2018 VISIONARIES AWARDS

AVALON HOLLYWOOD

THURSDAY, NOV. 29
3 - 6 P.M.

#SCLN  #VISIONARIES18  #IAMAVISIONARY
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3 P.M.  REGISTRATION AND REFRESHMENTS

3:30 P.M.  SPECIAL PERFORMANCE
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WELCOME
Fritz Coleman
Weathercaster, NBC4 Southern California

SCLN 2018 IN REVIEW
Nancy Olson (LLA ‘13)
SCLN Executive Director

PRESENTATION OF AWARDS
NEXTLA LEADER OF THE YEAR
Alex M. Johnson
Program Director, The California Wellness Foundation

ALUMNA OF THE YEAR
Dr. Margie Wheeler (LSC,’07, LLA ’08, CalConn ‘12)
Executive Strategist, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY
Presented by SCLN scholarship recipients

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LEADER OF THE YEAR
Angelica Salas
Executive Director, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
Gary and Janice Toebben
President & CEO, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce (Retired)
Senior Vice President, U.S. Bank (Retired)

CLOSING REMARKS
Fritz Coleman

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*As of 11.21.18
Welcome to the Southern California Leadership Network’s 2018 Visionaries Awards. Thank you for joining us and for supporting the important mission of the organization to inspire, prepare and engage leaders to drive change.

One cannot read a paper, watch the news or view social media without recognizing how important, relevant and timely the mission of SCLN is today. The engagement of our alumni in our communities is essential to all of our futures. We are proud to be among and recognize more than 3,200 SCLN alumni/graduates who serve at the highest levels of business, government and nonprofit organizations throughout our region, state and country.

As a graduate of Leadership Southern California, I learned firsthand to consider another’s prospective when evaluating the issues affecting our community: health care, transportation, land use/growth, water rights, law enforcement, business and government. I was inspired by my better understanding of and the complications to finding solutions. From coursework, I learned to apply different leadership strategies to be a more effective leader, to refine my personal goals of engagement, and I am forever thankful for the new friends and connections I made along the way.

This past year, SCLN continued its valuable fellowship programs: The Riordan Leadership Institute, Leadership Los Angeles and Leadership Southern California. The cohorts were filled with more than 150 brilliant and engaged fellows. We also delivered the NextLA Power Your Future Conference for young professionals, with more than 200 attendees. All this programming could not have been accomplished without the support of our alumni and core volunteers, many of whom served as speakers, strategic partners and the referral of participants.

Last year, our immediate past president Dave Barthmuss wrote, “It’s not enough to finish a program and simply reflect on the lessons learned. Now is the time to get involved and push your leadership pedal to the floor.” I thank him for those lasting words of encouragement. Each of us can make a difference and drive change.

Today’s event and the mission of SCLN would not be possible without the financial support of some of Southern California’s leading organizations. Thank you to all the companies and sponsors that support SCLN and our honorees today.

Lastly, we recognize and salute the tremendous work being done by Nancy Olson, SCLN’s executive director, and the extremely dedicated staff of experts including Blanca Zarate, Erin Tanenbaum, Hannah Tayson, Jessica Coronel, Kauleen Menard and Lindsay Johnston, as well as the support and collaboration of my fellow SCLN board and committee members who provide their time and resources to continue the valuable work of SCLN.

Paige Serden (LSC ’15)
2018 SCLN Board Chair
Senior Vice President/Regional Manager
City National Bank
TURN TO THESE FOUR, BEFORE TURNING IN FOR THE NIGHT

FRITZ COLEMAN
CHUCK HENRY
COLLEEN WILLIAMS
FRED ROGGIN

NBC4 NEWS AT 11PM
FRITZ COLEMAN

Fritz Coleman is NBC4 Southern California’s beloved weathercaster for the NBC4 News at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. He joined NBC4 in 1982 as the weekend weathercaster and two years later moved to weekdays, where he has been part of the longest-running evening news team with legendary journalists Chuck Henry, Colleen Williams and Fred Roggin. A Southern California broadcasting icon, he is renowned in the region for his extensive knowledge of weather, his sense of humor and affable personality.

