

NJBIZ Presents *New Jersey's*
**BEST 50 WOMEN
IN BUSINESS**



2009 edition

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The Selection Process

The Best 50 Women in Business program honors 50 of New Jersey's most accomplished women. To be considered for this award, each candidate was required to hold significant decision-making power, as an owner, partner or senior executive in a for-profit organization, and live or work in New Jersey. An independent three-

judge panel selected this year's winners from a group of many outstanding nominees, each identified solely by a number. Using a point system, the judges rated nominees in three categories: professional accomplishment, including level of achievement within the nominee's company, industry and region; community involvement, in-

cluding past and present activities in which the nominee and/or her business has participated; and advocacy for women within the nominee's company, industry and region. After two weeks of deliberation, the judges totaled up their scores to reveal the individuals honored as New Jersey's Best 50 Women in Business 2009. ♦

2009 New Jersey's Best 50 Women in Business Judges



Lori Grifa

Partner, Wolff & Samson PC



Denise McVey

President, S3



Heather G. Suarez, Esq.

Partner, Walder Hayden & Brogran P.A.



Lawra J. Dodge

President
Excel Environmental Resources Inc.
North Brunswick, Middlesex County

Education: Bachelor's degree in geological sciences, Rutgers University.

Job responsibility:
Executive.

Company description:
Environmental consulting and engineering firm.

Favorite quote:
"Everyone puts their pants on the same way, one leg at a time." – Bob Harris, father.

Who do you consider your most influential role model?

"My dad. He succeeded as a businessman and salesman by establishing extraordinary relationships with clients, colleagues and staff, who respected his expertise, honesty, professionalism and charm."

Biggest issues facing businesswomen in New Jersey: The downturned economy, excessive taxation and regulation, and continually increasing insurance and healthcare costs.

Primary professional/community affiliations: North Brunswick Township Environmental Commission; PlanSmart NJ; New Jersey Builders Association; Paterson Environmental Restoration Committee; Paterson Habitat for Humanity; NAIOP, the Commercial Real Estate Development Association; International Council of Shopping Centers; Brownfield Development Area Steering Committees; Women's Auxiliary for Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital.