

USPTO and External Speakers

Ascolese, Lisa

Founder of Invention A-Z

Lisa Ascolese, AKA “The Inventress,” is a mentor, entrepreneur, keynote speaker, inventor & independent TV product agent. For more than 25 years, Lisa, “The Inventress,” has invented, marketed and launched products on QVC, HSN, EVINE Live and ShopNBC. She is the CEO and founder of Inventing A to Z and launched the non-profit organization named The Association of Women Inventors & Entrepreneurs. She has appeared on Bravo TV, ABC and Sirius XM, as well as major publications such as Black Enterprise Magazine, Ebony Magazine, Essence Magazine and The New York Times. Lisa’s products include The Bosom Buddy Nursing Cape, her first product; the Bun-Tie hair accessory; The Wrap and Store Organizer; and The Perfect Pockets Organizer, which generated \$6,000 in less than six minutes on QVC. Lisa is the daughter of a veteran, wife and mother who hails from Brooklyn, New York and graduated from Brooklyn College in Brooklyn, New York. She lives by the advice of her grandmother, who said, “When you believe, you will achieve.”

Evans, Andrea

Owner: The Law Firm of Andrea Hence Evans

Andrea Hence Evans is the owner of The Law Firm of Andrea Hence Evans, LLC, an intellectual property law firm and the founder owner of KidGINEER LLC, a STEM hands-on science and enrichment program for children ages 5 to 10. Prior to launching her law firm, Andrea worked at the USPTO for five years as both a patent examiner and a trademark examining attorney. Andrea is a graduate of The George Washington Law School in Washington, DC; Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, where she earned a Bachelor’s of Science in Mathematics; and Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) in Atlanta, Georgia, where she earned a Bachelor’s of Civil Engineering. In addition, Andrea is a member of the Texas and Maryland bars, the United States Supreme Court bar, and is a registered patent attorney. In 2011, Andrea was awarded the Nation’s Best Advocate Award from the National Bar Association and IMPACT recognized her for being one of the Top 40 Lawyers Under 40. A frequent speaker at conferences, Andrea is quoted in numerous national publications. She can be found on social media platforms @evansiplaw. Andrea is also the author of “*All About Inventing, Everything You Need to Know About Patents From a Former USPTO Patent Examiner & Patent Attorney!*”

Key, Stephen

Co-Founder of InventRight

Stephen Key is an award-winning product developer, renowned intellectual property strategist, and lifelong entrepreneur. The dozens of concepts he has brought to market have retailed in Walmart, 7-Eleven, and Disney stores and parks worldwide. He has been endorsed by Michael Jordan, Alex Trebek, and Taylor Swift. In 1999, he cofounded InventRight to teach others his unique process for harnessing the power of open innovation. Since then, he has helped people from 60 countries get licenses for their ideas for new products. Stephen’s bestselling book, *One Simple Idea*, has been translated into six languages. He writes about bringing products to market

weekly for online magazines that include *Forbes, Inc.*, and *Entrepreneur*. Universities and governmental organizations around the world invite him to teach them about product licensing. In 2017, he cofounded Inventors Groups of America, a not-for-profit, with the goal of educating and empowering inventors and inventing group leaders. He is also the cofounder of InventYES, a free program offered worldwide for high school students who want to learn about licensing.

Ray, Ramon

Editor & Founder of Smart Hustle Magazine

Ramon Ray is a four-time entrepreneur, best-selling author, global speaker, event producer and piano player. Ramon is Editor & Founder of Smart Hustle Magazine, his third book, “Facebook Guide to Small Business Marketing,” was an Amazon.com bestseller. Ramon has been invited as an expert witness to Congress, invited by the Office of the President of the United States to speak at the White House on personal branding and produced many events including the Smart Hustle Small Business Conference, Small Business Summit, Small Business Technology Tour, Small Biz Big Things, and much more. One of Ramon’s biggest professional accomplishment is interviewing "main street" small business owners and entrepreneurs for an article that ran in SmartHustle.com. Over his extensive career, Ramon has written thousands of articles, spoken to thousands of business owners and impacted hundreds of thousands of small business owners and entrepreneurs to help their businesses thrive.