Coleman is the cornerstone of the NBC4 Weather Team that recently won two Los Angeles Area Emmy Awards for the station’s specials, El Nino: Currents of Change and Running Dry: California’s Historic Drought. He was honored by the Associated Press Television and Radio Association with the Stan Chambers Award for Extraordinary Achievement. Coleman has received countless accolades over the last three decades, including “Best Weathercaster” by nearly every major newspaper in Southern California, including the Orange County Register and four times in the Los Angeles Daily News.

In addition to his celebrated broadcast career, Coleman is well-known for giving his time to numerous charitable activities, and hosts hundreds of local events to raise awareness for services that benefit underserved communities. His involvement in NBC4’s goodwill initiatives has been the foundation to the success of the station’s community outreach, including Fritz’s Holiday Lights which spotlighted festive neighborhoods lit up for the holiday season. His role in NBC4’s Wishing Tree continues the seasonal tradition of spreading good cheer and generosity to many in need. Coleman is also featured as a proud example of the rewards of giving time with NBC4’s signature community program, I Am A Volunteer.

Born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, Coleman attended Salem College in West Virginia and Temple University in Philadelphia where he studied radio, television and film. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy. Coleman lives in the San Fernando Valley and has three children and two grandchildren.
Alex M. Johnson is a program director at The California Wellness Foundation where he manages grantmaking related to preventing violence. Having previously served as managing director of Californians for Safety and Justice (CSJ) and as executive director of Children’s Defense Fund-California (CDF-CA), Johnson is an accomplished policy shaper, skilled legal practitioner and influential advocate. His strategic leadership has advanced policy, programmatic, organizing and advocacy efforts across diverse sectors including education, criminal/juvenile justice reform, poverty reduction, health and improving outcomes for communities of color.

Johnson is also a member of the Los Angeles County Board of Education and recently completed a term as president of the board. In this capacity, he works collaboratively with the superintendent and board to oversee the education system for the nation’s largest juvenile justice system; the state’s largest Head Start grantee program serving more than 13,000 preschool children; programs serving homeless, foster and special education students; and an annual budget exceeding $630 million.

A graduate of Morehouse College and American University, Washington College of Law, Johnson led education and public safety policy, as well as programmatic efforts for Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas. He began his legal career in New York City advocating for domestic violence and sexual assault victims as an assistant district attorney in Bronx County. Immediately thereafter, he joined the Office of General Counsel for the NYC Department of Education where he worked on complex civil litigation and labor management.

Johnson is a 2017-2018 Marshall Memorial Fellow and serves on the National Advisory Committee for Creative Youth Development and the board of The Wiley Center for Speech and Language Development. He was a founding board member of Arts for Incarcerated Youth Network (AIYN). Johnson’s writings have appeared in numerous publications including the HuffPost, Los Angeles Daily News and Sacramento Bee.

He is married to Dr. Ashley Wiley Johnson and they are the proud parents of a precious daughter, Alexa Danielle.
Salas is a leader and respected voice on immigration advocacy and policy. She has accomplished this through her work at CHIRLA, participation with the Fair Immigration Reform Movement (FIRM) and as an active member of Reform Immigration FOR America (RIFA). Under Salas’ leadership, CHIRLA and its partners across the country have built the foundation for the recent upsurge in immigrant rights activism. As part of a national coordinating committee, Salas helped convene a coalition of organizations in California that have successfully mobilized millions of immigrants to demand comprehensive immigration reform including legalization with a path to citizenship, family reunification and the protection of civil and labor rights.

Angelica Salas sits on the Executive Committee and is a co-chair of the Fair Immigrant Rights Movement (FIRM). She is also a board member with America’s Voice, National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA), UNITE-LA and Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy (LAANE), and is board president and CEO of Californians for Human Immigrant Rights Leadership Action Fund (CHIRLA Action Fund).

