



KNOX COUNTY
TENNESSEE

Charme Allen

**District Attorney General
Knox County**

Charme P. Allen is a veteran prosecutor with nearly 30 years of experience with the Office of the Knox County District Attorney General. In 2014, General Allen was elected as the District Attorney General of the 6th Judicial District, and she is honored with the distinction of being the first female elected to this position in the history of Knox County.

Following in the footsteps of her law enforcement family from Georgia, General Allen earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice from West Georgia College in 1987 and her Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law in 1990. Soon thereafter she became a full-time Assistant District Attorney General, pursuing her passion of seeking justice and helping victims of crimes, with a special emphasis on child abuse prosecution for the majority of her career.

General Allen relies upon her lifelong experience with law enforcement to pursue a multi-dimensional approach to prosecution. Her model for successful prosecution not only involves enforcing the law and seeking punishment for crime, but it also requires a dedication to the prevention of crime at its source in our community. Since taking office, General Allen has implemented many new policies and procedures, and has created teams of special prosecution units as well as a Community Affairs Unit in order to achieve her goal of being “Tough on Crime, Smart on Prevention.”

While overseeing a staff of more than 80 professionals, General Allen’s role as the county’s top law enforcement officer has given her the opportunity to address criminal justice issues on a larger scale. Much of her time as D.A. is gladly devoted to working in the community, discussing and addressing a wide variety of topics related to the justice system and public safety.



Colleen Cruze Bhatti

Owner
Cruze Farms

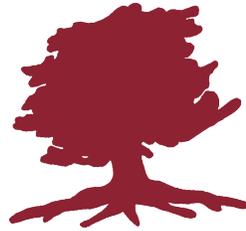
Colleen Cruze Bhatti, the driving force behind Cruze Farm's dairy products, has pioneered as the first woman to lead her family's successful dairy farm. She earned a B.S. in agricultural science from the University of Tennessee College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources in 2011, and since graduation, has used both innovation and marketing expertise to transform the farm's dairy products into one of Knoxville's most well-known brands. She credits her education as a factor that helped her do it.

During a childhood on her family's fifth generation dairy farm, Cruze Bhatti mastered dairy production and processing early, learning all about milking cows and bottling milk from her parents, Earl and Cheri. As a teen, she scooped ice cream at a local farmer's market. As a college student, she often returned home on the weekends to help at the dairy. Then, after completing her degree at UT, she applied her college education to her family's business, expanding the farm's bottling operation into a larger scale milk distribution service.

Area customers revere Cruze Farm's fresh pasteurized milk and buttermilk, along with often surprising flavors of ice cream. All are produced with milk from cows that graze on pasture 365 days a year. Cruze Bhatti's innovations in recent years include selling ice cream in a vividly decorated food truck. In 2017, she and husband Manjit Bhatti opened a pop-up store downtown near Knoxville's Market Square. The pop-up quickly became a destination for ice cream lovers. Later last year, the couple launched a brick-and-mortar ice cream shop. It was joined early this year with a pizza barn that features mozzarella her husband developed and flavorful fermented dough developed by a veteran from Blackberry Farm. The ice cream shop and adjoining barn are in the southeast Knox County Asbury community, the very community where her grandparents met and farmed. The location brings Cruze Bhatti's operations full circle.

Today, Cruze Farm distributes its dairy products in Knoxville, Chattanooga, Nashville, and the Tri-Cities. The farm sells premium soft serve ice cream at its storefront and employs around 30 fellow Knoxvilleans. Employees feature a signature look of matching red lipstick and red gingham dresses with coordinating attire for men. Cruze Bhatti's use of social media has attracted 18,900 followers on Facebook and high numbers, also, on Instagram and Twitter.

Cruze Bhatti and her husband are raising their children, Amery and William, on the family dairy farm in hope that they will carry on the family business another generation. In 2005, the Cruze family placed a conservation easement on the property to assist it in becoming a "forever farm."



