

2025 Ones To Watch - Rising Stars: Sammi Zeng, Rockland Trust Bank

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Sammi Zeng VP, Commercial Banking Officer

"In the time I've worked with Sammi, it's become clear that she truly cares about every business she partners with. She works tirelessly to advocate for her clients and is there to guide them every step of the way. She not only takes pride in her work, but also in helping her neighbors and community. Sammi brings thoughtfulness to every relationship, whether with a customer or a colleague, making her a trusted resource for everyone who has the opportunity to work with her." - Patrick Walsh, SVP, Commercial Banking Center Manager at Rockland Trust Bank.

What recent professional milestone or project are you most proud of, and why? I was recently proud to represent Rockland Trust by providing financing for a poultry wholesale company in MA, which included an industrial building acquisition. They had been working with other banks while searching for industrial buildings, but they did not close as their needs weren't met in a timely manner. They then came to me through a referral, and I was fortunate to help them quickly secure an SBA 504 loan. With low down payments, the business was able to purchase the building and grow. Gaining the trust of my customers and helping them achieve their goals is very satisfying.

Who has played a pivotal role in your development, and how have they influenced you? Mentors have played a crucial role in my career, offering guidance that shaped my path. I was initially hesitant to move away from retail to commercial banking, but a mentor took genuine interest in my growth and shared his knowledge with me. I still remember his encouragement: "There are few female, Asian commercial bankers. Your community needs someone like you to educate, advocate, and help with their borrowing needs. You can be that person. Just believe in yourself and you can do this." His support helped me get where I am now. I'm grateful to have mentors that I trust, and who trust me.

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