



### **Jim Watry**

Chief Operating Officer

Texas Live!

Jim Watry comes to Arlington with decades of experience in the dining, entertainment and hospitality industry. Upon joining The Cordish Companies

in 2007, Jim first served as District Manager of the Company's Power & Light District, a dynamic 9 block dining, entertainment, retail, residential, lifestyle and office district in the heart of downtown Kansas City, MO.

More recently, Jim served as Chief Operating Officer of Ballpark Village, a sports-anchored dining and entertainment district developed in partnership between The Cordish Companies and St. Louis Cardinals. Due to the success of Ballpark Village under Jim's leadership since opening in 2014, a \$260 million second phase was recently announced for the project. The 700,000 square foot expansion will complete a full built out of Clark Street, transforming it into a vibrant 24/7 urban neighborhood for downtown St. Louis. Plans for the expansion include a 29-story luxury residential tower, One Cardinal Way, the first new construction Class A-Office Building in downtown in over a generation anchored by PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), an upscale Live! by Loews hotel, and a three-story retail pavilion just north of the existing Busch II Infield and Event Plaza anchored by Onelife Fitness, a nationally recognized, state-of-the-art health and fitness club.

Jim has a long history of community involvement and has worked closely with several local organizations while in St. Louis including the St. Louis Convention and Visitors Commission and Downtown STL, Inc. Jim served on the board of BASE Foundation, Downtown STL and the St. Louis Sports Commission, as well as the Kirkwood/Des Peres Area Chamber of Commerce from 2005 to 2007. In Kansas City he was an active member of the Kansas City Sertoma Club, The Kansas City Regional Advisory Council and the FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association.

A native of St. Louis, Jim graduated from the University of Central Missouri with a Bachelor's degree in Hotel and Restaurant Administration. He earned the first level introductory Sommelier designation in 2003 and second level certified Sommelier designation in 2006.



### **Dr. David Lu**

Vice President, SDN Platform & Systems

AT&T Labs

David Lu, Vice President, SDN Platform & Systems, is currently responsible for development and engineering of AT&T next generation ECOMP platform and open source ECOMP (ONAP) to enable AT&T network virtualization (SDN) and target OSS/BSS transformation including API, micro-services, policy control & orchestration, hyper-automation, and advanced data analytics. He leads an organization with more than 3,000 people across the globe.

David is a well-respected leader in large scale, and real time software architecture and development, network performance and traffic management, work flow and policy-controlled automation, large databases and big data implementation/mining/analytics, machine learning, artificial intelligence, software reliability and quality, and network operations process engineering. He has led major software platform transformation initiatives from sales to network/service delivery/assurance, and billing platforms. Examples of his achievements include large scale platforms he has led and engineered that process annually: 984 Trillion network performance events and 348 Billion alarms with 99.99%+ automation; 60 Million dispatches with 14.4 Billion automated manual steps; and over 90 Billion API transactions.

Since joining AT&T Bell Labs in 1987, he has served in various leadership positions at AT&T. He has led numerous automation initiatives in AT&T that resulted in multi-billion dollar savings in the past 15 years and won AT&T the CIO 100 Award in 2010. He holds 43 patents and has frequently appeared as a guest speaker at technical and leadership seminars and conferences throughout the world. He received numerous industry awards including the 2015 Chairman's Award from IEEE Communication Society for Network and Systems Quality and Reliability and 2017 CIE AAEOY (Asian America Engineer of Year) Award. He has also been very active in community organizations and activities including AT&T APCA, DFW-CIE, and DFW Asian American Chamber of Commerce. He was recognized by AT&T APCA with the 2015 Corporate Leadership Award.

He was accepted to the world-renowned Shanghai Conservatory of Music and came to the U.S. to complete his college education. He has an undergraduate degree in Music, majoring in cello performance and graduate degree in Computer Science.



