

Women in Real Estate

Yunis of CBRE was honored with the Courage Award

Amira Yunis



*Executive Vice President,
CBRE, Inc.*

What recent honor, achievement or recognition has meant the most to you and why?
I was honored to be the 2014 Sarcoma

Foundation of America Courage Award recipient. I was awarded the Courage award for battling sarcoma cancer and surviving, all while working and closing deals. It was an incredibly transformative experience for me in both my personal and professional life. Since receiving the courage award I have become a board member with the foundation, and the chairperson of the annual gala the last two years in a row. I'm proud of my work with the foundation and being able to support people still battling against this aggressive cancer.

Roket of Olshan named to New York Super Lawyer list 2014, 2015

Nina Roket



*Co-Administrative Partner & Partner in RE Practice Group,
Olshan Frome Woloksy LLP*

What recent honor, achievement or recognition has meant the most to you and why?
I was named to the New York Super Lawyers list, a Thomson Reuters lawyer rating service, for

2014 and 2015 and have also been acknowledged as a leading player in the New York real estate market by the New York Real Estate Journal, "Women in Real Estate," May 2012-2015. I value these accolades as I work hard on behalf of my clients and also take seriously my position as a member of the legal profession. I am grateful for the recognition that my work has brought.

Who or what has been the strongest influence on your career and why?

My upbringing. I saw first hand the meaning of hard work and perseverance. As a result, I have developed a strong work ethic and drive to succeed.

McCann of Forchelli: Mentoring lets me to foster positive relationships

Nina McCann



*Director of Marketing,
Forchelli, Curto, Deegan, Schwartz, Mineo & Terrana LLP*

What have been some of the benefits of being a mentor or having a mentor?

Currently, I am at the stage in my career where I am mentoring up-and-coming marketing professionals. I try my best to guide them by way of my experience in the field and I find the energy of the young practitioners infectious. One of the benefits of being a mentor at this time is what I

learn from young practitioners regarding the ever expanding social media outlets available. Social media is here to stay and as a professional in any field, one needs to keep up with it.

What is the best advice you have received and who was it from?

As noted above mentoring is very important during one's career. I was very fortunate to have an exceptional boss early in my career with a management style to which I gravitated. She taught me by example the importance of strategizing with timelines, deliverables and accountability. Be responsive and accountable is the best advice I ever received from her; it has served me well as my colleagues know when they work with me – that's what they get. It has allowed me to foster positive working relationships throughout my career.

Caruso of Holt Construction: Treat everyone with respect

Antonina Caruso



*Senior Account Executive,
Holt Construction*

What recent project or transaction are you most proud of?

I am most proud being part of the redevelopment of Brookfield Place, our firm was one of the contractor's that worked on several components consisting of several infrastructure upgrades, retail, food/beverage, pre-built suites, lobby, and restroom upgrades.

What is the best advice you have received and who was it from?

Treat everyone with respect, you never know when you will bump into them again. My father gave me this advice.

Whelan Shea of Harras Bloom discusses her career influences

Janice Whelan Shea



*Counsel,
Harras Bloom & Archer, LLP*

Who or what has been the strongest influence on your career and why?

Two great zoning attorneys who, effectively, taught me how to fish. John Klein, Esq. founding partner at Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, an affable gentleman, a kind mentor and a lawyer's lawyer who taught me, among many lessons, to pay acute attention to the details. Vincent Messina, Jr. who took a chance on me, taught me the language of zoning and remains my friend.

What time management strategies do you find to be the most effective for you?

Be present where you are.

Scepanovic of Ideal Props. launched "Women of Ideal"

Aleksandra Scepanovic



*Managing Director,
Ideal Properties Group*

What recent project or transaction are you most proud of?

In February 2016, my colleague Wendy Jones and I also launched Women of Ideal, a new group within Ideal Properties Group with a mission to "support and educate women in the business of real estate by way of mentorship."

How do you empower other women in

your workplace?

As mentioned, we launched Women of Ideal earlier this year. The idea to create this organization came to me after speaking with a broker who had become accustomed to being disrespected by male superiors at her current firm. I was both outraged and astounded that this type of sexism still exists, especially knowing how pivotal a role female brokers play in the residential real estate business. I realized how much we support and care for each other at Ideal. We have consciously worked to create a collaborative environment, and in talking to others, it started transpiring that we may have been taking our circumstances for granted. As a business, we were and are proud to be female-dominated and so the idea of formalizing a group was born and grew into Women of Ideal.

Rikhy of CBRE is fortunate to have her colleagues and mentors

Ramneek Rikhy



*Senior Vice President,
Consulting Group,
CBRE, Inc.*

What have been some of the benefits of being a mentor or having a mentor?

Being in the Consulting Group affords you the privilege of working not just on prominent transac-

tions but with many distinguished and experienced colleagues who have become great friends and mentors. Being able to walk down the hall and seek counsel from the likes of Lewis Miller or Greg Tosko has proven to be a huge advantage both in my professional and personal life. Their willingness to impart what they've spent years learning and mastering is what allows me to be that much better at what I do for my clients. Mary Ann Tighe also gives a lot of herself to advance up and coming women in real estate, (not just within brokerage) and I'm honored to find myself within that very special group of women.

Rosenthal of Fried Frank: Mentoring is incredibly important

Carol Rosenthal



*Partner,
Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP*

What have been some of the benefits of being a mentor or having a mentor?

Mentoring is incredibly important. I have experienced a great deal of satisfaction with my own career and I enjoy mentoring others in my field so that they may have similarly energizing and positive experiences. Whether it is balancing a clients' objectives or facing logistical challenges on a project, I have taken great pride in stepping up and being viewed as the "expert." I find it thrilling to instill that in the next generation of women so they can go there and beyond!

O'Toole of CBC Advisors shares a proud moment

Catherine O'Toole



*Managing Principal,
CBC Advisors*

What recent project or transaction are you most proud of?

My proudest moment in commercial real estate has been serving as the exclusive leasing agent of 200,000 s/fof space at 250 West 39th St.

Who or what has been the strongest influence on your career and why?

My team. I work with the greatest professionals in the business.

What is the best advice you have received and who was it from?

"What worked yesterday, might work today, is obsolete tomorrow"

Skara of MGE Unified Technologies named partner

Anita Skara



*Principal,
MGE Unified Technologies, Corp.*

What recent honor, achievement or recognition has meant the most to you and why?

Recently, I became a partner of the firm, which has opened doors to challenge myself in a strategic leadership role. My philosophy over the past 15 years has been treating everyone with respect along with continually self-analyzing and self-improving, which will lead to success in life and in business.

What is the best advice you have received and who was it from?

My friend, Alma Delija lives by this motto, "Approach your challenges without fear and with a positive attitude." I always remind myself of this when faced with a challenge.