



CELEBRATING
56 YEARS

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2025 Women in CRE: Sheryl Starr, Bernkopf

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Sheryl Starr
Partner

What drew you to commercial real estate, and what keeps you passionate? I was drawn to commercial real estate because it blends law, business, and problem-solving in a tangible way – you can see the results in buildings, communities, and opportunities created. Over 35 years, I've enjoyed guiding clients through complex deals where strategy and detail both matter. What keeps me passionate is the constant evolution of the market and the chance to help clients achieve their goals while shaping the landscape of where we live and work.

What's a challenge you faced early in your career, and how did you overcome it? Early on, I struggled with balancing the steep learning curve of complex transactions while also wanting to prove myself. At times, the pace felt overwhelming. What helped me overcome it was seeking out mentors who were generous with their time and wisdom. By asking questions, listening closely, and learning from their approach, I gained both confidence and perspective – reminding myself that growth in this field is a marathon, not a sprint.

What advice would you give to a woman considering a career in commercial real estate? I would tell her that this is a demanding but deeply rewarding field. It also offers endless opportunities to learn and grow. Early in my career, I found that listening carefully, asking thoughtful questions, and paying attention to the details built both skill and trust. My advice is to be curious, seek mentors who inspire you, and pursue the areas that spark your interest. Over time, those habits will open doors and create a career that is both meaningful and lasting.