

WOMEN OF INFLUENCE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EDITION

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**FEATURING**

2018'S WOMEN OF INFLUENCE

NEW HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

CRE'S WOMEN TO WATCH

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Real Estate Forum Presents

## THE WOMEN OF INFLUENCE HALL OF FAME

**O**n the following pages you will read the stories of 23 amazing women—REAL ESTATE FORUM's 2018 inductees into the Women of Influence Hall of Fame. They are principals and directors and CEOs of commercial real estate companies. Some made the decision to found their own firms. They have closed on billions of dollars of transactions that range across all CRE asset classes.

Their stories are as varied as their backgrounds, but they have one very important factor in common: they are in the minority in the CRE industry, which is very much dominated by men. They have had to prove themselves, usually more so than their male counterparts have had to, to get just a foothold in the industry and then again as they climbed up the ladder and earned more responsibilities.

And now here they are: accomplished, respected and at the top of their game. They have also risen to the upper echelon of the field and today serve as the paragons to which young women in the field aspire to.

Perhaps most important of all they are determined to advocate for the next generation of women coming up behind them. This new cohort will likely find themselves still fighting the good fight against subconscious bias but it won't be as difficult as it was for this first generation of pioneers.

This year's new entrants into the WoI Hall of Fame nearly double the size of our roster, which until now counted 25 of the most well-known professionals in the business. If those numbers of any indication, CRE is indeed coming a long way.—*Erika Morphy*



## FELICE K. SHAPIRO

One of the first female senior, chief underwriters in the title insurance industry, Felice Shapiro's work over her 35-year career has made her a vanguard in her field. Indeed, among her major accomplishments are her work on the \$5.4-billion Stuyvesant Town transaction and \$1.2-billion Atlantis Resort project in the Bahamas.

Currently, she serves as an EVP and chief underwriter for AmTrust

Title, and serves on the New York City-based firm's board of directors. As chief legal officer, she oversees all legal and underwriting decisions for both the direct and agency sides of the business.

Beyond her strong presence in AmTrust's executive suite, Shapiro has had a significant influence on the industry. She was the first female president of the New York State Land Title Association and has served on the executive board of the Title Insurance Rate Service Association, the quasi-governmental association that develops and updates the title insurance rate manual for New York.

A strong believer in the credo of "giving back" to the community and mentoring young people, Shapiro offers CLO courses at no cost to the individual. She tries to "contribute to increasing opportunities to other females through speaking engagements and as a role model to other young women attorneys." In the end, though, she notes, "it's not about being a female; it's about being really good at what you do, so that others can't question you."