EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM BIOS
JEFF BARNES
PRESIDENT AND CEO OF NACHURS ALPINE SOLUTIONS

Jeff Barnes serves as the President and CEO of Nachurs Alpine Solutions, a leading North American specialty liquid chemical manufacturer that supplies several markets including agricultural, energy, transportation, as well as various other industrial markets. Jeff joined Nachurs Alpine Solutions in 2007 becoming the CEO in 2014. He is based at the Nachurs Alpine Solutions headquarters in Marion, Ohio.

Jeff has over 25 years of experience in senior management positions. Before joining Nachurs Alpine Solutions he worked for Electrolux/Frigidaire and General Electric. He has worked in northeast Italy and Buenos Aires, Argentina as well as various locations in the United States. Jeff is a member of the Working Group on Plant Nutrition Products for the International Fertilizer Association to promote the international understanding of the types of products Nachurs Alpine Solutions produces.

Jeff has a Bachelor of Science degree from Muskingum University and a Masters of Business Administration from The Ohio State University. He and his wife, Dorothy, live in Dublin, Ohio.
John Buckley is the president and CEO at Wilbur-Ellis. Prior to joining Wilbur-Ellis in January 2018, he was CEO of Air Liquide USA LLC from 2013 – 2017 and was a member of the Americas Zone leadership team. He led Air Liquide’s multi-billion-dollar U.S. industrial gas business, and oversaw Industrial Merchant, Electronics and Large Industries businesses, as well as U.S. corporate functions including Safety, Finance, Procurement, Legal, Communications and Human Resources.

Buckley has over 30 years of experience in business management, engineering, manufacturing, sales and marketing. He has worked in Sao Paulo and Mexico City along with many cities across the U.S. throughout the 22 years he worked for Rohm and Haas Company, holding several executive positions. From 2006 – 2010, he proceeded to serve as president of AgroFresh Inc., a rapidly growing technology business, and served as president of Angus Chemical and global general manager of Personal, Home and Industrial Care at The Dow Chemical Company from 2010 – 2012.

Buckley holds a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering from Villanova University, is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese and functional in French. He serves as vice president on the board of trustees for The Center in Houston and is on the board of directors for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Philadelphia. He also is president of The Monica T. Buckley Foundation and serves on the board of directors for Michelman, Inc. as a member of the audit and risk committee.

Buckley and his wife, Tracey, live in San Francisco and have two sons, Patrick and Alexandre.
As vice president of Human Resources for Wilbur-Ellis, Anne E. Cleary oversees the corporate global Human Resources function and is responsible for the strategic leadership of the Company's people approach, including organizational development, employee engagement, strategic planning and staffing, payroll and benefits, learning and development, employee relations, performance planning and management, diversity and inclusion, employee recognition, as well as policy development and enforcement. She is based in the San Francisco headquarters.

Cleary has held a number of roles within the Company's HR department, including HR manager and HR director before being appointed to vice president in 2008.

Prior to joining Wilbur-Ellis, Cleary served as the lead human resources and benefits manager for both public and private companies, including Prescolite Lighting, Dual-Lite Company and for several departments at the University of California, San Francisco. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of San Francisco.

Cleary currently serves on the governing board of the San Francisco Human Resources Executive Summit and on the USF School of Management Alumni Leadership Council. An AIDS volunteer for many years, she was the former board chair for the AIDS Center of the East Bay. Cleary lives in Oakland, California, and enjoys baseball, ballet and books in her free time.
Michael J. Hunter is vice president and chief financial officer of Wilbur-Ellis. He joined Wilbur-Ellis in March of 2004 as the corporate controller before his promotion in 2010 to his current role. Today, he is responsible for finance, treasury, accounting, enterprise risk management, credit and tax functions.

Prior to joining Wilbur-Ellis, Hunter began his career in 1984 in the audit department at Ernst & Young in San Francisco. He spent 11 years with the company in various roles, including as a senior manager serving the financial services and retail industries. In 1995, Hunter joined Crown Vantage Inc., a publicly traded $1 billion paper manufacturer headquartered in Oakland, California. And, in 2000, Hunter joined Alameda, California-based Montclair Group, an incubator and primary investor in a group of biotechnology start-ups. At Montclair Group, he served as chief financial officer.

