

# FORTY UNDER 40 2020

sponsored by



**Mark Cortesi, Agent**  
State Farm



THE POWER OF A U OF I MBA



The *Springfield Business Journal* proudly features 40 leaders who are under the age of 40 in the Springfield and neighboring business communities. These individuals are selected based on their contributions to our local business community and the community in which they reside. They represent, in part, the future of business in our community and in central Illinois.

The selectees' career paths, educational background, and community affiliations are varied. They represent the best and brightest from a wide range of occupations. You can expect to hear more from and about these leaders in the years ahead. The program is able to continue due to the commitment of local businesses that realize the importance of acknowledging these up and coming business leaders and supporting community business programs.

Visit [springfieldbusinessjournal.com](http://springfieldbusinessjournal.com) to view selectees from previous years.



## Justin Carter

**Age:** 29

**Occupation:** News anchor, WICS

**Email:** [jwcarter@sbgstv.com](mailto:jwcarter@sbgstv.com)

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts, journalism and communication, University of Pittsburgh

**Family:** Parents Marcus and Malikah Branker and Sean and Erica Lee and siblings Darren Lee, Marcus Branker Jr. and Briana Dublin

**Affiliations/community activities:** Member of the Hoogland Center for the Arts board of trustees, member of the National Association of Black Journalists and theatre performer.

**What is your guiding principal in life?** Do what makes you happy, follow your own path and the biggest thing is, be different.

**What led you to your current career?** My passion for storytelling led me to journalism. Musical theatre was the first hobby I truly loved. It's on-stage storytelling. I do the same as a news reporter, with less singing and choreography, of course.

**What obstacles have you been able to overcome on your career path?** My desire to be perfect has been my biggest obstacle. Reading nasty comments from the public about my stories — or me personally — used to tear me up. For the most part, I have been blessed to live in cities that have loved and respected me — especially in such an intense role. With age, I realize I'm not going to make everyone happy and I'm always going to make mistakes. Nowadays, I laugh it off and recover by being my authentic self.

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** Do less talking and more listening. You don't know it all. Do your research before interviewing people. Trust your gut. And, don't be afraid to try out meteorology (I had the opportunity to learn how to forecast the weather, but turned it down because I didn't think I was smart enough).

**What has been your greatest professional achievement to date?** Living my dream as a weekday news anchor (pinch me) and winning an Associated Press Award and an Edward Murrow Award for work investigating the needs of vulnerable children in Illinois.



## Sarah Beth Ayers

**Age:** 35

**Occupation:** Business incubation program coordinator, Innovate Springfield

**Email:** [sarahbeth@innovatespringfield.org](mailto:sarahbeth@innovatespringfield.org)

**Education:** Master of Public Administration, University of Illinois Springfield

**Family:** Husband Jonathan Eck and children Esme Anna and Nathaniel Orin

**Affiliations/community activities:** Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln, Springfield Art Association, St. Agnes Parish and School, Illinois State Military Museum, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault, Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault, Phoenix Center, SARA Center, UIS Public Administration Student Association, UIS Rising Stars, Emerging Leaders at O'Shea Builders, Illinois Women in Leadership, Momentum on Main Street and Downtown Springfield Inc.

**What is your guiding principle in life?** Be nice to everyone.

**What led you to your current career?** I am a serial small business starter and have been trying to sell my products (lemonade, popsicles, calendars, greeting cards, pot holders, fine art) and services (photography, graphic design, ghostwriting) for the better part of my life. I am also a Springfield native with a deep passion for the people, history and culture of our community. My arts and public administration education, coupled with my diverse and hyper-local work experience, come together to make my role as the business incubation program coordinator at Innovate Springfield my dream job.

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** Springfield is beautiful, vibrant and diverse. My hope is for everyone in our community to be empowered to actively and meaningfully participate in the historic and robust culture we are all so fortunate to experience in Springfield.

**What obstacles have you been able to overcome on your career path?** Fear and self-doubt. Achieving a goal only makes me thirsty for more, and I am constantly pushing myself to be better. I believe my greatest asset is my vision for the future and my drive to continue to pursue it.

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** No matter your path, you will face challenges. Don't sweat the small stuff.

sponsored by



**Mark Cortesi, Agent**  
State Farm



THE POWER OF A U OF I MBA



## Jen Badman

**Age:** 39

**Occupation:** Division manager, Patient Financial Services for HSHS

**Email:** jen.badman@hshs.org

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in psychology and business administration, SIU Edwardsville

**Family:** Husband Josh and children Lyla, Brooks and Emmie

**Affiliations/community activities:** Co-founder of Everyday for Emmie, member of the family advisory board at HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital, volunteer at

St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Chatham and Ball-Chatham Schools.

**What obstacles have you been able to overcome on your career path?** Being a boss is easy, but being a leader or holding a leadership role as a part of your career path can be very challenging. As a mid-career professional that has been given the opportunity to lead peers at several different organizations, I know that it is hard to step into a role and expect those who may know the job better than you, have more seniority than you or are older than you to immediately accept you. I have learned to be patient. I have learned humility. I have learned that your team will grow to respect you as they learn they can trust you. Being out of one's comfort zone can be very intimidating at times. The key is to be yourself and be able to admit you don't know everything — it's ok to not have all the answers.

**What would like to give back to your community?** I want to provide a glimmer of hope to those who may have trouble finding it. I want people to see that out of tragedy, greater purpose can emerge. I want people to know that they are not alone in life and can find ways to empower themselves and pay forward the good they have received from others.

**What would you like your life to look like in five years? 10?** I hope that in the years to come my family has great health, happiness and continued opportunities. I hope that we will continue to grow the Emmie Badman Foundation and that our efforts afford our family the opportunity to give back to HSHS St. John's Children's Hospital. Most of all, I hope that my generation leaves our community a better place for our children.



## Mark Bailey

**Age:** 33

**Occupation:** Owner, Bailey Family Insurance

**Email:** mark@bfi.us

**Education:** Attended Wake Technical Community College

**Family:** Wife Christine, daughter Carlianna, mom Rita Bailey and Gunner the dog

**Affiliations/community activities:** Chatham VFW, Lincoln Land Honor Flight volunteer, Springfield Celts Rugby, Springfield Area Landlord Association, Capitol

Area Networkers, Off Duty Springfield, Independent Insurance Agents of Illinois, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Local First Springfield

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** That we can bring larger businesses in and convince more people to shop local.

**What would you like your life to look like in five years? 10?** To be an owner of a thriving business that helps employ local families and also be able to spend more quality time with friends and family.

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** Stay true to your morals and faith and everything else will work itself out.

**What has been your greatest professional achievement?** Getting to go on vacation without absolutely stressing out because I know our team and the processes and procedures we have put into place are working in sync.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** It forced us to take a step back and review all the systems and processes that our agency had set in place. It actually enabled us to start completely over from scratch and rebuild an automation pipeline that gives me a full 360-degree view of my agency at all times.



## Christine Bailey

**Age:** 37

**Occupation:** Owner, Bailey Family Insurance

**Email:** christine@bfi.us

**Education:** Master of Business Administration, University of Illinois Springfield

**Family:** Husband Mark, daughter Carlianna, dad Tom Hergenrother, mom JoAnn O'Connor and stepdad Tom O'Connor

**Affiliations/community activities:** Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois, Lincoln Land Honor Flight, Springfield Area Landlord Association, Capitol Area Networkers, Off Duty Springfield, Independent Insurance Agents of Illinois, Greater Springfield

Chamber of Commerce, Local First Springfield, founding member of Patrick Sheehan's Memorial Golf outing, founding member Mompreneurs of Central Illinois, West Side Christian Church.

**What led you to your current career?** My husband Mark was in insurance, I dreamed of opening my own business and marketing it, so we decided to team up and open Bailey Family Insurance.

**What would you like your life to look like in five years? 10?** Continue to build our successful family-owned business that our daughter can take over one day.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** Protection and education through insurance products, as well as find ways to team up with other local businesses to support one another.

**What obstacles have you been able to overcome on your career path?** Learning insurance with a marketer's mind, growing our agency from the ground up.

**What has been your greatest professional achievement to date?** Being able to share our success and insights with large audiences through panel discussions and speaking opportunities at Facebook's Community Boost, the National Conference IA Evolve, the Valley Insurance Agency Alliance's annual conference and the Independent Insurance Agents of Illinois Conference.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** Our agency is completely digital so our team was able to work from home without missing a beat, and our clients can work with us through no-contact methods. We teamed up with several small businesses and organizations and hosted webinars to support each other during these uncertain times.



## Danielle Hartman

**Age:** 34

**Occupation:** System director, Organization Development and Diversity/Inclusion, Hospital Sisters Health System

**Email:** danielle.hartman@hshs.org

**Education:** Masters of Science in technology, training and development

**Family:** Husband Tate Hartman and two furbabies, Ryken and Ragnar

**Affiliations/community activities:** Chairperson of the board of Springfield Jaycees and board member for the Central Illinois Customer Service Association.

**What is your guiding principal in life?** Helping people reach their full potential. This is my goal in life. I feel like I am able to do this every day through my professional and personal life.

**What led you to your current career?** When I finished my undergraduate degree, I didn't really know what I wanted to do. I debated between pursuing a master's degree in higher education or corporate training. I decided to work towards corporate training and maybe someday move back into higher education. Corporate training has been my passion for over 10 years. This may not be my final career, but I am enjoying the ride!

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** I want to see Springfield become a city to which new people flock. I think we have made great strides over the last several years. Organizations like Downtown Springfield Inc. and Innovate Springfield are helping us reimagine what is possible. Now is the time to start a new future for Springfield.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** I hope I can make Springfield a welcoming place in which to live. I am not from Springfield and at first I struggled to make this community my home. It is home for me now and I want to make it welcoming to all.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** Professionally, the events of this year have caused me to be more innovative, and I love it. I've enjoyed rethinking how my team and my organization approaches the work we do. Personally, I have absolutely loved being at home with Tate and our two dogs.