**Peter Bheda**

CEO

Frontera Hotel Group

A fearless and dynamic leader, revered in the highest stature by his team of associates and investors, Peter brings with him over forty years of global

hospitality experience with a proven track record for streamlining hotel operations through product enhancement and human asset development. Upon taking the helm of any organization, Peter zealously provides unwavering commitment and direction to the corporation and to the professionals he represents.

His innate desire for excellence and his infectious yearning for growth filter down to each and every subordinate he leads. During his 5 year tenure as the Senior Vice President of Operations for Highgate Hotels, he was instrumental in bringing 13 more hotels in the portfolio. While overseeing multiple acquisitions and brand conversions, one of his properties was privileged to bag the distinction of being the “Finest Westin Conversion Award,” honored by Starwood hotels. All these in addition to having direct and indirect responsibility for 32 combined assets, whose total revenue for 2008 exceeded \$1.6 billion, with total asset valued at \$4.6 billion.



**Jollyn Mwisongo**

CEO & President

ACARI Management Group

Jollyn Mwisongo is the President & CEO of ACARI Management Group, Inc., which is based in Arlington, Texas. She has over 15 years of experience working in the Program Management | Construction

Management, and Diversity Program industries. Ms. Mwisongo has planned, implemented, coordinated, and directed M/WBE programs ranging from small construction projects, to billion dollar projects throughout the DFW Metroplex.

Ms. Mwisongo earned her B.A. in Law and MBA in Finance from Bangalore University. She also completed an ACCA certificate in Contracts Compliance. Jollyn has been the recipient of the Luna Rising Star Firm Award from the Regional Hispanic Contractors’ Association (2012), the Quest for Success Award from the Dallas Black Chamber of Commerce (2013), the Emerging Leaders Award for the U.S.

Small Business Administration (2013), the Diversity Champion of the Year Award from the Regional Black Contractors’ Association (2017), and most recently the Luna Established Service Firm of the Year Award from the Regional Hispanic Contractors’ Association (2017).

Ms. Mwisongo and her husband, Charles Bell, live in Arlington with their two daughters. Jollyn enjoys volunteering in her community and playing tennis with her husband in her spare time.



**Nikky Phinyawatana**

Owner

EnjoyMint

Nikky Phinyawatana is a visionary entrepreneur - the creator and owner of Dallas’ highly acclaimed, award-winning Asian Mint Restaurants and her newest high-tech,

millennial inspired concept, EnjoyMint. Asian Mint was awarded Dallas Eater’s #1 Best Thai Food and Culture Map’s Top 100 Restaurants. Asian Mint has received accolades from USA Today, Zagat, TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence, Dallas Observer, and D Magazine’s Reader’s Choice Award for Best Thai Restaurant. Chef Nikky infuses love and passion into her innovative Asian Fusion menus, as well as her dedication to philanthropic work. She is a member of Les Dames d’Escoffier International, which provides mentorship and scholarships for the next wave of women culinary students, and a Board of Trustee Member of the Texas Restaurant Association Education Foundation.

Nikky was the recipient of the Women That Soar Award for “Business Award 2017.” The event was broadcasted nationally as part of the Women That Soar 10th Anniversary television program. The eWomen Network awarded Nikky with “Business Matchmaker of the Year” the same year. She also cooked at the James Beard House Foundation in New York City to preparing a special dinner celebrating Loy Krathong, Thailand’s lunar festival.

Nikky grew up in Bangkok, Thailand and ventured to Dallas, Texas where she graduated from Hockaday in 1996. She received her Bachelors in Business Administration majoring in Entrepreneur Studies and Marketing from Babson College, in Wellesley, Massachusetts. She attended El Centro College Culinary School in Dallas, Texas. Nikky and her husband reside in Dallas with their two beautiful children.

The next chapter for Nikky includes the launch of her new streaming tv show titled “Nikky Feeding Souls” where she will be sharing tips from her upcoming cookbook, her travel

videos from exotic places around the world, and more insight to her busy life.

