

Corporate Etiquette Consultant Certification

Meet the experts



Cynthia R. Grosso is a corporate etiquette expert. She has been a speaker, teacher and consultant in this arena for more than 15 years. She is the founder of the Charleston School of Protocol and Etiquette. Prior to her current business, she owned a prominent international modeling and finishing school.

In addition to being an award winning speaker and a business columnist, Ms. Grosso has appeared as an etiquette expert on the Dr. Phil Show, Oprah, Faking It and Perfect Proposal reality shows on TLC, written about in Woman's Day Magazine, Marie Claire Magazine, The New York Times, Esquire Magazine, BusinessWeek Magazine, Golf Digest, Working Woman Magazine, Women's World Magazine as well as many others. She is the host of Your Manners Matter radio show.

Ms. Grosso is the author of the Professional Savvy Series, and online learning program for Professional Table Manners that is the only one of its kind in the world. This program won the bronze medal in the world for excellence in E-learning. She is the author of a national home school program.

Ms. Grosso is a graduate of the University of South Carolina with a BS degree in Business Administration. She is an adjunct professor of etiquette and protocol at several local colleges. She has received adjunct professor of the year, several times.

Ms. Grosso is active in professional and civic organizations and has received the prestigious "Business Person of the Year" award given by the Chamber of Commerce in her area. She has also received the Outstanding American Award for outstanding community service given by the United States Jaycees.

Ms. Grosso focuses on the critical ten percent...."the polish", needed for business people to compete and grow in the corporate environment.



Kathryn Cobb is a professional voice coach. She has appeared on national television in "The Competition: The World of Beauty Pageants." She has over 30 years of experience in performing, consulting and coaching. Kathryn received her BFA in Theatre and Speech from Stephens College, Columbia, MO.

As a freelance actress in television and films, she has worked with Academy-Award Winner Frances McDormand and Emmy-Award Winner Armand Assante. Adding to her list, she has also worked with comedian Orlando Jones.

Kathryn uses voice, diction and communications training to provide the best possible pageant preparation, interview techniques, presentation skills plus personal and professional development. A well-known acting and public speaking consultant, she has trained actors who have gone on to professional careers plus numerous pageant winners.



Laurie Forster In 2002, she began her wine career in Manhattan where she studied with the American Sommelier Association to obtain her certificate in Viticulture and Vinification. Laurie also trained at the Culinary Institute of America in Napa Valley and later became a member of the Society of Wine Educators. Recently she took her first step towards achieving the Master Sommelier title in New York and passed at the top of her class.

Concurrently, she trained as a life coach with Coach U, the leading global provider of coach training programs and is presently a member of the International Coaching Federation. Laurie is also dedicated to furthering her learning about wine by going to its source. Her extensive travels include visiting wineries and vineyards in Australia, New Zealand, Italy, California, Maryland, Virginia and Oregon.

As The Wine Coach®, Laurie creates unique corporate team building events, group tasting seminars and culinary experiences. She is dedicated to demystifying wine—one glass at a time, helping build successful teams as well as ensuring that everyone has an inspiring time at her events. She’s a sparkling presenter, highly skilled at engaging every wine lover—from beginners to wine enthusiasts. The old proverb that states 'Over a bottle of wine many a friend is made' is proven time and time again at her events.

Laurie is a regular contributor to What’s Up Annapolis magazine, Eastern Home and Travel Magazine and other fine publications. She is a sought after speaker and guest expert on radio stations across the country. Her weekly radio show “Something to Wine About” can be heard on WCEI 96.7 FM and WBAL 1090AM. Laurie is also serving as national spokesperson for the “Pour on The Joy” campaign sponsored by Lindemans Wines where she is helping people increase their happiness by making the wine-joy connection. Laurie’s newly released book [The Sipping Point: A Crash Course in Wine](#), reflects her fresh perspective on wine education and has already received rave reviews.



John Carroll is executive coach. His focus professionally, is on helping executives and organizations win the game of business and the game of life. John has worked with sales professionals, managers and entrepreneurs in businesses, trade groups and charitable organizations.

A national award-winning columnist, John Carroll is also the author of *Sales Illustrated: 68 Sales Lessons from Everyday Life* (available in three languages) and is a regular contributor to several publications. His columns appear in *Strategies* magazine, *The Charleston Regional Business Journal*, and *The Catholic Miscellany*.

An accomplished and engaging speaker, he has been recognized for both Sales and Facilitation Excellence by Brian Tracy International, a worldwide network of speakers and consultants. A charter member of the Society for the Advancement of Consulting, he is one of only a dozen recipients worldwide to receive rare Board Approval in his specialty of consulting to emerging growth companies. His approaches have attracted attention globally, including articles appearing in *Chief Executive China* magazine.

He is a true entrepreneur, having launched or helped to launch organizations, one of which was recognized in the *Emerging 10*, the 10 fastest growing businesses. John is also the first layperson to serve on the Clergy Personnel Advisory Board of the Diocese of Charleston. He has served as president of the board of the Dee Norton Lowcountry Children’s Center and president of the Mount Pleasant Business and Professional Association. John is a founding board member of Lowcountry Local First. He lives in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina with his wife Lori and their daughters Erynn and Jodye.



Maria Aselage – is the President of HearSay Communications. She has more than 15 years experience in the communications field and is an award-winning television journalist and website developer. She received an undergraduate degree in journalism from the University of Georgia and an MBA from The Citadel.

As a television news reporter and anchor in Charleston, South Carolina, Maria covered the court and crime beat and reported on numerous notable stories.

After leaving the news business, Maria taught public speaking at The Citadel. She then served as the communications director and media spokesperson for the Catholic Diocese of Charleston. In addition to operating the communications consulting company, Maria teaches a graduate level business communication class at The Citadel.

As a news reporter, Maria received several Investigative Reporting awards, and the Radio Television News Directors Association of the Carolinas awarded her second place for South Carolina Journalist of the Year in 1997. In 2006, she received the award for Outstanding Website from the Florida Association of Chamber Professionals. She was also part of the team that created a direct mail marketing piece which the Florida Economic Development Council acknowledged as the Best Direct Mail Campaign for a medium market.

Maria currently serves as the publicity chairperson for the Mount Pleasant Business Professional Association and is on the advisory committee for The Citadel Graduate College.