

# NEWS OF THE WEEK

Last week's major news from labusinessjournal.com and other sources

**MINIMUM WAGE:** A battle is brewing over a call by organized labor to raise the minimum wage to \$15 at hotels in the city of Los Angeles with more than 100 rooms. The City Council is expected to consider the proposal and is seen as receptive. A labor group released a study showing the benefits of the wage hike. Business leaders and hotels are preparing to fight the proposal.

**SBA NOMINATION:** President Barack Obama nominated **Maria Contreras-Sweet**, co-founder of L.A.'s Latino-owned **ProAmerica Bank** and a former California cabinet secretary, to head the Small Business Administration. Contreras-Sweet also was president and co-founder of private equity firm **Fortius Holdings**, which targets small California businesses. She served as secretary of the California Depart-



ment of Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.

**CLOUDY FORECAST:** About 20 million **DirectTV** customers around the country lost access to **Weather Channel** due to a dispute over subscriber fees between the El Segundo satellite service and the cable channel, which is a joint venture of **NBCUniversal** and investment firms **Blackstone Group** and **Bain Capital**. This the first time

the channel's 30-year history that it has been blacked out on any pay-TV service.

**GRAND PLAN:** Los Angeles County supervisors approved a revised \$750 million design by architect **Frank Gehry** for a proposed mix of high-end apartments, businesses and public space across from Walt Disney Concert Hall. Developer **Related Cos.**'s initial plan to redevelop a portion of portion of downtown's Grand Avenue stalled last fall when the initial design was rejected by the Grand Avenue Authority.

**LOCATION FILMING:** **FilmL.A.**, which handles location shooting permits in the county, said more TV

shows, movies and digital videos were shot on location in Los Angeles last year than in 2012. Location feature film production days increased 19 percent last year to 6,972 days. Location television production was up 11 percent and commercial shoots rose 5 percent. Local production is still down dramatically from its peak, as other states and nations offer tax credits and other incentives for production companies to work there.

**USC GIFT:** Billionaire surgeon and inventor **Gary Michelson** is giving \$50 million to **USC** to construct a building for bioscience research. The Michelson Center for Convergent Bioscience, expected to be

completed in three years, will house up to 30 laboratories investigating a range of biomedical topics. Michelson did not graduate from USC and had little contact with the university until he got to



know some researchers there and was impressed by their work. Michelson made his fortune from inventing a spinal implant and other medical devices.

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## Advertising Feature

# People on the Move

## Hirings, promotions and special accomplishments in local business

### LAW

**PAYNE & FEARS** Payne & Fears LLP welcomed labor and employment partner **Paul Coady** to their growing Los Angeles office. Paul specializes in high exposure litigation and also the defense of wage and hour class actions, wrongful termination, discrimination, sexual harassment, whistleblower, and labor-management litigation. Prior to joining Payne & Fears Paul was a partner with Winston & Strawn LLP. Paul obtained his J.D. from Harvard Law School and his B.A. in Economics from Dartmouth College.

### REAL ESTATE



**Debbie Moysychyn**, MBA joins Xebec Realty Partners as Chief Community Officer. With over 25 years of business development, marketing, and brand management, Moysychyn focuses on investor relations in the Los Angeles and Dallas markets with oversight to new client development. Moysychyn holds a MBA from UC Irvine, Paul Merage School of Business, two Bachelors' and AB from University of Miami, FL.

### NONPROFIT



**Mary Jane Stevenson** was named Executive Director of City Year Los Angeles, an education focused nonprofit that works to keep students in school and on track to graduate. Previously, Stevenson ran a political action committee for Mayor Garcetti and served as California State Director for President Obama's re-election campaign.

### LAW



Greenberg Glusker elects **Bob Baradaran** as firm-wide Managing Partner. Baradaran is the fifth managing partner since its founding in 1959. In his law practice, Baradaran advises some of the most recognizable companies in the real estate, sports, and entertainment industries on their real estate and general legal matters. He was named to the Los Angeles Business Journal's "Who's Who in Real Estate Law" list as a top real estate lawyer in Los Angeles County for 2013.

### ACCOUNTING



Founded in 1953, **Green Hasson Janks** is one of the oldest independent accounting firms on the west side of Los Angeles. Over the past 60 years, the firm has grown from 3 partners and 2 employees to 13 partners and over 110 employees. The firm credits its longevity and success to its dedication to the core values of keeping commitments, encouraging new ideas, teamwork and growing great people.

### ACCOUNTING



Fineman West welcomes **Wendy On** as Tax Director where she will have oversight of the firm's strategic direction, expansion, and operation. Wendy will focus on developing new business opportunities including growing our Chinese practice group. Prior to Fineman West, Wendy was with Deloitte for over 10 years serving companies in the real estate, entertainment, technology, and manufacturing industries. She is a CPA and has a BS and MBT from the University of Southern California.

### ACCOUNTING



**Cheryl Calhoun**, Managing Director of CBIZ MHM, LLC was nominated for the LA Magazine's "L.A. Woman." The "L.A. Woman" is devoted to the community larger than herself. She is dedicated to serving, leading and mentoring. Cheryl has over 25 years' experience in tax and consulting, and specializing in business management, entertainment, business consulting, tax and financial planning.

### ACCOUNTING



**Nick Pyzow**, Manager of Business Development of CBIZ MHM, LLC, the 8th largest accounting services provider in the nation, was awarded the 2013 Chamber Ambassador of the Year for the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. The award recognizes business leaders for their special volunteer efforts and commitment to the Chamber's mission and program.

### MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

After growing by 30 percent last year, integrated marketing communications agency Phelps welcomes four new associates to its media discipline.



**Pappas**



**Weinsoff**

**Marlene Pappas** joins Phelps as an integrated media specialist with 20 years experience in the advertising industry. Pappas manages media buying, planning and strategy



**Koo**



**Polipalli**

for Phelps' American Licorice, SoCal Gas and Santa Monica Place clients. **Tina Weinsoff** joins Phelps as an integrated media strategist with 18 years experience in national media planning. Weinsoff is responsible for strategic development, implementation and evaluation for Phelps' American Licorice client. **Jonathan Koo** and **Nitya Polipalli** graduated from the Phelps trainee program and were promoted to media specialists. They will be working on various Phelps accounts, including SoCal Gas, Monrovia Nursery, American Licorice, Santa Monica Place and Tahiti Tourism.

Announce your hirings, promotions and other accomplishments.

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