

A Program of

NJBIZ



40

2021

FORTY UNDER 40

A PROGRAM OF NJBIZ

PATH TO SUCCESS

Celebrating Young Professionals
In the New Jersey Business Community

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AT THE CENTER OF WHAT'S NEXT



Cushman & Wakefield congratulates **Josh Cohen** for being named to **NJBIZ's "Forty Under 40"**



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MEET THE JUDGES



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WELCOME LETTER



Becoming a success in the business world is not easy, especially for those still learning the ropes. It takes determination, passion and a desire to learn.

ing. And they are truly making New Jersey a great place to work and live.

Nominations for the 2021 Forty Under 40 Awards were submitted by the young professionals themselves, as well as by community members. An independent panel of judges selected the winners based on their excellence in business, commitment to community and professional achievement.

The 2021 Forty Under 40 Awards program honors the Garden State's young professionals who definitely show all this and more—whether starting their own companies, working their way up in family businesses or implementing change and introducing fresh ideas to firms that have been around for decades. This diverse group of individuals represents industries ranging from health care and law, to banking and account-

We hope you enjoy reading about what has motivated these young professionals along their career paths so far and join us in wishing them all continued success!

Karren L. Johnson
Event Supplement Editor

Congratulations

to Kristyl Berckes for being named to NJBiz's 40 under 40 list from your Lawrence Law family.



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FORTY UNDER 40

JULIANN ALICINO, ESQ.

Partner

Hoagland, Longo, Moran, Dunst & Doukas, LLP
New Brunswick, Middlesex County



AGE 34

Job function: Represents insurance carriers and their insureds in civil litigation defense matters, including general liability, premises liability, automobile liability, insurance coverage, construction liability and products liability matters.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

Other than successfully defending my clients from the inception of claims against them to prevailing on their behalf at numerous trials, it would also be spearheading and coordinating the firm's diversity and inclusion initiatives as chair of the firm's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, especially as a woman who is a member of the LGBTQIA+ community.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years?

I have been a member of the New Brunswick Free Public Library board of trustees since 2019, including as vice president of the board since 2020. I also previously helped lead the firm's after-school tutoring program for New Brunswick public school students.

What works for you to ensure a work/life balance? To ensure a work/life balance, I have found you truly do need to dedicate yourself entirely to both. You have to be available to your clients at all times, but also available to your family at all times. Also, when you are on vacation—actually be on vacation!

What is your favorite part of living and working in New Jersey? I cannot say enough about living and working in New Jersey! New Jersey has a superb judicial system, and practicing in its courts is truly a pleasure. Living in New Jersey has everything you need—beaches, beautiful country, cities, mountains and endless entertainment.

JOE ALTENAU

Vice President, Event Operations and Guest Experience
Prudential Center & New Jersey Devils
Newark, Essex County



AGE 35

Job function: Responsible for the team that oversees the event logistics and guest experience for 175-plus concerts, sporting and private events annually. In addition, he works to onboard new venues that have been added to the Harris Blitzer Sports & Entertainment portfolio.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

Being a member of the team that helped reopen Prudential Center during the pandemic. We created a plan that helped protect our team members and our fans during the 2021 season. We collaborated with medical experts, venues from around the world and experts at the league to ensure Prudential Center was a safe place for all who walked through our doors.

What would most people be surprised to learn about you? I'm an avid runner and currently training for the Boston Marathon and raising money for You Can Play, an LGBTQ+ organization that ensures sports are a safe space for athletes, coaches, fans and front office staff, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? The opportunities that I'm offered to make a difference in the communities in which we live, work, play and win are what inspire me to continue in my current profession. Every day, we use the power of sports and entertainment to positively impact those around us. For me, that means being an example of how you can be a member of the LGBTQ+ community and be successful in the sports and entertainment industry. I want others who may be concerned about coming out to know there is a place for them in the industry.



Connell Foley is proud
to congratulate our partner
Molly Hurley Kellett
on being named to this year's
Forty Under 40

Molly Hurley Kellett

Connell Foley LLP

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FORTY UNDER 40

FELICIA BANKS, MBA

Communications Manager
AtlantiCare
Egg Harbor Township, Atlantic County



Job function: Manage multi-channel corporate communications program reaching nearly 6,000 employees across more than 100 locations. Create content to support organizational goals with focus on reaching a diverse, multi-generational workforce of “wired” and “non-wired” employees.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

My greatest professional achievement can be summarized as the ability to achieve through professional and personal challenges. My contributions to support AtlantiCare’s pandemic response continued even through my own personal tragic loss to COVID-19: I lost my dad in January 2021. While this was the greatest challenge of my career and life, I drew strength from my faith, knowing that the work I was doing was important and in some way might impact those caring for others like my dad.

What was the best business advice you ever received? Some of the best business advice I’ve been given is to give myself a year to settle into a new role. This was from my first mentor, Amy Bird Bailey, an HR leader I worked with but never directly under. This taught me to not expect to change the world in a year, but also to give myself the time to fully understand a role and create the relationships necessary to be successful.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? I strongly believe that words matter as the foundation of all we do. From written laws, to new ideas, to inspiring speeches, words have such power. I love having the ability to use my love for writing to tell stories, make sense of complex information or keep others informed.

KRISTYL M. BERCKES, ESQ.

Attorney
Lawrence Law, LLC
Watchung, Somerset County



Job function: Conducts practice focused on complex matrimonial and family law matters including divorce, property division, alimony, child custody, adoption and domestic violence matters.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

I do not think I can necessarily sum up my greatest professional achievement in one event. I never thought that in my early twenties when I started out as a high school English teacher, who after two years decided to go to law school at night, that I would ever be where I am now—practicing for just over 10 years. However, I never put any limits on my abilities either. I also have two amazing little children who keep me on my toes along with my husband, who is my greatest partner.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years? I am very much involved in the New Jersey State Bar Association and the Somerset County Bar Association since becoming an attorney. I am a member of the District XIII Ethics Committee for the Office of Attorney Ethics and was a member of the Somerset County Business Partnership.

What would most people be surprised to learn about you? I have run three marathons—NYC once and Boston twice. I think I was inspired to run from watching my dad who ran 11 marathons and also from going to college at Boston College and watching the Boston Marathon pass us by every year on Commonwealth Avenue.

What was the best business advice you ever received? In her own words, my mother taught me to “do your best, forget the rest.”



Chris Martin, CPA, CGMA
Member of the Firm, SobelCo

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A Focus on **Results**
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**Congratulations to our friend and colleague for
being on NJBIZ 2021 Forty Under 40 List**



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FORTY UNDER 40

NATE BRZOWSKI

Corporate Managing Director, Integrated Consulting Strategies; Savills
Rutherford, Bergen County



Job function: Serves as a partner within the firm's consulting group and manages all facets of the commercial real estate transaction process on behalf of his clients.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

Completing several of the largest transactions in the northeast in 2020 in the midst of a global pandemic, including the new U.S. headquarters relocation for Eisai, which was the biggest new lease office lease in the state of New Jersey since 2016.

