

## **Lena Guirguis • VP Operations NV Property Management • BIO**

Born in Iran in the early 80's Lena immigrated to Canada with her parents at the age of 3. With limited resources and no family or friends, Lena and her family settled into one of Scarborough's roughest neighbourhoods. Surrounded by gang violence, drugs, and crime her parents did all they could to create a sense of stability and normalcy for her by engaging her in sports and music, which led her to start swimming competitively at the age of 10.

At the age of 12 Lena was one of 5 students accepted into the accelerated French Program through the Scarborough District School board where she would immerse herself in the French curriculum.

Like many teenagers, Lena began working part-time in retail at the age of 16, and by 17 was given her first promotion into a junior management roll. While working part-time and finishing school, Lena started to recognize that a standard job with a fixed pay rate was not the best way to earn a living. She started looking at alternative careers that would allow her to control her financial destiny.

At 19 Lena obtained her Personal Training certification as well as Holistic Nutrition & Wellness certification, and started working at a Women's Fitness Club. With a performance driven income, Lena quickly became the companies highest producing sales person and was the youngest to be promoted to club manager.

In January 2003 Lena met a budding entrepreneur whom she partnered with and they started a Real Estate Investment business which purchased distressed properties in Ontario to buy, fix and hold. By the age of 25, Lena had amassed a multi-million dollar portfolio and was running one of Ottawa's premier asset management firms.

In 2013, Lena recognized a major gap in the support and Financial Education provided to women both in the Real Estate world as well as the Wealth Management world, so she founded Stilettoes & Hammers™, an investment network focused on educating women and providing them with resources needed to help them take control of their finances and, assist them in meeting their short and long term goals. Since inception, the network expanded its roll not only to help women achieve financial stability, but help them educate their families and their children so that the wealth is managed and preserved long term.

Lena married her business partner in 2008, they now own 4 successful business operating in Ontario and the USA and they have embarked on their greatest challenge yet, being very proud parents to an adorable, and incredibly active 6-month-old whom they call their "CEO in training"!