



# Congratulations to the 2017 Award Recipients!

On March 7th, 2018, CREW Fort Worth held its annual awards luncheon honoring 2017 achievements at The Fort Worth Club. The sold-out event, included current and past award recipients, as well as students from the Young Women's Leadership Academy of Fort Worth. CREW Fort Worth officially announced its partnership with the organization and will host members of the YWLA at every luncheon this year. For a list of award recipients, read below!

## SUSAN A. HALSEY EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARD

This award recognizes a CREW Member that is a role model in representing the core values of CREW Fort Worth and CREW Network, has shown a continuous and long-term dedication to the organization and its mission, and is a demonstrated leader in the commercial real estate industry. *This award is presented in memory of Susan Halsey, a past president of CREW Fort Worth and a longtime member.*

**The 2017 Susan A. Halsey Excellence in Leadership Award winner is Constance (Connie) Blake!**



Connie has 30+ years of experience in commercial interior design, helping companies improve employee performance by designing effective work environments. As the founder and CEO of Generational Designs, LLC, Connie is leveraging her design skills and leadership experience in creating a new Home Community concept.

Connie has been a member of CREW Fort Worth since 1995. Connie is a connector, always looking for ways to get deals done with other CREW members and looking for ways to make CREW connections work. Connie's passion for CREW over the last 20+ years has improved our organization. After serving as President in 2002, Connie has continually mentored our leaders and committee chairs, providing ideas, and encouraging all of our members to be our best. Connie's professionalism, commitment to mentoring, and excellence in her field embodies the mission of CREW Fort Worth, and the spirit of the Susan A. Halsey Excellence in Leadership Award.

## MEMBER OF THE YEAR

This award was created to recognize extraordinary service to CREW Fort Worth for the applicable year by a CREW Full or Affiliate Member. The recipient has shown their commitment to CREW Fort Worth, is a person of honor and integrity, who is a leader within the commercial real estate industry and for CREW. This person actively serves and is always a good representative of CREW Fort Worth within the community.

**The 2017 Member of the Year winner is Noelle Garsek!**



Noelle is a commercial real estate attorney and a shareholder with Winstead PC, where she has been a member of Winstead's real estate practice since 2001. Her legal experience includes all aspects of real estate, with an emphasis on acquisitions and dispositions, development and commercial leasing transactions.

Noelle has been involved with CREW since 2005, first as a member of CREW Dallas, and as a member of CREW Fort Worth since 2011. Noelle served on the Board of Fort Worth CREW for four years and served as President in 2015. Since rolling off the board, Noelle has continued to give her time and energy to CREW. During 2017, she spearheaded the bylaws review committee, while also serving on the Legacy of Leadership Committee, planning mentoring events, serving on the scholarship committee, and engaging a partnership with YWLA. Noelle has a heart for mentorship and a passion for CREW, and always steps up when asked.

**CARLA HIGGINS CREW FUTURE LEADER OF THE YEAR**

This award recognizes a CREW Member with less than 10 years of commercial real estate experience who has given extraordinary service to CREW Fort Worth for the applicable year. The recipient has shown their commitment to CREW Fort Worth, is a person of honor and integrity who is a leader within the commercial real estate industry and for CREW. This person actively serves and is always a good representative of CREW Fort Worth within the community. *This award is presented in memory of Carla Higgins, a past president of this organization and a long-time member.*

**The 2017 Carla Higgins CREW Future Leader of the Year winner is Kirsten Cessna!**



A registered interior designer, Kirsten is an Operations Leader and Design Manager in Gensler's Retail studio. Her extensive experience in Retail and Aviation practice areas encompasses projects across the United States. Her project experience includes working with clients such as American Airlines, Fletcher Jones, Sewell Automotive, and Toyota. As a client relationship champion, Kirsten thrives on the collaboration it takes to bring a client's vision to fruition.

Kirsten serves as the 2018 CREW Future Leaders (CFL) co-chair and has been a member of CREW Fort Worth since 2015. In 2017, Kirsten was the CFL liaison to the Legacy of Leadership Committee and was instrumental in the strategic planning and implantation of our mentoring series. And, quite impressively, Kirsten continued to remain active in her committee work even while on maternity leave! Kirsten is committed to CREW and mentoring younger professionals in our industry. Her work has enhanced our mentoring program and has helped CREW achieve our mission of advancing the success of women in commercial real estate.

### PARTNER OF THE YEAR

This award was created to recognize long time and/or substantial monetary contributions by organizations that make it possible for CREW Fort Worth to achieve its mission to provide opportunities for networking, education, leadership development and civic/philanthropic involvement, and that of CREW Network to provide opportunities that foster productive and supportive relationships and enhance personal and professional growth.

#### The 2017 Partner of the Year winner is Red Oak Realty!



Red Oak Realty is a full-service real estate company that provides services in property management, leasing, development and brokerage in the DFW area. They are dedicated to efficiency and quality service.

Red Oak Realty has been a long-time supporter of CREW Fort Worth. Red Oak Realty has reliably contributed funds over the years as an annual partner at the Silver and Gold levels, and a sponsor of special events, including CREW Brews & BBQ. Red Oak Realty also supports CREW Fort Worth by committing personal capital, by encouraging Stephanie Olson to be actively involved in CREW. Stephanie has been an active member over the past 5 years, serving as a committee chair, serving on the Board of Directors for two years, and now serving on the Programs Committee. We appreciate Red Oak Realty's commitment to the Fort Worth commercial real estate industry and its generous support of CREW Fort Worth.

## PROJECT OF THE YEAR

This award is given to a project or development in Tarrant County that has a significant impact on the commercial real estate industry. Examples of significant impact include, but are not limited to, the project or development's innovation or creativity, potential or proven ability to incite other development, revitalization or economic development, or potential or proven ability to satisfy an unfulfilled need.

**The 2017 Project of the Year winner is Frost Tower Fort Worth!**



Accepting the award on behalf of Frost Tower Fort Worth was Laura Bird, President of Anthracite Realty Partners, LLC, an affiliate of Jetta Operating Co., a privately held oil and gas exploration and production firm head quartered in Fort Worth. The project team for Frost Tower Fort Worth includes Anthracite Realty Partners, LLC, Bennett Benner Partners Architects and Balfour Beatty Construction, Dunaway & Associates, L.A. Fuess Partners, Summit Consultants, and Fugro Consultants. Bank of the Ozarks provided construction financing. Stream Realty is handling the leasing.



## DEAL OF THE YEAR

This award recognizes a real estate transaction during the applicable year that exemplified member-to-member business among CREW Fort Worth members. CREW Fort Worth's membership base spans all disciplines of commercial real estate, allowing members the ability to a deal from start-to-finish with other members. The award may be given based on the number of CREW Fort Worth members involved, or the meaningful business that was generated, whether through the size of the transaction, or the relationships that were fostered.

We did something a little differently this year. We were thrilled to receive multiple nominations, highlighting that our members are eager to do business together. Instead of recognizing one Deal of the Year, we are recognizing all of the CREW Fort Worth members who were nominated as doing business together.

# Member-to-Member Business

Recognizing members nominated for deals in 2017



**Joanna Cloud**  
Republic Title



**Bill Stonaker**  
Wilson & Stonaker, LLC



**Sarah Lancarte**  
Fort Capital



**Noelle Garsek**  
Winstead PC



**Ashley Tinsley**  
Fort Construction



**Kim McCaslin**  
MR Development