FIRST
CENTURY
BANK

Shanna Browning
Portfolio Manager & Community
Outreach Specialist
First Century Bank

Shanna Browning has been in the financial industry for over 28 years, and currently works as a portfolio manager and community outreach specialist for First Century Bank. Outside of her work in industry finance, Shanna also teaches a financial wellness class at the University of Tennessee each semester.

Shanna is also an incredibly involved community volunteer. She is the immediate past president and current board member of Dogwood Arts, board member and campaign cabinet member for United Way of Greater Knoxville, the co-chair for Festival on Market Square, the volunteer coordinator for the Big Kahuna Wing Fest, on the volunteer committee for Southern Skies Music Festival, and a volunteer for numerous other non-profits in her spare time.



Dino Cartwright

Marketing & Promotion Dinomite Events

Dino Cartwright has spent nearly 30 years in television advertising, public relations, marketing and promotions, 26 of those with WVLT, Knoxville's CBS affiliate. His tireless enthusiasm has helped raise brand awareness and create heightened visibility and reach for hundreds of corporations, small businesses and nonprofits across the East Tennessee region. He is also a master event planner and renowned emcee, bringing his passion and energy to countless worthy causes across the community. That's because the word 'no' has never been a part of Dino's vocabulary as his philanthropic spirit is always at the ready to share his talent and energy in giving back to make a real difference in the lives of others.

Currently, Dino leads marketing, promotion, social media and community engagement efforts for the White family conglomerate of business ventures that include, Lexus of Knoxville, Toyota Knoxville, Ted Russell Ford, Secret City Jeep, Bridgewater Place and Regas Square downtown development.

Growing up in a Navy family, Dino was born in Athens, Greece (born Constantino) and spent his youth living across Europe. His family moved to Kingston, Jamaica, where he graduated from high school before moving to the United States in 1989 to attend Carson Newman College.

In his downtime, Dino serves on numerous nonprofit committees, including United Way of Great Knoxville, Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, Friends of Literacy, Dogwood Arts, Knoxville Advertising Federation, The Chairman's Club, L5 Foundation & Knoxville American Marketing Association to name a few.

You can also find Dino enjoying the arts and culture of the vibrant city he calls home, often with his rescue dog, Oliver, tagging along.



Louis Fernandez

**News & Sports Journalist
WBIR**

Louis Fernandez is a sports and news reporter/anchor for WBIR in Knoxville, Tennessee. Louis moved to Knoxville during the summer of 2016 after graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill with a degree in media and journalism. He's spent the past few years in East Tennessee covering the Vols as well as local high school teams, while sharing the stories and experiences from people all around the area. He anchors the evening weekend shows on Channel 10. He's covered all kinds of events, from the State of the State to the NCAA tournament, traveling to all kinds of venues across the SEC.



Amanda Hara

Anchor & Executive Producer
WVLT

Amanda Hara is the Evening Anchor and Executive Producer of Digital Content at WVLT.

She is a dynamic, highly awarded storyteller with a diverse background that includes leading broadcast news teams, businesses and nonprofits to branding success across digital, mobile and social platforms. She has a track record for capitalizing on the power of emotion to drive engagement and thrives in fast paced environments that demand creativity, success and collaboration. Amanda is passionate about leading teams to create content that maximizes consumer engagement. She is the recipient of 4 regional Emmy Awards, 24 regional Emmy Award nominations, five Edward R. Murrow awards, and 14 Associated Press awards, including Best Anchor in Tennessee and Best Reporter in Tennessee.



Shea Kidd Houze

Dean of Students & Assistant Vice
Chancellor of Student Life
University of Tennessee

Originally from Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Shea Kidd Houze received a Bachelor of Arts degree in speech communication from the University of Southern Mississippi, a Master of Education in college student affairs administration from the University of Georgia, and a PhD in educational research from the University of Memphis, where her scholarship focused on racial identity development in African American college students.

For more than 10 years, Houze has enjoyed a career in college administration at a number of institutions of higher education in Georgia, South Carolina, Texas, Tennessee, and Mississippi. She currently serves as assistant vice chancellor for student life and dean of students and provides oversight to eight departments within the Division of Student Life.

Houze is a life member of the Southern Miss Alumni Association, serves as a faculty member for the Orientation Professional Institute, and is a co-lead facilitator for the LeaderShape Institute.



