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## LONG ISLAND BUSINESS NEWS

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## Adelphi University is proud to congratulate **Ryan Foley '19, MBA '20** as one of **LIBN's 30 Under 30.**

Ryan Foley '19, MBA '20, serves as Adelphi's senior assistant director of admissions, where he has demonstrated remarkable improvements and efficiencies in the admissions process. Notably, he has taken on the role of lead adviser for the prestigious Omicron Delta Kappa honor society and spearheaded initiatives to enhance the University's social media engagement.

Foley's dedication to fostering an inclusive and tight-knit community stems from his enriching experiences as a student at Adelphi. During his undergraduate years, he earned several accolades, including the Established Student Leader, President's Student Leadership and Panther Pride awards. As the president of C.A.L.I.B.E.R. (Cause to Achieve Leadership Intelligence Brotherhood Excellence and Respect), he exhibited exemplary leadership. Additionally, he held the position of vice president of the Inter-Greek Council and served as a compassionate commuter assistant, assisting new transfer students in acclimating to campus life.

Within the Adelphi community, Foley plays a pivotal role, and we take immense pride in witnessing him receive well-deserved recognition from *Long Island Business News*. His commitment and contributions continue to positively shape the University and its future.



# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**DONNA SIRIANNI | FOUNDER, CEO & SPEAKER | MOVING FORWARD STRATEGIES**



**D**onna Sirianni brings high energy, authenticity, and enthusiasm to her personal and professional development experiences. As a speaker and seminar facilitator, Sirianni has conducted personal development seminars for companies such as Douglas Elliman, Signature Premier Properties, Campolo, Middleton and McCormick, The Commercial Law League of America, Coldwell Banker Commercial and Residential, Charles Rutenberg Realty, SABRE Real Estate, SONY Music and Entertainment, Verizon, Motorola, The NY Times, Penguin Publishing, Viacom, BLDG, Prada, Ferragamo, Van Heusen, CSEA, Alure Home Improvements, and many more.

Sirianni created and conducts a dynamic series of in-person monthly public interactive seminars titled "LIVING LEADERSHIP." These seminars focus on personal development for driven business leaders, uniting individuals who are constantly striving for improvement both personally and professionally. She also highlights a different local charity at each Living Leadership. Sirianni also works with partners, CEOs and business owners as an executive "mindset and accountability" coach to bring clarity and focus to their impact and initiatives.

Sirianni is the "Moving Forward" segment host on KJOY radio which airs weekly on Tuesday mornings, and conducts Moving Forward Personal Growth Events for the general public, both in partnership with

Connoisseur Media. Sirianni has also been involved with music, film and television in producer and on camera roles.

Prior to starting her company, Sirianni enjoyed a highly successful career as a permanently certified high school biology teacher and soccer coach. She was sought after to creatively develop curriculum and lead teams of educators in bringing educational theories into practice. Her passion for education has led to a focus not only on programming for professionals, but also high school and college students.

Sirianni has received numerous accolades from the press and was nominated for "Long Island Business News 2021 Who's Who: Women in Professional Services." She has been featured in newspapers such as LIBN and has been interviewed on both television such as NEWS 12 and radio shows domestically and internationally to discuss personal development. She is certified in N.L.P. (Neuro-Linguistic Programming), an accredited ICF coach and has studied leadership throughout the United States. Sirianni holds a Bachelor of Science degree (biology) and a Master's degree (education and learning) from Stony Brook University, and studied Administrative Leadership at Columbia University Teacher's College.

An active member of the community, Sirianni supports numerous charities at her events and has conducted volunteer work for foundations such as Make-A-Wish, Donors Choose, and The INN Soup Kitchen. She has also been part of the corporate leadership challenge raising money for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Sirianni is a member of the Melville Chamber of Commerce and the Hauppauge Industrial Association (HIA). Sirianni also enjoys being a mom to her three amazing children.

## CONGRATULATIONS

## JESSICA KLEIN

MARKETING AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

**Options for Community Living, Inc. proudly congratulates Long Island Business News "30 Under 30" Award winner Jessica Klein, and all of the 2023 "30 Under 30" award winners for their contributions to the Long Island Community!**

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## JESSICA ALVES

In her current position, Alves is responsible for the preparation of engineering reports, design plans and specifications for bidding and regulatory submissions, as well as project management and coordination with clients and contractors to ensure execution of the design plans in construction. She has worked on the design and construction of several projects in the potable drinking water arena.

Alves began her career working at H2M architects + engineers as a project engineer in water resources, after doing a college engineering internship with NYSDOT, and was later promoted to senior project engineer.

She is a graduate of Manhattan College, and has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. An animal lover who enjoys giving back to her community, she has volunteered her time as a dog walker for the New Rochelle Humane Society.

Alves says she is deeply inspired by knowing that she is "bettering communities and giving everyone access to clean and potable drinking water." She believes that "the best part of working in the water resource industry is working on challenging new projects." Additionally, she values the opportunity to continue to design and plan for upcoming and current water quality

regulations to ensure local communities receive uninterrupted and safe drinking water.

Shy as a child, she jokes that, "Back then, I wasn't the most talkative person, but now it can be a challenge to get me to stop." She cites the first project she ever managed as an experience that helped her to grow in her career. "Being responsible not only for the plan and specification preparation but for the overall design, budgets and construction administration taught me a lot about the implementation and functionality of the projects we work on. Being able to understand constraints that are not always apparent on paper has helped me to improve my future designs."

Her advice to companies looking to hire, promote and engage young professionals is to "listen to the young professionals' requests and suggestions." While young professionals may have less experience than their older peers, she believes that "new perspectives on situations can improve work quality, productivity, etc."

**TITLE:** Senior Project Engineer

**COMPANY:** H2M architects + engineers

**AGE:** 29

**J**essica Alves is a senior project engineer for H2M architects + engineers. She has eight years of experience as a professional engineer, designing projects from preliminary planning to construction. Alves manages and designs a variety of water infrastructure projects from water treatment systems, well rehabilitations, tank design and rehabilitations and distribution improvement projects.

## Congratulations CARA MCQUILLAN!

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all your accomplishments,  
especially on being named a  
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## ALEX ARSO

**TITLE:** Government Relations and Advocacy Manager

**COMPANY:** Long Island Cares, Inc.

**AGE:** 30

**A**lex Arso is a dedicated professional with a passion for public service and advocacy. Currently serving as the government relations and advocacy manager at Long Island Cares, Inc., Arso plays a pivotal role in leading advocacy efforts for food security and social justice on Long Island.

She holds a bachelor's degree in International

Criminal Justice from John Jay College and a Master of Public Administration from Touro University. While pursuing her bachelor's degree, she participated in a diplomacy lab for the U.S. Department of State, where she conducted policy research on violence reduction in the Central African Republic, and presented her findings to the U.S. Embassy in Bangui and at the 2019 Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences Conference.

The COVID-19 pandemic brought both challenges and unexpected opportunities, as Arso joined Long Island Cares' emergency response team, working to help Long Islanders during the most difficult of times. Her work with the team led to her being offered a full-time position with the organization. As a government relations and advocacy manager, Arso has worked to foster the program's success, advancing objectives of anti-hunger advocacy campaigns, working closely with federal, state and local legislators.

Beyond Long Island Cares, Arso has made positive contributions to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Manhattan Youth. With an unwavering commitment to challenging the status quo and positively impacting future generations, she thrives on connecting with like-minded individuals who share a common goal of effecting meaningful change.

The organization's mission is very personal

to her. "I've witnessed firsthand how socioeconomic disparities can lead to unequal access to essential needs," she says. "There were times when I didn't know where my next meal would come from, and that uncertainty fueled a passion in me to fight against these injustices. It has made me acutely aware of the critical importance of creating a world where everyone has equitable access to resources and opportunities."

She continues, "I'm committed to creating a world where justice prevails and opportunities are accessible for all, irrespective of their socioeconomic background. This mission guides my actions, from volunteering and advocacy to raising awareness about these issues, and this fuels my passion for contributing toward a more equitable world."

She believes that "the best part of working in the nonprofit industry, and specifically at a food bank, is the profound and direct impact we make in the community. It's a rewarding and fulfilling experience to be able to address an immediate need and make a tangible difference in people's lives every single day."

Arso says "It's heartening to see how, when given the opportunity, people come together to support one another. This industry provides constant reminders of the resilience and strength of our communities."



## DAVID BATKIEWICZ

**TITLE:** Special Projects Manager / Law Clerk

**COMPANY:** Town of Babylon IDA / Harris Beach, PLLC

**AGE:** 24

**D**avid Batkiewicz is an experienced project manager with a background in real estate. He serves the Babylon Industrial Development Agency in multiple capacities, including legal research, communication and project coordination. During the pandemic, Batkiewicz helped to create the agency's Emergency Assistance Program and Fraternal and Civic Association Program, which have distributed over

\$500,000 to businesses and nonprofits.

At the Babylon IDA, he serves as the agency's point person for affordable housing projects, communication and legal research. He recommends area median income levels, acts as the agency's spokesperson on all correspondence with the media and keeps the agency updated on all new laws passed by the state assembly. During his time with the IDA, he has overseen the closing of just under 30 new projects, which created hundreds of jobs in the town, and hundreds of millions of dollars towards economic investment. Additionally, he has overseen three affordable housing projects.

Batkiewicz was instrumental in developing the Town of Babylon's Direct Support Program, which distributes grants of up to \$49,500 to eligible entities. The program has provided over \$8 million in grant dollars to small businesses, nonprofit community groups, first responders and veterans organizations.

