



# News Release

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## Sheri L. Orlowitz Named to National Women's Business Council

**Washington, DC** – Sheri L.Orlowitz has been appointed to a three-year term on the National Women's Business Council. Orlowitz is founder, principal owner, Chairman and CEO of Shan Industries, LLC, and founder of OrloVon, LLC, a real estate development company in Washington, DC.

The National Women's Business Council is a bi-partisan Federal government council created to serve as an independent source of advice and counsel to the President, Congress, and the U.S. Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women business owners. Members of the Council are prominent women business owners and leaders of women's business organizations. The Council is committed to:

- *Conducting* research on issues of importance to women business owners and their organizations;
- *Communicating* these findings widely;
- *Connecting* the women's business community to public policy makers; and
- Providing programs and platforms for *change* in order to expand and improve opportunities for women business owners and their enterprises.

“I am delighted to welcome Sheri Orlowitz to the National Women's Business Council,” said Marilyn Carlson Nelson, Chairman and CEO of Carlson Companies and Chair of the National Women's Business Council. “Her expertise and background in the manufacturing arena and her passion for women's business issues will contribute greatly to the Council's ambitious agenda.”

Shan Industries, LLC is one of the only majority women-owned holding companies that acquires and operates manufacturing companies. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., Shan currently operates two divisions: Thermodynamics, a rotational molding company which operates facilities in Oklahoma and Georgia; and Accurate Forming, a metal stamping company operating in New Jersey. Orlowitz also helped establish the Orlowitz

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Children's Advocacy Center, which houses the Kristi House in Miami, a refuge and advocacy resource for young victims of sexual abuse, as well as a myriad of public and private agencies that provide services to children who have been victims of sexual abuse.

Prior to founding Shan Industries, LLC and OrloVon, LLC, Orlowitz raised financing for the highly leveraged buyout of Magnetic Data Technologies/DBI, a \$60 million manufacturing group with domestic and international holdings in computer hardware repair and manufacture. She became CFO and eventually COO of DBI. During her tenure, Orlowitz was instrumental in improving DBI's EBITDA by a factor of three and also engineered the acquisition by a DBI affiliate of Datatape, a \$55 million business which made high speed tape recording devices for, among other things, the space shuttle.

After earning her law degree in 1985, Orlowitz entered the United States Justice Department under the Attorney General's Honors Law Graduate Program and spent five years as a trial lawyer in Washington and Miami, prosecuting and defending civil cases in a variety of sectors. In 1990, Orlowitz left the public sector and accepted a job with Greenberg Traurig, a large international law firm founded and headquartered in Miami.

Orlowitz is on Harvard University's Women In Leadership Board and is the recipient of *Enterprising Women* magazine's "2003 Enterprising Woman of Year" award. She is also proud to serve on the Advisory Board of the International Humanitarian Campaign Against the Exploitation of Children and on the Board of Directors of the Kristi House.

"Those of us fortunate enough to achieve a measure of success in our careers have the greatest responsibility to give back," said Orlowitz. "I believe the best ways to do that are to support and mentor other women and to speak on behalf of those not often heard in the arenas of political and economic decision making. I am very honored to have the opportunity to serve on this Council under the leadership of Marilyn Carlson Nelson who exemplifies what women can accomplish and influence in the business, political and philanthropic sphere. I feel certain under her leadership this Council can help direct policy and create programs to greatly enhance opportunities for women, and I hope to work with her to create greater access to capital for the start up, growth and expansion of women-owned businesses."

As the nation's advocate for the more than 9 million women-owned businesses in the U.S., the National Women's Business Council works to promote increased access to affordable health care; access to capital; access to federal

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contracts and international markets; and access to the information and expertise women business owners most need to succeed.

Women business owners currently represent almost 38% of all U.S. firms, with a growth rate twice that of all businesses. They employ one out of every four company workers and contribute \$3.6 trillion in annual revenues.

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