia Gutierrez was most recently an associate in the Los Angeles office of Allen Matkins Leck Gamble Mallory & Natsis LLP, whose legal practice spans over multiple areas of real estate including purchase and sale, land use and development. Gutierrez has extensive experience advising clients on complex, cutting-edge real estate transactions. She received her J.D. from Loyola Law School, where she was a member of the Scott Moot Court Honors Board. Gutierrez received her B.A. in sociology with a correlate sequence in Hispanic studies (Spanish literature) from Vassar College.



**Anchanel Harrison Wilkes**

**Outreach Coordinator**

**Holy Family Services Adoption & Foster Care**

**Los Angeles, CA**

Anchanel Harrison Wilkes is the outreach worker for Holy Family Services Adoption & Foster Care, where she serves both as a liaison between the agency and other community providers, as well as the recruiter of prospective adoptive families and birth parents. She has a unique work history that includes health care, faith-based program development, nonprofit outreach and marketing. Collectively, these experiences have aided her inert desire to serve as a representative of unheard people in the community whose voice she seeks to resound. Harrison Wilkes is also very active as the director of evangelism, youth, and public relations at Thee Open Door Church Ministries, and has founded Mercy Ministries and Life Savers First Aid & CPR to provide advocacy and resources for the community.



**Jason Hobson**

**Principal**

**Domus Development**

**Burbank, CA**

Jason A. Hobson is an affordable housing developer and attorney. As a principal of Domus Development, Hobson engages in the development of affordable housing for low-income seniors and families in urban and suburban communities, with a particular emphasis on urban, infill developments near transportation hubs. As an attorney, Hobson advises clients in the acquisition and financing of affordable, mixed-income and mixed-use projects throughout the U.S. He was previously the senior legal counsel and an officer of a national tax credit syndicator engaged in low-income housing tax credit, historic tax credit and solar tax credit equity investments throughout the United States, as well as a senior attorney with the national law firm Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP.



**Robert Holmquist**

**Los Angeles Infrastructure Business Leader**

**Arup**

**Pasadena, CA**

Robert (Bob) Holmquist is a registered professional engineer in California and Florida, and the infrastructure business leader for Arup, a London-based global engineering and design firm comprised of 10,000 employees working in 86 offices around the world. Previously, he worked for Parsons, Walt Disney Imagineering, Santa Fe Braun, and The Fluor Corporation. All totaled, Holmquist has 31 years of professional engineering experience. He holds an M.B.A. in international business from California State University, Los Angeles and a B.S. in civil engineering from Loyola Marymount University. Holmquist and his wife, Ann, have four children and reside in Pasadena where Holmquist represents District No. 2 on the city's Transportation Advisory Commission.



**Michael Huynh**  
**Corporate Representative**  
**Southern California Edison**

**Monterey Park, CA**

Michael Huynh is a corporate representative with the local public affairs division at Southern California Edison (SCE), where he is responsible for managing public involvement programs for SCE's electric transmission infrastructure projects that are essential to expanding, strengthening, and greening the region's power grid. In addition, Huynh currently serves as a board member with the Southwest Chamber Music. He received his M.A. in European political studies from the College of Europe, Bruges in Belgium and a B.A. in international studies from the University of California, Irvine. A native of Los Angeles, Huynh currently resides in Pasadena.



**Joshua Jewett**  
**System Integration & Test Program Manager**  
**Los Angeles Air Force Base**

**Manhattan Beach, CA**

Josh Jewett was born and raised in La Habra, CA. After graduating from La Habra High School, Jewett attended the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO, where he served in various leadership roles such as varsity water polo team captain and flight commander. After his commissioning in 2005, Jewett returned to Southern California as an Air Force satellite acquisitions officer at Los Angeles Air Force Base in El Segundo. Jewett is currently an M.B.A. candidate at the UCLA Anderson School of Management's fully employed program. Since returning to Southern California, Jewett has been very active in giving back to the community, including volunteering with Congressman Ed Royce's district office and fundraising for the Greater L.A. Chapter of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.



