

Making an Impact

By Suzann D. Silverman

During the 2012 Convention & Marketplace, the Commercial Real Estate Women Network honored eight women for outstanding leadership contributions to the industry and women's professional advancement. Seven were recipients of the four annual Impact Awards, while this year's Circle of Excellence Award went to an executive making these significant contributions and a real estate company that has long supported CREW Network, the advancement of women and workplace diversity. Be sure to log on to CPExecutive.com for the video featuring these achievers.



CREW Network Circle of Excellence Award

Elizabeth Solender, President, Solender/Hall Inc.

Elizabeth Solender is respected as a well-rounded professional who benefits a business segment in need of an advocate. As the leader of a 21-year-old company that represents corporations and nonprofit organizations seeking to buy, sell, lease, manage or finance real estate, she is able to advocate for them with landlords and define their needs and the value they may contribute to a property. Reportedly unafraid of controversial issues, tough working conditions and tough neighborhoods, she is also comfortable presiding over organizations—she is chairman of the North Texas chapter of the National Association of Corporate Directors—and serving on corporate boards. In addition, she is president and a director of Mujeres Empresarias Inc., a commercial real estate investment company.



Solender is also active in the business community, serving in a variety of board and organizational roles. She is currently a member of the board of Community Trust Bank and on the audit and directors loan committees of Community Trust Financial Corp. She has also been on the board of ACCESS Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Dallas National Bank Holding Co., as well as the advisory boards of Zweave Inc., Club-

Corp and Barrie Pace, a division of James K. Wilson. The city of Dallas appointed her to the board of the Cypress Waters Tax Increment Financing District, and she is a member of the Dallas Foundation Advisory Council, The Dallas Summit, The Dallas Assembly, The Real Estate Council and the North Texas Commercial Association of Realtors.

Also a senior lecturer on organizational communication at the Uni- (continued on page 30)

CREW Network Circle of Excellence Award

CBRE Global Inc.

CBRE has long embraced diversity in the workplace, considering it a competitive advantage. The massive real estate service provider has also established specific networking groups targeted at encouraging advancement among a number of minority groups as well as women.

The women's network began with a breakfast meeting that attracted 35 fe-

CBRE

male professionals and has since grown to more than 500 members from around the world and across the company's service lines. Led by an eight-member board, it features awards, a mentoring program and a variety of organized community service activities.

CBRE as a whole has long supported CREW Network and has been the premier lead partner of its industry research initiative since the 2004 launch.

CREW Network Awards

Elizabeth Solender

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versity of Texas at Dallas School of Management for 15 years, the graduate of Emerson College and Purdue University has written extensively about commercial real estate and organizational communication, and often participates in panel discussions on commercial real estate, corporate board development and corporate social responsibility. A past president of CREW Network, she developed and championed growth of the CREW Network Foundation and is chair emeritus. She was also president of CREW Dallas, a past chairman of the Dallas Museum of Natural History, a former president of two United Way agencies and co-chair of the President's Research Council at UTSW Medical Center, as well as serving on a number of other human service and cultural boards.



She is a recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award and Life Member Award from CREW Dallas, was named the Outstanding Young Texan by the Texas Jaycees, won the Outstanding Achievement Award by the Dallas Jaycees, the Extra Mile Award by the Dallas Business & Professional Women's Organization and the Ebby Award for community service from Our Friends' Place. Furthermore, in 2009 she was named by *D CEO Magazine* as one of the Best Commercial Real Estate Brokers in Dallas, and in 2010 she was featured as an Industry Pioneer.

Solender's background includes a stint in management consulting and 10 years in the oil industry as manager of human resources for Sun (Oil) Co. She then entered the banking industry, and was introduced to real estate when she purchased a troubled financial institution for the Resolution Trust Corp. Following work in real estate finance, she founded Solender/Hall.

Allison Beall (continued from page 28)

Burnham Moore Real Estate Program, with CREW San Diego as a supporting partner; the premier event last year attracted more than 250 attendees. She speaks on panels at other real estate schools, as well, to encourage women to enter the industry, and has worked to advance CREW San Diego's own educational offerings.

At Pacific Building Group, she helped win more than \$35 million in business in 2010 alone, securing new business relationships with companies such as Qualcomm, Northrop Grumman, Cushman & Wakefield Inc. and Cassidy Turley. Previously, she was director of client relations for law firm Perkins & Miltner L.L.P. She also runs her own consulting firm, Off-Tackle Sports Management, which develops recruiting presentations for draft-eligible athletes and analyzes their annual draft statistics.

Beall also believes strongly in the value of mentors, and has actively sought and attributed success to relationships she has developed with senior leaders. The 2011 president of CREW San Diego, she won two chapter awards: the 2010 Overachiever Award and the 2009 Networker of the Year Award. She also won the 2011 NAIOP Corporate Developing Leaders Award, the 2010 BOMA San Diego Chairperson of the Year Award for Special Events, the 2004 AGC (Associated General Contractors) Affiliate of the Year—Individual Award and the 2003 AGC Rookie of the Year Award.

Heather Begnaud McGowan, Rikki Lober Bagatell and Megan Riess (continued from page 29)

gan Chase, Chevron, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, Liberty Bank, Whitney Bank, Stonehenge Capital and Tax Credit Capital. It is expected to contribute significantly to the revitalization of Canal Street.

McGowan has been an associate at Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann since 2006 and has transacted commercial real estate deals in Louisiana and elsewhere. She chairs the Nuts and Bolts of Retail Leasing subcommittee of the American Bar Association.

Bagatell joined Shutts & Bowen L.L.P.'s corporate practice group in West Palm Beach, Fla., in May from Stone Pigman. Her background includes merger-and-acquisition work, formation of new business entities, joint ventures, strategic planning, private securities offerings and related business law, along with commercial real estate acquisitions, development, leasing, dispositions and financing, including tax credit financing. She serves on the American Bar Association mergers and acquisitions committee.

Megan Riess is an associate in the corporate section of Walmsley Willis & Swanson L.L.P., focusing on commercial finance, real estate finance, public finance, corporate finance and corporate transactions. She has represented borrowers and lenders in the structuring, negotiation and documentation of credit facilities, as well as commercial transactions utilizing economic development financing tools such as state and federal new markets tax credits, state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits, state and federal renewable energy tax credits and grants, and other instruments. Previously, she was with Richards, Layton and Finger P.A. in Wilmington, Del. In addition to involvement with the American Bar Association and Delaware and Louisiana bar associations, she teaches a course at Loyola Law School on "Drafting Corporate Documents" skills and is the program director of the U.S. Green Building Council's Louisiana chapter.