



Marie Ambrosino

Gursey | Schneider

Ambrosino's client list includes top writers and showrunners **Mindy Kaling** and **Seth MacFarlane**, who've remained busy in spite of the recent pullback in TV spending. For clients struggling to find work, she advises: "Think of Plan B. What would they do if not acting or writing?" **IF I WASN'T A BUSINESS MANAGER, I'D BE** "A travel agent for conservation travel."

Belva Anakwenze

Abacus Financial Business Management

"The inherent volatility of the business in 2024 has underscored the necessity of cash reserves," says Anakwenze, who advises clients like **Jay Ellis** and **Kevin Frazier** to expand their skill set. "Screenwriters are leveraging their skills to help forge media campaigns, and working actors are returning to their roots in commercial work. On the back end, we help our clients reduce expenses by negotiating reduced interest rates or requesting payment forbearance." **BEST WAY TO SPEND \$50,000** "Not to spend it, but to invest the money."

Brett Anderson, Jeff Bacon, Chris Bucci, Rachel Martinez, Martin Meeks, Aaron Philpott, Steve Savitsky and Jeremy Stahl
Ground Control Business Management

The firm — notoriously tight-lipped about the stars, athletes and execs it advises — has been in growth mode since rebranding in 2022. Last year, it acquired Philpott Meeks, and it will soon open its first international office. "It creates a whole new level of expertise for us," says CEO Bucci. "Our clients' lives are getting much more complicated. The more experts in house, the better we can service our clients holistically." **BEST WAY TO SPEND \$50,000** "If you must, a luxury safari in Africa," says Anderson.

Tara Beaudine-Moore, Abner Monegro and Phil Sarna



Clockwise from left: Business managers Steves Rodriguez, Anna DerParseghian, Andrew Meyer, Scott Landesman and Jack Sinoryan.

PS Business Management

The firm — which works with clients across film, TV, music, sports and fashion — is expanding with a new office in Nashville. In addition to advising big music names like **Billie Eilish**, **Camila Cabello** and **Benny Blanco**, Beaudine-Moore says the firm is "thrilled" to be working with rising star **Benson Boone**. **BEST WAY TO SPEND \$50,000** "Put the vast majority into savings or investments," says Beaudine-Moore. "Then you can buy yourself something special every year with the money you earn while you sleep!"

Tyson Beem, Enza Cohn, Andrew Crow, Shane Glass, Melissa Morton, Rick Mozenter and Eduardo Pabellón
Gelfand Rennert & Feldman

In his second year as CEO, Beem focused on growing the firm, whose longtime clients include **Will Smith**, **Keke Palmer** and **Jordan Peele**. In August,

Jordan Peele is a client of Gelfand Rennert & Feldman.



Gelfand announced a merger with Goldman & Knell, where **Piers Morgan** is a client, while Glass, of Colony Business Management, joined last year. With clients, Beem says, "It's about being collaborative and helping navigate whatever opportunity is in front of them."

Evan Bell and Liza de Leon
Bell & Co.

With the industry turmoil, "the old mantra of, 'There are no guarantees in the business' has never been truer," says Bell. "The first line item of every budget must be savings." The firm, which includes colleague **Yifan Yang**, has a roster that spans Hollywood, from horror auteur **Robert Eggers** to angel investor turned influencer **Hannah Bronfman**. **MOST-ASKED QUESTION THIS YEAR** "Can I afford a new house with current interest rates and give up my current low rate?" says Bell.

Steve Bills, Julie Krimstein, Alec Stoll and Peter Stoll
Bills & Stoll

This Encino firm fiercely protects the identity of its clients across the entertainment spectrum, and they receive "balanced" guidance tailored to "personal circumstances," say partners **Peter Stoll** and son **Alec**. Krimstein adds expertise as a licensed psychotherapist. When asked about the election's effect on investments,

Stoll padre says, "The planning we have done focuses on the long term, and they will be fine." **BEST WAY TO SPEND \$50,000** "Experiences like traveling with family or friends," says Peter.

Terry Bird, Douglas Cammarano, Arnie Herrmann, Jean Lee, David Leventhal, Matthew Segreto, Craig Tessler and Jeff Yamashita
Citrin Cooperman

As one of the biggest tax and business advisory firms in the U.S., Citrin Cooperman, now celebrating its 45th anniversary, works with a host of Hollywood mavericks, including OG maverick **Tom Cruise**. Cammarano, Lee and Yamashita are new to the list, joining colleagues who advise **James Gunn**, **Angelina Jolie**, **Ana de Armas** and **Guillermo del Toro**.

