## Update: Women on Boards

Elizabeth Ghaffari Champion Boards®

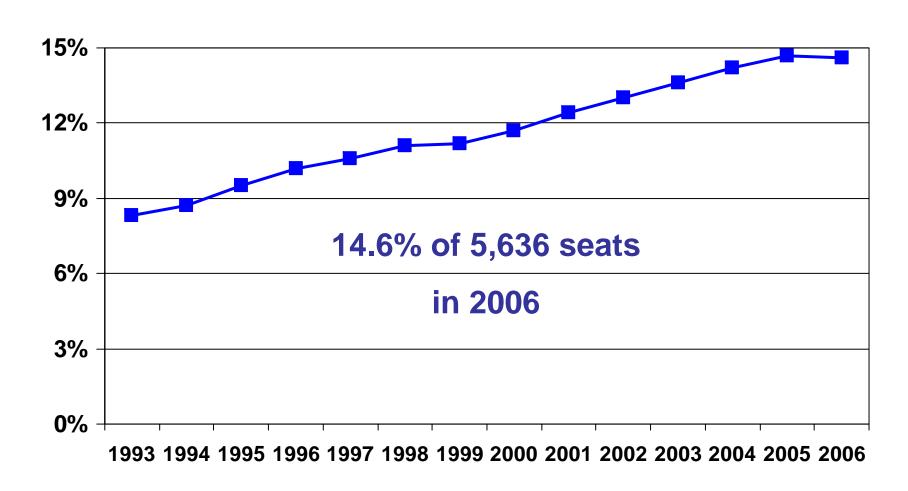
www.championboards.com

EG@ChampionBoards.com June 21, 2007 NAWBO-Inland Empire

## What IS the Problem?

- Not enough female corporate directors?
- Not enough women "in the pipeline?"
- Discrimination?
- Too little leadership aspiration?
- Too little executive experience?
- Too many women doing something else?

# Historic Trends Share of Women on Fortune 500 Corporate Boards of Directors

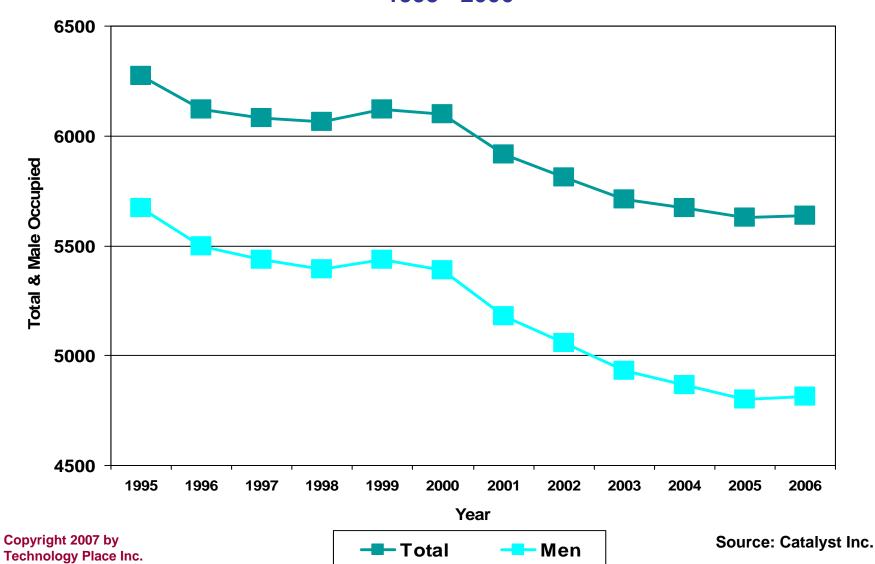


Source: Catalyst Inc.

