

100 WOMEN TO WATCH 2012



When *Today's Chicago Woman* revived our popular 100 Women Making a Difference feature in July 2011, the cultivated list was an instant hit. This year, we decided to mix it up. We asked each of the 100 Women Making a Difference 2011 to recommend a Woman to Watch, setting no parameters on age, profession or affiliation. Instead, we simply asked that the woman they named be "a high-potential woman who is on track to make major waves in Chicago."

What resulted is an eclectic list of names both familiar and new on the scene. Some have already made their mark in Chicago, others are well on their way toward doing so. Each is committed, passionate, dedicated, generous and impressive. Due to space constraints, we've only printed a snippet of their resumes, but rest assured their professional and philanthropic involvements go well beyond what's listed here.

For understandable reasons, some of our 100 Women Making a Difference were unable to single out just one stellar woman in their inner circle. For this reason, you'll see that some women have submitted more than one nomination and, where necessary, an outside advisory panel was asked for further recommendations to round out this year's list of 100 Women to Watch 2012.



ELLEN ALBERDING

President and Board Member, The Joyce Foundation

NOMINATED BY: *Valerie Lies, President/CEO, Donors Forum* "Ellen Alberding is an outstanding long-term philanthropic leader. She has close relationships at the City, County and Federal administrations."

Ellen Alberding works to develop policies that improve the quality of life for people in the Great Lakes region and serve as models for the rest of the country. Grants support research into Great Lakes protection and restoration, energy efficiency, workforce development, gun violence prevention, diverse art for diverse audiences and a strong, thriving democracy.



BROOKE ANDERSON

Press Secretary, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn

NOMINATED BY: *Carol Marin, Political Columnist, Chicago Sun-Times and Political Editor, NBC-5 News* "Brooke is a smart, talented, widely recognized and respected player in Illinois's political and media circles. She is going places so fast, it will make your head spin."

Brooke Anderson has served as Illinois Governor Pat Quinn's spokesperson and communications adviser since 2011. Prior to her work with the governor, Ms. Anderson managed the 2011 Chicago mayoral campaign for runner-up candidate Gery Chico.



TRISHA ROONEY ALDEN

Founder and President, R4 Services LLC

NOMINATED BY: *Robin Berger, Chief Marketing Officer, Magellan Development Group LLC* "Trisha is a dynamo on the Chicago civic and philanthropic scene. She is a mother of four and great volunteer. She is a savvy businesswoman and does more than any woman I know."

Trisha Rooney Alden is an enterprising and experienced entrepreneur and civic leader with an understanding of the business and community environments essential to commercial success. She is a founding member of A Better Chicago, a venture philanthropy fund.



MARIA ASHLEY

General and Cosmetic Dentist

NOMINATED BY: *Kym Hubbard, Treasurer & Chief Investment Officer, Ernst & Young, Americas* "Maria is a successful dentist with her own practice who is not afraid to take risks. This is evident in her decision to build her own dental practice and her adventurous spirit."

Maria Ashley, DDS, can be seen in print advertising, national television and Internet advertising for Crest Pro-Health products. She is currently on several non-profit boards as well as the Crest Pro-Health Advisory Board.



MARYSUE BARRETT

President, The Metropolitan Planning Council

NOMINATED BY: *Lynn Osmond, President and CEO, Chicago Architecture Foundation* "MarySue Barrett is not afraid to take on challenging issues for the betterment of the City of Chicago. Her leadership is truly changing the built environment of Chicago."

Since joining The Metropolitan Planning Council in 1996, MarySue Barrett has strengthened the Council's relationships with employers and elected officials, helped resolve local development challenges and spearheaded innovative regional policy solutions. Previously, Ms. Barrett served in former Mayor Richard M. Daley's administration for seven years.



JILL BEHNKE

Vice President and Business Banking Sales Manager, PNC Bank

NOMINATED BY: *Dianne Dinkel, President and CEO, ATHENA International* "Jill's life is centered on helping women grow their businesses, mentoring young women and advocating for women to be represented in public office. Jill is

a leader of influence among her peers, proactively contributing time and energy to motivate and inspire others."

Jill Behnke is a Women's Business Advocate for PNC, a Chicago ATH-ENA Powerlink Governing Body member and a YWCA Women of Vision member.



LYNNE BREFELDT

Director of Public Relations, Park Hyatt Chicago and NoMI Kitchen

NOMINATED BY: *Andrea Schwartz, Vice President of Media Relations and Cause Marketing, Macy's North and Midwest Regions* "Lynne believes in the great work this city does and not only promotes it to our neighbors but to the nation. Her philanthropy work could be considered full-time!"

Lynne Bredfeldt handles all communications, public relations and marketing efforts on behalf of the Park Hyatt Chicago. Most recently, she handled the multimillion-dollar renovation and press surrounding the opening of the entire seventh floor.



SUZETTE BROSS-BULLEY

Photographer

NOMINATED BY: *Maria Smithburg, President, Artemisia* "Suzette manages a very active life between her family life with three small children, her philanthropic work and her photography career. Her work is very sophisticated and expresses a young woman's desire to project everyday situations through her keen eye."

Suzette Cross-Bulley is a renowned artist whose work can be seen at the Art Institute of Chicago, The Museum of Contemporary Photography and the Block Museum. She has taught at Columbia College in Chicago, the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design and Northwestern University Medical School.



NAOMI BECKWITH

Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago

NOMINATED BY: *Madeleine Grynstejn, Director, Museum of Contemporary Art* "Naomi is a true rising star in the art world and has several groundbreaking exhibitions underway. She has a rare balance of insight and intelligence, with a hip, distinctive style and sensibility that wins everyone over."

Naomi Beckwith joined the Museum of Contemporary Art in 2011, where she is currently working on an exhibition on French artist Jimmy Robert. She serves on the boards of the Laundromat Project and Res Artis.



MICHELLE BLAISE

Vice President of Engineering and Project Management, ComEd

NOMINATED BY: *Anne Pramaggiore, President and CEO, ComEd* "Michelle is smart, experienced and up to the task. ComEd and the utility industry are fortunate that she is applying her talents to this work, which will set new standards for the industry."

Michelle Blaise is responsible for development of reliability programs, capacity planning and project management. She also oversees the ComEd Engineering Excellence program, which focuses on technical skills enhancement and career development for the company's more than 500 engineers.



RACHEL BRONSON

Vice President of Studies, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

Under Rachel Bronson's direction, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs is focused on increasing its impact on international issues. Inspired by Hillary Clinton's statement that "women and girls are a core factor in our foreign policy," Ms. Bronson and her colleagues

established the Council's Women and Global Development Forum. This public series is fast becoming the place to meet leading local, national and international experts, business leaders and activists committed to women and development.



CAROLE BROWN

Managing Director, Barclays Capital

NOMINATED BY: *Judy Baar Topinka, Illinois State Comptroller* "Carole embodies all the qualities that make a successful businesswoman. Experienced, skilled and outgoing, she is the consummate professional. She uses her abilities to strengthen our community and improve the lives

of its residents."

