

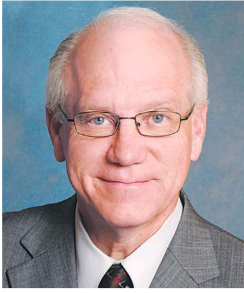
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY  
BUSINESS JOURNAL

THE VALLEY

200

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THE MOST INFLUENTIAL LEADERS IN THE VALLEY AREA 2018



## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

**Y**ou may have heard the old saying that if you really need to get something done, assign the task to a busy person.

I always thought that vintage saw rang true; busy people are the ones who, to put it plainly, get stuff done.

The pages in this book are full of busy people. I don't mean busy with mundane duties, but busy in the sense of being driven to accomplish big things, important things, quickly. You'll notice that immediately when you read their profiles. Some of them have started businesses or have risen to leadership positions in their organizations. Many serve on civic, nonprofit or professional boards and commissions, and a surprising number are on multiple boards at once. More than a few have won notable awards or hit significant mileposts – some in different disciplines. Some have done all of the above.

These are our leaders, the people of accomplishment, the busy ones who get stuff done throughout the five-Valley area. They are the most influential people in our area. We are pleased to identify them so as to give them a nod of appreciation. After all, we rely on them. Yes, they may be very busy already. But when we really need to get something done, they are the select few, the influential ones we ask for help because we know they are the people of accomplishment.

And finally, this: I believe our list of influential people is a very good one. But it's not perfect. Leadership is always evolving. If you know anyone who's an emerging leader, or perhaps an established one we overlooked, let me know. I'd be pleased to consider them next year. You can reach me at [ccrumpley@sfbvj.com](mailto:ccrumpley@sfbvj.com).

Sincerely,

**Charles Crumpley**  
*Editor and Publisher*  
July 2018

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### DAVID ADELMAN

*Greenberg & Bass*

David Adelman, 63, is a partner at Greenberg & Bass, an Encino-based law firm, where he focuses his practice on corporate, real estate and intellectual property transactions. For his clients, he develops business strategies, provides business counsel and structures, negotiates

and documents business deals, all aimed at helping them achieve their business and personal goals. His clients include entrepreneurs, startups and companies and other organizations of various sizes in various industries. Adelman served internships at the California Supreme Court and the American Civil Liberties Union. He holds community service in high regard, and is on several nonprofit boards, such as the Valley Industry and Commerce Association, where he is a past chair; Valley Presbyterian Hospital, New Horizons and Fit 4 The Cause.

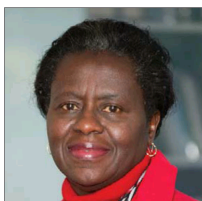
**FAVORITE BOOK:** "Goodnight Moon." Wonderful bedtime story memories with my kids.

**BEST WORK TIME:** Anytime after a "venti" redeye (coffee with an espresso shot . . . No cream).

**IF NOT THIS CAREER:** Late night talk show host.

**BEST ABOUT VALLEY AREA:** The fact that the valley is a vibrant city unto itself.

**AND THE WORST:** The traffic or the summer heat . . . you pick.



### MARY AKPOVI

*Martini, Iosue & Akpovi*

Mary Akpovi, 67, is a partner with the accounting firm of Martini, Iosue & Akpovi in Encino. Akpovi is a certified public accountant with focus on tax and consulting in the areas of estate planning, mergers and acquisitions and international operations. She holds a

doctorate in business administration and a master's in business taxation from the University of Southern California, along with a master's in business administration from Santa Clara University. Akpovi devotes significant time to volunteering with various local and foreign charities that serve women, orphans and the homeless. She has sat on the boards of Exceptional Children Foundation and the Valley Rescue Mission and received the Business Journal's Award for Lifetime Achievement at the Women's Council in April.

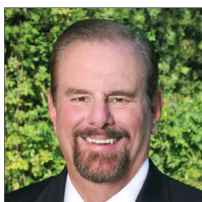
**FAVORITE BOOK:** "The Hope Quotient: Measure It. Raise It. You'll Never Be the Same" by Ray Johnston.