Andrew Blackman and Ron Myers
Schulman Lobel

The seasoned partners have portfolios that span estate work (**Bob Fosse**, **William Goldman**) and busy talent (**Norman Reedus**, **Brian Cox**). AI and streaming consolidation may be on every lip of late, but for their clients, government obligations will forever be Topic A. "It's always the same: 'How do I reduce my taxes?'" says Myers. Echoes Blackman, "It's all about efficiencies." **BEST WAY TO SPEND \$50,000** "If you've exhausted all your potential for tax savings? Spend it on what makes you happy," says Blackman.

PEELE: GABRIEL CATTENLEGGETT; IMAGES: SINORYAN PAUL; POWER: OTHER MANAGERS COURTESY OF SUBJECT (4)



David Bolno, Richard Feldstein, Bernie Gudvi, Michael Karlin, Thomas Kingsley, Matt Segal, Mickey Segal and Dian Vaughn

NKSFB

With 650 employees spread across seven offices, the largest business management firm in the country continues to grow in spite of its ongoing legal battle with owner Focus Financial Partners. It's work that founding partner Karlin, whose clients include the **Red Hot Chili Peppers**, enjoys even 43 years later. "We're busy, and it's an exciting business," he says. Other firm clients include **Beyoncé** and **Adam Levine**.

Jason Brown, Anna DerParseghian and John Power

PTD Business Management

Many California and New York clients have been asking if they should move to a more tax-friendly state, says Brown. That's where the firm steps in to run calculations. Power adds that its heavy hitters, many of whom came to the firm based on reputation alone, are asking about dynastic trusts, a way of passing wealth to the next generation sans estate taxes. **BEST WAY TO SPEND \$50,000** "Grandchildren 529 [college savings] plans," says Power.

Matthew Burke

Singer Burke

Amid recent high-profile cyberstrikes that can wreck consumers' financial lives, Singer Burke has invested heavily in upgrading its technology security, from private messaging platforms to proprietary software that gives clients comprehensive real-time updates. "It's actually enhanced meaningful interactions with our clients," notes Burke, who works with creatives from the *Bachelor* franchise, *Bridgerton*, *The Morning Show* and the *Dune* films.

Steven Campeas

SJC Business Management

Take a careful look at spending, reduce expenses where possible and discuss ways to generate income are the top pieces of



Hollywood earners financially rely on (clockwise from top left) Jessica Mooney, Matthew Burke, Belva Anakwenze and Humble Lukanga.

advice Campeas — whose roster includes **John Stamos**, **Lana Condor** and **Chiwetel Ejiofor** — offers out-of-work clients. He says, "Seeing long-standing clients through the ups and downs, and now they have enough money to last the rest of their lives" is the most fulfilling part of his job. **BEST WAY TO SPEND \$50,000** "Invest in your own pension plan or pay down your mortgage."

Elizabeth Campos and Jack Sinoryan

Evolve Business Management

On Sept. 1, longtime colleagues Campos and Sinoryan combined their 40-plus years of experience to launch their own firm. After working their way up from assistants, they appreciate the responsibility of being, as Sinoryan says, "chief problem-solvers" for their clients, who range from athletes to film and TV pros to entrepreneurs and musicians. Campos notes that relationships are their top priority, adding that "[Clients] don't have to be in the weeds, but they

have to be in the know."

ADVICE FOR OUT-OF-WORK CLIENTS

"Find hobbies outside of shopping," says Campos.

Mark Cattalini, Charles Clancy, Mark Friedman, Matt Lichtenberg, John Rigney and Paul Ta

Level Four Business Management

The company's origins date to 1987, when Rigney left Jess S. Morgan & Co. to launch a new firm. Three decades later, Level Four's clients include **Quentin Tarantino**, **Larry David** and **Phil Lord** and **Chris Miller**. When asked how he advises those seeking work, Cattalini says, "Spend less and stay active — mentally and physically." As to the question clients ask the most, Friedman says: "How am I doing financially?" **CAREER HIGHLIGHT** "Attending the Cannes Film Festival for the first time," says Friedman.

