

Nancy Alexander
Principal
Lumenance Consulting LLC

Nancy Alexander, long-time partner to the building industry, is a leadership coach, Certified Master Facilitator™, and organizational development consultant. Clients include AIA National, CT, and Detroit, ACSA, Autodesk, BIMForum/AGC, KPFF Engineers, Lean Construction Institute, Architecture Lobby, Storefront for Art and Architecture, University of Arkansas, and Roger Williams University. Alexander has presented and facilitated at AIA conferences and Women's Leadership Summits, Autodesk University, SEAoNY and EquityxDesign. She lectures regularly at the Yale School of Architecture, serves on the Dean's Council, and led the school's strategic plan. Coauthor of the AIA Guides for Equitable Practice, she was vice-chair of the Beverly Willis Architecture Foundation board and facilitated its first five Industry Leader Roundtables. Alexander earned her BA (sociology) and MBA from Yale, an MA in women's studies, and executive coaching certificate from Columbia University. She is the only person in the US with a diploma in systemic team coaching from the Academy of Executive Coaching, UK.

Anastasia Barnes
Publisher
High-Profile

Anastasia Barnes is the publisher at High-Profile Monthly, a three-generation family-owned publication and media outlet focused on architecture, engineering, and construction (AEC) news in New England. Barnes has played a pivotal role at High-Profile for over two decades and took the helm in January of 2019. As publisher, she has put a greater emphasis on highlighting the people, teams, and organizations that are acting to build a better industry. She is the host and producer of the Build Better podcast, featuring interviews with thought leaders in the AEC industry. In response to COVID-19, Barnes and her team created a weekly free webinar series called HPCconnects, which is designed to discover new ways to adapt, pivot and come together. Prior to being named publisher, Barnes served as the business development manager where she focused on new client relationships and managed High-Profile's sales team. In 2013, she created FastFacts Friday, High-Profile's weekly newsletter featuring the latest headlines and contributor articles from around New England. She also oversaw the creation of the company's annual Green supplement, and has been instrumental in bringing High-Profile online.

Barnes has also spent 20 years as a professional stage, film, and television actor. She has appeared in series episodics for Showtime, CBS, TNT, Disney's Family Channel, and most recently, Apple's new streaming network. She wrote, produced, and starred in the original limited series "The Ruby Besler Show." The show was adapted for stage and performed nationally from 2013-2017, and is currently being adapted for the big screen.

Rohan Freeman
President and CEO
Freeman Companies

Rohan A. Freeman, PE, LS is President and CEO of Hartford-based Freeman Companies. Freeman founded the company shortly after summiting Mount Everest with a promise to clients to Elevate Your Expectations. The company has thrived since its inception in 2009 - allowing Freeman to subsequently launch 7 Summits Realty (2014) and 7 Summits Construction (2016). He is a popular motivational speaker, board member of several community charities, and Vice Chair of Outward Bound's national board. In 2014 he established UCONN School of Engineering's Freeman Companies BRIDGE Endowed Engineering Scholarship to support minority students interested in engineering. Freeman is also among select alumni to be inducted into the UCONN Academy of Distinguished Engineers. In 2018, he was recognized as the Hartford Business Journal's Small Firm CEO of the Year. Freeman grew up in Jamaica and is the first African-American to climb the tallest peaks on each of the 7 continents, known as the "Seven Summits". He has conquered the "Adventurers' Grand Slam" comprised of the 7 Summits, in addition to treks across both Poles, North and South.

Hugh Hochberg
Principal
The Coxe Group Inc

Hugh Hochberg, BS and BArch (RPI), MBA (Harvard), leads The Coxe Group and has personally consulted with over 1,400 professional service firms, and the success of many has earned high respect from their peers. His wide and deep involvement includes virtually every aspect of practice. Among the clients with which he has worked are a third of the winners of the prestigious AIA Firm Award. He has taught and lectured at numerous highly regarded universities and conducted programs for many professional societies in North America, Asia, Australia, and Africa. He has also written for several publications, including Progressive Architecture, Architecture, Design West, Oregon Architect, Oregon Business, and the AIA Handbook of Professional Practice and co-authored of Success Strategies for Design Professionals (McGraw-Hill). He has been a contributing editor of DesignIntelligence and has been interviewed by National Public Radio (NPR) and Fast Company. Hugh practices nationally and lives in Gig Harbor, Washington, and Sun Valley, Idaho.

