

Up the Ladder

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Advertising

GSD&M named **Jay Russell** vice president/managing group creative director. Russell was most recently creative director at Crispin Porter + Bogusky in Boulder, Colo., where he managed the Microsoft Windows account. He previously served as group creative director at GSD&M.

Real estate

Mike Jones will lead the **ReMax Metro Realty** office in southwest Austin as owner/broker.

Consulting

Bridgepoint Consulting named **Pete Pearson** chief financial officer consultant. Pearson has over 14 years of experience, most recently as vice president, finance at Lombardi Software.

Architecture, engineering and consulting firm **HDR** promoted **Steve Keyes** to central region business group director for the company's federal energy and resource management business group. Keyes has been at HDR for 20 years.

Technology

Caringo Inc., an online data storage provider, named **Adrian Herrera** senior director, marketing. He most recently was on the founding team of Nirvanix, where he headed the marketing team.

Financial services

Debt collection firm **Providence Dane LLC** named **Patrick Swanick** senior advisor. Swanick was previously chief executive officer at Gila Corp.

Law

Richel Rivers and **Mary Evelyn McNamara** formed **Rivers McNamara** law firm. Rivers and McNamara were both partners at Brown McCarroll.

Nonprofit organizations

Hand to Hold, which provides navigation resources and support programs to parents of preemies, babies born with special health care needs and those who have experienced a loss due to these or other complications, has elected board members: **David Alter**, venture capital investor at Austin Ventures, has been named president; **Barbara Balliette**, partner at Reid Collins & Tsai, has been named secretary; and **Scott Whitaker**, director of stewardship and development at the Catholic Diocese of Austin, has been named treasurer.

Wolfgang Niedert, principal and founder of financial firm E. Wolfgang Niedert and Assoc., and **Janna**

Paulson, president of ACI Group and founder of Peel Paulson Design Studio, were named to the **Texas Book Festival** board of directors.

Jessica Olson has been named vice president of diversity for the **Austin Human Resource Management Association** board of directors. Olson is a human resources generalist/human resources information resources specialist at the Austin Diagnostic Clinic.

Gerald Smith, a financial consultant with Charles Schwab & Co. Inc., has been named to the **Council of At-Risk Youth** board of directors. The organization provides aggression replacement training for at-risk youth who exhibit abusive or bullying behavior.

Pat Wallis has been named Volunteer of the Year for the **Travis County Medical Alliance**. **Vicki Blumhagen** has been named president. The organization facilitates and funds community service projects.

Professional honors

David Porter, senior vice president of economic development for the **Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce**, has been named one of the Top 10 People Who Make a Difference in the South by Southern Business and Development Magazine.

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