

# flourish!<sup>®</sup>

July/Aug 2007

Celebrating Local Business and Professional Women

**Laura  
McKnight**  
building the foundation

**Snarky  
& Tense?**  
your de-stress  
guide is inside

**Take a SWOT  
at Success**

why we **love**  
**Art Fillmore**

**sunny  
summer  
style**

# Art Fillmore

is one of our  
“guys who  
get it”

*For the uninitiated,  
the men featured  
in this column are  
astute, forward-  
thinking businessmen  
who encourage  
and support the  
contributions and  
development of  
women in business.*

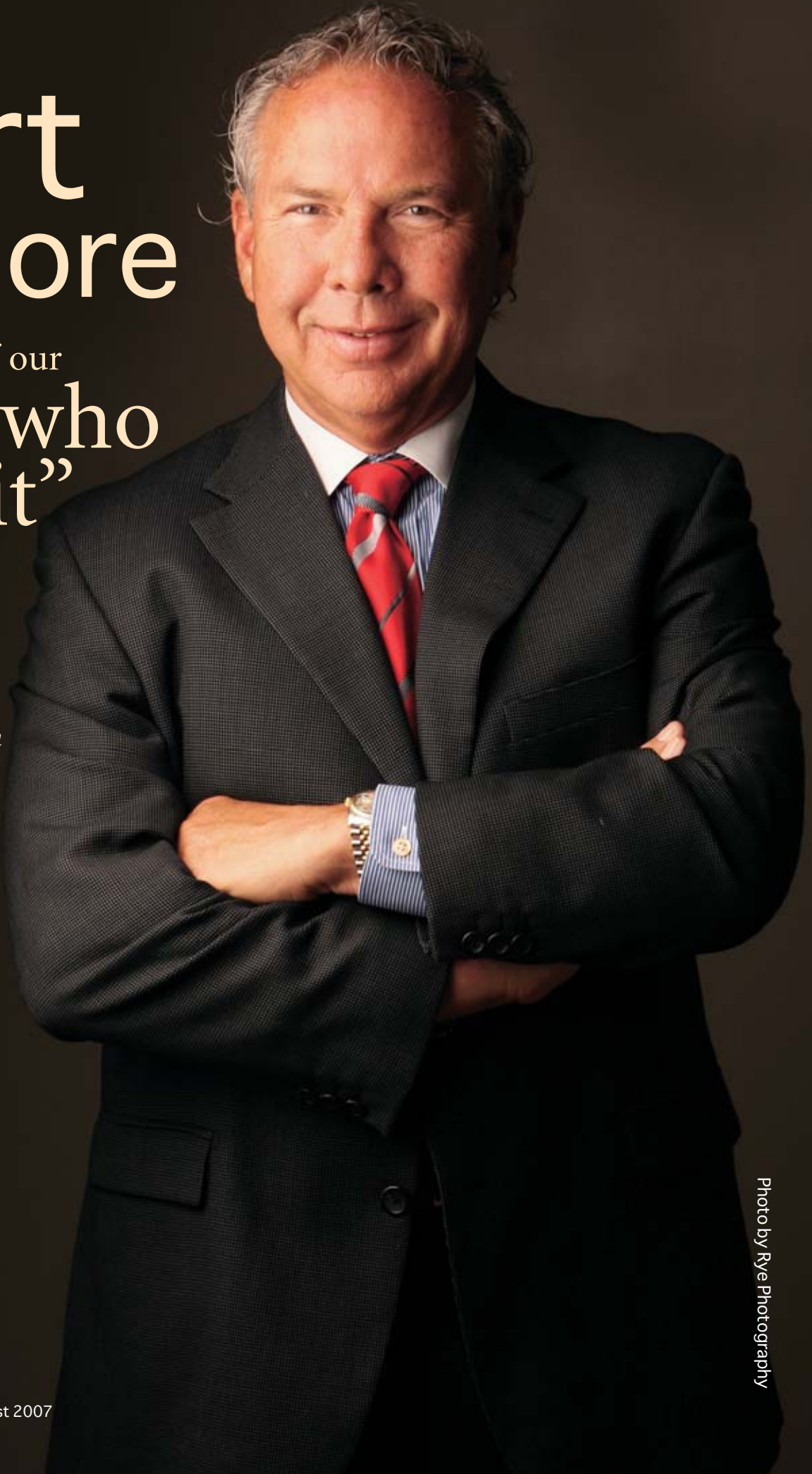


Photo by Rye Photography

It's impossible to pin a label on Art Fillmore. Yes, he's a successful mergers and acquisitions attorney with Levy & Craig, P.C. and an accomplished entrepreneur. But he's also a tireless supporter and an outstanding leader of the many charitable and other initiatives he champions. A highly-decorated Vietnam War hero, Art is passionate about the welfare of our country's war veterans, serving as Chair of the Veterans Administration Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of War Veterans. He also is Chairman of the Kansas City Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation, which was responsible for the construction and oversight of the Kansas City Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a full square city block, at 43rd and Broadway.

In 1994-1995, as Chairman of the Board of Heart to Heart International, he traveled to Vietnam with Senator Kit Bond and others to deliver more than \$7 million of medical supplies and aid. And, in June 2002, Art was inducted into the

He has served on the board of the Kansas Women's Business Center (KWBC) since its formation. He shared that his work there has been satisfying because "helping women gain the confidence to grow their businesses is a worthy objective." The KWBC itself is entering its second stage of growth with a focus on helping women grow their businesses to the \$1 million plus mark. "For me, this work is truly a labor of love," Art shared.

"Having a connection with Art Fillmore is like someone having your back, 24/7, with no questions asked. Art's leadership has an element of trust that goes beyond a board commitment. He truly believes in what he volunteers his time to and without hesitation will make the time to positively influence things. Women entrepreneurs in the Kansas City area are fortunate in that Art believes in us and is so dedicated to working to make a difference in our collective success," said Sherry Turner, Executive Director of the Kansas Women's Business Center.

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United States Army Artillery School Hall of Fame in Fort Sill, Oklahoma, in recognition of his contributions to his country.

Art is also engaged in politics and has served as a close advisor in the U.S. Senate campaigns of Missouri Senators John C. Danforth, John Ashcroft, Jim Talent and Christopher (Kit) S. Bond.

We're just getting started. Art is the Chairman of the Advisory Board of the Kansas Women's Business Center and is a past President and current member of the Advisory Board of the Kansas City Ballet. He has also served on the Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Art Institute. And, the list continues but we will need to end here because of the confines of this page.

Though I wonder how he finds time for his "real job," Art assures me that he is as excited about his professional life as ever. "I love what I do. I can't imagine retiring. Closing deals is what drives me," he said. In addition to M&A, his practice focuses on corporate and commercial transactions, securities law and international trade. He represents numerous technology companies in the start-up and growth phases and those in the renewable energy field.

Art, like all good men, credits his mother Gloria for his success and his desire to help women succeed in the business world. "As a grade school teacher with little support, I know my Mom must have struggled financially, but she was always there for me. I know something about what some women must go through, and I am so glad that I am in a position to help." – *Sheridan Sechter*

*flourish!*  
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