



JAYLON SMITH

**MINORITY  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP  
INSTITUTE**

# **TEXAS SHOWCASE**

**JULY 2020  
PRESENTER FLIPBOOK**



# SHEARSHARE

RENT SALON SPACE WHENEVER, WHEREVER.

VITAL STATS

**Category:** online marketplace      **Founded:** 2015

**Product:** first B2B mobile marketplace for stylists to manage and grow their small businesses on their terms, starting with space to work

**Social Impact:** Empowers small businesses by allowing salon and barbershop owners to fill their empty chairs and giving independent stylists economic mobility through on-demand access to professional work spaces and B2B tools.



*Courtney and Tye Caldwell*  
**Co-Founders**  
*McKinney (DFW)*  
courtney@shearshare.com

**Dr. Tye Caldwell | Co-Founder & CEO**

Recognized as a tech visionary and industry pioneer, Dr. Caldwell’s mission is to help beauty and barbering professionals around the world maximize their earnings potential. Prior to creating ShearShare, Tye owned and operated an award-winning salon in Dallas, Texas for 20 years, which was the genesis behind ShearShare. He has worked in beauty for 25 years as a master barber-stylist, educator, and small business coach, offering his 20+ years of industry knowledge as a proven roadmap. Tye serves on the Advisory Boards for multiple beauty schools, is a frequent guest lecturer at barber colleges and hairstyling institutes around the globe. Dr. Tye Caldwell is a licensed instructor and educator, and received his Doctorate of Professional Barbering from Miracle University. He enjoys international travel, reading, and spending time with his wife, Courtney, and 18-year-old son, Trey.

**Courtney Caldwell | Co-Founder & COO**

Prior to cofounding ShearShare, Courtney managed an award-winning salon with her husband and cofounder, which was the genesis behind ShearShare. Before that, Courtney spent two decades building winning teams in tech marketing and ran a boutique consulting firm where she fast-tracked international sales and marketing success for brands such as Zendesk, Zenefits, and Qualtrics. She recently received an honorary doctorate degree from Miracle University and was named the 2019 SMU Cox School of Business Outstanding Young

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Alumna, the 2019 Ada Lovelace Female Tech Founder of the Year, a 2018 Dallas Business Journal Women in Technology, and the 2017 L’Oreal Women in Digital NEXT Generation Award winner, and a Direct Marketing News “40 Under 40.” She serves on the Advisory Board for Ogle Cosmetology School, the 21st Century Council for Southern Methodist University, the SMU Crain Leadership Endowment Fund Board of Directors, and is a member of the UT-Dallas Entrepreneurship Council. Courtney lives in McKinney, Texas, with her husband, Dr. Tye Caldwell, and is mom to their 18-year-old son, Trey, a cadet at the US Air Force Academy.

### **Nazre Imam | Lead Engineer**

Naz has more than twelve years of engineering, business analytics, product management, software design, and technical architect experience and has worked for brands such as the Royal Bank of Scotland, Mercer, and Vertex Data Science. Naz manages the ShearShare engineering team and is responsible for steering end-to-end project activities to include planning, solution design, infrastructure, setup and coding/development. His experience working within Cloud, SaaS and emerging cloud use cases for the Web and mobile environments has led him to be recognized in both the US and abroad for his expertise. Naz earned his Bachelors of Technology degree in Computer Science & Engineering from GGS Indraprastha University in New Delhi with distinction and has TOGAF certification.

### **Neha Misra | Head of Product**

Neha has 10 years experience as product owner, with distinct experience in UI/UX design, mobile architecture, analytics, and data-driven strategic planning. After receiving her bachelors degree in technology, she started her career as a systems software engineer and transitioned into product management for multinational mobile brands like InfoSys and Samsung. She spent three years at Samsung, where she was solely responsible for the development and maintenance of the Samsung Email Module on all Samsung phones and tablets. At ShearShare, Neha is responsible for leading all product development and spearheading collaborative efforts between design and engineering to bring the ShearShare mobile platform to market.

# DUKE.AI



*Marcus Cooksey  
Founder and CEO*

*Dallas  
marcus@duke.ai*

## VITAL STATS

**Category:** B2B technology

**Product:** automated accounting and bookkeeping for Owner Operators in the trucking industry

**Social Impact:** Duke.AI empowers small businesses by demystifying bookkeeping with the use of technology that allows users to simply scan images of bank statements or income statements.

