

SAN DIEGO BUSINESS JOURNAL



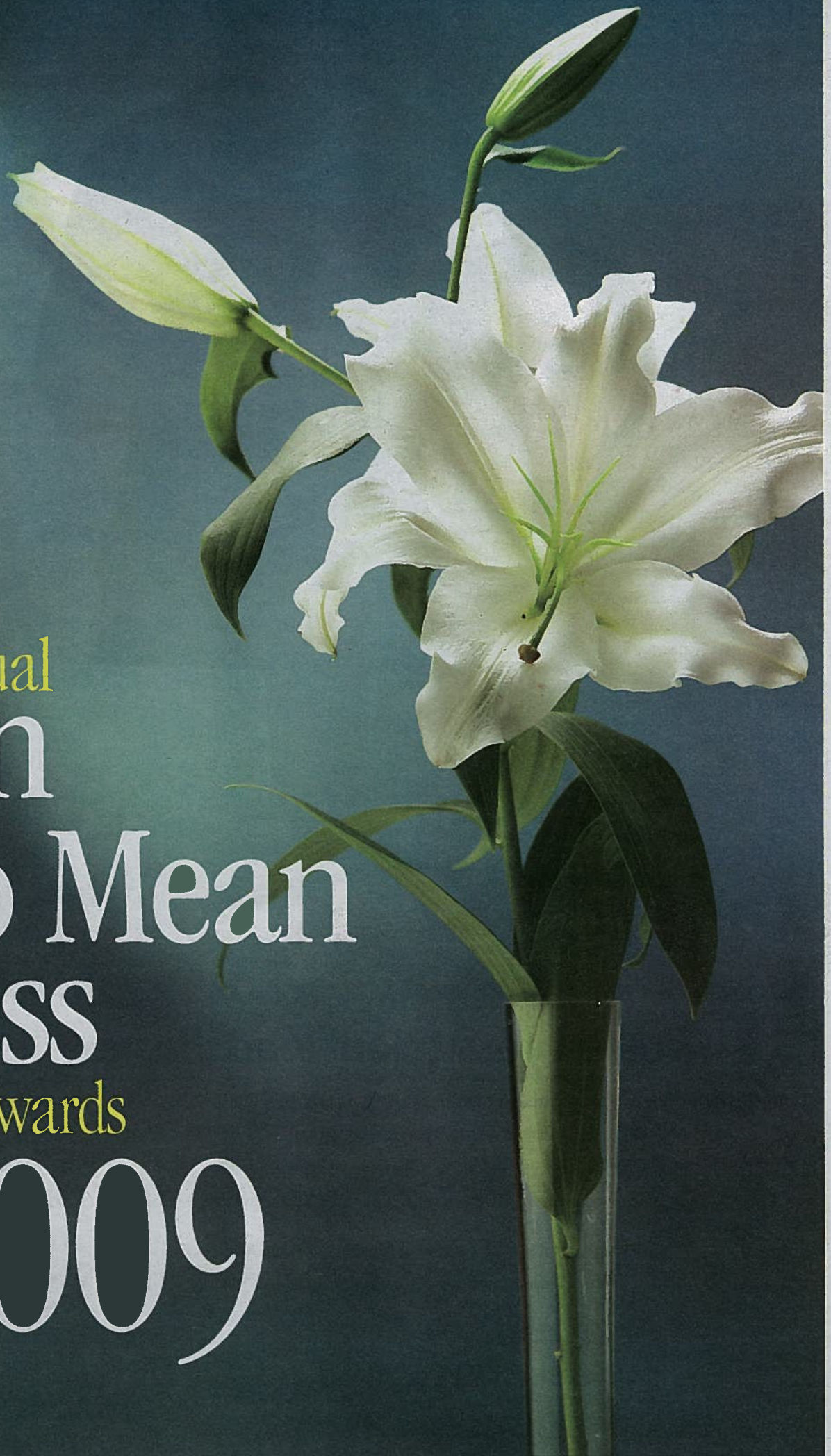
present the

**SPECIAL EVENT**

October 27, 2009

11:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Town and Country  
Resort & Convention Center  
500 Hotel Circle N.  
Grand Exhibit Hall  
San Diego



