April 19, 2024

One Hundred Wise Women Bios





Kristen Ankenbauer

Senior Vice President, Private Wealth Advisor U.S. Bank

As a Private Wealth Advisor, Kristen is responsible for providing comprehensive wealth management strategies tailored to her clients' specific needs. These strategies encompass Investment Management, Private Banking, Trust and Estate Services, and Wealth Planning. Kristen takes the time to understand her clients' unique needs, and she directs teams of specialists — often working closely with other client advisors, such as attorneys and accountants — to provide services that help clients work toward their goals.

Kristen has worked in the banking and financial services industry since 2005. Before she joined U.S. Bank, she was a client advisor serving sophisticated, high net worth individuals and families at PNC Wealth Management in Cincinnati.

Kristen is active in the community serving as the Board Chair for Afram Plains Foundation. She served as president of Madeira Chamber of Commerce and supports the chamber today with her commitment to the Madeira community.



Melissa Kroener Americas Leader Contract Program Manager GE Aerospace

Melissa Kroener is currently the Americas Leader Contract Program Manager for LEAP CBSAs at GE Aerospace. She has a degree in Accounting from the University of Cincinnati as well as a JD from NKU's Salmon P. Chase College of Law. She resides in the greater Cincinnati area with her husband and six children. She joined GE Aerospace in 2019 and has held roles in warranty, compliance, licensing, and now serves in the LEAP product line. Prior to GE, she spent twelve years practicing law as a public defender and family law specialist. In addition to her role, she is a proud member of the GE Women's Network and leads the publication efforts for the Cincy Hub newsletter.

In her spare time, Melissa enjoys spending time with her family, reading, traveling, hiking & volunteering in the community.



Allison Mercurio Chief Financial Officer & Commercial Lines leader Kroger

Allison Mercurio is the Chief Financial Officer & Commercial Lines leader for Kroger Personal Finance. For 15 years, she has worked across numerous Kroger teams and held various financial leadership roles across the company, from marketing to technology as well as in the divisions. Prior to her current role, she built and led a finance and accounting team to support all of Marketing & Loyalty for the organization, driving efficiency and strategic financial influence within these departments. Allison was a part of a discovery assignment to understand 84.51° ways of working and highlight opportunities to infuse Kroger finance principles and shopper insights for optimal decision making.

Allison spent time as the Controller at You Technology, a strategic investment for Kroger in San Francisco in addition to Portland, Oregon at the Fred Meyer Division. Allison started her career with Kroger in Cincinnati, Ohio working in the Capital Management department and in Operational Finance supporting the Perishable departments. Allison is a passionate change agent who innovates with business partners, building her skillset with each experience. As a leader of others, she prioritizes the development of her team and enjoys cultivating relationships with associates. When she is not at work, Allison is traveling and spending time with friends and family.



Angela Penick

Commercial Client Onboarding & Operational Risk Director Fifth Third Bank

Angela M. Penick is the Commercial Client Onboarding & Operational Risk Director for Fifth Third Bank. In this position, Angela assists the Commercial division in the identification, assessment and escalation of non-financial client risks, including reputational risk, money laundering risks, and climate risks.

Angela joined Fifth Third Bank in 2019 as a client risk advisor, following nearly a decade of private practice as a family law attorney. In private practice, Angela worked for both small and large practices, eventually joining her sister and brother-in-law in a family-run law practice.

Angela is a proud member of many of Fifth Third Bank's Business Resource Groups, including the Women's BRG, the Sustainability BRG, and as an ally to others.

Angela obtained her B.S. in Journalism from the E.W. Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University, her J.D. from the Salmon P. Chase College of Law at Northern Kentucky University.

When not working, Angela enjoys traveling the world, riding through Cincinnati on a scooter, rock climbing at Red River Gorge and above all, spending time with her two children, husband, and extended family.



Rachel Rasmussen

Investment Manager and Shareholder Foster & Motley

Rachel Rasmussen is an Investment Manager and Shareholder at Foster & Motley Wealth Management, a registered investment advisor located in Cincinnati, OH that manages over \$2.4 billion in client assets. Rachel works alongside a team of financial planners to provide Wealth Management service to clients all over the country.

Her education includes an MBA with a Finance concentration from Seton Hall and bachelor's degrees from Miami University. She also holds the Chartered Financial Analyst ® designation and Certified Financial Divorce Analyst® credentials which serve her well in her role as a member of the investment committee. With over a decade of industry experience, she brings her can-do spirit to help clients navigate life's most important moments.



Carolyn Reid Crossroads Church

Carolyn Reid is a wife, mom, and grandmother who retired has retired from her positions as teacher/school librarian and as a weekly newspaper editor. She and her husband Brian raised four children in Pendleton County, Kentucky, where they have lived nearly all their lives. Two of those four children have given them four grandchildren, and another is due very soon!

While she is retired, Carolyn still passionately pursues connection to people and new activities and ideas. This has led her to be part of several small groups, boards, and volunteer positions within her community and Crossroads, her church. She also works as a government reporter for the newspaper she edited for a short time, the Falmouth Outlook.

Carolyn enjoys reading, writing, quilting, and visiting historic places. She also has found a love for camping in her senior years. Her goal is come alongside people both as a giver and a recipient. She still has lots to learn.



Jennifer Robinson

Senior Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer Phillips Edison & Company

Jennifer Robison joined Phillips Edison & Company (PECO) in 2014 as Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer. She leads a team of over 70 employees. Previously, she was with Ventas, Inc., an S&P 500 company and one of the 10 largest equity REITs in the country, where she served most recently as the Vice President, Financial Reporting. Prior to her role at Ventas, Jennifer was an Audit Manager at Mountjoy Chilton Medley LLP and an Assurance Manager at Ernst & Young.