Salas has lived the immigrant experience firsthand. As a five-year-old, Salas came to the U.S. from Mexico to reunite with her family. Salas and her family were able to attain legal status and eventual citizenship. She grew up and still lives in Pasadena with her husband Mayron Payes, an immigrant from El Salvador, and her daughter Maya.
Gary Toebben was president and CEO of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce from July 1, 2006, to July 1, 2018.

Gary Toebben’s 43-year career in the chamber of commerce profession spanned four communities in four states. He was highly recognized in each of those communities and states for his leadership in economic development, improving access to quality education, leadership development, infrastructure investments and legislative reforms. In 2003, he was elected by his peers as chairman of the Board of Directors of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives.

During Toebben’s tenure, the Chamber championed hundreds of projects to build the physical and human infrastructure of Los Angeles County. During the last two years alone, the Chamber led the charge on four local ballot initiatives to generate $150 billion in investments for transportation, services and housing for the homeless, and improved facilities for the nine colleges in the Los Angeles Community College District.

Prior to moving to Los Angeles, Toebben served as president of the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce for seven years. He began his chamber career in Nebraska in 1975 at the North Platte Chamber of Commerce and, from 1981 to 1999, he served as president of the Chamber of Commerce in Lawrence, Kansas.

Toebben grew up on a farm in Eastern Nebraska and earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Education from the University of Nebraska. He and his wife Janice have four married children and nine grandchildren. Janice retired from a 30-year career with U.S. Bank in 2016. She is a 41-month survivor of pancreatic cancer.
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

JANICE TOEBBEN

Janice Toebben retired from U.S. Bank in 2016 as a senior vice president in wealth management, completing almost 30 years with the bank in three cities. In Cincinnati, Ohio, she was in the Private Banking Group, and in Lawrence, Kansas, she served in trust, retail banking, commercial lending and on the Board of Directors of Mercantile Bank. Before her career in banking, she was assistant treasurer of The Kansas University Endowment Association.

Toebben holds a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work at the University of Kansas, a Bachelor of Science in Business at Auburn University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Kansas. She is a graduate of the Mercantile Bank Leadership Institute, the University of Wisconsin BAI Banking School and the University of Oklahoma ABA Retail School of Banking – both with honors. Toebben also graduated from the Leadership Lawrence and Leadership Kansas programs. She received the Elite Banking Award from U.S. Bank for 10 years, while she was in the wealth management arena, and was one of the Top 10 Private Bankers in Cincinnati.

Toebben currently serves on the University of Kansas School of Business Advisory Board. Prior to moving to Los Angeles, Toebben served on the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport Board. In Lawrence, Kansas, Toebben was president of the Rotary Club, president of the Boys and Girls Club and her sorority alumnae club, and moderator–elect of her church.

In her communities, Toebben was involved with the Art Center, the Youth Collaborative, the Conservancy, the Symphony, the Cancer Society, AAUW, CASA, Habitat for Humanity and Sister Cities. One of her favorite banking projects was working on a smart card for universities from 1995 to 1998 – something we take for granted today.

Toebben was born and raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and moved to Kansas in her teens for the next 40 years. She is married to Gary Toebben and they have four married children and nine grandchildren. She enjoys hiking, golf, snow skiing, reading and fellowship with friends.
Going beyond theory and academics, Leadership L.A. will immerse you in the issues and assets that are essential to L.A.’s future, while guiding you through personal leadership development led by some of the region’s top experts. Join this nine-month civic and community leadership fellowship designed for working professionals from business, government and the social sector.

Leadership L.A. launches March 14 – 15 with a two-day orientation.

The application deadline is Jan. 25, 2019.

Admissions for Leadership L.A. are highly competitive and qualified applicants are selected on a rolling basis. Early applications are encouraged.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LEADERSHIP NETWORK

Inspiring leaders. Driving change.