#### Fortune 500 Board Seats

#### **Total & Male-Occupied**

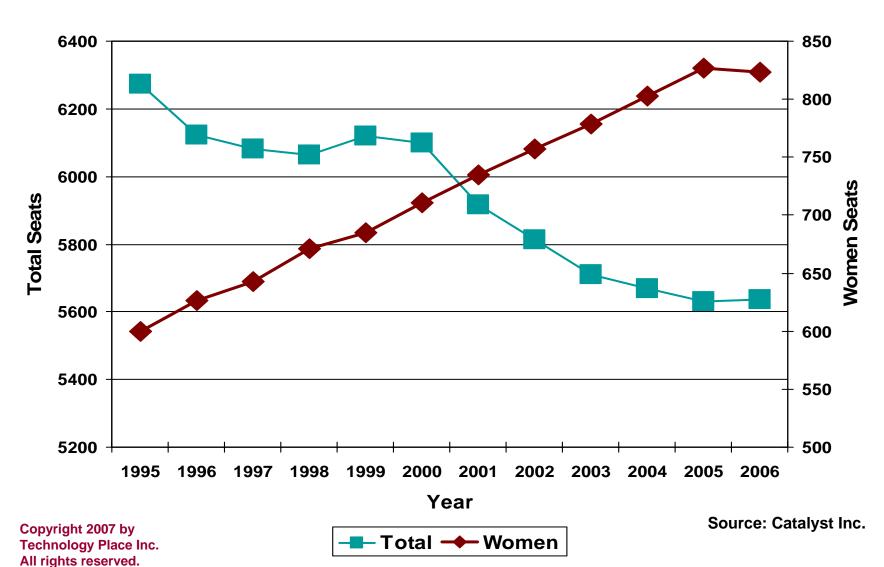
1995 - 2006



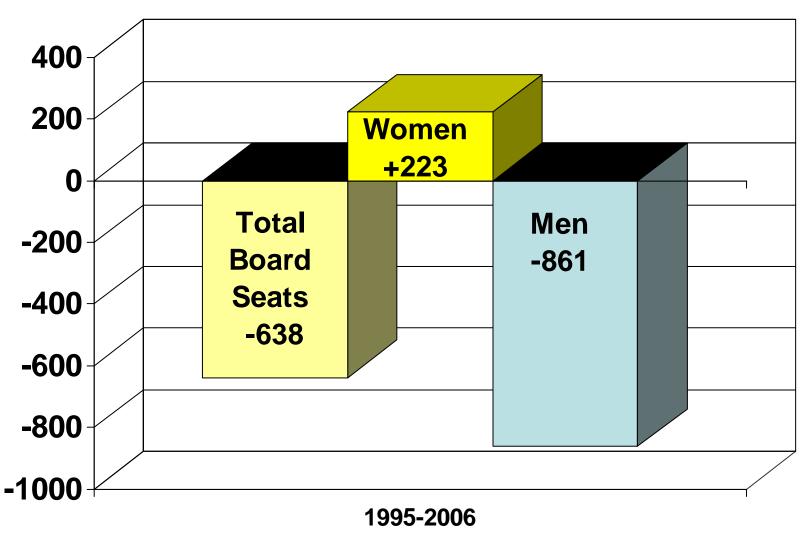
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# Fortune 500 Women-Occupied Board Seats

1995 - 2006



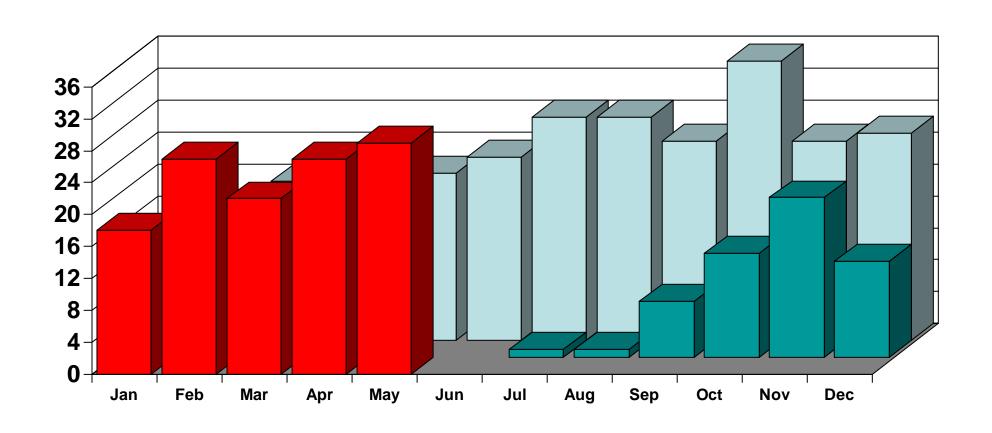
#### **Net Change in Fortune 500 Board Seats**



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Source: Catalyst Inc.

