

Human Resources Ones to Watch



LISA ARAUJO

ELLEN COOPERPERSON



ROSEANN GERTLER

DANIEL C. OPINANTE



PAT PATANE

A. JONATHAN TRAFIMOW

Lisa Araujo

Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Labor Relations
Adelphi University

Araujo, who was recently promoted to her current position, joined the Garden City institution's human resources department 16 years ago. After beginning as manager of benefits and compensation, Araujo moved up to director of human resources and then, nine years ago, assistant vice president for human resources and labor relations. Prior to her career with Adelphi, Araujo held various positions for Cushman & Wakefield, including supervisor of benefits and regional personnel administrator. A graduate of Georgia State University, Araujo is currently enrolled in a Master of Arts program in industrial/organizational psychology at Adelphi.

Ellen Cooperperson

CEO
Corporate Performance Consultants Inc.

Cooperperson leads the organizational and executive development strategies for the Hauppauge-based business coaching firm she founded in 1986. Cooperperson offers consulting services to small, closely held businesses up through multi-national corporations. In April, she signed a licensing agreement authorizing Dimension Data Learning Solutions to launch CPC's communication and management skills training programs in the Australian and New Zealand markets. Cooperperson is also an adjunct faculty member at the school of labor and industrial relations at Cornell University.

Roseann Gertler

Assistant Director of Human Resources
Life's WORC

Gertler oversees all recruitment activities for the Garden City-based nonprofit organization, which provides support for individuals with developmental disabilities and has about 850 employees. Gertler is credited with initiating significant recruitment process improvements, including a streamlined candidate qualification process, more effective advertising and the application of social media to attract optimum candidates. Gertler's role extends into other HR functions, including training and budgeting. Prior to joining Life's WORC, Gertler was assistant vice president for TransAmerica, a role in which she managed all HR functions for the company.

Daniel C. Opinante

President
The Seneca Group

Over a span of 15 years, Opinante worked for large health insurance companies as well as self-funded health plan administrations. Seeing a need in the marketplace, he struck out on his own and founded The Seneca Group, a third-party administrator of self-funded health plans and split-funded health plans, which are hybrids of self-funded and traditional plans. Headquartered in Melville, his company has additional offices in Matthews, N.C., and Naperville, Ill. Opinante has clients, ranging in size from 10 to 1,000 employees, developing benefits packages that fit their needs.

Pat Patane

Office Manager
Alcott HR Group

Patane joined the Farmingdale-based professional employer organization in 1996. Currently, she supervises four administrative assistants and is involved in virtually all aspects of Alcott's operations, including process improvement, document management and the dissemination of information to the company's 300-plus clients. Her responsibilities include overseeing the I-9 documentation and work authorization process, which includes assisting clients in the utilization of the federal government's E-Verify program. Prior to joining Alcott, Patane was a regional sales administrator for Sunshine Biscuits.

A. Jonathan Trafimow

Partner
Moritt, Hock & Hamroff

Trafimow, who heads the employment law practice group at the Garden City law firm, represents employers in workplace discrimination, retaliation, harassment and civil rights claims and class actions. He also advises companies on setting up policies to prevent discrimination and harassment, as well as on wage-and-hour matters, employee handbooks, severance packages and employment agreements. Additionally, Trafimow is an experienced trial attorney who has handled class action cases. He frequently writes and lectures on employment law topics and, two years ago, authored a book chapter entitled "Discrimination" that was part of the "HR Guide to Employment Law: A Practical Compliance Reference."