Lance Hull

Marketing Manager 21st Mortgage Corporation

Lance Hull's connection to the manufactured housing industry started when he joined Clayton Manufacturing in 1998. After running the company's Commercial Buildings Division, he was promoted to Vice President of Sales and Marketing. During his time with Clayton, the company successfully acquired and integrated some of the best manufacturing brands in the industry and was voted MHI's National Manufacturer of the Year for a record eight straight years.

In 2012, Lance joined one of Clayton's sister companies, 21st Mortgage Corporation. After developing the company's Communities Programs group, in 2015, Lance assumed the company's marketing lead as the National Director of Business Development and Marketing. In this capacity, Lance and his team serve the market by supporting the company's customers through a network of more than 2000 retailers and community groups nationally. Through these efforts, in 2019, 21st Mortgage originated more than \$1.8 billion in new and used home loans while helping more than 20,000 customers realize the dream and value of home ownership.

The most important things in Lance's life are his faith and his family. He and his wife Michelle live in Knoxville, TN and have two daughters. Lance is a graduate of the University of Tennessee where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He is an avid golfer and a not-so-avid tennis player and enjoys traveling whenever possible.



KNOX COUNTY
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Jane Jolley

**Community Engagement Director
Knox County**

Jane is originally from West Tennessee and attended the University of Tennessee at Martin. She served as Senior Field Director for U.S. Senator Bob Corker. During her tenure, she covered 3 of the 6 of his regional offices and represented 59 counties. At the completion of the Senator's term, she transitioned to local government and currently serves as the Community Engagement Director for Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. Working on the local level on issues such as workforce development presents many opportunities to create change where you live.

Jane is an alumna of the East Tennessee Regional Leadership Association and the FBI Citizens Academy.

She and her husband reside in Farragut. They have a daughter who works in DC and a son who is a Senior at the University of Tennessee.

Jane is an outdoor enthusiast with a keen passion for running and hiking.



Sarah Kuban

Programming Director
Discovery Inc. & Magnolia

Sarah Kuban is a programming executive for Discovery's joint venture with Magnolia, the home and lifestyle brand led by Chip and Joanna Gaines. In this role, she develops programming for the multiplatform media company that will comprise a linear television network and TV Everywhere app to be unveiled in Summer 2020. A subscription streaming service will debut at a later date

Kuban has developed programming for HGTV and DIY Network since 2012, originally joining Scripps Networks Interactive in a creative services role in 2010. As Director of Original Production and Development, she cultivated new series for the home-related networks, including Windy City Rehab, Say Yes to the Nest, Stone House Revival, Big Texas Fix, and Rock the Block.

Some of Kuban's other programming credits include the incredibly successful Crasher series, Beachfront Bargain Hunt, Hawaii Life, House Hunters International, My Lottery Dream Home, Tiny Paradise, and the American Rehab series. In addition, she took the groundbreaking DIY Network Blog Cabin series to new heights, breaking all previous on-air and online records.

Kuban began her career working in sports production with ESPN, ABC Sports and NBC Sports before moving into news. She produced at WLEX in Lexington, Ky. and at WJLA in Washington, D.C., where she helped facilitate the on-air promotional launch of POLITICO and earned an Emmy Award. She has produced several documentaries in East Africa. She holds a bachelor's degree from Asbury University and a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University.



Dave Miller

East Tennessee Region President First Horizon Bank.

Dave Miller is president of First Horizon Bank's East Tennessee region, the company's largest market with \$7 billion in deposits, \$3 billion in loans, and 480 employees. In each of the East Region's key markets – Knoxville, Maryville, Chattanooga, and the Tri-Cities – First Tennessee has a market-leading share position and is regularly recognized as the "Best Bank" by local publications. Dave also was awarded the top large company leader by the Knoxville News Sentinel in 2018.

During his 25-year career with First Horizon (previously branded as First Tennessee), Dave has held leadership roles in marketing and corporate strategy and investor relations, where he earned national honors from IR Magazine and Institutional Investor. Prior to his current role, he was executive vice president of consumer banking – the bank's retail, private client and wealth management segments – where he led a 7-year transformation of the business into one of the company's most profitable, including growing annual revenues to over \$500 million and ROE to over 20%.