In 1983, Hunter earned a Bachelor of Science in business administration from the University of California, Berkeley. He is also a certified public accountant, licensed in California. A San Francisco Bay Area native, Hunter resides in San Francisco with his wife, Laura Cashion, and their youngest child, while his other two children attend college.
Andrew Loder serves as president of the Nutrition division of Wilbur-Ellis, a role which he assumed starting January 2017. Prior to his current position, he joined Wilbur-Ellis Nutrition as senior vice president in October 2016.

Loder spent over 30 years at Cargill before joining Wilbur-Ellis, most recently as vice president, global risk management for Cargill’s Aqua Nutrition group. In this role, Loder’s Aqua Nutrition team provided commodity risk management guidance to the aqua businesses in 35 countries. Prior assignments were in various commercial, general management and risk management leadership roles with Cargill’s Global Animal Nutrition and Food businesses. Spending most of his career in the animal nutrition business, Loder helped drive growth with Cargill Animal Nutrition’s 2020 strategy by leading the “Transform to Complete” strategic theme. In addition, he was a vice president, group director providing P&L leadership to the Canadian, North American and Iberian businesses. Loder also spent a part of his career leading the team that managed overall commodity risk for the Global Animal Nutrition business.

Loder holds a Bachelor of Science from Cornell University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Minnesota. Loder and his wife, Marci, live in Independence, Minnesota, and have two children, Sebastian and Madeline. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with his family and watching his children participate in sports and other activities. Loder grew up on a dairy farm in upstate New York.
Tim Nestler is vice president, secretary and general counsel for Wilbur-Ellis. He is responsible for managing the Company’s legal obligations and resources, including mergers and acquisitions, litigation, contract negotiation and compliance.

Nestler joined Wilbur-Ellis in 2013 as corporate counsel and was appointed vice president, secretary and general counsel in 2021.

Nestler began his legal career as an associate at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP in New York City representing clients on various corporate matters, and continued that work at Jones Day in New York City. Nestler later moved west to work with Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati in Palo Alto, until coming to Wilbur-Ellis.


Nestler lives in Moraga, CA, with his wife, Anna, and two daughters. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family, exercising and cheering on his beloved New York Rangers.
Dr. Azita Owlia is the president of Connell, the largest marketer and distributor of specialty chemicals and ingredients in Asia-Pacific. She has held this position since January 2016. Owlia joined Connell in 2011 as vice president of North Asia.

Prior to joining Connell, Dr. Owlia had a very successful 22-year career with Bayer MaterialScience (now known as Covestro), most recently serving as senior vice president, Asia-Pacific, Polyurethane Group. During her tenure, Owlia held multiple leadership positions, including vice president of the Insulation Marketing Unit of Bayer Polymers Americas and vice president of the Consumer Market Group in the Plastics Division of Bayer Corporation, after starting in 1988 as a senior chemist at the Baytown facility in the Performance Products Division.

Owlia has a doctorate in Electrochemistry from University of Connecticut and Master of Business Administration from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She is based in both Hong Kong and San Francisco, while spending most of her time in the Asia-Pacific region.
Mark Ripato is president of Wilbur-Ellis’ Agribusiness division. President since November 2018, Ripato is responsible for leading the execution of the business plan, strategy, sales and marketing, high-level customer service and employee engagement for the independently run division.

Ripato is a long-time agriculture executive with deep and direct exposure into many relevant areas within the ag industry. Prior to joining Wilbur-Ellis, he held various roles at Tenkoz, a leading agricultural buying group of which Wilbur-Ellis is the largest retail member, including CEO and president, vice president and business development manager. In each role, Ripato demonstrated his ability to rapidly take on increasing levels of responsibility in a large, complex and well-respected organization and his deep knowledge of the agriculture supply chain provides unique insights into industry transformation.

