

**MARY J. CASTEL**

Mary is the Director of Business Development and Communications and a Partner of Urban Strategies Inc., a Toronto-based urban design and planning consultancy that is leading some of the largest and most complex master plans, real estate developments, and land use policy in the Toronto area, across North America, and internationally. Her work involves linking many disciplines, diverse communities, places and strategic initiatives, all to create better urban environments. She founded the Urban Strategies Academy, a collaborative employee education program that acts as a knowledge accelerator and cultural incubator. She is a Champion of the Women's Leadership Initiative and was recently Co-Chair, Communications for the Urban Land Institute Toronto Chapter. She's founder of her local Neighbourhood Association, helping amplify the diversity of cultures, history and opportunities that make up the area, and has held various roles on the Parent Council of her children's public schools. Originally from BC, she studied at the University of Victoria and Queen's University and has lived in Toronto since 1997. She joined the MNjcc in 2022 and is very excited to be part of the Board of Directors.

**SUSAN DAVIS (NEW)**

Susan retired late in 2023 from Sinai Health Foundation as its VP Governance and CAO. There she drove and managed the very busy and effective work of its committees and Board of Directors for over a decade. Susan has had a varied work experience, including her first job at the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva in the early 1980s; leading JIAS Canada during its settlement of many Jewish families from the former Soviet Union and from the wars in Yugoslavia; leading as Director of War Crimes and Public Security at Canada Border Services during and after 9.11. She was part of a three-person team which wrote the report "Not Just Numbers" for the then Minister of Immigration, preceding the drafting of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act. These are highlights of a long and so-called career. Susan considers the strong basis for her career her earliest work experience from the age of nine, in her parents' small department store in Saint John, New Brunswick, through to completion of law school. Susan has a BA (Honours) and a LL.B. from Dalhousie University. She has an LL.M. from the University of London (the L.S.E.). She lives in mid-town with her spouse. Together they have three children and seven grandchildren.

**NATALIE FINGERHUT**

Natalie is an editor at New Jewish Press and in the Humanities Division at the University of Toronto Press. Before publishing, she worked in management consulting and technical communications. She holds a Master's degree in History from the University of Toronto and a B.A. from Sarah Lawrence College. Natalie previously served on the Board of Directors at the MNjcc in 2008 for two terms and was co-chair of the Programming Committee. Currently, Natalie is the co-chair of the Downtown Jewish Community Council. In 2017, she received a Shem Tov Award from UJA in recognition of her commitment to the Jewish Community. Her recent volunteer efforts include outreach work at Ve'ahavta and at the Interfaith Response to Poverty. She is the mother of two MNjcc Nursery School alumni.

**STEVEN FRIEDMAN • TREASURER**

Steven is a self-employed accountant, servicing owner-managed businesses primarily in real estate and film production industries. Previously he held a position as a Senior VP of a property management and real estate development company. Steven obtained his Graduate Diploma in Accountancy at McGill University and subsequently CPA and CFP designations. His volunteer activities consist of long-term involvement with Toronto Jewish Free Loan where he held various positions including President, and as Treasurer of Mariposa in the Schools and Canadian Physicians for Aid and Relief (CPAR). The Bloor Y/MNjcc has been an important part of Steven's life throughout the years.

**NATALIE GEFFEN**

Natalie Geffen is a dynamic, creative and impactful community builder, connector and problem solver, happiest when connecting people. At Georgian, she leads and supports executive working groups in the Growth Network - a community designed to give Georgian companies the insight, information and collaborative opportunities they need to accelerate business success. In her previous role as the Community Experience Manager at Coralus, Natalie worked with a global network of women + non-binary entrepreneurs, industry leaders, investors and organizations committed to addressing the pressing issues of our time and providing support for early-stage entrepreneurs. Before joining Coralus, she led special events and development at the Art Gallery of Ontario, as well as a number of professional and volunteer roles in social work, event management, food services and project management.

**YONI GOLDSTEIN**

Yoni Goldstein is a writer and journalist. His work has appeared in many Canadian publications, including The Canadian Jewish News, where he was until recently editor-in-chief. In 2020, Yoni spearheaded The CJN's successful revival. He lives in downtown Toronto with his wife and two children.

**AARON D. GRANDE**

Aaron is Vice President of the Capital Advisory team at Generation PMCA Corp. Aaron works with corporate clients offering a range of financing and advisory services. In addition, Generation provides discretionary managed accounts on behalf of individuals and institutions. Aaron has held positions with several independent financial services organizations, beginning in 1999. Aaron graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. He had the privilege to represent Canada in the 2013 Maccabiah Games. Most important to Aaron is his family. Aaron, Paula, and their wonderful daughter live in mid-town Toronto.

**DARNEL HARRIS**

Darnel is Executive Director of Our Greenway, a non-profit focused on connecting businesses, decision-makers and residents with the safe infrastructure, micromobility tools and knowledge they need to animate places and seize new opportunities sustainably. Initially focused on creating a practical linear park network in northwest Toronto, Darnel also now coordinates efforts to harmonize micromobility regulations and enable adoption of cargo cycles at scale across North America. Darnel has a decade of experience working at the crossroads of affordable housing, healthy food and practical local mobility. A seasoned speaker, writer and published researcher, he has been featured by Ontario's Ministry of Municipal Affairs, Toronto Life, Globe and Mail, CBC and TVO's The Agenda, as well as holding the role of Visiting Scholar at York University's CITY Institute since 2020. Apart from cargo cycles, Darnel enjoys soccer - both playing and writing about the Canadian Premier League!