He has been a member of the company's 15-member Executive Management Committee and other key leadership groups including Asset Liability, Credit Risk Management, Operational Risk, and Pension and Retirement Investment committees.

Dave believes strongly in strengthening the community, currently serving on the boards of Covenant Health, United Way of Greater Knoxville, Knoxville Chamber, Knoxville Symphony, YWCA Knoxville Foundation, Tennesseans for Quality Early Education (TQEE), and the First Tennessee Foundation. He is also graduate of Leadership Knoxville's Flagship and Introduction Knoxville programs (LK19/IK17).

Previously, Dave served on the boards of the Boys and Girls Clubs Tennessee Alliance, Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis, Memphis Symphony Orchestra, United Way of Greater Memphis, Better Business Bureau, Families Matter, and the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis.

He is a native of Buffalo, N.Y., and graduated summa cum laude from Harvard University. He is married to Sarah Echols Miller and has three children – two daughters and a son.



Cavanaugh Mims

President
Visionary Solutions LLC

Cavanaugh S. Mims is a proud Volunteer and dedicated supporter of UT. Since graduating with a BS in nuclear engineering in 1986, he has consistently answered the call to serve his alma mater through financial gifts and committee participation.

Mims is the president and founder of Visionary Solutions (VS), a Knoxville-based company specializing in transportation, logistics, and manufacturing for national and international governmental and commercial nuclear clients. Previously, he worked as a station nuclear engineer for the Tennessee Valley Authority and senior program/project manager for the US Department of Energy.

Mims has served as president of the UT Alumni Board of Directors and as a member of the Tickle College of Engineering Board of Advisors and Mentor Program, the Black Alumni Council, and the UT Chancellor's Associates.

During his time at UT, he was a participant in the Engineering Diversity Program (EDP) and has tirelessly championed the program as a campaign committee member for the EDP's Scholarship Endowment Campaign. He has made generous contributions to the endowment and his fundraising leadership helped the campaign reach its \$1 million goal in November 2018.

Mims is also active in the community, working to advance organizations like the Oak Ridge Children's Museum, the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley, Foster Chapel Baptist Church, and the American Museum of Science and Energy. Currently, he serves as chair of the Knoxville Area Urban League Board of Directors.

He is a graduate of Leadership Knoxville and was awarded the Outstanding Leadership Award as president of the East Tennessee Environmental Business Association in 2005.



Patricia Nash

Patricia Nash

**President & CEO
Patricia Nash Designs**

Patricia was born in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. Funny fact: she never lived there. Her parents lived in North Dakota and when her mother went into labor, she insisted on her husband driving her to Detroit Lakes so she could be born in Minnesota.

Patricia's father moved the family from North Dakota to Houston, TX in 1968 for work. During high school, Patricia worked hard and managed several commercial bakeries in Houston and developed a passion and skill for designing and baking cakes. After being rejected for a loan (due to her age) at 18 to open her own bakery "Patty Cakes", she took a few accounting courses at a local college in Houston. Fun fact: Her famous cakes with rich, buttercream icing are so delicious she gets special requests for and personally bakes every family member's birthday cake.

She soon married and later opened up a little shop called "The Basket Case" and sold basketry, wicker furniture and silk floral arrangements. That store expanded to three stores, but there was a massive fire while she was pregnant with her second child, so she decided to take some time off with her babies.

A few years later in 1986 she founded Innovo, Inc. which sold household items like aprons, kitchen trivets and children's items including craft paint sets, craft aprons, and little mugs. Patricia delved into the world of licenses when she acquired those for Major League Baseball and Football, Nickelodeon, Jim Henson's Muppets, and Disney. The company began to manufacture duffel bags, backpacks, and eventually handbags. Fun fact: Patricia Nash got high praise when she conceived the "Earth Bag" canvas tote bag that was made to replace plastic and paper bags at the grocery check-out line.