## Women Named to Boards May 2007

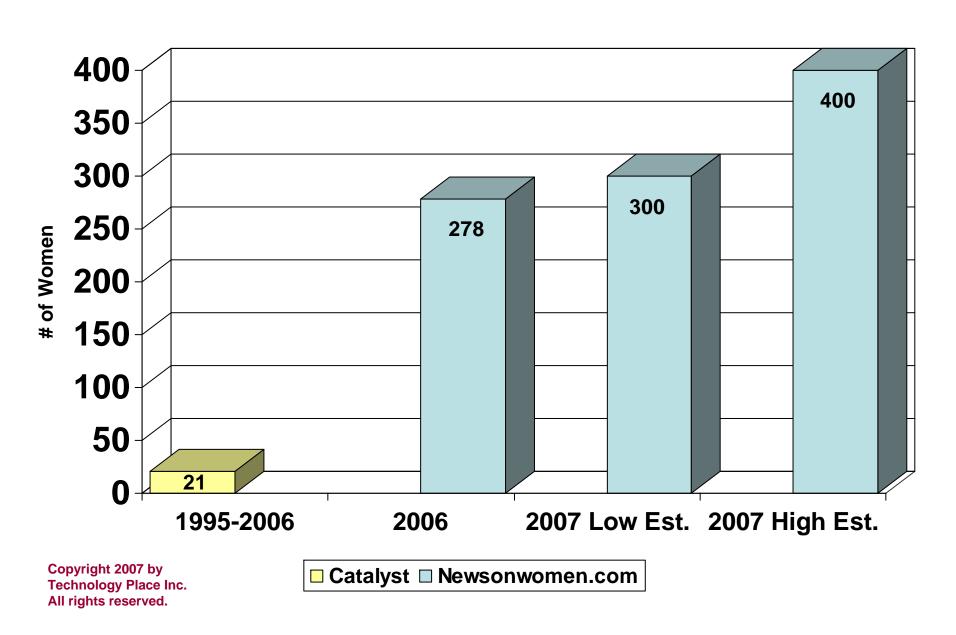


29 women - 13 states

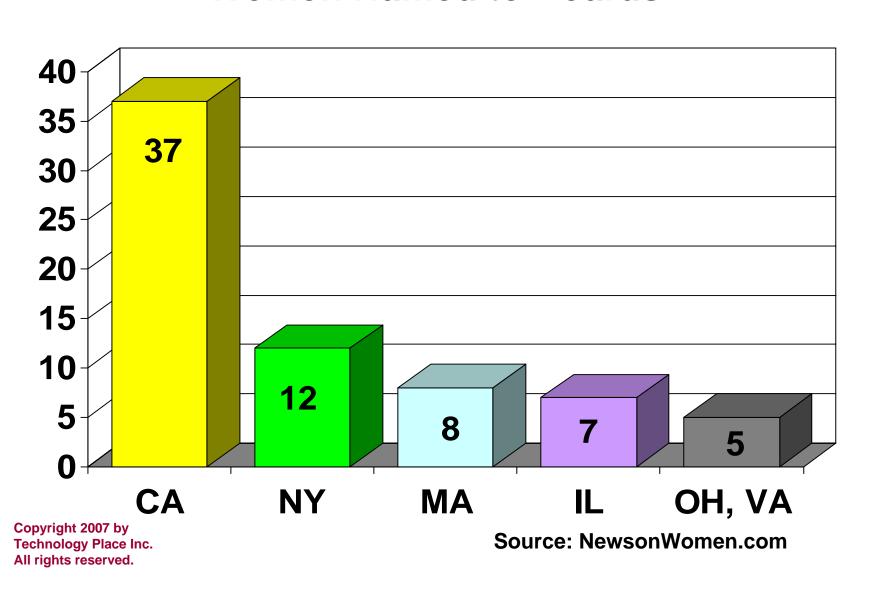
■ 2007 ■ 2005 □ 2006

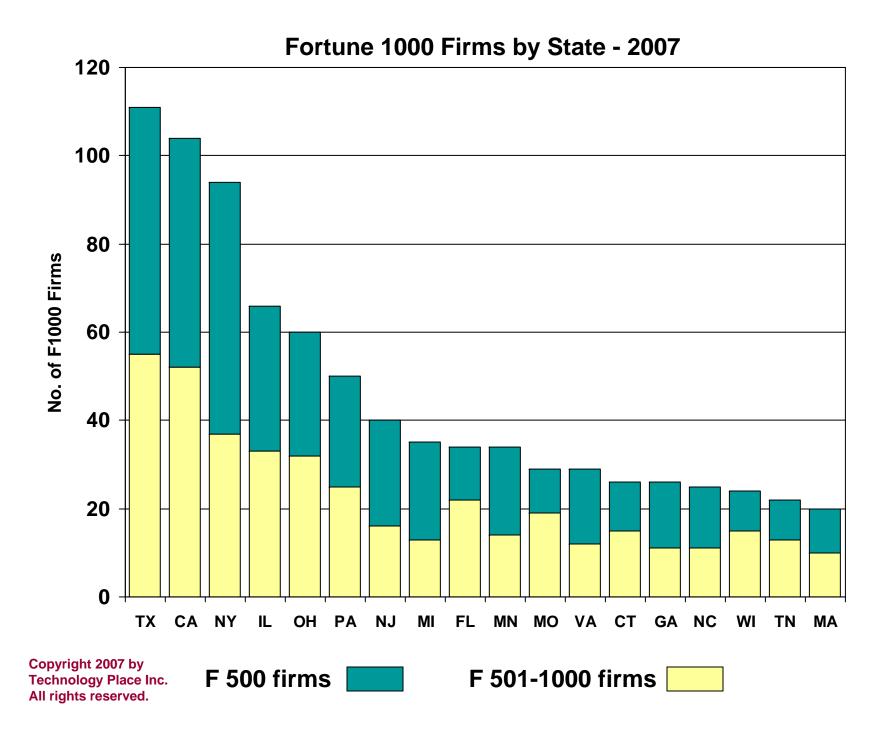
Source: NewsonWomen.com

#### **Women Directors/Year**



# **Top States: Jan - May 2007 Women Named to Boards**





# F500 & F1000 Firms, Women Director Announcements

	Numb	er of F1000 Fir		5 Mos.	
