



News Release

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SCBIZ Announces 2026 Leaders in Business & Finance and Leaders in Law

SCBIZ has selected Tushar Chikhliker, Jennie Cluverius, Andrew Mathias, Matthew Roberts, and Cheryl Shoun as 2026 Leaders in Law honorees.

Leaders in Business & Finance Awards honor financial professionals who have made outstanding contributions to their organizations and to the South Carolina community. Recipients of these awards demonstrate outstanding achievements, involvement in their profession, support of the community, and they contribute to the economic growth and stability of the region. Awards are presented in the following categories: Accounting Leader, Chief Financial Officer/VP of Finance, Commercial Banker, Controller/Director of Finance, Lifetime Achievement, Rising Star and Wealth/Financial Advisor.

The Leaders in Law Awards recognize dedicated individuals whose leadership, both in the legal profession and in the community, has made a significant impact on South Carolina. Recipients of these awards demonstrate outstanding achievements, involvement in their profession and support of the community. Awards are presented in the following categories: Alternative Dispute Resolution, In-House Counsel, Leaders in Law, Lifetime Achievement and Partner.

The honorees were selected by the leadership team of SCBIZ.

“The 2026 recipients of Leaders in Business & Finance and Leaders in Law awards provide invaluable guidance to their organizations and clients. These accomplished professionals know their industries and demonstrate business acumen while also making significant contributions to the South Carolina community and beyond,” said Suzanne Fischer-Huettner, managing director of BridgeTower Media/SCBIZ. “We at SCBIZ are pleased to celebrate these stellar leaders in business, finance and law.”

SCBIZ’s Leaders in Business & Finance and Leaders in Law will be honored at an awards celebration on June 29 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center, 1101 Lincoln Street in Columbia. A networking reception begins at 4:30 p.m. followed by opening remarks and dinner at 6 p.m. and the awards celebration at 6:45 p.m. The event hashtag is #SCBIZevents.

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SCBIZ

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There are various sponsorship levels available, which include the right to use the event logo, multimedia marketing, a table to share with co-workers and guests at the event, and much more. If seats are available after the sponsorship deadline, a limited number of individual tickets will go on sale. Tables are only available with sponsorship. To secure a sponsorship to ensure you and your guests can celebrate together, contact Suzanne Fischer-Huettner at shuettner@bridgetowermedia.com.

Honorees will be profiled in the June issue of SCBIZ and online after the event at SCBIZ.com.

For more information and updated sponsorship information about SCBIZ's Leaders in Business & Finance, visit <https://scbiz.com/event/leaders-in-business-and-finance/>. For information about Leaders in Law, visit <https://scbiz.com/event/leaders-in-law/>.

About SCBIZ

SCBIZ is South Carolina's leading source of business news and intelligence, connecting executives and decision-makers across the state through its integrated media platform spanning digital, print, email and events. SCBIZ is part of BridgeTower Media, a network of 40-plus brands connecting business executives and igniting business growth across markets and industries. For more information, visit SCBIZ.com.

2026 Leaders in Business & Finance

Accounting Leader

Josh Garvin, UHY LLP

Chief Financial Officer/VP of Finance

Christoph Brand, KION North America

Rob Crowder, AFL

Brian D'Amico, Mashburn Construction

Jay Edwards, Bank of Travelers Rest

Gregg Hornsby, Columbia Metro Airport

John Li, The Charter Institute at Erskine

Stephanie Lowry, Dayton Rogers Manufacturing Co.

David A. McKinley, CPA, Cohn Construction

Steven Ridge, Dominion Energy

Joe Ryan, Condustrial

Amanda Sapp, We Are Sharing Hope SC

Chiles Steifle, Sunland Logistics Solutions

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Commercial Banker

Dita Brown, Beacon Community Bank
Sean Holleran, Southern First Bank
Cheryl Moody, TD Bank
Elizabeth Russell, J.P. Morgan Chase

Controller/Director of Finance

Michelle Gajdalo, ANC Group

Lifetime Achievement

Scott Woods, South Carolina Federal Credit Union

Rising Star

Clay Koch, Wagner Wealth Management
Michael Wood, Asset Integration

Wealth/Financial Advisor

Jennifer Belshe, Novus Advisors
Kylie Felker, Foster Victor Wealth Advisors
Mark French, UBS Financial Services
Margaret Ellen Pender, Anchor Investment Management, LLC
Dan Wagner, Wagner Wealth Management

2026 Leaders in Law

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Stephanie Lowry, Dayton Rogers of South Carolina
Andrew Mathias, Maynard Nexsen PC
Amber Mufale, Buist, Byars & Taylor
Ben Pogue, Ben Pogue Law
Kurt Rozelsky, Spencer Fane LLP

In-House Counsel

Chet Chea, Eastern Industrial Supplies, Inc.
Andrew Dennis, The Beach Company

Leaders in Law

Constance Anastopoulo, Charleston School of Law
Patrick Anderson, Anderson & Moore, LLC
Beattie Ashmore, Beattie B. Ashmore Law Firm
John C. Bateman, The Bateman Firm

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Anne Frances Bleecker, Bleecker Family Law
Peter Brown, The Law Office of Peter David Brown
Stephen L. Brown, Clement Rivers, LLP
Rhett Burney, Law Office of Rhett Burney
Tally Parham Casey, Wyche, P.A.
Sally H. Caver, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP
Tushar Chikhliker, Maynard Nexsen PC
Jennifer S. Cluverius, Maynard Nexsen PC
Reginald Corley, Scott & Corley P.A.
James R. Courie, McAngus Goudelock & Courie LLC
Mark C. Fava, The Boeing Company
F. Cordes Ford IV, Womble Bond Dickinson
Robert F. Goings, Goings Law Firm LLC
Catherine Ava Leatherwood, Rogers Townsend
Michael Montgomery, Robinson Gray Stepp & Laffitte LLC
J.R. Murphy, Murphy & Grantland, P.A.
Boyd B. Nicholson Jr., Haynsworth Sinkler Boyd, P.A.
Anna Catherine Parham, Derrick Law Firm
Jeanean Petoskey, LawyerLisa
Matthew Roberts, Maynard Nexsen PC
Trudy H. Robertson, Moore & Van Allen
Peter G. Siachos, Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP
Deyaska Spencer Sweatman, The Deyaska Spencer Law Firm
Bradley S. Wright, Burr & Forman

Lifetime Achievement

Joseph F. Rice, MotleyRice LLC
Ronald Scott, Scott & Corley P.A.
Lewis T. Smoak, Ogletree Deakins Nash Smoak and Stewart
Biff Sowell, Sowell + Durant

Partner

Christopher Pracht, Pracht Injury Lawyers, LLP
Cheryl Shoun, Maynard Nexsen PC

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