

Metro Richmond Women's Bar Association Newsletter



Richmond Skyline by [Jeff Pittman](#)

May 2018



Annual Business Meeting & Networking Luncheon

Wednesday, May 30, 2018
12:30 pm - 2:00 pm at Willow Oaks

2018-2019 Slate of Officers:

President - Joanna Suyes
President Elect - Michele Satterlund
Vice President - Stinson Mundy
Secretary - Mollie Barton
Treasurer - Katherine Gray

Judicial Candidate Endorsement Committee:

Joley Steffens
Kati Dean
Amy Austin
Adalyn Brugger
Kimberly Chandler
Julia Childrey
Ali Fannon
Alexis Fisher-Rizk
Sherry Fox
Melanie Friend
Stephanie Grana
Katherine Gray
Deanna Hathaway
Elizabeth Hanes
Amy Hensley
Catherine Hill
Laura Manchester
Britney McPheron
Stinson Mundy
Colleen Quinn
Anne Roddy
Mansi Shah
Sharon Stuart
Amy Weiss
Carolyn White

** Please note, additional JCE members may be added*

Contact MRWBA

P.O. Box 3945
Richmond, VA 23235
[MRWBA Website](#)

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2017-2018 Board

President: Elizabeth Hanes
President-Elect: Joanna Suyes
Vice President: Joley Steffens
Immediate Past President:
Melissa VanZile
Treasurer: Stinson Mundy
Secretary: Michele Satterlund
Administrator: Erin Jackson

Awards: Amy Austin
CLE: Vacant

Communications: Katherine Gray &
Kati Dean

Finance: Addie Brugger
Judicial Endorsement: Amy Hensley
Legislative: Amy Weiss

Membership: Britney McPheron
Mentorship: Mansi Shah

Programs: Deanna Hathaway &
Julia Childrey
Public Service: Mollie Barton & Natalie
McClearn

Welcome New Members!

Parisa Tabassian
Patricia Wood



President's Message

Thank you for allowing me to lead such a wonderful association! The strength of our organization lies in the commitment, hard work and participation of the board and our members. Together, we improved our community, provided educational and fellowship opportunities, and celebrated each other's successes.

This year my goal was to help you find your success. The founder of the Huffington post, Arianna Huffington defined



success as "well-being, wisdom, wonder, and giving" paired with a necessary dose of money and power. So how did we do?

- Giving: Raised over \$5,000 at our annual Wine and a Worthy Cause which will be put towards the publication of the Domestic Relations Pamphlet. We published the DRP last year, and have already put in a new printing order. Your support of this event helps put

important information in the hands of victims of domestic violence. Thank you to Mollie Barton and Natalie McClearn for your creative and dedicated leadership of this committee.

- Mentorship: Provided mentorship opportunities to over 80 law students and young attorneys through our Mentorship Program, which included two socials, a trip to the United States Supreme Court to meet the Hon. Clarence Thomas, and the Annual Spring Reception which featured the Hon. M. Hannah Lauck. Served as coaches to Orchard House for their Mock Trial event. Thank you Mansi Shah for your energetic and committed leadership of this committee.
- Wonder: Sponsored the first Elect Her Program with the University of Richmond Women's Law Association to encourage and train women to run for public office. We had college and law students, lawyers, retirees, and non-attorneys attend this event which was simply inspiring! We also worked to increase our recognition of our members through Awards, including our own Woman of Achievement Award. Congrats to Colleen Quinn. Thank you Amy Austin and Michele Satterlund for promoting our members and reminding us to foster success in others.
- Wisdom: Our monthly luncheons started and ended with politicians! The strength of our organization is reflected by the fact that candidates for state-wide office as well as local legislators speak at our luncheons. In the intervening months, we heard from dynamic speakers. Thank you to Amy Weiss for flawlessly executing our Legislative Luncheon despite the many hurdles thrown your way, and to Deanna Hathaway and Julia Childrey for thinking outside the box for our programs.
- Fellowship: Our membership continues to grow and diversify. This year we offered 13 sponsorships to attorneys working in public interest. Thank you to Britney McPherson for your willingness to pitch in and help and for your optimism and good judgment.
- Kept the Lights On: Many hands go into maintaining our organization as one of the best bar associations in Richmond. The list is long, but please thank Erin for her service as our administrator this year, to the other Board Members who reliably do jobs that don't include hosting fun happy hours, to the past presidents for their continued support and guidance, and to our AMAZING sponsors, who allow us to bring our members great programs and events.