Batkiewicz is also a law clerk at Harris Beach, PLLC in the public finance and economic development practice group. The team represents municipalities, school districts, special improvement districts and leading underwriters. It has significant experience advising public benefit corporations developing urban areas through IDAs, urban renewal agencies, condemnation, annexation, increment financing and other programs. In his current role, he is

working on a new way to leverage the New York Housing Compact and the Inflation Reduction Act to support publicly funded projects.

He is also a Democratic committee member for Suffolk County District 132.

Batkiewicz is a JD candidate at Touro Law Center, an Honors Program scholar, Student Bar Association evening vice president and Real Estate Law Society president.

He cites his older brother, John, who passed away in 2017, as a source of personal inspiration, explaining, "John was born with congenital heart disease, and from a young age, doctors informed my family that he did not have long to live. When my brother was 12, he went in for what doctors said would be his last open-heart surgery. Unfortunately, the surgery took a wrong turn, and his aorta was cut, causing him to go 30 minutes without oxygen to his brain. After under a year in a coma, John awoke. However, he suffered a global cerebral hemorrhage rendering him quadriplegic."

Despite this disability, Batkiewicz notes that his brother never went a day without smiling. "He taught me that no matter what situation we find ourselves in, how it affects us is always up to us. We can either let our challenges bring us down, or we can choose to see them as opportunities for growth, making us better for having gone through them."



# MICHAEL BOTTE

**TITLE:** Digital and Interactive Branch Manager

**COMPANY:** Suffolk Credit Union

**AGE:** 27

**M**ichael Botte is an experienced financial management professional with demonstrated success in retail banking, lending and business management, also expanding into the real estate arena. In his current role as digital and interactive branch manager for Suffolk Credit Union, he has enjoyed plentiful learning opportunities that have led to successful initiatives that are adding value for members at

Suffolk Credit Union, such as the Online Account Opening and ITM Network.

His tenure at Suffolk Credit Union has included time collaborating with multiple members of the organization, most frequently with various retail locations.

The desire to learn and grow isn't new to Botte. "I was blessed enough to have had the opportunity to graduate high school a year early," he says. "I wrote a letter to my principal explaining my ambition and desire to continue learning, experiencing and growing into adulthood. Shortly thereafter, I began my career in banking where I have continued to excel and develop into the leader I am today."

He attended Farmingdale State College, where he studied Business Administration and Management. He also gained valuable experience during this time working as a bank teller at Bethpage Federal Credit Union, and then as a fraud analyst at Cardworks.

He began his career at Suffolk Credit Union as a financial services representative in 2016 before being promoted to senior financial services representative in 2019, and then assistant branch manager in 2021.

Going into a newly created role as digital and interactive branch manager in November 2022, he knew that persistence and hard work would result in a remarkable member experience. "Taking ownership of digital initiatives has shown

the significance of intricacies and innovation as we strive to enhance value for our membership," he says.

The industry is constantly changing, and "being part of or seeing great change and growth is something that has always kept me determined and diligent in all I do. In moments of impactful change, you can learn so much about yourself and those around you. As you become more in tune with your team, abilities and opportunities, growth is limitless and contagious."

While change can create challenges, Botte also sees great opportunities. "There is a major deficit in financial education and resources available to help our communities achieve and succeed," he says. "Being able to grow, educate, serve and lead positive experiences and financial successes for our members is incredibly rewarding."

For companies looking to hire, promote and engage young professionals in the workplace, he advises them to "become familiar with all individuals and identify key strengths within and outside of your team. Having supportive and empathetic leadership is impactful when it comes to performance and communications. As leaders, we can identify strengths and opportunities in all that we do if we continue with a forward-thinking mind set."

congratulations!

**Michael Botte**

and all honorees,  
for being named  
to the 30 Under 30 List!



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## ADAM BRIGANDI

**TITLE:** Supervisor

**COMPANY:** Cerini & Associates, LLP

**AGE:** 30

**A**dam Brigandi is an accountant with over five years of expertise in accounting assistance and auditing. Brigandi works to deliver exceptional financial services to a variety of nonprofit and special education clients at Cerini & Associates, LLP.

His record includes successfully leading audit engagements and offering strategic financial advice on numerous consulting engagements,

including assistance with PPP and ERTC funding. His analytical abilities enable him to identify trends and develop innovative solutions, contributing to the growth and success of organizations.

Brigandi attended Dowling College, where he graduated summa cum laude with his BBA in Accounting. He continued his studies at Stony Brook University, where he received his MBA in Accounting and an award for outstanding academic achievement.

His educational experiences have helped to hone both his skills and development. "One impactful experience that helped get me where I am today was conducting a revenue recognition project during my MBA program," he says. "Collaborating with a team, we assessed the process by which the revenue of a startup company was earned. Through research and analysis, we gained insights into the revenue recognition process of a real-world health care billing company. We compared the process in practice to that of the accounting regulations to ensure compliance with generally accepted accounting principles. This project allowed us to apply accounting concepts, develop analytical skills and make compliance-driven recommendations. We worked hand in hand with the client all throughout the process and presented our findings at the end of the semester, refining our communication abilities."

He continues, "This firsthand experience deepened my understanding of accounting regulations, honed my critical thinking and problem-solving skills and fostered teamwork. It provided a solid foundation for my future career in accounting assistance, enabling me to apply classroom knowledge to real-world scenarios. Overall, this revenue recognition project was a valuable part of my MBA journey, equipping me with practical skills and a strategic mindset that I still use today."

He believes that young talent can help to strengthen a company. "To effectively hire, promote, and engage young professionals, companies should prioritize collaboration, work-life balance and growth opportunities," he says. "Companies need to create a collaborative work environment that encourages teamwork and values employee input. Employers should seek employee feedback and involve them in decision-making where possible. Firms should also foster networking and mentorship opportunities."

HE also believes employees must feel like their work and efforts are meaningful and impactful, and sees technology as one tool that can be used to help with this.

"Businesses can leverage technology for efficient processes and equip employees with digital tools to reduce busy work."



## JONATHAN CHU

**TITLE:** Operations Coordinator

**COMPANY:** Aurora Contractors Inc.

**AGE:** 28

**J**onathan Chu is the operations coordinator at Aurora Contractors. A Stony Brook University graduate with a bachelor's degree in Health Science, Chu was born in Queens and raised on Long Island. While he originally planned a career as a physical therapist, he has found his niche in the construction industry, where he has spent the last three years devoting himself to learning and growing as

much as possible in the field.

As part of the operations team at Aurora, he has assisted with the creation of the internal processes to be maintained on construction sites, created and implemented safety procedures to increase documentation and reduce chances of injury, and created safety data points to identify weaknesses. He notes that his goal is to help Aurora improve its documented procedures and establish quality control measures to ensure future success.

His work ethic drives his success. "I don't believe in inspiration; I believe in discipline," he says. "Inspiration will only take you so far; discipline will take you as far as you are willing to go. The discipline in getting up early, challenging yourself and sticking to goals or expectations is what has helped me to move forward in the company and in my own personal growth."

Despite his relatively young age, Chu has already faced significant challenges that have impacted him personally and professionally. "During my last semester in Stony Brook, my father passed away. It was a difficult time," he says. "I was in school full time along with working a part-time job and doing two internships while going through my father's passing. During that semester, I didn't really do anything besides study and work. I didn't make time for my loved ones or even myself.

I was able to push through and graduate, but this ultimately helped me to realize how important it is to find a work-life balance that would allow me to achieve my goals but also enjoy them with the people around me. I believe that this has helped me grow professionally and personally."

He believes companies need to "reward hard-working employees in order to facilitate growth. Long-lasting employees help to set the culture for the company and set a standard for other employees, while also showing that growth is possible by working hard. Working in an environment like this at Aurora helps to motivate and push me and our other employees to produce the best possible product, knowing that our work is recognized and appreciated."

"The variety of types of people that you work with" is the best part of working in construction, he says. "It can be difficult dealing with and managing multiple different personalities and management styles, but it is ultimately rewarding to be able to see how different types of people can come together to complete a project. I have met some of the most upstanding, hard-working, respectful people in my life on these job sites, and hopefully have made some lifelong relationships."





# CHELSEA DE JEAN

**TITLE:** Associate Account Executive  
**COMPANY:** HUB International  
**AGE:** 26

Chelsea De Jean currently serves as an associate account executive with HUB International Northeast, a leading full-service insurance brokerage. De Jean first joined HUB as part of the firm's account executive trainee program in 2019 and was promoted to her current role in 2021. While in the training program, she obtained her NY Property and Casualty insurance license and began learning

the fundamentals of insurance.

Working at the firm, she started with clerical activities such as filing and invoicing, and gradually moved toward reviewing policies, analyzing loss history and marketing accounts. She currently assists in servicing a large book of business, mostly consisting of organizations in the real estate industry. In addition to her daily responsibilities, she continues to supplement her knowledge through various educational webinars and insurance trainings to stay up to date on current insurance trends and the overall state of the market.

While she values continuing education, De Jean knows that valuable life lessons can be found in many places. She cites her experiences playing sports in high school as instrumental in helping her become successful in business. "Sports such as soccer and track helped me to establish a strong work ethic and collaborate with others, and it showed me how to think quickly on my feet," she says. "The skills and people I met during my journey with sports in high school are things that I cherish and value to this day."

Her mother, who came here from Mexico when she was 18, also helped to teach her valuable lessons, including perseverance, and the importance of taking advantage of all of the opportunities life offers.

De Jean has a passion for the arts, having

played the violin for 10 years, and she points out that before applying to business school, she contemplated pursuing a career in the performing arts.

