



2024 Women in CRE: Aislinn McGuire, Contractors Association of Greater NY

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Aislinn McGuire
Managing Director
Contractors Association of Greater NY

Why should this nominee be recognized in our Women in Commercial Real Estate Spotlight?

“Aislinn’s dedication to supporting her family as a single parent, while also progressing through her career to partner at the law firm Kauff McGuire & Margolis LLP (KMM) and Managing Director of CAGNY while serving on the boards of several organizations, shows her dedication to personal and professional growth. She also mentors law students and young associates (she is in charge of associate development at KMM), sharing her experiences and insights on diversity in the workplace and succeeding in male-dominated industries with them.” - Dawn Zanichelli, Assistant Managing Director at Contractors’ Association of Greater New York, Inc.

What recent project, transaction, or accomplishment are you most proud of?

The most recent accomplishment that I’m most proud of was my appointment as managing director of CAGNY earlier this year. At the Association, I have been pivotal in advancing key organizational initiatives, such as legislative advocacy on construction-related matters and drafting project labor agreements for major developments. I have provided CAGNY members with valuable industry insights through several presentations and have led impactful discussions with legislators and labor representatives to foster progress. My dedication to elevating industry standards is reflected in my work on safety, security, and ethics, as well as my advocacy for emerging construction technologies.

What are the most important factors young women should consider when choosing a firm to build their career with?

Young women should consider organizations that foster their growth while also considering the unique challenges that arise from being female in a male dominated industry -- and providing space to succeed. As a single parent, and Vice Chair of Non-Traditional Employment for Women (NEW), I’m a firm believer in the ethos that ‘it takes a village;’ I’ve worked hard to build a supportive network. I’ve attended numerous events to learn quickly and develop key relationships. Young women should also work to embody an approach of listening, understanding concerns, and facilitating in all facets of their professional lives.

Who inspires you most? What qualities do they possess that inspire you?

Ray McGuire, the outgoing Managing Director of CAGNY and its current General Counsel. Ray has dedicated most of his career to the New York City construction and real estate communities. He understands the importance of building relationships and trust even with people with whom you strongly disagree and is a coalition builder. He never says no when asked for help if there is any way he can be of assistance and he shows up, in person, whenever and wherever needed. Lastly, he approaches problems through a lens of devising practical, real-world solutions.

Which professional organization(s) would you recommend to women just starting out in your industry:

I believe it is less about joining a particular organization than about attending industry events (Crains

and Commercial Observer are good places to look) and getting involved in not-for-profit organizations such as NEW, and Helmets to Hardhats.

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