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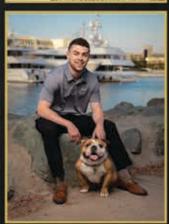






















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rising star

A Change in Career leads to Success Photos by Calder Pearce, Golden Lens Media

WHEN DID YOU START YOUR CAREER IN REAL ESTATE?

I started my career in the mortgage industry in 2001 as a loan processor, where I worked for over 15 years. In 2022, I decided to make the transition into real estate and jumped two feet in.

WHAT DID YOU DO BEFORE YOU BECAME A REALTOR?

Before I became a realtor, I worked as a mortgage loan processor starting in 2001. Later, I started working with Eric Vaca, the son of my previous broker, when he started his own mortgage company, Finest City Homes & Loans. We worked together for several years, during which time he became a great mentor and friend, teaching me a lot about the industry. I recently decided to make the switch to Team Rivera at eXp Realty to try something different and develop an identity of my own.

WHAT ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT RIGHT NOW IN YOUR BUSINESS?

I'm very passionate about helping people achieve their homeownership goals, especially those who don't think it's within their reach. There's something rewarding about guiding someone through the process, breaking down the barriers they perceive, and showing them that owning a home is possible. It's about more than just closing a deal—it's about changing lives and helping people realize their dreams.

WHAT HAS BEEN THE MOST REWARDING PART OF YOUR BUSINESS?

The most rewarding part of my business has been the opportunity to connect

and meet new people and make a real difference in their lives. Meeting new people and guiding them through such a significant journey is what drives my passion every day.

WHAT WAS YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGE AS A REALTOR?

My biggest challenge as a realtor has been navigating the changing market while staying ahead. In such a dynamic industry, it's important to not only keep up but to anticipate changes and adapt quickly.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF BEING A REALTOR?

Talking to people- I am a very social person and truly value new friendships.

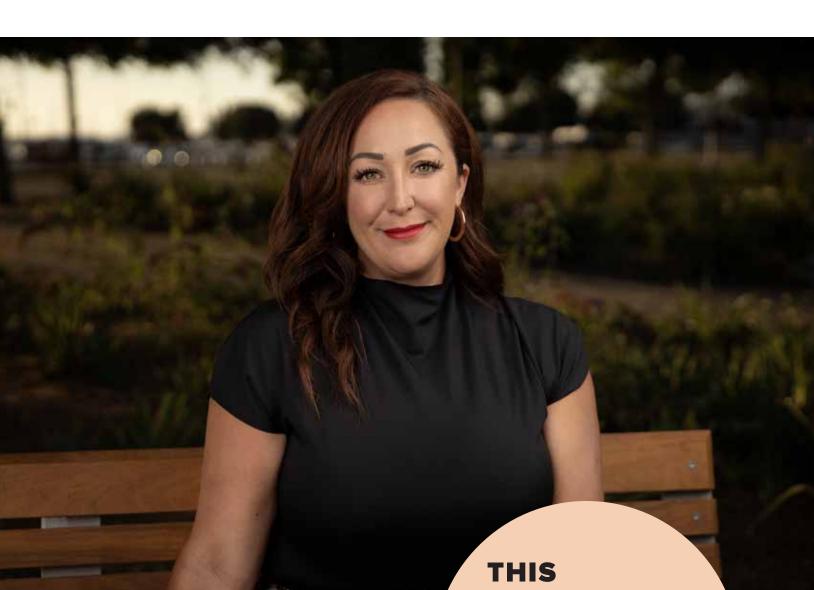
HOW DOES REAL ESTATE FIT INTO YOUR DREAMS AND GOALS?

Real estate is the perfect fit for my dreams and goals because it gives me the flexibility I need as a mom while still allowing me to pursue my passions. It enables me to be there for my family, while enjoying the freedom to travel and explore the world. Balancing my career with what I love most makes every day fulfilling and exciting. I am also pursuing my real estate license in Arizona.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR FAMILY?

I am a San Diego native and mom of 2 awesome children. My mother worked for many years at the City of San Diego and is now a retired grandma





of 12. I am close with my family, and we all spend a lot of time together. My grandparents were entrepreneurs with very successful business ventures that I have been lucky enough to work for and learn a lot about being a driven self-starter to stay motivated as a self-employed individual.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES AND INTERESTS OUTSIDE OF REAL ESTATE?