16th Annual  
**Women  
Who Mean  
Business**  
Awards  
**2009**

co-sponsors



# Judges



Jan Percival Lipscomb



Joyce Glazer



Gail Ives



Lisa Richards



Mary Colaccio



Gay Hugo-Martinez



Anna Marie Rooney

# Group Nominations

## Escondido Downtown Business Association

**Thora Guthrie, CEO**  
**Sue Dusharme, Programs Director**  
**Danielle Aeling, Director of Marketing and Development**  
**Jenessa Schaniel, Events Manager**  
**Marie Pegram, Farmer's Market Manager**  
**Eileen Schafer, Administrative and Event Coordinator**  
[downtownescondido.com](http://downtownescondido.com)

The women of the Downtown Business Association of Escondido — Thora Guthrie, Sue Dusharme, Danielle Aeling, Jenessa Schaniel, Marie Pegram and Eileen Schafer — are the pivotal pieces to supporting and enhancing Escondido's downtown community. Together these motivated, empowered and inspired women work together to create a rarity in communities today: a progressive and innovative place for community members to live, work and play.



Thora Guthrie

Dusharme is the director of programs and planning and is also the coordinator of Crusin' Grand, which draws more than 10,000 patrons per season and creates a huge economic boost for local businesses. Pegram manages the weekly Farmer's Market, one of the largest local business and community events in North County. Aeling, director of marketing and development, can be credited with being the liaison between the businesses and the association. She has not only spearheaded many successful downtown events, but she is also a great fundraiser for the community. Schafer, administrative and events coordinator, is the heart of the association and always lends a helping hand for the betterment of the community. Schaniel, events coordinator, insures the quality of the events, which have carried downtown Escondido through the toughest parts of the economy. Guthrie, the association's CEO, has established significant relationships with the city council, local businesses and community sponsors.

## Jennifer Branch and Traci Lagasse

**Founding Partners**  
**Andrews, Lagasse, Branch & Bell**  
[albbllaw.com](http://albbllaw.com)

Two years ago, Jennifer Branch and Traci Lagasse made the decision to step away from the comfort of a large firm to launch a new firm where they were founding partners, along with Margaret Bell and Jonathan Andrews. Andrews, Lagasse, Branch & Bell was founded as a 100 percent female and minority-owned firm, almost unheard of in San Diego. Since opening in October 2007, the firm has grown to 10 lawyers, with an ongoing commitment to diversity and the strength of women as lawyers. It has an amazing client base of some of the most prominent businesses and public institutions in Southern California. This has all been due to the incredible risk taken by Branch and Lagasse, their hard work, their favorable results and their overall client devotion. And, as is sometimes lost in the big firm, both women have maintained an unprecedented devotion to the morale of attorneys and staff in the firm, a true breath of fresh air. Branch and Lagasse are an inspiration to a whole generation of female and male attorneys. They have taken a true interest in the careers of young lawyers and in bettering the legal occupation toward that end.



Jennifer Branch



Traci Lagasse

## Diane and Darcy Miramontes

**Investment & Multi-Family Sales Specialists**  
**Grubb & Ellis|BRE Commercial**  
[breb.com](http://breb.com)

As the only two female shareholders at Grubb & Ellis|BRE Commercial, and among the most successful commercial real estate brokers in Southern California, Diane and Darcy Miramontes are a dynamic and unparalleled mother/daughter team. They specialize in multi-family investments, offering clients expertise in market evaluation, comparative analysis and deal point negotiations. Their extensive market knowledge, attention to detail and loyalty have provided them with a steady list of repeat and referral clients who find significant value in their experience and counsel. Over Diane's 28-year career, she has sold more than 17,460 units. To date, her career transactions exceed \$1.2 billion. Darcy has sold more than 7,500 units and within nine years has career transactions that exceed \$700 million.



Diane Miramontes



Darcy Miramontes

Diane and Darcy have both spent the majority of their lives in San Diego and have consistently played an active role in the community in which they live and work. Diane is a 19-year member/director/committee chair of The Nice Guys Charity, supporting literacy and scholarship programs for the disadvantaged. Darcy joined her mom, becoming involved with Nice Guys in 2000. She has also been a dedicated volunteer with Baja Challenge/Project Mercy since 2001 and has played in and worked on the Alpha Project Charity Softball Tournament for the last few years.