Patricia eventually took Innovo, Inc. public in 1998 and moved on to buying a company in Nashville that ended with lots of turmoil. Several years later and millions of dollars in lawsuits later, she moved to Knoxville after a well-known Knoxvillean, Sam Furrow, invested in Innovo. Then she began working on creating handbag designs for dozens of household brands. After an additional investment and acquisition was secured in LA the company and its board decided to headquarter the company in LA which was a move Patricia was not interested in pursuing and retired from the public environment. Fun fact: The company rebounded and is now a \$180 million publicly-traded company, where it operates today as Joe's Jeans.

Considering retirement, she was lured to New York City for a 3-year contract to build Marc Ecko Accessories' division, serving as President. After the 3-year stint, Patricia started Me & You Accessories to continue acting as a licensee for Ecko however the overall interest in the brand diminished and it became extremely challenging to market this brand to retailers and customers.

In 2010 Patricia Nash Designs was born when she discovered a niche of affordable, old world feel and look, hand-crafted Italian leather bags inspired by fond memories of travel, family, and her life. Her collections were received with enthusiastic response and the Patricia Nash brand has a loyal following in major retailers across the US.

Patricia lives in Knoxville with her husband and developer, London-bred Jeffrey Nash. Her parents relocated from Houston and now live in Knoxville together with Pat and Jeffrey. Her son is the Executive Chef and Owner of OliBea, a popular breakfast spot in Knoxville. Her daughter joined Patricia Nash Designs in 2013 as VP of Operations and General Counsel. Patricia and Jeffrey have nine grandchildren together.



KNOXVILLE HISTORY PROJECT

Jack Neely

Executive Director
Knoxville History Project

Jack Neely, executive director of the nonprofit Knoxville History Project (knoxvillehistoryproject.org) is an award-winning journalist whose columns “Secret History” and “The Scruffy Citizen” won numerous awards and were collected in four books. A graduate of the University of Tennessee, he was the History Department’s Outstanding Alumnus for 2018, and more recently was recipient of an honorary doctorate from Maryville College. He’s also a former fry cook, truck driver, criminal-defense investigator, and Egyptian museum tour guide. His most recent books include *Historic Knoxville, The Curious Visitor’s Guide*; *The Old City: A Short History*; and *The Tennessee Theatre: A Grand Entertainment Palace*.



Mike Odom

President & CEO
The Knoxville Chamber of Commerce

Mike Odom is the president and CEO of the Knoxville Chamber; a position that he has held since 2019.

The chamber is focused on transforming itself into an economic prosperity organization in support of its mission of driving regional economic prosperity. In order to accomplish this goal, it has committed to developing an economic ecosystem based on six work areas: business retention and expansion, business attraction, business climate, entrepreneurship/small business, infrastructure, and talent.

In 2020, the chamber will be introducing its new strategic vision that will drive its work for the next five years.



Tearsa Smith

News Anchor
WATE

Tearsa Smith anchors WATE 6 On Your Side's Good Morning Tennessee. Since 2005 she's been making mornings a little brighter for the people of East Tennessee, helping them start their day from 4:30 - 7am. She joined WATE in 2002 as a general assignment reporter. You can also hear her daily on the Marc and Kim Morning Show on Star 102.1fm. Followers of national true crime drama shows can see Tearsa break down cases on Vengeance: Killer Coworkers on HLN and Fatal Attraction on TV One.

Born and raised in Miami, Florida, Tearsa has made Knoxville home. She met and fell in love with her husband, Lucious, in East Tennessee and there has been no looking back since. They have two young children together.

Tearsa is an active member of the community and loves to volunteer with many worthwhile causes. She just wrapped up a 5 year executive board membership with the Wesley House Community Center where she has helped raise thousands of dollars for underserved youth and seniors in Knoxville's inner city. Tearsa is a member of the Knoxville Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, an international public service sorority. She volunteers her time for organizations like the Knoxville Area Urban League, American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, many schools in the area and so much more.

Tearsa has an Emmy nomination for her work on the magazine show, 6 Around Town. She was named 2015's Best News Anchor by the Society of Professional Journalists/East Tennessee Chapter and the 2016 Tennessee Associated Press Award of Excellence Best TV News Anchor.



