



Therese Rowley has spent years counseling clients on how to achieve dramatic and transformative results in their business and personal lives.

# Angel Office in the

WITH A CLIENT LIST THAT INCLUDES SOME OF CHICAGO'S  
TOP EXECUTIVES, THIS MEDIUM HAS A HEAD FOR  
BUSINESS AND A GIFT FOR TRANSFORMATION.

BY LAURA CALDWELL  
PHOTOGRAPHY BY THOMAS CHADWICK

**T**herese Rowley's bona fides would impress just about anyone in the corporate world. She holds an MBA from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management, a PhD in organizational transformation, and a master's degree in public administration. She has taught leadership and transformation at the University of Chicago and organizational development at the University of San Francisco. Starting with her first job as a management consultant at A.T. Kearney in 1980, she has worked with CEOs and business leaders in such disciplines as telecommunications, manufacturing, and financial services. But over the years, Rowley—a regal blonde with a penchant for chic power suits, who also happens to be a

cousin of fashion great Cynthia Rowley—has evolved her practice into one that channels her true gift: intuitive consulting.

A lifelong Catholic, Rowley was first made aware of her gift while attending daily Mass as a child. "I felt I was taken out of my body, and I began to understand how we're all connected," she says. "Everyone has [his or her] own portal to the divine, and that's mine."

After years spent honing her intuition and counseling business clients on how to achieve dramatic and transformative results (all the while without disclosing the source of her insights), Rowley decided in 1998 to "come out of the closet" and focus on her intuitive consulting practice full-time. Since then, working out of her home office in Lincoln Park, she has quietly become the secret weapon of thousands of

clients, including many local executives.

A typical session goes like this: Rowley begins by asking the client for permission to read their energy (her code of ethics prohibits her doing this without consent). The client says his or her full name three times, and through a gift called "clairaudience" (clear hearing), the vibration from the frequency of the sound of the person's name opens up a portal through which Rowley says she can see elements of that person's energy field. Extending "about two feet" outside the body, the field "contains emotions, belief systems, fears, thoughts, and energy." In other words, it contains everything that has ever happened—or can happen—to the person being read.

If a client asks a question, "The question creates the pathway through which I enter," says

Rowley. “I see people as a hologram. Once they ask their question, some part of their energy field lights up. [I see] an image and then a story. I call it [their] ‘truth wrapped in a story,’” she says of what is revealed to her, which often takes the form of a parable or what what some call past lives. “The story unfolds and it’s relevant to their question.” She uses these stories to elucidate the fear at the core of a client’s challenge. When the client comes to understand this fear in a new context, Rowley helps him or her release the old pattern, heal, and reclaim his or her power.

“If you’re afraid of something, your energy is closed like a black hole in space,” explains Rowley. “Once the system relaxes, it’s a matter of moving out what was in there.”

Rowley’s clients rely on her intuitive skills to give them both business and personal guidance. At the C-Suite level, an executive might have several candidates to fill a key management position, and Rowley can provide counsel as to which person will be the best fit. Some entrepreneurs have questions about investments, or a session might be about understanding the source of a conflict with a business partner, or dealing with questions about job security. “I look at [a client’s] essential gifts and see if there’s any energy left in the position they presently have [to determine if they should move on],” says Rowley. “Shifting even the smallest of perceptions can allow an entirely new path to open before [him or her].”

**F**red Hartmann, the former VP of South Shore Iron Works and current president of Integrity Wall Panel (a building innovation firm that shortens construction time and reduces costs), admits he isn’t the typical customer of this kind of business consulting. And yet, after hearing about Rowley from other business leaders at the Union League Club, he decided to consult her.

“Her extensive education and experience make her knowledgeable about what businesses need to succeed,” says Hartmann. But “her approach also recognizes that all business are collections of people. What drives expansion and growth are the people [who] comprise an organization. We think she’s brilliant.”