For more information, contact Jessica Coronel, jcoronel@lachamber.com or 213.580.7537.
ALUMNA OF THE YEAR

DR. MARGIE WHEELER (LSC ’07, LLA ’08, CALCONN ’12)

Dr. Margie Wheeler is an executive strategist for The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. She currently works within Metropolitan’s Bay-Delta Initiatives program. She serves as an adjunct professor in the MBA program at the University of La Verne.

An employee of Metropolitan for 25 years, she has held various positions in water planning, public affairs and the executive office. She also owned a resource management consulting company responsible for the development and implementation of award-winning resource conservation education programs. Wheeler served as an adjunct professor at Mt. San Antonio Community College for more than 12 years.

Wheeler earned a Doctor of Policy, Planning and Development at USC. She earned a master’s degree in advanced management from the Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management at the Claremont Graduate University and an MBA from the University of La Verne. She is a member of Beta Gamma Sigma.

Wheeler currently serves as the board president of Leadership California, on the board of the Southern California Leadership Network and as a member of the University of La Verne School of Business and Public Administration Advisory Board. She is also a member of the Pacific Council on International Policy.
2017 30TH ANNIVERSARY HONOREES

HON. PETE AGUILAR (LSC ’05)
JAVIER ANGULO (CALCONN ’15)
HON. RACHELLE ARIZMENDI (LSC ’12)
KAREN BAKER (LSC ’91)

DAVE BARTHMUSS (LLA ’11 & CALCONN ’12)
DANIELLE BRAZELL (LLA ’10)
HON. JAMES BUTTS (LLA ’01)
ANDY CARRASCO (LLA ’09)

DARIN CHIDSEY (LSC ’08)
MARIA CONTRERAS-SWEET (LLA ’89)
JUAN DEVIS (LLA ’12)
DAVID EADS (LSC ’08)

HON. RON GALPERIN (LSC ’07)
HON. GEORGE GASCÓN (LSC ’98)
AMY GRAT (LLA ’06)
ALBERT HERNANDEZ (LLA ’11)

HYEPIN IM (LSC ’97)
HON. SYDNEY KAMLAGER-DOVE (LLA ’12 & CALCONN ’13)
HON. ABBE LAND (LSC ’95)
SHAWN LANDRES (CALCONN ’16)

HON. RICARDO LARA (LLA ’07)
SHERIFF JIM MCDONNELL (LLA ’00)
NANCY MCPHERSON (LSC ’16)
DAVID PORGES (LLA ’05 & LSC ’07)

HON. MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS (LLA ’89)
PHILLIP SANCHEZ (LLA ’01)
BRISSA SOTELO-VARGAS (LSC ’09)
YESENIA VALLEJO MONSOUR (LSC ’16)

DONELLA WILSON (RLI CLASS 32)
SCOTT WITTER (LLA ’85)
VINCE WONG (LLA ’14)
DEAR FRIENDS:

Welcome to the Southern California Leadership Network’s 2018 Visionaries Awards!

Visionaries Awards are presented to accomplished individuals who demonstrate outstanding achievement in civic leadership, celebrating those whose vision has inspired action, collaboration and positive outcomes across our region, our state and our nation.

Today, we congratulate five incredible leaders in Southern California: Alex M. Johnson, Angelica Salas, Gary and Janice Toebben, and Dr. Margie Wheeler.

SCLN has been at the forefront of civic leadership for more than 30 years and continues to inspire hundreds of fellows a year to get more involved and create the change they want to see in their communities. As we traverse the complicated landscape of Los Angeles County, Southern California and nonprofit board service, we prepare fellows to tackle those “wicked problems” head on, while connecting them to a robust and diverse alumni network.

We want to give our sincerest gratitude to all of our generous sponsors, guests and the SCLN Board of Directors for your ongoing support for SCLN and our programs. We hope we can count on your continued partnership as we continue to inspire, prepare and connect leaders to drive change.

Please enjoy your time with us today!