## Sarah Goleman

**Age:** 38

**Occupation:** Financial adviser, Merrill Lynch

**Email:** sarah.goleman@ml.com

**Education:** Master of Arts, University of Dundee

**Family:** Husband Ryan Goleman and children Charlotte and Sam

**Affiliations/community activities:** Board member of Downtown Springfield Heritage Foundation, Old State Capitol Foundation, Rotary International Midtown and

Land of Lincoln Bookshare. Member of Illinois Women in Leadership, Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois, Downtown Springfield Inc. and Springfield Area Landlords Association. Volunteer for Compass for Kids, Sangamon County Community Resources and Off Duty.

**What led you to your current career?** I was being asked for help I wasn't able to give. Merrill Lynch has given me the opportunity to build out my team and resources to answer any financial question you might have.

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** That downtown continues to grow and thrive, integrating our arts, culture, history and entrepreneurs so it continues to be a great destination for locals and tourists.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** I would like to improve the financial lives of our philanthropic organizations, businesses and individuals so we can improve the wealth and equity of our community

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** That it is critical to find the right mentors. The people you surround yourself with are key to your success.

**What has been your greatest professional achievement to date?** Teaching financial literacy classes continues to be the biggest achievement of my career. Teaching people how to acquire and manage wealth allows you to watch people improve their lives in a way I don't think is available in any other field.



## Brytton Bjorngaard

**Age:** 35

**Occupation:** Associate professor of digital media and director of visual arts at University of Illinois Springfield, freelance graphic designer

**Email:** bbjor2@uis.edu

**Education:** Master of Fine Arts in graphic design, Iowa State University

**Family:** Parents Dr. Karen and Brent Bjorngaard of Zumbrota, Minnesota

**Affiliations/community activities:** Springfield Art Association, Enos Park Residency for Visual Artists, Enos Park

Neighborhood Improvement Association, DEMO Project, Compass for Kids, Shelterbelt Press

**What is your guiding principle in life?** As an educator and as a vegan, I strive daily to follow the mantra, "compassion is invincible."

**What led you to your current career?** In high school, I had the chance to experience architectural drafting, interior design, painting and drawing, ceramics and graphic design. I was encouraged to pursue leadership and mentoring roles in the arts while in college that made it clear to me that I also had a passion for education. Graduate school helped me to see design not just as a form of commercial communication, but as a means for social change and community engagement. As a design educator, I get to help students use design as a tool to support businesses, create change and express their voice.

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** That we collectively embrace art, not just as a summer camp or reception to attend, but as a way of creative thinking that can change mindsets and culture, including our city infrastructure, and move toward sustainable living.

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** Your goals do not need to be measured by anyone else's standards or accomplishments.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** The format of education, especially in the arts, had to rapidly change overnight with the global pandemic and a move to remote learning. For studio art courses this was a challenge to execute from home, but a super-rewarding experience because the students showed patience and grace during a demanding time.



## Jennifer Bond

**Age:** 39

**Occupation:** Vice president nursing, Memorial Medical Center

**Email:** bond.jennifer@mhsil.com

**Education:** Doctorate of Nursing Practice, executive nursing administration

**Family:** My husband Brian and two boys, Carter and Caleb

**Affiliations/community activities:** Illinois Organization of Nurse Leaders and American Organization of Nurse Leaders

**What is your guiding principal in life?** How you view the world is a choice. I choose to see the good in other people because I believe it brings out the good in all of us.

**What led you to your current career?** My mother was a registered nurse. I admired her passion for nursing, the compassion she had for patients and their loved ones and her deep knowledge of nursing and medical care. I knew that a nursing career would provide me with challenging, meaningful work. It has not disappointed.

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** I hope to see health care leaders collaborate with community organizations to address health disparities in Springfield and the surrounding areas. We need more programs and policies that address the social determinants of health, improving access to healthy foods, safe neighborhoods and education.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** We have all faced incredible challenges at work and at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. I have come to appreciate how much we can accomplish when we come together with purpose. This year's events have also affirmed why I became a nurse leader – to support the health care needs of our community, especially in times of crisis.



## Morgan Beck

**Age:** 39

**Occupation:** Corporate accounting manager, BRANDT

**Email:** morganbeck@gmail.com

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts in accountancy, University of Illinois Springfield

**Family:** Husband Aaron and daughters Alivia and Emelia

**Affiliations/community activities:** United Way Financial Stability Vision Council

**What is your guiding principal in life?** Be more concerned about your character than your reputation.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** I would like to help to improve housing stability and reduce food insecurity in our community.

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** To not be discouraged when it feels like you have hit a road block. The long way around has a lot of opportunities as well.

**What has been your greatest professional achievement to date?** Earning the certified public accountant designation.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** I learned to take inventory of what is important and focus more on those things. Life really can change course quickly.

sponsored by



THE POWER OF A U OF I MBA

Allow me to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of the Springfield Business Journal's Forty Under 40 recipients for 2020.

Thank you for the leadership and contributions you have provided for our community.

I look forward to hearing about many more of your future successes.



**Mark Cortesi**  
**State Farm Insurance**

*Mark Cortesi*

Office: 217.787.1727  
[www.growwithmark.com](http://www.growwithmark.com)  
924 Clock Tower Drive  
Springfield, Illinois 62704





## MacKenzie (Kenzie) Anderson

**Age:** 29

**Occupation:** Customer support at Warren-Boynton State Bank

**Email:** kenziejori90@gmail.com

**Education:** Lincoln Land Community College

**Family:** My aunt Crystal and cousin Matt, my close friends Brett Filip, Meaghan Edwards and Taylor Kenny, Joe Keller, Katie Pinkston, Chuck and Valerie Tibbs, Jodi Baker and Laura Kuhl and my dog, Maverick, and cat Bon Bon.

**Affiliations/community activities:** Board member of the Junior League of Springfield and the Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery and a volunteer with Girls on the Run, Illinois State Museum, United Way and Habitat for Humanity.

**What is your guiding principal in life?** Always be kind and give back what you can.

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** I hope it will invest more in the older neighborhoods so the whole city can flourish together.

**What obstacles have you been able to overcome on your career path?** While every career has its challenges, one of the largest obstacles I have dealt with and am continually overcoming is living with depression. It affects so many parts of my life, and even cost me a job at a low point in my life. Mental health can be a huge obstacle, but in my experience, finding your support system is crucial in making sure you reach the goals you set for yourself.

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** The continuous small acts add up to a larger impact; while I may not change the entire world, someone's entire world could be changed through my efforts. No need for so much pressure.

**What has been your greatest professional achievement to date?** Becoming a board member for the Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery. I started as a weekend volunteer, then became a part-time employee for a couple years and am now on the executive committee of the board of directors.



## Nabih Elhadj

**Age:** 32

**Occupation:** Executive director, iVenturED and Sangamon CEO and adjunct instructor at the University of Illinois Springfield

**Email:** nabih@sangamonceo.com

**Education:** Master of Business Administration and Master of Public Administration

**Family:** Wife Alaina Beaird

**Affiliations/community activities:** Community advisory board at NPR

**What is your guiding principal in life?** Despite everything, life is beautiful. It is often hectic, but yet a great joy.

**What led you to your current career?** I entered the world of education as a teacher of entrepreneurship. This endeavor was accidental and inspired by my desire to see more entrepreneurs in Springfield. Today, I mentor students in their pursuits of startups from fintech to fashion and food. Teaching has been by far my most rewarding vocation.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** I try to empower my students to feel like they can reach the stars, if they want to. Consequently, this means that they become empowered to bring advancement and change to their communities, if they so desire. I hope to give back to my community the gift of young adults hungry for change and in love with their community so they can reach for the stars here at home.

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** I believe that my career is only starting, and it is difficult for me to draw conclusions on what might have been. However, I have learned that somehow things work out. Knowing this brings me solace and reduces my stress level.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** I did not get to wish my students good luck and great fortune as they graduated high school. Working with my students every day, I am invested in their future and well-being and not having been able to send them off in a typical graduation fashion was difficult. But, as someone intrigued by entrepreneurship, the pandemic has shaped our impression of life and understanding of the systems governing us. It allowed room for forced creativity and drastic institutional changes that may have otherwise taken decades.



## Ruchika Goel

**Age:** 38

**Occupation:** Physician, hematologist/oncologist at SIU School of Medicine and medical director at Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center

**Email:** ruchikagoel1@gmail.com

**Education:** Doctor of Medicine and Master of Public Health, All India Institute of Medical Sciences, John Hopkins Hospital and National Cancer Institute

**Family:** Husband Dr. Sunil Agarwal and twin daughters Anvi and Asmi

**Affiliations/community activities:** Member of the Asian Indian Women's Organization and the Association for Women in Medicine and Science.

**What is your guiding principal in life?** 100% integrity, honesty and commitment to anything I pursue, whether at work or at home.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** As a female physician and a mother of two lovely daughters, I wish to work in every capacity to support and empower young girls and women in our community and wish to be a champion for this cause. I wish to inculcate a positive mindset in the community in regards to gender equality, professional career advancement and work-life balance.

**What has been your greatest professional achievement to date?** During the current coronavirus pandemic, my skills as a hematologist and a blood transfusion specialist were put to the test, and I saw the biggest call to action yet in my professional life. I successfully spearheaded a collaborative community effort in setting up a regional convalescent plasma program for SIU Medicine, Springfield Clinic and service hospitals in Springfield. We were able to quickly set up the convalescent plasma program and have this potentially life-saving therapy available to clinicians for treating patients.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** They have made me realize that at a physical level, we as humans can be extremely vulnerable to the onslaught of forces beyond our control. Yet, at a mental level, we can be so strong that if we join hands and act as responsible citizens and act in a strategic and disciplined manner, we can emerge winners! I think here in Springfield, we as a community have shown great resilience, strength and discipline in keeping this pandemic under control.



## Chantel Corrie

**Age:** 39

**Occupation:** Executive director, Midwest Mission Distribution Center

**Email:** chantel@midwestmission.org

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in organizational leadership and human resource management, Illinois State University

**Family:** Husband Brian and children Kerrigan, Makenna and Miranda

**Affiliations/community activities:** Springfield First United Methodist Church Mission Council, Salvation Army Adult Rehabilitation Center board member, The Outlet, One Stop Christmas

Shop board member, Chatham Youth Basketball Association coach and YMCA coach.

**What is your guiding principal in life?** It is all about helping others. If you can, then do. Treat others the way you would want to be treated.

