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## CREW unveils top 15 women in commercial real estate honorees

Houston Business Journal by Olivia Pulsinelli, Web producer

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Commercial Real Estate Women Houston, known as CREW, unveiled the 15 honorees of its top women in commercial real estate awards at a reception April 25, which had around 200 attendees.

CREW created the award in celebration of its 15th anniversary.

The top 15 women — [and the 35 finalists](#) — represent disciplines across the commercial real estate industry and work at a variety of companies. Many of their accomplishments include decades in the real estate sector, overseeing projects and portfolios totaling billions of dollars and starting their own companies.

CREW invited other organizations in the commercial real estate sector to put the word out about the awards. Its lists of finalists and honorees include both members and nonmembers, said [Priya Coffey](#) and [Lori Sowa](#), co-chairs of CREW's Member Service Committee.

"We're giving this award to people who made an impact on Houston's commercial real estate industry," said Sowa, vice president - producer, Northmarq Capital.

To determine the impact, the judges looked at a variety of factors, including current job responsibilities and accomplishments, professional affiliations and leadership roles, civic roles and contributions and awards and recognitions.

"We were most impressed by how many of these women were the reason why their company hired other women," said Coffey, partner at [Jackson Walker LLP](#).

They opened the doors of these traditionally male-dominated companies to women and continued to mentor the women who followed in their footsteps, Coffey and Sowa said.



Edna Meyer-Nelson, president, Richland Investment Inc.

Fast fact: Started Richland in 1993 and has grown it into a multimillion-dollar, private, woman-owned real estate firm that owns more than 33 properties in four states.