



PO Box 1281  
Rockville, MD 20849-1281  
301/421-4890  
<http://www.wbo-mc.com>

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## ***MEMBER PROFILE - AUGUST 2004***

# **Catherine R. Mack**

To describe Catherine Mack simply as an attorney is an understatement. Her multi-faceted career began in the late 1960s, when she graduated from the University of Wisconsin and came to DC to work on Capitol Hill. Two years later, she joined the DC police force as one of only 35 women in the department. After spending many hours in the courtroom and meeting many attorneys, Cathy attended Catholic University Law School, from which she graduated first in her class, and went on to clerk for a federal judge in DC. She then worked at a large New York law firm with offices in New York and DC. Later, as an Assistant U.S. Attorney/Prosecutor for four years, she worked in both Superior and Federal courts. Finally, she spent many years as general counsel for Federal Realty Investment Trust, a large public company that owns and operates shopping centers in this area.

Having had a great many experiences in many different legal areas, Cathy now wanted to reduce the stress in her life and find something she could do away from corporate politics. She returned to school and retrained herself in the area of trusts and estates, which she has now been doing for about six years. Calling her work “enormously rewarding,” Cathy deals with people “on an intensely personal level and sometimes when they are at a sad stage of life.” She likes the challenge of growing her business and also finds time to do a great deal of pro bono work and public service. She also continues to advise small businesses, drawing from her time as general counsel to Federal Realty.

Cathy believes that her legal expertise enables her to provide a good service for people. “Everyone needs a will,” she says, noting that she is constantly reminded about how temporary our life is here. “While helping a family through probate issues and difficult times, you tend to face your own mortality,” she says. Her current mission? “Live each day to its fullest.”

When Cathy is not working, she spends time gardening, exercising, walking and scuba diving with her husband, a law professor. She has a home in Fauquier County, VA, where she lives from Thursday night through Monday morning (after rush hour). During the rest of the week, she can be found in her house in the Palisade section of DC or at her office in Bethesda.

A very recent WBO member, Cathy joined our group at the recommendation of a friend and client. She went to a luncheon and joined that day. Calling WBO “a great group of women,” Cathy likes our “energy, friendliness, enthusiasm and synergy.” Her biggest problem is finding time to come to meetings.