**What led you to your current career?** God did. I thought I was going to be career military or work in the corporate world. I am grateful that I listened to God's call on my life. It has been more fulfilling than I could have ever imagined.

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** To love one another and let that love lead you to action to make a better community that takes care of our most vulnerable members.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** I would like to continue to help connect people to service opportunities because when we serve, we get back way more than we give. When people are struggling, I encourage them to serve. When you are focused on helping others, you will find yourself more joyful every time and without fail.

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** It is not about what you achieve, but the lives you change. You will have hills and valleys. Life is a journey, not a destination.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** I have always been someone that can easily adapt to change so I used that strength to help people in our community get PPE quickly. I was also excited to get essential PPE to the Navajo Nation and Fort Apache reservations in Arizona. After that experience, I will continue to work to support the reservations.

sponsored by



Mark Cortesi, Agent  
State Farm







## Eldina LaBranche

**Age:** 39

**Occupation:** Agency sales manager, American Family Insurance

**Education:** Bachelor of Liberal Arts, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana

**Email:** elabranc@amfam.com

**Family:** Husband Marcus, son Staci and daughters Madison and Tori

**Affiliations, community activities:** Illinois Women in Leadership, assistant tennis coach for UIS, active business group resource member at American Family Insurance.

**What is your guiding principle in life?** Practice

gratitude. I have come to the U.S. from war-torn Bosnia. My family and I went through a lot to get to this point in life. I am always reflecting on where I came from to where I am now. It helps me stay grateful to the people who have helped me get to this point and also understand that nothing in life can be taken for granted.

**What led to your current career?** I was very intrigued by a career where I get to be competitive while helping others. I am passionate about being able to coach my agents and help them reach their personal and professional goals.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** COVID-19 has definitely presented many challenges to me and my agents. All of them had to change their business model and set up their staff to work remotely. The more recent events, including the murder of George Floyd, have had a strong effect on me and my family. My husband and children are Black and I have had to really take a deep look at what I can do as a white person to drive change. Conversations with my husband have been very eye-opening and I realize more and more that we all have to stand up and stand together in order to drive change. We cannot expect the Black community to fight this fight alone.

**What do you wish to give back to your community?** Now that my daughter is older and two years away from going to college, I would love to get involved in working with children on some level. I have always enjoyed spending time with kids and love having a positive impact on them.



## Jenn Fortin

**Age:** 30

**Occupation:** Sales manager, Systemax

**Email:** jfortin@systemaxsolutions.com

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts in psychology

**Family:** Dogs Bella, Bentley and Cooper

**Affiliations/community activities:** Member of Illinois Women in Leadership, hockey coach for Springfield Youth Hockey Association, figure skating coach for Illinois Valley Figure Skating Club, Zeta Tau Alpha alumna, member of Professional Skaters Association

**What is your guiding principal in life?** Be all in. No matter what the situation is, I'm either all in or I'm out. As I see it, if I'm not giving my 100%, then I'm not able to bring my best to the table, and that's not fair to anyone.

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** Springfield is such a close-knit community and, quite honestly, I hope that never changes. Despite everyone's differences, we always come together to support one another in the best ways that we can. We have people who will stop in the middle of busy Iles Avenue to allow a family of ducks make it across the four lanes and help the ducklings get up on the curb, if necessary. I mean, does it get more wonderful than that?

**What would you like to give back to your community?** This community is completely what we make it. I would love to give back to this community however I can, whether that is helping someone in need, spending time with a charity, shopping local or even just being the most positive person in the room. The needs of our community will always be ever-changing and I want to give back what I can in whatever way is needed.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** Thinking outside of the box and adapting to the current situation. The Systemax team worked remotely to continue to serve our clients in the best possible way we could, as well as shifting our focus to provide what our clients need during this time. In the coaching realm, I worked with my skaters virtually to help with their conditioning so that once they could get back on the ice, they were in shape.



**Warren Boynton**  
State Bank *Established in 1877*

**Congratulations to Mackenzie Anderson**  
and all the members of this year's Forty under 40

(217) 787-0430

3030 Spring Mill Drive, Springfield, IL

wbsb.com

Locations in New Berlin,  
Modesto and Palmyra

NMLS #410615



Member  
**FDIC**



**JENN FORTIN**  
Sales Manager

*Congratulations*  
**JENN FORTIN**

RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE  
SPRINGFIELD BUSINESS JOURNAL'S

**FORTY**  
UNDER **40** 2020

systemax

systemaxsolutions.com | 217.546.6646

**Congratulations to Eldina** who has been an integral part of our team at American Family Insurance for 12 years. As a Sales District Leader in Springfield and the surrounding area, she has built her career by recruiting and coaching others to succeed as agency business owners and we are proud to have her on our team.



If you are interested in talking to **Eldina** about potential career opportunities, please reach out to her at 217-299-3612 or connect with her on LinkedIn.



**Sean Bull**  
**AMERICAN FAMILY**  
INSURANCE®

2413 Denver Dr. | Springfield, IL 62702  
217-494-1168 | seanbull.com

**FORTY** UNDER **40**



## Dan Deweese

**Age:** 36

**Occupation:** Owner of Dan Deweese Painting and Wood Finishing

**Email:** dan@dandeweesepainting.com

**Education:** Springfield Southeast High School

**Family:** Wife Rebecca and children Madelyn and Jonah

**Affiliations/Community Activities:** Supporter of Sparc, Habitat for Humanity and Contact Ministries

**What is your guiding principal in life?** To do what is right, not what is easy.

**What led you to your current career?** Growing up working for my father's painting company, RL Deweese Painting and Decorating, helped lead me to my current career.

**What obstacles have you been able to overcome on your career path?** I have had to learn to grow and manage a business. I started working by myself and went to having 20 employees within five years.

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** I wish my younger self had known to further my education. I've had to learn a lot of lessons the hard way.

**What has been your greatest professional achievement to date?** My greatest professional achievement is having the largest non-union painting company in the Springfield area.



## Jonathan Nessler

**Age:** 38

**Occupation:** Attorney, Nessler Law Office

**Email:** jtnessler@gmail.com

**Education:** Juris Doctorate, University of Illinois

**Family:** Wife Morgan and sons Samuel, Benjamin and Jacob

**Affiliations/community activities:** Young Philanthropists, Downtown Springfield Inc., Old Capitol Art Fair board member, Lincoln-Douglas American Inn of Court barrister member, and past chair of the Law Practice Management Committee of the American Bar Association, Young Lawyers Division, member of the Illinois State Bar Association Assembly and Standing Committee on Law Office Management and Economics

**What is your guiding principal in life?** Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

**What led you to your current career?** I took a First Amendment law class while I was an undergrad at the University of Illinois. I decided to go to law school because of that class.

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** Springfield is a great town, but is too often plagued with an attitude of pessimism about what it has to offer. In the absence of COVID-19, Springfield has excellent restaurants, an amazing farmers market, an outstanding annual art fair, numerous summer festivals, quality breweries – the list goes on. Springfield is a great place to live and raise a family. My hope for Springfield is that its residents become more optimistic about what it offers. In fact, Springfield was recently listed as the No. 1 city to live in after the pandemic, by *Business Insider*.

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** It is important to build a valuable talent stack. Following this approach, I'd tell my younger self to focus on developing a variety of skills that work well together. Focus first on writing, public speaking, persuasion and coding. Anyone who is interested in what a valuable talent stack is should read *How to Fail at Almost Everything and Still Win Big* by Scott Adams.

**DAN DEWEESE**  
PAINTING & WOODFINISHING

**CONGRATULATIONS, DAN DEWEESE!**

Dan Deweese Painting and Wood Finishing, Inc. is proud to congratulate Dan Deweese on being named to the Springfield Business Journal's Forty under 40 for 2020.

**FORTY UNDER 40 2020**

Dan Deweese Painting and Wood Finishing, Inc.  
4745 Industrial Avenue, Springfield, IL 62703 | 217-638-3143

**AmeriCALL**  
COMMUNICATIONS

proudly congratulates the class of

**FORTY UNDER 40 2020**  
award winners!

217.522.CALL (2255)      www.americallinc.com





## Mike Bice

**Age:** 38

**Occupation:** Manager, Springfield Electric Lighting & Design

**Email:** mbice@springfielelectric.com

**Education:** Attended Western Illinois University

**Family:** Wife Gretchen, twin sons Vander and Huxley and the dogs Knuckles and Zoey.

**Affiliations/community activities:** United Way, Springfield Area Home Builders Association, National Home Builders Association

**What is your guiding principal in life?** To be honest and generous in everything I do.

**What led you to your current career?** I started my career in the home improvement sales and management field over 15 years ago in Chicago. When I moved back home to Springfield, I became the general manager of a local granite company. While working there, I found my niche with design. I love being able to help homeowners and business owners create their perfect home and now my experience at SESCO has added another level to my knowledge of home design.

**What would you like your life to look like in five years? 10?** Hopefully I will be the coach of a Little League baseball team, coaching two very healthy little boys, furthering my connections within the local community and helping more people love the design of their home or business.

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** To be sure to take time for things you enjoy outside of work. Work is important, but it shouldn't be your number one priority. The more balanced your work/home life is, the better it is for your productivity and positivity.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** SESCO has allowed me to work from home which I can't say enough about. I am so grateful to work for a company like SESCO that cares about its associates and their families. This year has opened my eyes to all the good around us through the bad. Reconnecting with family and friends has been something I will never forget.



## Ryan Caldwell

**Age:** 34

**Occupation:** Certified public accountant at RSM US LLP

**Email:** ryan.caldwell@rsmus.com

**Education:** Master of Science in accountancy, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

**Family:** Wife Danielle and children Reagan and Kyle

**Affiliations/community activities:** Board member and former treasurer of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Illinois, vice president of the Springfield Boys and Girls Club Foundation, board member of Downtown Springfield Inc., treasurer of the McMahon-Illini Chapter of Healthcare Financial Management Association, member of the Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and member of the Illinois CPA Society.

**What is your guiding principal in life?** I believe the key to success in business and in life is to work harder than everyone else. A quotation from Derek Jeter sums it up perfectly: "There may be people who have more talent than you, but there's no excuse for anyone to work harder than you do."