I love all music, especially Country concerts & line dancing, travel, explore new places in San Diego, camping with my kids, cooking, and I operate an Airbnb location in Arizona with my mom.

DEFINE SUCCESS

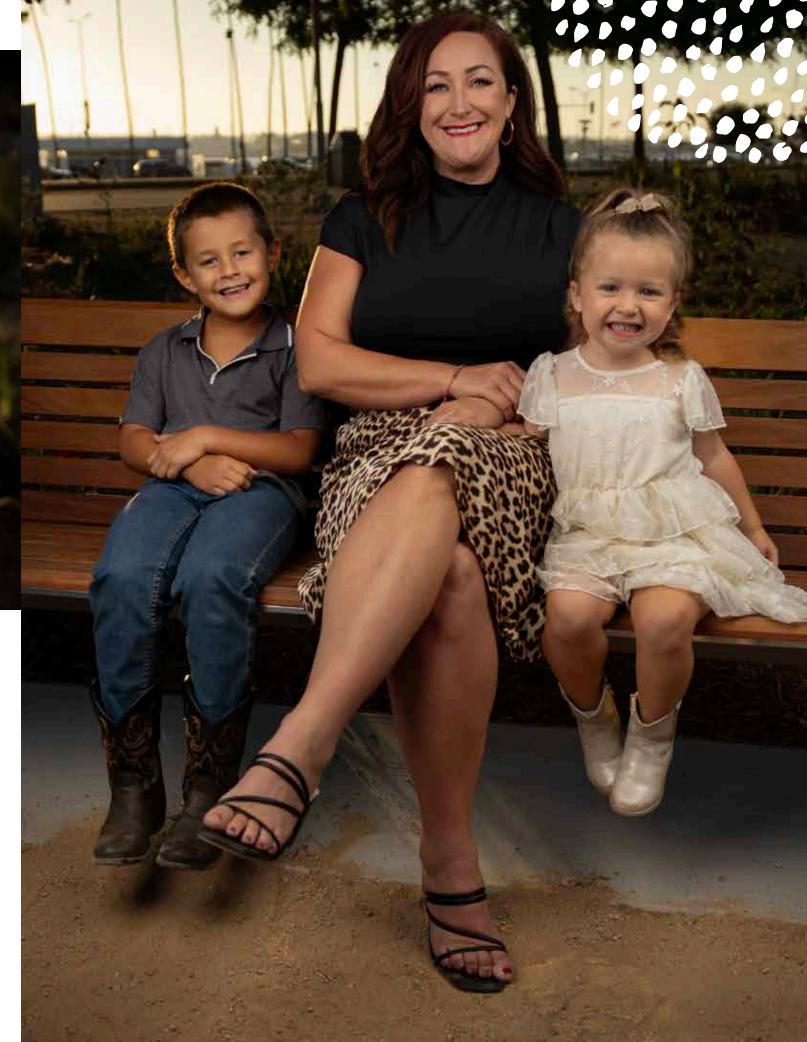
Learning to allow personal growth to meet your expectations and living your life to your fullest capacity. Being responsible for your own personal growth is such an important part of taking steps to further your career.

GIVEN YOUR STATUS AND EXPERTISE, WHAT IS SOME ADVICE YOU WOULD GIVE THE UP-AND-COMING RISING STARS?

Learn the basic knowledge, build relationships, gain knowledge and stay on top of your game. This career can definitely test you in many ways.

CAREER CAN
DEFINITELY
TEST YOU IN
MANY WAYS.

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By Shanna Welsh-Levin, Esq.

California's ballot initiatives create a sense of anticipation. Landlords fear what's to come each year. As we head to the voting polls, more than a few responsible citizens have feelings of inadequacy because it is hard to foresee the effects of the ballot initiatives. In 2024, California continues to adjust its policies on housing, with several new bills aimed at addressing affordability and tenants' rights. The needle moves toward housing reforms, pro-tenant, and pro-consumer legislation. Leading real estate professionals and affordable housing advocates take opposing views on this years' ballot initiatives.