**Serena Josel**  
**Associate Director of Public Affairs**  
**Planned Parenthood Los Angeles**

**Los Angeles, CA**

Serena Josel currently serves as the associate director of public affairs at Planned Parenthood Los Angeles (PPLA), a nonprofit organization devoted to providing affordable access to reproductive health care and sexual health information. Josel oversees much of PPLA's advocacy work—including grassroots organizing, coalition and policy work to protect reproductive freedom for women, men and teens across the county. Prior to joining Planned Parenthood's staff in 2005, Josel served as national program associate at Break the Cycle, a domestic violence prevention agency. Originally from New York, Josel graduated cum laude from New York University with a B.A. in politics.



**Roland Juarez**  
**Partner**  
**Hunton & Williams, LLP**

**Manhattan Beach, CA**

Roland M. Juarez focuses exclusively on employment and labor law as a partner with Hunton & Williams LLP. He has handled class, collective and other complex employment litigation, as well as single plaintiff cases. His practice has included discrimination and harassment litigation, wage and hour litigation, noncompetition and trade secret cases, cases under Title III of the ADA, union related work, and preventative counseling and training. Juarez represents clients in the retail, restaurant, grocery, entertainment, temporary and permanent placement, oil and gas, manufacturing, technology, investment and hedge fund industries. He received his law degree from Columbia Law School and undergraduate degree with distinction from the University of New Mexico.



**Jim Kennedy**  
**Field Deputy, Office of L.A. City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl**  
**City of Los Angeles Council District 11**

**Playa Del Rey, CA**

Jim Kennedy is currently a field representative for Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl. Previously, he worked as a field representative for U.S. Congressman Jane Harman. Kennedy has also worked on the campaigns of Senator Barbara Boxer; Yes on 82: Preschool for All Initiative; and other local races. He serves on the board of the L.A. League of Conservation Voters. Kennedy has a background in business development and has degrees in economics from the London School of Economics and the College of William & Mary.



**Mary Anne Keshen**  
**Founder/Co-Owner & Co-Chairman**  
**Tallen & Keshen Holdings, LLC**

**Malibu, CA**

Mary Anne Keshen is the co-founder and co-owner of Tallen & Keshen Holdings (TKH), a company that specializes in real estate and corporate investments, based in Los Angeles with offices in San Francisco. The company's portfolio of assets are in Southern California, throughout the San Francisco Bay area and on the Monterey Peninsula. TKH recently developed and owned the first Wal-Mart project on the Monterey Peninsula, successfully redeveloping in record time a blighted 10 acres. The store continues to perform well, enhance local jobs and sales tax revenue. Keshen is an attorney, a member of the Florida and Texas bar associations and is highly experienced in complex asset resolution. She is vice president of the board of The American Cinematheque in L.A. and has served on the board of the Museo ItaloAmericano in San Francisco. Keshen also supports Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Pepperdine University and civic, educational and human services organizations. Keshen resides in Malibu and has a residence in Mill Valley.



**Helen Kwon**  
**President & Representative Consultant**  
**Acetopia USA, Inc.**

**Los Angeles, CA**

Helen Kwon is a representative consultant of Acetopia USA, which is a branch company of Search International in Korea. Kwon has been serving the Fortune 500's Asia market as an executive search consultant for scouting senior executives. Her areas of expertise are in the manufacturing, hi-tech, consumer, petrochemical and health care industries. She is a devoted Christian and dedicates her leisure time to community services for elders.



**Dex Y. Landreth**  
**Chief, Satellite Microwave Sensors**  
**Los Angeles Air Force Base**

**Redondo Beach, CA**

Dex Landreth is a captain in the United States Air Force, stationed at Los Angeles Air Force Base. Originally from O'Fallon, IL, Capt. Landreth graduated from the Air Force Institute of Technology in Dayton, OH with an M.S. in acquisition management, and earned his B.A. in business management from the University of Mississippi. In his current position, Capt. Landreth is the chief of satellite microwave sensors for the Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP). DMSP is the Department of Defense sole operational weather satellite system. Prior to moving to Los Angeles, he served as a command country manager for Eastern Europe/South America at the Air Force Security Assistance Center located at Wright Patterson AFB, OH. Capt. Landreth has deployed to Mosul, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He and Kristin, his wife of three years, reside in Redondo Beach.



**Jessica Mack**  
**Manager, New Construction Services**  
**Southern California Edison**

**Altadena, CA**

With more than 10 years of work experience in integrated design, Jessica Mack is devoted to the sustainability of non-residential new construction. As the manager of Southern California Edison's New Construction Services, she oversees the implementation of all non-residential new construction energy efficiency programs. Mack holds a B.A. in architecture with an emphasis on environmental design and construction management from the University of Southern California.