Rowley was able to work with Hartmann to give his company insight into the strengths and weaknesses of job candidates. “Rowley is a valuable resource, a nontraditional consultant who is a great asset to our business.”

To conduct her healing, Rowley often performs individual sessions with a company’s leader. “It’s like a spiritual chiropractic adjustment,” she says, “that aligns your purpose with your gifts and vision, both personally and for the company. When the leader’s energy is stagnant, the company feels that,



“Therese Rowley is responsible for freeing the bravery that I use in my business every day.”

—SUZANNE LOVELL

Architect and interior designer Suzanne Lovell has attended Rowley’s leadership seminars.

and there can be bottom-line consequences.”

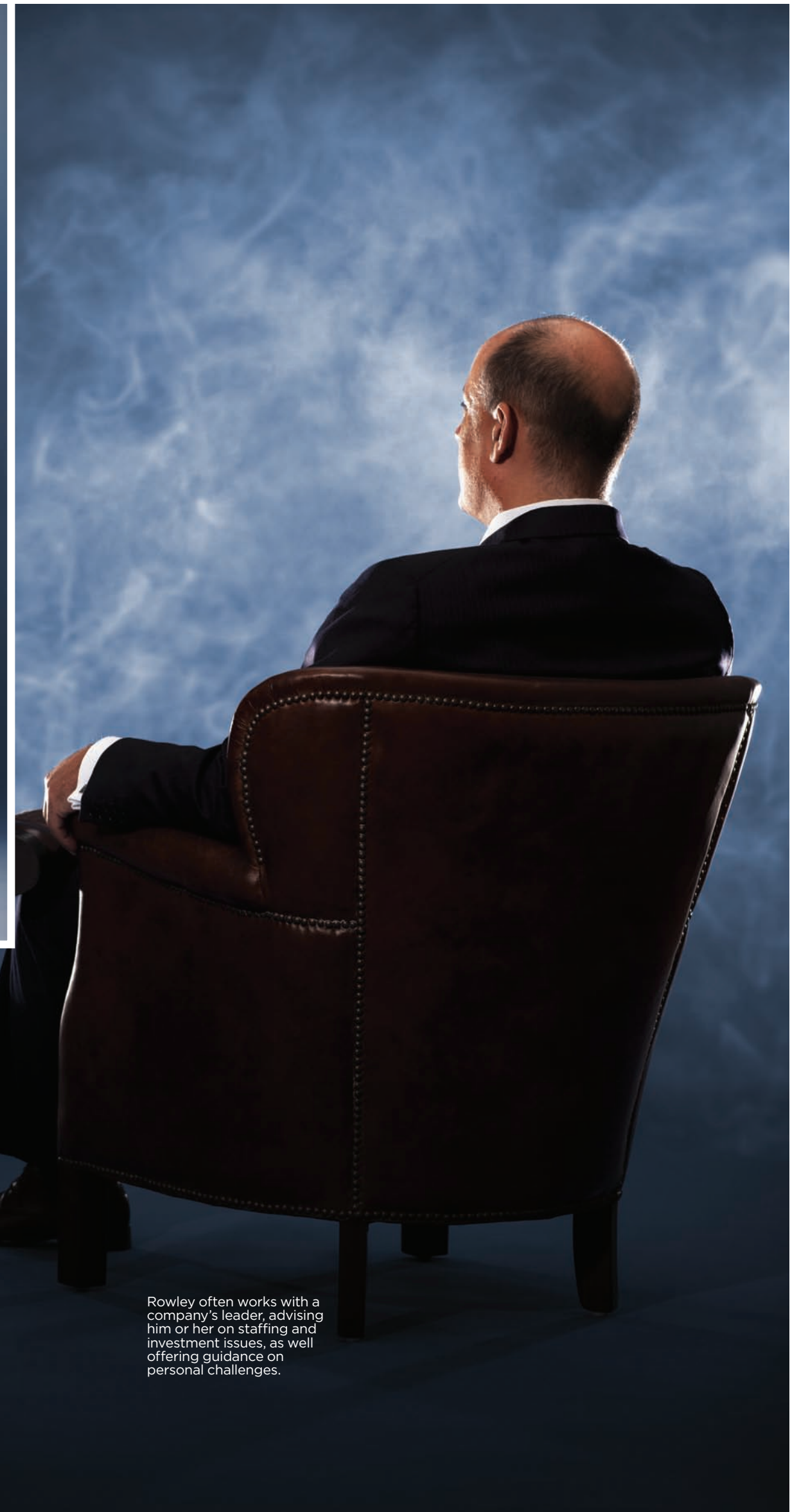
Rowley has also conducted leadership classes at the University of Chicago. Suzanne Lovell, one of the most sought-after architects and interior designers in the country, has been among the attendees. Lovell, who recently came out with her own design tome, *Artistic Interiors: Designing with Fine Art Collections*, describes how impressed she was with Rowley’s ability to read feelings and energy in the room. “She could move mountains with logical explanations that touched each person into action.”