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** Don't be afraid of failure. I was very reserved while growing up and rarely took risks because I feared failing. I've learned that if you don't take a chance and go after what you want, you may never get it.

**What has been your greatest professional achievement to date?** Becoming a local office and industry (healthcare/nonprofit) leader at RSM. RSM is the fifth-largest accounting firm in the United States and has nearly 11,000 professionals. Being considered a leader at a national firm is something of which I am very proud.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** Our time is the most valuable resource we can give back to the community. I volunteer my time at local nonprofits whose missions align with my values. We are all responsible for improving the communities in which we work and live.

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** My hope is that all members of the community will have the opportunity to thrive in Springfield. To do this, we need to build a sustainable economy that is inclusive of people of all backgrounds and skillsets.

RSM celebrates the  
power of great people.  
Congratulations,  
Ryan Caldwell.

It gives us tremendous pleasure to recognize the achievements of **Ryan Caldwell**. Congratulations for being named as one of the Springfield Business Journal's *40 Leaders Under 40*.

rsmus.com

THE POWER OF BEING UNDERSTOOD  
AUDIT | TAX | CONSULTING



Visit [rsmus.com/aboutus](http://rsmus.com/aboutus) for more information regarding RSM US LLP and RSM International.

## CONGRATULATIONS Michael Bice!



Congratulations to Mike Bice and all the  
2020 Springfield Business Journal *40 Under 40* Winners!

Springfield Electric Supply Co opened in 1932  
in Springfield, IL. Today, Springfield Electric  
serves 19 locations throughout 4 states.

[www.springfielelectric.com](http://www.springfielelectric.com)



springfield  
electric  
SUPPLY COMPANY



# TOP LAWYERS

## SPRINGFIELD AREA

### BASED UPON A SURVEY OF THEIR PEERS



These **LEADING LAWYERS** have been recommended by their peers to be among the **TOP LAWYERS** in Illinois.

|                           |  |              |   |
|---------------------------|--|--------------|---|
| Matthew J. Cate           | Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP | 217.544.4868 | Comm Lit; Creditor Rts/Comm Collect; Real Estate: Comm; RE: Residential           |
| Randy S. Paswater         | Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP | 217.544.4868 | Creditor's Rights/Commercial Collections ; Elder                                  |
| Bernard G. Segatto III    | Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP | 217.544.4868 | Close/Private Held; Comm Lit; Land Use/Zoning; Real Estate: Comm                  |
| Randall W. Segatto        | Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP | 217.544.4868 | Close/Private Held; Elder; Real Estate: Comm                                      |
| R. Kurt Wilke             | Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP | 217.544.4868 | Civil Appellate; Close/Private Held; Real Estate: Comm                            |
| Barry Hines               | Barry Hines - Attorney at Law          | 217.698.8444 | AG; Real Estate: Comm; Trust/Will/Estate  |
| Michael Glenn Barton      | Bellatti Barton Cochran & White LLC    | 217.793.9300 | AG; Close/Private Held; Real Estate: Comm; Tax: Indiv; Trust/Will/Estate          |
| Mark S. Cochran           | Bellatti Barton Cochran & White LLC    | 217.793.9300 | AG; Environmental; Public Utilities; Real Estate: Comm                            |
| Andrew G. White           | Bellatti Barton Cochran & White LLC    | 217.793.9300 | AG; Trust/Will/Estate   |
| Claire A. Manning         | Brown Hay & Stephens LLP               | 217.544.8491 | Employment: Management; Environmental; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin                       |
| Amy K. Schmidt            | Brown Hay & Stephens LLP               | 217.544.8491 | Family  |
| Robert A. Stuart Jr.      | Brown Hay & Stephens LLP               | 217.544.8491 | Assoc/Non-Profit; Trust/Will/Estate   |
| Joseph N. Rucpich         | Cassiday Schade LLP                    | 217.993.5644 | Civil Rights/Constitutional; Med-Mal Defense; PI Defense: General                 |
| Sarah Delano Pavlik       | Delano Law Offices LLC                 | 217.544.2703 | Trust/Will/Estate   |
| Thomas Chester Pavlik Jr. | Delano Law Offices LLC                 | 217.544.2703 | Close/Private Held; Comm Lit; Creditor Rts/Comm Collect; Real Estate: Comm        |
| J. Randall Cox            | FeldmanWasser                          | 217.544.3403 | Comm Lit; Criminal Defense: DUI; Crim Defense: Felon/Misd                         |
| Carl R. Draper            | FeldmanWasser                          | 217.544.3403 | Civil Rights/Constitutional; Employment: Employee; False Claims Act/Whistle Blow  |
| Howard W. Feldman         | FeldmanWasser                          | 217.544.3403 | Construction; Family; ADR: Family   |
| Kelli Ellen Gordon        | FeldmanWasser                          | 217.544.3403 | Family  |
| Stanley N. Wasser         | FeldmanWasser                          | 217.544.3403 | Construction  |
| James R. Enlow            | Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel          | 217.522.9010 | Bankruptcy: Indiv; Bankruptcy/WO: Comm; Comm Lit; Land Use/Zoning                 |
| Gordon W. Gates           | Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel          | 217.522.9010 | Bankrupt/WO: Comm; Close/Private Held; Comm Lit; Land Use/Zoning; RE: Comm        |
| Todd M. Goebel            | Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel          | 217.522.9010 | Criminal Defense: DUI; Criminal Defense: Felon/Misd                               |
| Frederick J. Schlosser    | Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel          | 217.522.9010 | Criminal Defense: DUI; Criminal Defense: Felon/Misd                               |
| Bradley B. Wilson         | Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel          | 217.522.9010 | Civil Rights/Constitutional; Employment: Employee                                 |
| D. Peter Wise             | Gates Wise Schlosser & Goebel          | 217.522.9010 | Criminal Defense: DUI; Criminal Defense: Felon/Misd; Crim Defense: White Collar   |
| Herman G. Bodewes         | Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC      | 217.525.1571 | Assoc/Non-Profit; Close/Private Held; Gov/Muni/Lobby; Trust/Will/Estate           |
| Creighton R. Castle       | Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC      | 217.525.1571 | Close/Private Held; Real Estate: Comm; Tax: Business; Trust/Will/Estate           |
| John M. Gabala Jr.        | Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC      | 217.525.1571 | Civil Appellate; Comm Lit; Copyright/Trademark; PI Def: General                   |
| David A. Herman           | Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC      | 217.525.1571 | Comm Lit; Elect/Political/Campaign; Gov/Muni/Lobby; Trust/Will/Estate             |
| R. Mark Mifflin           | Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC      | 217.525.1571 | Comm Lit; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin  |
| Christopher E. Sherer     | Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC      | 217.525.1571 | Civil Appell; Elect/Political/Campaign; Family; Gov/Muni/Lobby; Trust/Will/Estate |
| Matthew R. Trapp          | Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC      | 217.525.1571 | Civil Appellate; Comm Lit; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin                                   |
| Thomas G. Hamill          | Harrison & Held LLP                    | 217.546.7777 | Trust/Will/Estate   |
| Adrian E. Harless         | Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC        | 217.522.8822 | Health; Med-Mal Defense; PI Defense: General                                      |
| Michael T. Kokal          | Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC        | 217.522.8822 | Comm Lit; Copyright & Trademark; Patent   |
| John O. Langfelder        | Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC        | 217.522.8822 | PI Defense: General; Toxic Torts Defense; Work Comp Defense                       |
| Deanna Seward Mool        | Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC        | 217.522.8822 | Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Health  |
| Theresa M. Powell         | Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC        | 217.522.8822 | Employment: Management; Med-Mal Defense; Prof'l Malpractice Defense               |
| Gary S. Schwab            | Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC        | 217.522.8822 | PI Defense: General; Prof'l Malpractice Defense                                   |
| Daniel R. Simmons         | Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC        | 217.522.8822 | PI Defense: General; Work Comp Defense  |
| Larry A. Apfelbaum        | Kanoski Bresney                        | 217.523.7742 | Workers' Compensation   |
| Todd A. Bresney           | Kanoski Bresney                        | 217.523.7742 | Personal Injury: General  |
| Charles N. Edmiston II    | Kanoski Bresney                        | 217.523.7742 | Workers' Compensation   |
| William J. Harrington     | Kanoski Bresney                        | 217.523.7742 | Personal Injury: General  |
| John J. Waldman           | Kanoski Bresney                        | 217.523.7742 | Workers' Compensation   |
| Stephen Scott Morrill     | Morrill & Fiedler LLC                  | 217.789.5411 | Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin  |
| James E. Neville          | Neville Richards & Wuller LLC          | 618.277.0900 | Med-Mal Def; PI Def: General; Product Liab Def; Transportation Def; Tox Tort Def  |
| Timothy S. Richards       | Neville Richards & Wuller LLC          | 618.277.0900 | Med-Mal Defense; PI Def: General; Product Liab Def; Tox Tort Def                  |