Carole Brown joined Barclays Capital in July 2011, where she leads the firm's Midwest municipal practice. Ms. Brown serves as the senior investment banker for local municipal clients and maintains primary responsibility for the firm's client relationships in several major national markets.

**JULIA BROWN**

Chief Purchasing Officer and Senior Vice President of Global Procurement, Kraft Foods Inc.

NOMINATED BY: *Cheryle Jackson, Vice President of Government Affairs and Corporate Development, AAR Corp.* "Julia manages \$32 billion in spend for Kraft and travels the world like most people travel between the city and the suburbs. Julia is not only a woman to be watched, but also never forgotten."

Julia Brown is currently leading the worldwide transformation of Kraft Foods' strategic sourcing function and has been responsible for all of the company's worldwide purchases of goods and services since 2008.

**ERIN LAVIN CABONARGI**

Executive Director, The Public Building Commission of Chicago (PBC)

NOMINATED BY: *Mary Dempsey, President, Philip H. Corboy Foundation* "As an architect and proponent of sustainable design, Erin has been responsible for the careful and transparent expenditure of taxpayer funds to create beautiful state-of-the-art facilities that are welcoming and functional."

Erin Lavin Cabonargi is responsible for the development of new and renovated public facilities and infrastructure. She oversees the PBC's development portfolio, which exceeds \$2 billion in project development authority, including more than 4 million square feet of new construction.

**ELLEN-BLAIR CHUBE**

Vice President and Chief of Staff, Ariel Investments

NOMINATED BY: *Stephanie Neely, Treasurer, City of Chicago* "Ellen is a true rising star. She is smart, creative and innovative in her thinking, and will continue to make a positive impact on Chicago!"

As chief of staff to John Rogers, chairman and CEO of Ariel, Ellen-Blair Chube is responsible for providing strategic and operational support, translating his visions into actionable strategies for his leadership team, and acting as his chief adviser on political and public policy issues, as well as special projects.

**ELIZABETH GRAETTINGER COLE**

Vice President of Community Impact, United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

NOMINATED BY: *Laura Thrall, Past CEO, United Way of Metropolitan Chicago* "Elizabeth uses her time, talent and education to advance the cause of the underserved. Her vision will transform the way human services are provided throughout our region."

Elizabeth Graettinger Cole oversees approximately \$40 million in annual grants to 250 nonprofit direct service organizations across a six county footprint. With these grants, she is leading delivery on United Way's 10-year goals.

**GWENDOLYN L. BUTLER**

President, Capri Capital Partners LLC

NOMINATED BY: *Christine Bork, CEO, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago* "As the president of the YWCA's Board of Directors, Gwen is leading the oldest and largest women's organization in Chicago. She's also been named One of the Most Powerful Women in Business by *Black Enterprise* magazine."

Gwendolyn Butler is the first African American female president in the commercial real estate investment management industry. She has led Capri's institutional capital raising, overseeing more than \$500 million in new commitments to Capri from leading public pension fund investors.

**NUBIA CHAIDEZ**

Sleep Rooms Director, The Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

NOMINATED BY: *Jamie Haberkorn, Senior Director, Ronald McDonald House near Lurie Children's* "Determined to build a career in politics, Nubia's experiences have helped her hone her passion on helping communities from a health care perspective."

Nubia Chaidez's work at the University of Chicago's Medical Center helped her to be selected as the Sleep Rooms Director at the new Children's Hospital of Chicago. She serves as a key liaison between the Ronald McDonald House, hospital and community.

**VIRGINIA "GINNY" CLARKE**

President & CEO, Talent Optimization Partners

NOMINATED BY: *Diane Swonk, Chief Economist and Senior Managing Director, Meisrow Financial* "Ginny is a force of nature and an inspiration."

Ginny Clarke is a nationally-recognized expert in talent and career management, diversity recruiting and executive coaching. The author of *Career Mapping: Charting Your Course in the New World of Work*, she is a frequent writer, speaker and media guest on issues related to career development and job search. She has helped more than 300 executives land new jobs.

**TARRAH COOPER**

Press Secretary, Mayor Rahm Emanuel

NOMINATED BY: *Dori Wilson, President, Dori Wilson Public Relations* "From the moment I was introduced to Tarrah Cooper, I knew she was a rising star. She has a background of performance that is incredibly impressive."

Prior to returning to her hometown of Chicago, Tarrah Cooper served in the Obama Administration at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, where she managed the press and briefing materials for the Secretary of Homeland Security. Ms. Cooper also played an integral role in the Administration's response to the BP Deepwater Oil Spill.

**SUSAN CREDLE**

Chief Creative Officer, Leo Burnett North America

Since joining Leo Burnett, Susan Credle has spearheaded a creative renaissance at the agency through an eye for new top talent, a commitment to work that benefits brands and the world, and a vision for clients that always looks beyond a single campaign or ad. Ms. Credle's leadership, inspiration and in-the-trenches contributions have led to legacy campaigns like McDonald's Happy Meal "Happy Tales," Kellogg's Special K "What Will You Gain When You Lose?" and Allstate's "Mayhem."

**LESLIE DARLING**

First Assistant Corporation Counsel, City of Chicago Department of Law

NOMINATED BY: *Anne Burke, Justice of Illinois Supreme Court's First District* "Leslie is an outstanding professional who is passionate about her work. She possesses all the virtues: prudence, justice, temperance and fortitude."

As second in charge of the Department of Law, Leslie Darling provides overall management of legal and administrative operations, leading a team of approximately 250 attorneys who handle matters as varied as civil litigation, contracts, taxation, finance, real estate and labor.

**EMILIA DIMENCO**

Chief Operating Officer, Women's Business Development Center

NOMINATED BY: *Hedy Ratner, Co-Founder and Co-President, Women's Business Development Center* "With her vast knowledge and experience, Emilia is taking the Women's Business Development Center in new directions that will help more women business owners to grow and expand their businesses, create jobs and fuel economic growth."

Emilia DiMenco is the chief operating officer of the Women's Business Development Center. The post follows a 31-year career as an executive vice president with the Harris Bank's Corporate and Commercial Banking team.

**LEAH ENDALKATCHEW**

Associate Analyst, Ariel Investments

NOMINATED BY: *Melody Hobson, President, Ariel Investments* "Due to Leah's focus, drive and passion for value investing, she has been given the responsibility of covering the retail sector for Ariel, one of the most important areas of concentration for the firm."

Leah Endalkatchew researches and analyzes publicly traded companies in the retail and financial services industries. Additionally, she is a founding member of the Democratic Business Roundtable of Chicago, a private forum bringing C-level executives together with senior Democratic politicians to discuss pressing issues.