However, her current career has turned out to be a good fit, and De Jean believes that the best part about working in her industry is that "it is never stagnant." She says, "Insurance evolves to keep up with the growing needs of society. A great example of this would be cyber insurance. Forty years ago, the need to protect against cyber-attacks wasn't prevalent whereas today, cybersecurity is one of the main concerns for our businesses and personal lives."

The ever-changing nature of the business requires successful companies to be able to pivot with the times, and she knows that one key to succeeding on this front is to involve young professionals who are attuned to the pulse of the up-and-coming generation of customers. To that end, she says, "my advice for companies seeking to hire, promote and engage young professionals would be to establish a positive work environment that advocates for a healthy work-life balance and encourages sharing new ideas."



Aurora Contractors, Inc. would like to congratulate **Jonathan Chu** for being recognized as an honoree for the 2023 LIBN 30 Under 30 award! Congrats to all of this year's honorees.



**Jonathan Chu**  
Operations Coordinator



## Congratulations

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## CHRISTOPHER DILEONARDO

**TITLE:** Educational Development Officer

**COMPANY:** Jovia Financial Credit Union

**AGE:** 27

Christopher DiLeonardo began working at Best Yet Supermarket in 2012. He was still in high school when he started out as a cashier, and within one year, he became a bookkeeper. While in college, he joined Jericho Specialty Imaging and became an accounting assistant. Within a year, he was promoted to sales and marketing specialist. The summer of 2017, he had the opportunity to work with his father at

Merrill Lynch as a global wealth management intern and then worked as a client associate for Merrill Lynch from 2017-2018.

In the spring of 2018, he graduated from Farmingdale State College with a degree in Business Administration. Shortly thereafter, he joined the team at Jovia Credit Union as a full-time member service representative. In less than a year, he was promoted to business development specialist, and in the summer of 2022, he was promoted to his current position as educational development officer.

Working with clients from all walks of life can be exciting and sometimes challenging, but it can also create new opportunities for those willing to dive in. DiLeonardo learned this lesson when he was a member service representative at Jovia in Massapequa, where he had the pleasure to have the treasurer and a troop leader of the Massapequa Girl Scouts at his desk. "They were simply looking to move one of the troop's bank accounts to Jovia, as they were having issues with their current provider," he says. "After opening the new accounts for them and having a casual conversation, I stumbled upon what I thought would be a wonderful opportunity to speak to all the troop leaders of Massapequa to offer our products and services. We then scheduled a date and time for me to speak to all the leaders. My effort to step outside my comfort zone that day and

ask to visit their troops turned into over 35 new business banking accounts for the credit union."

DiLeonardo believes that the best part about working in his industry is being able to help individuals, get to know them and help them to better navigate their finances. "My goal in my professional life is to be able to educate and help people with their finances," he says. "Being in the classrooms with students in K-12th grade and teaching them financial literacy is the highlight of my job. It gives me immense pleasure seeing the smile on their face when they are engaged in their finances and learning through our demonstrations."

He continues, "Over the last year, I've had the honor of teaching over 1,000 students about budgeting, credit scores and various other financial literacy topics. What I love most about business development is the amount of community involvement. From sponsoring big events all over Long Island to being able to give back to organizations in need, I get to do it all."

He credits his father with sparking his interest in the financial industry, saying, "My dad taught me to be passionate and love what I do."



## BRENDAN D'LOREN

**TITLE:** Director of Development

**COMPANY:** Terwilliger & Bartone Properties

**AGE:** 27

Brendan D'Loren, a Long Island native, serves as director of development for Terwilliger & Bartone Properties, overseeing all development and design efforts for all projects in the Northeast and Ohio markets. D'Loren's expertise includes financial analysis, debt and equity structuring, acquisitions, dispositions and project management for projects under development.

Before joining Terwilliger Bartone, he served as

a development associate at Terwilliger Pappas, focusing on ground-up, multi-family and mixed-use development throughout the Southeast. In his different capacities, he has contributed to the development of over \$400 million of multifamily, student housing and mixed-use projects.

D'Loren is passionate about the built environment and enriching Long Island's communities through thoughtful and impactful development.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Trinity College and is a Master in Real Estate candidate at Harvard University. D'Loren is also a member of Urban Land Institute, Harvard Real Estate Club, ULI Young Leaders Group and LIBI Young Professionals Committee.

He explains that when he began his first job in development as an eager political science major whose only experience in development was a summer internship for a developer in the city, he had tremendous energy and a willingness to learn, but lacked technical know-how. Fortunately, his first boss "was incredibly invested in me and helped me to learn the business and quickly gain confidence." He remembers, "We would stay late when others had left the office to discuss the challenges and tasks and explore greater concepts on the white board in the conference room. This rapidly built my understanding of the business and allowed me to leapfrog my peers and begin to engage

with associates in a meaningful way."

D'Loren cites two factors that make working in the multi-family development industry particularly rewarding. "First and foremost," he says, "is the public good that is created through housing. Creating apartments throughout Long Island and the country, we are actively offering access to quality, dynamic and affordable housing in some of the greatest communities in the country. As someone under 30 from the Island, I understand the barriers to entry-level housing for people my age to continue to live on Long Island. I feel that through our work at Terwilliger Bartone and the work of our contemporaries in the industry, we are ensuring that my generation and beyond will have the opportunity to live, work and play in this incredible place."

He continues, "Home is so central to a having feeling of security, and I believe that this helps people achieve goals and create memories."

Secondly, he notes that the development business is a widely encompassing industry. "We wear a lot of hats and have the pleasure to work with professionals in the construction, banking, insurance, architecture, engineering and local and state government worlds daily."



# BRIANA ENCK-SMITH

**TITLE:** Associate

**COMPANY:** Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, P.C.

**AGE:** 28

**B**riana Enck-Smith is a member of the commercial litigation department, corporate restructuring & bankruptcy practice group and insurance & insurance litigation practice group at Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, P.C.

Her practice focuses primarily on complex commercial litigation, including matters involving breach of contract, shareholder and partner disputes, unfair business practices, trademark

and copyright infringement, real estate disputes and related financial and business disputes. Additionally, Enck-Smith's practice involves defending professional liability claims against attorneys, as well as representing clients in business reorganizations and restructurings and bankruptcy litigation involving fiduciary duty and fraud claims and actions to avoid preferential transfers and fraudulent conveyances.

She received her Juris Doctor from the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, graduating magna cum laude. Enck-Smith is also a graduate of James Madison University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in Justice Studies with a Social Justice concentration and a Family Studies minor, cum laude. During law school, she was an associate editor of the Hofstra Law Review. She was also a member of the Black Law Students Association and the Latino/a American Law Students Association.

Prior to joining the firm, Enck-Smith was a legal intern at the Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County with the Children's Law Bureau, where she drafted special immigration juvenile status motions. She was selected as a Winter Diversity Fellow at Meyer, Suozzi, English, & Klein, P.C. in 2018.

Enck-Smith was a judicial intern for the Honorable LashAnn DeArcy Hall at the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York. She was also a legal intern at the Hofstra

Law Asylum Clinic, where she guided asylum applicants who fled their countries because of persecution. Upon graduation, she received a Gold Public Service Award, which is awarded to graduates who have devoted 750+ hours to public service.

Enck-Smith is admitted to practice in the State of New York and the U.S. District Courts for the Southern District of New York and the Eastern District of New York. She is a member of the Nassau County Bar Association and New York State Bar Association.

She believes that the best part about being a litigator is the intellectual stimulation from analyzing complex legal theories, crafting arguments and legal strategies and problem solving. "While my typical day-to-day responsibilities involve business disputes, my ability to assist people in need through pro bono work is a great feeling," she says.

Enck-Smith also has an entrepreneurial spirit; during the pandemic, she created a candle company with her husband called On the Wax.

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## MARISSA ESPINOZA

**TITLE:** Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, Long Island

**COMPANY:** New York State Executive Chamber

**AGE:** 30

**M**arissa Espinoza currently serves as Gov. Kathy Hochul's Long Island director of intergovernmental affairs, a position she has held since May 2022. Prior to this, Espinoza served in the New York State Senate for five years, first as a member of central staff, then as communications director for Sen. Jim Gaughran. She is a graduate of Brooklyn Law School, and earned her Bachelor of Arts from

Hofstra University. Additionally, Espinoza was a Fulbright Scholar in Ecuador, where she created an "index of financialization" for Ecuador to measure financial stability within the country's economy.

"Living in Ecuador for a year as a Fulbright Scholar was an invaluable, life-altering experience," she says. "The research I conducted there inspired my academic research and work throughout law school. My time living there has also influenced my career path and my path in public service."

She remains passionate about working in the public service industry, and her ability to help others through her work. However, she also likes to stay connected to the legal world, noting that, "I published two Law Review notes during law school and am working on a third."

Espinoza points to her father and her fiancé as sources of great inspiration for her. "Both of them emigrated from South America with only the clothes on their back and the money in their pockets," she says. "My dad didn't speak English (he later taught himself!) and he worked minimum wage jobs as a restaurant cook in order to provide for his family and give me the opportunity to pursue my dreams. My father sacrificed more than I will ever know in order to give me this life."

She says that her fiancé "has overcome countless hurdles as a DREAMer, but his

resiliency, endless optimism and unfailing positivity inspire me every day." Espinoza maintains that "America was — and is — a story of immigrants, and we should celebrate and embrace the rich diversity of our country and our immigrant brothers and sisters."