Jennifer was awarded the 2020 Woman of Influence by GlobeSt and is an active member of PECO NOW (Networking Opportunities for Women).

Jennifer graduated from Bellarmine University with a bachelor's degree in accounting. She is also a certified public accountant and is a member of the NAREIT, ICSC and the SEC Professional Group.



Erica Shaw Director of Global Innovation Procter & Gamble

Erica Shaw is a Director of Global Innovation for the Family Care business at Procter & Gamble. Erica has over 21 years of experience at P&G across multiple locations and business units in engineering and supply chain operations roles. She has also served as the Equality and Inclusion leader for multiple organizations including the NA Market Operations Product Supply Organization, an organization of 700+ employees. Erica focused on developing an E&I strategy that encompassed both individual and interactive learning, clear accountability, and heart-changing storytelling. Her focus on Unconscious Bias catapulted the understanding and cultural transformation throughout the organization. During her time at P&G, she has consistently supported Equality and Inclusion efforts through her support for recruiting, affinity network teams and community partnerships.

Erica is also Maxwell Leadership Certified Leadership Coach, Trainer, and Speaker. She helps organizations grow their leaders, build connection, and create more inclusive workplaces. She is also a Certified DISC Behavioral Analysis Consultant. Erica brings DISC to organizations to educate on how the workplace also needs to be inclusive of different communication styles to create true belonging. Whether it is career coaching or leadership development training, Erica is a dynamic leader that partners with individuals and corporations to achieve their aspirations.

Erica has delivered benchmark results throughout her career by leveraging a data-driven and highly collaborative approach to her leadership. She has driven results by creating inclusive environments where all team members feel valued and heard. Her goal is for every leader to feel comfortable and confident being their authentic self.

Erica was born and raised in the inner city of Detroit, Michigan and educated in the Detroit public school system. She graduated at the top of her class before pursuing her B.S.E in Electrical Engineering at the University of Michigan. Erica is currently located in Cincinnati, OH with her husband and two children. She is actively involved in her Church and serves alongside her husband on the leadership team for the Church Marriage ministry. Erica is an active Member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority where she has participated in countless community outreach events and activities.



Naomi Taylor Life & Small Business Coach Full Throttle Coaching

Naomi Taylor is a life and small business coach for Full Throttle Coaching. She starts from a place of personal, professional or financial growth to help find the steppingstones needed for your path. She is very caring but firm (a loving kick in the ass) if you will, to help motivate you over your peculiar wall of awful. Naomi is all about helping you optimize your life and help support you to live a life you love! She has helped coach women out of difficult situations, small businesses grow and believes that real queens fix each other's crowns.

Naomi Taylor cut her teeth in the service industry with bartending and catering private functions. This was built on a foundation of administration and event coordination. She was able to hone her leadership in the hospitality industry, anchoring her career in hotel management with the Courtyard by Marriott brand. Naomi's focus on leadership aids managers listen, lead and leverage their teams strength towards common goals. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Human Relations from Concordia University, (Montreal, Qc). She utilizes a systems approach to help develop and optimize processes. Her years in front line service industries have taught her to discern and assess concerns, both in the one-on-one and organizational spheres.

Strategic planning, change implementation and financial literacy are her primary areas of focus.



Mari Thomas Career and Technical Consultant Catholic Inner-city Schools Education foundation (CISE)

Dr. Mari Thomas, an educator with 30+ years of experience in student development and systems change, is the Career and Technical Consultant at the Catholic Inner-city Schools Education foundation (CISE). In this role, Mari works with the CISE-supported elementary and high schools, along with business leaders and intermediaries, to buildout and integrate College and Career Readiness curriculum and programming within Catholic Schools.

Her educational background includes a B.S. in Psychology from Bowling Green State University, a M.Ed. in School Psychology (University of Cincinnati - Nationally Accredited), Ph.D. in Education (University of Cincinnati; Focus - Systems Change and Mentoring), Principal Licensure (Xavier University), M.Ed. Learning Design (Purdue University; Design Thinking), and Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) recognition for new CTE administrators.

Most recently Mari served as Principal at Saint Ursula Academy in Cincinnati, Ohio. Mari has a passion for students with learning differences and for ensuring that every student can reach his or her potential. This passion has driven her to deconstruct current educational systems and reform them to be more responsive to student needs and whole person development. Prior to becoming principal at Saint Ursula Academy, Mari was a VP at the Jesuit Schools Network. Her work at the JSN, formally JSEA, includes leadership development, data management, and curriculum design.



Lisa Vannis Partner Deloitte & Touche LLP

Lisa Vannis serves as the Office Audit Leader for Cincinnati, Dayton, and Louisville and has more than 20 years of accounting, audit, and advisory experience. She is the lead partner for a wide variety of clients, including both publicly traded and privately held companies in the Life Sciences, Retail, Manufacturing, Consumer, and Media Industries.

In addition, Lisa has assisted clients with complex technical accounting matters such as revenue recognition; acquisition, divestiture, restructuring, and debt and equity transactions; as well as with SEC reporting, including initial public offerings and debt and equity filings. She has deep technical knowledge of SEC, PCAOB, and US GAAP standards and is accredited in International Financial Reporting Standards.

Lisa frequently participates in the firm's leadership and training programs as a mentor, facilitator, and speaker on various subjects both within and outside the firm. She also serves as the Finance Officer and on the Board of the Cincinnati chapter of NextUp and on the Board of Trustees and is Audit Committee Chair of Mount St. Joseph University.

Lisa holds a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Dayton. She is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), a member of the American Institute of CPAs, and the Ohio Society of CPAs.

Lisa lives in Loveland with her husband (Jason) and two sons (Ryan and Andrew).

