

Metro Richmond Women's Bar Association Newsletter



Richmond Skyline by [Jeff Pittman](#)

MRWBA Survey

As part of the bar year, we're conducting a SHORT survey regarding membership benefits. It's only 10 questions, and will take you less than 5 minutes. Click the button below to start the survey. Thank you for your participation!

[Begin Survey](#)

Membership

Britney McPheron, Chair

The 2017-18 bar year is about to begin and that means it is time to renew your membership with the MRWBA! We have a lot of exciting things planned for this year and hope that you will continue to be a member and perhaps even invite a friend or two to join us.

The MRWBA is an organization that seeks to advance women in the legal profession. We do this in a variety of ways, including:

- Recommending, endorsing and encouraging women in the judiciary
- Applying to various awards to promote and support our members in their profession
- Giving our members the tools to develop their business and professional image with the programming at our monthly lunches
- Offering a unique networking opportunity in the legal community
- Providing multiple CLE credits throughout the year at no additional cost to our members
- Public service and the ability to engage with the local Richmond community

A full membership is \$100 and an associate membership is \$50. There are many benefits to being a member of the MRWBA, in addition to those listed above. In order to continue to provide discounted lunches and quality programming and CLEs to our members, it was necessary to increase the cost of dues this year. Please renew your membership or join by clicking the below links to access and/or submit your application for this bar year.

We look forward to having you as a part of our amazing organization this year!

To renew or Join Online [Click here](#)

To print paper application, [Click here](#)

MRWBA Welcomes its 45th President

MRWBA installed Elizabeth W. Hanes as the organization's forty-fifth president on May 3, 2017. Elizabeth is an attorney with Consumer Litigation Associates, P.C., where she represents consumers regarding credit reporting issues and other consumer issues.

During the time Elizabeth has served on the board, she held the positions of membership chair, treasurer, and vice-president. Elizabeth earned her Juris Doctorate from the University of Richmond School of Law, and has a B.A. in Economics and International Studies from the University of Richmond.

Summer 2017



Contact MRWBA

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

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2017-2018 Board

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

Awards: Amy Austin
CLE: Alison Feehan
Communications: Kati Dean & Katherine Gray
Finance: Addie Brugger
Judicial Endorsement: Amy Hensley
Legislative: Amy Weiss
Membership: Britney McPheron
Mentorship: Mansi Shah
Programs: Deanna Hathaway & Julia Childrey
Public Service: Natalie McClearn & Mollie Barton

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Sponsorships

*Katherine Gray,
Communications Co-Chair*

[Sponsorship Opportunities
Sign-Up Process](#)

The Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association is making some exciting changes to our sponsorship format. We're offering more options so that sponsors who want to headline the most popular and well-attended luncheons will have the ability to do so. These four "Platinum" sponsors will be highlighted throughout the bar year, including on the main page of our website and at all Women's Bar events. In addition to the Platinum sponsors, we will continue to offer Gold and Silver sponsorships for luncheons and other events, similar to the



Elizabeth Hanes (center) with Immediate Past President Melissa VanZile and Past President Melanie Friend

sponsorships we have offered in the past. We'll be sending out a link via Constant Contact on August 7 to all of our previous sponsors and to our membership with full details about the benefits of each sponsorship opportunity. Again, because the title sponsor options have been in such demand, we are reserving these on a "first come, first served" basis. To sponsor, please sign up through the Constant Contact link. Please feel free to call Katherine Grey with any questions. Her direct dial is 804.418.6229.

Welcome New Members

**Andrea Hurlocker
Kristin Kaplan
Amanda Nichols
Christina Parrish**



President's Message

I am honored to serve as the President of the Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association. I am grateful for the role this organization has played in both my personal and professional life. My relationship with MRWBA began when I was in law school, and requested a MRWBA mentor. My mentor invested her time in me, by giving me advice and guidance. I even obtained my first legal internship as a result of our relationship! At the time, I likely didn't fully appreciate the full value of the MRWBA mentorship program. But looking back, I realize that one of the most important benefits was that my mentor demonstrated to me in a concrete way how I could achieve both personal and professional success. I was emboldened by her success, and carried that confidence forward in my own career.

Following law school and a brief stint in West Virginia as a law clerk, I returned to Richmond and the MRWBA as a baby lawyer. In addition to enjoying the engaging program, I was warmly welcomed by each of the women at my table. I was hooked. MRWBA checked both boxes for me, in that I was intellectually stimulated and felt I was furthering my career, but I also enjoyed the people. I have been fortunate to meet and develop relationships with a strong, creative, diverse, caring and smart women. Each event and each member has inspired me in different ways: to do better, think harder, and care more.

My theme for the bar year is "Finding & Fostering Success." Defining success is challenging. Merriam-Webster defines it as "the fact of getting or achieving wealth, respect, or fame," but I reject that definition as too narrow and turn instead to Google. The founder of Huffington post, Arianna Huffington, accepts that money and power contribute to success, but argues that those goals must be paired with "well-being, wisdom, wonder, and giving." Thomas Edison famously described how to obtain success (especially for many lawyers) as 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration. But Maya Angelou might get it the best: "Success is liking yourself, liking what you do, and liking how you do it."

