

# Distinguished Leaders – *Human Resources*

The disruptions of the past two years presented human resources executives with extraordinary challenges.

HR executives had to navigate a new office environment. They managed corporate culture with staff working remotely. The administration of benefits and ever-changing policies had to be observed. Recruiting and onboarding presented new challenges with the falling unemployment rate. The new normal has become the norm. These 72 HR leaders show they have what it takes to navigate the paradigm shift.

**METHODOLOGY:** The honorees did not pay to be included. Their profiles were drawn from nomination materials submitted. This list is not comprehensive. It includes only executives for whom nominations were submitted and accepted after an editorial review. The Distinguished Leaders are serving in a senior leadership role and demonstrate an impact on the Orange County community.

## 2022 DISTINGUISHED LEADERS – HUMAN RESOURCES



### ANNE MORIYA

HART KIENLE PENTECOST

Anne Moriya has been with Hart Kienle Pentecost for over three decades and has excelled in every position she's ever had including Legal Assistant and Office Administrator for more than twenty years. Not only does Anne handle complex HR issues, but she also keeps the office functioning like a well-oiled machine. Her coworkers will tell you Anne always has a positive attitude and genuinely cares about each and every individual's needs at the firm. The praises of Anne don't stop at the firm though. She's also a wonderful wife and mother to her three children who adore her and is actively involved in her church. Anne's assistance with the transfer of ownership in 2020, during a global pandemic no less, would not have been possible without her hard work, dedication, assistance, knowledge, patience, and overall amazing attitude. She is one of a kind and is an irreplaceable asset to HKP. We appreciate all you do, Anne!



### AGGIE NESH

CITY OF LAGUNA BEACH

Laguna Beach Human Resources Manager Aggie Nesh is simply AMAZING! Aggie joined our team one year ago in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, and since then has taken the initiative and successfully navigated our team through it all. From face covering mandates, setting up COVID vaccination clinics for staff; providing weekly testing for unvaccinated staff; developing and administering a comprehensive employee survey of all City Staff and subsequent employee task forces and recommendations; and developing new employee health, wellness and staff development and engagement programs - Aggie continues to go above and beyond to make our team even better. But more than all of these achievements, and most importantly, she is the epitome of a kind and invested Human Resource Manager who truly cares about every staff member at the City of Laguna Beach.



### LYNDA NGUYEN

WESTCLIFF UNIVERSITY

It is with great pleasure that we nominate Lynda Nguyen for the OC's Distinguished HR Leaders' award. Lynda plays a key role in driving the performance and growth of Westcliff University. She redefined HR, transforming it from a transactional to a human experience, and has become a strategic partner in providing support and leadership to the organization. Lynda created HR initiatives to meet the organizational needs and goals. Her efforts in streamlining the talent acquisition and onboarding processes effectively reduced turnover in many departments. Moreover, her benefits benchmarking analysis provided vital industry insights and promoted forward planning for the university to remain competitive. With a passion for making a lasting impact, Lynda boosted our company morale, transforming the culture for the better. She is the champion and driving force behind employee focused initiatives including appreciation week, employee rewards program and workplace engagement. Amidst the evolving COVID-19 pandemic, Lynda provided frontline leadership in guiding the organization through unprecedented challenges.



### TERRYL NIRTAUT

CASCO CONTRACTORS

Terryl has been an integral part of our onboarding and hiring processes. Currently, Casco is looking to hire over 10 people from project management (OC and San Diego), accounting, marketing coordinator, and HR assistant. She has been extremely involved in building our onboarding program and training. On top of hiring and management, Terryl has solely handled all payroll, benefits, and management of our ADP system. She has been a one stop shop for all of our HR needs. Terryl is always looking to better the organization and brings a fresh perspective to the group. She is thoughtful, professional, and extremely enjoyable to be around. Out of all the previous organizations I have worked yet, she is by far the most enjoyable HR individual to work with on a regular basis.





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**Minnette Gallardo**  
CEO, Regal Resources

SOME OF OUR LOYAL CLIENTS



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Congratulations to Shannon Marie Jenkins, Esq., distinguished leader in human resources, TLD Law Managing Partner, and management-side defense attorney.

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