

Speaker Biographies

Ilse Metchek President California Fashion Association

Ilse Metchek, President of the California Fashion Association (CFA), created the organization over 20 years ago, with assistance from the major financial and manufacturing participants of the region's apparel industry. CFA provides leaders of the Southern California's manufacturing and textile community with the opportunity to share and receive information about the business of doing business in the global economy.

Prior to the formation of the CFA, Ilse served as Executive Director of the California Market Center (then called the California Mart), and before that, President of White Stag Inc., a division of Warnaco Industries. As a manufacturer, Metchek was owner and president of Ilse M. Inc., which she purchased from the Anjac Corporation. Her career at Anjac began as the company's designer and 17 years later, she owned the company.

Ilse's professional affiliations include Board Membership of the Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation, Board Member of the Vernon Chamber of Commerce, Advisory Council of the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, Board of Trustees of Woodbury University, and president of Image Makers L.A. - a consulting group to apparel industry businesses.

Vince Iacopella Executive Vice President Alba Wheels Up International Inc.

Vince's responsibilities include leading Alba's expansion into new markets and to increase the portfolio of product offerings with a focus on trade sensitive imports and exports, as well as smart supply chain technology that drives value to importers and exporters with trade sensitive shipments.

At Alba, Vince, along with the owners and senior management team, Vince is responsible for leading efforts in sustainable topline growth and development and implementation of an integrated approach to sales and business development. Vince supports strategic development and execution as part of the senior management team as well as driving sales performance and new net revenue dollars through Alba's business development team. Vince is responsible for driving creation and development of product and service enhancements aligned with Customs and Border Protection, Food and Drug Administration, and EPA's Trade Modernization initiatives in the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) as well as development of freight and supply chain products.

Vince is a licensed Customs Broker and has worked in the Los Angeles market for 30 years managing importer and exporter customer relationships in the sectors of retail goods, apparel, footwear, and trade sensitive products and commodities.

In March 2013, he was appointed to the 13th Advisory Committee on Commercial Operations of Customs and Border Protection, better known as COAC. This 20-member council advises the secretaries of the Department of the Treasury and the Department of Homeland Security on the commercial operations of CBP and related DHS and Treasury functions. In 2015 Vince was voted Trade Co-Chair of the COAC by his peers, with responsibilities over all COAC activities and their 20 member committee's dialogue with Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, and the US Treasury. Vince is a past president of the Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association. Vince serves as the current president of the Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders, and L.A. Vice Chair for the District export Council of Southern California.

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Over the past 65 years, Alba Wheels Up® International has offered advanced customs brokerage and freight forwarding value-added services. Alba is an industry leader in regulatory forecasting for importers and exporters. Alba is a U.S. owned, mid-size customs broker and freight forwarder with vertical specialization in apparel and retail goods, food and FDA related products, EPA regulated imports and exports, and aerospace imports and exports. With a high ratio of licensed customs brokers to staff, Alba provides swift and compliant speed to market through advanced technology, a deep expertise of its staff, and its agility to service the customer in a fast-changing market.