



## News release

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### EY announces Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2017 Greater Los Angeles Awards semifinalists

**LOS ANGELES, March 29, 2017** – EY today announced semifinalists for the Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2017 Awards in the [Greater Los Angeles](#) program. As the world's most prestigious business awards program for entrepreneurs, Entrepreneur Of The Year recognizes innovative trailblazers in more than 145 cities in 60 countries who are excelling in areas such as innovation, financial performance, and personal commitment to their businesses and communities. The semifinalists listed below were selected by a panel of independent judges from nearly 60 business leaders nominated. Finalists will be announced May 8, and winners will be revealed at a black-tie awards gala on Thursday, June 15 hosted by FOX 11 News anchor Christine Devine at The Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills, California.

### Semifinalists

- **24Hr HomeCare** | David Allerby, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Tyner Brenneman-Slay, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, and Ryan Iwamoto, Co-Founder and Chief Marketing Officer | Los Angeles, California
- **Berkley International** | Eric Berkley, Co-Founder and President, and Jeff Berkley, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer | Carson, CA
- **Capriotti's Sandwich Shop, Inc.** | Ashley Morris, Chief Executive Officer, and Jason Smylie, President | Las Vegas, Nevada
- **Chef'd** | Kyle Ransford, Founder and Chief Executive Officer | El Segundo, California
- **Cherokee Global Brands** | Henry Ian Stupp, Chief Executive Officer | Sherman Oaks, California
- **Chrome River Technologies, Inc.** | Alan Rich, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer | Los Angeles, California
- **Clipper Corporation** | Lina Hu, Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer | Carson, California
- **Cloudbreak Health, LLC** | Jamey Edwards, Chief Executive Officer | El Segundo, California
- **Coolhaus** | Natasha Case, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer | Culver City, California

- **Cypress Creek Renewables** | Matt McGovern, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, and Mike Cohen, Co-Founder and President | Santa Monica, California
- **DECO Lighting** | Benjamin Pouladian, President, and Sam Sinai, Chief Executive Officer | Commerce, California
- **Direct Relief** | Thomas Tighe, President and Chief Executive Officer | Goleta, California
- **Evite** | Victor Cho, Chief Executive Officer | Los Angeles, California
- **FabFitFun** | Daniel Asher Broukhim, Co-Founder and Co-Chief Executive Officer, Michael Barouch Broukhim, Co-Founder and Co-Chief Executive Officer, and Katie Rosen Kitchens, Co-Founder and Editor-in-Chief | Los Angeles, California
- **Factual** | Gil Elbaz, Founder and Chief Executive Officer | Los Angeles, California
- **FreedomPop** | Stephen Stokols, Chief Executive Officer | Los Angeles, California
- **Gelt, Inc.** | Keith Wasserman, Founder and President | Tarzana, California
- **HATCHBEAUTY Products, LLC.** | Tracy Holland, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Los Angeles, California
- **Hawthorne** | Jessica Hawthorne-Castro, Chief Executive Officer and Owner | Los Angeles, California
- **Imprenta Communications Group** | Ron W. Wong, President and Chief Executive Officer | Los Angeles, California
- **inMarket** | Todd Dipaola, Chief Executive Officer | Venice, California
- **Inspire Energy Holdings LLC** | Patrick Maloney, Founder and Chief Executive Officer | Santa Monica, California
- **KabaFusion** | Dr. Sohail Masood, President and Chief Executive Officer | Cerritos, California
- **Los York** | Dex Deboree, Co-Founder, and Seth Epstein, Co-Founder | Santa Monica, California
- **Micro Quality Labs Inc.** | Karine Aylozyan, Chief Executive Officer and Q.A. Technical Director | Burbank, California
- **Omaze** | Ryan Cummins, Co-Founder and Co-Chief Executive Officer, and Matt Pohlson, Co-Founder and Co-Chief Executive Officer | Los Angeles, California
- **Render Media** | Vic Belonogoff, Chief Executive Officer | Los Angeles, California
- **Ross Organic** | Stephanie Leshney, Chief Executive Officer and President, and Erin Coulter, Chief Operating Officer | Santa Fe Springs, California
- **ServiceTitan** | Ara Mahdessian, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer | Glendale, California
- **SmartyPants Vitamins** | Gordon Gould, Co-Founder and Co-Chief Executive Officer, and Courtney Nichols Gould, Co-Founder and Co-Chief Executive Officer | Marina del Rey, California
- **Soothe Inc.** | Merlin Kauffman, Chief Executive Officer and Founder | Hollywood, California
- **StackCommerce** | Josh Payne | Founder and Chief Executive Officer | Venice, California
- **TaskUs** | Bryce Maddock, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, and Jaspar Weir, Co-Founder and President | Santa Monica, California
- **The Agency** | Billy Rose, President, and Mauricio Umansky, Chief Executive Officer | Beverly Hills, California
- **The Bouqs Company** | John Tabis, Founder and Chief Executive Officer | Marina del Rey, California
- **The Camp Transformation Center** | Dr. Sam Bakhtiar, Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, and Alejandra Font, Co-Founder and Partner | Los Angeles, California