|                         |   |              |  |
|-------------------------|---|--------------|--|
| Cheryl S. Neal          | PNC Wealth Management/Estate Settlement     | 217.753.7130 | Trust/Will/Estate  |
| James A. Borland        | Quinn Johnston Henderson Pretorius & Cerulo | 217.753.1133 | PI Defense: General; Products Liability Defense                                    |
| Matthew J. Maddox       | Quinn Johnston Henderson Pretorius & Cerulo | 217.753.1133 | Med-Mal Defense; PI Defense: General; Prof'l Malpractice Defense                   |
| Betsy A. Wirth          | Quinn Johnston Henderson Pretorius & Cerulo | 217.753.1133 | Family; Med-Mal Defense; PI Defense: General                                       |
| David R. Reid           | Reid Law Office LLC                         | 217.546.1001 | Close/Private Held; Tax: Business; Tax: Individual; Trust/Will/Estate              |
| Gregory A. Scott        | Scott & Scott PC                            | 217.753.8200 | Adoption/Reproductive Tech; Family Appellate; Family; Trust/Will/Estate            |
| Jared M. Scott          | Scott & Scott PC                            | 217.753.8200 | Family; Personal Injury: General   |
| R. Stephen Scott        | Scott & Scott PC                            | 217.753.8200 | Bankrupt/WO: Comm; Close/Private Held; Tax: Bus; Tax: Indiv; Trust/Will/Estate     |
| Michael M. Durr         | Sgro Hanrahan Durr Rabin & Bruce LLP        | 217.789.1200 | Real Estate: Associations & Condominiums; Real Estate: Comm; RE: Residential       |
| Donald J. Hanrahan      | Sgro Hanrahan Durr Rabin & Bruce LLP        | 217.789.1200 | Social Security Disability   |
| Gregory P. Sgro         | Sgro Hanrahan Durr Rabin & Bruce LLP        | 217.789.1200 | Land Use/Zoning; Real Estate: Comm; Workers' Compensation                          |
| Timothy M. Shay         | Shay and Associates                         | 217.523.5900 | Personal Injury: General; PI: Professional Malpractice; Workers' Compensation      |
| Stephen J. Bochenek     | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | Assoc/Non-Profit; Close/Private Held; Labor: Mgmt; Real Estate: Comm; RE: Resident |
| Michael C. Connelly     | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | Close/Private Held; Real Estate: Comm; RE: Tax; Tax: Business; Trust/Will/Estate   |
| E. Zachary Dinardo      | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | Close/Private Held; Health   |
| William R. Enlow        | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | Assoc/Non-Profit; Banking; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin                                    |
| James G. Fahey          | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | Civil Appellate; Employment: Mgmt; PI Defense: General                             |
| Mark H. Ferguson        | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | Banking & Financial Institutions; Close/Private Held; Mergers & Acquisitions       |
| C. Clark Germann        | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | Close/Private Held; Mineral/Natural Resource; Real Estate: Comm                    |
| Lisa Harms Hartzler     | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | Health   |
| Stephen F. Hedinger     | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | Animal; Environmental; Mineral & Natural Resource                                  |
| Michael G. Horstman Jr. | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | Assoc/Non-Profit; Close/Private Held; Real Estate: Comm; RE: Resident; Tax: Indiv  |
| Brian D. Jones          | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | Banking; Close/Private Held; Employee Benefits; Real Estate: Comm                  |
| John A. Kauerauf        | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | Close/Private Held; Employment: Management   |
| Kirk W. Laudeman        | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | Med-Mal Defense; PI Def: General; Prof'l Malpractice Def; Transportation Def       |
| James M. Morphew        | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | Election, Political & Campaign; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin                               |
| Lisa A. Petrilli        | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | Comm Lit; Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin; Land Use/Zoning; Real Estate: Comm                 |
| David A. Rolf           | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | AG; Comm Lit; Land Use/Zoning; PI Def: General; Real Estate: Comm                  |
| Peggy J. Ryan           | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | Family   |
| John R. Simpson         | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | Tax: Individual; Trust/Will/Estate   |
| Stephen A. Tagge        | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | Banking; Close/Private Held; ADR: Comm Lit; Real Estate: Comm; Tax: Business       |
| Todd M. Turner          | Sorling Northrup                            | 217.544.1144 | Banking & Financial Institutions; Close/Private Held; Real Estate: Comm            |

**These EMERGING LAWYERS have been identified by their peers to be among the TOP LAWYERS in Illinois who are age 40 or younger OR who have been admitted to the practice of law for 10 or fewer years.**

|                      |  |              |  |
|----------------------|--|--------------|--|
| Brittany Kink Toigo  | Barber Segatto Hoffee Wilke & Cate LLP | 217.544.4868 | Family   |
| Ashley D. Davis      | FeldmanWasser                          | 217.544.3403 | Civil Rights/Constitutional; Family                                      |
| Jason E. Brokaw      | Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes PC      | 217.525.1571 | Gov/Muni/Lobby/Admin   |
| J. Tyler Robinson    | Heyl Royster Voelker & Allen PC        | 217.522.8822 | False Claims Act/Whistle Blower; Health; Med-Mal Defense                 |
| Jason T.H. Germeraad | Scott & Scott PC                       | 217.753.8200 | Bankruptcy: Individual; Comm Lit; Foreclosure Defense                    |
| Pamela E. Hart       | Scott & Scott PC                       | 217.753.8200 | Bankrupt/WO: Comm; Elder; Family; RE: Resident; Trust/Will/Estate        |
| Benjamin M. Sgro     | Sgro Hanrahan Durr Rabin & Bruce LLP   | 217.789.1200 | Personal Injury: General; Real Estate: Comm; RE: Resident; Workers' Comp |
| Joshua J. Watson     | Sorling Northrup                       | 217.544.1144 | Family   |
| Matthew A. Brewer    | Stephen P. Kelly, Attorney at Law      | 217.544.8000 | Workers' Compensation  |

**Leading Lawyers<sup>SM</sup>**  
Find a better lawyer, faster<sup>SM</sup>

**emerging lawyers<sup>SM</sup>**  
on a fast track to the top<sup>SM</sup>

A lawyer CANNOT buy the distinction of Leading or Emerging Lawyer. The distinction was earned by being among those lawyers most often recommended by their peers. For a full description of our research process, a complete list of all Leading or Emerging Lawyers, and to view profiles of the lawyers listed on this page, go to

[www.LeadingLawyers.com](http://www.LeadingLawyers.com)

A Division of Law Bulletin Media—est. 1854





## Frederick Weber

**Age:** 38

**Occupation:** Senior mortgage banker, Flat Branch Home Loans

**Email:** fweber@fbhl.com

**Education:** Studied business administration at SIU Carbondale

**Family:** Wife Hollie, daughter Trinity, son Kenderick, dogs Flash, Bosco and Wrigley and cat Thunder

**Affiliations/community activities:** Athletic director and eighth grade boys basketball coach at Little Flower School, Little Flower Men's Club, American Business Club of Springfield, St. Paul's 500 Masonic Lodge, Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce ambas-

sador, Leadership Springfield Class of 2020

**What is your guiding principal in life?** There are only two things in life you can control, your actions and attitude.

**What led you to your current career?** I was looking for a field that not only allowed me to provide for my family but allowed others to fulfill their dreams. Helping others become homeowners allows me to accomplish both.

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** To continue to watch it grow economically and socially. Springfield has such a rich history and is an amazing community for families and professionals.

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** That the definition of success isn't how much money you can make, but how many people you can help and impact in a positive way.

**What has been your greatest professional achievement to date?** I don't know if I have a greatest, but I have a most memorable – Coach of the year for IESA in 2019 and our third place finish at eighth grade boys basketball state tournament with Little Flower.



## Rob French

**Age:** 39

**Occupation:** Executive director, Illinois Economic Development Association, Illinois Aviation Trades Association and Illinois Hearing Society

**Email:** rob@cook-witter.com

**Education:** Master of Arts in political science, University of Illinois Springfield

**Family:** Wife and best friend Rowela French

**Affiliations/community activities:** Past president of the Illinois Society of Association Executives, Springfield Art Association

**What is your guiding principal in life?** Life is complicated and its problems are rarely simple or easy. Try to understand the other side in any conflict and make your world a little better than how you found it.

**What led you to your current career?** As a volunteer summer camp counselor at the Cebrin Goodman Teen Institute, I saw lasting change made by teens who were taught how to advocate for their communities. This led me to graduate school, a career in lobbying and eventually into the management of nonprofit associations.

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** That being an advocate for mental health care goes beyond supporting others and must also include self-care. Mental health care not only helps us to better manage crises, but it also helps us to understand our own quirks and amplify our strengths. Make it a part of your regular health care regiment.

**What obstacles have you been able to overcome on your career path?** Imposter syndrome. No one else has all the answers either, and perfection is rarely possible. You must learn to be satisfied that your best is good enough.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** 2020 served as a massive reminder that it isn't always about you. It is the year we all made real sacrifices to minimize the impact of a global pandemic on our most vulnerable populations. It is the year that millions listened to the stories of others and decided to march alongside them. It has been a rough year, but we can still work to make it a little better than we found it.

**Congratulations**  
**RICH KLINKER**  
Operations Manager  
CCK Automations



**FORTY**  
UNDER **40** 2020  
Recipient

cckautomations.com  
500 Capitol Way, Jacksonville, IL 62650



*Congratulations*  
Springfield Business Journal 40 under 40

**Fred Weber**  
Senior Mortgage Banker  
217.820.4700 | fweber@fbhl.com



**Flat Branch**  
HOME LOANS

Equal Housing Lender  
FB NMLS 224149 | Fred NMLS 1714629  
fbhl.com/licenses



## Congratulations, Rob French - Forty Under 40

From the staff at:



*Association Management & Legislative Consulting*

*In Partnership with McGuireWoods Consulting, LLC.*

225 East Cook Street, Springfield, IL 62704 | 217-789-6252



sponsored by



**Mark Cortesi, Agent**  
State Farm

**AmeriCALL**  
COMMUNICATIONS

**Business**



THE POWER OF A U OF I MBA



## Rich Klinker

**Age:** 38

**Occupation:** Operations manager, CCK Automations

**Email:** rich.klinker@gmail.com

**Education:** MBA, University of Illinois Springfield

**Family:** Wife Katie and son Reid

**Affiliations/community activities:** On the board of directors of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and Jacksonville Kiwanis Club, member of Jacksonville Young Professionals Network, parishioner at Our Savior Catholic Church, retired (Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart) U.S. Army captain (Bronze Star Medal and Purple Heart), Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels

**What led you to your current career?** Manufacturing is a good fit for my personality and interests. At the start of my career, I was fortunate enough to find an amazing mentor and worked on projects with some very intelligent people who taught me all facets of business. Most importantly, I have always had great people on the factory floor who have supported our efforts.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** I am a member of a team of business and educational leaders working to develop a program geared toward preparing high school seniors for careers in manufacturing. It is like the Sangamon CEO program, but with a focus on the technical skills required for manufacturing careers in the Industry 4.0 environment. There is going to be a significant skill gap during the next 10 years, and programs like this will help to home-grow talent and provide opportunities for the next generation of manufacturing leaders and technicians.

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** I would have started volunteering in the community at a much younger age. Some of my best friends, and many of my networking connections, were made through volunteer work. It really has become one of the most rewarding aspects of my life.

**What has been your greatest professional achievement to date?** I really do have a top-notch team at CCK Automations, and that is what enables our company's success. Personally, I am most proud to have been the platoon leader of a U.S. Army Route Clearance Team during a deployment to Fallujah, Iraq. We had a successful tour of duty and now, 12 years later, all my teammates are doing well.



