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MLS Property Information Network president and CEO named to FLIC Advisory Board

The Female Leadership Interest Council (FLIC) recently announced the appointment of Kathy Condon to its Advisory Board. Kathy Condon is a 30-year veteran in the Massachusetts real estate industry and is the President and Chief Executive Officer of MLS Property Information Network, Inc., the largest MLS (Multiple Listing Service) in New England, and one of the top 10 in the nation.

FLIC is a non-profit organization founded on the principles of female leadership, mentoring and the belief that when you can help someone else succeed, you personally grow and prosper. The Council's mission is to provide educational and mentoring support for women to assist in expanding their capabilities in the business world, which will increase the likelihood that their successes will benefit the community.

"We are pleased to welcome Kathy Condon to the FLIC Advisory Board. Her executive leadership and management experience will help shape many of our innovative programs designed to help women get to the next level in their careers," said FLIC Founder and CEO Deborah Penta. "Kathy is a tremendous role model for many seeking to achieve greater levels of success not only in the real estate industry, but to all women who have a desire to work their way up the ranks to achieve a leadership position."

According to Condon, her career in the real estate world began through the back door, having gone to Fitchburg State College in the late 70s to become a teacher. It was while she was substitute teaching that her mother suggested the local real estate association.

"My mom was a REALTOR®, and she found out there was a job opening (at the MLS of the local association)," Condon said. "I got a job interview and was hired on the spot."

Condon started out in a clerical assistant position with the Greater Boston Real Estate Board (GBREB), which was completely dominated by men, she added.

"At that time women were the clerical workers. There was a big change in the 80s, when you started to see more and more women in leadership positions," she said.

Today Condon said the industry has shifted and it is more of a 50-50 split, "if not more."

"The current president of the National Association of Realtors is a woman," she said.

According to Condon, what motivated her and propelled her forward was a natural inclination to learn more.

"I was extremely inquisitive about new things. I played it, tried it and learned it," she said, adding that at the time, computer programs were just being introduced and she worked at mastering them.

"The past 15 years have really become computerized in the real estate industry. This industry has been notoriously slow to accept change, but that is changing because customers and clients are becoming much more technically savvy," Condon continued. "We needed to be savvy in order to deliver."

Throughout the course of her life, Condon said she was always given the message women could do anything they set their minds to.

"My family consisted of six girls and my parents. My dad always told us women could do whatever they wanted," Condon said.

However, it was Condon's mom who was her true inspiration and mentor.

"My mom was under 50 when my dad died, and there were still two of my sisters in secondary school," she said. "My mom turned around and became the sole supporter of the family, while also having her mother-in-law live with her."

Another important mentor in Condon's life is Carolyn Chodat of Classic Properties.

"She's (Carolyn) been an incredible supporter to me and has pulled me through some tough times over the years," she said, adding, "I think a successful person is only as successful as the people that you surround yourself with. I have a wonderful staff, which makes such a difference too."

Having mentors in her life who have made such an impact was part of the impedance for accepting Penta's offer to be on the FLIC Board of Directors.

"Deborah and I have known each other for seven or eight years, and she has always amazed me with all the things that she is involved in," Condon said. "Besides wanting to help Deborah, I saw FLIC as an opportunity to give back. I've been blessed. I'm excited to get in at this level and serve."

Condon, who has three adult nieces and one great-niece, said she sees a bright future for them as women.

"I think it can only keep getting better. Women are making strides and constantly improving," she said.

For more information on FLIC, log onto <http://www.femaleleaders.org>

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