**SUSAN CROWN**

Chairman and Founder, SCE

SCE is a social investment organization that connects innovation with market forces to drive social change. In addition to her role at SCE, Ms. Crown is also chairman of the Executive Committee of Illinois Tool Works, vice chair of Rush University Medical Center and co-chair of the Yale Tomorrow Campaign. She recently co-chaired CARE's national conference on global poverty in Washington, D.C., to advocate for legislation on food security programs, child marriage and global warming to the U.S. House and Senate.

STEVEN GROSS PHOTOGRAPH

**JESSICA DEPINTO**

Manager, Deloitte Tax LLP National Customs & Global Trade Group

NOMINATED BY: *Janet V. Deatherage, Ph.D, Acting Dean, Continuing and Professional Studies, Loyola University Chicago* "Ms. DePinto serves as chair of our Women's Leadership Advisory Board and as adjunct faculty. She has a very keen interest in the promotion of women through leadership education."

At Deloitte Tax LLP, Jessica DePinto advises clients on customs and international trade regulatory issues. She has experience in designing and implementing customs compliance training programs, and advising on government agency requirements and free trade agreements.

**CHRISTINE EDWARDS**

Capital Partner, Corporate Practice Group, Winston & Strawn LLP

Christine Edwards is an experienced director of public and private companies and nonprofits. Currently, she represents Fortune 500 public companies, multinational financial services firms and private equity companies in governance and board of directors issues, corporate transactions, financial services regulation, enforcement matters and supervising internal investigations. She has served as a strategic advisor to the financial services industry across the securities and banking sectors, and has expertise in corporate governance, public and regulatory policy, and securities transactions.

**VICKI ESCARRA**

President and CEO, Feeding America

Since her appointment to Feeding America in 2006, the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity, Vicki Escarra has led the organization through the most significant period of advancement in its three-decade history, expanding the number of people served annually from 25 million to 37 million, and the pounds of food and grocery products distributed annually from 2 billion to more than 3 billion. Under her leadership, the organization experienced a complete transformation, including the successful overhaul of the national brand and a fundraising increase of 144 percent.



FALLON FLEYSHMAN MORGAN

Director of Operations, Lifeway Foods, Inc.

NOMINATED BY: *Julie Smolyansky, President, CEO and Director, Lifeway Foods* "At Lifeway Foods, Inc., we turn to Fallon for projects that require support from multiple departments. She specializes in coordinating efforts between our

marketing and sales teams."

Fallon Fleyshman Morgan is director of Operations at Lifeway Foods, Inc. During her nine years with the company, she has served as an event sponsorship coordinator, product development specialist, public relations consultant and has managed retail marketing.



JAN FIELDS

President, McDonald's USA, LLC

As president of McDonald's USA, LLC, Jan Fields is responsible for the strategic direction and overall business results of the 14,000 McDonald's restaurants in the United States. Ms. Fields began her career as a crew member in 1978, and previously served as executive vice

president and chief operating officer. An advocate for people development, she is actively involved in the company's mentoring and diversity programs, acting as executive sponsor for the Career Development program and speaking at many Diversity Network meetings.



ALLI FORD TURNER

Community Relations Director, Ronald McDonald House near Lurie Children's

NOMINATED BY: *Jamie Haberkorn, Senior Director, Ronald McDonald House near Lurie Children's* "Alli and the new House are blossoming thanks to her passion, determination and creativity in engaging Chicagoland in our efforts to help keep the families of hospitalized children together."

At the world's largest Ronald McDonald House, Alli Ford Turner is currently spearheading the Women's Auxiliary, planning a summer fundraiser that will toast the opening of the House and raise essential funds for the new operations.



JENNIFER FREDERICKS

Vice President of Product Program, Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana

NOMINATED BY: *Maria Wynne, CEO, Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana* "Jennifer leads the largest cookie program in the world, which develops five critical skills to help Scouts become girls of courage, character and confidence."

Jennifer Fredericks ensures that the five skills of *goal setting, decision-making, people skills, money management and business ethics* are infused throughout the Girl Scout Cookie program for nearly 87,000 girls and 24,000 adult volunteers across six Illinois and four Indiana counties.



KRISTEN FIELD

Senior Manager, Member Programs, Step Up Women's Network

NOMINATED BY: *Gina Marotta, Managing Director, Step Up Women's Network* "Kristen can be seen around town connecting dynamic women to each other, inspiring women to mentor and support Step Up's programs."

Kristen Field is a passionate non-profit professional. She works to achieve the goals of Step Up Women's Network in the areas of membership and fundraising, professional development and social networking, in addition to program implementation including volunteer management, event planning and program evaluation.



KAREN FOLEY

President, Chicago Scholars

NOMINATED BY: *Gloria Castillo, President and CEO, Chicago United* "Over the next decade there will be hundreds of leaders, from every Chicago neighborhood, who will credit success to Karen Foley. That is the definition of legacy."

Karen Foley is a social entrepreneur serving as president of Chicago Scholars, a mentoring and support program for high potential and underserved college-bound students from senior year of high school through senior year of college. She transformed a small scholarship organization serving approximately 100 students a year into a leading program now serving 1,000 students per year.



LISA FRAME

Director of Marketing and Finance, Loopt

NOMINATED BY: *Jessica Zweig, Founder, CheekyChicago.com* "Lisa has carved a niche for herself in today's entrepreneurial start-up community in a way very few women have. She's living proof that women can be self-made professionals while being wonderfully warm and supportive to other women."

Lisa Frame is currently the director of Marketing and Finance for Loopt, a nationally used app for geo-targeted gift cards. Her personal blog, MugShot-Monday.com, reaches around 10,000 views every Monday.



SARAH FRICK

Senior Director of Marketing and Communications, United Way of Metropolitan Chicago

NOMINATED BY: *Laura Schwartz, Speaker and Author* "Sarah is a committed soldier who gets results for those who don't have resources. Her talents and compassion are why she will be making waves in Chicago for a very long time."

Sarah Frick leads United Way of Metropolitan Chicago in creating community awareness to issues surrounding income, education and health. She has developed and executed outreach plans for communications with traditional and social media outlets, securing placements valued at more than \$700,000.



KRISTA GALLAGHER

Head of Marketing and Strategy, Chase Commercial Banking

Krista Gallagher joined JPMorgan Chase in 2002 in Corporate Strategy. In her years with the firm, she has focused on strategic financial issues at both the business and client level. Key experience includes post-merger corporate branding, J.P. Morgan brand refresh, mobile device and debit card innovation, new branch development and placement. Currently, as head of Marketing and Strategy for Chase, Ms. Gallagher is responsible for the Marketing and Communication function, key strategic initiatives and the chief economist.



LOIS GATES

Assistant Executive Director, Misericordia Heart of Mercy

NOMINATED BY: *Sister Rosemary Connelly, Executive Director, Misericordia Heart of Mercy* "Lois Gates has been, and continues to be, a 'woman for all seasons' at Misericordia. Her generous heart knows no limits. She has a unique gift of calling forth others to be involved with causes outside of themselves."