Ryan Conlon and Harley Neuman
Neuman + Associates (at NKSFB)

Neuman says he's been busy as the industry gets back on its feet. "It's affecting everyone across

the board — fewer pitch meetings, fewer projects being set up, etc.," says the founding partner who with Conlon advises showrunners (**Ryan Murphy**), stars (**Scarlett Johansson**, **Zoe Saldana**) and influencers (**Jay Shetty**, **Alix Earle**). There are bright spots: "This year I went to a client's house after they brought home an Oscar," says Conlon. "It really is heavier than you think!" **MOST-ASKED QUESTION THIS YEAR** "I have quite a few clients looking into dual citizenship," says Neuman, "probably due to the current political climate."

Steve Gelon, Van Lee, Alex Smith and Justin Sroka

Mann Gelon Glodney

Gumerove Yee

Post-strikes, Smith is advising clients, including those with generational wealth, to be conservative as "recoveries are not perfectly linear." Sroka tells clients, both in and out of work, that "focusing on what makes you happy and keeps your creative juices flowing will deliver the best results. The stress of finances doesn't allow them to be their best selves." Lee adds, "Network! There's no telling what new opportunities could arise." **BEST WAY TO SPEND \$50,000** "With acute awareness of active geopolitical concerns, self-care, both physical and or mental," says Smith.

Harvey Gettleson, Seth Gettleson and Randy O'Connor

Gettleson Witzer & O'Connor

The 24-year-old firm, which advises such heavyweights as **J.J. Abrams**, **Ava DuVernay**, **Will Packer** and **Sterlin Harjo**, has blunt advice to clients struggling to find work in a post-strike reality: "Be realistic about your lifestyle — and make hard choices." **BEST WAY TO SPEND \$50,000** "Buy art," advises Harvey Gettleson.

Richard Goldstein, Bruce Kolbrenner, Howard Krant, Alice Lee, David Levin and Lewis Stark

Adeptus Partners

Adeptus, which last year folded four rival firms into its ranks, has a slew of high-profile clients, including **John Legend**, **Chrissy Teigen**, **Carrie Coon**, **T-Pain** and **MrBeast**. Business management



THR Power List

has its perks. For CEO Krant, it was sitting across from **Paul McCartney** and **Yoko Ono** as **Joan Jett** thanked him onstage in her Rock and Roll Hall of Fame induction speech. Levin fondly recalls singing a capella backstage with **Madonna** before her 1990 concert at Madison Square Garden. **BEST WAY TO SPEND \$50,000** “Give 50 people \$1,000 who haven’t seen \$1,000 in a long time,” says Levin.

Reggie Gooden
360 Business Management

The No. 1 question Gooden has been asked this year is, “What is an HYS and should I have one?” His answer: “It’s a high-yield savings account, and yes, yes, you should.” In the past year, he’s opened a second office in Burbank and expanded his two-year-old firm’s clientele beyond entertainers such as **Bella Thorne** and **Cedric The Entertainer** to offer accounting-only services to managers and entertainment brands. **CAREER HIGHLIGHT** “Appearing on

a nationally broadcast real estate TV Show [*Million Dollar Listing*].”

Laura Gordon
Gordon & Associates
Gordon works with **Nick Cannon**, **David Oyelowo** and **Amandla Stenberg** as well as other high-net-worth actors, athletes, comedians, filmmakers and musicians. She says navigating post-strike Hollywood has been top of mind for her clients. After 30 years in the business, Gordon recently named her son, **Isaac M. Gordon**, a managing partner at the firm, which has expanded with an Atlanta office. **IF I WASN’T A BUSINESS MANAGER, I’D BE** “A minister.”

Liz Kenney
L&L Business Management
Kenney — whose clients include **Awkwafina** and **Tiffany Haddish** — has grown to represent influencers and comedians, including the Bored Teachers touring show. “After the downturn, everything is very slow,” Kenney says. “But the touring business is doing great.” She suggests to out-of-work clients, “Invest in passion projects while you have this opportunity of time.” **IF I WASN’T A BUSINESS**



Issa Rae is a client of LifeLine Financial Group’s Humble Lukanga.

MANAGER, I’D BE “A professional golfer.”

Mark Landesman, Scott Landesman, Jessica Mooney and Paul Zukowsky
ML Management
Known for representing top names in comedy, the managers at ML, who include 2023 Icon **Mark Landesman** and his son, **Scott**, say the most frequent question they’ve been hearing from clients is, “When is the right time to buy real estate again?” **IF I WASN’T A BUSINESS MANAGER, I’D BE** “A history teacher,” says Scott.

