

**Financial News**

Press Release

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**Finalists for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year(R) Award Announced in Northern California**

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**- Award Winners Named at Gala Event on June 16, 2006 -**

SAN JOSE, Calif., May 23 /PRNewswire/ -- Ernst & Young LLP today announced the finalists for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2006 award in Northern California. This year's 29 finalists were selected from over 60 nominations by an independent judging panel composed of business, academic and civic leaders. Award winners will be announced at a special 20th anniversary gala event on June 16, 2006 at the San Francisco Fairmont Hotel.

"This year's finalists are true visionaries who have contributed to economic growth, innovation, and cutting-edge products and services," said Rick Fezell, Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year program director for the Northern California region. "We proudly celebrate their achievements as we mark the 20th anniversary of this prestigious awards program."

2006 Lifetime Achievement Honoree

Thomas LaTour  
Kimpton Hotel & Restaurant GroupNorthern California Ernst & Young  
Entrepreneur Of The Year 2006 Finalists

- Pamela Marrone, Founder, AgraQuest, Inc.
- Ron Geraty, President and CEO, Alere Medical, Inc.
- Kraig Clark, COO and Co-Founder, CoreLogic
- Steven E. Schroeder, CEO and Co-Founder, CoreLogic
- Kirk Loevner, Chairman and CEO, Epocrates, Inc.
- Keith R. Guericke, President and CEO, Essex Property Trust, Inc.
- Ken Xie, Co-Founder, President and CEO, Fortinet
- Michael Xie, Co-Founder and CTO, Fortinet
- Andrew Housser, Co-Founder and Co-CEO, Freedom Financial Network, LLC
- Bradford Stroh, Co-Founder and Co-CEO, Freedom Financial Network, LLC
- Mike Faith, Founder, President and CEO, Headsets.com
- Alan Tripp, Founder and CEO, InsideTrack, Inc.
- Ken Denman, Chairman, President and CEO, iPass, Inc.
- Larry Bawden, Co-Founder, President and CEO, Jadoo Power Systems
- Lee Arikara, Co-Founder and VP Business Development, Jadoo Power Systems
- Richard W. Mott, President and CEO, Kyphon, Inc.
- Patrick Lo, Chairman and CEO, NETGEAR
- Amy Errett, CEO, Olivia
- Judy Dlugacz, Founder and President, Olivia
- Marty Allen, President and CEO, Party America
- Gary Steele, CEO, Proofpoint, Inc.
- Jeffrey Housenbold, President and CEO, Shutterfly, Inc.
- Frank Addante, Founder, StrongMail Systems
- Jeff Fluhr, Founder and CEO, StubHub
- Robert Huang, Founder, President and CEO, SYNEX Corporation
- Thomas S. Wu, Chairman, President and CEO, United Commercial Bank
- Paul Afshar, Founder and CEO, Unitek

- Jonna A. Ward, Founder, President and CEO, Visionary Integration Professionals, LLC (VIP)
- Steve King, President and CEO, ZANTAZ

Northern California award winners will be eligible for consideration for the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year 2006 national program. Winners in several national categories, as well as the overall national Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year award winner, will be announced at the annual awards gala in Palm Springs, California on November 18, 2006.

The Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year awards program celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and continues to recognize the leaders and visionaries who are creating and building world-class businesses. Awards are given to entrepreneurs who have demonstrated excellence and extraordinary success in such areas as innovation, financial performance, and personal commitment to their businesses and communities.

#### Sponsors

Founded and produced by Ernst & Young LLP, the Entrepreneur Of The Year award program is nationally sponsored by the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. In Northern California, local sponsors include Union Bank of California, SHIFT Communications, The Big Picture, and Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati.

#### Contact Information

To make reservations for the awards banquet on June 16, 2006, contact Cheri Devlin, Program Manager of Ernst & Young at 415-894-8037 or [cheri.devlin@ey.com](mailto:cheri.devlin@ey.com) by June 9, 2006. Tickets are \$225 per person. For more information about the awards program, visit [www.ey.com/us/eoy](http://www.ey.com/us/eoy).

#### About the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year Awards

The Entrepreneur Of The Year® awards program was created and is produced by professional services firm Ernst & Young LLP. As the first award of its kind, the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year award recognizes outstanding entrepreneurs who are building and leading dynamic and growing businesses. The program honors entrepreneurs through regional, national and global award programs in over 100 cities and 35 countries.

#### About Ernst & Young

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