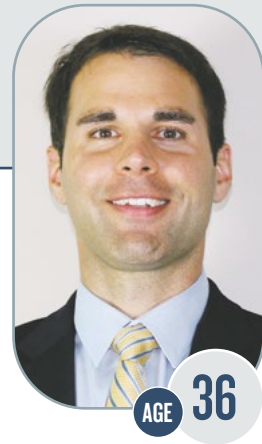
What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years? I have volunteered as a mentor for the Young Entrepreneurs Academy (YEA!), a 21-week program run in conjunction with the Newark Regional Business Partnership. I am an active volunteer with the Community FoodBank of New Jersey and Habitat for Humanity in South Plainfield and founded the Lehigh Real Estate Professionals alumni group for my alma mater, Lehigh University.

What would most people be surprised to learn about you? I build boats from scratch, restore old cars and renovate my 100-year-old home in my free time. I am very mechanically inclined and love to do all of it myself where possible. I have a tool for everything.

What works for you to ensure a work/life balance? I am not afraid to turn off my phone on holidays or vacation. It is important to realize that while many of us love what we do, it is not "who we are" at the end of the day and the most precious resource we have in the world is time.

NICHOLAS CANGELOSI

Vice President of Development
The Michaels Organization
Camden, Camden County



Job function: Leads multi-family housing development efforts in the Northeast region of the United States.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

Providing homes to thousands of New Jersey's most vulnerable families, seniors and those with special needs has been the most gratifying professional accomplishment of my career. Specifically, I've been most excited about my success in Camden City the past five years whereby I've led the redevelopment, at various stages, of 1,053 new homes, new community centers, medical spaces for the city's anchor medical institutions, and public gathering areas with an investment of approximately \$280 million. I'm also tremendously proud of giving back to the City of Camden by serving on various nonprofit boards such as The Heart of Camden, New Life Community Development Corporation, Camden Business Improvement District and more.

What was the best business advice you ever received? Use adversity as an opportunity. Every loss can lead to an opportunity, and every adversity can lead to new possibilities. My late father, Vincent Cangelosi.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? I'm inspired daily by the opportunity to change the trajectory of someone's life for the better.

What do you know now that you wish you'd known earlier in your career? You need to come up with your own definition of success. Early in my career, my definition of success largely aligned with position, recognition, money, influence, etc. Now, success to me is all about how you help and how you treat people.

TURRELL FUND

*Thank you to our clients
and colleagues
for your partnership with
Evan Delgado!*



FORTY UNDER 40

SANDY CASTOR

Director of Business Engagement
Middlesex County
New Brunswick, Middlesex County



Job function: Serves as the convener and catalyst for economic activity across all of Middlesex County.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

My greatest professional achievements to date have all involved taking tracts of land that have experienced decades of disinvestment and working with community stakeholders in reimagining the highest and best uses for the land. As such, my most recent greatest professional achievement is the March 2021 announcement of RPM and Urban League of Essex County and MCI Development Inc. being selected for the redevelopment of 3.28 acres of city-owned land near the historic West Side High School in Newark's West Ward.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years?

I serve on several boards that bring me tremendous joy and fulfillment as they further underpin the reason for the work that I do. I serve on the SHEWins! Inc. board, which focuses on creating a pipeline of college, career and community-ready young women leaders from Newark. I serve on the board of HomeCorp, which was founded in 1988 by a dedicated group of community volunteers who saw the need to preserve affordability in Montclair. Most recently I was appointed to the board of trustees for Mount Saint Dominic Academy in the wake of the recent social unrest answering the call for improvements on how my alma mater operates through the lens of diversity, equity and inclusion. I participate in these organizations because they speak to who I am authentically. I am a young woman born to immigrant parents, raised in a low-income household in Montclair and educated at some of the best academic institutions because my parents and community believed in me.

EDVIE M. CASTRO, ESQ.

General Counsel & COO
DOWC
Ringwood, Passaic County



Job function: Leverages her skills to operationalize each company's vision and drive business forward daily.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

My greatest professional achievement is having swiftly advanced to a leadership position in a dynamic and rapidly growing company where I leverage my skills to provide our clients with structure, participation and wealth-building opportunities unmatched in the automotive industry. I take pride in having built this team that is comprised of many women who are reshaping the business of a predominantly male industry.

What would most people be surprised to learn about you? My undergraduate and graduate degrees are in English literature so there is a serious book nerd hidden behind my corporate exterior! I absolutely love to read and reread my large and beloved book collection.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years? My philanthropic efforts are largely focused on supporting women and causes that affect women professionally, financially and legally. I prioritize hiring and mentoring women within our organization and I support others throughout the industry through personal connections and professional alliances.

What do you know now that you wish you'd known earlier in your career? I wish I better understood the importance of self-confidence. It is vital for women, whether they are just starting their careers or are taking steps to make a career change, to be fully confident in their knowledge and their skills. What I've learned is that at every stage of your career, you must know your worth and trust yourself.



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CONGRATULATIONS

to **Kyle Tafuri** for being recognized as part of **NJBIZ's Forty Under 40**.



Kyle Tafuri

Director of Sustainability
Hackensack Meridian *Health*



Kyle truly exemplifies a level of leadership that fully embodies Hackensack Meridian Health's mission to transform health care and serve as a leader of positive change.

JOSH COHEN

Managing Director
Cushman & Wakefield of New Jersey
Morristown, Morris County



AGE 39

Job function: Concentrates his practice in all facets of corporate real estate brokerage and consulting including: leasing, sales, build-to-suit, corporate dispositions, workplace strategy and advisory.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years? In the most recent three-year period, I've been heavily involved in my home community of Mendham serving on the board of trustees of my neighborhood. This has directly led to my appointment on the Mendham Township Sewer Advisory Committee. I've also been asked to speak twice as an office market expert to the Parsippany Economic Development Corporation as they advise the mayor and planning board on adaptive reuse in Parsippany.

Who has been your most influential role model? My parents. They gave me the foundation and values that make me who I am on both a personal and professional level.

What works for you to ensure a work/life balance? For me personally, I've realized going into a physical office and having that separation allows me time to focus on my clients and business and once I leave for the night that returns me to my personal separation where I focus on my family. There is nothing more important than your family and spending time with them because you will never get time back.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? With the burgeoning downtowns and all the redevelopment opportunities, my career allows me to have the opportunity to directly participate in these transformations and help shape the future landscape.

KARI COHEN, ESQ.

General Counsel
Red Bull New York
Harrison, Hudson County



AGE 37

Job function: Identifying and leading legal matters in all departments across the company, as well as regulatory, compliance and real estate matters and governmental affairs.

What is your greatest professional achievement? Joining a new organization and immediately having to pivot to help navigate through the treacherous waters of the pandemic.