Lovell, whose firm now employs 20 designers with high-profile projects around the country, continued with private readings, and now says, “Therese Rowley is responsible for freeing the bravery that I use in my business every day.”

Sometimes the guidance comes from a deceased relative or the “dead” parts of a business culture, where employees act out of frustration instead of

cooperating with new management or processes. Often the leader thinks it is company that is the challenge, whereas it is “his own soul wanting to expand and grow as part of that change,” Rowley says. “Even when the CEO believes he is calling for a specific business outcome, typically that leader’s soul is about to rise to a new level of awareness.” She sums it up this way: “It’s the soul of that leader calling him to step up.” Suzanne Lovell was one of those people on the verge of something new. “I had been trying to understand my own connection to intuition, which I knew I possessed, but I needed confirmation to apply it to my business world.”

The success of Rowley’s Intuitive Consulting led her to start the Conscious Business Network. Originally an invitation-only event for her personal and professional clients, Rowley realized that the majority of the 60-plus people in attendance were in business and looking for a group



Rowley often works with a company's leader, advising him or her on staffing and investment issues, as well as offering guidance on personal challenges.

that highlighted integrity and transparency in business and business relationships. More than just an exchange of business cards, members discuss the meaning of and challenges in their work and their personal lives, and how the two can align.

Claudia Morgan was introduced to Rowley when the Conscious Business Network met at her Fulton River District store, Primitive. "I was intrigued by her ability to intuitively assess and reframe the underlying dynamics that must be created for positive transformation in the workplace," says Morgan. She began seeing Rowley for individual sessions. "I experienced a greater awareness of potentiality and learned there is a more elegant way to succeed."

Lovell, who has known Rowley for 15 years, agrees. "When I feel lost, I'll go see her. Somehow when you leave, you don't know why, but you're redirected. She has a gift of being able to help you see through the fog. Sometimes you just need somebody to clear the air." **MA**

## LISTENING IN

Therese Rowley's gift is within each of us—it's only a matter of getting in touch with it.

"When you get a gut feeling," says Rowley, "it's coming from your spirit guiding you in this life." In order to tap in to that sixth sense, you have to practice shutting down the other five senses. Many people call this meditation. "Practice silence and detachment from the outcome," Rowley says. "Go to the place in yourself that represents neutrality." The third eye (or sixth chakra), located "behind your eyes and straight down from the crown of your head, is where your capacity for insight, foresight, hindsight, and horizontal sight [lies]."

"If you start to think when you're trying to find it, you're in front of it," says Rowley. "It's behind the thinking function." But keep practicing, she stresses. "When you get there, it feels like a deep breath, and everything relaxes inside of you."

Finally, she says, "Go to that neutral place, ask 'What is best for my highest good?' and let the right decision light up for you. When you get information, the thing that strengthens it is to trust it and follow it. The more you honor the wisdom of your intuitive response, the faster and stronger the impulse will come."