THE SCLN TEAM

From L-R: Lindsay Johnston, Nancy Olson, Erin Tanenbaum, Melissa Flewelling, Hannah Tayson, Blanca Zarate, Jessica Coronel, Steven Mason and Kauleen Menard.
CAL WELLNESS recognizes that visionary leaders are essential for community health. Angelica and Alex—you are two of the best!

The mission of The California Wellness Foundation is to protect and improve the health and wellness of the people of California by increasing access to health care, quality education, good jobs, healthy environments and safe neighborhoods.
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For Their Incredible Leadership
ALEX JOHNSON
ANGELICA SALAS
GARY & JANICE TOEBBEN
DR. MARGIE WHEELER
SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT
Warmly Salutes

ALL OF TODAY’S HONOREES

2018 Visionaries Awards
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And with all the places we’re going next, we’ll always put you first, because our love of People is still our most powerful fuel.

Some say we do things differently.

We say, why would we do things any other way?

Without a Heart, it’s just a machine.

“Leadership is about People. Period.”—Gary Kelly
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OF CALIFORNIA AND THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

Congratulations to Gary and Janice Toebben and all honorees
We recognize one of the most precious resources in our community — you

Thanks to you, things are getting done and our community is becoming a better place to live and work. Thanks to your leadership, the lives of your neighbors are being changed for the better.

Bank of America recognizes Southern California Leadership Network. Community leaders like you are a vital resource and an inspiration to us all.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF THE VISIONARY LEADERS BEING HONORED TODAY. WE ARE PLEASED TO SUPPORT THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LEADERSHIP NETWORK AS IT RECOGNIZES THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY LEADERS.

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Congratulations to all of the 2018 Visionaries honorees

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Maya Angelou
First 5 LA is a leading early childhood advocate organization created by California voters to invest Proposition 10 tobacco tax revenues in Los Angeles County. In partnership with others, First 5 LA strengthens families, communities and systems of services and supports so that all children in L.A. County enter kindergarten ready to succeed in school and life. Please visit First5LA.org for more information.

First 5 LA congratulates the Southern California Leadership Network on developing tomorrow’s leaders and visionaries for L.A. County through civic and community engagement.

Congratulations to tonight’s honorees:
Gary and Janice Toebben
Angelica Salas
Dr. Margie Wheeler
Alex Johnson

We are proud to sponsor the Southern California Leadership Network 2018 Visionaries Awards
HOLLIDAY ROCK PROUDLY SUPPORTS
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA LEADERSHIP NETWORK

CONGRATULATIONS TO
ALL OF THE HONOREES

THEY ARE INSPIRING LEADERS
AND EXCELLENT ROLE MODELS
IN OUR COMMUNITY

Janet Schulman, MSW, MPA
Executive Consulting for Non Profit Organizations
Kaiser Permanente salutes the Southern California Leadership Network and its honorees

Gary and Janice Toebben
Angelica Salas
Dr. Margie Wheeler
Alex Johnson

for their dedication to guiding and empowering our future leaders in their efforts to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve.

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A bold vision calls for visionary leadership.

Making California carbon-neutral in less than 30 years will take collaboration and thoughtful leadership to create a balanced energy approach that can work for all Californians. SoCalGas® salutes Southern California Leadership Network for its work to enlighten leaders through new experiences, encouraging non-positional thinking and developing professional leadership skills.

Congratulations to outstanding civic leaders, Gary and Janice Toebben, Margie Wheeler and the rest of tonight’s honorees!

Learn more at socalgas.com/FutureTech
Southern California Leadership Network offers three distinct civic leadership fellowships: Leadership L.A., Leadership Southern California and the Riordan Leadership Institute. These game-changing programs will:

**INSPIRE**
personal action to address complex issues facing the city and region.

**PREPARE**
you to take on leadership roles within your business and community.

**CONNECT**
you to an exceptional network of more than 3,200 SCLN alumni who are leaders from business, government and social sectors.

Contact us to learn more about joining an SCLN fellowship.

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