Ripato grew up on a farm and worked in an agricultural retail store in northeastern Kentucky where he learned about all segments of the ag retail trade and developed an unwavering commitment to understanding the customer and meeting their needs. Later, he served in the U.S. Air Force as a cryptologic linguist specialist. After leaving the service, Ripato attended the University of Kentucky, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in agricultural economics, followed by a short stint at Perdue Farms, a major chicken and related products provider based in Salisbury, Maryland. Later, he complemented his B.S. with an MBA from Salisbury University, formerly Salisbury State University, and an International Master of Management degree from McGill University in Montreal, Canada. Thereafter, he worked for ICI Agricultural Products, which later became Syngenta, where Ripato gained valuable experience managing various chemistry portfolios, and business strategies, integrating them with the introduction of new seed and trait platforms.

Ripato is based out of Wilbur-Ellis’ Agribusiness headquarters in Denver and enjoys spending time on his farm with his wife, Kim, his children, Cody and Colton, as well as the occasional round of golf.
Amie Thesingh is Vice President of Corporate Business Development, responsible for corporate strategy, development, and mergers and acquisitions.

Thesingh joined Wilbur-Ellis in 2020, bringing deep strategy, commercial and general management expertise to her role, along with experience that spans the food, agribusiness and technology industries.

Before joining Wilbur-Ellis, Thesingh held a variety of leadership roles at Cargill, where she developed and executed solutions for farmers, including new product development. Most recently, she was Vice President of Strategy, Marketing and Innovation for Cargill’s protein businesses in Latin America, Europe and Asia. She created the first global strategy and acquisition portfolio across these regions, identified the critical levers for aggressive organic and M&A growth, and subsequently took responsibility for go-to-market and innovation improvement efforts.

At Cargill, Thesingh also led the farmer-facing grain origination and crop inputs distribution business in Central and Eastern Europe. In addition, she was a senior leader within the Cargill-wide strategy function.

Prior to Cargill, Thesingh was with GE Capital’s vehicle fleet financing and services business, where she was Vice President of Product Development and Delivery for a start-up technology product line. She also served as a management consultant for McKinsey & Company, as well as holding several business-to-business marketing roles in the services and technology industries.

Thesingh completed her Master of Business Administration degree at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, as well as a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of the State of New York / Excelsior College.

Thesingh lives in San Francisco with her husband, Doug, and son, Duncan.
Mike Wilbur serves as the president and CEO of Cavallo Ventures, Inc., the venture capital arm of Wilbur-Ellis. Prior to his current role, Wilbur oversaw Cavallo Ventures as corporate vice president of business development, and during that time, he and his team at Cavallo Ventures finalized the asset acquisition of Ag Consulting Group, the acquisition of a majority of AgCode and four strategic investments in Asilomar Bio, Boost Biomes, Beta Hatch and VinSight.

In his over twenty years of services with the Company, Wilbur has held numerous positions, working in each business division and in corporate roles. Starting in 1997, as a forage sales rep in the Feed division, he worked his way through sales. Later, he served as Thailand country general manager for CBC, the Company’s specialty chemical business in Asia Pacific, as well as national seed director positions with Wilbur-Ellis’ Agribusiness division. Wilbur assumed the role of vice president of data services and field technology, where he was responsible for the successful development of the Company’s AgVerdict agronomy tool.

Wilbur is a graduate of Boston College with a degree in economics. He and his wife, Patrice, and their three sons reside in Hillsborough, California.
Dan Willey serves as chief information officer (CIO) for Wilbur-Ellis. He joined Wilbur-Ellis in 2008 to manage the new Program Management Office for the Information Technology department and assumed the CIO role in 2011. Willey is responsible for directing technology services for the entire organization. This includes workplace support, communication and collaboration tools, application improvement and support, security and business intelligence. His team ensures Wilbur-Ellis has a solid and reliable platform to conduct business every day.

Before joining Wilbur-Ellis, Willey held a variety of technology roles, including developer, project manager and application support. He has a passion for creating long-term value organizations by providing technology solutions and their effective implementation.

Willey holds a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration/Management Information Systems from Eastern Washington University, a master’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix and is a certified Project Management Professional (PMP).

Willey lives in Auburn, Washington, with his wife, Beth. They have four children and eight grandchildren. In his downtime, he enjoys spending time with his family and riding his motorcycle when Washington weather allows.