**Monika Medina**  
**Senior Interactive Marketing Manager**  
**Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce**

**Redondo Beach, CA**

Monika Medina is the senior interactive marketing manager at the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, where she is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Chamber's Web site and oversees the content and distribution of the Chamber's e-newsletters, action alerts and electronic communications. Prior to joining the Chamber in 2006, Medina was a community reporter for The Tribune in San Luis Obispo, and worked at Investor's Business Daily. Medina received her master's in journalism from the University of Southern California and bachelor's degree in political science, with a minor in English, from Smith College.



**Hillary Moglen**  
**Senior Account Executive**  
**Cerrell Associates, Inc.**

**Culver City, CA**

A Los Angeles native, Hillary Moglen's educational and professional experience is in the environmental field. She is currently a senior account executive at Cerrell Associates, where she works in the energy and environment pillar. Moglen has a law degree from University of California, Hastings and a B.A. from Brown University in public policy. When not working, Moglen enjoys playing soccer, taking her dog for walks/hikes, or doing yoga. She currently resides with her husband in Culver City.



**Roberto Muñoz**  
**Director of Neighborhood Affairs & Communications**  
**Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Markets**

**Los Angeles, CA**

Roberto Muñoz is director of neighborhood affairs and communications at Fresh & Easy Neighborhood Market. Muñoz has been with Fresh & Easy for nearly two years. During his time at the company, he has spearheaded external and internal communication efforts as well as leading Fresh & Easy's environmental policies and corporate social responsibility initiatives. Prior to joining the team, Muñoz developed targeted marketing and communication strategies for clients such as Motorola, American Airlines and Jaguar/Land Rover at an affinity marketing/PR agency in Washington, D.C. He currently lives in the South Carthay Circle neighborhood of Los Angeles.



**Donna Ostrower**  
**Executive Director**  
**The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society**

**Sherman Oaks, CA**

Donna Ostrower is the executive director of The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Greater Los Angeles Chapter. Previously, she served as the zone director for the Jewish National Fund; executive director for the American Jewish Committee of Houston and Miami; associate director of development with the Anti-Defamation League; and executive director of Eastern Region's B'nai B'rith Youth Organization. In the course of her extensive career in Jewish communal work, Ostrower has traveled to England, France, Germany, Poland and Israel, to monitor the condition of Jewish communities, combat anti-Semitism, advance Israel's diplomatic standing, and promote international human rights and inter-religious and interethnic understanding. Ostrower has been seen and heard in many media outlets, speaking on behalf of Israel and other human rights issues. She also appeared on a radio town hall meeting with Sam Donaldson.



**Fernando Ramirez**  
**Deputy, Office of L.A. County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas**  
**County of Los Angeles Second Supervisorial District**

**Inglewood, CA**

Fernando Ramirez is a deputy in the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. Prior to his current position, he served as a legislative assistant in the California State Senate for then-Senator Ridley-Thomas and proudly served as a Jesse Marvin Unruh Assembly Fellow in the California State Assembly in the office of then-Assemblymember Mark Ridley-Thomas. He has served on the board of directors for La Casa de la Raza, a non-profit community center in Santa Barbara; the Isla Vista Recreation and Park District; and the United States Student Association. Recently, Ramirez served as statewide student selection coordinator and program chair responsible for curriculum and programming of the statewide Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Project. Ramirez earned his B.A. in political science and Chicano/a studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He was born and raised in Los Angeles.



**Tony Richardson**  
**Partner**  
**Reed Smith LLP**

**San Marino, CA**

Tony Richardson is a partner and trial attorney with the international law firm of Reed Smith LLP. He has tried and litigated contract disputes, products liability, insurance coverage, mass tort, unfair business practices, intellectual property and other complex business cases. In addition, Richardson has spent much of his time doing pro bono work on a State Commission, through national, state and local bar associations, on boards of directors of national and local public service organizations and at the request of local governmental bodies. Richardson, his wife, Diana, and two sons, Sean and Cameron, live in San Marino.