The ballot in the 2024 California General Election has high stakes for landlords. Proposition 33 is presented as the "Justice for Renters Act". If Proposition 33 passes, it would repeal California's Costa-Hawkins Act. New rent control laws would immediately go into effect, preventing many landlords from raising rents to match current, fair market rental rates when their rental units turn over to new tenants. Repealing Costa-Hawkins could allow local governments to implement broader rent control measures. This might stabilize rents for tenants but could also deter new investments in rental properties due to potential limits on rental income growth. It could prevent investors and developers from building new housing units that California needs in order to meet housing demands.

Current Law allows municipal price controls on rent, if they are reasonably calculated to eliminate excessive rents, while providing landlords with a just and fair reasonable return from their property. The Costa-Hawkins Act protects landlords by forbidding rent control on vacant units. The law was passed in 1995 and only affects properties built in 1995 or later. There are additional exceptions to this law that are worth discussing with a legal professional if you need to know more. The overriding purpose of the Costa-Hawkins Act is to allow landlords to set the initial rent on units that are new construction and on units that become vacant.

In other words, the Costa-Hawkins Act mandates vacancy decontrol of rents when a tenancy is terminated, or the tenant ultimately ceases to reside on the premises. It allows the landlord to establish the rent for the vacant unit when a new tenant takes possession under a new lease.

Investors need to remain mindful of how they price their units throughout

the leasing process. As further rent controls go into effect throughout the State, it's important for landlords to continually increase rents to avoid falling behind. If Costa-Hawkins is repealed, landlords can get stuck at below fair market rates permanently. A lot will depend on local and state governments, whether they put overly restrictive laws in place.

Another ballot initiative is Proposition 5, which aims to lower the voter threshold for local bond measures. If approved, that measure will lower the voter approval threshold on local taxes and bonds for affordable housing and infrastructure projects from two-thirds to 55%. How might this impact real estate investors? Proposition 5 could make it easier for local governments to secure funding for housing and infrastructure projects, potentially increasing development opportunities and enhancing property values in areas benefiting from improved

infrastructure. This is a positive change for investors looking at longterm growth.

The California Association of Realtors indicates that it is neutral on Prop. 5, but only because C.A.R. won significant changes in the legislature. C.A.R. was opposed to Prop. 5, and through its opposition, several amendments were made including a new, more limited definition for public infrastructure, preventing the use of bond funds to acquire single family 1–4-unit properties, and removing language that lowers the vote requirement for parcel taxes and sales taxes.

Prop. 5 is supported by labor organizations such as firefighters and construction workers. It is also supported by affordable housing groups and local governments because the change would make it easier to fund new housing construction and other public projects. Opponents of the bill argue that the proposition would result in higher taxes and less taxpayer protection against government spending.

Another important change would occur with Proposition 32, which would increase minimum wage from \$16 per hour to \$18 for all workers starting in 2026. Depending on how many employees a business has, businesses with 25 or more employees would need to begin increases immediately and effectively increase wages to \$18 per hour on January 1, 2025. This proposition is supported by anti-poverty groups and local governments. It is opposed by various business groups such as the California Chamber of Commerce and the California Grocers Association. They argue prices would likely go up, but proponents argue the price increase would likely be less than one-half of one percent.

Interestingly, this could impact affordable rent rates indirectly. If wages increase, average income will likely increase, so the calculations for affordable housing would also increase. Also, an increase in the minimum wage impacts all businesses, particularly small businesses that could feel a greater impact from higher wages.

It doesn't stop at higher wages and rent control! California takes a stand this year on housing as a basic human right and offers more new laws affecting landlords and property investors in 2025.

In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court

decision relating to homelessness, California amended its constitution. In City of Grants Pass, OR v. Johnson, the Supreme Court held that the federal government is not authorized to dictate the Nation's homelessness policy. This leaves it up to each State to determine its own policy on homelessness. California did not delay passing Assembly Constitutional Amendment 10, declaring housing as a fundamental right of all citizens under the constitution of the State of California. In passing this amendment, California declares its pro-housing identity. This comes as no surprise to those familiar with California's housing policies. The author of this article cheers the State for its decisive and quick action, and hopes the State continues pushing to help establish better solutions and more options to make housing more affordable, and to provide shelter for the unhoused.