Lois Gates has participated in every department of the Misericordia staff throughout her 40 plus years of service. She currently serves as the director of development and public relations at Misericordia, as well as a member of the Capital Initiative Team.



MELISSA GILLIAM, MD, MPH

Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Professor of Pediatrics, Head of Pediatrics and Adolescent Gynecology, University of Chicago

NOMINATED BY: *Olufunmilayo Olopade, MD, Professor of Medicine and Human Genetics, Associate Dean for Global Health, University of Chicago Medical Center* "Melissa is a champion

for women's health and works tirelessly to overcome the barriers to education and careers that can arise when teens have children."

In addition to her current titles, Dr. Melissa Gilliam recently created the Center for Interdisciplinary Inquiry and Innovation in Sexual and Reproductive Health (CI3) at the University of Chicago.



JODI GLICKMAN

Author of *Great on the Job, What to Say, How to Say It and The Secrets of Getting Ahead*

NOMINATED BY: *Halee Sage, Co-Founder, Lynn Sage Foundation* "Jodi has the unique ability to elevate everyone she encounters, whether through friendship, the Peace Corps, investment banking or professional development."

Jodi Glickman is an expert in training young people how to be "great on the job." An entrepreneur, author, public speaker, consultant and regular blogger for *Harvard Business Review*, she is also a faculty member of the Johnson School's Leadership Program at Cornell.



MARILYNN GARDNER

President and CEO, Navy Pier, Inc.

NOMINATED BY: *Donna La Pietra, President, Kurtis Productions, Ltd* "Marilynn has the experience, the creative vision and an arsenal of management skills to bring new life to one of the city's oldest landmarks."

Marilynn Gardner is president and CEO of Navy Pier, Inc., the newly established not-for-profit entrusted with the operation and redevelopment of Navy Pier. In her current role, Ms. Gardner is responsible for oversight of Navy Pier operations and charged with the redevelopment of Navy Pier.



CHANDRA GILL, PH.D

Founder and CEO, Blackacademically Speaking

NOMINATED BY: *Melody Spann Cooper, Chairwoman, Midway Broadcasting Corporation* "Dr. Chandra Gill is a spirited educator who has the ability to motivate young people. She is a Gates scholar who has made her life's work improving educational standards for inner city youth."

Blackacademically Speaking is an educational firm dedicated to developing motivational content, services, products and cutting edge theories to education and schooling. As a scholar activist, Dr. Chandra Gill has exposed over 1,000 youths to opportunities at various colleges and universities.



RACHEL GILMAN

Account Supervisor and Media Specialist, Olson PR

NOMINATED BY: *Lindsay Avner, Founder, Bright Pink* "Rachel is the consummate networker and ultimate connector. She is so charming that rarely anyone tells her 'no' and she uses her persuasive warmth to have a tremendous impact on the lives of others."

Rachel Gilman is responsible for targeted media outreach, leveraging her network on behalf of the agency's client roster. She currently writes about spirits for *Michigan Avenue* and covers the restaurant industry and entrepreneurs for the Inc.Well blog on NBCChicago.com.



E. LYNN GRAYSON

Partner, Jenner & Block

NOMINATED BY: *Laurel Bellows, Principal, The Bellows Law Group, P.C.* "Lynn is an ardent advocate for women, strongly supporting women's right to equal pay, equality of health care coverage and equal rights to advancement in law firms, corporations or any career a woman may choose."

E. Lynn Grayson is co-chair of Jenner & Block's Environmental and Workplace Health & Safety Law Practice. She serves as lead environmental counsel in U.S. and international transactions and has been recognized as one of the country's leading lawyers in environmental law.



ESTHER GRIMM

Executive Director, 3Arts

NOMINATED BY: *Sunny Fischer, Executive Director, The Richard Driehaus Foundation* "Esther has become a leader in Chicago philanthropy, bringing exposure and resources to individual artists who are women, artists of color or artists with disabilities working in the performing, teaching and visual arts."

Esther Grimm is responsible for all aspects of 3Arts, from grantmaking programs to operations, helping artists take risks, experiment and focus on their creative process. She has had a lifelong career in the arts, specifically arts administration, arts education and museum education.



TRAN HA

Associate Managing Editor, *Chicago Tribune*, and Editor, *RedEye*

NOMINATED BY: *Jane Hirt, Managing Editor, Chicago Tribune* "Tran guides and reflects the news, interests and tastes of Chicago's 20- and 30-somethings. She is completing her MBA at Notre Dame, so she will combine her already formidable journalism skills with newly acquired business skills."

Tran Ha leads daily editorial operations at the *RedEye*, which under her leadership has expanded to include an iPad edition, iPhone app, website and social media. Ms. Ha founded *The Mash*, a weekly *Chicago Tribune* newspaper for teens.



LANETTA HAYNES TURNER

Executive Director, CASA of Cook County

NOMINATED BY: *Dianne Dinkel, President and CEO, ATHENA International* "Lanetta has advocated for children all her life. She has proven herself to be a woman of courage, conviction and commitment."

After serving for two years on the Board of Directors of CASA of Cook County, Lanetta Haynes Turner became executive director in 2007 and has continued her efforts to advocate for the abused and neglected children in Cook County. She also volunteers as a pro bono attorney with the Family Defense Center and CARPLS.



LINDSAY HOEY

Director of Operations and Communications, Watch312.com

NOMINATED BY: *Candace Jordan, Social Scribe and Philanthropist* "Not only is Lindsay accomplished, but she is gorgeous, too!"

At Watch312.com, Lindsay Hoey runs an online network of eight shows, bringing Chicagoans a behind-the-scenes look at dining, nightlife, charity events, local landmarks and Chicago culture, hosted by Chicago notables. She also oversees all communications outreach at six nationwide campuses of the Ohio/Illinois Centers for Broadcasting, three Internet radio stations and a full-range production house.



SARAH GRUENBERG

Executive Chef, Spiaggia

NOMINATED BY: *Alpana Singh, Master Sommelier, Owner, The Boarding House* "Sarah Gruenberg has all the hallmarks of a successful entrepreneur in the making: a relentless work ethic, an unwavering dedication to her culinary craft and team, and a charming confidence that lets you know she still has her eye on the prize."

Sarah Gruenberg became an integral member of the world-renowned Spiaggia team in 2005. Immersed with the Italian culture and the guidance of her mentor Tony Mantuano, Ms. Gruenberg earned her spot on Bravo's hit series *Top Chef*.



JULIE HAMOS

Director, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Julie Hamos was appointed director of the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services in 2010. HFS is the largest state agency with management responsibility for the Medicaid Program and Child Support Services, a \$17.7 billion budget and staff of 2,400. Ms. Hamos has been successful in launching a major expansion of care coordination and managed care for Medicaid clients, planning for national healthcare reform and crafting a plan, in a bipartisan legislative collaboration, to rescue Medicaid by closing a \$2.7 billion budget gap.