She strongly believes that it's important to lift up the next generation, and she is convinced that one of the best ways to do that is for companies and organizations to provide strong mentors for young professionals. "I am lucky to have some great mentors who have taken a chance on me; they have promoted my career and acted as a trusting sounding board for me. Mentors within an organization, whether formal or informal, are vital to helping promote and engage young professionals."

While Espinoza loves many aspects of her job, she believes that the very best part of working in her industry is "the ability to make a difference and help improve New Yorkers' lives."



## ROSANA FILINGERI

**TITLE:** Vice President, Business Development

**COMPANY:** Cybersafe Solutions

**AGE:** 26

**R**osana Filingeri is the vice president of business development at Cybersafe Solutions, where she leads a team responsible for developing and cultivating global business development opportunities for Cybersafe and its partner base.

Filingeri's passion for the industry and expertise have allowed her to quickly rise through the ranks within the company.

Having served in such roles such as account management and strategic partnerships has allowed her to better understand what's important to the firm's clients and partners alike. She now leverages this unique position to effectively train her team members and partners on how to cultivate strong relationships, identify new cybersecurity opportunities and expand their book of business.

In her current position, she is responsible for developing and managing major partnerships and collaborations that both support and extend Cybersafe Solutions' traditional client base. She is also responsible for supporting and managing key aspects of each channel partnership.

Prior to joining Cybersafe Solutions, Filingeri began her career with IT research and advisory firm Gartner, Inc. It was in that role where she truly found her passion for the cybersecurity industry. Supporting the education sector, she quickly understood how important a strong cybersecurity program is cross industry.

"The best thing about working in the cybersecurity industry is how dynamically changing it is. No two days look alike," she says. "Our company works with clients in three ways: first, with proactive visibility, almost like an alarm system for a home, but for businesses computers, networks and cloud services. The second allows us to work with companies to

test their defenses and the third is actually through what we call incident response. Incident response meets businesses after the fact, in many cases once their defenses have failed and the business had been hacked. In that case, we come in and help them return to normal while also talking about the importance of being proactive rather than reactive."

A graduate of High Point University, Filingeri believes that companies need to support young employees, reminding businesses to "remember the time someone took a chance on you." She remembers her own experience joining an industry she knew little about, and five years later, she still feels enormous gratitude for those who helped her get where she is today.

"I believe you can be surprised by how much talent young professionals can bring to a work place," she says. "Mentor them, teach them your experience while also listening to their new and exciting perspectives. Most importantly, collaborate! Create an environment where ideas can be shared."

A triplet, with two sisters who she says are "as driven in their careers as I am in mine," she finds inspiration in her family, close friends and fiancé. "I am beyond fortunate to have a support system that continuously pushes me to be the best version of myself."



## RYAN FOLEY

guidance to students, helping them to identify how his institution can align with their aspirations, interests and academic abilities

Foley's strong interpersonal skills enable him to establish connections with students, their families and his colleagues. His ability to listen attentively, empathize with the unique challenges students face and offer practical solutions that empower them to successfully navigate the complex admissions landscape have helped to drive his career forward.

His strong ties to the university have helped to shape his career. "When looking at my life as a professional, I can attribute so much of my growth to my experience as a student at Adelphi University," he says. "I entered my college years as a timid student who would hide in the back of the classroom. Through my time at Adelphi, I got engaged with various organizations, leadership activities, on-campus jobs and pretty much anything else the school could offer. While these opportunities in themselves were fun and rewarding, the most important part of all of them were the skills I took with me along the way. Public speaking, time management, professionalism and multitasking are all things I use each day. I am so thankful for the experiences Adelphi provided me with and the growth it afforded me."

He has found working as a college admissions

professional to be extremely rewarding, and sees a lot of himself in the students that he works with each day. "There always seems to be so much anxiety surrounding the college search process. Being able to guide students along their journey and hopefully relieve some of that anxiety is what makes this such a rewarding experience."

While Foley says his goal is to get students to come to Adelphi, at the end of the day, it's not always about that. Instead, it's about helping them to see their future after high school. "Through workshops, Adelphi's College Awareness Days, career readiness presentations or one of the many other future-focused events, I have had the pleasure of truly counseling students on all that is possible for them. Knowing that I can be a part of making college an option for students is my favorite part of working in this industry."

He adds, "While that is what keeps me in the industry, what keeps me at Adelphi is the passion that I have for the university. After the fantastic years I had as a student, it makes every day better knowing that I am giving back to the university that truly gave so much to me."

**TITLE:** Senior Assistant Director of Admissions

**COMPANY:** Adelphi University

**AGE:** 26

**R**yan Foley is an accomplished college admissions professional with a passion for helping students achieve their academic goals. While relatively new in the field, Foley possesses an in-depth understanding of the college admissions process and a track record of success in guiding students through this critical stage of their educational journey. This expertise allows him to provide personalized

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## LAUREN GRASSO

**TITLE:** Director of Marketing

**COMPANY:** Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, P.C.

**AGE:** 26

**L**auren Grasso is the director of marketing at Ruskin Moscou Faltischek, P.C., a business-centric law firm located in Uniondale.

She joined the firm in March 2019 as a marketing assistant. By March 2023, she'd advanced to the role of director of marketing, where she is responsible for all marketing requirements for more than 70 attorneys.

Grasso graduated from Hofstra University

with a BBA in Marketing and Public Relations and a Master of Science in Marketing.

Active in her community, she is on the planning committee of the American Kidney Foundation of Long Island, where she helped to raise almost \$1 million for kidney patients in New York. Grasso is also co-chair of the United Way of Long Island Emerging Leaders. Additionally, she is an active member of Praxis Young Professionals Network, which brings together Long Island's young professionals. She is a member of Sunrise Association's young professional committee, which helps to raise funds for Sunrise Day Camps Association, a nonprofit organization that provides year-round programs for children with cancer, including summer camps and in-hospital services.

She has been a guest speaker at Hofstra University's Business School, discussing how to succeed after college to an audience of high school seniors.

While her professional expertise is in the marketing arena, she says that her love of dance has deeply impacted her life, teaching her important lessons and skills. "Being so heavily involved in dance taught me to have great time management skills, how to be organized and the importance of working hard to achieve your goals, even when you want to give up," she says. "I learned it is OK to fail and

learn from it rather than letting it knock you down. Being captain of my dance teams and then a head coach taught me all of my strong leadership skills."

One of the things she loves best about her job is the ability to do many different things while working with a wide cross section of people. "Legal marketing directors wear many hats and work not only with attorneys but also support staff, vendors and other counterparts are various organizations. Legal marketing focuses on all branches of marketing, not just traditional." On top of that, she enjoys the opportunity to attend various networking events. "I love to meet new marketing professionals across all different organizations."

She credits her mother as being a huge role model and source of inspiration for her. "My mom is a successful businesswoman who has given me the confidence and encouragement to achieve my own goals," she says. "She pushed me when I wanted to give up, and I look up to her for her guidance. She is the inspiration for my career path in business and marketing, and I hope to be as successful one day as she is."



## HALLE GROSSMAN

**TITLE:** Event Manager

**COMPANY:** HIA-LI

**AGE:** 26

**H**alle Grossman, a Long Island native, holds the position of event manager at HIA-LI. With her expertise in event management and marketing, Grossman plays a pivotal role in the successful planning and execution of various corporate events, trade shows, conferences and award ceremonies organized by HIA-LI. Her attention to detail and organizational skills ensure that each event is flawlessly executed, leaving a lasting

impression on attendees.

Apart from her responsibilities in event management, Grossman actively contributes to the marketing efforts at HIA-LI. She collaborates closely with the marketing team, leveraging her insights and expertise to develop and implement strategies that effectively promote HIA-LI events and enhance brand visibility. From designing marketing materials to executing well-crafted marketing campaigns, Grossman's contributions play a vital role in attracting a diverse audience to HIA-LI events.

Outside of work, she finds joy in spending time with her 4-year-old son, as well as being the go-to party planner for family and friends.

While balancing motherhood with a career can present challenges, she notes that motherhood has played a crucial role in shaping her professional journey. "It ignited a sense of purpose within me, causing me to reevaluate my career path and take a leap of faith into an industry I was apprehensive to enter," she says. "Despite the inevitable challenges along the way, I am grateful for the inspiration and motivation that becoming a mom brought to me, as it empowered me to pursue a fulfilling and meaningful professional journey."

She is inspired by her cousin Jamie, stating, "Witnessing her effortlessly juggle her responsibilities as a nurturing mother and a high-achieving professional motivates me to push

beyond my limits and strive for excellence in all areas of my life. Her dedication to her family and her career exemplifies the notion that with careful planning, perseverance and a positive mindset, it is possible to thrive in multiple areas of life."

Recognizing the important role that young professionals play in helping to shape the future, Grossman says, "For companies looking to hire, promote and engage young professionals effectively, it's crucial to create a workplace culture that's diverse and inclusive. Additionally, it's important to provide growth opportunities, support work-life balance and offer meaningful work with a sense of purpose. By putting these strategies into action, you'll be able to create an engaging environment that attracts and retains young professionals, leading to a thriving and successful organizational culture."

Grossman believes the best part about working in her industry is "the incredible opportunity to meet new people and bring people together to create unforgettable experiences. I truly enjoy every aspect of planning and pulling off events that leave a lasting impression. I enjoy getting to be part of important milestones, educational programming, award ceremonies and networking events. Plus, I get to work with a diverse group of vendors and venues in all areas of Long Island. That's what makes it all worth it."



