

CREW



NETWORK

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**NEWS RELEASE**  
For Immediate Release

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## **Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) Network Recognizes Leaders in Commercial Real Estate Industry With 2008 Impact Awards**

### **Awards Presented at CREW Network Annual Convention & Marketplace, October 15-18**

**Lawrence, KS – October 17, 2008** – Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) Network recognized leaders in commercial real estate with the 2008 CREW Network Impact Awards, given at the organization's annual convention and marketplace in Houston this week.

#### **Career Advancement**

**Karen Priesman**, a partner with Hager Pacific Properties in Newport Beach, CA, was given the Career Advancement for Women Award. Karen serves as a member of the CREW Foundation Board of Trustees and is a member of the CREW Orange County chapter.

The award recognizes her work to advance the careers of women in commercial real estate. In addition to helping many women transition into new job opportunities at senior levels, Karen has leveraged membership in CREW Network into a business referral network, and is actively involved in CREW Orange County's career advancement initiative; chairing CREW Careers™ in 2008 and supporting its inaugural UCREW program that same year. Through her business referrals, Priesman has generated more than \$100,000 in fees for local architects.

#### **Economic Improvement**

San Francisco non-profit **Urban Solutions** received the CREW Network Economic Improvement Award, honoring its mission to foster the well being of disadvantaged communities by helping to increase neighborhood commercial vitality, strengthen small businesses, create jobs and encourage diversity.

CREW San Francisco members Jenny McNulty, Executive Director of Urban Solutions and Tracy Everwine, project director, oversee one of the organization's most important projects, the Sixth Street Economic Revitalization Program. The program has been a catalyst for the gradual transformation of San Francisco's Sixth Street, the major commercial corridor located in the heart of the city's South of Market Redevelopment Project Area. The redevelopment has resulted in an increased amount of consumer spending that is now staying within the community, decreased property vacancies from 40 percent in 2003 to just 15 percent in 2008, and stimulated more than \$1.1 million in private investments to the area.

## Humanitarian

**The Indianapolis chapter of CREW Network (INDYCREW)** and its partnership with **Dress for Success Indianapolis** received the Humanitarian Award. The award recognizes the role that members of INDYCREW played in assisting Dress for Success Indianapolis with a new location to expand its operations and a savings to the non profit of \$127,000 in broker and attorney fees, moving expenses, office furnishings and other items.

Dress for Success Indianapolis (DFSI) assists women in Central Indiana community striving for self-sufficiency and seeking socioeconomic advancement. The two programs currently operating at DFSI include Suits for Success and the Professional Women's Group (PWG). Suits for Success assists women as they are transitioning into the workforce and thanks to its expanded operation will serve 1,500 women in 2009, up from 800 in 2006; PWG is a post-employment program focused on employment retention and will expand to 115 members in 2009, up from 26 in 2007.

## Member-to-Member Business

CREW Charlotte member **Ann Vano**, a commercial real estate developer and partner with Centdev Properties, Charlotte received the Member-to-Member Business Award, recognizing her extraordinary commitment to doing business with and referring business to CREW Network members. Vano oversaw four major projects in the Charlotte area that generated \$40 million in commercial real estate development, and involved 27 CREW Charlotte members in key roles, including legal counsel, financing, environmental work, engineering and more.

The projects are the Northlake Village Shopping Center, Starbucks Retail Center, Northern Tool & Equipment Store and Regent Town Center.

The award also cited Vano's ability to break down any gender bias that might exist on the part of male developers involved in the projects and hire women in all aspects of the development process.

## Member-to-Member Business, Honorable Mention

**Jane Williams**, senior vice president and asset director at ING Clarion and a member of NEWIRE-Boston, received an honorable mention in the Member-to-Member Business category for her commitment to leveraging her CREW Network connections in all phases of her business. Williams has hired qualified CREW Network members every year, including more than dozens over her 20-year career.

## Industry Innovator

**Katten Muchin Rosenman**, a Charlotte law firm received the Industry Innovator Award. The firm is dedicated to the achievement of diversity within the firm as well as within the broader legal community.

Katten actively promotes a diverse culture through its recruitment, mentoring, training, professional development and public service programs. Its Women's Leadership Forum (WLF) was established to further the firm's commitment to the strategic retention and advancement of women. The WLF's goals are aligned with CREW Network's dedication to helping women achieve their full personal, professional and leadership potential. In 2007 and 2008, Working Mother magazine named Katten one of its 100 Best Companies as well as one of the nation's 50 Best Law Firms for Women.

## Industry Innovator – Honorable Mention

Raleigh, NC based **The Preiss Company**, a leading firm in the sales and development of investment property, received an honorable mention in the Industry Innovator Award category, recognizing the firm's commitment to providing women challenging and fulfilling careers in the commercial real estate industry. Founded by Triangle CREW member Donna Preiss, women leadership in The Preiss Company comprises 50% of the development, sales, property management, human resources, and financial teams;

while 70% of the executive leadership team is female. Within the next 12 months, the Preiss Company anticipates transacting \$150 million in acquisitions and developments.

**About CREW Network:**

CREW Network is a professional association dedicated to advancing the success of women in commercial real estate, through chapter level functions, national conferences and ongoing education. In June 2007, CREW Network published its second research report, **CREW Network: Minding the Gap**, which articulates strategies for women and companies to take in order for commercial real estate to become more diverse. This report is a follow up to CREW Network's 2005 benchmarking study measuring the status and achievements of women in the industry.

The mission of CREW Network ([www.crewnetwork.org](http://www.crewnetwork.org)) is to advance the success of women in commercial real estate. CREW Network does this by looking outward to bring more women into the industry, showcasing member successes and serving as a key resource to its members and the industry. CREW Network members represent all disciplines of commercial real estate - every type of expert required to "do the deal." Members comprise more than 8,000 commercial real estate professionals in 66 chapters across North America.

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