**Founded:** 2018

### **Marcus Cooksey | Founder and CEO**

Marcus Cooksey is an engineer with more than 20 years of experience as a software developer at Texas Instruments (TI) Inc. His jobs at TI included building Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) products for some of the most technologically advanced vehicles on the market. He Founded DUKE.AI after realizing the deficiencies in bookkeeping and accounting software while managing LUI Transport, LLC, which is a trucking company started in 2015.

### **Viswanath Puttagunta | Co-Founder**

Vish has over 15 years of software developing experience. He and Marcus met at Texas Instruments and met periodically as Vish went to pursue interest the Open Source community and Data Science. As the CTO and Principal Data Scientists at DIVERGENCE.ai, Vish helps companies incubate Data Driven teams centered around Marketing, Operational Excellence/Logistics, Fraud Detection and Food Safety. As the cofounder of Duke.ai, Vish is keen on bringing the scale of cloud and AI to the Trucking owner operators.

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**Investors/Advisors:**

- **Scott Roller** - previously served as Vice President of Systems Engineering Marketing for Texas Instruments (TI), and Vice President of TI's Microcontroller business
- **Reginald Joseph (CFO of DUKE.AI)** - served as Vice President of Power Management Finance and Operations within the Analog Segment of Texas Instruments where he provided strategic leadership overseeing business operations, accounting and financial planning

Help improve inclusion and equity in your workplace. **Anonymously.**



*Mandy Price*  
*Co-founder & CEO*

*Dallas*

[mandy@kanarys.com](mailto:mandy@kanarys.com)

**VITAL STATS**

**Category:** B2B technology

**Product:** analytics platform aimed at monitoring, analyzing, and addressing diversity and inclusion (D&I) challenges

**Social Impact:** drives systemic change by benchmarking D&I programs to help reveal systemic bias and provides actionable insights to improve inclusion.

**Founded:** 2018 (platform became commercially available in August of 2019)

**Mandy Price | Co-Founder and CEO**

Mandy Price is an advocate for diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) and the CEO of Kanarys. Mandy's interest in DEI began early in her career when she helped create the division of diversity and community engagement at the University of Texas at Austin as an undergrad. She then held the role of outreach editor of the Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review. In her previous legal career, she served on the Women's Task Force at Barnes & Thornburg, the board of directors of the Texas Civil Rights Project, as a member of the Diversity Committee at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP and as the former president of the J.L. Turner Legal Association, the African-American Bar Association of Dallas. Mandy continues to serve as a member of the board of directors of many community organizations, including the UT McCombs School of Business BBA Advisory Board and TexProtects, an organization that aims to prevent child abuse. She previously served as a board member on The University of Texas at Austin 1883 Council, Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, ChildCare Group and the Dallas Bar Association. In 2006, Mandy earned her Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School after earning her Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Texas at Austin. She resides in Dallas, Texas with her husband and two children.



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# Kanarys

## **Starlett Carter | Co-Founder and COO**

Prior to joining Kanarys, Starlett served as an Associate Counsel at Hudson Advisors, L.P., a globally integrated asset manager, and as Counsel at Sidley Austin LLP, a large international law firm. Passionate about giving back to her community, Starlett also successfully provided representation on a number of pro bono matters which include cases involving asylum, contract dispute, criminal expungement, adoption, and landlord-tenant dispute and was previously recognized for her pro bono services by the Dallas Volunteer Attorney Program as the Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year. Additionally, Starlett currently serves as the immediate past chairwoman of the board of directors for Legal Aid of Northwest Texas, a non-profit organization that provides free civil legal services to eligible low-income residents in Texas. Starlett received her Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School in 2006 and Bachelor of Business Administration with honors from the University of Texas at Austin in 2003. She resides in Dallas, Texas with her husband and two children.

## **Bennie King | Co-Founder and CAO**

Prior to Kanarys, Bennie was the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of VenueCenter, an online platform that modernized and changed the way consumers and planners approached the event planning and venue booking process. VenueCenter launched in 2015 and sold in 2018. Prior to founding VenueCenter, Bennie had a seven-year career in the pharmaceutical industry where he oversaw the new hire training program; ensured that all operations and standard operating procedures (SOP's) were in compliance with FDA, CLIA, EMEA, and OSHA regulations; and performed periodical competency assessments of all staff. Bennie previously served as a board member of Flight, the young professional arm of Vogel Alcove, a Dallas-based organization battling childhood homelessness. He also serves on the board of the Parents' Association of Temple Emanu-El and was the Co-Chair of the ECEC Annual Silent Auction in 2017. Bennie is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi and was Polemarch (President) of the Iota Delta chapter at the University of Texas at Austin. Bennie holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology from the University of Texas at Austin, and he resides in Dallas, Texas with his wife and two children.

