

JULY 1997

# INSIDE BUSINESS

## The 29 Most Influential Women In Business



**Margaret Wong**

Founder and principal, Margaret W. Wong & Associates Co., LPA

**INFLUENCE DEFINED:** Indisputably Cleveland's best-known female attorney — for that matter, one of Cleveland's best-known attorneys, period — for years Wong has wielded a quiet influence within the city's power circles. Wong, who is admitted to

practice in Ohio, New York and the District of Columbia, specializes in immigration law and, as Ohio special counsel, represents the state's public universities and colleges on those matters. As if she hasn't had enough to do, Wong also founded the two Pearl of the Orient restaurants.

**RESUME:** B.S. — Western Illinois University; J.D. — State University of New York at Buffalo; past president — Federal Bar Association/Cleveland Chapter; charter member — Ohio Supreme Court CLE Commission; special counsel — state of Ohio; board member — Asian Bar Association/Cleveland Chapter, Cuyahoga Community College Foundation, editorial board of Corporate Counsel's Guide to Business-Related Immigration, Greater Cleveland Growth Association, Greater Cleveland Round Table, National Conference, Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education, Notre Dame College of Ohio, Town Hall, United Way of Cleveland, University Hospitals of Cleveland; founder and consultant — Pearl of the Orient restaurants, Apothe-Care Pharmacy Group; annual chairperson — Federal Bar Association Immigration Law Seminar; visiting committee — Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State University; member — Leadership America and Leadership Cleveland; author — numerous immigration-related articles; guest lecturer — immigration topics

**WORD OF WISDOM:** "There is no such thing as a super-human being. You have to work at life — nothing is just handed to you. Give your constituents your all. Explain things, try to understand from where they're coming. The loudest clients are probably the best, because they will let you know what's going on and where you stand. ... There always is room at the top, [but] also remember common sense things — returning calls, being kind and compassionate. Be reflective, but when the time comes to make a decision, be decisive. Be willing to take risks, and roll with the tide. Don't question everything; just take life as it comes."