**Erin Ross**  
**Development Director**  
**City Year Los Angeles**

**Los Angeles, CA**

Erin Ross currently serves as the development director for City Year, an AmeriCorps program built on the belief that young people can change the world. She manages the organization's relationships with corporations, foundations, and individual donors. At age 19, Ross was a member of the founding team of United Leaders, dedicated to recruiting and training the next generation of political leaders. She later led the organization's first expansion as its executive director in Washington, D.C. and received the Alan Gleitsman Foundation Achievement Award for her work. She was featured in Boston Magazine, Roll Call, The Los Angeles Times, The Washington Post, and Take Back the Vote, a book published in 2004. A native of Los Angeles, Ross graduated with honors from Tufts University with a degree in political science and is the active citizenship chair for Los Angeles Tufts Alumni.



**Craig Roth**  
**Principal**  
**Roth Development Group**

**Los Angeles, CA**

Craig D. Roth is the founder and president of Roth Development Group, a real estate development company. Established in 2005, Roth Development Group operates as both a real estate equity fund and development company with the intention of purchasing and owning real estate throughout California. The company's holdings include two prized parcels of vacant land totaling more than 17 acres in Malibu, with spectacular ocean and mountain views. Construction of a new single-family home on one of the parcels is slated to begin April 2009 and is being fully funded by Roth Development Group. Roth is a fifth generation Southern Californian and earned his degree in business finance from the University of Southern California. He currently resides in Santa Monica with his fiancé, and Leadership L.A. 2008 alumnus, Brooke Montgomery and their dog Beneteau.



**Beth Ryan**  
**Senior Vice President**  
**Los Angeles Police Foundation**

**Los Angeles, CA**

Beth Ryan currently serves as senior vice president of the Los Angeles Police Foundation, where she works closely with members of the Los Angeles Police Department to secure funding for projects that assist the LAPD with community outreach, training, technology or equipment, as well as youth prevention programs. Previously, Ryan created and ran a youth program in West L.A. for students in a community plagued with gang activity. She was born in and lived throughout the east coast growing up. Ryan earned her master's in community and social psychology from the University of Massachusetts; a degree in administration and management from Harvard; and her B.A. in journalism from Northeastern University. She worked in the computer industry for many years and took a year off in 1999 to travel around the world. She moved to Los Angeles five years ago to be closer to her extended family.



**Andrew Schulman**  
**Product Manager**  
**The Los Angeles Times Interactive**

**Los Angeles, CA**

Andrew Schulman is a tackler of large problems, a lover of good ideas and advocate for common sense. After growing up in the northeast and living in New York City and Chicago, Schulman has been an Angelino since mid-2006– and intends to stay for a very long time. He is currently a product manager for the Los Angeles Times' Interactive Division, focused on growing and improving LATimes.com in a variety of areas. His previous work has involved combating film and television piracy for The Walt Disney Company, analyzing free trade agreements for APEC, and developing global Olympic sponsorships for Johnson & Johnson and Samsung. He holds a dual B.A. in communications studies and psychology from Northwestern University and an M.B.A. from the University of Southern California. He is currently on the board of Junior Achievement Southern California's Leadership Council, and enjoys sports, international travel and starting new business ventures.



**Shawnalynn Smith Thomas**  
**Manager**  
**L.A. Care Health Plan**

**Culver City, CA**

Shawnalynn Smith Thomas is manager of L.A. Care Health Plan's Project Administration Department and the Children's Health Initiative of Greater Los Angeles. Her current responsibilities include directing the planning, analysis, and management of project/program activities and participating on initiatives to expand and improve health care coverage for vulnerable populations. Thomas has more than 15 years of professional experience in program management and health policy research and analysis in the public and private sectors. She earned a master's degree in management and planning, specializing in economic and social development, from the University of Pittsburgh School of Public & International Affairs and graduate certificate from the Loma Linda University School of Public Health. She is a former California Long-term Care Ombudsman and Peace Corps volunteer, serving in Sierra Leone, West Africa.



**David Song**  
**President & CEO**  
**KT America, Inc.**

**Torrance, CA**

David Song is president and CEO of KT America, Inc., which is 100 percent owned by KT Corp.-- a dominant telecom provider in Korea and formerly named Korea Telecom-- and provides the international (US-KOR) internet and leased line service. The company's headquarters is located in Los Angeles and a branch office is in New Jersey. Song has been working for KT for 16 years and his major career was focused on global business, strategic planning and finance. He is a Christian, and enjoys playing golf and reading religious books.



