



**BOMA New York: Women shaping the future of commercial real estate - by Patrick Dolan**

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Patrick Dolan

As BOMA New York commemorates Women's History Month, we take pride in recognizing all exceptional women who are not only shaping the present but also defining the future of commercial real estate. These visionary leaders have achieved remarkable success throughout their careers, and their influence extends far beyond personal accomplishments. They serve as role models, inspiring and mentoring others across our community in New York City.

BOMA New York's inaugural Women's Leadership Event, "Women Shaping the Future of Commercial Real Estate," exceeded all expectations, selling out twice with additional capacity added. Held on March 4th, the event brought together professionals eager to hear from influential female leaders in the commercial real estate industry. The event featured a distinguished lineup of speakers: keynote speaker Caroline Gadaleta, executive managing director and head of Tri-State and Greater Philadelphia Property Management at JLL and panelists Jane Luger, MBA, vice president of Asset Management at Rudin; Marla Maloney, co-chief executive at the Americas at Cushman & Wakefield; and Sadaf Sattarzadeh, director of construction and project delivery at 52X Consulting LLC. BOMA New York officers Sharon Hart and Bridget Cunningham emceed and closed the program.

BOMA New York's first Women's Leadership Event provided a platform to discuss the challenges and opportunities faced in leadership roles within commercial real estate. Attendees gained valuable insights on overcoming challenges, driving meaningful change, and ensuring innovation and leadership continue to thrive for future generations.

Our BOMA New York panelists offered their professional expertise on how young professionals can position themselves for leadership roles, including the importance of skill development, understanding workplace dynamics, and pursuing relevant certifications such as the RPA and FMA designations to remain competitive. Networking strategies focused on cultivating relationships that provide professional support and growth were also discussed. Strategies for advocating for oneself and others were shared, emphasizing the importance of setting boundaries and maintaining resilience in the face of adversity.

In addition, we want to formally congratulate BOMA New York emerging leader Elza Berisha, for being named BOMA International's January Emerging Professional of the Month. She was drawn to the commercial real estate industry when she realized the impact a well-managed property can have on the people and businesses it serves, including the way people work, connect, and thrive.

Within a year of working at Cushman & Wakefield, Elza was promoted to senior assistant property manager. Her rapid career advancement and commitment to professional development exemplify the leadership and innovation BOMA New York celebrates. Congratulations on this great achievement, Elza!

In honor of Women's History Month, BOMA New York acknowledges the significant contributions women leaders have made to the commercial real estate industry. As we celebrate all BOMA New

York's trailblazing women, we look forward to the future they are shaping — one defined by innovation, collaboration, and equal opportunities for all professionals.

Patrick Dolan, RPA, is chairman of BOMA New York.

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