## **DENNIS HAU**

Dennis finds the most satisfying part of being a Corporate Development Analyst at Peerage is the breadth and depth of knowledge he is exposed to through daily interactions with his colleagues and the management teams of Peerage's partner companies. The most exciting part, he says, is the opportunity to research companies across a variety of industries and contribute to the investment decision-making process, which constantly feeds his curiosity and excitement for learning. Dennis excels at performing complex financial analysis and turning it into practical, actionable information to guide Peerage and its partners on a wide variety of business decisions. Dennis graduated from the Schulich School of Business at York University in 2012, with an Honours Bachelor of Business Administration degree specializing in Accounting and Finance and has worked at Peerage Capital and Peerage Realty since December 2016. Before joining the Peerage team, Dennis worked at Pricewaterhouse Coopers in NY and Toronto as a Senior Associate leading audits of asset management and technology clients. He has also worked at Veritas Investment Research, conducting market research, financial modeling, and drafting research reports. Dennis enjoys being able to juggle several projects using his business acumen and work ethic to achieve results. Dennis is also a CFA charter holder and a Chartered Professional Accountant.

## **BEN KATZ • PRESIDENT**

Ben is a member of Goldblatt Partners labour law group. Ben's practice focuses on representing individuals and unions in all aspects of labour law, emphasising the construction industry. He represents clients before boards of arbitration and other administrative tribunals, including the Ontario Labour Relations Board. In addition, as a former national athlete, Ben acts in sports-related disputes for both athletes and sports organizations. Ben received a First Class LLB from the City University of London and was the recipient of the International Scholar Award. During law school, Ben worked at a civil litigation firm and was editor of the United Kingdom Student Law Review. Ben brings experience and passion to his representation of the interests of individuals, unions and their members. Prior to attending law school, Ben received a Master of Industrial Relations at the University of Toronto and worked for an international trade union where he represented the union in all matters of collective bargaining, including multiple appearances before interest arbitration boards. When not in the office, Ben can be found on a basketball court attempting to maintain the three-point shot that led him to represent Canada on the national basketball team.

## **MILES S. NADAL**

An entrepreneur, businessman and philanthropist known for his innovative professional partnerships and generous community involvement, Miles Nadal's leadership style inspires the cultural values at the core of each organization he is involved with. Mr. Nadal credits his mother with being the inspiration for his belief that anything is possible. He established Action Photographics at 18 years old and drove to expand it until it evolved into MDC Partners Inc., which became one of the largest marketing and communications companies in the world. Mr. Nadal has created a total of \$6 billion in shareholder value for all of the companies he has started or led due to his determination to partner with exceptional management teams and actively engage their mutual talents. Now as the Founder, Chairman and CEO of Peerage Capital Group, Mr. Nadal focuses on long-term investing in high-quality assets. His growing network of partner companies employs over 1,000 people in real estate and real estate services, asset management, financial services, aviation services, and private equity investing, with a total of \$7.5 billion in assets. Miles and his family have given keystone gifts to MNjcc and to the Koenigsberg & Nadal Interactive Media Center at the University of Miami. He provided the lead gift for the Miles Nadal Heart Centre at Mt. Sinai Hospital, the Miles S. Nadal Management Centre at York University, and the Miles S. Nadal Institute for Technological Entrepreneurship at Tel Aviv University. Miles gifted funds to create the Miles & Kelly Nadal Youth Centre, a Toronto Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club facility for at-risk youth and has given generously to the Global Medical Relief Fund and Operation Smile, along with contributions to scholarships, parks, and medical research.

## **BRIAN PUKIER**

Brian is a corporate lawyer and partner with the law firm Stikeman Elliott LLP, whose practice is focused on mergers & acquisitions, corporate finance and public policy work. He has extensive experience in counselling senior management and boards of directors of leading private and public companies. Early in his career, Brian worked in the Hong Kong and Budapest offices of Stikeman Elliott. Brian and his wife Joanne are the parents of three young adult children, ranging in age from 19-24. Brian has spent much of the last 35+ years at or near Bloor & Spadina, having attended the University of Toronto between 1985 and 1992, and with children attending the Paul Penna DJDS from 2004-2016. Two of Brian's children have been swim instructors at the MNjcc. Between 2007 and 2011, Brian was on the board of directors of PPDJDS. Brian is a frequent speaker and writer on various M&A and corporate governance topics and is a member of the board of directors of Computershare Trust Company of Canada.

## **ZACH ROHER • SECRETARY**

Zach is a seasoned Real Estate Development Project Manager at Ripple Developments. With an extensive background in the industry, he adeptly oversees on-site construction operations, all while playing a pivotal role in the intricate financial analysis and underwriting of prospective acquisitions for future development projects. An integral part of his life, Zach is proud to be a third-generation member of the MNjcc (Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre), where he has fostered lifelong connections and contributed significantly to the community. As a dedicated volunteer, Zach remains actively engaged with Micah Homes, a non-profit, affordable housing organization. He has also lent his expertise to the MNjcc, actively working to enhance the facility upgrades and anything real estate related.

## **MICHAEL WOLFE**

Michael has over 30 years' experience in finance, accounting, private equity and business valuation and has also served as a director for several private and public companies, including as a member of audit and other independent committees. He is currently the CFO of Mind Cure Health Inc., a CSE listed company, and was previously CFO of several mid-market Canadian companies including Baylin Technologies Inc., a TSX listed company in the wire communications industry. Michael is a director of Small Pharma Inc., a TSXV listed biotechnology company researching and developing short-acting psychedelics with therapy for under-served mental health conditions. He also has a successful track record in acquisitions, management buyouts, growth financings and recapitalizations in diverse industries such as cable, broadcast, manufacturing, insurance, oil field services and global logistics, through his work as General Partner at VenGrowth Capital Partners Inc. Michael holds a CPA, CA designation, a Chartered Business Valuator designation, an MBA from McMaster University and a BA (Business and Economics) from the University of Western Ontario.