- **The Mobile Majority** | Rob Jonathan Emrich, Chief Executive Officer | Santa Monica, California
- **TrackR** | Chris Herbert, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, and Christian Johan Smith, Co-Founder and President | Santa Barbara, California
- **Xencor Inc.** | Bassil Dahiyat, Founder, Chief Executive Officer and President | Monrovia, California
- **Yamibuy** | Alex Zhou, Founder and Chief Executive Officer | City of Industry, California

To learn more about the Greater Los Angeles program, please visit [www.ey.com/us/eoy/greaterla](http://www.ey.com/us/eoy/greaterla). Join the conversation on social media by following us [@EY\\_EOYUS](https://twitter.com/EY_EOYUS) and using [#EOYGLA](https://twitter.com/hashtag/EOYGLA).

Regional award winners are eligible for consideration in the Entrepreneur Of The Year National Awards. Award winners in several national categories, as well as the Entrepreneur Of The Year National Overall Award winner, will be announced at the Entrepreneur Of The Year National Awards gala in Palm Springs, California, November 18, 2017. The awards are the culminating event of the Strategic Growth Forum™, the nation's most prestigious gathering of high-growth, market-leading companies. The Entrepreneur Of The Year National Overall Award winner moves on to compete for the World Entrepreneur Of The Year™ Award in Monaco in June 2018.

### **2017 Greater Los Angeles judging panel**

The independent judging panel includes previous award winners, leading CEOs and private capital investors, and other regional business luminaries. Thank you to our esteemed judges, including Chuck Davis,\* Chief Executive Officer, Prodege, LLC / Swagbucks; Marcia Goodstein, President and Chief Operating Officer, Idealab; Gabe Greenbaum, Partner, Pritzker Group; Jeri Harman, Managing Partner and Chief Executive Officer, Avante Mezzanine Partners; Brad Jones, Founder, Redpoint Ventures; Barry Levin,\* Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Snak King Corp.; Jamie Montgomery, Managing Director, March Capital Partners; Jason Nazar, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Comparably; Kara Nortman, Partner, Upfront Ventures; Kamran Pourzanjani,\*\* Chief Executive Officer, ClearRock Ventures; Julie Schoenfeld, President and Chief Executive Officer, Strobe, Inc.; Dana Settle, Co-Founder and Partner, Greycroft Partners; and Jeff Stibel,\* Vice Chairman, Dun & Bradstreet Credibility Corp.

\* Prior regional winner

\*\* Prior regional winner and national finalist

### **Sponsors**

Founded and produced by EY, the Entrepreneur Of The Year Awards are nationally sponsored in the US by SAP America, Merrill Corporation and the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. In Greater Los Angeles area, regional Gold sponsors include Tangram; Silver sponsors include Ballard Spahr, Cresa, HighTower Acacia Wealth Advisors and Vaco; media sponsor is CSQ; and public relations sponsor is Olmstead Williams Communications.

**About Entrepreneur Of The Year®**

Entrepreneur Of The Year® is the world's most prestigious business awards program for entrepreneurs, chosen from an independent panel of judges including entrepreneurs and prominent leaders from business, finance and the local community. The program makes a difference through the way it encourages entrepreneurial activity among those with potential and recognizes the contribution of people who inspire others with their vision, leadership and achievement. As the first and only truly global awards program of its kind, Entrepreneur Of The Year celebrates those who are building and leading successful, growing and dynamic businesses, recognizing them through regional, national and global awards programs in more than 145 cities in more than 60 countries.

**About EY's Growth Markets Network**

EY's worldwide Growth Markets Network is dedicated to serving the changing needs of high-growth companies. For more than 30 years, we've helped many of the world's most dynamic and ambitious companies grow into market leaders. Whether working with international mid-cap companies or early stage, venture-backed businesses, our professionals draw upon their extensive experience, insight and global resources to help your business succeed. For more information, please visit us at [ey.com/sgm](http://ey.com/sgm) or follow our news on Twitter [@EY\\_Growth](https://twitter.com/EY_Growth).

**About EY**

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