Women in the law have not pursued success in isolation, rather we have a long tradition of supporting each other. We have and continue to face unique challenges, but I believe those challenges have promoted one of our best assets, our shared ability to foster others. To "foster" is to "encourage or promote the development of something good, to care for, to nurture." MRWBA's mission statement to "support and enhance the professional development of women in the legal profession" articulates this core value. We use this asset every day, with our colleagues, opposing counsel, clients, and the community.

This year, my goal is to help you find your success. We hope to focus on the things that are important to you: networking, business development, education, and career management. We will also continue the long tradition of this organization of supporting and fostering growth in each other, as well as our clients and women outside the legal profession through our community



View an electronic copy of the pamphlet on the [MRWBA website](#).

Awards



The MRWBA received an Award of Merit from the Conference of Local Bar Associations for our Mentorship program! President Elizabeth Hanes accepted the award at the Virginia State Bar conference in Virginia Beach.

service, pro bono work and publication of the Domestic Relations Pamphlet.

Luckily, success is not pie, there is plenty to go around! I thank the MRWBA Board for 2016-2017 for their service. They truly have continued the tradition of supporting and encouraging our membership. I look forward to our journey together in the next bar year in finding and fostering success in each other!

See you soon!

Elizabeth W. Hanes, Esquire
MRWBA President 2017-2018
Contact Elizabeth by email

Programs

Deanna Hathaway & Julia Childrey, Co-Chairs

Happy Summer friends and colleagues! We are super excited to announce that on September 27, 2017 our awesome 2017-2018 program year kicks off with a luncheon featuring the top of the Virginia Republican ticket: Ed Gillespie, for Governor, Jill Vogel for Lieutenant Governor, and John Adams, for Attorney General, whom we are pleased and honored to host. We have likewise invited the top of the Virginia Democratic ticket for our October program and will keep you posted if scheduling permits their attendance. In addition, mark your calendars for these dates and as the programs become locked in we'll continue to update you. Please note that all programs are currently scheduled to be held at Willow Oaks Country Club.

[Click here to register for the September Luncheon](#)

Limited seating available

October Luncheon
Wednesday, October 4, 2017 (tentative)
12:30pm - 2:00pm

November Luncheon
Wednesday, November 1, 2017
12:30pm - 2:00pm

Annual Holiday and MRWBA Women of Achievement Award Luncheon
Wednesday, December 13, 2017
12:00pm - 2:00pm (please note earlier start time)

January Luncheon
Wednesday, January 10, 2018
12:30pm - 2:00pm

February Luncheon
Wednesday, February 7, 2018
12:30pm - 2:00pm

March Luncheon
Wednesday, March 7, 2018
12:30pm - 2:00pm

Annual Legislative Luncheon
Wednesday, April 18, 2018
12:00pm - 2:00pm (please note earlier start time)

Annual Business and Networking Luncheon
Wednesday, May 2, 2018
12:30pm - 2:00pm

Awards

Amy Austin, Chair

Our current President stated in her newsletter, "success is not pie, there is plenty to go around!" As Awards Chair for the upcoming year, I am quickly discovering how true this is. Long-time MRWBA member Claire Cardwell was sworn in as a Richmond City General District Court Judge on July 13, 2017. Julie McConnell, an MRWBA member, was named YWCA Outstanding Woman in Education at the 37th Annual OWA awards luncheon on April 28, 2017.

As I receive requests for names and nominations for the many awards given out by various organizations in our community and I witness our members achieving such success, I am excited about the upcoming year and fostering the success and recognition of our members.

I encourage each member of MRWBA to submit names of deserving members of our organization so they may be considered for various awards given out over the coming months.

Please take a few minutes to review the list of upcoming awards and the deadlines by which to submit nominees. As an organization, we are seeking member suggestions for the following:

*YWCA Outstanding Women Award 2018 (categories pertinent to our organization are Law & Government; Volunteerism; Nonprofit Management; Education). Deadline is in October 2017.

*Young Women's Leadership Alliance (YWLA), which is YWCA Richmond's young professionals' board, awards the *Rising Outstanding Woman Award (ROWA)* to a woman between ages 25 and 35 who has made and/or will make a significant contribution towards social good in Central Virginia and has displayed outstanding promise for continuing service and leadership. Deadline in October 2017.

*John C. Kenny Pro Bono Award, nomination deadline is August 26, 2017.

*Hill-Tucker Public Service Award, nomination deadline is November 22, 2017.

*Young Lawyer of the Year Award, nomination deadline is December 1, 2017.

Of course, please submit your nomination for MRWBA's Women of Achievement Award, which we bestow upon a deserving member (s) every year. Deadline is October 1, 2017.

Thank you and I look forward to receiving your nominations and words of praise in support of the members of MRWBA.

For questions or nominations, contact [Amy Austin](#).

Metro Richmond Women's Bar Association, P.O. Box 3945, North Chesterfield, VA 23235

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