



2020 Ones to Watch: Shahid Jafri, Jafri Capital

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Name: Shahid Jafri

Company: Jafri Capital

Title: Founder

Education: B.S. in Finance & Accounting from the Dolan School of Business at Fairfield University

Who or what inspires you?

My inspiration and general business mentor is John Moore, CEO and co-founder of the healthcare firm, Marwood Group. We first met in 2013 at a Saint Anthony's High School Alumni event at the Yale Club in Manhattan. He, along with his classmate Mike Cavanaugh, who at the time was the CFO of JP Morgan Chase were the featured guests. The St. Anthony's principal suggested that I listen closely to them both speak. After hearing them, I knew that they were where I wanted to be one day. I maintained a strong relationship with John and over time he taught me lessons he learned from being an entrepreneur. When I founded Jafri Capital, I worked out of his office in Midtown Manhattan and was fortunate to continue receiving advice along the way. Additionally, my real estate mentor is Ryan Carlson who was my boss after his time at KKR and Cushman & Wakefield. He has played a key role in my real estate financial success.

What led you to your current profession?

I was exposed to residential and commercial RE at a young age through my parents, who are both highly respected immigrant entrepreneurs in the industry, Mohammed Jafri and Zahra Jafri. Additionally, my two uncles have provided me guidance as they are pioneers in at their respected institutions, Ajaz Jafri and Reaz Jafri.

What social media platform do you use the most professionally?

I noticed the lack of data and proptech in the industry and identified a gap in the market. LinkedIn is my professional social media platform of choice. I have always believed that LinkedIn is an untapped resource when it comes to the potential it holds within our industry. Jafri Capital has invested in social media applications that allow us to maximize our exposure and develop a domestic base, while reaching a global capital network. LinkedIn has given me the opportunity to recruit new talent and expand my existing network through various online networking events.

How do you contribute to your community or your profession?

I contribute to my community by donating to local charities as well as organizations whose principles stand on making a positive outcome on the local community. I am a firm believer that one's impact on their community goes much further than donations and charitable contributions. As a first generation American, I have been taught the importance of respect, hard work, value of education, and the great opportunities this country provides me.

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