



The East Bay's 15 top-producing residential real estate agents are ranked by total sales volume through Nov. 20, 2006. The companies provided the numbers to the Business Times.

How long have you been a real estate agent? Since 1999.

How did you get your start in real estate? I happened to be in a "mommy group" turned play group. Most of the members were ready for a move up and were the first to give me a shot at my new career. Previously I was a therapist, and those skills were transferable, as I do a lot of anxiety management.

Have you worked anywhere other than your present area? I started in Berkeley and Oakland but quickly incorporated Lamorinda, Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek. When the market was really heated, I converted a lot of my discouraged Berkeley buyers to "the other side of the tunnel," where they got a lot more bang for their buck.

What is the most rewarding aspect of your job? Having an ongoing relationship with my clients. Sitting down at their kitchen table over a pizza, and hearing how they love their new home.

What was your most interesting deal? We have all heard about the federal government investigating, charging and arresting Realtors involved in fraudulent transactions. So when I was recently asked to list a home that my client did not own, it gave me pause for concern. He was a developer in contract to purchase a "fixer" home, and the contract had provisions to improve the home and sell it without ever owning it. This was rife with complications and legal pitfalls. There were many challenges to this transaction, including ensuring that all aspects of the sale were legal, all sides were protected, and that I operated completely from a place of integrity.

What is the most unusual request you ever received from a home buyer? I now am working with a buyer who has severe allergies. Not only do I need to find a home that suits his tastes and budget, but it has to have been pet free for at least two years and more than one-half mile from a body of water. Taking into account that there are about 65 million dogs and 77.6 million cats in the U.S., not to mention gerbils, hamsters, etc., my chances of finding a pet-free home are a considerable challenge.

What is your favorite neighborhood and why? I have a particular affinity for Rockridge, the area I first moved to in California in 1984. I love the architecture, the ease and comfort of being blocks from College Avenue shops and restaurants. Lafayette, where I currently live, is also a favorite. I love its warm summer nights, suburban pool life, proximity to great shopping and restaurants, and the great education my children receive in the public schools.

What do you like to do when you're not working? I am an avid tennis player and play four to five times per week. I also enjoy playing games with my two children and reserve Fridays as "sacred date nights" with my husband.