

CFO of the Year Awards: Announcing the 2021 honorees

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Announcing the 2021 CFO of the Year Awards honorees.

The Covid-19 pandemic has required great agility from every sector of business and society. As the economy nosedived last year in its wake, companies had to navigate the turbulence. Behind the decisions that kept businesses afloat were chief financial officers.

Assessing the situation, they guided their teams through a once-in-a-generation global crisis, keeping their companies viable.

Many CFOs were responsible for obtaining Payment Protection Program loans - and their subsequent forgiveness - making their skills all the more critical to daily operations.

The Philadelphia Business Journal is proud to recognize CFOs in the region who have risen to the challenge not just this past year, but throughout their careers. This year, we recognize 18 CFO of the Year Award recipients and two Rising Stars. The honoree for the Lifetime Achievement Award will be announced at a later date.

These awards are presented annually to financial professionals for outstanding performance in their roles as corporate financial stewards. The honorees will be recognized in a virtual event on July 29 and a special publication on July 30. Register for the virtual event [here](#).

The Business Journal considers nominations from the local business community and selects winners based on criteria including demonstrated contributions to the company's growth

and/or profitability, tenure and scope of responsibilities, leadership, success in overcoming business challenges, respect and influence within the company, and community involvement.

Here are the winners in the CFO of the Year and Rising Star categories, listed in alphabetical order:

CFO of the Year

- Sven Adler, Ricoh USA
- Jason Cesare, NEST
- Andrew Church, Woodstream Corp.
- Gary Crowe, Radial
- Octavio Diaz, Comstar Technologies
- Cathy Dondzila, Newrez
- Kathleen Horton, Food Bank of South Jersey
- **Donald Kates, [Salus University](#)**
- Faraz Khan, Vision Solar LLC
- Susan Knight, [Philadelphia Bar Association](#)
- Blair Listino, [Comcast Spectacor](#)
- Ellen McGuinn, [National Philanthropic Trust](#)
- Leonard Minner, FidelityTrade Inc.
- Julie Morales, The Giant Co.
- Veronica Plousis, [Settlement Music School](#)
- Robert Stefani, PECO
- LeAnne Stewart, Axia Women's Health
- Atul Varma, [Hamilton Lane](#)