

Donna A. James
Lardon & Associates LLC
Managing Director



Donna James is a trusted resource and advisor for business leaders in the public and private sector, ranging from entrepreneurs to C-suite executives of Fortune 500 companies. She has over 30 years of diverse management and leadership experience. Ms. James is the managing director of Lardon & Associates LLC, where her areas of focus include corporate governance, business development, strategy, human capital management, financial and risk management, and leadership development. She serves on the board of directors for Coca-Cola Enterprises, CNO Financial Group, Limitedbrands, and Time Warner Cable. She is also an advisor for several small business enterprises in the profit and not-for-profit arena.

Prior to starting her own business, Ms. James was President of Nationwide Strategic Investments with direct responsibility for developing and executing growth or exit strategies for five different U.S. and global based financial services companies. She also led a new business innovation team and a venture capital fund. In addition to starting her consulting practice, she is the founder and board chair of the Center for Healthy Families, a non-profit service agency focused on transforming the lives of pregnant and parenting teens and their children.

Ms. James was named by President Obama as chairwoman of the National Women's Business Council, a non-partisan advisory council to the President, Congress, and the Small Business Administration, on economic development of women owned businesses. She is also a board trustee for OhioHealth and Executive Director for the African American Leadership Academy.

Ms. James has received several recognitions, including the Board of Directors Network's 2010 Lettie Pate Whitehead Evans Award; Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame in 2008; named in 2005 by Black Enterprise Magazine as one of the top 75 in Corporate America; the national Beta Gamma Sigma Business Achievement Award, and the YWCA Women of Achievement Award. She is the recipient of two honorary doctorates from Tiffin University and her alma mater, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

She is the wife of attorney Larry James, partner with Crabbe, Brown & James in Columbus, Ohio. They have two adult children, Christopher and Justin, and five grandchildren.