



2021 New Jersey Business Thought Leaders

ON DEC 9, 2021

NJBIA has gathered some of the most influential CEOs in the state to be part of its Business Roundtable. *New Jersey Business Magazine* is proud to spotlight these executives. Throughout the year, this group of Thought Leaders has met with some of New Jersey's top policymakers to help determine the true tenor of business in the state, especially during the coronavirus pandemic, while also providing critical input to help drive policy solutions that will help make a meaningful difference for workers, families, communities and job creators of all sizes. We recognize these exceptional Thought Leaders for their valued contributions to NJBIA and for advancing the competitive nature of business in the state of New Jersey.



Rashaad Bajwa

CEO, Integris

Rashaad Bajwa is the CEO of Integris. Integris is the new brand of New Jersey-headquartered Domain Technology Partners, which took on a private equity investment in September 2020 and has been busy pursuing a roll-up strategy around the United States. With five acquisitions in the last 12 months, Integris is now one of the largest IT support providers in the country with 16 offices

across 10 states. Bajwa also serves on the Boards of the Princeton Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce, Keep Middlesex Moving, and NJBIA.

Role Models: James Burke, CEO of Johnson & Johnson during the Tylenol cyanide poisoning scare in 1982. His display of integrity became part of the playbook used to teach the concept of "value-driven companies" for generations of business leaders to follow.



Marcy A. Bliss

CEO, Wedgewood Pharmacy

Marcy A. Bliss is CEO of Swedesboro-based Wedgewood Pharmacy, one of the largest compounding pharmacies in the US, serving more than 40,000 prescribers of compounded medications. The company, which was acquired in 2021 by Swiss-based private equity firm Partners Group, provides specialty medications to both human and animal patients when a prescriber feels a commercial drug does not meet the unique needs of the patient. Bliss joined the company in 1999 as marketing director and, through the years, was promoted to vice president of sales and marketing, executive vice president of business operations, president and CEO.

Lessons Learned: Be in touch with your purpose, and lead from both your heart and your head. Every week I speak our mission: "To improve the lives of animals and those who love them." Living your mission should shape your culture, how you treat customers, your hiring, your priorities, and your investments. It will also give you a higher probability of success.



Joel S. Bloom

President, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT)

Joel S. Bloom was an economist before becoming an educator and administrator for NYC public schools. He later joined Teachers College, Columbia University, as a research director, and then became assistant commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education. He joined NJIT in 1990 as a vice president before becoming founding dean of the Albert Dorman

Honors College. He was named NJIT president in 2011 and has: led NJIT's rise to a top 50 public university; completed a \$500 million campus transformation; created the New Jersey Innovation Institute; and increased NJIT's annual economic impact on New Jersey to more than \$2.8 billion.

Role Models: I admire former Governor Tom Kean Sr. and NJIT alumnus Clifford Samuel, formerly a senior vice president at Gilead Sciences. Governor Kean's founding of the Educational Opportunity Fund is critically important, and Samuel, a low-income student who immigrated to the US, has led a team that makes Gilead's HIV/AIDS and other medicines available to patients in more than 140 countries.



Bernie Corrigan

President, IBEW Local 102

Bernie Corrigan is the president of IBEW Local 102, where he also serves as training director and sits as a trustee on the organization's pension, welfare and surety funds. He holds a BA in leadership and administration from the National Labor College and received his master's degree in Labor and Employment Relations from Rutgers University. Corrigan spearheaded the movement that resulted in Local 102 becoming the first labor union to become an NJBIA member. Corrigan holds a board seat on the NJ Chapter of the Labor and Employment Relations Association, was appointed to the Red Tape Review Commission under Gov. Chris Christie, and serves as a trustee of Focus NJ.

Embracing Technology: Embracing technology is more about cultivating a mindset. Many individuals put too much value on what they have while fearing what change will bring. Welcome open dialogue and feedback, provide accessible pathways to new technology, set the example for colleagues. The most successful teams enjoy surroundings that welcome new ideas.