Follow her @NikkyFeedingSouls on all social media platforms and subscribe to Nikky Feeding Souls on her new YouTube channel.



**Valencia Bivens**

Vice President of Marketing Central Zone

Coca Cola

Valencia Bivens is the Vice-President of Marketing – Central Zone and leads and develops a team of Marketing Managers. Her team delivers strategic value to National/Regional

Foodservice customers by; developing beverage/business strategies, providing actionable industry knowledge and insights and developing custom marketing initiatives leveraging Coca-Cola brands to drive volume and brand health.

Valencia has partnered with well-established customers such as Whataburger, Dave & Buster’s, On the Border, Wingstop, Chili’s, Potbelly, Pie Five and Raising Cane’s.

Prior to Coca-Cola, Valencia gained her breadth of experience working in diverse industries. As a Sr. Director at Blockbuster, Valencia managed multi-cultural marketing, promotions, loyalty/CRM marketing and strategic planning. She gained Brand management experience with Dr Pepper and Diageo – the world’s largest spirits manufacturer. She had the pleasure of managing notable brands such as Canada Dry and Malibu Rum. Valencia Valencia also understands the rewards and challenges of entrepreneurship as the founder of Fresh Perspective Marketing where she consulted with Radio Shack, Red Mango Frozen Yogurt and The Tom Joyner Foundation.

Valencia is a graduate of the University of Southern California – Go Trojans! She is a Consortium for Graduate Studies Fellow and graduated from the University of Texas in Austin receiving an MBA in Marketing.

Valencia resides in Frisco, Tx with her husband, Kevin and puppy, Maggie.



**Larry Fowler**

Attorney

Pope, Hardwicke, Christie, Schell, Kelly & Taplett, LLP

Mr. Fowler grew up in Parker County, Texas, just to the west of Fort Worth, where his Father is still the Sheriff. He graduated from Weatherford

High School in 1978. He went on to graduate from Texas Wesleyan University with a B.S. (cum laude) in 1982, and received a law degree from Texas Tech University (cum laude) in 1985. He has practiced law continuously in Arlington since 1985. He is currently an attorney with the law firm of Pope, Hardwicke, Christie, Schell, Kelly & Taplett L.L.P. with offices in Globe Life Park, and was recently named as one of Tarrant County’s outstanding lawyers. Mr. Fowler is married to his wife Melody, and has three children. Melody is an instructor at Tarrant County College Southeast Campus and serves on the AISD Board of Trustees. Since beginning his law practice in Arlington in 1985, Mr. Fowler has been active in the Arlington community serving on Citizens Bond Package Review Committees, the Board of Directors for the Arlington Bar Association and currently serves as the President of the Board of Directors of the River Legacy Foundation and is a Director on the Board of Directors of Children’s Toys Inc. (Arlington Margarita Ball Society). He is a past Chairman of the Arlington Planning and Zoning Commission, the immediate past Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Greater Arlington Chamber of Commerce, and was named the 2017 Outstanding Volunteer for the City of Arlington by the Arlington City Council.



**Sheena Lin**

General Manager

YU USA Corporation

Ms. Lin, a Taiwanese immigrant to the United States, has built a 2-person company quietly nestled in a suburb of Portland, Oregon into a 20-person organization based in Addison, Texas that encompasses retail, wholesale and

real estate businesses in China, Malaysia and the UK. With her demanding schedules from work, Sheena and her husband Patrick manage to raise three beautiful children and enjoy the roles of parents.





**Mei Miao**

SVP/Regional Multicultural Banking Officer

BB&T Bank

Born and raised in Taiwan, I had a degree in Banking & Insurance before I came to Texas to study and graduated from University of Texas at

Dallas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, concentration in Accounting. I've been in banking for 25 years: From accounting department, retail banking, commercial lending to the current position as Regional Multicultural Banking Officer at BB&T Bank.

I love people and I love helping people. Banking has been the tool and resource for me to reach out to various Ethnic groups and local communities to share financial knowledge for a brighter future.