Marlowe, Sandra W.

Founder and CEO of Baqua, INC.

Sandra Marlowe is the founder and CEO of Baqua, Inc., which began as a family business in Lexington, Kentucky. Noting the rising demand for beverages that support digestive health and inspired by the historical strength drinks of Ancient Greece, Sandra and her adult children created the world’s first organic ancient grain infused drink that is a source of prebiotics, antioxidants, vitamins and electrolytes. Baqua came to market in 2017 and the company now holds three registered trademarks. Notably, the Baqua team has been advised by the University of Kentucky’s Food Systems Innovation Center, the Small Business Development Center, the Kentucky Innovation Network, and individual business owners. Sandra enjoys sharing lessons learned about the development challenges of a product from concept to market. She is inspired by the passion and dedication of fellow innovators who are pursuing their entrepreneurial journeys.

Maher, Anthony

Chief Growth Officer & Head of Incubation

Anthony Maher is known throughout the 1776 community of entrepreneurs and network as the Chief Growth Officer and Head of Incubation. He is a cofounder of Benjamin’s Desk and serves as a champion and growth strategist for entrepreneurs. During college days, Anthony was an All-American athlete. As a professional soccer player for 10 years, Anthony brings the same focus and discipline that he showcased as a soccer player to the table when he assists early stage

entrepreneurs. He ensures that members get the full membership benefit treatment from enhanced incubation services offered to spark long-term success.

Myers, Amanda F.

Acting Deputy Chief Economist

Amanda F. Myers is the Acting Deputy Chief Economist with the Office of the Chief Economist at the United States Patent and Trademark Office. Her current projects focus on the empirical study of the U.S. trademark system, gender and diversity in patenting and data-driven intellectual property policy and program administration. She has published journal articles and working papers on patent and trademark data and trademark use by firms and contributed to 2013 World Intellectual Property Report Brands – Reputation and Image in the Global Marketplace. Before joining USPTO, Amanda worked as an Economist in the United States Treasury Department, holding positions at the United States Mint and the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration. She holds a M.A. in International Economic Relations from American University and a B.S in International Economics from Texas Christian University.

Tuttle, Warren

President, United Inventors Association

Warren Tuttle is known to many throughout the inventive industry as the long-time President of the United Inventors Association. In addition, Warren is the Open Innovation Director for both Lifetime Brands and Techtronic Industries NA. As the Open Innovation Director, Warren focuses on external product development, which means he is constantly working with independent inventors to find new inventions to bring to market. Prior to developing and marketing products for the housewares industry, Warren owned five of his gourmet specialty kitchenware store. In addition, Warren speaks regularly around the country on licensing and open innovation topics at inventor clubs, industry trade shows, and at U.S. Patent and Trademark Office functions. A graduate of St. Lawrence University, Warren currently resides in Connecticut with his wife and three daughters.

Trujillo, Dara

Home Shopping Network

Dara Trujillo is an executive with more than 25 years of industry experience. In her current role with HSN, as Head of Trend and Innovation Launch Pad, Dara oversees company initiatives, new business opportunities and manages the American Dream's Program which highlights Entrepreneurs, their stories and products and gives Entrepreneurs live TV experience selling their products. Dara is always on the lookout for an amazing product and a passionate Entrepreneur behind the product. She travels the country in search of the next million dollar product opportunity to introduce to HSN's 91 million Households. In addition, Dara is currently a regular judge on the TV series Hatched. Having a successful business at HSN means understanding it all starts with People, their Purpose and their Product. We are looking for great stories and storytellers and when combined with great products- that's the winning combination. Additionally, her experience includes 10 years of traditional brick and mortar buildings oversight; overseeing 28 department stores, where she was directed fashion, private label

development, public relations and personal shopping. Fifteen of her 25 work experience years was with the Walt Disney Company's theme park division overseeing new merchandise, synergy and concepts, brand strategy development, and signature events. Concepts included team member master planning Disney Springs, development of the Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique, Goofy's Candy Company, Once Upon a Toy, and The Pirates League. She also led the charge with the company's Pin Trading and Vinylmation initiatives.