# KHALID HACHIL

**TITLE:** Electrical Engineer  
**COMPANY:** Stantec  
**AGE:** 29

**K**halid Hachil is an electrical engineer at Stantec, the second-largest multinational, multidiscipline architecture and engineering design and consulting firm. He graduated with his bachelor's degree from SUNY Farmingdale in 2016 and a master's degree with a Controls specialization from the New York Institute of Technology in 2019. Last year, Hachil received his professional engineering license in the state

of New York, a process that requires four years of progressive professional experience in an engineering field and a passing grade on the license exam.

Hachil started his career in engineering through multiple internships prior to graduation. His experience included being part of the infrastructure development in response to hurricane Sandy. His internship experience included the redevelopment of the water district and wastewater district of Bay Park and Long Beach. After graduating in 2016 as an electrical engineer, Hachil became responsible for designing for a wide variety of projects. These projects ranged from commercial buildings, high-rise buildings, railroads, schools, university campuses and distribution centers to emergency service buildings, hospitals, assisted living facilities, rehabilitation centers, water districts, wastewater districts and public parks projects.

Some of the more notable projects he worked on included a 28-story high-rise on 3rd Avenue in New York City, a \$36 million sports complex for the Farmingdale School District, East Islip School District, Tower Building, Brick Café – Center of Students with Disabilities, the Gallery of Nassau Community College, Centereach and Roslyn Fire District, Engel Burman Assisted Living, Calverton Veteran Affairs, and Water Treatment Facilities in Long Island and New Jersey. He has also designed the electrical and fire alarm systems

for distribution centers ranging from 300,000-500,000 square feet in Westbury, Huntington, Queens, Bronx and Yonkers. Hachil is currently part of the team renovating Grand Central Terminal which is supporting the design of what will be the largest skyscraper in New York City's Midtown East.

He is certified as a LEED AP BD+C and has designed a LEED Gold Project for Nassau Community College; he is currently part of the team designing a LEED Silver Project for Stony Brook Hospital. Hachil also performed the photovoltaic system design for the above LEED Gold Project and an emergency service building. He has designed electric vehicle charging stations for cars, buses and commercial trucks throughout New York.

An instructor for Kaplan – PPI2Pass, Hachil uses his experience to teach other engineers and help them to pass the FE exam. He has also collaborated with Engineering.com to inform young people about engineering and the career benefits of licensure.

He believes that best part about working in his industry is "having the opportunity to be a modern-day innovator. This is a field where creative energy is used for practical innovations. We solve common problems by taking old or outdated infrastructure and design a new building with the best technology in mind."

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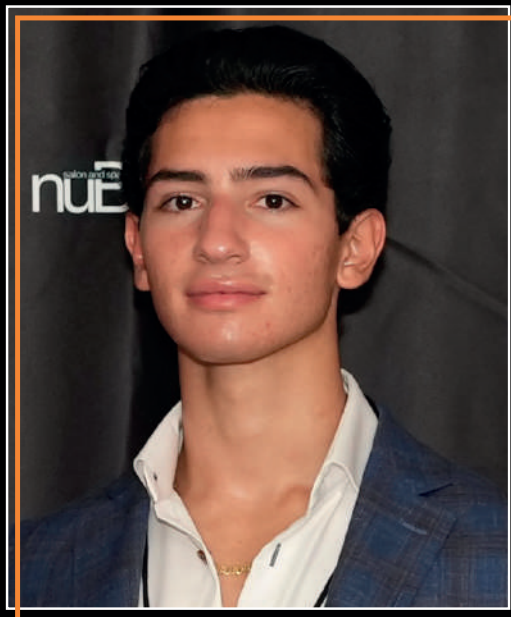
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## LEAH JACKSON

**TITLE:** Board Chair / Associate Attorney

**COMPANY:** Minority Millennials / The Law Offices of Frederick K. Brewington

**AGE:** 29

As chairwoman of Minority Millennials, Inc., Leah Jackson has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to cultivating the next generation of civic-minded leaders of color. Under her leadership, the organization has empowered over 3,500 youths across Long Island, creating pathways to job opportunities, wealth-building strategies and civic engagement. Jackson's work at

Minority Millennials is not just about economic advancement; it's about nurturing leadership potential and fostering a sense of social responsibility in these young minds.

In addition to her work with Minority Millennials, she is also a respected attorney at the Law Offices of Frederick K. Brewington, a firm known for its enduring commitment to protect and advocate for the legal rights of minorities on Long Island, something the firm has been doing for over four decades. In her legal career, Jackson embodies the same values that she instills in the youths she serves: courage, resilience and a deep commitment to justice and equality.

Jackson found her calling early when, during her second summer of law school, she took an internship at The Law Offices of Frederick K. Brewington. At that time, her only legal experience was from her first internship in criminal prosecution, and she was convinced that the only form of "justice" was prosecution. However, she says, "Working under Mr. Brewington that summer ignited my passion for criminal defense and civil rights, which led me to working as a public defender for the Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County before returning to The Law Offices of Frederick K. Brewington where I work today."

Today, her passion for equity and empowerment, paired with her legal prowess,

positions her as a force of change on Long Island. She believes her work impacts not only the individuals she directly serves, but also contributes to the larger narrative of social justice and inclusivity.

"Many people inspire me, but I feel that the hunger for change that I see daily, whether it is through my clients who have endured more than anyone should, or through the young people I encounter in my work with Minority Millennials, inspires me to be the best I can be for them," she says. "I have a desire to help others and a longing to fight for social change and human rights. Seeing the hunger and need for change inspires me to be the voice that people need."

Jackson is passionate about her career, and believes that the best part about working in her industry is "being able to tangibly help people."

With younger employees possessed of unique strengths, skills and passions, she believes it's important for firms to look at how best to draw out these rising stars. "You need to be willing to adapt to different work styles and appreciate our generation's need for work-life balance and respect for mental health. Our generation has recognized that you do not need to sacrifice your family, friends and outside interests for you career. You can have both."



## JAWAD KHALFAN

**TITLE:** Chief Executive Officer

**COMPANY:** SecureTech Systems

**AGE:** 26

As chief executive officer, Jawad Khalfan is the co-founder and "quarterback" at SecureTech Systems, headquartered in Garden City. SecureTech delivers high-end technology solutions for businesses, developers and IT teams. He is a firm believer in organization, integrity and quality, and he notes that SecureTech embodies these core values by providing the perfect blend of white-glove

service in the blue-collar world.

Within three years of establishment, SecureTech Systems has made a significant impact on Long Island with over 1,500 installations across Nassau and Suffolk counties. The firm's deep understanding and expertise in security, AV, networking and automation systems isn't the only reason the firm has seen success; it is also the company's reputation for providing unmatched response times, strong communication and excellent customer service.

SecureTech continues to grow, and Khalfan and his "dream team" have big plans to scale and reach more businesses that need a true technology partner.

A Stony Brook College of Business alum, Khalfan is heavily involved in sports and believes in constantly learning and improving himself. His favorite quote is: "Push yourself to the limit and you will find that you are limitless."

He says he is inspired by other entrepreneurs, and notes, "Whenever I meet someone who is happy, successful and loves what they do, they usually are an entrepreneur."

His own entrepreneurial journey was spurred in part by the pandemic. "When COVID hit and I was furloughed, I was so shocked that a job I loved so much and was so devoted to could just slip away from me with no warning," he says. "Of course, COVID is a unique case, but that really was the push to say I need to work for

myself and have more control of my destiny."

Today, he believes one of the best parts about working in his industry is that "you get to see the insides of several different businesses, understand how they operate and help them to accomplish their goals. For example, we have a client who manufactures airplane parts and sells them in bulk to all different entities, including the government. We have restaurants, tech companies, construction companies, medical offices, schools — the list goes on. And each time we meet a new client, we are brought into their facility and can see how they run and how we can help."

As a young entrepreneur, he knows the kind of energy and passion young professionals bring to the workforce, and he has advice for those seeking to find, hire, promote and engage this generation. "Focus on education, empowerment and getting personal. Many young professionals today are willing to work hard if they feel personally taken care of. If an employer can provide tools and resources for their employees to grow personally and professionally, they will be able to retain them."





# JESSICA KLEIN

**TITLE:** Marketing and Development Coordinator

**COMPANY:** Options for Community Living, Inc.

**AGE:** 28

Jessica Klein is the marketing and development coordinator at Options for Community Living, Inc. She began her career with the organization as the development assistant in 2016, and has grown professionally within the development department for six years. In her current role, she is responsible for agency marketing, branding and communication efforts, and assists with relationship building

and the planning/organization of fundraising endeavors. Klein is also the chair of the Options ENGAGE (Employee Network for Grins and Gratifying Experiences) committee. The ENGAGE committee is designed to improve each employee's experience in the workplace by planning and organizing fun and fulfilling activities that promote the well-being of employees and their families.

Klein's passion for marketing and employee engagement and her dedication to the human services field have allowed her to thrive in her career. She holds a master's degree in Marketing with a concentration in Public Relations from Liberty University, a bachelor's degree in Sociology from SUNY Oneonta and a certificate in Non-Profit Management from Molloy University. She is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals - Long Island Chapter and The Junior League of Long Island.

"As a professional working in the nonprofit sector, the best part of my job is knowing that the work I do directly impacts the Long Island Community," she says. "I have called Long Island my home my entire life, and I am invested in advancing our communities."

As strange as it sounds, Klein says the COVID-19 pandemic was "the catalyst that helped me get to where I am today." She explains, "The pandemic forced me to reflect on my life and what goals I wanted to reach in

the next few years. I wanted to continue my education, but I continuously put it off because I was 'too busy.' In August 2020, I enrolled in graduate school and pursued my master's degree in Marketing. Completing a master's degree program online was difficult, and at times, it felt very isolating, but the end goal of having the degree pushed me forward. The knowledge I gained throughout the process has allowed me to implement essential changes for my company, and I am proud of the accomplishment."

