



Jane Lodge named Midlands Businesswoman of Year 2001

18th October 2001

Deloitte & Touche senior partner Jane Lodge has been awarded the prestigious title 'Midlands Businesswoman of the Year'. She received her award at the Women of the Year Luncheon, held on Friday 12 October at the Metropole Hotel, NEC, Birmingham.

Jane is senior partner of the Birmingham office of leading professional services firm Deloitte & Touche, and is its most senior female partner in the UK. She was selected from among five other excellent finalists for her outstanding achievements within Deloitte & Touche, and her contributions to the Regional business community.

Jane is the ultimate example of a senior manager who has embraced workforce development and life-long learning. Throughout her career at Deloitte & Touche, and beyond her commitments to major blue chip clients, Jane has championed learning and development throughout the organisation. She continues to play an important role developing individuals and mentoring senior managers. Jane has led a UK-wide initiative to increase the number of women in senior positions in the practice.

"I feel very honoured to win this award," comments Jane. 'I hope that as Businesswoman of the Year 2001, I will be able to act as a role model for women in the Midlands business community moving into senior positions; and particularly helping women face up to the issues of managing a successful career alongside a balanced family life.'

Jane also chairs the Audit Committee of the University of Birmingham and sits on its Council; she has recently been elected to the board of Birmingham Forward and the West Midlands Regional Council of the CBI.

Award sponsor and judge Allied Irish Bank (GB), Chief Manager, Midlands, John Wall comments, 'Congratulations to Jane for the considerable contribution she has made to the Birmingham business community. She is an example to us all. Not only does she have a highly successful and challenging career but she finds the time to contribute to groups and individuals, giving generously of her time and expertise'.

George Campion, Midlands senior partner of co-sponsor Andersen, adds, 'Women are increasingly occupying the top positions within the professional services sector, and now play an integral role within the region's business community.'

Awards chair Judy Groves comments, 'Against a backdrop of economic doom and gloom, it is fabulous to witness the tremendous grit and determination driving business success against the odds. Jane is an outstanding businesswoman: a shining example of what women can achieve in business and a great role model to encourage other women to realise their business potential.'

'However', she continues, 'each year it becomes more and more challenging to encourage successful women to overcome their inherent modesty and step into the spotlight.'

The Women of the Year Luncheon, at which the award was presented, raises funds for Skylarks, one of five centres providing much needed holidays for people with severe physical disabilities owned and administered by The Winged Fellowship.

The speakers at the lunch included: The Rt Hon Virginia Bottomley, President of 'Women for Business' and the youngest ever female Cabinet Minister; and Baroness Nokes OBE, now a working peer in the House of Lords, she was also the first female President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and a senior partner at KPMG.

Also speaking was Polly Vacher, who has recently circumnavigated the globe alone in a single engine Piper Dakota.

For further information, please contact: Kate Love at Grayling PR on: 020 7255 1100

More about the sponsors and the award:

Winged Fellowship Trust is the leading voluntary provider of breaks for carers and holidays for people with physical disabilities.

The Midlands Businesswoman of the Year is someone who has displayed exceptional business skills. She will have made a significant contribution to the financial success and performance of her company, whether managing a subsidiary or particular area of a large organisation or setting up and running her own business. The judging criteria reflect the different skills, abilities and influences of both entrepreneur and senior manager.

About Andersen is a global leader in professional services. It provides integrated solutions that draw on diverse and deep competencies in consulting, assurance, tax, corporate finance and legal services. Andersen employs over 500 people in the Midlands.

Other sponsors of the awards are SCC, CBI West Midlands, Heart of England Tourist Board, BRMB Radio and Millennium Point