Kevin Cummings

Chairman and CEO, Investors Bank

Kevin Cummings is the chairman of the board of directors and CEO of Investors Bank. Under his leadership, the bank has been listed on Forbes magazine's "Best Banks in America" since 2013. Prior to joining Investors, he had a 26-year career at KPMG, where he became a CPA and partner.

Throughout his career, he has generously donated his time and support to community-based organizations and currently serves on the boards of several non-profit and industry organizations. Cummings has a BA in economics from Middlebury College and earned an MBA from Rutgers University School of Business.

Embracing Technology: We focus our employees on finding innovative ways to respond rapidly to customers' needs and exceed their expectations. Although the past 20 months were challenging, employees quickly learned to leverage the bank's digital-first technologies to enhance the customer experience. It's a learning experience on both sides as we work with our clients to find out what they like about our digital solutions.



Joseph Divis

Interim President, AT&T New Jersey

Joseph Divis is interim president, AT&T New Jersey. In this role, he leads AT&T's legislative, public policy, and philanthropic initiatives in the state where he works with elected and appointed officials and business, community and civic leaders. Divis is a 26-year veteran of AT&T and its predecessor companies. His diverse professional experience includes: legislative work in

16 states and Washington, D.C.; corporate communications and congressional staff assignments; and news gathering as a reporter. He's been recognized for his volunteer leadership by Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) and College Possible Philadelphia. He is a graduate of Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania.

Embracing Technology: AT&T is a technology company. For my colleagues and me, perhaps the question is how we are helping New Jersey businesses use AT&T's robust connectivity to embrace technology and innovation in their operations. We have doubled down on our security-first approach to enable highly secure OT/IT environments and remote access.



Alberto Garofalo

President, Bank of America New Jersey

Alberto Garofalo is the president of Bank of America New Jersey. He is also the Chief CRA Officer and head of Community Banking & Development for Consumer and Small Business. He joined BofA in 2003 and has held leadership positions across contact center and financial center organizations.

He is focused on supporting clients in financial centers in predominantly Hispanic/Latino communities, and is developing a strategy to drive growth for the Hispanic/Latino segment across consumer and small business markets. Garofalo also serves as a co-chair for the Hispanic Leadership Executive Council. He served as executive sponsor for several Chapters of the Hispanic/Latino Organization for Leadership and Advancement.

Recovering from COVID-19: Since the pandemic, we have seen a significant increase in digital transactions across all of our businesses. We expect this trend to continue as clients see the convenience and security we can provide through our online and mobile banking platforms.



Robert C. Garrett

CEO, Hackensack Meridian Health

Robert C. Garrett is CEO of Hackensack Meridian Health, New Jersey's largest health network with 17 hospitals, 500 patient care locations, 36,000 team members and 7,000 physicians as well as the Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine. Under Garrett's visionary leadership, the network has made major strides in medical education, behavioral healthcare, cancer care, innovation and research. Garrett has been ranked in Modern Healthcare's "100 Most Influential People in Healthcare"; was included in "10 CEOs Transforming Healthcare in America" by CEO Forum Magazine; and was featured on ROI-NJ's "ROI Influencers: Power Lists" and NJBIZ's "Power 50 Health Care" list.

Recovering from COVID-19: Hackensack Meridian Health is investing more than ever in care outside the hospital. COVID-19 accelerated the trend to provide more telehealth, urgent care, home care, and convenient care in the community, and we are never going back. This not only provides more high-quality convenient care; it delivers better value to the communities we serve.



Angelo Genova, Esq.

Co-Founder, Managing Partner & Chairman, Genova Burns LLC

Angelo J. Genova is a noted trial and appellate advocate, labor negotiator, employment litigator, government contracts & procurement counsel, and campaign finance and election lawyer. He counsels clients in matters involving the development of urban landscapes and provides government and strategic affairs advice. His precedent-setting legal representations have touched all corners of the state and federal legal landscape. Genova is a former commissioner of the Port Authority of NY/NJ, and former chairman of the New Jersey Urban Development Corporation.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Genova Burns has always understood that the firm should reflect the business community it serves, both as a matter of principle and sound business judgment. Through our outreach efforts and partnerships with organizations like the Association of Black Law Students at Rutgers and Seton Hall universities, the South Asian Bar Association, the LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce, and Lead New Jersey, we seek to maintain and promote diversity at every level.



