

rising stars ★ FEBRUARY 13, 2014 ★ ★ ★



FENELLA KIM
 Founder & CEO
 Reliance Star Payment Services

As Founder & CEO of Reliance Star Payment Services, Fenella Kim is responsible for company business planning, execution, and successful growth. With an Electrical Power Engineering Degree she is a graduate of Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses. She brings over 10 years experience as a Certified Payment Professional (CPP) from Sales, Customer Service, Technical Support, Recruiting, Product Development, Management, Operations, Underwriting, Risk Management and Business Planning.

Kim is fluent in five languages and dialects. She is a member of Women President Organization (WPO), actively involved with the Women's Network in Electronic Transactions (WNET) and Asian Women In Business (AWIB). Aside from being a successful entrepreneur she enjoys spending her time with her two kids.

With her leadership the company was awarded numerous awards and accolades and is one of the fastest growing companies in the United States. Keys to her success have been emphasizing the importance of hiring "best of the best" executives in the industry and making sure clients are provided with exceptional service. She continues to empower her team by supporting their career growth and challenge the status quo to achieve exceptional results.

VLADIMIR LACKOVIC

Co-founder
 Digital Natives Group

Vladimir Lackovic is co-founder of Digital Natives Group, a digital agency in one of New York's creative capitals, Long Island City. In addition to diverse client work in branding, social, mobile, and web, Digital Natives Group is the producer of Whisper, a communications platform for school districts. As operations director, his work includes project management for several high profile clients, coordination with a multinational team, and management of an active internship program.

Prior to Digital Natives Group, Lackovic worked as Vice President of Sales for an nutrition firm, and at various positions within the hospitality industry. He is an entrepreneurship management graduate of Baruch College, where he served as the vice president of the undergraduate student body. Born and raised in Slovakia, Lackovic has been a resident of Sunnyside since 2007.



EUN CHONG (EJ) THORSEN, ESQ.
 Attorney

Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP

Known for her sharp instincts and "big picture" perspective, Eun Chong ("EJ") Thorsen, 30, always makes it her aim to "bring something to the table."

A general civil litigation attorney at Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP, she is a tireless advocate on behalf of clients, including in the areas of commercial and employment litigation, matrimonial and family law, and trusts and estate litigation. Her favorite motto — "fortune favors the bold" — captures not only the determination and compassion with which she represents her clients, but the enthusiasm and diligence with which she serves her community.

She serves as the Corresponding Secretary of the Queens County Women's Bar Association (QCWBA), and as this year's Gala Co-Chair for the Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater New York (KALAGNY), among her memberships in professional bar associations.

As a tribute to her mentors and to give back to our youth, Thorsen also serves on the Board of Directors and as the Vice President of Internal Affairs for the Korean American Youth Foundation (KAYF), a Flushing-based organization dedicated to inspiring Korean-American youth to become successful, civic-minded citizens and community leaders. In addition to coordinating events, career forums and speaking panels for KAYF students, she regularly participates in mentoring programs for middle school students, law students and younger attorneys.

An advocate of equality for all, including for the LGBT community; Thorsen helped produce an award-winning short documentary entitled *Left Out in America: Legislating Love, Life and LGBT* (2010) challenging the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act of 1996. As a board member of the Judges and Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert (JALBCA), she is also in charge of coordinating free JALBCA-sponsored mammography vans in areas near Queens courthouses, and helps to spread information on breast cancer awareness and early detection.



Save the Date
Rising Stars Awards & Networking Event
 5 to 8 p.m. at
 Terrace on the Park
 Thursday, February 13