

Women OF INFLUENCE

Commercial real estate has long been considered one of the last industries where the glass ceiling hasn't been breached. But if the women in this issue are any indication, the "Old Boys' Club" may no longer be an apt description for the business. Women entered the sector in droves over the past few decades, and many have risen to the C-suite and are among the top decision-makers at their firms. As such, the editors of REAL ESTATE FORUM had a tough time selecting this year's Women of Influence. We weeded through some 200 worthy nominations to come up with 45 executives whose accomplishments were particularly impressive. With an increasing number of women currently paying their dues and rising to management-level positions—not to mention mentoring a younger generation of female professionals—it seems like we'll have our work cut out for us in the years to come.

LACA WONG - HAMMOND



Laca Wong-Hammond acts as her company's healthcare real estate division head sourcing new business and providing transaction advisory services for clients that include hospitals, healthcare systems and providers, developers, private-equity organizations and publicly-traded companies. She entered the field thanks to advice from a Cornell Alum who suggested she start her career in real estate investment banking at JP Morgan. In the past year, Wong-Hammond closed \$600 million of medical office deals and was nominated vice-chair of the BOMA Medical Office and Healthcare Facilities annual conference. She is also on the Board of Trustees at Chen Dance Center and is a volunteer with Cornell University's Career Services. Wong-Hammond is optimistic about her slice of the industry. "Healthcare facilities offer a stable yield," she says. "The industry remains dynamic and full of opportunities for emerging female leaders."