KATHLEEN HENSON

CEO and Founder, Henson Consulting

NOMINATED BY: *Sonya Jackson, Managing Director, Corporate and Community Affairs, United Airlines, and President, United Airlines Foundation* "Armed with only a phone and an Internet connection, Kathleen Henson started her now award-winning boutique PR agency. With her unparalleled drive and charisma, Kathleen is one of Chicago's biggest stars."

For two decades, Kathleen Henson has enjoyed a diverse career in public relations and marketing. Founder of one of Chicago's top boutique PR firms, she is constantly and organically growing her arsenal of contacts, from America's top newsrooms to Hollywood's elite.



PAULA HUDSON HOLDERMAN

Chief Attorney Development Officer, Winston & Strawn LLP

Paula Hudson Holderman has global responsibility for the professional development of Winston & Strawn's 950+ attorneys. In addition, she teaches as the James C. Wood Distinguished Co-Lecturer in Intellectual Property Law at the University of Illinois College of Law. Ms. Holderman is the president-elect of the 35,000 member Illinois State Bar Association. In 2011, she led the effort to create the Illinois Law & Leadership Institute to provide a summer enrichment "law camp" for underprivileged high school students.



KIMBRIELL KELLY

Editor and Interim Publisher, *The Chicago Reporter*

NOMINATED BY: *Laura Washington, Columnist, Chicago Sun-Times* "Kimbriell is one of Chicago's most promising young journalists. This innovative and cutting-edge news manager is continually building expanded platforms."

Kimbriell Kelly joined *The Chicago Reporter* in 2004 as a staff writer investigating issues of race and poverty. She has testified to legislative bodies about her investigative work around housing and nursing home inequities. Ms. Kelly blogs for the magazine and is a regular contributor to several radio and news shows.



KRISTI KIRSCHNER, MD

Professor, Clinical Medical Humanities and Bioethics, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine

NOMINATED BY: *Marca Bristo, President and CEO, Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago* "Dr. Kirschner has a commitment to health care as a human right. She works to ensure underserved communities have access to and control over quality health care."

Kristi Kirschner, MD, holds an appointment in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Northwestern. She specializes in disability ethics, training of health care professionals on disability, health care access issues and health disparities for people with disabilities.



CHRISTINE KOWALKE

Owner, Hoopla Communications

NOMINATED BY: *Carol Dougal, Co-President and Co-Founder, Women's Business Development Center* "Although Hoopla Communications is a for-profit business, Christine is extremely committed to supporting the community. She is generous to a fault on sharing ideas and meeting needs of non-profit clients, and has a strong team that does the same."

Hoopla Communications produces high-impact special events and conferences for non-profits. Christine Kowalke offers a special expertise culled from a background in teaching, coaching, business and organizational development experience and training.



MARY LARAIA

Deputy Superintendent, The Forest Preserve District of Cook County

Mary Lارايا is the Deputy Superintendent of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, the oldest and largest of the nation's forest preserve systems with a budget of \$160 million. She is second in charge for all policy, program and operational functions of the district. Ms. Lارايا is an experienced professional known as an innovator in corporate management, as she has headed compliance, community development and philanthropic functions for three of the nation's top 10 financial institutions.



NIAMH KING

Vice President of Programs, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs

Under Niamh King's direction, The Chicago Council on Global Affairs hosts almost daily public events on cutting-edge global issues. Ms. King and her team ensured that the Chicago public heard from heads of state during the NATO Summit. In developing the Council's Women and Global Development Forum, she and her colleagues have created a platform that engages Chicagoans in thinking about the vital role of women in international development. "Increased opportunities for women have been shown to lift entire communities out of poverty," Ms. King says.



LIZ KORES

Principal, Liz Kores Public Relations

NOMINATED BY: *Andrea Schwartz, Vice President, Media Relations and Cause Marketing, Macy's North and Midwest* "Liz accomplishes a lot, not only in her own business, but also by helping other women through seminars at the Women's Business Development Center."

Liz Kores has developed successful event, media relations and community relations campaigns for corporate, small-business and non-profit clients. She has executed publicity strategies for several of Macy's iconic events and created large-scale public events as managing director and publicist for Oak Street Council.



CASSANDRA KRUK

Chicago Metro Senior Business Development Manager, Allergan Medical

NOMINATED BY: *Tiffani Kim Griffith, Founder, Tiffani Kim Institute Medical Wellness Spa* "Cassandra constantly impresses me in how she represents herself and her company. What amazes me is how she helps businesses help themselves, especially in this difficult economic climate."

Cassandra Kruk collaborates with local plastic surgeons, dermatologists and medical spas to aid them with their aesthetic practices. Prior to her current position, she helped market an injectable product for HIV-related lipoatrophy as the territory manager for Sanofi-Aventis.



CONNIE LINDSEY

Executive Vice President and Head of Corporate Social Responsibility, Northern Trust, Chicago

NOMINATED BY: *Julieanna Richardson, Founder and Executive Director, The History-Makers* "Connie Lindsey is smart, dedicated and a trailblazer. She helped launch The HistoryMakers, has taken her talents to assist many organizations and is committed to her community."

Connie Lindsey is responsible for the design and implementation of the global CSR strategy for Northern Trust and the development of goals, policies and programs appropriate to the brand and business unit strategies. She is also the national board president of Girl Scouts of the USA.



LAURA LINGER

Head of Client Development, William Blair & Company

Laura Linger joined William Blair & Company in 2004 within the Asset Management group. Ms. Linger has spent her 27-year career in management and client facing roles serving high net worth families and not-for-profit organizations by coordinating their professional services in investments, lending and financial strategy. Prior to joining William Blair, she was a senior vice president and division head in LaSalle's Wealth Management Group. She completed an appointed term in 2003 as chairperson of the Advisory Board for Women by Judy Barr Topinka.



JUDY MCCASKEY

Professional Educator

NOMINATED BY: *Judy Baar Topinka, Illinois State Comptroller* "If you look up 'philanthropist' in the dictionary, there should be a picture of Judy McCaskey. Judy never ceases to amaze me with her selfless dedication to helping others. Her commitment to our community and the

people in it is unmatched."

Passionate about education and giving back to the community, Judy McCaskey is a professional educator who taught first graders for 40 years. She continues to volunteer at Chicago schools and served as chair of the Treasurer's Women's Advisory Board under then State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka. ROBERT CARL PHOTOGRAPH



TERRI MASCHERIN

Partner, Jenner & Block

NOMINATED BY: *Susan Levy, Managing Partner, Jenner & Block* "Terri is a long-time leader in the firm and well-known for her pro-bono work. She rises to positions of leadership in every venture she undertakes."

Terri Mascherin helps with disputes over corporate transactions, partnerships, joint ventures, licenses and contracts. She is a first chair trial attorney who is effective in both jury and bench trials, and in representing clients in arbitrations and arguing appeals in state and federal appellate courts throughout the U.S.



