



SIXTH ANNUAL



Our Speakers



Elaine Hand, President, InnerView LLC

Innerview Inc. owned and operated by Elaine Hand, has been in business since 1995. She works within organizations on Human Resource Management as well as Leadership and Management Development. Her seminars have proven over and over again the philosophy that all companies have two major concerns: Systems and People. No matter how much money an organization spends on top of the line, high quality systems, the organization is only as good as the people who own, operate, manage, and work for them. Elaine has facilitated workshops and conducted seminars on

basic management, strategic planning, generational diversity, internal and external customer service, time management, team building, leadership, motivation and employment assessment strategies. She has spoken at national, regional and local conferences.



Heather Bailey, Partner and Co-Chair of Labor & Employment Group, Amundsen Davis Law, LLC

Heather credits her experience working full-time in office administration and human resources during law school for her seamless transition into management-side labor and employment law. The skills she developed as a legal secretary and office manager help strengthen her appreciation and understanding of clients' concerns today and gave her the tools to be efficient, respectful and meticulous in her role as an attorney. For 22 years,

Heather has concentrated her practice in employment and labor counseling and litigation. She counsels on day-to-day operations, human resources, and management decisions regarding employees, practices and policies.

As co-chair of the firm's Labor & Employment & Benefits Service Group, Heather regularly contributes to the firm's Labor & Employment Law Update, the National Automatic Merchandising Association publications, and the Illinois Chamber of Commerce's human resources advisory blog. She co-authored the 2019 Illinois Chamber of Commerce's *Illinois Employment Law Handbook*. As a prior co-chair of the firm's Committee for Diversity and Inclusion, Heather managed a team charged with not only creating diversity awareness within the firm and its clients, but also executing strategies to recruit, retain and mentor attorneys and staff of all backgrounds. Additionally, Heather provides incomparable leadership to the firm's younger attorneys; taking the time to mentor them and help them to develop into exceptional attorneys.



Jynnifer Cotharn, Partner, IFMK Law, Ltd.

Jynnifer Cotharn has been with now IFMK Law (formerly Inman & Fitzgibbons), since 2007. She was named partner in 2016 and a shareholder of the firm in 2019. Jynnifer practices in the areas of employment law, workers' compensation and general liability defense in Illinois and Michigan. Her practice includes client consultation on reporting and investigating cases as well as advising on strategic measures to achieve cost conscious outcomes and improve risk management culture. She represents clients at the Commission, Circuit Court and Appellate and Federal Court levels. She serves as firm Secretary and is co-chair of the Client Education committee, which hosts seminars for insurance professionals and employers to provide continuing education credit and professional development.

Jynnifer is a graduate of the University of Michigan, and she received her Juris Doctor from The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law. Jynnifer is a member of several professional organizations that support the legal community and youth development initiatives. She enjoys traveling with family and friends, serving in her church's ministries, and following sports.



Ngoc Nguyen, Vice President of Diversity & Inclusion Practices, Wintrust Financial Corporation

Ngoc is a seasoned diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) professional with track record of creating holistic and impactful DEI initiatives. In her position, Ngoc has successfully led the development and implementation of several groundbreaking DEI programs, including the first organizational-wide mentoring program with 1,300 participants, sponsorship program for high-potential women & professionals of color, and inclusion-based business resource groups. She also serves as a dedicated coach for Northwestern University's Leading Equity and Inclusion in Organizations (LEIO) Certificate program, guiding students on DEI strategies.

With a background in finance and organizational change, Ngoc has held leadership positions at CNA Financial Corporation and The Travelers Companies, Inc. She holds a bachelor's degree in finance, with a minor in Asian American Studies from the University of Minnesota, and a Master's degree in Learning and Organizational Change from Northwestern University. Additionally, she possesses certifications in leadership coaching and intercultural development.



Allison Wyler, President, Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital

Allison is responsible for leading hospital operations, propelling service line growth, driving a culture of safety, building teammate and physician engagement, and cultivating relationships with the community.