State	F500	F501-1000	Total	2006	2007
TX	55	56	111	15	4
CA	52	52	104	45	37
NY	57	37	94	27	12

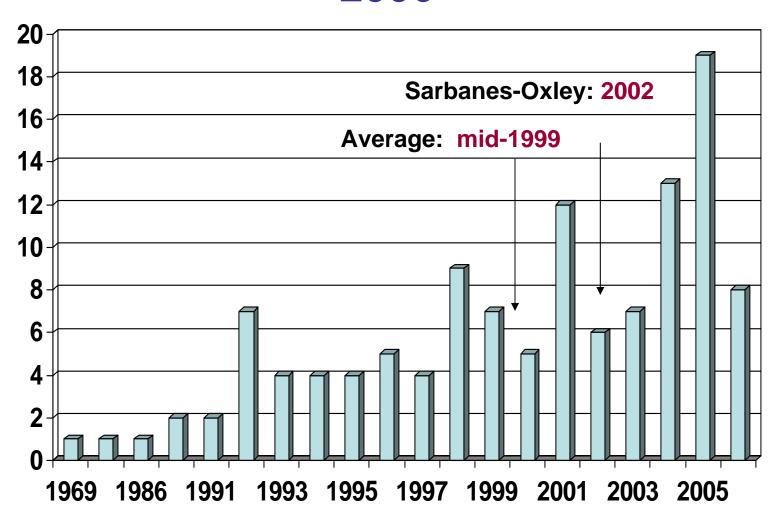
Sources: Fortune Magazine, NewsOnWomen.com

# CA Women on Boards 2006

	Total # Firms	Total # Seats	# Women	# Women/ Firm	% Women
F500	49	542	81	1.65	15.3%
F501- 1000	52	470	40	0.77	8.5%
Total	101	1,012	121	1.20	12.0%