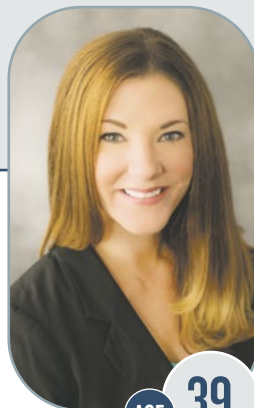
Who has been your most influential role model? My dad. A lawyer himself, he spent years trying to dissuade me from going to law school so as to be spared the challenges posed by a career in law. He thought that showing me the movie Paper Chase (with Timothy Bottoms) would do the trick. But, I saw my dad and how all of our friends and family would gravitate to him for advice and counsel. His solutions were always fair and equitable. It made me realize that I, too, wanted to be in that supportive position one day.

What works for you to ensure a work/life balance? As a working mom, "me" time is rare. It's difficult to carve that out when you only have 24 hours in a day (and 24,000 things on your to-do list), but I find I'm a better mom, wife, colleague and friend when I do make the time—even if it's just an early morning walk around the block to get some fresh air.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? It's simple. I really love what I do. I'm passionate about the law and I'm an avid sports fan—combining the two has led me to my dream job.

CORRINE COOKE, ESQ.

Shareholder
Stark & Stark
Lawrenceville, Mercer County



AGE 39

Job function: Concentrates practice on divorce proceedings, including custody, alimony, child support and equitable distribution. She also drafts prenuptial agreements and handles post-judgment litigation including modification applications, emancipation applications, complex custody disputes, college contribution applications and domestic violence matters.

What is your greatest professional achievement? Being promoted to partner at Stark & Stark in 2017, which took years of hard work and dedication to the practice of law, as well as being involved in professional and community organizations.

Who has been your most influential role model? My late grandmother, Rita, has been my most influential role model. She taught me the value of hard work, doing what is right, and the importance of standing up for what I believe in.

What would most people be surprised to learn about you? I am a recent first-time mother! I had my daughter last August in the midst of the pandemic. Mallory is now one year old, and has been the greatest joy of my life. It has been both challenging being a first-time mother during a pandemic, but the pandemic also allowed me the opportunity to spend some uninterrupted bonding time with my daughter on a completely different level.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? Helping my clients through a very difficult time is incredibly rewarding. Oftentimes, my clients are completely different people at the culmination of their cases than they were when I first met them, and it gives me great pride that I was able to help them to get to that place.

JOHN VITO D'ANTONIO-BERTAGNOLLI, MS

Chief Executive Officer
OculoMotor Technologies
Newark, Essex County



AGE 27

Job function: Managing overall company operations, finances and resources.

What is your greatest professional achievement? My greatest professional achievement is serving as the Primary Investigator on a \$1 million Small Business Innovation Research award from the National Science Foundation. I received the award when I was 26 years old, making me one of the youngest recipients of the grant. With this funding, I was able to convert many of my team of part-time undergraduate interns into full-time employees. I can't recall ever working as hard as I did to make sure that I could hire my team and pay them what they're worth.

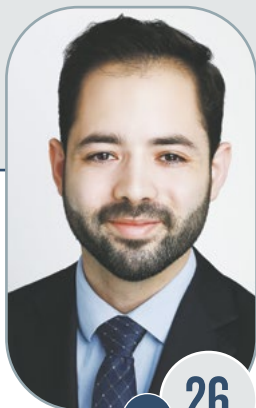
What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years? I am active as an Assistant Scoutmaster in Boy Scout Troop 305, Kearny NJ. Our troop draws an economically and ethnically diverse group of young scouts, all with varying levels of experience and comfort (or discomfort!) in the outdoors. I help coordinate weekly troop meetings, monthly weekend camping trips and once-yearly weeklong summer camp and high adventure trips, in addition to planning various fundraising and community service activities for the scouts. Additionally, I serve as a merit badge counselor, primarily focusing on the programming, rock climbing and entrepreneurship badges.

What works for you to ensure a work/life balance? Often, it feels like setting boundaries will lead to good mental health, but I've found the opposite to be true—good mental health is key to setting healthy work/life boundaries. Exercise, talk to a therapist and don't beat yourself up over the little things.

FORTY UNDER 40

EVAN DELGADO

Vice President of Programs
The Turrell Fund
Montclair, Essex County



Job function: Works on the fund's strategic initiatives and policy work, oversees its grantmaking across New Jersey and Vermont and engages in direct partnerships with community partners and agencies.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

It has been co-leading the creation and implementation of the New Jersey Safe Babies Court Team initiative, a systems-change, racial equity-focused child welfare initiative in which specialized support is provided for children from 0 to 3 years of age that are in foster care—or at risk of removal from their homes—and their families.

What was the best business advice you ever received? The advice from Camden residents who I interviewed as part of an ethnographic academic project a few years back was simple and powerful: that local knowledge and lived experience must be prioritized and honored when attempting to do social justice or systems change work. They pointed to the massive amounts of dollars invested in communities hard hit by financial challenges and historic injustices that too often had little impact or sometimes even caused harm due to a lack of authentic, sustained community engagement and subsequent follow through.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? A deep-seated sense of responsibility to contribute to the effort to address societal inequities, embedded racial disparities, and the generational cycle of poverty that has been created and maintained over hundreds of years by state-sanctioned policies, laws and force. Children, families and people—especially when part of BIPOC communities—continue to be negatively impacted by these disparities, which have only been exacerbated by the ongoing public health crisis.

TIMOTHY DINAN, ESQ.

Attorney and Partner
Laddey, Clark, & Ryan
Sparta, Sussex County



Job function: Responsible for a team of five attorneys and several support staff members, as well as the marketing and overall growth of the firm's Personal Injury Department and oversight of its commercial and estate litigation.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years?

I'm on the Newton Medical Center Community Advisory Board, I'm the secretary of the Boys and Girls Club in Northwest New Jersey, I'm on the Finance Committee of St. Kateri Parish in Sparta, and I'm the chair of the Young Professionals Committee of the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce.

What mistake have you made that you learned the most from? I never worked harder or failed more in my life than the two years I spent as a teacher. I would think I had everything ready to go and be able to keep my students interested, and the lessons would sometimes fall apart right away. Those many failures, before I even became a lawyer, taught me that it's OK to fail, that it won't be the end of the world and that the next day, class, client, etc., offers another opportunity to adjust and get better.

What works for you to ensure a work/life balance? Remembering what's most important and trusting the people I work with.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? I am blessed to be able to help people through some of their worst moments and give them a reason to hope that their future could be a little bit easier.

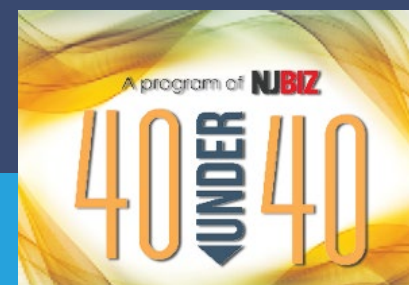
Congratulations Joe Lepordo!