It has truly been a pleasure to serve you as President this year. I am inspired by your commitment to the organization, to your fellow lawyers, to your clients and to your families. I hope you have a wonderful summer!

Elizabeth W. Hanes, Esquire
MRWBA President 2017-2018
[Contact Elizabeth by email](#)

Wine & A Worthy Cause

The March 28 Wine and a Worthy Cause annual fundraiser was a smashing success!

Eight creative teams generated a very festive atmosphere for MRWBA members and guests to taste great wines and savor the company of friends and colleagues.

Congratulations to the winning teams!

Best White: Beach Babes (Fleur de Nina Rose)
Best Red: Queen of Harts (Robertson Winery Pinotage)
Most Spirited Team: Free the DRP from Lock & Key (9 Crimes)

We raised an estimated \$5,000.00 to benefit the Domestic Relations Pamphlet, which will be updated and reprinted next bar year. The MRWBA Board thanks everyone who contributed and we offer a special thank you to our title sponsor Wells Fargo.



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2017- 2018 Committee Reports

Awards Committee

This year, the Awards Committee presented the 2017 MRWBA Women of Achievement Award to Colleen M. Quinn. [Read the full report here...](#)

CLE Committee

This year, the CLE committee put on one program, and assisted with other CLE programs. In total, the organization provided three CLE programs this year. [Read the full report here...](#)

Communications Committee

With the implementation of the new Platinum sponsorships, we were able to significantly increase revenues from luncheons. Title sponsors were secured for all of the luncheons and six silver sponsors for the luncheons. The total revenue from luncheons was \$8,400, up from \$5,250 in 2016-2017. [Read the full report here...](#)

Finance Committee

Coming Soon

Judicial Candidate Endorsement Committee

There were no judicial vacancies during this term. As such there were no interviews or endorsements on behalf of the MRWBA.

Legislative Committee

The 2017-2018 Legislative Committee tracked numerous bills presented during the 2017 Virginia General Assembly session in certain categories of general interest to our membership. [Read the full report here...](#)

Membership Committee

We finished out the year strong with 243 total members, a slight increase from last bar year. Of those members, 56 were new members and 187 were returning members. The membership committee focused on expanding our membership base this year. [Read the full report here...](#)

Mentorship Committee

The Mentorship Committee is pleased to announce that we were able to match 40 MRWBA members with 82 mentees. The mentees were comprised of law students primarily but also included some young attorney MRWBA members. [Read the full report here...](#)

Programs Committee

For the 2017-2018 Bar Year, MRWBA hosted monthly luncheons on contemporary topics relevant to the legal community. In addition to welcoming candidates for the top state wide offices and our traditional legislative luncheon, we explored topics relating to lawyer well-being, technology concerns, and financial business matters for women. [Read the full report here...](#)

Public Service Committee

October was Pro Bono month in Virginia (and the deadline for CLE credits!) On October 30, 2017 the Public Service and Pro Bono Committee hosted a CLE to train attorneys on "No-Fault Divorce Cases and Pro Bono Opportunities in the Metro Richmond Area." [Read the full report here...](#)

The McCammon Group
is pleased to announce our newest Neutral



Hon. James R. Spencer (Ret.)
Retired Judge, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Virginia

The Honorable James Spencer (Ret.) joins The McCammon Group after over thirty years of dedicated service as a Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, including several years as Chief Judge. Judge Spencer began his legal career as a Captain in the U.S. Army JAG Corps and as an attorney with the Atlanta Legal Aid Society. He then went on to serve as a U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, where he was a member of the elite Major Grimes Division. Judge Spencer later joined the U.S. Attorney's office in the Eastern District of Virginia, until he was appointed as the first African-American U.S. District Court Judge in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Judge Spencer now brings this exceptional record of service and accomplishment to The McCammon Group to serve the mediation, arbitration, judge pro tempore, and special master needs of lawyers and litigants throughout the Commonwealth and beyond.

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