

# CEO EVOLUTION

LEADING THROUGH CRISIS »

NOVEMBER 10, 2020 | 1:00 PM ET

## Join us for the 2020 virtual CEO Evolution!

The 2020 CEO Evolution is a virtual experience, honoring some of New Jersey's toughest and most successful CEOs. Our annual event, sponsored by [Citrin Cooperman](#) and [Rutgers Business School](#), brings together a panel of CEOs who have demonstrated exceptional leadership success and have made a marked contribution to New Jersey's business community.

This year, our distinguished panel will discuss how they are leveraging their leadership experience to lead their businesses, some of the hardest hit by COVID-19, through unprecedented times. Don't miss this opportunity to hear candid and personal accounts of how our CEOs are leading through crisis.

1:00 PM – Welcome  
1:10 PM – Veteran Presentation  
1:15 PM – Panel Presentation  
2:00 PM – Q&A

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Sponsored by:



# SARAH CHAPLIN

## PRESIDENT AND CEO

State Theatre New Jersey



**SARAH CHAPLIN, President and CEO**

An accomplished arts administrator, Sarah K. Chaplin became the seventh President & CEO of State Theatre New Jersey in the summer of 2018. Currently, Chaplin is helping a \$26.5 million renovation campaign for State Theatre that will focus on increasing accessibility, upgrading the audience and artist experience, and improving operational efficiencies. This is the fifth theater renovation (and third historic venue renovation) of her career.

Chaplin previously served as the Executive Director of The National Theatre in Washington, DC. In her role, Chaplin worked on the revitalization of the historic venue through strategic planning, brand identity, and capital improvements. During her tenure, she increased income by 40%, which included the first major grants from the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities in the organization's history. Through strong financial management focused on revenue generation and expense control, the organization enjoyed an operational surplus for the first time in almost a decade. Prior to her time at The National Theatre, Chaplin worked for SMG, a national venue management company, serving as General Manager for The National; Director of the Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts in Jacksonville, Florida; and Theater Director for Peery's Egyptian Theater in Ogden, Utah. Prior to her work at SMG, Chaplin served as Associate Managing Director at San Diego Repertory Theatre as well as Senior Associate Director of Development and Alumni Affairs at Yale School of Drama/Yale Repertory Theatre.

A Utah native, Chaplin holds an MFA from Yale School of Drama in Theater Management and an undergraduate degree in Theatre from Weber State University.

Francis Schott is the proprietor and co-owner **Catherine Lombardi Restaurant** and **Stage Left Steak** in New Brunswick, NJ. According to the state's leading newspaper and magazines, the best steakhouse in NJ and the best Italian restaurant in the center of the state. In addition to the critically acclaimed wine and beverage programs at his restaurants, Francis and his business partner Mark Pascal run StageLeftWineShop.com, selling wine to 13 states.

He is a beverage consultant, a professional wine and spirits judge and an entertaining and informative public speaker. Check out his **TEDx** talk on restaurants and community. He has been on The Board of The New Jersey Restaurant Association since 1992, where he is active in legislative and government affairs. Whether in private meetings with legislators or governors, televised debates or testifying before legislative bodies, he is a tireless advocate for the more than 1,500 restaurants NJRA represents and the millions of people they employ.

He was **NJ Restaurateur of The Year 2011**, and **NJ Wine and Spirits Professional of The Year 2018**. In December 2019, USA Today's NorthJersey.com included Francis in its list of **The 24 Most Important People of The Decade in The New Jersey Restaurant Scene**.

# FRANCIS SCHOTT

## PROPRIETOR and CO-OWNER

Stage Left Steak / Catherine Lombardi



**FRANCIS SCHOTT, Co-Owner**

# JEFF CANTOR

**COLONEL, US ARMY (Retired)**

**CEO, NJ Veteran's Chamber of Commerce**

Jeff Cantor is the founder & Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey State Veterans Chamber of Commerce which launched in November 2018. His goal is to improve the economic environment for veterans in the state and to build the infrastructure to create greater competitiveness and success for veteran business entities. Prior to that, Jeff served as the Lead for Veterans Economic Development for the State of New Jersey.

Jeff enlisted in the Army in 1985 as a Private First Class and through determination became commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Infantry. He holds four military occupational specialties in Infantry, All-Source Intelligence, Imagery Intelligence, and Civil Affairs. He served in various units both in active duty and in the Army Reserves. Jeff has served in dozens of countries around the world on six continents. He recently retired in 2017 at the rank of Colonel (O-6) in the Army Reserve. He is a veteran of the wars in Iraq & Afghanistan and has been awarded a Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal, and many other awards over a 32-year career.



**JEFF CANTOR, Col. US ARMY (Ret.)**



**DAVID SEELINGER, Chairman and CEO**

# DAVID SEELINGER

**EmpireCLS**

With over 30 years of experience in the livery transportation industry, David is the driving force behind EmpireCLS' success as the premiere transportation service company in the world. Regarded for his trendsetting ideas, entrepreneurial vision and passionate hospitality, he is regarded as a pioneer for committing to delivering consistent service and innovations in an unregulated industry. His standards and drive have attracted innumerable affiliate partners allow EmpireCLS' reach to expand worldwide.



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Moderated by:



**MICHAEL NAPOLITANO, CPA**

**Partner**

**Citrin Cooperman**

Michael Napolitano is a partner at Citrin Cooperman, with over 25 years of experience providing counsel and services to clients in specialized industries, helping clients to operate more efficiently. Michael provides a balance of deep industry knowledge and insight, extending his services beyond financial statements and tax returns to help clients understand the impact of their decisions, as well as plan for their future success.

## THE CEO EVOLUTION

The **CEO Evolution** is an annual seminar series that takes place in several regions where Citrin Cooperman has offices. The **CEO Evolution** series aims to identify and recognize those CEOs and leaders who have risen to the top and evolved as industry leaders. This annual event brings together some of the most notable and most dynamic CEOs in the state to share their experiences, strategies and best practices to help others gain insight into becoming better leaders.

**#CEOevolution**