# AFROLANDTV

THE NETFLIX OR DISNEY+ OF AFRICA AND ITS DIASPORA



*Michael Maponga*  
*Founder and CEO*  
*Dallas*

[mmaponga@afrolandtv.com](mailto:mmaponga@afrolandtv.com)

## VITAL STATS

**Category:** media technology

**Product:** the “Netflix or Disney+ of Pan African Content”, AfroLandTV offers an online streaming TV platform for Pan African TV shows and movies

**Social Impact:** provides black filmmakers with incredible stories a platform to showcase their films and TV shows to a global audience

**Founded:** 2018

### **Michael S. Maponga | Founder and CEO**

Michael Maponga has over 10 years of experience in a range of areas across the film industry, including acting, producing, and distribution. He was born in Harare, Zimbabwe and moved to Texas in 2002. He is an actor and producer with two international box office films (Finding Mother 1 and 2), and is a winner of the Entrepreneur Trailblazer Award by the Professional Association of Young Africans in Houston, Texas.

### **John Mills | Chief Technology Officer**

In successful commercial use for over 10 years, John is the founder of perception TV CDN, which delivers and manages AfroLandTV’s end-to-end IPTV and OTT TV services.

### **Brittin Maponga | Creative Director**

Digital marketer and communications director with 5+ years of experience



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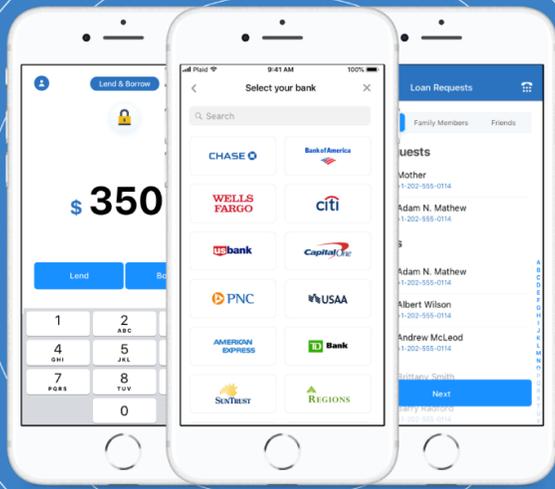


**Raquel Lee | Chief Marketing Officer**

Marketing leader with experience ranging from ABC Family, TEDX, and Walt Disney

**Jasmine Bortters | Content Manager**

Media and marketing experience including CBS and Good Culture



*“Reinventing lending one relationship at a time”*

ZIRTUE

VITAL STATS

**Category:** financial technology      **Founded:** 2018

**Product:** relationship-based social lending app that simplifies loans between friends, family and trusted relationships with automatic ACH loan payments

**Social Impact:** with social emphasis on the unbanked, Zirtue is creating a financially inclusive world by mobilizing loans between friends and family. Zirtue empowers users to empower each other through trust-based loan, instead of relying on predatory lenders.



*Dennis Cail*  
**Co-Founder & CEO**  
*Dallas*  
 dcail@zirtue.com

**Dennis Cail | Co-Founder and CEO**

As a Navy Veteran with over 20 years a Technology Executive and Entrepreneur with a successful exit after running my boutique M&A advisory firm for 10 years, I am uniquely qualified to drive global financial inclusion by digitizing trust-based loans between friends and family. MEI would be a great investment partner for Zirtue and we would be honored to align our mission with Jaylon's mission.

I was born and raised in Monroe, Louisiana. My mother and father were 17 years old when my mother became pregnant with me, getting married at 18 and divorced at 22. My brother and I were raised by our grandmother in the projects. I believe all the love and praying that my grandmother did for us continues to cover me today.

Growing up on welfare, food stamps and being food-insecure for most of my childhood is what gives me the humility I have today and the constant drive to break the stereotypes. I never had any intentions settling for where I was, even though it was the only thing I knew at the time. If you're paying attention you can learn so much growing up poor. I learned at an early age that you can't do what you can't pay for and that it takes money to change money.



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### **Michael Seay | Co-Founder and CFO**

Michael has over 18 years of experience as a seasoned trader, investor, and entrepreneur. After beginning his career at Lehman Brothers, he co-founded Double Eagle Capital Management an alternative asset management firm which had nearly 500 million in assets under management at its height. The firm was the best performing in the world in its peer group according to hedge fund research (HFRX). After retiring in 2009 Michael went on to trade proprietary capital and structure deals in the renewable and physical energy space. Michael has a BS in Finance from the Walton School at the University of Arkansas with a focus on investments.