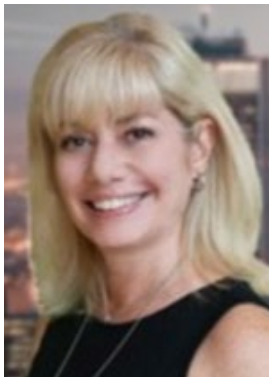
Wyler started her career as an administrative fellow at Advocate in 2010.

Over the past 12 years, she has held operational leadership positions of increasing responsibility at several Advocate acute care hospitals, including Advocate Good Shepherd, Advocate Condell, Advocate Lutheran General,

and the Central Chicagoland Patient Service Area.

She earned a Master of Science degree in health systems management from Rush University and a Bachelor of Science degree in community health from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is a board member of Easterseals DuPage and Fox Valley, the Downers Grove Economic Development Corporation, and Choose DuPage. She also is an active member of the Junior League of Evanston-North Shore.

Allie was named to the 2022 Becker's Hospital Review list of community hospital CEOs to know. She received the 2019 Young Healthcare Executive award from the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), Chicago Chapter. Featured on Crain's Chicago Business *Twenty in their 20's* list of the city's most distinguished young leaders in 2014, Wyler's achievements have been broadly recognized.



Marci LoGiudice, Manager, Public Workforce Solutions, DeVry University

As a strategic leader, Marci has a passion for uncovering and evaluating market-changing solutions to address the unique challenges to human capital development and the future of work. She possesses a deep understanding of evolving higher education, and talent development marketplace, providing critical direction to internal and external partners around products and solutions. She is a fierce, inclusive innovator, dedicated to creating sustainable value in people and learning. To achieve this, she develops talent activation programs to upskill

human capital and help organizations deliver extraordinary business results through their workforce.

Marci partners with individuals who work in workforce development, career development, employment and training, and economic development fields.

Responsibilities include uncovering partnerships and pathways for growth with economic development, workforce development and government agencies at the national, regional and state levels that increases learner interest in DeVry University & Keller Graduate School of Management degree and certificate programs, workforce products and scholars' programs. Through our commitment to student care, we're closing the workforce opportunity gap with scholars programs designed to help underrepresented groups stand out, scholarships that help qualifying students put their goals within reach and courses and programs that impart education and awareness in hopes of a more balanced future.



Meena Beyers, Vice President, Business and Community Development, Nicor Gas

Meena leads strategies to strengthen their customer and community engagement to drive business and economic growth. She oversees several business units including Customer Solutions, Energy Efficiency, Community Affairs, and Community and Economic Development, providing strategic leadership of key areas including corporate giving, community engagement, customer development and large customer services. In this role, Meena also serves as Vice Chair of Nicor Gas' foundation, Northern Illinois Community Initiatives.

In her nine years with the company, she also held leadership roles in market strategy, marketing, energy efficiency and business support and led special projects in the areas of innovation, supplier diversity and employee engagement. Prior to joining the company, Meena served in various roles in marketing, communications and community and economic development in both public and private sectors.

Meena is a Leadership Greater Chicago fellow and graduate of the Signature Leaders program. She serves on the boards for Intersect Illinois, Metropolitan Planning Council, and the Women's Energy Summit. Meena also serves as the executive sponsor of DNA, Nicor Gas' employee resource group for generational diversity in the workplace.

She earned a bachelor's degree in urban planning and development from Ball State University and a master's degree in public service management from DePaul University. Meena lives with her husband and two children in Westmont, Illinois.



Amber Petkevicius, P.E., Senior Transportation Engineer, Hanson Professional Services, Inc.

Amber is a senior transportation engineer with 22 years of experience in highway and roadway design. She is one of Hanson's most technically skilled engineers when it comes to large, complex transportation projects. When she isn't designing a new interchange or highway, she is managing projects and mentoring her design team. She has become an expert in policies, safety and regulatory requirements, and operating procedures to develop projects that maintain the safety, health and welfare of the public.

The next time you are driving sections of Interstates I-294, I-88, I-90 or I-74, you may be driving on a section of highway Amber designed. She is an expert in the design of highway geometrics, roadside safety and maintenance of traffic during construction. Some of her project successes include working on projects such as the reconstruction of Interstate 74 in the Quad Cities (a \$1.2 billion project), the Interstate 90 Cherry Valley interchange, and the reconstruction of Interstate 294 near O'Hare International Airport (part of a total \$4.0 billion project). All three were award-winning projects!