Humble Lukanga
LifeLine Financial Group
If Lukanga wasn’t CEO and founder of his own financial advisory firm, he’d be a pediatrician “working to help make children’s lives better,” he says. Instead, he spends his days ensuring clients like **Issa Rae**, **Terry Crews** and **Anthony Edwards** properly manage their wealth as they grapple with a common concern: What is AI going to do to the film and TV industry? **ADVICE FOR OUT-OF-WORK CLIENTS** “You are never out of work; you have time to breathe and keep perfecting your craft.”

Carrie Malcolm
CRM Management (at NKSFB)
Malcolm, who joined NKSFB in 2020, has managed the business affairs of Hollywood figures like **Ethan Hawke** and **Benedict Cumberbatch** for more than 20 years. One highlight? The time she sang back-up on “Sweet Jane” for **David Duchovny** at London’s O2 arena. **IF I WASN’T A BUSINESS MANAGER, I’D BE** “A travel writer.”

Joel Mandel, Rob Mandel and Erica Wright
The Management Group

2024 BUSINESS MANAGER ICON

John Mcllwee
J. Mcllwee & Associates

Mcllwee only made it partway through one pre-med chemistry class at UCLA before marching out and changing his major to economics. He’s never looked back.

After graduating in 1989 and waiting tables close to Beverly Hills, he got to know the likes of **Bryan Lourd** and **Kevin Huvane**: “Back then, all the Young Turks from CAA were coming in.” To help him pinpoint what to do next, he picked three words that described his ideal career: “Organization, finance and entertainment.”

One friend suggested he should be an agent; Mcllwee looked into joining CAA’s mailroom, but it wasn’t the right fit. Another friend suggested business management. “I was like, ‘What’s that?’” Mcllwee recalls, and he took it upon himself to learn. On his second attempt at cold-calling business management firms listed in the Beverly Hills yellow pages, he struck gold. “I started in 1990 and was there for 29 years,” he says of the firm that became Shephard Mcllwee & Tinglof. “We started with three people and built it into one of the best



business management firms in Hollywood.”
The most useful early advice he got was: “You can never tell somebody bad news soon enough,” he says, adding, “The sooner you can alert them to a negative situation, the more time you have to come up with an action plan. A lot of people procrastinate, and that’s why they get into tax problems. We are 180 degrees the opposite.”
Perhaps that’s why, after setting out on his own in 2019, his clients were able to withstand

the double whammy of the pandemic and strikes. Many of them are having a big year: **Jonathan Groff** won the best actor Tony for *Merrily We Roll Along*, **Matt Reeves’** *The Penguin* recently premiered on Max, **Kerry Condon** is set to star opposite **Brad Pitt** in 2025’s *F1*, and then there’s new client **Kevin Costner**. “He’s seen a lot of activity this year, and it’s been fantastic for myself and my team to be there to support him,” Mcllwee says.

Between tax prep, income and spending tracking, navigating guild health insurance options and more, his goal is always to have clients feel “communicated to, protected and also taken care of.”

When he’s not focused on juggling the finances of such clients as **Jane Lynch**, Mcllwee and his husband, Warner Bros. Pictures Animation president **Bill Damaschke**, have bought and restored several architecturally significant homes in Southern California. Among them are L.A.’s **John Lautner**-designed Garcia House and an estate once owned by **Gerald and Betty Ford** in Rancho Mirage. “I’ve been good at toggling between the right and left side of my brain,” he notes. “I look at things like my return on investment, but we’re doing a good thing for history and the architectural legacy.” — LISA DE LOS REYES



This powerhouse trio speaks little to the media but carries big-name clientele, with reports linking their money management repertoire to such hugely successful industry titans as **Judd Apatow, Greg Daniels, Steven Levitan and Gwyneth Paltrow.**

Andrew Meyer and Steves Rodriguez

Freemark Financial
Achieving financial balance remains a mantra for these two, whose A-list roster includes **Jon M. Chu, Kathryn Hahn, Ramy Youssef and Ellen Pompeo.** “We look at their situation in totality and say, ‘Let’s figure out a path,’” which can be different for every household, from a single individual to extended families, says Meyer. Speaking of blended families, Rodriguez reps **Kerstin Emhoff**, co-founder of production company Prettybird and former wife of Second Gentleman **Doug Emhoff.** **MOST-ASKED QUESTION THIS YEAR** “What are you seeing with other clients?” says Rodriguez. “Are they busy?”

