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2008 Women of Influence

Whether they're finalizing major deals, developing big projects or lending their time and expertise to industry associations or nonprofit groups, these women are movers and shakers on the New York commercial real estate scene. Real Estate New York is continuing its annual tradition of spotlighting the accomplishments of these key players and chose Herrick partners Laurie Grasso and Belinda Schwartz as two of the 2008 Women of Influence.



Laurie Grasso
Partner
Herrick, Feinstein LLP

As a partner in Herrick's real estate department, Grasso counsels clients including Swig Equities, the World-Wide Group, Extell Development, Nathan Berman and Downtown Holdings, Savanna Partners, Rabina Properties and TD Bank. She is a member of the firm's hiring committee and also mentors many female associates. Grasso made partner in

2006 after only seven years at Herrick. Quote: "The coming year will be a time of challenge and innovation for my developer clients. As credit markets have tightened, developers are more cautious but also more opportunistic as they seek out deals at a discount."



Belinda Schwartz
Partner
Herrick, Feinstein LLP

A transactional real estate partner at Herrick, Schwartz represents first mortgage lenders, mezzanine lenders, borrowers, landlords, tenants, buyers, sellers, sweat equity and preferred equity and real estate families. She was named to Super Lawyers New York this year.

Quote: "No one knows where the bottom of the market is or when we will hit it. Eventually, opportunities for principals (and counsel) will arise, to the benefit of anyone willing to work hard, get their arms around deals that have complicated structures, and assume some risk. Everything cycles."

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