## Pamela Hart

**Age:** 39

**Occupation:** Attorney, Scott & Scott, P.C.

**Email:** peh@scottscottlaw.com

**Education:** Juris Doctorate, Valparaiso University School of Law

**Family:** Mother Ellen Hart and brother Aaron Hart, both of Menard County, sister (and half-marathon running partner) Tamara Gearhart of Oklahoma and I am the proud aunt of Lydia, Corinn and Wes

**Affiliations/community activities:** Illinois Women in Leadership, Women for Women, Young Philanthropists, Central Illinois Women's Bar Association, Sangamon County Bar Association, Illinois State Bar Association, Emerging Lawyers, Land of Lincoln Legal Aid Board of Directors, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Lincoln-Douglas Inn of Court, Lincoln Memorial Garden Foundation Board of Directors, Springfield Road Runners Club, Springfield Triathlon Club, Springfield Bicycle Club

**What led you to your current career?** I have always been drawn to helping people. I began my working life as an aide at a nursing home during high school, completed internships for my sociology degree with the elderly and was naturally drawn to elder law and estate planning as a result.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** I give back through pro bono services to clients otherwise unable to pay. I also volunteer with community organizations through board service, committee involvement and grassroots efforts related to the empowerment of women and girls.

**What has been your greatest professional achievement to date?** The US District Court for the Central District of Illinois appointed me as counsel to an inmate who had filed a civil rights action against the medical staff of the correctional facility in which he was housed. After a three-day jury trial, I obtained a \$300,000 verdict on behalf of the inmate.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** It has taught me a lot about gratitude, adapting and preserving. I was in Scotland when the travel bans were announced and had to self-quarantine upon my return, causing me to adjust to the new normal with no real ability to prepare in advance. I am thankful to my friends, family and partners for the multiple front porch drops of files and sustenance, and particularly for Brian Lee and his driveway visits to help me keep my sanity.



All of us at  
Scott and Scott, P.C.  
congratulate  
Pamela Hart  
on the honor  
of becoming  
a member of the

**FORTY**  
UNDER **40** 2020

**SCOTT & SCOTT, P.C.**

Please call Pamela for  
legal needs and representation.

Estate Planning  
Elder Law  
Business and Probate Matters  
Family Law

611 E Monroe St #200 | Springfield, IL 62701  
(217) 753-8200  
scottandscottlaw.com

Family-Owned and Operated Law Firm in Springfield, Illinois  
Since 1947





## Morgan Nessler

**Age:** 37

**Occupation:** Deputy director of state investments and banking, Illinois State Treasurer's Office

**Email:** morgan.nessler@me.com

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts in English, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

**Family:** Husband Jonathan and sons Sam, Benny and Jake

**Affiliations/community activities:** Young Philanthropists, Downtown Springfield Inc., Leadership Springfield, Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln scholarship subcommittees

**What led to your current career?** Love and fatherly advice. After college, instead of returning to my hometown near Chicago, I wanted to remain near my boyfriend (now husband) while he finished law school. I also had no idea what kind of job I wanted. My father recommended banking as an option. I applied for a part-time teller position and was instead hired as a licensed personal banker.

**What obstacles have you been able to overcome on your career path?** As I did not have any background in finance or economics, my desire to help people served as motivation to capitalize on and seek out learning opportunities to equip me with the right tools to help customers meet their financial needs in the early years of my career. As a working parent, I have also endured some emotional obstacles. There were multiple times where I questioned my career path and felt overwhelmed with a sense of unfulfillment. I have been able to pull through those challenges with the love, support and encouragement of my husband and family.

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started this path?** During college I was filled with a lot of uncertainty about my career and changed my major multiple times without any vision of my post-college professional life. I would reassure my younger self that everything will work itself out and make sense. Be patient, seek out opportunities to learn and improve your skill set, and don't judge your accomplishments by comparing yourself to others.

**What has been your greatest professional achievement to date?** The opportunity to work for the Illinois State Treasurer's Office. I feel a great sense of pride in public service and the meaningfulness of the work we do every day for the people of Illinois.



## Kimberly Paskiewicz

**Age:** 40 (at time of publication)

**Occupation:** Administrator, Specialty Services at Memorial Health System

**Email:** paskiewicz.kimberly@mhsil.com

**Education:** Master of Public Health, registered and licensed dietitian

**Family:** Husband Todd, daughter Georgia and sons Reagan and Frederick

**Affiliations/community activities:** Member of the American College of Healthcare Executives, ASPS Panniculectomy & Abdominoplasty Clinical Practice Guideline committee, Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, BJC Collaborative Virtual Care Council, Illinois Women in Leadership, Medical Group Management Association, Weight Management Public Policy committee, local church finance committee and local church Kids Life teacher.

**What is your guiding principal in life?** Love God above all else and love your neighbor as yourself.

**What led you to your current career?** I have always wanted to work in health care and wholeheartedly believe in the mission of improving health for the people and communities we serve. I have had the opportunity to continue to grow and serve in various roles at Memorial over the past 12 years with the organization.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** I would like to be in community with others and participate alongside fellow Springfield residents in supporting our community's efforts toward improving health. I also enjoy giving back by teaching youth about the Lord and participating at my local church.

**What obstacles have you been able to overcome on your career path?** I have been able to overcome feelings of self-doubt on my career path and to be more courageous and step out of my comfort to accomplish the work at hand.

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** I wish I would have known to believe in myself and abilities and to have faith and trust God, the path and the process.

**What has been your greatest professional achievement to date?** My greatest achievement to date has been to lead an incredible group of individuals over the years who have collectively accomplished so many impactful programs and services to those we serve. To see the impact and patients' lives changed is so rewarding.



## Matt Price

**Age:** 37

**Occupation:** Human resources director, St. John's Hospital and St. Francis Hospital

**Email:** Matt.Price@hshs.org

**Education:** Master of Business Administration, Benedictine University

**Family:** Wife Stacie and daughter Maylie

**Affiliations/community activities:** 100+ Who Care in Springfield board member, Downtown Springfield Inc. board member, Society for Human Resource Management,

Leadership Springfield, volunteer leadership coach for local nonprofits

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** I hope that Springfield continues to build a reputation as a family-friendly community while establishing itself as a destination for culture, entertainment, business and history, and also as a community that cares for green spaces and promotes social interactions between all people.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** I believe we can make the greatest impact by offering our strengths and focusing our energy in the areas that pique our interest. Following this approach, I would like to give back to the community by helping nonprofit leaders reach their potential through coaching to ensure they successfully serve the community.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** This year has reminded all of us how delicate the world of today is and how quickly it can change. Even though the events that have transpired over the first six months of 2020 have been challenging, it's also been a welcome reminder of the importance of relationships and doing what we can to help each other.

**What is your guiding principal in life?** Each day I try to follow the principals of valuing people and relationships, being grateful and positive and always being kind.



## Kolin O'Brien

**Age:** 34

**Occupation:** Financial adviser, Equitable Advisor

**Email:** kolin.obrien@equitable.com

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in economics, SIU Carbondale

**Family:** Wife Mallory and daughters Maggie and Stella

**Activities/Community Involvement:** President of Contact Ministries and former president of the Springfield St. Patrick's Day Parade

**What is your guiding principal in life?** To help people. That's why I chose a career in financial services — to help people and businesses with complex, financial decisions that affect them not only in the present, but also in the future. That's also why I'm active in the community, so I that I can help great organizations like Contact Ministries provide invaluable services to the people in our community that need it most.

**What led you to your current career?** Being a financial adviser is the family business as an O'Brien. My dad has been in the industry for 40 plus years and my grandpa before him.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** I would like to give my time and energy back to Springfield and the community, putting in the work to make Springfield a better place.

**What has been your greatest professional achievement to date?** I don't know about professional career, but the greatest thing I've done in my life is to marry my high school sweetheart and have two beautiful girls.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** The events of 2020 have affected all of us. I feel terrible for those that have lost loved ones or have been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. I have been blessed that no one in my immediate family has been affected; it's given me a lot of time to put things into perspective and spend quality time with the ones I love.

sponsored by





## Megan Peck

Age: 38

**Occupation:** Vice president governmental relations, Community Bankers Association of Illinois

**Email:** meganp@cbaill.com

**Education:** Master's degree in political science, University of Illinois Springfield

**Family:** Husband Ed, daughters Eliza and Campbell and son Mark

**Affiliations/Community Activities:** Woodside Township trustee, Ambassador of Hope, member of the Family Advisory Board for St. John's Children's Hospital, Developmental Committee for the Ronald

McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois member; Blessed Sacrament School volunteer

**What is your guiding principal in life?** To just always be kind. As Maya Angelou wrote, "People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

**What led to your current career?** After college, my mom told me about an internship that she thought I would be interested in, so I applied and was accepted into the Illinois Legislative Staff Intern Program (ILSIP). It is a 10-month internship with a legislative caucus at the state capitol. It was a phenomenal experience and I learned so much about the legislative and governmental process. After working on staff for three years, I was hired by the Community Bankers Association of Illinois to become their vice president governmental relations, where I lobby on behalf of our members at the state level. I would highly recommend the ILSIP to any college graduates interested in state government.

**What is my greatest hope for Springfield?** I have lived in Springfield my entire life because I love it here. I hope Springfield continues to be a great place to live and raise a family. With that, I hope Springfield expands opportunities to younger professionals and small business owners, making it an inviting and exciting community.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** I am very passionate about Springfield and giving back to my hometown that I love so much. I hope that by volunteering time, energy and resources to the many wonderful organizations spread throughout Springfield, that I am a small part of the continued successes within the community. We are incredibly blessed to have such vital organizations and institutions such as the NICU at St. John's Hospital, the Ronald McDonald House and Hope, to name a few. They do so much for so many and we have to keep giving back to keep them in Springfield.



