

# Az Business

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## 2017 MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN

**ON THE COVER:** (In alphabetical order) Catherine Alonzo, Javelina; Monica Antone, Gila River Indian Community; Kelly Barr, SRP; Ann Becker, APS; Maja Berlin-Del Vigna, Honeywell Aerospace; Noreen Bishop, Chase Business Banking; Jenn Daniels, Town of Gilbert; Paris Davis, Washington Federal; Kimberly A. Demarchi, Lewis Roca Rotherger Christie; Allison DeVane, Teaspressa; Amber Gilroy, CTCA; Denise Gredler, BestCompaniesAZ; Nancy Ham, WebPT; Michele Halyard, MD, Mayo Medical School, Arizona; Sandra Hudson, TrustBank; Mystie Johnson Foote, MD, Banner Medical Group; Jennifer Kaplan, Evolve PV and Marketing; Laura Lawless Robertson, Squire Patton Boggs; Shawn Linam, Qwaltec; Shari Lott, SpearnintLOVE; Fran Mallace, Cox Media; Dawn Meidinger, Fennemore Craig; Marcia Mintz, Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Phoenix; Desirae Outcalt, Billmore Bank; Renee Parsons, Bob & Renee Parsons Foundation; Melissa Proctor, Polsinelli; Sissie Roberts Shank, Chas Roberts A/C & Plumbing; Jane Russell-Winiecki, Yavapai-Apache Nation; Catherine Scrivano, CASCO Financial Group; Lawdan Shojaee, Axosoft; Sheryl A. Sweeney, Ryley Carlock & Applewhite; Sally A. Taylor, KeatsConnolly; Amy Van Dyken-Rouen, Amy's Army; Katee Van Horn, GoDaddy; Ashley Villaverde Halvorson, Jones, Skelton & Hochuli; Jacque Westling, Quarles & Brady; and Jeri Williams, City of Phoenix.

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# MOST INFLUENTIAL WOMEN IN ARIZONA

2017

By MICHAEL GOSSIE

**T**hings are actually getting better for female leaders in the business world.

A study by Talentful, recruitment experts, compared some of the world's most powerful male and female CEOs of Fortune 1000 companies to see how gender roles are gradually improving within the business sector. The results showed:

- In a list of 1,000 CEOs, 54 were women, which, although still relatively a small number, is a sign of slow improvement within the business sector.
- But where it matters most — money — the women cashed in. Out of the 1,000 CEOs, the second, third and fourth best-paid positions are all women, beaten only by Disney CEO Robert Iger, who received the most overall compensation.
- And where it matters a lot — education — the women outperformed the men. Twenty-five of the female CEOs had master of business administration degrees, compared with just 21 male CEOs who had MBA degrees.

Nowhere is the rise of female leaders more prevalent or more pronounced than it is in Arizona. Female leaders have risen to the top in almost every industry, as evidenced by Az Business magazine's Most Influential Women in Arizona Business for 2017. This year's list includes a mayor, the CEO of an aerospace company, tribal leaders, an Olympic champion, a leader whose company took off after she appeared on "Shark Tank," and a doctor whose decision to place her baby up for adoption as a 16-year-old drove her to become an OB-GYN.

While their resumes, backstories and industries may differ, each woman on the list procured influence in their respective fields through hard-earned track records of professional excellence, leadership, innovation and community impact. The Most Influential Women in Arizona Business are changing the face of Arizona business.



## KATEE VAN HORN

Vice president of global engagement and inclusion  
**GoDaddy**

Van Horn drives the business imperative for GoDaddy that more diverse teams build better products.

**BEST DECISION:** "Moving back to Arizona. I was working out of state and realized for my personal and professional growth, Arizona was it for me. I moved back and started working for GoDaddy and made sure my boss and other senior leaders knew that I was open to working on the tough projects and assignments. This afforded me the opportunity to learn and grow my skill set in HR and as a leader."

**SURPRISING FACT:** "I am the youngest of seven kids, which made for a fun childhood."



## ASHLEY VILLAVERDE HALVORSON

Partner  
**Jones, Skelton & Hochuli**

Villaverde Halvorson is a passionate supporter of diversity efforts within her firm and her community and serves as chair of the firm's Diversity Legal Writing Program. She is vice president of the Los Abogados Bar Association and was selected for the 2017 Hispanic National Bar Association Top Lawyers Under 40 Award.

**BEST DECISION:** "My decision to intern for Rep. Ed Pastor in Washington, D.C., was my first exposure to politics, public service and the law. I pursued a legal degree as a direct result of the experience and encouragement I received that summer."

**SURPRISING FACT:** "I backpacked solo throughout Europe for a summer."



## JACQUE WESTLING

Partner  
**Quarles & Brady**

**BEST DECISION:** "Believe it or not – getting political(ish). I'm passionate about helping make Arizona a great place for our local businesses. Through my work with the Arizona Bar Association, I have helped draft two corporate bills that streamline and modernize corporate laws affecting restructurings, mergers and acquisitions; and through my work with the Arizona Technology Council, I have helped to support legislative initiatives to promote our technology businesses in the state."

**SURPRISING FACT:** "I live for the Arizona Cardinals and know almost every single one of our players, from their position to their height to their alma mater. Seriously – quiz me! And if they are playing a home game, I am most likely watching them in person."



## JERI WILLIAMS

Chief of police  
**City of Phoenix**

Williams is Phoenix's first female police chief and oversees an operating budget that exceeds \$600 million.

**BEST DECISION:** "In 2011, I decided to leave my home and 22-year career with the City of Phoenix to accept the chief of police position in Oxnard, Calif. Although this decision came with many unknowns and new challenges, I was not going to let fear keep me from growing. The experience I gained in Oxnard allowed me to return as chief of the best police department in the fifth-largest city in the nation."

**SURPRISING FACT:** "I did not grow up wanting to be a police officer. Actually, I applied as a flight attendant, but was turned down because of my size."