She believes that today's young professionals need to see a company culture that supports skill learning and opportunities for growth. "One of the programs my company offers is a shadowing program, which allows you to shadow any position in the company you may be interested in learning more about. It allows employees to learn and view growth opportunities they may have never seen for their own career path."

Klein maintains that her mother, who recently passed away after a battle with breast cancer, is one of her greatest inspirations. "She always looked for the best in people and encouraged my sisters and me to do the same. She was gracious and charitable and encouraged me from a young age to give back."



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## LEVI KUSHNIR

**TITLE:** President

**COMPANY:** Stable Holdings

**AGE:** 30

Ever since he was 18 years old, Levi Kushnir has had an interest in real estate. He began his career as an intern with First Meridian Mortgage in Brooklyn, where he helped close loans and sell mortgages in the secondary market. Within three months, he brought in his first deal and closed his first mortgage. After that, he quickly realized that selling mortgages was more profitable than servicing those

who sold them. He accepted a promotion to salesperson and, from there, it was off to the races.

When he was 19, Kushnir bought his first house — a three-family home in Elmont — using \$35,000 of his own money and \$50,000 from an outside investor. His plan was to make renovations to the house and flip it. As part of the deal, his investor would be paid back at an annualized rate of 12% until the loan was paid off and, after that, the investor would receive 20% of Levi's profits.

When he was unable to sell the house, he decided to refinance the mortgage and rent out the house. He soon had a tenant and entered into a rent-to-own agreement with them. Both parties agreed upon a sales price and the tenant paid an additional \$500 on top of the rent toward the down payment of the house. In the meantime, Kushnir helped the tenant fix his credit so he could qualify for a loan, which he did. As a result, Kushnir was able to pay off the mortgage and pay back his investor, while making a profit for himself.

After three years working with First Meridian Mortgage, Kushnir was offered a director of sales job with Odyssey Funding in Cedarhurst. His responsibilities included training sales staff, hiring and vetting loan officers and meeting with lenders, prospective investors and first-time homebuyers. While working at Odyssey,

he continued flipping houses on the side.

In 2015, Kushnir co-partnered with another real estate investor to form LMPK Properties & Realty in Hewlett. In 2019, the partnership dissolved, and Stable Holdings was formed. Under Kushnir's leadership, the company has raised and invested in several millions of dollars' worth in real estate.

Stable Holdings purchases, renovates and sells properties and land. The firm is known for negotiating with buyers and sellers of all kinds of properties, managing and coordinating full renovations and all aspects of purchasing and selling properties. It has a proprietary direct-to-seller leads system, which was built from the ground up by Kushnir and his team, providing opportunities for the company to acquire properties and broker deals with its clients.

When he's not at work, Kushnir is active in his community. He volunteered his time as a lifeguard instructor and put together toy drives for Toys For Tots. In addition, he donates his time to local students who wish to work in the real estate industry and teaches them what the industry entails. He also provides support to victims of domestic violence, those with substance issues and at-risk youth, and delivers food to families in need on behalf of various organizations.



## CORY MAHONY

**TITLE:** Founder/Owner

**COMPANY:** Urban Fields Agriculture

**AGE:** 28

The idea for Urban Fields Agriculture was born in early 2017 when Cory Mahony saw an article in Forbes detailing the start of another vertical farming company in California called Plenty. After reading the article, he spent countless hours researching and learning about this technology.

Eventually, he decided he had a strong enough understanding to try his hand at it and

built some miniature test setups in his bedroom. He tried a few different hydroponic methods and landed on one called deep water culture as the best candidate for a full-scale system.

By September 2019, he finally decided to pull the trigger, and Urban Fields Agriculture was born. Mahony admits that there were a lot of stumbling blocks and he made many mistakes along the way, however, every time he just dusted himself off and tried again, attacking the problems at different angles until he found something that worked. Today, the farm is almost fully automated, aside from the basic tasks of cleaning and moving plants around, with an expansion to a much larger facility on the way. He is excited to see what the future has to offer and is looking forward to the challenges that come along with it.

When you run your own business, it's easy to love what you do, and Mahony finds himself passionate about what he does. "I love being able to sit back and just watch the plants grow while at the same time devising better and better ways to grow them. Every year, my system gets smoother and more efficient, and I really like the problem-solving aspect of it."

He admits that his background is not what one might typically expect from someone working in this field. "While most people assume that I must have some sort of background in agriculture or engineering, I actually come from

the hospitality industry," he says. "But being involved in bars and restaurants gave me a wonderful insight into the inner workings, which allowed me to tailor what I do to meet their needs. It also taught me how to communicate with and sell effectively to a wide range of people and personality types."

He gives dual credit for his success to his high school robotics team (Team Aftershock 263) and to his experience in scouting (Troop 221). "The scouts gave me a love for nature and all living things, and robotics reinforced my fascination with technology. So, what could be a better combination than a vertical farm that combines both of my passions seamlessly?"

Mahony encourages businesses to seek out passionate young employees. "While not all of us are driven and hungry to succeed, we do exist, and if you manage to find us, it will transform your company for the better. You cannot replace the energy and fresh ideas you'll get from young professionals ready to make a difference. We are here to get to work early, stay late and make our mark on the world."



# ALEXIS R. MAJANO

**TITLE:** Associate

**COMPANY:** Sahn Ward Braff Koblenz PLLC

**AGE:** 28

**A**lexis R. Majano is an associate with Sahn Ward Braff Koblenz PLLC, concentrating his practice in corporate law, municipal law and real estate law and transactions.

Majano received his law degree from the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University in 2020 and his undergraduate degree from the Frank G. Zarb School of Business at Hofstra University in 2017. While

attending law school, Majano conducted research with the Law Logic & Technology Laboratory for the Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University.

He is currently admitted to practice law in the State of New York.

Prior to attending law school, he served in the United States Marine Corps with the 6th Communications Battalion in New York as a field radio operator. He recently completed his time in service with the Marine Corps as a reservist.

Majano says that making the decision to join the Marine Corps reserves during his second year of college at Hofstra University was both the hardest and best decision of his life. "The experience and lessons I learned from my leadership and fellow Marines throughout the course of my five-year enlistment will carry with me throughout my entire life," he says. "From basic training to various promotions, the Marine Corps showed me that with unwavering dedication, anything is possible."

He cites his mother and father as having been his greatest inspiration in becoming both a successful professional and a better person. "Their dedication and hard work throughout the course of my life showed me that anything is possible if you set your mind to it. My time in the Marine Corps also pushed me to become a better version of myself for my friends, family

and colleagues."

Majano feels fortunate to work in a field he loves, and says, "The uniqueness of each transaction makes working in the real estate/corporate industry very exciting and engaging. I've never looked at any two deals as the same. Everything from negotiating initial terms through closing is unique for each deal."

He believes that companies benefit from employing young professionals, and encourages them to seek out young talent as they plan their path forward. "Providing an opportunity for growth and development is one of the most important aspects that young professionals look for in a potential position," he says.

When he's not hard at work building his career, Majano enjoys pursuing personal goals that help him to grow, and he shares a fun fact about himself: "Although most people know I have a slight fear of heights, what they don't know is that one of the top things on my bucket list is to go skydiving one day!"

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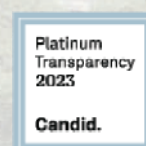
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## MATT MANOOGIAN

**TITLE:** Vice President

**COMPANY:** CBRE, Inc.

**AGE:** 30

**M**att Manoogian is a vice president in the Long Island office of CBRE, the world's largest global real estate firm. Manoogian specializes in providing advisory and transaction services to both public and private sector clients in the New York Tri-State region, as well as nationally.

While he focuses on tenant representation, his experience also includes investment sales,

industrial leasing and landlord agency work. Manoogian's skills in understanding office occupiers' needs and finding creative real estate solutions can aid and support client business objectives. His multifaceted experience provides a unique understanding of all sides of the transaction, enabling him to navigate the negotiation process in the best interest of his clients.

Since joining CBRE after graduating from the College of Charleston, he has been involved in over 75 transactions, totaling over 7 million square feet. Manoogian is partners with Martin Lomazow and Phil Heilpern, two of the top-producing brokers on Long Island.

Manoogian enjoys many facets of his industry, and says, "I appreciate that the commercial real estate industry is one where partnerships, innovation and hard work are recognized. We advise clients over the course of many years and are able to physically see the end result after a real estate transaction is completed." As an example of this, he points out how his team was recently awarded The Most Ingenious Deal of the Year by the ABLI and CIBS for the redevelopment of an office building into a 103,500-square-foot, state-of-the-art distribution center which it leased to Keurig Dr. Pepper. "This transaction was complex and involved people from both sides of the transaction working to deliver a solution

that worked for all. When clients improve their real estate, their employees and business are directly impacted, and it can lead to shared growth and success."

When asked to share an experience or accomplishment that helped him get to where he is today, he says, "The brokerage business has a stigma that brokers only care about closing deals, and sometimes that is true. But I have personally always stood by the philosophy that doing right by my clients is beneficial to all. Early on in my career, I advised one of my clients to do just the opposite ... not to transact. This built a level of trust that has led to a seven-year relationship where we work together nationally. This experience taught me the importance of having a long-term view and that relationships and trust are the most important piece of the business. Has it lost me deals along the way? Of course, but I would say in the long run, I, my clients and counterparts are, and will, continue to be net positive."

