
Panelists:



Pat Jones

Vice President
of Human
Resources and
Administration,
AgriBank

Pat Jones is Vice President, Human Resources and Administration. She joined AgriBank in April, 2010 and is responsible for bank HR activities, meetings and travel, facilities management and communication.

Pat began her career with Terra Industries in Sioux City, IA, in 1983 and held a number of HR related positions until the retail division was sold to Agriliance, LLC. She joined Agriliance, LLC and developed an HR organization for the newly formed joint venture in 2000. In 2007, when Land O'Lakes and CHS dissolved the joint venture, she joined Syngenta where she supported various groups including the Corn & Soy Sales & Marketing groups as well as all NAFTA research and product development functions.

Jones completed her undergraduate degree in Business Administration from Briar Cliff University in Sioux City, IA, her MBA from the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD and is currently pursuing her PhD. in organization development from the University of MN.



**Stephanie
Laitala**

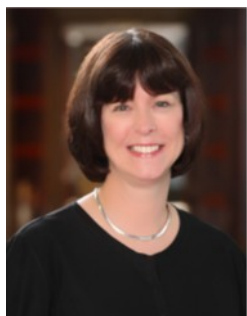
President &
Owner, Owl
Bookkeeping and
CFO Services

Stephanie Laitala is the founder and president of Owl Bookkeeping and CFO Services. An entrepreneur and innovator, Stephanie developed this unique accounting firm that serves the distinctive needs of Minnesota's small businesses with an elite team of outsourced, on-site bookkeepers, controllers and CFO's. Stephanie's philosophy, "a small business' money should be stable and secure and there should be more of it."

Stephanie has an impressive career track with an MBA and more than 20 years of finance and accounting experience, 10 years as a business owner, and serves on the Advisory Board of four Twin Cities businesses and facilitates two business-owner roundtables. Stephanie is recognized as a "Woman to Watch" by the *Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal*, a "Minnesotan on the Move" by *Finance & Commerce*, and a "Super Chick" for her personal strength and acts of courage by the Rich Chicks Association. In addition, she has been honored with the "Woman on the Way" and "Established Business" awards by the National Association of Women Business Owners. In addition, her company was recognized as one of the "Small Business Success Stories" in 2010 by *TwinCities Business*.

Committed to making a positive difference in the community, Stephanie gives her time, talent, and resources by serving on the board for numerous non-profit organizations, including: Hope Chest for Breast Cancer, United Way Women's Leadership Council, TwinWest Foundation, and TwinWest PAC.

Panelists Continued:



**Trudy
Halla**

Shareholder/
Partner, Briggs
& Morgan, PA

Trudy is a shareholder in the firm of Briggs and Morgan, Professional Association based in their Minneapolis office. She is a member and former head of the Public Finance Section and has served as an officer and a member of the firm's board of directors. Trudy practices principally in the areas of public finance, banking, and commercial lending.

Trudy was elected a fellow of the American Bar Foundation, fellow of the American College of Bond Lawyers and selected as a "Leading American Attorney." She has also been listed in *Minnesota Super Lawyers* (as seen in *Minnesota Law & Politics*) and among the designation's "Top 100 Women Super Lawyers."

Trudy is the 2002 recipient of the Hennepin County Bar Association Professionalism Award. In 2007, Minnesota Women Lawyers recognized Trudy with the organization's Myra Bradwell Award at its annual meeting. In 2004, Trudy received one of the first WOW Achievement Awards from the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce as the Exemplary Woman of the Community. Later in the year, Trudy was also given the "Attorney of the Year" award by *Minnesota Lawyer* in recognition of leadership during her term as president of Minnesota Women

Lawyers, which included organization of the Midwest Regional Conference of Women and the Law.

Trudy is a past president of Minnesota Women Lawyers and of the Hennepin County Bar Association, and is the Minnesota State Delegate for the American Bar Association's House of Delegates. She has served on the executive committee of the Minnesota State Bar Association. She served four years on the board of directors of the Hennepin County Bar Foundation and the Volunteer Lawyers Network, and for five years as an officer and director of the National Association of Bond Lawyers. Other memberships include the Minnesota State and American Bar associations, National Conference of Bar Presidents, and National Association of Bond Lawyers. Trudy is the chair of the Women and the Law Committee for Lex Mundi - The World's Leading Association of Independent Law Firms. She also serves on the board of directors of the Western Golf Association, is a past president of The Minikahda Club and is the current president of the MinnDakotas Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation.

Trudy received her B.A. from St. Olaf College and her law degree from Columbia University School of Law. Trudy joined Briggs in 1978 after practicing with a New York City law firm.

Learning & Development Specialist:



Leah Bridger

Director of Human
Services, Agstar
Financial

As Director Human Resources, Leah is responsible for recruitment, learning and development and employee relations for approximately 650 team members at AgStar Financial Services, ACA. Leah joined AgStar, a value-added financial service cooperative, in 2001. Prior to joining AgStar, Leah was a Human Resources Generalist for Immanuel St. Joseph's - Mayo Health System in Mankato, MN. She began her career as a Recruiter / Trainer for Hamilton Telecommunications in Columbus, NE. Leah received her Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education with a minor in coaching from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and currently holds her PHR certification.