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PRESS RELEASE

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CDFA Announces 2022 Class of Caren S. Franzini Fellowship

—CDFA Continues Legacy of Caren S. Franzini through Five Outstanding Development Finance Professionals—

Columbus, OH — The Council of Development Finance Agencies is honored to announce the 2022 class of the Caren S. Franzini Fellowship. Join CDFA in congratulating these five outstanding women:

- **Erin Baca**, Alaska Equity Fund Director, Alaska Small Business Development Center, Anchorage, AK
- **Magarita Jules**, Senior Grant Specialist, Minnesota Department of Employment of Economic Development, Eagan, MN
- **Jennifer Litwak**, Executive Director, Housing on Merit, San Diego, CA
- **Ellen Roth**, Executive Administrator, National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), Arlington, VA
- **Marina Scarth**, Credit Underwriter, New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA), Newark, NJ

“CDFA is honored to recognize Erin, Magarita, Jennifer, Ellen, and Marina as this year’s class of Franzini Fellows. These inspirational women represent rising stars in the development finance industry and we are thrilled to welcome them into the CDFA family,” states Toby Rittner, DFCP and President & CEO of CDFA. “I am proud to honor the memory and legacy of Caren Franzini with this fellowship. Over the next six months, we will challenge our five fellows to explore development finance with the same energy, passion, and dedication demonstrated by Caren.”

The Caren S. Franzini Fellowship was established in 2017 by the CDFA Board of Directors to recognize the exemplary leadership of Caren Franzini, a past President of CDFA and former CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority (NJEDA). During her career, Caren was dedicated to the advancement of development finance best practices, education, and advocacy.

Recognized by her peers and colleagues as “simply the best,” Caren brought a high level of mastery and acumen to her work. Her commitment to the development finance industry is evident in the numerous programs created and the billions of dollars of investment that she catalyzed during her tenure at NJEDA. She was equally passionate about building leaders and experts in the field as she was about financing businesses and expanding economic growth and job creation for New Jersey communities.

The Caren S. Franzini Fellowship was created to build leadership positions for women in the field of development finance and to inspire them to embody Caren’s spirit and professionalism. Franzini Fellows are given the opportunity to work directly with CDFA through a six-month program aimed at developing engaged women leaders in the field of development finance. Each class of Franzini Fellows collaborates on a project of significance to the development finance industry and presents it to a national audience. Collectively, their work showcases expertise in development finance and the power of women-led initiatives. Visit the Caren S. Franzini Fellowship webpage to learn more.

The **Council of Development Finance Agencies** is a national association dedicated to the advancement of development finance concerns and interests. CDFA is comprised of the nation’s leading and most knowledgeable members of the development finance community representing public, private and non-profit entities alike. For more information about CDFA, visit www.cdfa.net.