

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: TRUSTED ADVISORS

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THE BEST TRUSTED ADVISORS DO MORE THAN THEIR IMMEDIATE JOB DESCRIPTIONS. THEY – AND THE LAW firms, accounting firms, wealth managers, insurance companies or financial institutions they represent – can genuinely prepare a business for foundational success, financial stability and positioning for years to come, and offer highly specific plans to protect, bolster and amplify a business while servicing its most critical and specific needs.

There are some truly outstanding professionals in the San Fernando Valley that have contributed in a multitude of ways to some of the most impressive success stories across the Valley's business landscape. We've shone the spotlight on some of the very best of them here, along with information about their careers, practices and a quick look at what makes them so good at what they do.

Congratulations to the trailblazing advisors who made this list and thank you for your contributions to the local economy and the stability of the industries that excel here. Methodology: The professionals featured in these pages did not pay to be included. Their profiles were drawn from nomination materials submitted to the San Fernando Valley Business Journal. Those selected for inclusion were reviewed by the editorial department and chosen based on a demonstration of impact made on the profession and on the San Fernando Valley community.

BARRY KURTZ

Chair, Franchise and Distribution Practice Group Lewitt Hackman

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Barry Kurtz is the Chair of the Franchise and Distribution Practice Group at Lewitt Hackman law corporation in Encino. His department is one of the largest of its kind in California. Kurtz is a certified specialist in franchise and distribution law designated by the State Bar of California Board of Legal Specialization, and a certified franchise executive under the auspices of the International Franchise Association. He also has a wealth of experience in related business matters – including corporate, mergers and acquisitions, business transactional law, and commercial real estate leasing. He is a Lewitt Hackman shareholder.

Kurtz’s practical, hands-on experience includes developing 22 franchised quick-service restaurants, founding and directing the Franchise Advisory Council and Independent Franchisee Association, and leading an international expansion of a national retail franchisor with over 100 units and \$60 million in annual sales.