"Joe Lepordo has helped shape our success for nearly a decade, and over the last 18 months he has guided our team to achievements that are truly phenomenal. We're tremendously proud that NJBIZ has recognized his leadership. "

- Brian Wainwright, CEO of The Wireless Experience

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DAVID DISTEFANO

First Senior Vice President
First Bank
Hamilton, Mercer County



Job function: Responsible for overseeing all commercial banking activity in the market.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

My professional achievements resulted from a conviction about community banking at an early age. At 26, I left a prominent role at a national bank in the middle of the 2008 financial crisis to help start a local community bank as its first employee. My conviction led to the current achievement of a thriving and rapidly growing community bank with 16 branches, 215 employees and \$2.44 billion in assets approximately 12 years later.

Who has been your most influential role model? My father, David DiStefano; he is an owner of a small New Jersey-based contracting business. I started working for him at the age of 13 and learned the importance of organization, hard work, being opportunistic and leading by example. His hands-on management style and focus on a fair outcome for the customer has influenced the way I approach each day.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years? I am particularly passionate about volunteering and fundraising for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and their Beckwith-Wiedemann Syndrome (BWS) team. Our daughter, Gracie, was born prematurely with significant health challenges associated with BWS. The BWS team was instrumental at an extremely difficult time for our family during the first year of my daughter's life. In kind, our family organized a fundraiser through Alex's Lemonade Stand with proceeds dedicated to research on this rare syndrome. We were extremely proud and thankful to receive the Top Fundraiser Award from our initiative.

JOHN ERRICO

Principal
Liberty Hudson Capital
Rutherford, Bergen County



Job function: Leads the firm and its affiliates, which currently have over \$5 million in residential real estate assets under management.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

In 2019, I began assembling funds for Liberty Hudson Opportunity Zone Fund I LLC, a qualified opportunity zone fund focusing on investing in Atlantic City's qualified opportunity zone. Not only has the fund, and its parallel investment vehicles performed well, but, through our activities, we are tangibly improving Atlantic City.

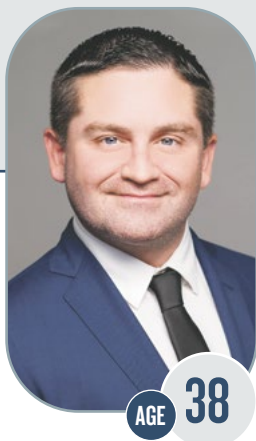
What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years? For the past three years, my wife and I have mentored a young man living in Passaic, New Jersey, through the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program. In addition to helping with his homework, we try to expose him to new opportunities and experiences. We've developed a deep bond with him, and are hoping to continue our mentorship with him throughout high school.

Who has been your most influential role model? My dad, who was born to a large, impoverished family in the Bronx, served in the Korean War, attended college and podiatry school, and later became a successful real estate investor and technology entrepreneur. The thing that I've taken the most from him is his boundless sense of optimism and possibility. No challenge was ever been insurmountable, and I try to embody the same mentality.

What would most people be surprised to learn about you? I've played the bagpipes since I was 14 years old. I learned how to play at my high school in Tampa, Fla., and I've played in various groups in college, law school and elsewhere.

DANIEL FINCH, MD, PMH-C

Chief Medical Officer
CarePlus NJ, Inc.
Paramus, Bergen County



Job function: Balances competing demands of over 50 programs and services at CarePlus, including direct patient care, as well as supervision of nurse practitioners and psychiatrists.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

Being co-founder of the Maternal and Family Center (MFC) at CarePlusNJ. Having started my first perinatal mental health clinic a decade ago for the indigent population of Camden, I have always been passionate about caring for mothers, fathers and children who struggle with mental health issues and social determinants of health. Officially opening in October 2020, The MFC currently serves over 100 women and families.

What mistake have you made that you learned the most from? When I first started my professional career, I didn't have a full understanding of the value I brought to the organizations where I worked. I learned the importance of networking with experienced experts in my field from whom I learned about the tools for success, potential pitfalls and a plethora of opportunities that I didn't know existed.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? I decided to become a physician when I was about 13 years old. I suppose I had a vague idea that doctors made good money, but that really wasn't important to me. I went into this noble profession because I considered it to be among the most challenging and rewarding life paths that a person could take. I still can't think of anything better than a job in which you wake up every day with the opportunity to improve the lives of others.

KARL FOWLKES, ESQ.

Managing Partner
The Fowlkes Firm
Newark, Essex County



Job function: Entertainment attorney who leads his firm in representing some of the best artists, producers and entertainers in the world.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

My greatest professional achievement so far is building out an internationally recognized entertainment law practice from New Jersey. Being from New Jersey, I always knew the talent the state possessed and the impact it had on culture, however most people felt like they had to leave to make an impact on the entertainment industry. I'm planting my flag and I'm extremely grateful for the returns.

Who has been your most influential role model? Cross-discipline artists and entrepreneurs such as Pharrell Williams and Ryan Leslie have really inspired me to tap into my true potential and never leave a stone unturned. We are all cross-disciplined and have the ability to impact across culture, tech, business, etc. These guys are great examples of that.

What works for you to ensure a work/life balance? I feel that it's important to break up your day. Dig in for a few hours then do something else, and maybe come back to it.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years? I have hosted over 15 workshops in the tri-state area helping underrepresented creatives and entrepreneurs gain access to the information that they normally don't get to obtain.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? Impact. Law is a vehicle to protect and serve your clients and advocate for things that are wrong in business, justice, etc.

FORTY UNDER 40

ANGIE GAMBONE, ESQ.

Shareholder
Flaster Greenberg
Cherry Hill, Camden County



AGE 39

Job function: Handles complex family law issues, including divorce, custody, adoption and the legal needs of LGBTQ+ families throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

I am proud that I work daily to better the lives of others, particularly the disenfranchised and members of marginalized groups. I routinely advocate to dismantle systemic racism, sexism, and homophobia that permeates not just the legal profession, but also society at large. I use my privilege to be an ally to shed light on oppression and to develop tools to deconstruct harmful stereotypes and microaggressions that hold down certain people. I focus my efforts on enhancing diversity, equity and inclusion in the legal field so that the profession can serve as a microcosm for the just and equitable society I want to see.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years?

I have significant involvement in enterprises focused on diversity, equity and inclusion. I chair my law firm's Diversity Committee. I also serve as a board member for the Philadelphia Diversity Law Group and I am a member of the LGBT Rights Section and Family Law Section of the New Jersey State Bar Association. I am also a Barrister in the Thomas S. Forkin Family Law American Inn of Court and a pro bono attorney for South Jersey Legal Services.

What would most people be surprised to learn about you? I play competitive poker when I'm not saving the world one legal matter at a time.

MOLLY KELLETT, ESQ.

Partner
Connell Foley LLP
Roseland, Essex County



AGE 38

Job function: Focuses on complex commercial litigation matters, with a particular concentration in ediscovery, representing multi-national corporations and small, closely-held businesses.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

I am most proud of making partner at Connell Foley. I was offered the opportunity to pursue partnership while I was out on maternity leave after the birth of my second child. The previous year had been one of exponential growth professionally, as well as personally when we welcomed our second child. To do both was an accomplishment far greater than I could have imagined.