**Brenda Sutton-Wills**  
**Staff Counsel**  
**California Teachers Association**

**Santa Monica, CA**

Brenda Sutton-Wills is staff attorney with the California Teachers Association. Brenda graduated from Drake University with a B.A. in journalism and mass communications, and minor in Business. Sutton-Wills attended the University of California, Los Angeles School of Law, where she was selected for a multidisciplinary certificate program in child welfare and awarded the Nancy Mintee Public Interest Award for her volunteer work relating to issues of homelessness, poverty and education. She serves on the executive committee of the Labor and Employment Law Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association, and chairs the 2009 Labor and Employment Symposium. Sutton-Wills also serves on the boards of several civic organizations benefiting the poor and disenfranchised.



**Stender E. Sweeney II**  
**Senior Vice President, Commercial Banking Director**  
**Wachovia Bank, NA**

**Pasadena, CA**

Stender E. Sweeney II provides executive leadership to Southern California commercial banking for Wachovia, a subsidiary of Wells Fargo & Company. Sweeney joined Wachovia with more than 14 years of financial services experience. Prior to Wachovia, he spent nine years with Union Bank serving in a variety of capacities; and worked for J.P. Morgan's institutional investment management team in New York. Sweeney is active on many boards of directors including the L.A. Area Chamber, Library Foundation of Los Angeles, and L.A. Sports & Entertainment Commission. Sweeney has a B.A. in political science from Northwestern University and an M.B.A. from the UCLA Anderson School of Management. A native of Southern California, Sweeney lives in Pasadena with his wife and three children.



**Jill Wicke**  
**Manager, Real Property Development and Management**  
**Metropolitan Water District of Southern California**

**Huntington Beach, CA**

Jill Wicke, assistant manager of real property development and management, is responsible for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's vast system of real property holdings and rights of way exceeding 170,000 acres of land area. In this role, she leads real estate services including property and right-of-way management, appraisals, acquisitions, and annexations. Wicke began her career at Metropolitan in 1988, applying her capabilities and technical expertise in diverse settings. A frequent speaker and published author, she has prepared papers and articles on a broad range of water treatment and management topics, is a registered civil engineer, and holds a Grade V Water Treatment Plant Operator Certificate. A native of Minnesota, Wicke earned her M.S. in civil engineering at the University of Arizona and a B.S. in civil engineering at the University of Minnesota. She is a member of the American Water Works Association and the American Society of Civil Engineers.



**Acasia Wilson**  
**Program Coordinator**  
**Los Angeles Infrastructure Academy**

**Los Angeles, CA**

Acasia Wilson is an experienced teacher and leader with several years of service in the field of education to her credit. She has worked with organizations both domestically and abroad as a teacher, facilitator, and grant writer, increasing access to high-quality learning opportunities for all students. Her civic engagement began as a corps member in the Teach For America program, where she was able to directly impact the educational outcomes of children growing up in low-income communities as a 5th grade classroom teacher. Currently, she serves as a program coordinator for the Los Angeles Infrastructure Academy, an organization that prepares youth for careers in the skilled trades and engineering. Born and raised in Portland, Oregon, Wilson holds a B.A. in humanities from the University of Oregon, and an M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction from Arizona State University. She plans to begin an M.B.A. program in the fall of 2010.

**Jeff Wilson****Strategic Consultant, Policy, Government and Public Affairs  
Chevron Corporation****Hermosa Beach, CA**

Jeff Wilson serves as a consultant to the Chevron Products Company in Southern California managing policy, government and public affairs activities. He is also the president of AJ Outdoors LLC., dba Fluid Ski Surf Shop, which is a retail business specializing in high-end ski and surf equipment, clothing, rentals and repair. Previously, Wilson was the director of external Affairs for the Western States Petroleum Association. Wilson received a B.A. in political science from the University of California, Santa Barbara and completed the University of Southern California Executive Education Program.

He has served as a guest lecturer for undergraduate and graduate courses at USC, UCLA and Pepperdine University, and given hundreds of speeches on issues dealing with policy, media, and the environment. Wilson is chairman of the Manhattan Beach Community Church Board of Trustees, a certified professional ski instructor and member of the Professional Ski Instructors Association of America.

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*The mission of the Southern California Leadership Network is to develop a productive network of exemplary and diverse leaders in the business, government and community sectors who are capable of addressing the critical challenges facing the Southern California region.*