



*Family-owned*

BUSINESS  
AWARDS  
2015

FEBRUARY 26  
1133 WESTCHESTER AVE., WHITE PLAINS

WELCOME AND THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING



EVENING, FEBRUARY 26  
1133 WESTCHESTER AVE., WHITE PLAINS

**5:30 P.M.** ▶ Reception with bites and spirits  
**6:30 P.M.** ▶ Awards program begins

Because family-owned businesses are the backbone of the local and national economy, the Fairfield County Business Journal, the Westchester County Business Journal and the Connecticut Business and Industrial Association (CBIA) felt that an awards program recognizing Fairfield County's and Westchester County's family-owned businesses was long overdue. Studies show that about 35 percent of Fortune 500 companies – from small businesses

to major corporations – are family controlled. Family businesses account for 50 percent of U.S. gross domestic product and generate 60 percent of the country's employment. In addition, family businesses account for 78 percent of all new job creation and comprise 80 to 90 percent of all business enterprises in North America. These phenomenal statistics all point to the true importance of family-owned businesses to the nation's economy.

**PRESENTED BY**

Fairfield County Business Journal, Westchester County Business Journal  
and the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA)



Valerie Levitt, Ken Furst, Ondrea Levitt Schiciano and Jason Schiciano

**LEVITT-FUIRST ASSOCIATES LTD.**, one of Westchester's largest independent insurance brokers, has involved three generations of Levitt and Furst family members. Currently the principals are made up of co-presidents Jason Schiciano and Ken Furst, with Valerie Levitt as CFO, and Ondrea Levitt Schiciano, marketing vice president. V. Dave Levitt and Alan Furst were best friends in law school and when they graduated they each joined their fathers' insurance businesses. In 1969, they combined businesses and created Levitt-Furst. Over the years, the 12-person firm grew into a very successful, highly respected insurance agency. The third generation has

grown the company over the last 22 years, and now, with 50 employees, it is one of Westchester's most successful independent insurance brokers. The growth occurred by aggressive expansion of their niche construction and real estate businesses, while developing a highly successful general business group that serves some of the largest manufacturers and distributors in the area. Levitt-Furst also expanded into the high-end homeowners markets by offering unique services that no other agency in the tristate offers. It is recognized as a Chubb Cornerstone agent and also represents other leading companies like ACE, AIG and PURE.