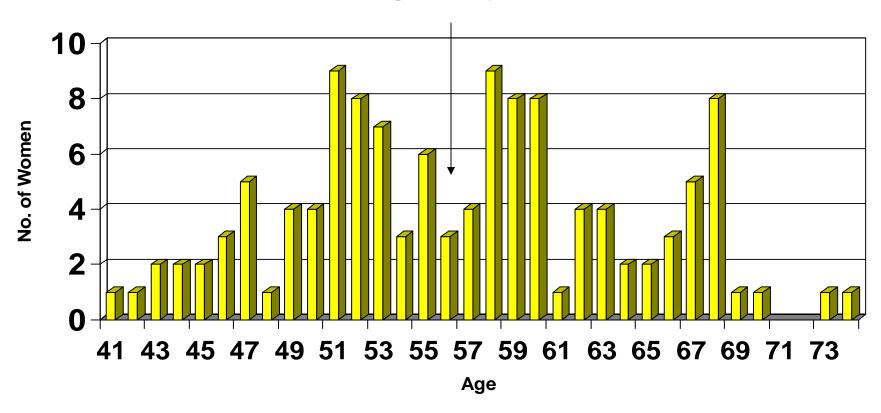
**Source: Champion Boards** 

# Year Women Added to CA F1000 Boards 2006



# Age of Women on CA F1000 Boards 2006

Average: 56.5 years



## What is CA Doing Right?

- Higher percentage of F500 women directors than the nation: 15.3% vs. 14.6%
- More women nominated to corporate boards than any other state
- Average age: 56.5 years
- Average tenure: 1999
- Significant additions post-Sarbanes-Oxley

# "The Big Questions"

## #1: Family balance?

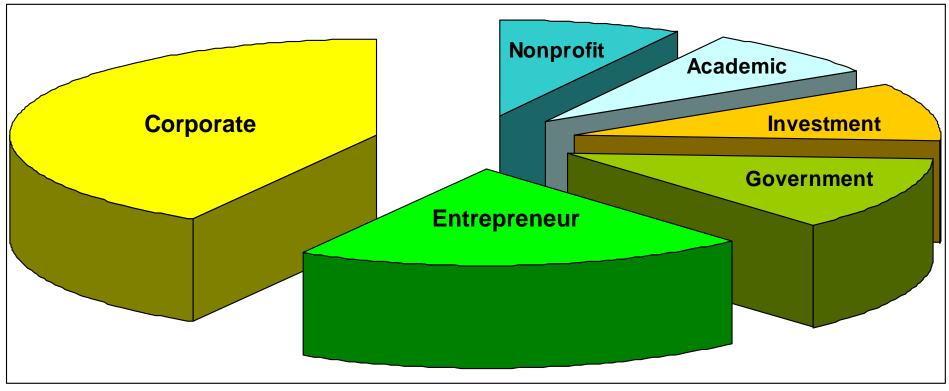
- Single, married, divorced, remarried
- Children, no children, step-children
- Widowed, caregiver
- Every variation possible
- No big thing
- "Just DID it"
- Private matter

# "The Big Questions"

## **#2: Compared to Men?**

- Core skill
  - An area of personal interest
  - Developed and enhanced
  - Valued in the marketplace
- Breadth of experience
  - Tested in different settings
  - Reached beyond themselves
  - Inter-organization, inter-national

### 6 Paths to the Boardroom



Corporate	41%
Entrepreneur	20%
Government	13%
Investment	10%
Academic	8%
Nonprofit	8%

## Paths = Experience

### One primary path, several complementary

- "Other-oriented" paths:
  - Nonprofit
  - Academic
  - Government
- "Performance- oriented" paths:
  - Investment
  - Entrepreneur
  - Corporate

# **The Jagged Path**

## Leaps of faith

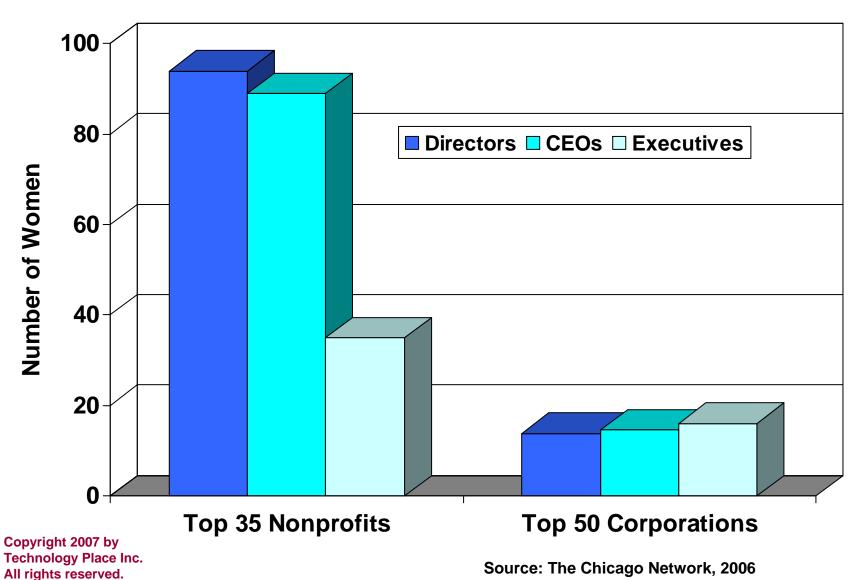
- Not stopped by bias/discrimination
  - Accepted it as part of the challenge
  - Sometimes had to leave to progress
  - "Opportunity too good to resist or refuse"
- Not a straight career path
  - Tested themselves in different media
  - Experience in different environments
  - Constantly learning and growing