Jessica Gonzalez

CEO, InCharged

Jessica Gonzalez is a lifelong New Jersey entrepreneur. She founded Newark-based InCharged 11 years ago by selling everything, moving in with her parents, and working three jobs. As a Latina mother, being a business owner hasn't been easy, but Gonzalez believes "nothing is impossible." After the pandemic, events came to a halt. Gonzalez needed to pivot to keep her company afloat and to support a new economic landscape. Using her operation knowledge and applying cutting-edge research & development processes, Lux Disinfect was born. Gonzalez has never been a "typical" business leader. She brings a think-outside-the-box approach to help keep communities moving forward and safe.

Embracing Technology: We encourage employees to utilize current technology, but also allow them to bring in new tech that can make their jobs easier. Employees are constantly asked what can be done to make their work life more productive and if there are there any tools and or technology that I can provide.



Ralph LaRossa

Chief Operating Officer, Public Service Enterprise Group

Ralph A. LaRossa is COO of Public Service Enterprise Group. He has been president and COO of PSEG Power since June 2017. LaRossa is also chairman of PSEG Long Island. Previously, he served as president and COO of PSE&G, PSEG's regulated utility business. LaRossa began his career with PSEG 36 years ago as an associate engineer, and has worked ever since to enhance the

lives of customers, employees and communities. He also is chairman of Choose New Jersey, a Montclair State University Board member, and a past chair of the American Gas Association. LaRossa is a graduate of Stevens Institute of Technology.

HR Realization: Health and safety are PSEG's No. 1 priority, and long ago I learned the value of using my voice to help keep people safe. It's harder than it sounds, and goes beyond physical safety. As a leader, you have an opportunity to lend your voice to help others who are struggling, fix unsafe conditions, and make tough, sometimes unpopular, decisions.



Clifford F. Lindholm, III

President, Falstrom Company

Cliff Lindholm is president and CEO of Falstrom Company, a Passaic-based contract manufacturer of custom enclosures for a wide variety of military applications. Lindholm is part of the fourth generation of family members to work at the company since its founding in 1870. He earned Bachelor of Science degree from Allegheny College and an MBA from Rutgers Graduate

School of Management in Newark. In August 2004, Lindholm was named chairman of NJBIA's Manufacturing Council. He was elected a NJBIA Trustee in April 2005. He is also currently chairman of the Passaic Enterprise Zone Development Corporation. Lindholm is also a director of NJM Insurance Company.

Recovering from COVID-19: At Falstrom Company, we are continuing to actively monitor employees' physical and mental health more closely. This emphasis will continue and, I believe, creates a more supportive and engaged workplace for our employees.



Mitch Livingston

President and CEO, NJM Insurance Group

Mitch Livingston is president and CEO of NJM Insurance Group, New Jersey's largest domestic property and casualty insurer, and a leading writer of both personal and commercial insurance. Under Livingston's leadership, NJM is undertaking a strategic geographic and product expansion from its New Jersey roots to become a full service personal and commercial lines writer in

the Mid-Atlantic region, while maintaining its strong commitment to present and future policyholders. Prior to assuming the role of president, Livingston served as COO and general counsel, and has served on the company's Board of Directors since 2014.

Recovering from COVID-19: NJM launched new products for our commercial policyholders this past year despite the enormous challenges associated with COVID-19. These products enable NJM to be a total account solution for small businesses to address their insurance needs. We believe expanding our products and improving our online services will assist policyholders' recovery and protect them well into the future.



