



Empowering  
Women  
Since 1997

## Women in Housing & Finance and Foundation

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Press Release

**Alexandria, VA**—Women in Housing & Finance (WHF) is pleased to announce its new president and board of directors for 2017-2018 and the leadership for its foundation.

WHF was formed in 1979 to serve as a forum for advancing women in the areas of housing and finance. Today, its membership includes more than 400 professionals, both women and men, from financial institutions, trade associations, federal and state regulatory agencies, GSEs, nonprofit organizations, law and accounting firms, congressional committees, the national press, and financial services companies. The organization's purpose is to provide an open forum on national financial, economic and political matters affecting the fields of financial services and housing.

Joanna Girardin Shapiro, Bank of New York Mellon, began her term on June 29th. Shapiro has held several leadership roles within WHF including president-elect, vice-president, secretary and chair of the 2017 Annual Symposium.

"I am honored to serve as Women in Housing & Finance's 39th President," said Shapiro. "I want to place a particular focus this year on our members. I look forward to working with the new WHF Board and our membership, not only to grow our footprint as an organization but also to continue to provide the quality programming our members have come to expect in our chosen areas of housing and financial services."

Shapiro leads a 15-person board of directors comprised of financial services professionals in the Washington, D.C. area. The WHF Board of Directors for 2017 – 2018 includes:

**Joanna Girardin Shapiro**, Bank of New York Mellon, *President*

**Lindsey Johnson**, U.S. Mortgage Insurers, *President-Elect*

**Kris Kully**, Mayer Brown, *Vice President*

**Lori Santamarena**, *Treasurer*

**Courtney Vaughan**, Courtney Vaughan LLC, *Secretary*

**Kate Larson**, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, *General Counsel*

**Martha Clarke**, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (serving in her personal capacity), *Immediate Past President*

**Mary Kinney**, WHF Foundation Liaison

**Nicole Ehrbar**, Quicken Loans, *Director*

**Dionne Joemah**, Prince George's County, MD, *Director* (serving in her personal capacity)

**Lawrence Kaplan**, Paul Hastings, *Director*

**Barbara Keller**, BIK Consulting, *Director*

**Wendy Tran Novotne**, Ballard Spahr, LLP, *Director*

**Kate Rock**, Navigant, *Director*

**Heidi Wicker**, Schwartz & Ballen LLP, *Director*

Created by WHF in 1997, the WHF Foundation focuses on promoting financial empowerment and commits volunteer and financial resources to help women and families in the Washington,

D.C. metropolitan area through charitable and educational services. The WHF Foundation is pleased to announce its 2017-2018 board of directors:

**Mary Martha Fortney**, The Fortney Group, *President*  
**Rebecca Laird**, K&L Gates LLP, *Vice-President*  
**Sydney Garmong**, Crowe Horwath LLP, *Treasurer*  
**Jane DeMarines**, Federal Government Agency, *Secretary*  
**Sam Ozeck**, FDIC (serving in his personal capacity), *General Counsel*  
**Mary Kinney**, *Liaison to the WHF Board of Directors*  
**Suzanne Garwood**, JPMorgan Chase and Co., *Director*  
**Debbie Matz**, *Director*  
**Brandy Schantz**, Synergy Home Sales, *Director*  
**Lindsay Shuba Donnelly**, The Lukens Group, *Director*  
**Beth Solomon**, CARE, USA, *Director*  
**Leslie Woolley**, *Director*

Jane DeMarines, Beth Solomon and Leslie Woolley were elected by the WHF membership. Debbie Matz and Mary Kinney were appointed to the board by WHF President Joanna Shapiro. Sam Ozeck was appointed by WHF Foundation President Mary Martha Fortney.

The WHF Foundation's core mission is to partner with local non-profit organizations dedicated to helping low-income women and children with basic financial literacy skills, housing assistance, transition services and economic empowerment. The foundation provided \$30,000 in grants to its community non-profit partners in 2016-2017 and has provided \$569,500 in grants since its creation in 1997. The foundation has also awarded a total of \$21,000 in grants to the Trinity Washington University scholarship. It also arranges volunteer opportunities for WHF members to teach financial empowerment in schools and to persons in need. "The Foundation directors are pleased to begin another year providing volunteer opportunities to WHF members and to assist its non-profit partners," noted Foundation President Mary Martha Fortney. "We look forward to celebrating our 20th Anniversary this year and to continuing to work with the WHF Board," she added.

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***About the WHF Foundation:*** A 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to: (1) Develop personal finance counseling programs to enhance the financial empowerment of low-income women or other at-risk individuals; (2) Provide partnership grants to organizations that provide services to women and their families in the Washington, D.C. area; (3) Coordinate volunteer activities of Women in Housing and Finance members benefiting community groups, especially in the areas of housing and women's concerns; and (4) Create an internship or scholarship program for women students interested in the fields of housing and finance. For more information, please visit the WHF Foundation's Web-site at <http://www.whfdc.org/foundation>.