

Advisory Board



Les Brown

As a renowned professional speaker, author and television personality, Les Brown has risen to national prominence by delivering a high energy message which tells people how to shake off mediocrity and live up to their greatness. It is a message Les Brown has learned from his own life and one he is helping others apply to their lives.

Born a twin in low-income Liberty City in Miami, Florida, Les and his twin brother, Wes, were adopted when they were six weeks old by Mrs. Mamie Brown. Mrs. Brown was a single woman who had very little education or financial means, but a very big heart. As a child Les' inattention to school work, his restless energy, and the failure of his teachers to recognize his true potential resulted in him being mislabeled as a slow learner. The label and the stigma stayed with him, damaging self-esteem to such an extent that it took several years to overcome.

Passion to Learn and His Hunger to Realize Greatness - Les has had no formal education beyond high school, but with persistence and determination he has initiated and continued a process of unending self-education which has distinguished him as an authority on harnessing human potential. Les Brown's passion to learn and his hunger to realize greatness in himself and others helped him to achieve greatness. He rose from a hip-talkin morning DJ to broadcast manager; from community activist to community leader; from political commentator to three-term legislator; and from a banquet and nightclub emcee to premier keynote speaker.

In 1986, Les entered the public speaking arena on a full-time basis and formed his own company, Les Brown Enterprises, Inc. The company provides motivational tapes and materials, workshops, and personal/professional development programs aimed at individuals, companies, and organizations.

In 1989, Les Brown was the recipient of the National Speakers Association's highest honor: The Council of Peers Award of Excellence (CPAE). In addition, he was selected one of the World's Top Five Speakers for 1992 by Toastmasters international and recipient of the Golden Gavel Award.

In 1990, Les recorded his first in a series of speech presentations entitled You Deserve, which was awarded a Chicago-area Emmy, and became the leading fundraising program of its kind for pledges to PBS stations nationwide.

Les Brown is an internationally recognized speaker and CEO of Les Brown Enterprises, Inc., he is also the author of the highly acclaimed and successful books, *Live Your Dreams* and *It's Not Over Until You Win*. Les is the former host of The Les Brown Show, a nationally syndicated daily television talk show which focused on solutions rather than problems.

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Darlene Ellison

Darlene Ellison's gripping personal story forms the foundation of her High Touch Alliances™ and Betrayal Recovery concepts, which she uses to inspire and compel audiences into changing their own lives.

Darlene's charmed life as wife, mother, philanthropist, psychologist and businesswoman spiraled out of control when she learned that the man to whom she had been married for more than 10 years, and with whom she had children, was arrested in an FBI sting operation. He was revealed to be a long-time sexual predator of young boys both in the United States and abroad.

Engulfed in a very public situation that left her emotionally paralyzed, Darlene made the choice to not just survive, but thrive. She overcame humiliation, anger and fear to transform her horrific tragedy into something that could help others. Darlene began talking openly and proactively with her children and, later, concerned adults who wanted to learn from her experiences.

As the sole provider for her family, Darlene made adjustments in her career to meet the emotional and physical needs of her children. She leveraged her strong educational background in psychology and business, her expertise as a business owner and consultant, and her profound network of personal and professional alliances to build a new career that put her children's emotional nurturance first, while still providing for them financially.

Darlene's expertise in overcoming obstacles is best illustrated by her personal fight against child predators. In her efforts to teach parents, grandparents and caregivers about the dangers of child predators, Darlene has been featured on *The Oprah Winfrey Show*, *20/20* and *Dateline NBC*, as well as in Dallas' *D Magazine*. In addition, Darlene has appeared in parent education videos for the Catholic Diocese of Dallas' Safe Environment Plan and Dallas Children's Advocacy Center.

Darlene's personal and professional journey led her to become an expert and consultant on overcoming obstacles and building meaningful alliances. Today, through speaking engagements, workshops, executive retreats and consulting, she helps businesses, organizations and associations transform and empower their employees and members with High Touch Alliances™.

Darlene lives in Dallas with her current husband, Scott, and two thriving teenagers. Her book, *The Predator Next Door*, was published February, 2009, with *High Touch Woman* due for release in 2011.

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Sandy Shephard, Esq.

Sandy Shepard is the founder of good solutions. She is a graduate of the University of California at San Diego, with a Masters in International Affairs from George Washington University. After a successful career in the business arena, she obtained her Doctor of Laws cum laude from Hastings College of The Law, and was a lawyer at what is now the Thelen, Reid & Priest law firm in San Francisco before transitioning in-house.

Sandy worked in the Business Affairs department at Lucas Arts Entertainment, and as counsel for Mindscape. During her tenure at Mindscape, she worked on hundreds of small to multi-million dollar deals, including securing licenses from Tom Clancy, Stephen King, American Greetings, National Geographic, Beatrix Potter, and Quicken; negotiating OEM, affiliate and localization contracts worldwide; and managing due diligence and other issues during The Learning Company's acquisition of Mindscape and Broderbund, and Mattel's \$3.5 billion acquisition of The Learning Company. She screened all hard and soft advertising, PR and marketing copy, and worked cross-functionally with marketing, Q/A, product development, sales and operations to develop and implement policies and strategies, and overhauled and combined all agreements and processes after the Mattel acquisition.

She later was General Counsel for GoodHome.com, Scene7, and FurnitureFind.com. She provides immediate, personalized assistance with core legal services and a results-oriented business perspective. Having served as counsel with software and internet companies during the '90s "dot com" era of start ups, spin-offs, mergers, and acquisitions, she has extensive knowledge and first-hand, in-company experience in the rapidly changing intricacies of business transactions and their legal ramifications.



Clark W. Trammell

Known in the industry as a turnaround specialist, Clark W. Trammell has spent his entire career solving problems. He began his career in the banking industry working with billion dollar portfolios and providing support to assist the businesses that were in the bank's portfolio.

His experience includes working with such high profile companies as Yellow Cab, Metro Taxi and Coach USA. He has extensive experience creating and facilitating IPO's, reverse IPO's, taking companies into bankruptcy and back out successfully. He is a finance whiz and has the keen ability to review financial statements and pin point key operational issues. He also has the skill set that allows him to facilitate the change necessary to creatively solve the operational issue thus eliminating the cost line on the financial statement.

Clark has served as Sheila Stewart's personal mentor for ten years and officially assumed the advisory role in 2009. Clark currently resides in Topeka, KS with his wife Bobbi.