**BEST WORK TIME:** 5 - 7 p.m. Less interruptions.

**IF NOT THIS CAREER:** Educational advocacy to ensure that education is not one-size-fits-all.

**BEST ABOUT VALLEY AREA:** It is very diverse, full of life and has all the vital amenities.

**AND THE WORST:** It can be very hot and is getting congested.



### LEE KANON ALPERT

*Alpert, Barr & Grant*

Lee Kanon Alpert, 71, an attorney, arbitrator and mediator, is a founding member and senior of counsel to the law firm of Alpert, Barr & Grant in Encino. He also is the president and founding member of Alpert Dispute Resolution

and Consulting Inc. He is a past president and current member of the governing board of Providence Health and Services hospitals. Alpert is past president of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power board of commissioners; past president of Los Angeles City Department of Building and Safety Department; First President of Neighborhood Empowerment; a past commissioner of Los Angeles World Airports; a past chair and current and founding board member of Genesis L.A., which raises money to assist development of blighted urban areas; serves on the advisory board of governors for the Valley Industry and Commerce Association; and is on the advisory boards of the Valley Economic Alliance and New Directions for Youth. Alpert is past president of the San Fernando Valley Bar and a recipient of the Fernando Award for lifetime achievement.

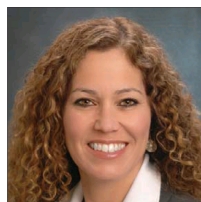
**FAVORITE BOOK:** "Don't Sweat the Small Stuff." It helps get you through daily life during difficult times.

**BEST WORK TIME:** 6 - 9 a.m. I have full focus on what I am doing.

**IF NOT THIS CAREER:** So many interest me. I would have loved to be a professional athlete (football, hockey, etc). Have loved and still love teaching. Would very much enjoy professional newscaster and interviewer.

**BEST ABOUT VALLEY AREA:** Still a very close community with lots of relationships. Great medical care and other professionals close by.

**AND THE WORST:** Traffic, still way too much crime, and poor and homeless.



### SUE M. BENDAVID

*Lewitt, Hackman, Shapiro, Marshall & Harlan*

Sue Bendavid, 55, is chair of the employment practice group at the Lewitt, Hackman, Shapiro, Marshall & Harlan law firm in Encino. For more than 28 years, she has exclusively represented employers in their legal matters. She is

a strong proponent of employee claims prevention via management training and clearly established company policies. Adept in pre-litigation counseling and advocacy as well as depositions, discovery, motions, trials and appeals, Bendavid has obtained favorable rulings and dismissals in all stages of litigation in a variety of jurisdictions. She also is co-chair of the Labor and Employment Committee of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association.

**FAVORITE BOOK:** There are so many. I don't have just one. I really enjoy historical fiction.

**BEST WORK TIME:** I am definitely an "early bird." I typically get up at 5:30 and am already responding to email and working by 6:15 or so.

**IF NOT THIS CAREER:** Three possible choices: a university or law school professor; corporate trainer for employers and their managers and staff; and a judge.

**BEST ABOUT VALLEY AREA:** I am a "Valley girl," having been raised here. I like the wide streets, the greenery of the trees and parks and that it's relatively easy to know where you are.