BARBARA MATTHOPOULOS

Senior Director of Communications and Media Relations, Chicago Association of REALTORS

NOMINATED BY: *Goldie Wolfe Miller, President, Millbrook Corporate Real Estate Services* "Barbara has energy, enthusiasm and drive. She has passion for her job and the real estate industry."

Barbara Matthopoulos is known for her unbeatable sense of connecting the right individuals to create pivotal alliances and achieving communications goals on behalf of the Chicago Association of REALTORS, the Chicago real estate industry and beyond. Her professional strength is applying a keen grasp of an industry's key messages.



NICOLE LOFTUS

Founder and CEO, Zorch

NOMINATED BY: *Marsha Serlin, Founder and CEO, United Scrap Metal, Inc.* "Throughout the 10 years I've known Nicole, she has been an innovator, entrepreneur, mentor and even an inspiration. Her tenacity has led her to grow a sensational company from the ground up."

Zorch Founder and CEO Nicole Loftus transformed the way the world looks at the \$20 billion branded merchandise industry. Corporations such as AT&T, Citigroup, Chevron, Sara Lee and Coca-Cola have all been "Zorched," saving millions by sourcing branded goods through the Zorch Portal.



JEWEL MALONE

Director of Strategic Initiatives and Partnerships, City of Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE)

NOMINATED BY: *Sheila O'Grady, Consultant, Spencer Stuart* "Jewel has actively engaged community organizations, non-profits and residents in the creation of Chicago's Cultural Plan. This is a Herculean task and she has managed it

efficiently and with tremendous enthusiasm."

Jewel Malone oversees the corporate sponsorship, grant development, grant making and strategic partnerships for DCASE. She supports the work to develop high-quality, free or low-fee cultural programs and markets Chicago's cultural assets to local, regional and global audiences.



SANDY MATTHEWS

Vice President, Organizational Advancement, Illinois Action for Children

NOMINATED BY: *Julieanna Richardson, Founder and Executive Director, The HistoryMakers* "From running a foundation to working on national education issues, Sandy is *there*."

Sandy Matthews possesses more than 20 years experience in marketing, communications and development, and has focused on advocating for family, children, youth and education. At Illinois Action for Children, she is responsible for organizational relationship development, strategic partnerships, generating revenue through foundations and corporate donors, and corporate advisory board development.



COCO MEERS

CEO and Co-Founder, Pretty Quick

NOMINATED BY: *Erica Bethel Levin, Co-Founder and Editor-in-Chief, CheekyChicago.com* "Coco Meers is an absolute rising star. She is a tremendous go-getter, having launched her own company. On top of it all, she has this southern charm and wit that makes her one of the most genuine, fun and awesome women I've had the pleasure of meeting."

An award-winning entrepreneur, Coco Meers is the co-founder of the web-based beauty community Pretty Quick, where she makes it easy for beauty enthusiasts to find and book appointments at a curated network of salons and spas.



AMBAR MENTOR

Vice President, Carolyn Grisko & Associates

NOMINATED BY: *Anne Ladky, Executive Director, Women Employed* "Ambar lives her passion for social change in both her professional and volunteer life. She is a committed leader on women's economic issues and brings her abundant energy and style to build a new generation of feminist leaders."

Ambar Mentor leads public relations and community outreach initiatives for diverse clients from Chicago's non-profit, corporate and government sectors. In previous roles, she played a key role in developing and implementing communications campaigns around social issues including affordable housing and education.



JANE MONZURES

Host, *Living Healthy Chicago*, and Co-host, *979 The Loop Morning Show*

NOMINATED BY: *Carrie Hightman, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, NISource Inc.* "Jane is highly visible in Chicago and is using her influence to help others."

In addition to hosting WGN-TV's *Living Healthy Chicago* and co-hosting 97.9 The Loop's morning show with Pete McMurray, Jane Monzures contributes to the WCIU's *You and Me This Morning*, hosts a new reality show, *America's Domestic Divas*, and also recently wrapped shooting on *Extreme Moms*, a pilot for ABC's Live Well Channel.



SUSANNA NEGOVAN

Splash Editor, *Chicago Sun-Times*

NOMINATED BY: *Maria Pappas, Treasurer, Cook County* "Susanna is a hustler! She's not only brilliant, but she's beautiful."

Over the last 17 years, Susanna Negovan has worked in all facets of media and marketing. She is currently Splash Editor at the *Chicago Sun-Times*, where she is charged with creating several new seven-days-a-week sections. Previously, she served as the founding editor-in-chief of *Michigan Avenue* magazine. From 2001-2008, she was a freelance society and style columnist for the *Chicago Sun-Times*, and from 2005-2007 she had her own radio show on WCKG-FM.



MARINA NIKOLENKO

Marketing Director, Lifeway Foods

NOMINATED BY: *Julie Smolyansky, President, CEO and Director, Lifeway Foods* "Marina worked her way up from a brand representative to her current role as marketing director at Lifeway Foods, Inc. She works side-by-side with our director of Operations to ensure that our marketing initiatives are carried through quickly and accurately."

As marketing director at Lifeway Foods, Marina Nikolenko is responsible for organizing product donations and event sponsorships, and for providing creative direction on promotional collateral. She also manages marketing for Starfruit Café, Lifeway Foods' retail concept, throughout Chicago.



CHRISTINE MONTENEGRO MCGRATH

Vice President of Global Sustainability, Kraft Foods Inc.

NOMINATED BY: *Maria Wynne, CEO, Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana* "Chris is an accomplished marketer, an outstanding leader and a woman who supports and celebrates girls and women! She is a 21st century thinker, global visionary and aware of the responsibility we all have to move the future forward."

Christine Montenegro McGrath is responsible for balancing the environmental, social and economic considerations across Kraft Foods' global portfolio and works with business teams around the world to reduce Kraft's environmental global footprint.



DURRE MUHAMMAD

Lab Manager and Research Assistant, Cellular and Developmental Biology Department, University of Illinois Chicago

NOMINATED BY: *Deidre Joy Smith, Founder and President, POWER: Opening Doors for Women* "Durre is focused, dedicated and determined to make an impact in Chicago. She is a strategic thinker who strives for excellence in all of her endeavors."

At UIC, Durre Muhammad manages and teaches undergraduate and graduate students, maintains the lab and conducts research projects on behalf of Dr. Katherine Warpeha. In addition, she serves as special program manager for POWER: Opening Doors for Women.



LISA NIGRO

Founder and Advisory Board Co-Chair, Inspiration Corporation

Lisa Nigro quit her job as a police officer in 1989 in order to devote more of her time to serving Chicago's poor, an effort that eventually became a \$4.9 million organization called Inspiration Corporation, a Chicago-based nonprofit that helps people who are affected by homelessness and poverty to improve their lives. Her latest project is Transform U, an organization that supports individuals with cognitive disabilities to achieve fitness goals and become peer fitness trainers for other individuals with cognitive disabilities.



