



POWER YOUR DREAM.

How We Did It: Successful Black Women Share Their Stories



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BLACK BUSINESSWOMEN TO SHARE THEIR SUCCESS STORIES

In honor of Black History Month, NAWBO to host lively discussion with black women entrepreneurs

Chicago, Ill. – February, 2009 – When times are tough, it's enlightening to hear tales of perseverance and success. In light of this and in celebration of Black History Month, the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) in Chicago is hosting its annual panel, "How We Did It: Successful Black Businesswomen Share Their Stories" on Thursday, February 12, 2009 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. at Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg LLP, 200 W. Madison, Suite 3900, Chicago.

The panel features women who were unafraid to embark on the challenges of entrepreneurship, such as leading insurance executive Shirley Evans-Wofford, fashion designer Alice Berry, as well as attorney and arts advocate Susan McKeever. The panelists will discuss their decisions to strike out on their own and how they achieved success, while also offering practical tips for how to follow in their paths. Before and after the discussion, guests are encouraged to network with other business owners and professionals.

“Never has the celebration of Black History Month been so timely and meaningful in this country. We are honored to create a platform to share the stories of highly accomplished African American women who will inspire us all with their successes,” said Angelika Coghlan, president of NAWBO Chicago Area Chapter.

The panelists include:

Alice Berry: Throughout her 25-year career, Berry has been involved in a nearly every element of fashion design. She has developed collections for small boutiques, shown textiles and clothing art in galleries, and developed a line of knitwear and scarves. This spring, Berry plans to launch a line of jackets, tops and well-fitting bottoms.

Shirley Evans-Wofford: As founder of Lambent Risk Management Services, Evans-Wofford directs, manages and supervises the firm's daily operations. The firm offers insurance program marketing, design, review and placement for commercial and personal clients. Before founding Lambent, Evans-Wofford served as president of Corbis Insurance Services, LLC, a firm specializing in property and casualty insurance placements, as well as senior vice president of J&H/Marsh & McLennan, where she focused on growth and penetration into new markets.

Susan McKeever: McKeever, who founded her own firm in 1999, specializes in trusts, wills and other estate-planning matters. Prior to starting Susan L. McKeever Attorney at Law, she was an associate at Sidley & Austin in Chicago, where she represented corporate clients in transactions such as mergers, initial public offerings and tender offers. In addition to her law practice, McKeever is a notable arts advocate who serves on the boards of such organizations as Chicago's public radio station WBEZ, the Muntu Dance Theatre of Chicago and the Civic Federation. She was also previously appointed to serve as a board member of the Illinois State Board of Investment.

Moderator, Charisse Witherspoon: As president and chief executive officer of Witherspoon Marketing Group, Inc., Witherspoon oversees a company devoted to providing solutions that improve clients' performance and competitive positioning. In 2004, Witherspoon became the first African-American to be elected president of the Publicity Club of Chicago, the nation's largest organization of independent public relations practitioners. Prior to founding Witherspoon Marketing in 1993, Witherspoon directed public relations for the Chicago Defender newspaper and WBEZ.

Tickets for the event, which includes appetizers, drinks and dessert, are \$25 for members and \$50 for non-members. Also available is a table of 10 for \$250, which includes recognition as a Shining Star, and a half-table for \$125, which includes recognition as a Twinkling Star. Tickets are available at www.NAWBOChicago.org or by calling NAWBO Chicago at 312-609-1300.

About the National Association of Women Business Owners--Chicago Area Chapter:

Founded in 1978, the National Association of Women Business Owners--Chicago Area Chapter is dedicated to propelling women entrepreneurs into economic, social, and political spheres of power. With more than 600 members, the chapter is one of the largest National Association of Women Business Owners groups in the country.

Sponsored by:

National Association of Women Business Owners – Chicago Area Chapter, Barack Ferrazzano Kirschbaum & Nagelberg LLP, Sam's Club.

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