I'm a current board member of Multi-Ethnic Education Development Center, US Christian Chamber of Commerce, Asian American Cohesion Foundation, UTD Diversity Council, US Mexican Chamber-SW Chapter.



**Robert Liang**

Founder/Owner

West One Products

Robert Liang, founder and owner of West One Products is an award-winning manufacturer. Liang, with his mechanical engineering degree,

began his career in Taiwan manufacturing juvenile furniture for the world market. His fine attention to detail and beautiful lacquered finish laminated wood stock provided exciting designs, quality furniture and on-time delivery. "I was so proud and honored to be the winner of 2015 Top Ten Asian American Business Award. This remarkable recognition has helped West One Products to become a Walmart Store Inc. supplier since 2016." said Robert Liang.



**Kim Cummings**

Assistant Vice President

BNSF

Kim Cummings, SCP, SPHR is assistant vice president, Human Resources and Diversity at BNSF Railway1. In this role, Kim has responsibility for BNSF Railway's diversity and inclusion efforts. She also

provides leadership to the HR matrix teams supporting Law, Compliance and Audit Services, and Technology Services. Kim splits her time on several boards that include: the University of Texas Arlington Human Resource Advisory Board, Girls Inc. of Tarrant County, the National Association of Asian American Professionals (NAAAP), the Source of Hope and the DFW Multicultural Alliance.

Kim has spent over 20 years in leadership roles encouraging and promoting employee engagement in companies that include Belo (Broadcast Media), Burger King Corporation, Dell and Target Corporation. Kim has received numerous community service and is a leadership recipient of the 2012 "HR Professional of the Year" designation by Ogletree Deakins Law Firm and the Dallas Chamber of Commerce, 2015 DiversityFIRST™ Award from the National Diversity Council and named 2016 Texas Most Powerful Business Women by Texas Diversity Magazine.

Kim received her Bachelor degree in Social Work from Texas State University graduating from the University's Emerging Leader program and was inducted into Who's Who in College & Universities students. Kim received her Master degree from the University of Texas at Austin. She holds a Senior Professional designation in Human Resources and certified employee relations credentials. Kim is a professional member of the Fort Worth Human Resources Group and National Society of Human Resource Management.

In her spare time, Kim participates in marathons, teaches Human Resources Certification courses, volunteers with the Dallas Women's Foundation – Orchid Giving Circle, Meed Center YouLead Global Youth Leadership program, Chinese Institute of Engineers/USA-DFW, Grapevine/Colleyville School District Diversity Advisory Council, United Way of Tarrant County, and speaks at local universities on the topics of diversity and human resources. Kim Cummings, SCP, SPHR is assistant vice president, Human Resources and Diversity at BNSF Railway1. In this role, Kim has responsibility for BNSF Railway's diversity and inclusion efforts. She also provides leadership to the HR matrix teams supporting Law, Compliance and Audit Services, and Technology Services. Kim splits her time on several boards that include: the University of Texas Arlington Human

Resource Advisory Board, Girls Inc. of Tarrant County, the National Association of Asian American Professionals (NAAAP), the Source of Hope and the DFW Multicultural Alliance.

executive community service chair for AMPD (American Muslim Professionals of Dallas.), and the UT Arlington HCAD Alumni President.

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**Maisam Ilewi**

Project Manager of Office of Diversity & Inclusion

JPS Health & Network

Maisam Ilewi is the diversity and inclusion project manager at JPS Health Network, where she leads the supplier diversity initiatives.

She currently serves as a corporate board advisor for the USPAACC-SW on behalf of JPS Health Network. Ilewi holds a bachelor’s degree in biology and a minor in communications as well as a master’s degree in health care administration from The University of Texas at Arlington. As an undergraduate, Ilewi serves as the vice president for UNICEF at UTA, where she helped develop the first UTA-UNICEF tap water project that provided safe drinking water for children in need. Ilewi’s passion for Healthcare and the community flourished as she served as the