Stowers 

Wes Stowers

President & CEO Stowers Machinery Corporation

Wes Stowers is the president and CEO of Stowers Machinery Corporation, a 60 year old family business, founded by Bud, Dick, and Harry Stowers. The Caterpillar equipment distributor for East Tennessee is beginning its third generation of ownership with Wes' daughter, Lisa Stowers Rottmann, and son-in-law, Ed Rottmann, actively involved in the business of running one of the most highly rated Caterpillar dealerships in North America with 400 employees in 6 locations. Rachel Stowers Kinney and her husband, Marc, a firefighter with Rural Metro, are equally invested in the future of success of the dealership. Wes and his wife, Liz, love the playtime they have with their five grandchildren.

Growing up on Signal Mountain, outside of Chattanooga, Wes' values of service and self sacrifice were instilled in him through his parents and Boy Scouting, working passionately to become an Eagle Scout. He is a graduate of McCallie School in Chattanooga. From McCallie, he received a congressional appointment to The United States Air Force Academy in Colorado. Upon graduation from the Academy, he began his career as an active duty pilot, initially as a T-38 instructor pilot, then as an F-4 fighter pilot with 8 years of service in the European Theater, being named Top Gun during a Red Flag Exercise. After 11 years of active duty, he, his wife, Liz, and two daughters moved from Germany to Knoxville in 1988. He remained in the Air Force Reserve for an additional 13 years as an Air Force Academy Admissions Liaison Officer, earning Outstanding Liaison Officer of the Nation, retiring as a Lt. Colonel.

Wes joined the company with his father, Harry Stowers, in 1988. After serving five years in machine sales and management, he was promoted to President in 1993 taking the company into a second generation. Under Wes' leadership, the company experienced enormous growth, doubling its revenue and entering into new markets.

Wes' passion for service to his country grew into service to his community. Wes is a graduate of the Leadership Knoxville Class of 1996. He is a past board chairman of the TN Road Builders Association, Leadership Knoxville, the Great Smoky Mountain Council of the Boy Scouts, Downtown Rotary Club, East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association, and the Southeastern Caterpillar Dealer Association. Nationally, Wes is a board member of the Air Force Academy Foundation, the Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio and is the past president of the Associated Equipment Distributors with 500 member companies in the US and Canada who account for more than \$60 billion of annual sales of construction equipment and services. Currently, he is a board member of Home Federal Bank, the Great Smoky Mountain Boy Scout Council, UT Medical Center, Holston Gases, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Tennessee Valley. Wes is the 2020 United Way of Greater Knoxville campaign chair.

Wes' passion is preserving Air Force history. He restored two WWII airplanes, a T-6 Texan and a P-51 Mustang, named Ain't Misbehavin'. Additionally, he flies many different aircraft for the Commemorative Air Force in Atlanta. You can find Wes on weekends flying in air shows all over the country, including the Knoxville Air Show, the Victory over Europe Celebration over the Washington Mall, and the world famous Oshkosh Air Show in Wisconsin.

Stowers Machinery is consistently ranked as one of the top Caterpillar dealers in North America in both market share and customer loyalty. In the industry, Wes is known for his enthusiastic engagement in the business, the deep relationships he builds with employees, knowing each by name, and political advocacy for the industry he serves. He considers his greatest accomplishment to work with the employees, their families and the loyal customers of Stowers Machinery for over 30 years, building relationships together and supporting the many organizations who make Knoxville a world class community!



Charlotte Tolley

Executive Director
Nourish Knoxville

Charlotte Tolley is a founder of the Market Square Farmers' Market in downtown Knoxville, TN. She also created Nourish Knoxville as a nonprofit to further the work of connecting local farmers and producers to the public. She co-owned Just Ripe, a small locally-focused grocery and cafe, for 5 years, was a founding volunteer of Slow Food Tennessee Valley, and served on the Knoxville Knox-County Food Policy Council. She is currently the Executive Director of Nourish Knoxville and serves on the board of the Tennessee Association of Farmers Markets.