# **Nonprofit Experience**

- A path parallel to a leadership role
- Bring a skill INTO the nonprofit arena FROM another path
- Nonprofits seek board members with corporate experience
- Nonprofits need board members with real governance experience
- Council on Foreign Affairs

#### **Number of Female Leaders**

**Top 35 Nonprofits & Top 50 Corporations in Chicago** 



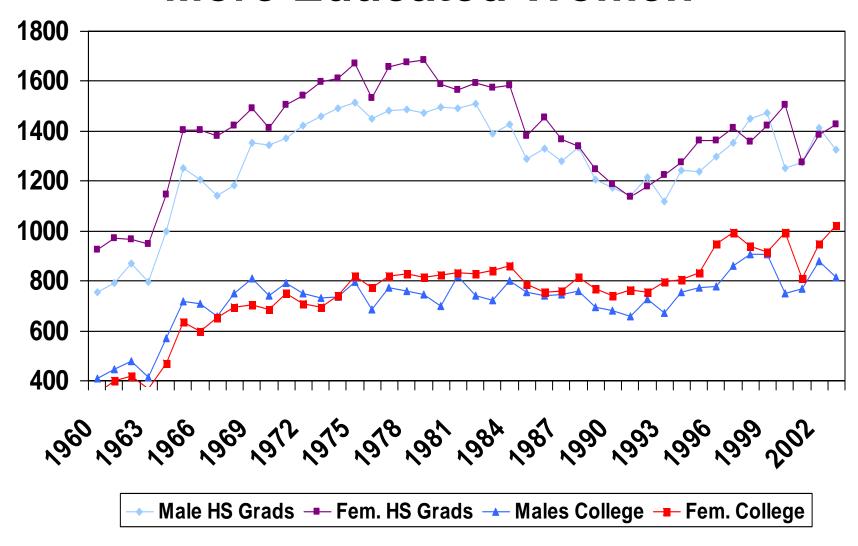
# **Academic Experience**

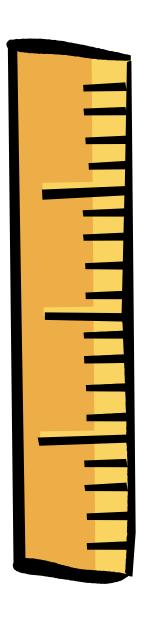
- Administrative experience a primary path
- Academic field a secondary path
- Financial expertise: manage the money
- Collaborative: faculty, alumni, administration
- Did NOT stay in one college/university
- Trustee board an important pathway

## **Highly Educated Directors**

- Very likely to have an advanced degree:
  - Business, economics, law, doctorate
  - Executive education, professional training
- Likely to have taken Director's Training
  - Multiple sources: accountants, consultants, lawyers
  - Major business school governance programs
- NOT: financial statements for dummies
- NOT: women's studies programs

### **More Educated Women**





#### **Women in Law Schools**

#### 67-70% of law school current assistant deans

48.2% of enrollment at top 183 U.S. law schools 2006 40% of top law school enrollment since 1985