What works for you to ensure a work/life balance? Maintaining a flexible work schedule; during the pandemic, working from home allowed, or more accurately required, constant flexibility. Having flexibility of logging on to do work allows me to meet my professional obligations, while maintaining a meaningful home life. During 2020 and 2021, I have truly learned the meaning of maximizing every moment of the day.

What was the best business advice you ever received? The best advice that I have ever heard was that, at the end of the day, we are all just human beings who are doing our best. This has been critical in my practice, as well as in informing my management style.

What do you know now that you wish you'd known earlier in your career? Disagreements and criticism are part of every work process. As a litigator, most days involve disputes over something, often incredibly minor. While this can be frustrating, I've learned it is really important to understand that good people often disagree. In the same regard, it is equally important to remember that business should not be personal.

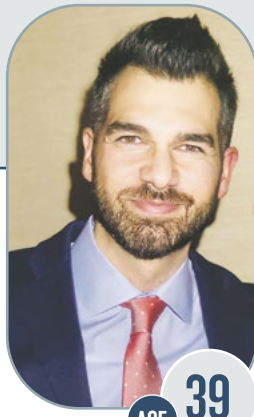


Congratulations to Julia Moroney
on being named a 40 Under 40 Honoree

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TAMOUR KOUSHA

Chief Financial Officer
Liberty Science Center
Jersey City, Hudson County



AGE 39

Job function: Leads the organization's financial management and operations, serves as a strategic finance partner to the leadership team and serves as project lead for SciTech Scity, a real estate development project led by the center.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

Steering Liberty Science Center through extremely difficult financial times during the pandemic. At a time where other museums and cultural institutions faced uncertain futures or even permanent closures, LSC was able to navigate through a seven-month closure by taking advantage of government funds designed to help small businesses and through tight fiscal management. We are in a moment in time where Liberty Science Center's mission of inspiring the next generation of scientists and engineers is now more critical than ever.

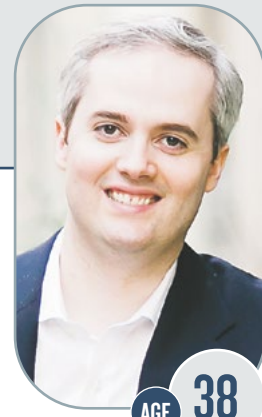
Who has been your most influential role model? My parents; they taught me many things that I continue to carry with me in my personal life and career—hard work, determination, respect, empathy and loyalty.

What works for you to ensure a work/life balance? Planning things in advance to enjoy outside of work helps me with balancing work and life. I set aside time to do things that make me happy. I love to cook, travel and spend time with friends and family, to name a few.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? Being in the nonprofit world, I have the good fortune of working in an industry where I go to work every day, knowing that my contributions are pushing forward the mission of the organization and making a difference in the lives of the people that we serve.

CHRISTOPHER LAFORGIA

Associate General Counsel
Sharp Electronics Corporation
Montvale, Bergen County



AGE 38

Job function: Leads company internal investigations in response to compliance and ethics complaints. At the conclusion of each investigation, prepares a report and discusses issues with Sharp's CEO.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

After serving as a Federal Prosecutor and Manhattan Assistant District Attorney, I have been able to move from the public to private sector, while bringing the skills I've developed in investigations to Sharp's wide-ranging legal work. I currently lead internal investigations that come into Sharp's Ethics and Compliance hotline from both employees and customers, as well as handle Sharp's day-to-day legal issues for our 44 regional U.S. offices with more than 900 employees.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years? Over my career, I have become passionate about getting involved with the communities I serve to make them safer places to live and work. I proudly worked with inner-city youth to address literacy challenges within the local community, which led to my recognition in public service from Baltimore Mayor Martin O'Malley. My work in combating violent crime and firearms trafficking to make community streets safer while at the U.S. Attorney's Office led to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives presenting me an award for my efforts. Lastly, I have worked with victims of financial fraud, which led to recognition from the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigations.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? A driving force in my legal career has always been finding justice for those who have been wronged. In the private sector, it has been a drive to seek the truth in all situations.

DENNIS LENNON

Vice President, Human Resources
Atlantic Health System
Morristown, Morris County



AGE 39

Job function: Serves as an influential member of the executive team and plays an integral role in ensuring our strategic and financial plans are aligned as we navigate the ever-changing health care landscape.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

I am really proud of the work my team and I have done to support the amazing caregivers at Atlantic Health System. When COVID-19 arrived at our doorstep in March 2020, the Human Resources Team immediately sprang into action. When elective surgeries and outpatient procedures came to a halt, we launched our redeployment center to ensure all team members were able to continue to provide for their families.

What mistake have you made that you learned the most from? Earlier in my career, I would find myself not speaking up when I had a thought or opinion on a topic because it was either outside the scope of my responsibility or as one of the youngest in the conversation, I didn't think it was my place to do so. Unfortunately, when we do this, we are doing a disservice to the organization and the people that make up the company. I finally came to the understanding that I was at the table for a reason and I needed to speak up when I have something to say.

What was the best business advice you ever received? The best advice I've ever received is to surround yourself with people who are smarter and stronger in areas that you have an opportunity to improve. My current leader, Nikki Sumpter, EVP and chief administrative officer at AHS, gave me that advice when she joined AHS in 2016 and we started to build the new model of HR at Atlantic.

JOSEPH LEPORDO

Chief Operating Officer
The Wireless Experience
Manahawkin, Ocean County



AGE 35

Job function: Ensuring that The Wireless Experience runs smoothly and efficiently and is considered a great place to work.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

We came out of COVID stronger than we started, expanding from 80 to 82 stores since March 2020 with plans to have 90-plus stores by year-end. Our success had two keys. First, we connected more deeply to our people by launching a full-service virtual training program and rolling out a leadership development program tailored to our changing Millennial/Gen Z workforce. Second, we became more agile than we ever thought possible.

Who has been your most influential role model? My father is my most influential role model to date. He was a career navy man and a hard worker, which he instilled into me. He passed away when I was 18 years old, so it took me a few years after his passing to really realize it all.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years? Beyond the office, for the past two years I've worked with Glory Days Baseball, the adult league I play in, to assist youth baseball in Lacey Township. I'm now working to launch free baseball camps, as well as a scholarship fund to benefit youth in my hometown.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? The people. I love being able to help guide and lead future leaders, because that's what we try to do here at TWE, make leaders. If they leave to grow their career, we want to ensure we helped make them better along the way.

FORTY UNDER 40

CHRISTOPHER MARTIN, CPA, CGMA

Member of the Firm
SobelCo
Livingston, Essex County



Job description: Focuses on expanding the firm's food and beverage practice where he manages financial statement audits, reviews, compilations and income taxes for food manufacturers and distributors and retail supermarket owners in the tri-state area.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

Being named a partner of SobelCo. It has always been my goal since entering the profession to be a partner at an accounting firm, and realizing that goal means so much to me personally and professionally.