JOYCE OWENS

Professor and Gallery Curator, Chicago State University

NOMINATED BY: *Beate Minkovski, Executive Director, Woman Made Gallery* "A prolific artist, Joyce is on the Woman Made Gallery Advisory Board, has exhibited frequently at our gallery and has served as a juror to select works for our exhibitions."

Joyce Owens is a professor of painting and drawing as well as an artist. As part of Sapphire & Crystals, an African American Women's Art Collective, she is currently curating a group exhibition, "State of Grace," in celebration of Sapphire & Crystal's 25th Anniversary.

**TRACEY PATTERSON**

Senior Manager, Accenture

NOMINATED BY: *Melody Spann Cooper, Chairman, Midway Broadcasting Corporation* "Tracey is a corporate 'one to watch.' She has mastered the art of balancing career, family and community and she is just getting started!"

Tracey Patterson is a senior manager at Accenture, leading large-scale global technology deployments. She works across the company's internal businesses to deliver leading-edge and cost effective solutions that help optimize Accenture's ability to serve external customers.

**MARIA PINTO**

Fashion Designer

NOMINATED BY: *Heather Becker, CEO, The Conservation Center* "Maria is a woman to watch because she will continue to flourish with her fabulous designs. She will be co-curating an exhibition for The Field Museum in September and is designing iPhone covers that will launch

this summer with AT&T."

The Maria Pinto label made its fashion debut with a collection of luxurious accessories at Bergdorf Goodman in 1991. Since then, her collections have been featured in major fashion publications including *Vogue*, *WWD*, *Elle*, *Harper's Bazaar* and *InStyle*.

**JENNIFER F. SCANLON**

President, International and Vice President, USG Corporation

NOMINATED BY: *Sheila Penrose, Board Chairman, Jones Lang LaSalle* "At USG Corporation, Jenny is in a significant business role. She is thoughtful, energetic, inspires confidence and is a real leader."

Jennifer Scanlon leads USG's business in Canada, Europe, Mexico, Asia/Pacific and Latin America. She is accountable for the overall strategic planning within USG International. At USG, Ms. Scanlon planned and managed LinX, a project that improved customer satisfaction and increased operational efficiencies.

**TRACY SAMANTHA SCHMIDT**

Director of Training and Strategy, Crain's Social Media Group

Prior to launching Crain's Social Media Group, Tracy Samantha Schmidt created a nationwide social media education program for Tribune Company. In 2011, she taught more than 3,000

professionals how to use social media effectively. She is the co-creator of ChicagoNow, the Tribune's network of 350 blogs, has taught several graduate-level classes on social media at DePaul University and previously reported for *Time* magazine, where she covered the rise of social media.

**MARGARET RAINONE**

Owner and Founder, Rainone Design Group Inc.

NOMINATED BY: *Linda Novick O'Keefe, Founding Executive Director, Common Threads* "Margaret is one of the newest members on the Executive Board of Common Threads and has already made a lasting impact. Margaret exudes positive energy and people are naturally drawn to her drive and her personality."

Margaret Rainone is owner and founder of Rainone Design Group Inc., an interior design firm that develops residential and commercial projects in Chicago, New York, Miami and Santa Barbara. Previously, she worked in advertising, marketing, commercial print and television production for 17 years.

**FRANCES RENK**

Brand Developer, Sequin

NOMINATED BY: *Rochelle Trotter, Founder and President, R'Culinaire* "Frances' commitment to excellence, support of animal-related issues and fashion sense make her a true candidate."

When Sequin, a New York-Based costume jewelry company founded by her sisters-in-law, needed someone to oversee national brand development, Frances Renk's keen business sense, eye for design, flair for fashion and fearless ambition made her the perfect candidate. The Sequin brand is currently sold at major department stores nationally. Sequin's favorite animal charities include Potter League and Coming Home Animal Sanctuary.

**ELIZABETH SHARP**

Founding Partner, The Law Offices of Elizabeth D. Sharp

NOMINATED BY: *Annabelle Volgman, MD, Medical Director, Rush Heart Center For Women* "Elizabeth has the ability to do all these professional and philanthropic activities and still have grace and charm. Chicago is very lucky to have such a wonderful superwoman."

Elizabeth Sharp started her own law firm in 2010 and specializes in commercial litigation, real estate, employment and business law. She has handled closings in excess of \$45 million of commercial and industrial real estate financing transactions for borrowers and lenders.

**SOPHIA SISKEL**

President and Chief Executive Officer, Chicago Botanic Garden

NOMINATED BY: *Leslie Hindman, President/CEO, Leslie Hindman Auctioneers* "Sophia has accomplished so much at such a young age. As newly elected president of the Arts Club of Chicago, she is doing a brilliant job. She is truly a wonder woman!"

Sophia Siskel joined the Chicago Botanic Garden staff in 2006 as vice president of visitor programs and operations and became president and CEO in 2007. Previously, she served for eight years at The Field Museum, including as vice president of exhibition and education.

**JAMIE RHEE**

Chief Procurement Officer, City of Chicago

NOMINATED BY: *Anita Ponder, Partner, Seyfarth Shaw LLP* "Jamie is the heart and soul of the City's disadvantaged and minority/women business enterprise programs. Her fearlessness describes her leadership style, which has resulted in significant program changes, improvements and developments."

Mayor Rahm Emanuel reappointed Jamie Rhee as the chief procurement officer for the City of Chicago in 2011. She oversees City procurement, which includes new programs formed to strengthen Chicago's small, minority- and-women owned business communities.

**SONYA ROSENBERG**

Associate, Neal Gerber & Eisenberg, LLP

NOMINATED BY: *Angela Elbert, Partner, Neal Gerber & Eisenberg, LLP* "Sonya is an up-and-coming woman within the Chicago business community. Her ingenuity in creating Executive Leaders in Transition has helped 60+ people find jobs."

Sonya Rosenberg counsels and represents employers in various labor and employment-related matters. Her experience includes counseling employers through the many aspects of the employment relationship and representing employers in administrative proceedings and through various stages of litigation at the state, federal district and appellate court levels.

**MARY ELLEN SMITH**

Director of Marketing, Golub & Company LLC

NOMINATED BY: *Bridget Brennan, CEO, Female Factor* "Mary Ellen enhances both Chicago's and the U.S.' position worldwide with her unique blend of expertise and most of all, her ability to make things happen. She is a natural leader."

Mary Ellen Smith has overall responsibility of Golub & Company's brand reputation as well as marketing, advertising and public relations for its 7 million square foot U.S. portfolio. She directs innovative and strong brand marketing strategies to create opportunities and combat challenges in the real estate industry.

**JENNIFER SOBECKI**

Executive Director, Designs for Dignity

NOMINATED BY: *Susan Fredman, Founder and CEO, Susan Fredman Design Group* "I am grateful for the tenacity and vigor Jennifer provides to Designs for Dignity. I could not be more proud of what has been accomplished by this small nonprofit!"