Kevin Luing

Chairman, Berkeley College
Board of Trustees

Kevin L. Luing has provided leadership to Berkeley College for 33 years, including 10 years as president of the college's New Jersey campuses, and the past 20 years as chairman of the Board of Trustees. Under Luing's leadership, the college expanded its academic offerings onsite (with four campuses in New Jersey, and a campus in New York City), and online, through the Larry L. Luing School of Business, the School of Health Studies, and the School of Professional Studies. In addition, Berkeley College is recognized as a top institution for online education and income mobility.

NJ's Economy: Partnerships with higher education are key to strengthening New Jersey's business climate. Enabling the development of a diverse and technology-ready workforce entails collaborations with colleges and universities to provide the critical infrastructure needed to educate the workforce. Maintaining a robust workforce training environment is a win-win for New Jersey residents and businesses.



Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D.

President, Georgian Court University

Joseph R. Marbach, Ph.D., is Georgian Court University's ninth president, where he is leading a strategic plan to ensure the long-term viability of the university. He has served as provost and vice president for academic affairs at La Salle University. He was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Seton Hall University, where he also was a professor and former chair of the Department of Political Science. Marbach currently chairs the Independent Colleges and Universities of New Jersey and the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference. His areas of expertise include federalism, state and local government, and New Jersey politics.

Recovering from COVID-19: The pandemic forced us to rethink our pedagogical approach as the faculty pivoted from teaching in-person classes to mostly online courses. Our goal was to meet the needs of our students by continuing to provide the quality education that has been the hallmark of the Georgian Court experience.



Michael McBride

Construction Group Chair, Connell Foley

Michael McBride co-chairs Connell Foley's Construction Group and is the law firm's former managing partner. With a family background in construction and real estate dating back more than a century, McBride has an intimate and unsurpassed understanding of the industry and the legal issues faced by his clients. He represents owners, developers, contractors and vendors in all aspects of real estate development and construction. McBride is also passionate about community service and maintains an active pro bono practice. He helped start Covenant House New Jersey (CHNJ) in 1990 and was instrumental in expanding the number of cities where CHNJ serves homeless children.

Lessons Learned: Future business leaders not only must become great at their craft, they must use character as their beacon. Character is more valuable than money or anything else. Remember, your reputation is everything – it is the only thing you truly own. If you are recognized for your integrity, you will go far.



Mark McDonough

President, New Jersey American Water

Senior Vice President, American Water

Mark McDonough is president of New Jersey American Water and senior vice president of American Water. At New Jersey American Water, McDonough oversees 850 employees who serve approximately 2.8 million people. He was also president of the Military Services Group and Chief Compliance at American Water. Before joining American Water in 2005, McDonough was an attorney. Prior to graduating law school, he was a special agent with the U.S. Government. McDonough received his B.S. in criminal justice from the University of Delaware, his M.S. in justice from American University, and his J.D. from George Mason University.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: The key to taking advantage of New Jersey's diverse workforce is to act with intention. Industry must take specific steps to engage diverse communities through workforce development programs designed to overcome historical inequities. It also requires that companies continue development efforts after employees are hired through things like employee business resource groups.



Catherine Milone

President, JA New Jersey

Catherine Milone is president of JA New Jersey where she oversees operations impacting 86,000 New Jersey students annually. In her tenure, Milone and her team built an award-winning NGO resulting in five JAUSA Peak Performance Awards, and the prestigious Charles R. Hook Award. Milone serves on the Boards of the Kearny Bank Foundation, NJBIA, Focus NJ, and the

NJ State Employment and Training Commission. Acknowledgements include the NJBIA Leonard C. Johnson Award; YWCA Princeton Tribute to Women; NJBIZ Best Women in Business; South Jersey Biz Magazine's Women to Watch; Muriel Siebert Partnership Award; Cristo Rey President's Award; Fellow, Lead New Jersey Class of 2011.

Lessons Learned: Seek out a mentor and then pay it forward. A mentor is someone willing to share their wisdom to help achieve your goals. They can challenge and advise you; celebrate you and hold you accountable. Having a mentor is invaluable; being a mentor to others is truly a gift!