What would most people be surprised to learn about you? I am an avid concert poster collector and run a Facebook group devoted solely to a particular band's concert posters. It has been a fun experience and I just really enjoy the art and what goes into creating these posters.

What do you know now that you wish you'd known earlier in your career? I wish that I got more involved in our state's society of CPAs sooner to broaden my knowledge and my connection with other CPAs. Being involved is rewarding and talking to others and being exposed to new ideas, outside of our firm, allows me to bring things back to implement.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? Growing as a professional is important to me so that I can continue to provide our clients with sound advice to help them grow and prosper. I also want to make sure that my wife and I have provided a life for my children that will allow them to develop and grow so that they have every opportunity to do the things they hope to do with their lives and careers.

DANIEL MCCANN, ESQ.

General Counsel
Surety Title Company, LLC
Marlton, Burlington County



Job function: Oversee all legal-related matters for the title company with over 40 offices and 400 staff and report directly to the CEO and CFO. Work closely with senior leadership and managing partners. Provide legal advice on a wide range of time-pressured issues leading to amicable resolutions.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

My greatest professional achievement is having led with integrity through the chaotic ripple effect caused by COVID-19. As general counsel, my co-workers looked to me for leadership and guidance during an unprecedented time. With growing fears of the unknown and the threat of a business closure, we created a plan to keep business moving forward and New Jersey residents employed.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years? In December 2021, I will be running a marathon in Antarctica. My goal is to run a marathon on all seven continents and Antarctica will be my sixth. For each race I raise awareness and funds for a charity, and in Antarctica I hope to bring awareness to the New Jersey Breast Cancer Research Fund.

Who has been your most influential role model? The most influential role model in my life is my mother, Dr. Annamarie Young! When my mother attended medical school she was just one of two women in her entire class. She opened her own practice in our hometown of Sea Isle City, Cape May County, and graciously served our community for 36 years. Dr. Young's kindness, integrity and passion to help the needy inspires me every day to be a better person. I love her so much and am proud to be her son.



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FORTY UNDER 40

JULIA MORONEY

Director of Marketing
French and Parrello Associates
Wall Township, Monmouth County



AGE 39

Job function: Works closely with the CEO, COO and other members of senior level management to develop and execute effective marketing strategies.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years? Most recently and notably I am an active volunteer and committee member for the Ocean County College Foundation, which holds a special place in my heart as a former recipient of a Foundation scholarship. For over five years, I have worked with the Scholarship Celebration Planning Committee to help fundraise and plan the annual celebration event. This year's event raised over \$160,000, which will be given back to students in the form of scholarships and help fund capital to aid in the growth of Ocean County College.

What is your favorite part of living and working in New Jersey? New Jersey is an incredibly fertile place for business growth, but it is also just as abundant in providing its residents with a rich and diverse lifestyle. We truly get the best of all worlds here; vibrant, urban centers in every direction, charming downtowns, beautiful parks and a rich history.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? Marketing empowers my creativity, which is truly what makes this profession exciting to me. What I love so much about having found a niche in the engineering and construction world is I feel I'm able to marry both right brained, idealistic ideas with left-brained, realistic concepts, and what we're able to produce is comprehensive and synergistic. It's incredibly rewarding to see those ideas turn into strategies that contribute to my company's growth and success.

SHANNON MUTI, MSW

Associate Director of Programs & Services
Homeless Solutions, Inc.
Morristown, Morris county



AGE 33

Job function: To manage and lead a team of over 35 professionals who are responsible for providing direct service to the homeless and formerly homeless consumers in Homeless Solutions' shelter and supportive housing programs.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years? My work at Homeless Solutions has always been more than a job to me and the people living in our shelter programs have become extended family. Outside of my regular job description, I also jump at any opportunity to do more for those we are serving in our programs, whether that be assembling furniture and moving people into their new apartments or taking teenagers on college tours, and much more. Outside of HSI, I also serve on the Leadership Team for the Morris County CAS Committee, as well as serving on several subcommittees of CAS. All of these groups work on specific initiatives that are geared toward ending homelessness in Morris County and improving homeless service provisions.

What would most people be surprised to learn about you? When it comes to myself, I am fearless. Skydiving, ziplining—any adventure—I am up for it. But when it comes to my kids, I'm a nervous wreck. As soon as I wake up in the morning, I'm already worrying about everything that could possibly happen to them and how to prevent it.

What was the best business advice you ever received? The best business advice I ever received was from my dad, who said, "If it's not making you happy, it doesn't matter if it's paying the bills."



CONGRATULATIONS!

Felicia Banks, MBA
Communications Manager

The AtlantiCare family congratulates Felicia Banks on being recognized as one of the NJBIZ Forty Under 40 recipients for 2021.

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FORTY UNDER 40

VALERIE ORTENSE, BA

Project Evaluator
Preferred Behavioral Health Group
Lakewood, Ocean County



Job function: Serves as the liaison between quality and operations, responsible for all non-clinical operations, strategic planning, data collection and reporting.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

In the realm of mental/behavioral health care, my greatest achievement to date is the promotion from operations manager to project evaluator for one of the largest federal grants the agency has ever received. The chief of quality and CEO recruited me to the role due to my business background as I near acquisition of a master's in business administration. As project evaluator, I charge adherence to federal servicing standards, process and quality improvement, and overall sustainability.

What works for you to ensure a work/life balance? From an early age, I learned from my family, particularly my dad, that life is a magnificent ride with just one non-refundable ticket. Such extraordinary opportunities, marvelous places and remarkable people are all on this earth for one reason—to experience. At the end of the workday, I take time to enjoy my life and the people in it. Whether that is to travel, buy a new toy, spend a little extra on a night out, or indulge in a self-care day, I make it a point to enjoy, and more importantly, appreciate. Although I am dedicated to my career, set high expectations for myself and sacrifice when necessary, I do not live to work. I live to live.

What mistake have you made that you learned the most from? You can never change the way you made someone feel. Although cliché, it is true. Words are forgotten, actions can be forgiven, but the impact we leave on another can never be recreated.

JANEL OWENS, MS, MA

Associate Vice President of Student Affairs
Felician University
Rutherford, Bergen County



Job function: Responsible for policy development, administration and supervision of staff, budget development and oversight, program planning, implementation and assessment, as well as providing vision and strategic direction within the Student Affairs Division.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

My experiences as a first-generation college student of color motivated me to dedicate my professional career to advancing diversity initiatives, promoting equity and access, and supporting underrepresented students in higher education. I consider my greatest professional accomplishment to be reflected in the moment when underrepresented students with whom I have worked with walk across the stage and earn their degrees. This moment captures the strength, courage, resiliency and determination of students who are successful in a system that was never built for them.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years?

I have been part of the Mentored Organization and I recently wrapped up being a mentor for Street Quash where I mentored a young lady providing guidance, motivation, emotional support and role modeling. I was also very active in Relay for Life at a prior institution, where I led a team that raised over \$30,000 dollars for the American Cancer society in 2019.

