

# Az Business

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# 2013



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# 50 INFLUENTIAL WOMEN



**Patty White**  
President and CEO  
St. Joseph's Hospital

White has been with Dignity Health Arizona for 30 years. During that time, she has had progressive management positions throughout the organization, including her most current role as president and CEO.

**Surprising fact:** "I grew up 9 miles outside of a rural town in Missouri, a farmer's daughter. We depended on the land for everything. I was even born at home before it was popular."

**Biggest challenge:** "Work/life balance is really difficult in a fast-paced environment. I love to exercise, so I made a commitment to take the time to make that happen. Every morning, I get up at 4:30 to fit exercise into my schedule. I have been running with the same group of friends for 20 years."



**Dr. Judith Wolf**  
Chief of surgery  
Banner MD Anderson Cancer Center

Wolf provides leadership and medical guidance for the surgery program at the cancer center. She has held numerous academic and administrative appointments at MD Anderson over the last eight years, and has served as the principal investigator for a multitude of research grants and protocols related to gynecologic cancers.

**Surprising fact:** "Until my late 20s, I was not athletic. Now, I run or exercise every day, have run 15 marathons and started a 5K race to raise money for ovarian cancer research."

**Biggest challenge:** "Providing the best comprehensive care for people with cancer drives me to make sure we build the best cancer center in the Southwest and makes it exciting to come to work every day."



**Rebecca White Berch**  
Chief justice  
Arizona Supreme Court Chief Justice

White Berch was appointed to the Arizona Supreme Court in 2002 and has been chief justice since 2009. Before her Supreme Court appointment, she was a Court of Appeals judge (1998-2002); Arizona's solicitor general (1991-1994); a member of the ASU College of Law faculty (1986-1995); and was in private practice (1979-1986).

**Surprising fact:** "I officiated at a wedding for 100 couples on the steps of the Supreme Court on February 14, 2012, the centennial of Arizona's statehood — and Valentine's Day."

**Biggest challenge:** "Each new job has posed challenges that seemed, at that time, to have been the biggest I'd faced ... Patience, humor, hard work, good advisors and good friends are the keys to meeting such challenges."



**Donna Witherwax, CPA**  
Partner  
Grant Thornton

With more than two decades of experience, most recently as a partner at KPMG in Phoenix, Witherwax, CPA, joined Grant Thornton in 2012 as a tax partner and the overall tax practice leader for the firm. She is responsible for implementing the strategic direction of the practice, strengthening existing client relationships, identifying new opportunities and managing day-to-day oversight of the growing Phoenix office.

**Surprising fact:** "I was on the Villa Montessori board for over 15 years. I acquired land for them until we could put a bond financing in place for them."

**Biggest challenge:** "Balancing work and children. I got up early, came home for dinner and then went back to the office after I put them to bed."



**Beth Jo Zeitzer**  
Founder and president  
R.O.I. Properties

Zeitzer, an attorney by training, has more than 20 years of experience in the legal and real estate industries. She has a strong background in the turnaround, repositioning and disposition of real estate assets, from single family residential to income producing properties of all types, including multi-family, retail, office and industrial properties.

**Surprising fact:** "I was a 'survivor' before the show. Through my high school Challenge Club, I survived a two-day desert survival trip: no food, water or shelter and only a compass in hand."

**Biggest challenge:** "Succeeding as a woman in the male-dominant commercial brokerage world. With keen perseverance, I have closed 114 commercial listings/sales over the last three years alone."