For firms looking to engage the next generation of professionals, he advises providing a desirable environment to work in, and suggests retiring outdated and tired office spaces. "People's working styles are more complex than ever and the ability to create a tailored work space is climbing on the list of perks as people enter the job market."



## CARA MCQUILLAN

**TITLE:** Audit & Assurance Manager

**COMPANY:** UHY LLP

**AGE:** 28

**A**s an audit and assurance manager at UHY LLP, Cara McQuillan is an accomplished accounting professional. She graduated from Siena College in 2017 and holds a master's degree in Accounting as well as a Bachelor of Science in Accounting.

McQuillan joined the organization as an intern and transitioned into a full-time role upon graduation. Throughout her tenure at UHY,

she has successfully engaged with a diverse range of clients and industries. With a primary focus on private company clients, she has also provided valuable services to publicly traded clients.

In addition to her contributions within the audit practice, McQuillan has made significant strides as a member of the transaction service team, lending her expertise to buy and sell-side financial due diligence processes.

She obtained her Certified Public Accountant designation in September 2020, and feels that this accomplishment has significantly contributed to her professional growth. "This achievement has been instrumental in propelling me forward and opening doors to various opportunities in the field of accounting," she says. "Preparing for the CPA exam demanded immense dedication, discipline and perseverance. It required months of rigorous study, countless late nights and sacrifice of personal time. However, the process instilled in me a deep sense of commitment and strengthened my work ethic."

McQuillan advocates for hiring young professionals, and believes, "By investing in the growth of young professionals, companies can create a dynamic and thriving workplace that attracts top talent, retains valuable employees and paves the way for a successful future." To that end, she advises companies to prioritize

investing in these employees' growth, both professionally and personally.

One way to do that, she remarks, is to provide mentorship and guidance from experienced employees, establishing mentorship programs or pairing young professionals with seasoned mentors who can offer valuable insights, help set career goals and provide a supportive network for their professional development.

She also believes in fostering a culture that promotes continuous learning and growth. "Encourage young professionals to explore new ideas, experiment with innovative approaches and share their knowledge with others," she suggests. "Emphasize the importance of staying updated with industry trends and advancements, and provide platforms for knowledge-sharing, such as regular team meetings, training or internal presentations."

Positive reinforcement is another great motivator, so McQuillan reminds companies to acknowledge and reward the achievements of young professionals in the workplace. "This can be in the form of promotions, bonuses or public recognition. Celebrating their successes not only motivates and inspires them to excel further, but also demonstrates that their contributions are valued and appreciated."



# RAYMOND MOHLER JR.

**TITLE:** Founder, Chairman & CEO  
**COMPANY:** Little Saint Nick Foundation  
**AGE:** 25

Over the past 19 years, Raymond Mohler Jr. has become a well-respected youth philanthropist. He grew up in Lynbrook, where the Little Saint Nick Foundation was founded when he was just 6 years old. Since then, the organization has developed many anxiety-relief programs in conjunction with pediatric hospitals, and has successfully changed how kids experience their hospital visits, serving over

2 million kids.

Growing up, Mohler had the honor of being named a Prudential Spirit of Community National Honoree, appearing on Nickelodeon's the H.A.L.O Effect and ringing the bell at the New York Stock Exchange. He graduated from the University of Tampa in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in Entrepreneurship, while also being named the Dr. Alan Weimer Entrepreneurship Student of the Year. His current goal is to scale the Little Saint Nick Foundation mission to all 50 states and internationally, while maintaining that local feel of kids helping kids.

He is particularly proud of the impact of the Nickelodeon documentary he was featured in. The H.A.L.O Effect highlighted many of his organization's programs, including a toy drive, youth volunteer event and hospital party. "After the episode aired, a 12-year-old boy from St. Louis reached out to us and wanted to do everything he saw on the H.A.L.O Effect," he says. "He saw the documentary while in the hospital with a broken leg, and was inspired to carry out our mission in St. Louis. Over many phone calls, I guided this boy on how to conduct a toy drive, lead a volunteer event and connect with local hospitals."

Mohler was delighted when, a couple of months later, the boy organized a toy drive that raised 500 toys, got 100 National Honor Society

kids to pack 1,000 gift bags and planned a hospital toy party. "This was an eye-opening event for us. Our organization to this point had only been about me giving to others with my parents supporting me in the background," he says. "All of a sudden, there were 100 kids giving back under the leadership of a 12 year old. I immediately thought: What if we not only help kids in crisis, but inspire kids of all ages to give back and teach them service to others? I knew then and there that we could make 'Kids Inspiring and Helping Kids' not just a national but an international movement for kids of all ages."

Today, almost seven years later, his organization has successfully expanded to seven states and Canada, serving over 2 million kids.

Mohler believes there are two things that make working in the nonprofit industry so special: "The mission we are able to carry out, and the people that come into our lives." He is convinced that "to be able to wake up every day and know that our mission is successfully being carried out without physically being a part of our programs is truly special. The hundreds of volunteers and donors on a daily basis make the growth of our mission possible."



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## MICHAEL PITRE

**TITLE:** Associate Attorney

**COMPANY:** Shaub, Ahmuty, Citrin & Spratt, LLP

**AGE:** 28

**M**ichael Pitre is an associate attorney in the health care litigation group at Shaub, Ahmuty, Citrin & Spratt, LLP. Health care providers, hospital representatives and insurance carriers rely on him to guide them through the litigation process in complex medical malpractice cases. His strong written and oral advocacy skills and competency across all phases of litigation have enabled him to obtain favorable results for

his clients.

Prior to his admission to the New York State Bar, Pitre interned at multiple law firms and gained experience in medical malpractice, personal injury, criminal, commercial, real estate and corporate law.

He earned his Bachelor of Arts from Quinnipiac University in 2017, where he graduated summa cum laude, and his J.D. from St. John's University School of Law in 2020. At Quinnipiac, Pitre served as president of the Pre-Law Society, and received multiple academic awards, including the Quinnipiac Academic Award Scholarship, 2017 West Educational Publishing Student Award, 2017 Legal Studies Student Award and 2016 Donald Hall Poetry Prize. At St. John's, he served as editor-in-chief of the American Bankruptcy Institute Law Review, was a legal writing teaching assistant and was a two-time recipient of the Dean's Award for Excellence in Legal Writing.

Pitre is actively involved with various charitable organizations, including the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and Disabled American Veterans.

His passion for helping those in the health care industry comes in part from his mother, Tami Hope Pitre, a medical professional who battled multiple sclerosis for 18 years until she suddenly passed away from COVID in 2020. "My mom devoted her life to the medical profession and

worked 38 years in the field of nursing, most recently as the night-shift administrative nursing supervisor at Nassau University Medical Center," he says. "My mom's passion for helping others gave her the strength to carry on her fight against multiple sclerosis day after day. She led by example and taught me how to succeed in the face of adversity. In honor of my mom, I graduated from St. John's University School of Law in May 2020, less than one month after her passing, and went on to pass the bar exam on my first attempt. Thereafter, I chose to dedicate my practice of law to defending the heroes of the health care industry."

He attributes his professional success not only to his work ethic and determination to succeed, but also to the support of family members, friends, educators and colleagues. "Although success is defined by the individual, true success is never celebrated alone."

Pitre encourages companies to employ strategies that will attract young talent. "Communication and transparency are key. Young professionals today were born and raised in a world with essentially unfettered access to information," he says. "As such, to ensure workplace satisfaction, employers should keep an open dialogue with their employees and tailor expectations with an aim at establishing a mutually beneficial professional relationship."



## COLBY ROYCE

**TITLE:** Banker

**COMPANY:** J.P. Morgan Private Bank

**AGE:** 30

**C**olby Royce is a banker with J.P. Morgan Private Bank. In her current role, she is responsible for providing wealth management advice and solutions for high-net-worth individuals, families and foundations. She focuses on all aspects of a client's balance sheet, including investments, banking, lending, estate planning and philanthropy. She works closely with strategy, products and solutions

teams across J.P. Morgan to carry out her clients' goals and objectives.

Royce has been with J.P. Morgan for over seven years, working in both the New York and Palm Beach, Florida offices. While in the Palm Beach office, she gained extensive experience focused on managing wealth and providing advice to private business owners, corporate executives and nonprofit organizations.

She graduated with a Master of International Business degree from the University of Florida Hough Graduate School of Business and a Bachelor of Science in Finance from the University of Florida Warrington College of Business. She holds the FINRA Series 7 and 63 licenses.

Having spent the entirety of her professional career at J.P. Morgan, she feels fortunate to have "grown up" at the company, benefiting from "the high-quality and, more importantly, continued training and development programs, which have been key to my success." She encourages companies and individuals to invest the time and capital in developing young professionals, not only as it relates to their day-to-day roles but also focusing on their personal development.

Royce believes the best part of working in her industry is having the opportunity to work with "a widely diverse group of people on a daily basis, from my J.P. Morgan colleagues to

professional partners to my client base." She notes, "These experiences keep every day exciting and have exposed me to the wide range of opportunities."

Growing up in a small, rural central Florida community, Royce says she was always interested in business, noting how as a child, "I was active in 4-H and 'raised' citrus trees, both in the pursuit of being competitive (I won Grand Champion two years!) and in making money at a young age."

As a sophomore in college, she had the opportunity to intern for the summer with her congressman in Washington, D.C., and she loved how the internship provided her with exposure to a wide range of people and experiences, while reinforcing the possibilities of the world out there. "Although I knew I didn't want to have a career in politics, the experience inspired me to believe that I could do whatever I put my mind to."