Jennifer Sobbecki oversees the fiscal aspects of the Designs for Dignity, including grant writing, event management and donor solicitation, in conjunction with the marketing and board development committees. Over the past five years, Ms. Sobbecki has increased the operating budget threefold.

**SHARI RUNNER**

Senior Vice President for Strategy and Community Development, Chicago Urban League

NOMINATED BY: *Shawnelle Richie, Director of Communications and Public Affairs, CBS-2/WBBM-TV* "Shari understands the money and the movement, and is committed to strengthening Chicago's African American communities."

Shari Runner oversees and manages operations in all programmatic areas of the Chicago Urban League, including working to increase financial support and developing strategic objectives. She is dedicated to combining her skills in business process and entrepreneurship with community engagement.

**STEF SAFRAN**

Founder, Stef and the City

NOMINATED BY: *Carrie Hightman, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, NISource Inc.* "Stef is well-connected in the Chicagoland area and uses her networking skills to bring people together."

Stef Safran has been in the matchmaking industry for over 10 years and is referred to as "Chicago's Introductionista," for her work revitalizing the social lives of Chicago's singles. Getting her start as a contestant coordinator on *The Dating Game*, Ms. Safran learned what it takes to find people for both romantic and television pursuits.

**JULIA STASCH**

Vice President of U.S. Programs, The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

NOMINATED BY: *Lynn Osmond, President and CEO, Chicago Architecture Foundation* "Julie is visionary in terms of her leadership at the MacArthur Foundation."

Julia Stasch is responsible for The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's major grant-making areas in the U.S., including strategies related to justice, housing, education, community and economic development and social and economic policy. Prior to joining the Foundation, she worked for the City of Chicago, most recently as chief of staff to Mayor Richard M. Daley.

**CARIN STUTZ**

Chief Executive Officer and President, Cosi, Inc.

Carin Stutz leads the overall strategic direction, operations and franchising for Cosi, Inc., which holds the 134-units in 17 states, the District of Columbia and the United Arab Emirates. Ms. Stutz previously served as president of Global Business Development for Brinker International; executive vice president of Operations for Applebee's International, Inc.; Pacific Division vice president for Wendy's International; Regional Operations vice president for Sodexo; and vice president of Corporate Operations for NutriSystem, Inc. She is the past chair of the Women's Foodservice Forum.

**JANET SZLYK, PH.D**

President and Executive Director,
The Chicago Lighthouse

NOMINATED BY: *Emily L. Barr, President and CEO, Post-Newsweek Stations* "Dr. Szlyk has successfully guided the Lighthouse during the most challenging economic time in recent history so it can continue to provide the critically important services that Chicagoans who are blind or visually impaired count on."

A highly accomplished and respected researcher, Janet Szlyk, Ph.D. joined The Chicago Lighthouse in 2008. Accomplishments include the completion of the Lighthouse's major expansion and renovation project, and the opening of the Chicago Lighthouse Vision Rehabilitation Center in Glenview.

**REGINA TAYLOR**

Artistic Associate, Goodman Theatre

With a body of work that encompasses film, television, theater and writing, Regina Taylor is one of Hollywood's most versatile actors. She is currently directing the 10th anniversary production of her hit musical, *Crowns*, through August 5 at the Goodman Theatre.

The critically acclaimed *Crowns* was the most performed musical in the country in 2006. Ms. Taylor is best known for her role as Lilly Harper in the TV series *I'll Fly Away*, for which she received many awards, including winning a Golden Globe.

**THEA VAN ARKEL**

Vice President, JPMorgan Private Bank

NOMINATED BY: *Laura Sage, Chairman, Lynn Sage Foundation* "Thea consistently impresses me with wisdom beyond her years, poise and commitment to everything she does. I am grateful to have Thea as a partner in our quest to find a cure for breast cancer."

Thea Van Arkel spent the first five years of her career in New York on Wall Street. As a vice president at JPMorgan Private Bank, she currently works with ultra high net worth clients in the Chicago metropolitan area.

**MARGO WOLF O'DONNELL**

Shareholder, Vedder Price

NOMINATED BY: *Marcia Owens, Partner, Edwards Wildman Palmer LLP* "Margo has been a true asset. She is always willing to roll up her sleeves, brainstorm new ideas and, most importantly, make our ideas come to fruition. She also works to advance the cause for women in the practice of law and to promote female attorneys."

Margo Wolf O'Donnell is an experienced litigator who handles a variety of cases, including litigation involving restrictive covenants, business torts, employment issues, intellectual property and class action defense.

**JACKIE TAYLOR**

Founder and Executive Director, The Black Ensemble Theater Company

NOMINATED BY: *Jan Schakowsky, Congresswoman* "Jackie is a woman who never takes no for an answer. She is a Chicago treasure."

Jackie Taylor is a distinguished director, producer, actress, singer and playwright who has written and produced over 100 plays and musicals. With the 35-year-old Black Ensemble Theater, she has created an institution committed to eradicating racism, recognized throughout the nation for its outstanding original productions and exceptional educational outreach programs. She also recently opened the Black Ensemble Theater Cultural Arts Center.

**GENEVIEVE THIERS**

Founder, Sittercity.com

NOMINATED BY: *Susan Lovell, Principal, Suzanne Lovell, Inc.* "Genevieve is the quintessential entrepreneur. Her innovation, business acumen and leadership are a constant inspiration."

Genevieve Thiers has founded several companies in the Chicago area. Her first, Sittercity.com, was America's first company to take caregiving services online, and now has millions of users nationwide. Her latest, Contact Karma, is in beta and aims to help consumers find the perfect vendor match through the use of social recommendation engines. She is also a writer for *Crain's Chicago Business*.

**MONICA WALKER**

CPA, Founding Partner, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Investment Officer – Equity, Holland Capital Management

NOMINATED BY: *Gloria Castillo, President, Chicago United* "Monica has the tenacity and competence to compete and win in the tough world of investment management. She has spiritual depth that ensures her inner beauty matches the beauty we see visually."

With over 31 years of financial services experience, Monica Walker oversees the overall business and financial operations of Holland Capital Management, and is responsible for implementation of the firm's large cap growth and mid cap growth equity strategies.

**LINDA YU**

Anchor, ABC-7 Chicago

NOMINATED BY: *Bernarda Wong, Founder and President, Chinese American Service League* "Linda symbolizes what a phenomenal Chicago woman is. One of the best kept secrets about Linda is her unwavering generosity and philanthropy on behalf of the Chicagoland community and her outstanding leadership in the Asian American Community."

Linda Yu has been an anchor with ABC-7 Chicago since 1984 and has earned five Emmy Awards for her journalistic excellence. She served as the first Asian television anchor in Chicago and is a founder of the Asian American Journalist Association.

Chicago works
because of the
positive influence
you all have
made.
Thank you!
-Sheren