**AND THE WORST:** The traffic. Though I suppose it is worse in other parts of Los Angeles.

## PEOPLE

Adelman, David	9	Grossman, Peter	47	Namer, Larry	26
Adelstein, Wayne	20	Guerrero, Alex	38	Nichols, Colette	48
Akpovi, Mary	9	Gurney, Tamara	38	Nissen, Steve	26
Alawami, Haider	43	Hamilton, Bill	13	Nussbaum, Vicki	54
Alfano, Madelyn	20	Harris, Scott	13	Nygren, Patrick	40
Allen, William	52	Harrison, Dianne F.	33	Oelnick, Michael	54
Alpert, Lee Kanon	9	Havner Jr., Ronald	58	Overton, David	26
Angelo, John	52	Haworth, Larry	13	Panesis, Mike	64
Apfelthaler, Gerhard	32	Hawthorne, Maria	58	Parker, John	27
Archer, Michael	20	Hayes, Heidi	14	Parris, R. Rex	44
Ardalan, Bitá	36	Hedman, Calvin	14	Partin, Mark	27
Arndt, Erick	63	Heidt, Horace	23	Pearson, Rick	60
Arora, Sudesh	63	Hernandez, Tracy	53	Pearson, Lindy	60
Aszkenazy, Martha	20	Hertzberg, Robert	43	Pendergraft, Ross	40
Atsinger III, Edward	20	Heubusch, John	53	Perry, Louis	27
Barger, Kathryn	43	Hilliard, Terri	14	Phillips, Kenn	54
Beddingfield III, Frederick	63	Honda, David	53	Pollack, Gloria	60
Bendavid, Sue	9	Howitt, Rachel	58	Pulos, Dan	27
Benton, Dennis	47	Huffman, Brendan	14	Reinke, Brent	17
Blumenfeld, Bob	43	Hutchins, Gregory	15	Rodine, Robert	17
Boeckmann, Bert	21	Iger, Robert	23	Rose, Judi	48
Boeckmann, Karl	21	Inwin, Jacqui	44	Rosenberg, Richard	17
Boeckmann, Beau	20	Jacobs, Jonathan "Jake"	15	Rosenheim, Brad	18
Bonrouhi, David	36	Jamison, Darren	23	Roshan, Payman	49
Bough, Phil	52	Kahn, Dan	15	Rule, Jim	27
Bowen, Carmen	32	Kasendorf, Alexander	15	Rule, Lisa	28
Bradway, Robert	21	Katz, Richard	16	Ryu, David	44
Bronson, Steven	63	Khorsand, Vahid	40	Sassouanian, Harut	28
Butler, Mitchell	21	Kimball, Christopher	33	Schreiner, Rudi	28
Castagna, Michael	47	King, Coby	16	Schroeder, Holly	54
Castagna, Curt	21	Klein, Bernard	47	Scott, Robert	18
Cooper, Martin	10	Knakal, Jeffrey	40	Seaver, Roger	49
Crank, James	21	Knopp, Tony	64	Sengupta, Sumantra	33
Crowley, Matt	10	Knudson, Edward	33	Shaffery, John	18
Daily, Jeffrey	36	Koretz, Paul	44	Sherman, Brad	45
Dameris, Peter	22	Krekorian, Paul	44	Silverman, Ron	55
Davis, Paul	36	Kurland, Stanford	40	Simpson, Danone	41
Davis, Mark	22	Lacy, Clay	24	Simpson, Wendy	61
Demoff, Kevin	22	Lamb, Rob	24	Singelyn, David	61
Ditchfield, Skyler	22	Landsman, Stephen	16	Skeeter, Jane	28
DiTomaso Jr., Frank	36	Larian, Isaac	24	Smith, Mark	28
Donahue, Colin	32	Lederer, Jill	53	Starczyk, Nancy	61
Duenas, Diana	52	Lemmo, Rick	58	Steele-Figueroa, David	34
Ehrlich, Scott	57	Leno, Jay	24	Stevens, Todd	29
Endrionas, Erika	32	Lieberman, Lenard	24	Subramaniam, Chandra	34
Englander, Mitchell	43	Light, Jonathan Fraser	16	Surowitz, Dale	49
Evenhaim, Shawn	57	Lockhart, John	16	Swartz, Jan	29
Faulkner, Chad	22	Loden, Brigitte	53	Tamaki, Kevin	45
Fienup, Matthew	32	LoGuercio, Richard	25	Toledo, Matt	55
Flavin, Thomas	52	Louchheim, Mark	25	Tsujihara, Kevin	29
Fleming, David	10	Maier, John	25	Tucker, Therese	29
Fleming, Cheri	23	Manzo, Tom	25	Tutor, Ronald	29
Forman, Stephanie	10	Martinez, Nury	44	Vadalma, Ray	41
Foutz, Timothy	57	Martini, Steven	17	Valdespino, Gustavo	49
Fox, Joel	12	Mason, Abner	47	Van Hook, Dianne	34
Freund, Jennifer	23	Matsuda, Pegi	48	Vanyek, Nancy Hoffman	55
Gabler, Karen	12	Mazirow, Sheryl	58	Waldman, Stuart	55
Gaines, Fred	12	McCune, Sarah Miller	25	Wall, Michael	49
Garrison, James	38	Mehrabian, Robert	64	Wasserman, Keith	61
Gaspar, Tim	38	Mehranian, Maria	54	Whitmire, Mike	30
Gelb, Rickey	57	Merkin, Richard	48	Williams, Diana	55
Ghauri, Najeeb	64	Mills, Scott	26	Wilson, Paula	50
Ginsburg, Moty	57	Moradian, Shawn	58	Witt, Randy	30
Goldhill, Jonathan	12	Moss, George	60	Wright, Brad	30
Greuel, Wendy	33	Murdock, David	26	Yallen, Robert	30
Grey, Andrew	12	Mussi, Natalie	48	Yu, John	50
Gritzner, Lisa	13	Nadj, Hessam	60		