

Women in Real Estate

Erardi of Caruso Painting reflects on advice, influences

Nancy Erardi



*Principal,
Caruso Painting*

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

The strongest influence on my life and my career has been the values instilled in me by my family. They taught me very early on to always be fair, honest and to always work hard and it will pay off, and it has.

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

The best advice I have received was from my father. He told me to choose a career that you love, for if you love what you do for a living, you never feel like you are going to work. He was right.

Buckley of Stroock discusses her work at NYS RE Finance Bureau

Erica Buckley



*Special Counsel,
Stroock & Stroock
& Lavan LLP*

What recent project or transaction are you most proud of?

During my two-year tenure as chief of the New York State Real Estate Finance Bureau I overhauled important forms of guidance, including policy memos and regulations. My team made significant strides in pushing the Bureau towards electric filing, and tirelessly pushed for additional staff and resources. In addition to focusing on the regulatory side of the Bureau, I oversaw a string of innovative enforcement efforts, including the 421-a Real Estate Compliance Program. I also developed

strategies for all of the Bureau's enforcement initiatives, including using its dissolution powers under the Business Corporation Law.

This implementation enabled the Bureau to preserve units of affordable housing by securing rent regulated leases. During my tenure, the Bureau led unprecedented enforcement initiatives for the office, which earned an appreciation award from Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman for extraordinary commitment to tenants and homeowners and equal justice under the laws of the State of New York.

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

In addition to receiving the appreciation award from attorney general Schneiderman at the time I left government service to join Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, I received a letter written by Manhattan borough president Gale Brewer to Eric Schneiderman, in which she praised my work and called me an outstanding public servant.

Kahn Architecture recognized by US Small Business Admin.

Heidi Kahn



*Director of Design,
President,
Kahn Architecture*

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

Our firm was recently recognized by the US Small Business Administration. We were among 12 NYC area businesses to be honored, and within the group, receiving the New York

District Office Women Small Business Champion of the Year. It is a reflection of growing a small business in a competitive field, advancing women's business ownership, as well as empowering staff.

What recent project are you most proud of?

This includes our renovation at The Bricken Building and the redesign of the arcade which will be reaching completion in the coming weeks. We've been able to capture in the new design a beautiful blend of historic details and modern elements. This includes paying tribute to original features, a vaulted rosette stamped tin ceiling while introducing contemporary details: steel wall cladding designed with a laser-cut filigree pattern which is backlit by LED's.

Pontius of CBRE: Passionate about charities and real estate

Sarah Pontius



*Senior Vice
President,
CBRE, Inc.*

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

Of course I'm passionate about real estate, but the achievements that mean the most to me aren't work-related. I'm on the advisory board of Make-A-Wish and a volunteer guide for Achilles International. Nothing means more

to me than fulfilling the wish of a child with a life-threatening illness or guiding a disabled runner through a race.

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

Competition and character have always been the strongest influences on my career. I have played sports my whole life, and I love to win. When I started my brokerage career I was occasionally warned that I might be "too honest" to survive. I took that as a compliment, and was determined not to compromise my integrity. I was fortunate at Brookfield to have had the opportunity to align myself with morally ethical, hardworking people, and I look for the same character traits in the teams I work with at CBRE. To me, that's the key to success.

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