Mike Munoz

Market President, AmeriHealth New Jersey

Mike Munoz is market president of AmeriHealth New Jersey. He has overall responsibility for profit-and-loss management and business operations for the statewide health plan. Munoz assumed his current role in 2017 after leading the company's sales and marketing organization for more than a decade.

During that time, he oversaw new business sales and retention across all market segments in addition to product management, marketing and public relations. Munoz has more than 25 years of experience in the health insurance industry. Prior to AmeriHealth New Jersey, he held several leadership roles at Oxford Health Plans.

Off the Grid Advice: It's important to keep a healthy balance. Being well rested and balanced enables you to be a better associate at work and a better family member at home. I like to take long walks with my dog every day, listen to music, and spend time with my family to re-energize.



Colin Newman

Director of Public Policy, Amazon

Colin Newman is director of public policy for Amazon. He was previously vice president of Amazon-subsiidiary Audible, where he led global government and community affairs. Before Amazon, Newman was Deputy Chief Counsel to Governor Chris Christie. Earlier in his career, he was chief counsel to the Republican caucus of the New Jersey General Assembly, law clerk to Chief

Justice James Zazzali of the New Jersey.

Supreme Court, congressional advisor at the U.S. State Department, and White House aide to President George W. Bush.

Recovering from COVID-19: From the outset of the pandemic, the health and safety of Amazon's employees, partners and customers has been our No. 1 priority. We created a COVID-19 testing program and offered our front-line employees access to free, regular testing. We also stood up vaccine clinics, making vaccine doses available to more than 1.5 million employees and their families. We continue working to create jobs and support our teams and our communities now and in the future.



Barry H. Ostrowsky

President and Chief Executive Officer, RWJBarnabas Health

Barry H. Ostrowsky is president and CEO of RWJBarnabas Health, the largest, most comprehensive academic healthcare system in New Jersey. He has been a key part of the RWJBarnabas Health system for three decades, having joined Saint Barnabas Medical Center in 1991 as executive vice president and general counsel. In 2016, with the merger of Barnabas Health and Robert Wood

Johnson Health System, he assumed his present title. Ostrowsky is co-chair of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center and serves on the Boards of PSEG, the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce and Public Media NJ, Inc.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: To be successful, committing to DE&I must start at the top. At RWJBarnabas Health, at least 50% of director-level and above candidates must be diverse in race and ethnicity. We also employ a diverse pool for talent acquisition, and our nationally recognized corporate DE&I practice is active in all facilities.



Celestina Quintana

Owner/Operator, McDonald's Restaurants

Celestina S. Quintana came to the US from Spain when she was 10. She grew up in Newark with eight brothers and sisters. After graduating from East Side High School, Quintana worked as a dental assistant for 15 years. At age 28, she opened a clothing store with two friends called "Impulse" in Harrison. She then moved the boutique to Newark as a single proprietor. In 1992, Quintana opened her first McDonald's Restaurant in North Bergen. Through steadfast expansion, she now owns and operates, with her daughter Jessica Quintana, 11 restaurants in Jersey City, Newark, Irvington, East Orange, and Parsippany. Her restaurants employ more than 500 people.

NJ's Economy: A key strategy would be for the government to get out of the way and allow businesspeople to run their businesses. Make New Jersey a friendly place to start and maintain a business: Stop with the overreaching regulations, stop with all the mandates. ... Help with the issue of outmigration among our educated workforce.



Mike Renna

President and CEO, South Jersey Industries

Mike Renna is the president and CEO of South Jersey Industries (SJI), one of New Jersey's largest energy companies, serving more than 700,000 natural gas customers across 14 counties through its South Jersey Gas and Elizabethtown Gas utilities. Under his leadership, SJI (a 100+ year-old company) now operates one of the most modern, reliable and resilient energy delivery systems in the country. This past spring, SJI released a comprehensive plan to eliminate the company's carbon footprint, reduce energy consumption and costs for customers, and advance the clean energy goals of the state and region. Renna and SJI are at the forefront of this transformation, committed to delivering safe, reliable, affordable clean energy for a better today and tomorrow.