Kelly McDonald
Marketing & Advertising Specialist
McDonald Marketing

Kelly McDonald is considered one of the nation's top experts in marketing, the customer experience and consumer trends. She is the founder of McDonald Marketing, which has twice been named one of the "Top Ad Agencies in the U.S." by Advertising Age magazine and ranked as one of the fastest-growing independently-owned companies in the U.S. by Inc. Magazine. Her client experience includes brands such as Toyota, Chubb, Kimberly-Clark, Nike, Harley-Davidson, Miller-Coors, and Sherwin-Williams.

McDonald was named one of the "10 Most Booked Speakers in the U.S." and ranked #1 on the list of "25 Hot Speakers" by Successful Meetings Magazine. She has been featured on CNBC, in

Forbes, Bloomberg BusinessWeek, Fast Company, on CNNMoney.com and more. She is the author of three bestselling books on marketing, the customer experience and leadership.

Michael McKelvy
President and CEO
Gilbane Building Company

Michael E. McKelvy is President and Chief Executive Officer of Gilbane Building Company, a private, family owned construction firm that began as a carpentry shop in 1870 and has expanded its roots globally, currently employing more than 3,000 people with over 45 offices worldwide. Gilbane is a prominent builder and developer of some of the most highly visible projects domestically and internationally— providing global integrated construction and facility management services. McKelvy joined Gilbane in 2014 and has been instrumental in developing and executing the company's annual business plan in support of Gilbane's strategic growth. His focused leadership and strategic vision have strengthened the company's position with continued profitability and growth. McKelvy has spent his entire career in the architecture and construction industry. A firm believer in promoting construction sites that are safer, stronger and better equipped, he is an advocate and champion of Gilbane's safety program—Gilbane Cares. Gilbane Building Company has been an honored recipient of the Construction Industry Safety Excellence Award from the Construction Users Roundtable in 2006, 2008, 2011, 2015 and 2017. Continuing the firm's strong commitment to safety industry-wide, Gilbane is proud to be a national sponsor of Construction Safety Week 2020 with McKelvy serving as co-chair.

In addition to being a member of multiple professional societies and organizations, McKelvy is currently serving on the board of directors for Gilbane, Inc. and RPS Group PLC, a leading global professional services firm. He is chairman of the board of trustees for Meeting Street, a Rhode Island-based nonprofit school where children of all abilities thrive. As a registered architect in 16 U.S. states, McKelvy is a certified member of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards (NCARB). He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Design from the University of Oklahoma, a Bachelor of Architecture from Louisiana Tech University and has completed the Advanced Management Program at the University of Chicago's Graduate School of Business.

Adrienne Nelson, AIA
Associate
Pickard Chilton

Adrienne Nelson, AIA is an Associate with Pickard Chilton. Her experience includes a variety of innovative projects including, most recently a 1.25M sf corporate campus, and 2+U, a high-rise in downtown Seattle, Washington. Nelson's commitment to design excellence; dedication to sustainable design; and a deep passion for mentorship within the community and studio is evident in her professional work and service to the AIA. Recognized as an active leader within the architecture, engineering, and construction community, she has been an advocate for female architects, receiving the AIA CT 2016 Award for Emerging Architects and recognition on ENR's national Top 20 Under 40 list.

Louis Pepe
Partner
McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP

Louis R. Pepe is a litigation attorney who focuses his practice on construction contract and commercial cases. He represents his clients in state and federal courts, as well as in arbitration and mediation. Pepe received a Bachelor of Management Engineering degree and an M.S. in Management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and a J.D., with distinction, from Cornell Law School. He is admitted to the practice of law in Connecticut and before the United States Supreme Court and numerous federal district courts and courts of appeal. Pepe has taught in seminars presented by the Connecticut Bar Association on trial practice and has presented seminars in business and construction litigation throughout the country. He has also taught courses on arbitration at the University of Connecticut Law School.

Pepe is a former president of the Connecticut Bar Association (2005-2006), a Fellow in the American College of Trial Lawyers and the American College of Construction Lawyers, and an Associate of the American Board of Trial Advocates. Pepe is a Connecticut Bar Foundation James W. Cooper Life Fellow and is the recipient of the Connecticut Bar Association's John Eldred Shields Distinguished Professional Service Award (2016); the Connecticut Law Tribune Professional Excellence Award (2016); the Connecticut Bar Foundation's Distinguished Service Award (2017); the Connecticut Bar Association's Edward F. Hennessey Professionalism Award (2017); and the Connecticut Construction Institute's Lifetime Recognition Award (2011).