## Tina Prather

Age: 31

**Occupation:** Marketing and community representative for Home Instead Senior Care

**Email:** tina.prather@homeinstead.com

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in sign language interpreting and business, MacMurray College

**Family:** Husband Andrew and dog Canon

**Affiliations/community activities:** Illinois Women in Leadership, Menard County Jaycees, Springfield First United Methodist Church, Marketing Senior Lifestyles

**What led you to your current career?** Previously, I worked in fundraising for the Alzheimer's Association. While managing their Walk to End Alzheimer's events, I saw many families who were struggling to provide care for their loved ones. My next step to Home Instead just made sense because I can see the difference we are making in the lives of seniors and their families.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** I would like to give back the professional and personal guidance that I received from so many over the years. I started my professional career here, and many people helped me grow and learn. I hope they know how much I appreciate them, and I'd like to give back to new and emerging professionals in the same way.

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** Don't stress about making plans because it will all work out. When I was in college, I thought I would become a sign language interpreter. That was not the path that I ended up on, and I wouldn't change it for the world!

**What has been your greatest professional achievement to date?** Home Instead has hit milestone after milestone over my two years here. I am so proud to be a part of this team of passionate people.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** Watching the community, and especially the health care community, step up has been amazing. We care for seniors, a high-risk population for COVID-19, and our staff have really gone above and beyond to keep them safe. The support from the community at large for our local seniors has been amazing.



**EQUITABLE ADVISORS**

Equitable Advisors is proud to congratulate

**Kolin O'Brien**

on being named one of Springfield Business Journal's

**40 Under 40**

Kolin.O'Brien@equitable.com | www.chicago.equitableadvisors.com  
4341 Acer Grove Dr., Suite 400C | Springfield, IL, 62711 | (217) 546-4665

Equitable Advisors, LLC, member FINRA/SIPC. AGE-154210 (6/20) (Exp. 6/22)

**Congratulations**

**Tina Prather**

For being chosen as one of Springfield Business Journal's 2020

**FORTY UNDER 40** 2020



**Home Instead SENIOR CARE**  
To us, it's personal.

**Tina Prather**  
Marketing and Community Representative

2055 W Iles, Suite H | Springfield, IL 62704 | 217-547-1300  
www.homeinstead.com/762



# CONGRATULATIONS JACK O'HARA

Chief Information Officer  
at Springfield Clinic

**FORTY  
UNDER 40** 2020

**Springfield  
clinic**

A COMMUNITY OF CARING



## Jack O'Hara

**Age:** 32

**Occupation:** Chief information officer and vice president, Springfield Clinic

**Email:** johara@springfieldclinic.com

**Education:** Master of Business Administration and Master of Science, Cornell University

**Family:** Wife Kelly and baby O'Hara, who will be here in August

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** At one of the first meetings I had with all of the health system leadership in the area, I was completely amazed at the collaboration and the strong partnership between all of the organizations. We all have the same goal of providing a great experience and quality health care. I truly believe that between the strong community partnerships, unbelievable physicians and providers and the advances in technology, we will be able to have one of the healthiest communities in Illinois.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** After undergraduate school, I joined a program at a large engineering company called the STAR program. This program offered me technology training, mentorship, extensive networking and a full-time position. It set me up on a much faster career trajectory. I would like to partner with local high schools and universities to create technology career paths for local students by providing a very similar program. Setting up this program would help to increase the economic stability of Springfield, while also creating a mini-tech hub with a focus on health care.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** One year ago, I completed my MBA/MS, then got married, took a new job, moved from New York City to Springfield, then one of the most surreal events of our lifetime happened in COVID-19. And, in two months I will have my first child. It has been a whirlwind, to say the least. However, the COVID-19 crisis has had a silver lining for Springfield Clinic, as we embraced the challenge and have been providing even better health care services. We launched telehealth services in just a few weeks, where an implementation of that magnitude might otherwise take up to 12 months. We are on a remarkable trajectory, and I am so excited for how our improved technology will help people.



CONGRATULATIONS

## BLAKE PRYOR

SPRINGFIELD BUSINESS JOURNAL'S  
40 UNDER 40



Coldwell Banker Commercial®  
Devonshire Realty is proud to  
congratulate Blake Pryor on  
being named to the Springfield  
Business Journal's 40 Under  
40 for 2020.

Blake has been involved in  
commercial real estate, sales,  
and leasing since early 2012.

Call us today to see how Blake  
can help you achieve your  
Commercial Real Estate Goals!

COLDWELL BANKER COMMERCIAL DEVONSHIRE REALTY  
201 W. Springfield Ave. 11th Floor, Champaign, IL 61822  
217-352-7712 217-547-6650



## Blake Pryor

**Age:** 28

**Occupation:** Commercial real estate adviser/broker, Coldwell Banker Commercial-Devonshire Realty (CBCDR)

**Email:** bpryor@cbcdr.com

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in finance, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

**Family:** Parents William A. and Andrea Pryor, sister Natalie Pryor and lady friend Ashley Welker

**Affiliations/community activities:** M.E.R.C.Y. Communities, Inc. board member, Downtown Springfield, Inc. board member, vice chairman and past committee member of Commercial Real Estate Network, Friend of Illinois Innocence Project, member of Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce, International Council of Shopping Centers, National and Illinois Association of REALTORS® and Capital Area REALTORS®.

**What is your guiding principle in life?** I always strive to maintain objectivity. A family friend used to say, "Do not cry over someone that will not cry over you," which has helped me navigate through many different life scenarios.

**What led you to your current career?** I worked as an intern for CBCDR in Springfield and Champaign before graduating college. I enjoyed the business and the culture so much that I decided to get my license shortly after graduation. I have been in commercial real estate full-time ever since.

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** I hope for a change in perception. Our home is a community of self-starters and talented individuals looking to make Springfield a better place. It is also family-oriented and affordable, so building a life here is very attractive. Since there are few degrees of separation for any given person, you will usually have a friend who will take an interest in you and is willing to help you anywhere you go. The same probably cannot be said about the bigger cities.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** The events of this year have brought to life how important it is to be an expert in my field. Many business and property owners have questions about their usage of real estate. More than anything, I try to stick to what I can control, which is my attitude and ability to identify opportunities.



## Joshua Seed

**Age:** 39

**Occupation:** Licensing administrator, Illinois Liquor Control Commission, Illinois National Air Guard

**Education:** Bachelor of Arts in business management and a Bachelor in Business Administration, University of Illinois Springfield

**Family:** Girlfriend Kayla and children Matthias and Kolton

**Affiliations/Community activities:** Twenty years in the Air National Guard with multiple deployments including Afghanistan and Kuwait, Jr Vice Commander and former chaplain of VFW

Post 755. Involved with 11 Habitat for Humanity home builds, president of the West Road Home Owners Neighborhood Association, youth sports team coach, Illinois Military Youth Explorers Program, Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Illinois Federation of Public Employees, Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States, National Guard Association of Illinois, 217th Alumni, Non-Commissioned Officers Association Alumni, AF Rising 6, Team Red, White and Blue.

**What is your guiding principal in life?** My faith, family, integrity, excellence in all I do and service before self.

**What led you to your current career path?** I wanted to stay closer to my family when I was stateside and wasn't deployed. I transitioned from my union electrician career to a career helping business owners become licensed to conduct business in Illinois.

**What obstacles have you been able to overcome on your career path?** Because of my military service, there were many semesters I had to put college and my life on hold. While trying to reach my goals, I was in the IBEW apprenticeship program, working full time, going to UIS full time, in the Air Guard part time and volunteering as much as I could sneak in with multiple organizations.

**What has been your greatest professional achievement to date?** My greatest professional achievement has been being afforded the opportunity and honor to serve my country for 20 years both abroad and stateside.

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** My greatest hope for society is for people to invest more in their family, mentorship, leadership, community involvement and, most of all, trying to leave everything better than we find it.



## Courtney R. Wick

**Age:** 38

**Occupation:** Art therapist, Hope

**Email:** cwick@hope.us

**Education:** Master of Arts in clinical human development counseling

**Family:** Husband Ian and pets Lola, Lancelot, Paris, Trixie, Esmeralda, Cat, Stevie, Chalupa Batman and Swim Shady. Also, Dan.

**Affiliations/community activities:** Hope, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Illinois, The Muni, Springfield Area Arts Council, Springfield Ballet Company, The Legacy Theatre, Springfield

Theatre Centre, Festival of Trees, Memorial Medical Foundation, Animal Protective League, WUIS National Public Radio pledge volunteer, Wick Tarot Parties performer

**What obstacles have you been able to overcome on your career path?** I have a learning disability and it took me 12 years and six colleges to finish my undergraduate degree. I never expected to go to university and never in a million years thought I would complete a master's program. Surround yourself with people who believe in you, because everyone's path is different.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** My main takeaway from this year has been how proud I am of the organization I work for, the people I surround myself with and the Black Lives Matter movement sweeping across our country. We are on the precipice of long-overdue societal change, and in a year that started out with us trapped in our homes, unseen and unheard, we are now a whole nation of voices chanting for justice. How it affected me in comparison to most is small, but it did remind me that the fight for the right to live looks very different depending on who and where you are. I can only hope we continue to evolve into a more compassionate and inclusive society.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** The dedicated group of people in the Springfield arts community have been like a family to me, and I hope one day to be able to repay them in some way. Until then, I'll continue to support our vibrant community by attending, engaging, volunteering, performing, creating and doing anything else I can to help grow new and exciting art opportunities.

# Congrats Courtney!



FROM YOUR HOPE FAMILY



## MAYFLOWER.

217-546-1711 • 1-800-225-3597

Underfanger Moving & Storage



Tom & Karen Paisley,  
Owner/Operators

Let Our  
Expertise And  
Experience  
Help Plan The  
**BEST Move**  
For You

ICC No. MC-2934 ILL CC 2934-MC

## Professional Women's Calendar of Events

*You play a key role and we thank you for your contributions to our community.*

### Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois (WE-CI)

WE-CI holds events on the second Wednesday of every month to promote networking and feature speakers with topics relevant to women in business today.

Join us Wednesday, July 8, at 1130 a.m. for a Zoom meeting on "Leading in Times of Crisis and Change" by Bev Neisler, a Certified John Maxwell Leadership Coach. Bev will discuss some major leadership themes that have evolved from the COVID-19 crisis and weave in some of Maxwell's observations on what makes a great leader during times of crisis.