Role Models: I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn from my father, Gene Renna, a former executive leader at Mobil Corporation and later ExxonMobil. His strong work ethic and people-centric leadership have significantly influenced my life and career.



Lori A. Roth, CPA/ABV, CFF

Global Managing Partner, Prager Metis

Lori A. Roth, CPA/ABV, CFF is the global managing partner of Prager Metis International and co-managing partner of Prager Metis CPAs. In her role, Roth oversees day-to-day operations of the firm and provides guidance to office managing partners and service line leaders. As a member of the firm's leadership team, she plays a key role in developing strategic goals and policies, monitoring performance, and driving growth. She empowers team members to achieve organizational goals while maintaining a flexible, transparent and diverse environment. Roth is a member of the AICPA and NJCPA and holds Board of Trustee positions at NJBIA and Unchained at Last.

Embracing Technology: To ensure team members are on-board, it is essential that they understand the benefits and values that the use of technology presents for themselves, our clients, and our firm. Having a qualified IT team in place to oversee implementation and troubleshoot difficulties is also key, as are initial and ongoing training programs.



Alan Sobel

Managing Member, SobelCo

Alan Sobel is a CPA and Managing Member of SobelCo, a New Jersey-based accounting and advisory firm serving entrepreneurial businesses, nonprofits and high net worth clientele. His expertise is strategic and tax planning for middle market companies. Sobel is a board director and audit committee chair with Cytosorbents, an emerging medical device company. He is also the immediate past president of the NJCPA, a 2020 recipient of the NJBIA Leonard C. Johnson award, and was a leader in the development and passage of the NJ Business Alternative Income Tax, resulting in approximately \$500 million in annual tax savings for businesses.

NJ's Economy: The state should focus on becoming the BEST state for business by evaluating and eliminating unnecessary and disproportionately expensive regulations. The Garden State should establish a bold strategy to leverage its schools, human talent, and infrastructure to emerge as the "go-to" state for the development, manufacturing, and deployment of environmental technologies.



James Spano

Managing Director, Spano Partners Holdings

James Spano, managing director of Spano Partners Holdings, has played a key role in the development of projects totaling over 400 megawatts in solar generation facilities. Spano Partners Holdings companies are now recognized as some of the top privately-owned utility-scale and C&I alternative energy developers and financiers in New Jersey. Spano is the founder and president of the New Jersey Solar Grid Supply Association, a director of the Mid-Atlantic Solar Energy Industries Association, and a Board Member of the International Battery and Energy Storage Alliance. He is also a director of the Spano Family Foundation, a 501(c) that supports charities in the US, Africa, India and Haiti.

Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Business owners need to recognize the unique value each individual brings to the organization and provide access to training and continued education to ensure every worker has an equal opportunity to advance within the organization. Providing career path training and education affords equal opportunity for promotion.



Deanna Sperling

President and CEO, Barnabas Health Behavioral Health Center

Deanna Sperling, MAS, RN, NE-BC, is president and CEO of Barnabas Health Behavioral Health Center and COO of RWJBH Behavioral Health Network. Sperling began her career with Barnabas Health as a registered nurse in 1985 and has held several leadership positions during her 30-year tenure. Previously, Sperling served as the vice president of patient care services at Monmouth Medical Center Southern Campus and Barnabas Health Behavioral Health Center. She has served as a board member and president of the New Jersey Organization of Nursing Leaders. Additionally, Sperling serves as a Board of Trustee for the New Jersey Hospital Association, Central Jersey Blood Center, NJBIA, and is a member of New Jersey Board of Social Work Examiners.

Off the Grid Advice: It is important to plan downtime in order to support work/life balance. This helps me recharge and reduce stress. My downtime includes cooking, activities with my family, being outdoors and enjoying nature.