What would most people be surprised to learn about you? I consider myself a beauty enthusiast. I am obsessed with everything new and noteworthy in cosmetics, hair and skin care. In the past I was a freelance makeup artist and I have a certification in makeup artistry. I really enjoy learning about this topic and trying new products.

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JOHN VITO D'ANTONIO-BERTAGNOLLI

B.S. in Biomedical Engineering,
Biomechanics Specialization '16

M.S. in Biomedical Engineering '17

As a virtual reality developer and the chief executive officer of OculoMotor Technologies, John Vito d'Antonio-Bertagnolli designs novel integrations of consumer-ready virtual reality headsets and custom-made eye-tracking hardware and software, used to power therapeutic computer games.

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JESSICA PADILLA GONZALEZ

Executive Director
Housing Partnership
Dover, Morris County



Job function: Develop, oversee and implement the organization's strategic vision of assisting hardworking families in achieving homeownership and help homeowners stay in their homes.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

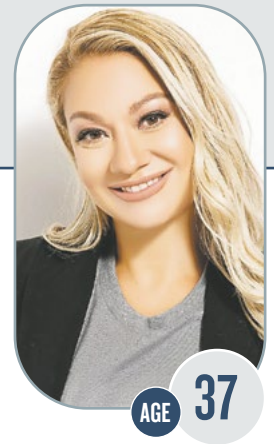
My greatest professional achievement so far has been becoming one of the youngest executive directors in the NeighborWorks networks. Being able to achieve this at the age of 29 was a major accomplishment. Especially because it was a goal I had set for myself in my senior year of college that by the age of 30 I would be the executive director of a nonprofit that helps people and makes a difference!

Who has been your most influential role model? My parents have been the most influential role models in my life. They came here from Puerto Rico when they were very young to help provide for their families. They worked through adversity and discrimination but made sure to instill the values of community, family, hard work and education in all of their children. I was raised to understand the importance of being a good human being to others, to value education and to always do what we could to make this place a little better for others. They raised me and showed me the importance of hard work, being there for others and that laughter is always the best medicine.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? Knowing that every day we are making a difference in the lives of others. That the information, resources and actions we take every day at the Housing Partnership are impacting the lives of others in a positive way.

CATHERINE PANSINI

Broker Associate and Team Leader of
The Pansini Group; Keller Williams Metropolitan
Morristown, Morris County



Job function: Running a team of agents while helping them build their business, teaching them how to negotiate and get offers accepted and walking them through the process of being a listing and buyers agent.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

I made circle of excellence platinum for the first time this year and made the wall street journal and real trends 500 this year as the #40 team in the state.

What was the best business advice you ever received? My father who is my role model taught me the value of hard work. He always told me to never chase the money, just to do what you love and the money will follow. Become a master at your craft and people will pay for you.

What works for you to ensure a work/life balance? When starting my team about a year and a half ago I had no work/life balance; it was all about work. I really had to let go of control and leverage my business so I could have that work/life balance, which in turn made me a better agent and team leader so now I am able to have more free time.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? I love helping buyers and sellers make their dreams come true, whether they are first-time buyers who saved up years to buy their first home or sellers downsizing after the kids went off to college. I also love helping my team and teaching new agents the tips I have learned over the years so they don't make the same mistakes I made.

CRISTINA PINZON

President & CEO
Stateside Affairs
Manasquan, Monmouth County



Job function: Founded the woman and minority-owned government affairs and public relations company and led it in achieving a reputation for success that has garnered both state and regional recognition for its work in public affairs.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

My greatest personal achievement is taking a leap of faith to start my own business at the age of 30. As a product of Elizabeth and the daughter of a first generation immigrant, it is very important to me to set goals and examples that will improve my family and serve as positive examples to other young entrepreneurs. I started Stateside Affairs with just one client and now have several clients ranging from local, regional to national organizations. As a woman and minority-owned business, it is very important for me to show others how to utilize their assets to achieve the American dream. In my case, being Spanish speaking has expanded additional opportunities for the company.

What do you know now that you wish you'd known earlier in your career? I continue to learn more each and every day. 1) It all works out at the end of the day. 2) Nothing is too urgent to get too stressed out about. 3) It will get easier. 4) People are going to hire you because of you and who you know. 5) Not all business opportunities are good ones, even if they sound very appealing.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? I'm inspired by young people. I think they are creative thinkers and hard working. I want to help build the bench for the next wave of professionals.

ADAM PITEL

CEO
Magna-Power Electronics
Flemington, Hunterdon County



Job function: Leads day-to-day operations and strategic direction.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

Magna-Power, once operating as a behind-the-scenes private-label OEM manufacturer, faced an uncertain future as its primary partner, with over 50 percent of Magna-Power's sales, was acquired by a competitor with overlapping products. As the sole person in business development, I was able to successfully transition the company's business model, establishing Magna-Power as one of leading brands in programmable power with a direct sales network in over 50 countries, two international sales offices and a network of 40 North American sales representatives. To achieve this, I traveled around the world to build the sales relationships, understand international business practices and local markets, and how Magna-Power could address each region's varied energy applications.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years? I have led the sponsorship of local STEM programs, providing resources for high school robotics competitions, and the Junior Solar Sprints program, providing solar panels and electric drives for middle school students to develop miniature electric cars. I also provide interested school groups with an in-depth tour of Magna-Power's manufacturing operations.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? Inspiration comes from driving technological changes, having a strong team at Magna-Power to support the company's vision, continuous improvement and fully integrated approach to U.S. manufacturing, and having the support of my family, who are also my partners in this career.

FORTY UNDER 40

JOEL POMALES, CPRS, RCP

CEO

Mainstream Recovery
Matawan, Monmouth County



AGE 36

Job function: Leads the consulting firm, which specializes in the addiction recovery field, in helping clients stay ahead of the curve in behavioral health care by providing technical assistance, resources, decision support and expertise.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

In 2016, I developed an outreach initiative that evolved into a multi-state initiative for the behavioral health field. The program, which focused on utilizing recovery coaches to engage individuals with substance use disorders and get them connected to resources and treatment before law enforcement became further involved, also led to legislation and regulations that helped shift how law enforcement addresses mental health or substance use disorder in the community.

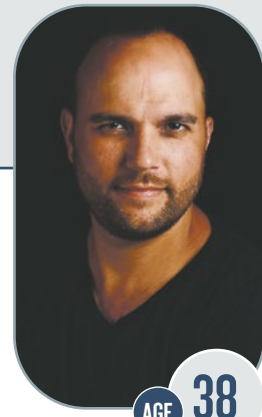
What would most people be surprised to learn about you? People are often surprised to learn about my personal background, which led to my career. I have been in recovery from substance abuse since 2011, which for me means that I no longer use alcohol or other drugs and that I am able to live a thriving life as a member of my family and community. Ten years ago I began my recovery with an eighth grade education, no employment history, severe depression, no assets, and not much family/social support. Through access to much needed treatment and recovery services I was able to put my illnesses in remission and enter recovery which has empowered me to lead the life I live today.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? Behavioral health concerns are at an all time high, people need help with mental health and substance use disorders right now, more than ever before.