Bev Neisler is the founder and CEO of the soon-to-be-launched business, Leadership411, your go-to source for learning how to lead. Bev also serves as the Chief Development Officer for HSHS St. John's Foundation. She holds a Master's Degree in Interpersonal Communications and is a Certified Fund Raising Executive.

The ZOOM link details will be posted closer to the event. Save the date for our next meeting Aug. 5, place and topic TBD as we navigate the special precautions around COVID-19.



To have your event added to the Women's Calendar of Events, please email your information to [info@springfieldbusinessjournal.com](mailto:info@springfieldbusinessjournal.com)



## FORTY UNDER 40





## Teri Taylor

**Age:** 40 (at time of publication)

**Occupation:** Director, Sikich LLP

**Email:** [teri.taylor@sikich.com](mailto:teri.taylor@sikich.com)

**Education:** Master of Accounting Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

**Family:** My parents, brother, sister-in-law, nephew and niece live in northern Illinois. Locally I have close friends who are like family, including my two "nieces" with whom I enjoy spending time.

**Affiliations/community activities:** Habitat for Humanity treasurer

**What is your guiding principal in life?** Keep moving forward – it is a phrase that has helped me push through marathons and half marathons and parallels professional and personal hurdles. When encountering challenges and setbacks, I persevere and don't give up.

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** I hope it gains a reputation as a welcoming and inclusive city with a variety of opportunities – interesting restaurants, access to the arts, etc. I hope it is viewed as a desirable location for visitors as well as those looking for a great community in which to live and work.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** I would like to give back a sense of pride in the community and a desire to help others.

**What has been your greatest professional achievement to date?** My greatest achievement is my role as a leader within my firm's nonprofit vertical. I enjoy the opportunity to share my knowledge and experiences with others on the team.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** Due to the pandemic and other events in 2020, I have prioritized time for the people and activities meaningful to me. While quarantine has had its challenges, it has also given me an opportunity to spend additional time with those important in my life and make memories that I will cherish.



## Mark Stephens

**Age:** 35

**Occupation:** Oral and maxillofacial surgeon, Oral and Facial Surgeons of Illinois

**Email:** [mstephens@ofsi.org](mailto:mstephens@ofsi.org)

**Education:** SIU School of Dental Medicine, Carle Foundation Hospital (internship in oral and maxillofacial surgery) and University of Arizona/Banner University Medical Center (residency)

**Family:** Wife Karina and daughters Kinley and Isla

**Affiliations/community activities:** American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons, American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, American Dental Society of Anesthesiology, Illinois State Dental Society, GV Black Dental Society board member, SIU School of Medicine Congenital Head and Neck Anomalies Clinic, Memorial and HSHS St. Johns Hospital, Mission of Mercy volunteer

**What is your guiding principal in life?** Treat others as you would like to be treated and stay humble.

**What led to your current career?** I had an interest in both dentistry and medicine and loved to work with my hands. Oral surgery allows me to use a combination of all three facets everyday.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** This year's events have made me appreciate the little things in life, especially time spent with family, and to not stress about things that are out of my control.

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** I envision Springfield continuing to develop the businesses, attractions and opportunities necessary to retain residents and attract new people to the area.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** I hope to continue to provide excellent patient care to the area and be a leader in the medical and dental community.



**FORTY**  
UNDER **40** 2020

Sikich LLP is excited to congratulate Teri Taylor on being selected for the 2020 Springfield Business Journal's 40 Under 40. To learn more about how Teri and Sikich can assist your business, contact us today.

 **SIKICH**®

ACCOUNTING TECHNOLOGY ADVISORY

217.793.3363 SIKICH.COM



## Jeff Large

**Age:** 36

**Occupation:** Project structural engineer, Crawford, Murphy & Tilly

**Email:** jlarge@cmtengr.com

**Education:** Master of Science, civil engineering, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

**Family:** Wife Kate and children David, Alice and Rose

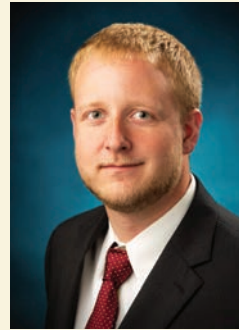
**Affiliations/community activities:** Illinois Engineering Initiative chairman, Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois board member, Illinois Society of Professional Engineers past president

**What is your guiding principal in life?** I have always had a mindset of putting the needs of others before my own.

**What led you to your current career?** While growing up, I was always helping my dad and grandpa work on different projects around the family farm. That hands-on experience, and my interest in math and science, naturally pushed me toward pursuing a degree in engineering. I was hired as an intern at IDOT after my freshman year of college, and from that work experience I decided to pursue civil engineering.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** I enjoy volunteering through the Ronald McDonald House and United Way. Additionally, the Illinois Engineering Initiative is focused on retaining the engineering talent that we have as a state. I would like to take advantage of this resource locally to improve upon STEM education and programs available to our middle and high school students.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** The events have been a lesson in being ready for the unexpected. The pandemic forced three major areas of my life – family, work and school – into a single environment. Managing all of these in a single location was daunting, but it forced us to be more creative with our daily schedule and more focused on the tasks that needed to be done each day. The protests of police brutality and systemic racism have been eye-opening in the sense that we still have a long way to go as a society. Individually, it has given me a strong desire to listen, learn and support individuals and communities that have suffered from unjust treatment.



## James Waymack

**Age:** 38

**Occupation:** Program director, emergency medicine residency program, Department of Emergency Medicine, SIU School of Medicine. Emergency medicine physician at Memorial Medical Center and Taylorville Memorial Hospital

**Email:** jwaymack@siu-med.edu

**Education:** Doctor of Medicine, Southern Illinois University and Emergency Medicine Residency, SIU School of Medicine and affiliate hospitals

**Family:** Wife Kimberly and children Madeline and James

**Affiliations/community activities:** Lakeside Christian Church,

volunteer physician with Springfield Police Department Emergency Response Team, American College of Emergency Physicians committee member for Disaster Preparedness and Response.

**What led you to your current career?** My mother was a nurse so I was exposed to medicine early in life and always considered it a future profession. Throughout my childhood I was very involved in the Boy Scouts of America, which led to many teaching and leadership opportunities. After high school, I considered several career paths and enrolled in an EMT class. While attending community college and working in an emergency room, I decided that I wanted to be an emergency physician. I transferred to WIU and then entered medical school at SIU. My mentors in residency training were very supportive and guided me into my current role. All of these past experiences, relationships and support have led me to, and prepared me for, my current role as a teacher and leader in graduate medical education.

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** I hope that the city continues to grow and expand as a down-state leader in health care, education and other professional fields and provides opportunities for residents of central and southern Illinois to enter and advance in their chosen careers.

**What would you like to give back to your community?** My goal is to contribute to the health and safety of our community and develop future physicians who provide high-quality emergency care to the residents of central and southern Illinois.

**What has been your greatest professional achievement to date?** I am honored and humbled to be in my current position as the residency program director. Working alongside our faculty and staff to guide resident physicians through their specialty training is a privilege.



# Congratulations to the 2020 Forty under 40 honorees!



We are here for you.

[www.securitybk.com](http://www.securitybk.com)

217-789-3500

[support@securitybk.com](mailto:support@securitybk.com)

#banklocal





It's hard to get noticed. We can help.


**commercials | testimonials**  
**product demos | music videos | training videos**

 **Crowdson Creative Video Production**  
 for businesses and non-profits  
 217.299.8801  
 www.CrowdsonCreative.com



**New issue available now on stands and online at**  
[captialcityregeneration.com](http://captialcityregeneration.com)


**CONGRATULATIONS to Todd Wood!**



Todd Wood  
VP Lending  
United Community Bank

UCB congratulates Todd and all the 40 Under Forty recipients. We are proud of you Todd!

**UCB**

**787-3000**  
**UCBbank.com** 

*The Leader of Community Banking*

# FORTY UNDER 40 2020



**Haley A. Williams**  
 Age: 30  
 Occupation: Director of membership and executive services, Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies  
 Email: [hwilson@iacaanet.org](mailto:hwilson@iacaanet.org)  
 Education: Pursuing a master's degree in strategic brand communications, University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana  
 Family: Husband Erik and son Erik Jr.  
 Affiliations/community activities: Helping Hands of Springfield advisory team, Illinois Women in Leadership member, St. John's Breadline volunteer, former vice president of Illinois Women in Communications-Benedictine Chapter, Springfield School District 186 volunteer.

**What is your guiding principal in life?** You will never please every person. Continue to develop your own personal character without the influence of what others think you should be.

**What led you to your current career?** I truly enjoy helping people and feeling as if I am making an impact on my community. I have always gravitated toward nonprofit work.

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** That a thoughtful and urgent agenda be put forth in an effort to unify our capital city and remove policies and practices that negatively impact disadvantaged and marginalized communities.

**What would you like your life to look like in five years? 10?** Within five years I would like to continue my growth within my community. I would like to dive deeper into training, management, marketing and graphic design in order to develop a portfolio. In 10 years, I would like to be a respected leader in my community.

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** To be patient and let things fall into place. Learn not to stress over things that you cannot control.



**Todd Wood**  
 Age: 39  
 Occupation: Vice president of lending, United Community Bank  
 Email: [twood@ucbbank.com](mailto:twood@ucbbank.com)  
 Education: Business Administration, UIS  
 Family: Daughter Kylinn and parents Gary and Mary Jo  
 Affiliations/community activities: Springfield Ball Charter School board member, United Way Vision Council, American Business Club, Illinois Real Estate Title Center board member, former Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Leadership Springfield board member

**What is your guiding principal in life?** Always be prepared. You never know when a new opportunity may present itself. Make a career of living a happy life.

**What led you to your current career?** I love meeting new people and community banking is largely based on building long-lasting relationships. My goal is to create that personal relationship with each of our customers.

**What is your greatest hope for Springfield?** I view Springfield as a great place to raise a family. My greatest hope for this community would be to see it continue to evolve and adapt in a positive direction. I would also love to see better opportunities created in the community to which our talented, local college graduates can return.

**What do you wish your younger self had known when you started on this path?** I have always tried to look forward and live life without any regrets, but I would tell my younger self that life is hard. There will be difficult times, but you're stronger than you think. Keep pressing on and dream big.

**How have the events of this year affected you?** They have reinforced the importance of the relationships with family and friends.