The list of new laws continues, with some bills still pending a final vote and the Governor's approval. Assembly Bill 2216 requires apartment complexes with more than 15 units to accept pets. If it passes, it will prohibit certain rental housing providers from asking about pets during the application process. The bill also aims to restrict pet deposits and fees. This legislation could affect how commercial property owners manage multifamily residential buildings and mixed-use developments. If passed, the law might increase wear and tear on rental properties. It could also lead

to higher insurance costs for property owners. However, it may expand the pool of potential tenants for residential units in commercial buildings.

Assembly Bill 2347 would extend the period of time in which a tenant may respond to eviction lawsuits. The current five-court-day window would increase to 10 court days. For commercial real estate owners with residential tenants, this change could lengthen the eviction process and potentially impact cash flow. The extended response time might also affect how quickly commercial spaces can be turned over to new tenants. Property managers may need to adjust their timelines and procedures for handling evictions.

Assembly Bill 2493 aims to limit when housing providers can charge applicant screening fees. This bill could change how commercial property owners select tenants for residential units in mixed-use developments. The proposed restrictions might lead to a more streamlined application process. However, they could also increase the risk of renting to unsuitable tenants. Property owners may need to develop new strategies for vetting potential residents.

This is just a brief review of a few of the ballot proposals and new laws that real estate professionals, investors, landlords, developers, attorneys, etc., will need to absorb when the new year begins. So. Cal. Realty Law, APC keeps landlords and real estate professionals up to date through our newsletter, monthly webinars, and social media, not to mention providing reliable, professional legal services to real estate investors and real estate professionals. Tune in! Visit www.socalrealtylaw.com to join our resource list and receive invitations to our free monthly webinars. If you are currently experiencing a legal problem, schedule a strategy session today by calling (619)232-7325, or emailing scrl@socalrealtylaw.com.

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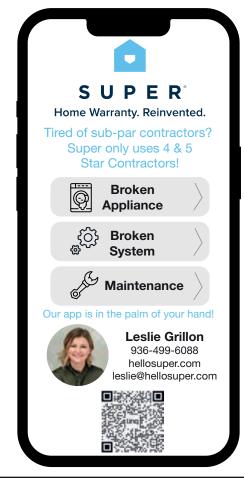
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Creating a Sanctuary at Home and for the Soul

By Annie Petersen Photos by Elizabeth Ireland Photography

Imagine in your mind's eye a cozy corner of a home, perhaps with a sunbeam cast across a floor where two cats rest curled up, paws tucked under, asleep.

Light Within

It's a sanctuary moment for Dawn Ressel and her two cats, Sol and Ivy.

You might call Dawn an accidental healer who you will find resetting the energy of a house before a new family moves in, something she says can help people experience that house as their home.

"Most people, when they walk into a space, they get a sense of whether it feels good or not. Everybody wants to live in a space that feels good," she says.

And Dawn knows about the desire to feel good.

In her previous career, she was working in the Silicon Valley at a major software company and from the outside looking in, she says people would have thought she was very successful and had everything together.

"You know, but on the inside, I was really suffering," Dawn says. "I quit my job in 2017, kind of unexpectedly, I mean unexpectedly to other people, because I was on the verge of a nervous breakdown. And I just couldn't do it anymore."

Dawn is not alone. A 2022 report on the State of Burnout in Tech found 2 in 5 workers show a high risk of burnout and 46% of women have a burnout risk compared to 38.2% of men. A separate report by Human Capital Innovations show that education is the most burnt-out industry in the U.S. followed by technology, information, and media. Real estate is in third place with the average burnout time prior to the fourth year of work.

"That's when I started seeking help for myself. I didn't initially have aspirations to become a healer," admits Dawn. "But the more work I did on myself, the more I realized it was my true calling."







Everybody wants to live in a space that feels good.

Dawn Ressel, who studies with Modern Mystery School, an international organization based in Toronto, is a former burned out technology professional turned Energy Healer and Guide. She founded The Light Within and provides services beyond cleansing a house to make it feel like home.

"It's very important they are taking care of themselves, not only physically, but also spiritually," she says about realtors. "And if they do that, they can have more longevity in their profession and they can respond to things that are stressful with more grace, more ease, and stay more centered."

She says she typically recommends people start with what she calls Life Activation which is a reset to lower stress and leads to clarity to make better decisions on a daily basis. If people want to continue working on themselves, she recommends a two-day workshop called Empower Thyself Initiation, a small group class. In that class, people get tools they can use every single day.