CHRISTOPHER SESHADRI

CEO

PhotoSesh
Hoboken, Hudson County



AGE 38

Job function: Building teams, raising capital, partnerships and growth planning.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

My favorite was recently connecting with some nonprofit organizations for charity, like ProjectN95 and other initiatives, to help them source masks and PPE for hospitals—using our own downtime during the pandemic to call up hospitals that were looking for donations. Getting to know some of these hospitals and government agencies ended up opening an opportunity because they needed some software developers. This saved us a few months of payroll, which helped keep PhotoSesh afloat, helped fulfill an important need during a crisis, and helped us build new amazing relationships.

Who has been your most influential role model? Elon Musk has inspired me to think beyond limits. I also agree with a lot of his logic and forward thinking. He's inspired me to get out of my comfort circle and make things happen.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years? We absolutely love sponsoring charitable events, specially the ones that involve kids' activities that we can actually attend. Go the distance for Autism, Autism Speaks and Hayden's Heart are some of our favorites. Working with nonprofits also inspired us to start our family's CarePacks4Homeless initiative. We also donate photography services to any charitable event.

What do you know now that you wish you'd known earlier in your career? That becoming an entrepreneur requires you to be physically healthy. The late night blitzes and the stresses take a toll. I learned that midway so I at least made the proper adjustments eventually.

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FORTY UNDER 40

DARIO SFORZA, EDD

Chief School Administrator; Carlstadt-East Rutherford (Becton) Regional School District
East Rutherford, Bergen County



Job function: Oversees the full school administration, teaching, budgetary, government, school climate and culture and instructional program as the CEO of the Lead Education Agency (LEA).

What is your greatest professional achievement?

One notable example that has been made possible by my strategic positive daily communication and leadership during the past few years is the recent 2020 merger and historic \$30 million (and growing) partnership of a third school district. We were selected over 15 school districts by showing the experts what a great academic and extracurricular program, a positive school climate, culture and spirit look like.

What would most people be surprised to learn about you? As a first-generation child, I had the privilege to watch and learn about my current hobby and passion of old-world art and tradition of homemade wine making. It has taught the importance and beauty of simplicity, how less is more, respect your environment, transformation, and how the simple fruits of labor allow for families and friends to come together and share the great stories of the old country's past while being inspired by the future.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? The same reason I got into the education profession—to inspire and be a relentless advocate for students daily by providing them with a caring and authentic environment full of real-world experiences and love. Our students are the future leaders of our nation, and the ROI of changing the trajectory of even one student's life in a positive way is priceless.

KYLE TAFURI

Director of Sustainability
Hackensack Meridian Health
Edison, Middlesex County



Job function: Create and lead the development/management of corporate sustainability for the largest health care provider in the state of New Jersey.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

My greatest professional achievement to date has been to help Hackensack Meridian Health earn recognition from Practice Greenhealth as a leader in Environmental Excellence. In addition, Hackensack University Medical Center and Jersey Shore University Medical Center have been recognized as Practice Greenhealth Top 25 Hospitals in the country for Environmental Excellence. These recognitions are a demonstration of the network's commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship as key elements of the way we care for our patients, team members and the communities we serve.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years?

I chair the advisory board for the Montclair State University PSEG Institute for Sustainability Studies in which I mentor several students. Within Hackensack Meridian Health I led the distribution of over 117,000 meals of local fresh food that supported local farms in the region while addressing those impacted with food insecurity during COVID-19. I also volunteer on a number of community groups and committees in New Jersey.

Who has been your most influential role model? My father because of his work ethic and for always helping others, regardless of whether it would be recognized.

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? I'm inspired by the opportunity to work for a health system that empowers me to be disruptive by challenging the status quo with a goal of making a positive, meaningful and lasting difference.



Shannon goes above and beyond everyday, and her leadership and passion make a lasting impact. This is more than just a job for her. She puts so much heart into the organization, and for the people who she helps get back on their feet. On behalf of the staff and Board of Trustees, we thank you for your dedication and hard work.

Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition

Dan McGuire
CEO, Homeless Solutions, Inc.



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Congratulations Shannon Muti

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FORTY UNDER 40

BENJAMIN VAN BOXTEL, MD

Cardiac Surgeon
Atlantic Health
Morristown, Morris County



Job function: Performs specialized open heart surgery.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

Opening the Atlantic Aortic Center here at Morristown Medical Center was the culmination of years of medical school, followed by nearly a decade of brutal surgical training in open-heart surgery and complex thoracic aortic disease. With our center, we can provide excellent and nuanced care to patients across New Jersey and beyond who suffer from complex aortic disease.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years?

The Atlantic Aortic Center also engages with the community through patient education and outreach. We have partnered with the Marfan Foundation, which is an incredible resource for patients with Marfan Syndrome and related connective tissue disorders. I also personally do community outreach including giving talks to non-medical professionals about aortic disease and what our center can offer.

What would most people be surprised to learn about you? When I am not renovating the human heart, I enjoy renovating my Victorian home from the late 1800s. I have been doing the vast majority of the work myself including everything from demolition, framing, electrical, hanging drywall, finish carpentry, laying hardwood floors and tiling!

What inspires you to continue in your current profession? For surgeons, performing surgery is only one aspect of what we do to ensure our patients live long healthy lives. We care for our patients around the clock, even when we aren't in the hospital. The greatest honor we have is the trust our patients and their families have in us.

ANDREA VARGA, CPA

Partner
Ernst & Young
Iselin, Middlesex County



Job function: Specializes in international tax and transaction consulting, involving highly technical, time-sensitive issues and traveling around the tri-state region.

What is your greatest professional achievement?

Making partner in a Big Four accounting firm in 2019. Currently, I am the only woman tax partner in the Iselin office (approximately 150 tax professionals). I am proud to have made it to this level, while balancing work/family, in a position that allows me to be a role model and inspire women to have it all.

What types of charities or causes have you been involved with over the past three years? I have volunteered as a mentor with Rutgers Business School and for the Women's Leadership Committee of Wall Township. I led my New Jersey-based tax team in raising thousands of dollars to provide food to hospital staff at various New Jersey hospitals particularly during the COVID pandemic, as well as coordinated donations for scholarships to Gull Lake Community Schools Foundation in the name of a retiring colleague's father. I have also participated in and donated to NJ Sharing Network, for a 5K Celebration of Life in honor of my friend's father who is a liver transplant survivor.

What would most people be surprised to learn about you? I was a competitive cheerleader in high school and at Rutgers University; one of the original founders of the Rutgers All-Girl team. Through cheerleading I have been featured on a Discovery Channel documentary (a vivid tale of perseverance and how I ended up with fake teeth), and also the reason I have a trampoline in my yard where I can still pull out some flips.

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