

THE POWER GRID The 20 men and women who are changing the shape of Greater Baltimore's business landscape.



NICHOLAS GUNNER | STAFF

LAURA GAMBLE
President, Bank of America
Maryland

Age: 46

Power is ... "Power is the ability to do good things for others." — Brooke Astor

For Laura Gamble, it's often a struggle to get people interested in monetary policy. That's not the case these days. Everyone has questions for Gamble, the Maryland president of Bank of America. Clients want to know what the nation's financial mess means for them. And BofA employees want to know if the recession will ever end.

"Over my 23 years with Bank of America, I have never been bored, and I'm certainly not bored right now," Gamble said. "I'm learning a lot."

One of the messages Gamble is spending a lot of time on: BofA is still here, and still healthy.

The nation's largest bank with \$2.7 tril-

lion in assets, BofA is by far Baltimore's largest bank, controlling more than a fourth of deposits in the market.

But the bank hasn't been completely unscathed. BofA will lay off up to 35,000 employees over the next three years as it completes its acquisition of brokerage Merrill Lynch. Gamble said she couldn't discuss specifics of layoffs.

But she said Bank of America, which donated \$3.5 million in Greater Baltimore in 2007, does not expect any major changes to its local giving budget this year: "We've worked very hard to protect our charitable giving here." Giving decisions are some of the toughest ones Gamble makes, she said, because there are so many worthy causes.

Gamble, one of the few women at the highest levels of finance in Maryland, sits on several local nonprofit boards and chairs the board of the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore. She said she hopes Baltimore is able to position itself to benefit from any new federal infrastructure stimulus plan, so transportation and education funding get a boost.

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