Dawn stresses the work isn't woo-woo and is based on 3,000-year-old methodologies, which she writes about in her book available on Amazon, "Ancient Healings, Modern Miracles."

"It's proven. It's repeatable. It's predictable."

In addition to helping people experience more positivity in their life, Dawn regularly volunteers with the San Diego Food Bank which includes putting on some meditation events this holiday season to raise money.

Originally from Florida, when she's not practicing Reiki or teaching meditation, you'll find her enjoying the beach, hiking or singing with her ukulele and living a positive and fulfilled life.

She wants realtors and homebuyers to experience that, too.

"You want to feel that your home is a space you can go into and feel safe, feel relaxed. And part of that is doing work on the home, and then part of that is doing work on yourself."





The Disclosure Report for REAL PRODUCERS







PROUD TO SERVE COUNTRY, FAMILY, & CLIENTS

Photos by Brandon Pease-Linked Preview, LLC

world of contrasts. His childhood was marked by the loving presence of his mother and the absence of his father. His father, a former soldier, had left when David was just 1 year old, vanishing from his life and leaving an indelible mark on his young heart. David clung to the memory of his father as a guiding star, silently vowing to make him proud, even though they would never meet again.

In his pursuit of this elusive pride, David's journey took him from the streets of San Diego to the battle-grounds of the Marines in 2001. His initial hope was to forge a long career in the Corps, but fate had other plans. An injury ended his service after just one tour, but David's resolve remained unshaken. His dreams of making his father proud were redirected, fueling his transition into civilian life.

It was his mother, whose tireless work ethic and selfless dedication to the family left a profound impact on David. Witnessing her work long hours, juggling responsibilities to support David, his sister, and their grandmother, ignited a desire within him to find a way to help her achieve a dream she had long put on hold: owning a home. This spark led David to explore various career paths, including law enforcement and construction, before discovering his true calling in real estate.

"Seeing my mom work so hard to support my grandmother, my sister, and me made a huge impression on me," he recalls. "Watching her work 10-plus hours a day and not able to own anything was the main reason I wanted to find a way to help her buy a house."

Despite facing the profound grief of losing his mother to early-onset Alzheimer's in 2016 and the challenges of caring for his grandmother until her centennial year, David's positivity remained unyielding. Despite the toll that caregiving took on his business, David's unwavering commitment to his family was a source of pride.

In 2007, David earned his real estate license, and over the next 17 years, he climbed the ranks to become the top 1% of Realtors in San Diego and 3% Nationwide with Coldwell Banker and a Real Estate Coach Nationwide with the CORE training Inc. David recently created The David Fletes Team to help more families with their Real Estate needs.





"In every situation, maintaining a positive outlook is crucial," David says. "Life's challenges can sometimes feel overwhelming, but it's important to remember that there's always a way forward."

David married his wife, Melyna. A passionate soccer fan, he proposed to her in Russia during the 2018 FIFA World Cup. "I got on my knee in the lobby of the hotel," he recalls, "And there were

people from all over the world standing by and clapping." Melyna, whom David describes as his best friend and partner in crime, is a constant source of support and inspiration.

Their family is enriched by their children: Ethan, a talented high school senior with a love for violin and mariachi, and Valeria, a dedicated graduate student pursuing her master's in psychology.

66

Life's challenges
can sometimes feel
overwhelming, but it's
important to remember
that there's always a
way forward.

David's business philosophy is rooted in his belief in the power of positivity and community. He relies solely on referrals and networking, eschewing traditional advertising methods. His dedication extends beyond real estate; he is an active community member, serving as the HOA president, collaborating with government unions, and supporting the Alzheimer's Association. His current roles on the board of the Pacific Southwest Association of Realtors and as a state political coordinator for the California Association of Realtors further reflect his commitment to his profession and community.

Through all of life's ups and downs, David's message remains clear: "Life isn't going to be easy. And no matter what you're going through, someone is going through something worse." His focus is on embracing each day with a positive mindset, not letting the weight of the future or others' opinions overshadow the present.

David Fletes' story is one of resilience and hope. It's a reminder that, even in the face of adversity, a positive outlook and unwavering dedication to one's values can lead to extraordinary success and fulfillment.



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