

"The 2015 All-Star Board" March 13th, 2015

One of the strengths of Nashville's business leaders is their propensity to help others succeed. No matter where you turn, someone is reaching out to help someone else make a connection, improve a product or land a big client.

This year's All-Star Board — check out the 2014 and 2013 versions, too — represents only a tiny sliver of the universe of supremely competent advisors in this city. But we think it paints a good picture of the wide range of skills available to entrepreneurs and leaders looking to get better. As in the past, we didn't just come up with these suggestions ourselves but also sought out recommendations from leaders whose judgment we trust. They didn't fail us and — if they're available to you — neither will the members of the 2015 All-Star Board.



Steve Curnutte — Tortola Advisors

Curnutte combines financial savvy and hands-on operational knowledge with a keen eye for the big picture — a fellow local entrepreneur calls him "an instant MBA in a bottle." After building and selling a music publishing company during the 1990s, he launched Finworth Mortgage to cater to the high end of last decade's booming mortgage market and sold it to InsBank in 2008.

InsBank CEO Jim Rieniets says Curnutte "has a unique talent in the form of creativity accompanied by business acumen and pragmatism." Curnutte has put that potent combination to work since 2009 through Tortola, a restructuring and strategic planning firm that has worked with companies in hardware retail, aluminum processing, construction and commercial printing, among others. (His work on turning around Allen Printing got the company onto the Inc. 5000 list last year.)

In 2011, Curnutte landed the financial backing to launch Capstan, a distressed opportunities fund that has put its money to work on hardware stores here and in Georgia as well as in a booming wireless speaker startup based in Oregon.