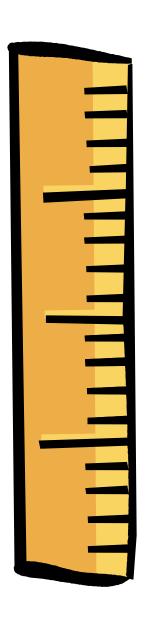
25.9% of law school current professors

18.8% of law school current deans

15.6% of law partners nationwide

13.7% of F500 General Counsel

8.2% of law school emeriti deans, professors



#### Women in Medical Schools

50.8% of medical school applicants

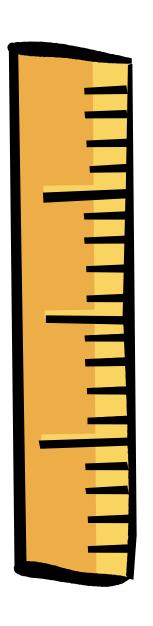
48% of medical school enrollment

32% of medical faculty overall

26% of all U.S. physicians

25% of medical school full, assoc. & asst. professors

10% of medical school deans, dept. chairs



#### **Women in Business Schools**

30% of business school enrollment

21.8% of business school faculty

15.1% of business school trustees

## **Political Experience**

- Appointed because of a primary skill
  - Banking, economic development or finance
  - International law, trade, negotiations
  - Technology, telecommunications, information
  - Medical, health, social welfare
- Crossed partisan boundaries
- NOT: successful elected candidates
- NOT: coattailers

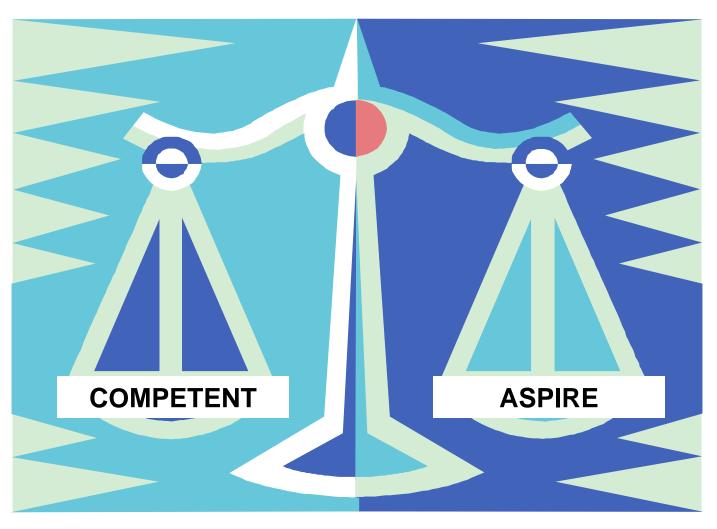
## **Business Experience**

- Corporate finance: banking, accounting, investment/securities
- Technology: communications, information
- Legal: domestic and international
- Entrepreneurial experience
- NOT just F500 or F1000 firms
- Smaller, newer firms

### **Economics Matters**

- F500 firms mature, merge and consolidate
- Old company boards add fewer women
- F501-1000 firms have the fewest women
- New companies create diverse boards
- California creates new companies
- California has 3 times as many female directors added in 1 year as the next top state (NY)

# **Exactly The Right Number of Women Directors**



## **Striking a Balance**

#### COMPETENCE

- Successful
- Experience in a field valued by corporations
- Business economics
- Governance knowledge
- Collaborative skills
- A "known entity"
- International exposure

#### ASPIRATION

- Desire leadership
- Influence to make change happen
- Work with others in leadership
- Willing to accept challenges
- No "hidden agenda"
- Independently minded

## **Leadership is Selective**





**SOME** women will become directors

NOT ALL women will become directors

## Self-Talk: A Major Barrier

- I could never do that
- I need a mentor to help me
- There are "no role models" to inspire me
- All business is greedy
- There must be an easier way
- There must be some secret to this
- Those men were ......
- Those women were ......
- If "we all" work together .....







## Leaders

- Ask, negotiate, collaborate, persevere, endure and prevail
- Competitive: survival of the smartest
  - When one door closed, looked for another window
  - Did not wait to be invited or for permission
  - Did not require incentives or entitlements
  - Did not complain, blame or whine

### **Lessons from the Leaders**

- chose a worthy skill or endeavor valued by the marketplace
- 2. refined, enhanced and developing it themselves
- 3. connected with other like-minded people
- 4. delegated and found synergies
- 5. built enduring entities or organizations
- 6. incited others to lead

## Question?

 If there were a book about how the top CA corporate women directors achieved their positions of leadership on boards,

## would you buy it?

Why or Why NOT?