



CITY WOMEN'S NETWORK The UK's Premier Network for Senior Executive Women

NEWS RELEASE

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CITY WOMEN'S NETWORK CELEBRATES WOMEN'S VITAL ROLE IN BUSINESS

An historic gathering of businesswomen takes place tonight (MON 12 MAY) at Merrill Lynch in the City of London, when City Women's Network and guests gather to celebrate 30 years of women's networking since CWN first started in 1978.

Angela Knight, Chief Executive of the British Bankers' Association, will give a speech in which she will put out the message that women – adaptable, flexible, re-trainable - have a vital role in plugging the skills gap which threatens the success of the City of London and the British economy as a whole. Her message is that women should “retrain and go for it.” She says: “There is real potential for women to be successful in business nowadays and the role and influence of women in the City has increased in the past 30 years since City Women's Network started. Training more women is just good business sense.”

“CWN, which now has members not just in the City of London but throughout the capital, is delighted to have such an important speaker at the first of several events celebrating our 30 years as an influential network for top women” says Clare Dobie, President of City Women's Network. “We totally agree with Angela that women have a key role in contributing to a successful future for the City and the British economy as a whole. Although progress has been made, we know that discrimination against women is subtler than it used to be, but it still exists, particularly in the issue of the pay gap.”

Angela Knight, a former Economic Secretary to the Treasury from 1995-97, set up her own engineering company in Sheffield before becoming an MP in 1992. After leaving politics in 1997 she ran APCIMS the stockbrokers' trade body, and, is currently Chief Executive of the British Bankers Association. Her portfolio of posts includes a non-executive directorship on the Boards of LogicaCMG, Brewin Dolphin and IFSL as well as a Trust member of the Port of London Authority. Just over a month ago (end of March) she joined the board of the Financial Services Skills Council.

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CITY WOMEN'S NETWORK CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Website – www.citywomen.org

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Angela Knight's photo can be downloaded from the BBA website:

<http://www.bba.org.uk/bba/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=153&a=7992>

CITY WOMEN'S NETWORK 2008 - KEY FACTS – NOTES TO EDITORS

CWN WEBSITE – www.citywomen.org

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- City Women's Network (CWN) was one of the first professional women's networking organisations. Now celebrating its 30th year, CWN was founded in 1978 and has adapted and grown in membership and stature since then.
- First meetings were lunches held in office meeting rooms informally in the mid 1970's and then in a private dining room upstairs at Mother Bunch's Wine Bar. Official Launch meeting with formal constitution was held in November 1978 at the Law Society. In November 2008 this will be commemorated with a formal CWN dinner at Stationers' Hall
- CWN First Chairman – Janice Wright, solicitor, and expert on intellectual property - one of the first women in the City of London to become a partner in a commercial law firm.
- CWN current President – Clare Dobie – runs her own marketing company, Braxted Marketing Measures and is a former financial journalist
- CWN Patron – Janet Gaymer, Public Appointments Commissioner for England and Wales and formerly senior partner with top City Lawyers, Simmons and Simmons Solicitors
- CWN Current Membership – 150
- Members must have a minimum of 5 years senior management experience
- CWN Membership now covers Greater London, and abroad, as well as the City of London. Members were originally mostly in finance or legal professions: they are now cross-sectoral and include finance, legal, IT, marketing, management consulting, training, HR and travel.
- 40% of members work in corporates - 60% are entrepreneurs.
- Current Meetings – Usually 3 meetings a month, mostly in the evenings, on a wide range of subjects
- CWN is a wholly voluntary organisation. Its members donate their time and expertise to run and serve on Committees and the Board of Directors.
- CWN is independent of any financial or other sponsorship or affiliations with any other organisations.
- CWN fosters personal and professional enhancement to its members through information-sharing and development programmes, social events and networking opportunities
- The value of CWN resides in its members' access to each other
- CWN is different from other networks in the breadth, depth and diversity of its members' careers. The broad spectrum of expertise, interests and experience across CWN membership makes it a valuable source of friendship and career support. Also remarkable in the organisation is its unique culture, perhaps rooted in the continued support of most of its members, its City-based origins, and a healthy mix of generations within the membership.

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