Mark Pariser and Tony Peyrot

Dunn Pariser & Peyrot
Pariser and Peyrot have a diverse client base, from actor **Giancarlo Esposito** to a pro boxer, a college basketball player and a DJ. Pariser says a top inquiry — when will interest rates really drop? — has been tricky to gauge. “If I had a good answer, I would be an extremely rich adviser!” says the manager who signed his first client 30 years ago. Controlling spending is key: “We don’t know how long the slowdown will last.” **IF I WASN’T A BUSINESS MANAGER, I’D BE** “A therapist,” says Pariser. “I enjoy talking to people about issues that affect their lives.”

Phil Ramos

ThxPhil Business Management
Ramos says he would be rescuing dogs and cats if he weren’t servicing clients like *John Wick* helmer **Chad Stahelski** and *The Fall Guy* husband-wife team **David Leitch** and **Kelly McCormick.** To those



Steady hands at the financial tiller, from left: Melissa Morton, Shane Glass (bottom), Rick Mozenter (top), Reggie Gooden and Enza Cohn.

out of work, he’s had one consistent piece of advice: “Tighten the purse strings and keep reaching out to the sources who have given you opportunities in the past. Something will come of it.”

Joseph Rust

Prager Metis
The longtime partner at Prager Metis — who handles a wide swath of entertainers, from recording artists to TV creators, including *South Park*’s **Trey Parker** and **Matt Stone** — says AI, so feared in the creative echelons of Hollywood, is already revolutionizing the management business, with auditing technology alone “helping us find anomalies: You can burn down a haystack to look for the needles.”

Rob Salzman and David Weise

David Weise & Assoc. (at NKSFB)
Founder Weise, who has worked with such musicians as **The Weeknd** and **Coldplay**, is a pro at helping clients adapt in an ever-changing industry. His advice? “Be prepared for the days when you are not working.” Salzman, who joined NKSFB with Weise in 2019, says to “take inventory of your circumstances” and “mitigate unnecessary spending.” **MOST-ASKED QUESTION THIS YEAR** “Why am I paying so much in income taxes?” says Weise.

Rick Shephard and Mark Tinglof
Shephard Tinglof + Associates
Shephard, who founded his firm

more than 30 years ago, says one of his career highlights was asking Tinglof — whom he calls “the steadiest partner a business manager could hope for” — to join him. The under-the-radar firm, which advises **Courtney Cox, Ben Stiller, Kurt Russell, Jon Favreau** and *The Gilded Age* director **Michael Engler**, has been counseling clients to review spending and, per Tinglof, “keep bleeding to a minimum.” **BEST WAY TO SPEND \$50,000** “Stay away from Last Vegas and short Tesla stock,” says Tinglof.

Steven Shapiro

Summit Business Management
Shapiro partially attributes his success to his mom, who told him to stick to accounting when he was about to begin law school in 1989. The 35-year veteran — who works with **Zendaya, Taylor Sheridan, “Weird Al” Yankovic, Lamorne Morris** and **Aaron Paul** — says the question he’s gotten most this year is, “When can I sell and rebuy another house?”

Barry Siegel, Jeff Turner and Bill Vuylsteke

Provident Financial Management
The firm, which is spread across five offices including outposts in San Francisco and Nashville, has thrived amid the downturn, thanks to the bustling touring music business. “We have many acts on the road doing theaters and stadiums,” says Vuylsteke, who has served as the money

manager for **Green Day** and **Sheryl Crow.** Other clients have included **Mike Judge, Angela Bassett** and **Elijah Wood.**

Michael Ullman

Platinum Financial Management
Ullman, the sole partner at his own firm, describes his work with **Robbie, Brooke Shields** and **Miles Teller** as “a family relationship.” That’s why he prioritizes in-person meetings even in the age of Zoom. When he signs a client who’s recently hit it big, the 35-year veteran says, “I call them in, sit them down and say, ‘Let’s talk about all your dreams. Let me work with you to make them come to fruition.’” **IF I WASN’T A BUSINESS MANAGER, I’D BE** “Clients tell me I could’ve been a comedian.”

Jeff Wolman

Wolman Wealth Management
This reticent University of Toronto alum — and Culver City-based lawyer, tax expert and investment adviser — has counted **Bradley Cooper, James Wan, Halle Berry** and fellow Canadian **Will Arnett** among his clients that include multiple winners across the EGOT spectrum.

Written by Gary Baum, Winston Cho, Lisa de los Reyes, Nicole Fell, Ryan Gajewski, Caitlin Huston, Natalie Jarvey, Pamela McClintock, Lexy Perez, Zoe G. Phillips, Christy Piña, Jeanie Pyun, Beatrice Verhoeven and Brande Victorian