Royce notes that family is very important to her, and says, "Growing up, I had two grandfathers (albeit different kinds of men) who I admired very much and who inspired me to work hard and be a difference-maker in the world."

When she's not busy at work, Royce enjoys traveling, spending time with her family and exploring New York's culinary scene.



# MATTHEW SANTAMARIA

**TITLE:** Media Relations Manager

**COMPANY:** Alzheimer's Association Long Island Chapter

**AGE:** 28

**B**orn and raised in Farmingdale, Matthew Santamaria attended college at the New York Institute of Technology in Old Westbury, where he completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Arts. During his time there, he worked his way up on the student newspaper, The Campus Slate, ultimately earning the role of editor in chief. He honed his craft at several internships, which include D2 Emerge, East

Coast Conference, Nassau County Museum of Art and MLB Advanced Media.

After graduating with his master's degree in 2019, Santamaria joined the Huntington's Disease Society of America in New York City as a communications coordinator, and was later promoted to communications manager. During his tenure at the Huntington's Disease Society of America, he wrote more than 289 stories about families affected by Huntington's disease, and was able to secure countless media placements for the organization across the country. After four years, he returned to Long Island to work for the Alzheimer's Association Long Island Chapter as media relations manager, where he looks to make an impact on the local level.

Santamaria has faced some difficult challenges in his young life, starting on the day of his college graduation, which he said should have been the best day of my life. Instead, after receiving his diploma and coming out of the tent, he had a seizure, which set him back mentally and professionally. "I had to leave my internship after three weeks because I was not doing my best work and not mentally ready to go back to work," he says. "I struggled with mental health issues and didn't talk about it because I felt nobody would understand how I was feeling."

A second seizure in 2018 after a night of

drinking convinced him to give up alcohol and focus on his health, both physical and mental.

Santamaria took some time off from looking for a full-time job and just lived life, and he believes taking that mental break was the best decision he made. "That next year, after graduating with my master's degree, the Huntington's Disease Society of America took a chance on me as a communications coordinator. I knew that was my second chance, and I was ready to make an impact. I will forever be grateful to Christopher Cosentino, Mynelly Perez and Louise Vetter for giving me an opportunity to show what I can do."

In 2021, he started running and it quickly snowballed into running more than 20 races. "Every race I run, I honor someone who is personally affected by Huntington's disease." To date, he has raised more than \$6,000 for the Alzheimer's Association as part of his New York City Marathon team.

Santamaria believes that "the best part about working for a nonprofit charity is sharing how people are affected by a disease and giving that person a voice. With this line of work, it can be emotional to hear these stories, but it motivates you to do your best work and show that nobody is alone in this fight."

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## KACI SZABO

**TITLE:** Director of Property Management

**COMPANY:** Damianos Realty Group

**AGE:** 29

While finishing her four-year degree at the Fashion Institute of Technology, Kaci Szabo began a commercial business supply company with her aunt, partnering with her throughout college to see through the startup of GKS Industries, which her aunt still runs today. After graduation, Szabo began working at Tishman Speyer in Manhattan as the assistant property manager. She subsequently accepted

a job with JLL on Long Island as the property manager of a class A office building that was previously in receivership.

A year later, the building was sold to Damianos Realty Group. Damianos came into the building and completed a full renovation of the building in 2019 to ensure that it matched the rest of the firm's portfolio, and Szabo found being part of the team inspiring. In December 2020, she was promoted to assistant director of property management and in October 2021, she was promoted again to the position of director of property management.

Transferring out of New York City to Long Island was pivotal to her career, and she says, "This was one of the best things to happen to me. Working with Damianos in Suffolk County brings so much more fulfillment, knowing that I'm working where I live. We participate in charity events for the community and even some of our tenants live in the same town as I do. It's been a great seven years working on Long Island and I wouldn't change any of it."

One of the things she loves best about being in the commercial real estate industry is that no two days are alike. She jokes that, "Just when you think you've seen or heard it all, there is something that surprises you. In this industry, you will never be bored, and I never am. At Damianos, property management isn't just property management, we play a role in the

construction aspect as well, which is a whole other field that has been exciting and refreshing to learn and expand on."

Szabo's father has worked in the commercial real estate business for over 30 years, and she says that watching him move up quickly through the ranks from the bottom inspired her to persevere to do the same and become director before the age of 30. She is equally inspired by her mother, who "was the director of our household, raising and managing the dynamics of three children, making me want that life, too. I've always dreamed of being a parent and thankfully, this year that dream will come true. I'm aspiring to have the best of both worlds!"

Szabo notes that being in the construction and property management field, people are always surprised to hear that she attended the Fashion Institute of Technology. "I majored in advertising and marketing and loved my college experience there," she says. "Though I may have gone to school for advertising, my whole family has always been in the commercial real estate industry in property management, construction and engineering. I joke that I was brainwashed all my life to be in this industry, and I wouldn't change it!"



## ROCIO VENTURA

**TITLE:** Vice President – Relationship Manager

**COMPANY:** Bank of America

**AGE:** 29

Rocio Ventura is a vice president and relationship manager in the Long Island office of Bank of America Global Commercial Banking Group. She serves companies across New York and Long Island, advising them on financial and strategic priorities, including delivering solutions of credit, treasury, risk management, advisory and capital markets and wealth management.

Ventura joined the Long Island market at the

end of August 2021, having spent her career prior to this working in public accounting as a senior accountant. She holds a bachelor's degree in Business Management and Accounting and a master's degree in Taxation from The State University of New York College at Old Westbury.

She is a 2022 Global Commercial Bank APEX (Achievement of Performance Excellence) Award recipient, explaining that APEX is the top honor for employees who have delivered extraordinary results in serving clients, teammates and the company. Ventura believes her success is a testament to her unwavering commitment to hard work, perseverance and a willingness to learn and adapt to new challenges.

She notes that the banking industry plays a huge role in the economy by providing essential financial needs to business and individuals, and explains that, "At the heart of what I do is to help companies and individuals achieve financial growth."

Ventura also serves as Metro NY ESG ambassador at Bank of America. As an ambassador, her responsibilities include supporting clients in their journey to a more sustainable way of doing business.

Ventura is member of the Hispanic/Latino Organization for Leadership and Advancement (HOLA).

Born and raised in the Dominican Republic, she is committed to diversity and inclusion, and

says that promoting diversity and inclusion is not just a professional obligation, but also a personal passion. She firmly believes that a more diverse and inclusive financial sector will not only benefit individuals from marginalized communities, but also contribute to broader economic growth and prosperity.

She is inspired by "the courage and love of my family and friends. Growing up, whenever I faced adversity, my mother had a phrase, 'Pa' lante,' which means to always move forward, no matter the obstacles."

She took that phrase to heart when she left her family at a young age to pursue higher education, admitting, "It was one of the hardest things I have ever done." However, she notes that, "Through this experience, I learned the value of dedication and hard work."

Today, as a successful young professional, she advises other companies and organizations to look to the younger generation as a rich source of talent. To attract these bright lights, she advises, "Focus on creating a work environment that allows young professionals to bring their whole selves to work, creating a safe space where young professionals can engage in activities that reflect and drive a culture of inclusion."



# NEXT GEN AWARD

## JESSE RAY SHEPS



**TITLE:** Founder and President  
**COMPANY:** Fire Island Film Festival  
**AGE:** 18

Jesse Ray Sheps is the founder and president of the Fire Island Film Festival, a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization that provides opportunities for independent film makers and actors to showcase their craft and art. Sheps created the organization when he was only 15 years old, with the intent of increasing the public's awareness and support of filmmaking as a cultural and economic asset on Long Island.

Over the past three years, the organization has hosted an annual sold-out event that has brought respected industry talent from around the world to Fire Island to discuss their films. Sheps co-hosts each event with the reigning Miss New York USA.

Sheps' passion for film developed through his background as a professional actor, starring in both network television and film projects

freshman.

He says that he is most inspired by the power of storytellers, noting that storytellers take on many forms: writers, filmmakers, performers and artists. "But all of these are strong advocates of change," he says. "Storytelling has been the driving force inspiring virtually all areas of my personal, academic and professional life. Being involved in the film industry inspired me to create the Fire Island Film Festival to radiate powerful experiences through film, and to create opportunities for filmmakers with diverse backgrounds to share their life stories to encourage change through understanding and acceptance. Similarly, being an actor has inspired me to embark on a mission of storytelling, breaking down scripts to find the essence of a character and becoming the writer's tool to tell their story to create change."

He notes that, "Being a professional actor in television and film allowed me to collaborate with many distinguished actors and filmmakers, many of them kindly sharing their unique insights on acting and the business side of entertainment. These experiences have strengthened my love for acting, and sparked my entrepreneurial spirit for entertainment production and content creation. These interactions were part of what led me to create an international film festival, thrusting me into the world of marketing, commerce, law, operations and capital raising needed for this entertainment start-up company."

Having started his career at a very young age, he believes strongly in the ability of young professionals to change the world, and he encourages companies and organizations to "create an environment that values young talent." To do this, he advises, "Let the young professional know that you value their potential and future just as much as you care about your own. Let them feel free to ask questions and make mistakes, and encourage them to take risks to grow."

since the age of 5.

He recently graduated from high school, where he served as the president of four different school clubs, including his role as the editor-in-chief of the high school newspaper. Sheps received the United Nations Ambassador Award, the highest designation for community service possible, and will be attending Yale University this fall as an incoming

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**DAVID OKORN**  
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