Gary D. St. Hilaire

President and CEO, Horizon BCBSNJ

Gary D. St. Hilaire is president and CEO of Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey, the region's leading health solutions company. For more than 30 years, St. Hilaire has worked as a healthcare executive, entrepreneur and financial leader with experience in strategy, start-up operations, and business turnarounds. Prior to joining Horizon, he led the transformation of Capital Blue Cross into a nationally diversified family of companies, stressing the importance of leadership and corporate citizenship while driving innovation with patient-focused care models, growth in ancillary services, and leading-edge data analytics.

Recovering from COVID-19: Even before the pandemic, Horizon was leading to better integrate mental and physical healthcare. COVID-19 clearly brought new urgency to those efforts. We've significantly increased the number of behavioral health treatment providers in our network, and engaged new technology-enabled partners to give our members greater access to the care they need.



Gary R. Stockbridge

Former Region President,
Atlantic City Electric

Gary Stockbridge, former Atlantic City Electric region president, who has recently announced his retirement, was responsible for engaging in stakeholder relations with state and local officials, community leaders, and business, consumer and nonprofit organizations within the company's service areas. In that capacity, he played a critical role in shaping policy and managing issues to deliver value to customers and key stakeholders. Stockbridge has 35 years of utility experience. He worked in Philadelphia for PECO Energy for almost 15 years before moving to Delmarva Power in 1997 to run the retail energy business, selling electricity and natural gas to customers in the Northeastern United States. In 2000, he was promoted to vice president, customer care, in the regulated utility and remained in that position until 2005, when he was named region president of Delmarva Power. In 2018, his role was expanded to include Atlantic City Electric. Stockbridge received his undergraduate degree in engineering and a Master of Business Administration in Finance from Drexel University in Philadelphia.



Ralph Albert Thomas, CPA (DC), CGMA

CEO & Executive Director,
New Jersey Society of CPAs

Ralph Albert Thomas, CPA (DC), CGMA is CEO and executive director of the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJCPA). Prior to joining the NJCPA in 1999, he was a vice president and region audit head for Citibank, and previously held various management accounting positions at AT&T, Potomac Electric Power Company, and PriceWaterhouse. Thomas earned a B.S. in business and economics as well as an M.B.A. from Lehigh University. He is a member of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and is a lifetime member and former national president of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA).

NJ's Economy: Small businesses are the backbone of our economy and their growth is critical to New Jersey's business recovery. More state resources should be committed to support those businesses, including providing relief from burdensome taxes and regulations that drive businesses and taxpayers from the state.



Michelle Weese

Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs, Bristol Myers Squibb (BMS)

As executive vice president, corporate affairs, Michelle Weese oversees BMS's initiatives to protect, promote and enhance the company's brand and reputation through strategic communications, government relations and policy, corporate social responsibility and patient advocacy. Previously, she served as General Secretary for North America and led strategic corporate functions at

Danone.

"At BMS, we work to help people spend more time with their loved ones, so they can experience more birthdays, weddings, anniversaries and graduations," Weese says. "Patients are the center of everything we do – they inspire us, and they are our purpose."

Role Model: Mary Robinson, Ireland's first female president, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, and Chair of The Elders – a leading global peace, justice and human rights group. Strong, courageous and transformative, she legalized contraception, ensured the marriage bar on civil service women was revoked, and championed a law decriminalizing homosexuality.



Steve Westhoven

President and CEO, New Jersey Resources

Steve Westhoven is the president and CEO of New Jersey Resources, a premier energy infrastructure company that provides natural gas and clean energy services, and its principal subsidiary, New Jersey Natural Gas. A veteran of the energy industry, Westhoven has held key leadership positions in his 30-year career at NJR, including senior vice president of NJR Energy Services and executive vice president and COO before being named president and CEO in 2019. Under his leadership, NJR implemented a comprehensive sustainability strategy across the company that aligns with the state's emission reduction goals and provides a long-term platform for growth in a clean energy future.

Embracing Technology: The next great idea that will transform business is not reserved solely for the corner office. You never know from where innovation will come. If you are going to be successful, you need to encourage creativity, be open to new ideas and be ready to act on them when they provide a benefit.

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