Amber is a published author with contributions in the Institute of Transportation Engineers *Traffic Engineering Handbook* and Institute of Transportation Engineers [Technical Conference and Exhibit Compendium of Technical Papers](#). She is also an active member of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Illinois, currently serving on the Illinois Department of Transportation District 1 Liaison Committee.



Caroline Sanchez Crozier, Founder and President, CSC Consulting Group

Caroline is the Founder and President of CSC Consulting Group (CSC), an IT service provider based in Chicago. She is a 1% Latina entrepreneur in Tech for 35 years, advocate, activist, and philanthropist. Known as a pioneer in the technology field and often referred to as a unicorn for innovative and disruptive thinking and work style, Caroline is proud of her Mexican immigrant roots and is a first gen college graduate. While she began her career in corporate as a CPA, Ms. Sanchez Crozier soon realized her passion and spirit was being an entrepreneur with an equal commitment to advocacy. As such, she has achieved a long successful track record as a servant leader of action and community engagement on behalf of Latinos. Caroline has served as a long-standing volunteer board member of the LULAC civil rights organization currently serving as LULAC National Innovation & Technology Committee Chair; and recently founded Latinx Digital Leaders Now (Latinx DLN), a 501(3) nonprofit whose mission is digital equity for Latinos in education, workforce, and community.



Jeff Harry, HR Influencer, Rediscover Your Play

Jeff combines positive psychology and play to heal workplaces, help teams build psychological safety and assist individuals in addressing their biggest challenges by embracing a play-oriented approach to work. Jeff was selected by BambooHR & [Engagedly as one of the Top 100 HR Influencers](#) and has been featured in the [NY Times](#), [Mashable](#), [Upworthy](#), [Huffpost](#), [Shondaland](#), & [Wired](#). Jeff has worked with Google, Microsoft, Southwest Airlines, Adobe, the NFL, Amazon, and Facebook, helping their staff to infuse more play into the day-to-day. Over the past 15 years of facilitation and speaking, Jeff's main goal has been to help work suck less by assisting leaders in building a playground workplace atmosphere that motivates their staff to do their most vibrant work.



Karen Murphy, SVP Business Strategy and CFO, Chicago Bears

Karen Murphy is currently the SVP of Business Strategy and Chief Financial Officer for the Chicago Bears Football Club, Inc. and has been with the Bears for the past 24 years. She plays an instrumental role in strategic planning and analyzing new initiatives for the Club and oversees the Operations, Finance, HR, IT and Business Analytics departments. Under her leadership, the focus has been on driving the Club to use technology as a competitive advantage, incorporating analytics into decision making, hiring, developing and retaining top notch and diverse employees, maintaining world class facilities and demanding fiscal responsibility. She also played a lead role in the renovations of the Corporate Headquarters in 2012 and 2019 and Soldier Field in 2003. Prior to working with the Bears, Karen served as an international auditor for The Walt Disney Company. Karen is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Accounting.



Julie Proscia, Equity Partner, Amundsen Davis, LLC

Julie provides labor and employment counsel that is outcome based. Before giving advice, she asks her clients what they want or need as the outcome to their matter; then skillfully crafts a pragmatic, business-centric solution to the issue. Julie represents many public sector/municipal employers in traditional labor and employment issues. In 2012, Julie was honored as one of the 40 Attorneys Under 40 in the State of Illinois to Watch by Chicago Lawyer magazine. Julie is well respected by her peers in the legal, business and service communities. She is often asked to speak on trending topics in the labor and employment arena by clients and educational providers around the country. The articles she pens are regularly broadcast to more than 20,000 people across the Midwest by various educational providers and associations. Prior to joining Amundsen Davis, Julie practiced at a Midwest-based boutique labor and employment law firm. Preceding that, Julie worked in the HR Department of Northern Illinois University as the Assistant Director of Affirmative Action and Legal Compliance.