

**Metro Richmond Women's Bar Association
Newsletter**

Summer 2018



Richmond Skyline by [Jeff Pittman](#)

The 2018-2019 Bar year is about to kick off - which means it is time to renew your MRWBA membership! We have a lot of great events planned, so we hope you will continue to be a member and invite your friends to join us, too.

Advancing women in the legal profession is MRWBA's goal. We do this in various ways including providing:

- Monthly luncheons where you can network, build business, socialize with fellow lawyers and hear from invited guest speakers such as legislative candidates;
- CLEs at no additional cost to members;
- Mentorships for young and new lawyers;
- Database of Members on the MRWBA website;
- Recommending, endorsing and encouraging women in the judiciary;
- Public service and community engagement opportunities.

Full Membership is \$100, Associate Membership is \$50, new Bar admittees can join for free and recent law school graduates can join for free. Click below to access & submit the short Membership Application.

We look forward to having you join us this year!

To Renew/Join online: [Click Here](#)

To Renew/Join via paper application: [Click Here](#)

MRWBA Welcomes its 46th President

MRWBA installed Joanna L. Suyes as the organization's forty-sixth president on May 30, 2018. Joanna is an attorney with Marks & Harrison law firm where she represents claimants with Social Security Disability claims and personal injury and workers' compensation matters.

As a member of the board, Joanna held the positions of finance chair, public service chair, secretary, treasurer, and president-elect. She earned her J.D. from the T. C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond and has a B.A. in government from the College of William and Mary and a Masters of Divinity from the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond. She, her husband Jimmy, her stepson Jack, and their dogs live in Carytown.



Past President Melissa VanZile, left,
Joanna Suyes and Immediate Past
President Elizabeth Hanes.

President's Message

Welcome to a new year with the Metro Richmond Women's Bar Association. As the new year gets underway, I want to take a minute to thank Elizabeth Hanes and the 2017-2018



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

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2018-2019 Board

President: Joanna Suyes
President-Elect: Michele Satterlund
Vice President: Stinson Mundy
Immediate Past President: Elizabeth Hanes
Treasurer: Katherine Gray
Secretary: Mollie Barton
Administrator: Erin Jackson

Awards: Amy Austin
CLE: Mary Hunt
Communications: Deanna Hathaway &
Laura Manchester
Finance: Amy Hensley
Judicial Endorsement: Kati Dean &
Joley Steffens
Legislative: Kimberly Chandler
Membership: Mariah Daniel
Mentorship: Britney McPherson
Programs: Mansi Shah &
Alexis Fisher-Rizk
Public Service: Adalyn Brugger &
Valerie L'Herrou

Sponsorship Opportunities!

Sponsorship Opportunities with the Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association will be opening soon! This year we're offering even more options so that sponsors who want to headline the most popular and well-attended events have a chance to do so. Those events include our four most popular luncheons, the Spring Mentorship event, Wine & A Worthy Cause, as well as our special program this year, Balancing the Scales: a movie presentation and discussion on implicit bias and diversity.

These seven platinum sponsors will be highlighted throughout the bar year, including on the main page of our website, at all MRWBA events, and have their logo in all member communications. Of course, we will continue to offer Gold and Silver sponsorships for luncheons and other events, similar to the sponsorships we have offered in the past.

On August 1st, we'll be sending out a link via Constant Contact to all of our previous sponsors, our membership and our prospective sponsors with full details about the benefits of each sponsorship opportunity. Again, because the Platinum sponsorship has been in such demand, these can only be selected on a "first come, first



board members who made this past year such a success. You set the bar high. Thank you for your hard work!

As the transition has approached, people have asked me: What's your theme going to be? What are your goals for the year? My answer is that I want to accomplish two things: one is to leave the MRWBA in as good a condition as I have found it. I plan to continue the excellent programming we've enjoyed recently by adding more CLE opportunities to our luncheon programs to add value to your membership. I also hope to conduct a strategic plan much like the one spearheaded several years ago by Colleen Quinn so we can take a look at the things we're doing, whether we're meeting the needs of women attorneys in the Metro Richmond area, and what we can do, if anything, to improve this organization. If you have opinions, and I know you do, please share them with us when we call on you!

But second, I hope we will strengthen the MRWBA's commitment to improving access to justice. Our Domestic Relations Pamphlet is an important resource for women and men in the Commonwealth who cannot afford a lawyer but who need to know their rights in that arena. Our annual Wine & a Worthy Cause event supports the DRP and has been so successful that this year I have made the organizer of WWC the chair of a standing committee. Doing this will allow her to focus on making that fundraiser even better and will allow our Public Service Committee co-chairs to get back to the important work of improving the commitment of our members to pro bono and legal aid.

If you heard my speech at our May business luncheon, you heard about the "Justice Gap" in Virginia, and the fact that Virginia lawyers only provide 4% of the pro bono service expected of us under Rule 6.1 of the Rules of Professional Conduct. You also heard statistics from the National Center for State Courts at William and Mary revealing the uncomfortable truth that having a lawyer on your side greatly impacts the outcome of your case in our General District Courts in Virginia.

We need to do better. We need volunteers. We need you. My goal for the year is to engage every member of the MRWBA in pro bono or legal aid to work, to join our raindrops together and create a stream that floods the ocean and makes a difference in the lives of Virginians.

It is going to be an excellent year. I look forward to working with all of you!

Joanna L. Suyes, Esquire
MRWBA President 2018-2019
[Contact Joanna by email](#)

Greetings MRWBA members! The Programs Committee is excited to announce our kick-off luncheon will be held on September 5, 2018 from 12:30 to 2 pm at the Willow Oaks Country Club. Our featured guest will be Abigail Spanberger (D), United States Congressional Candidate for Virginia's 7th District. We likewise invited David Brat (R) who will face Spanberger in the November election to attend our October luncheon, but his team has declined the invitation due to unavailability.

We are excited to welcome Sharon Rowen, Esq. to Richmond on Wednesday, October 3rd for an evening screening of her film, "Balancing the Scales" and a CLE panel to follow. This event is being planned in partnership with the Hill Tucker Bar Association and is not to be missed! Stay tuned for more details.

The October luncheon will be on October 17, 2018 at noon and will feature a speed networking opportunity! Please note the date and time change for the October luncheon.



[Register for the September Luncheon Today!](#)

Mark Your Calendar:

served" basis and we encourage you to keep an eye out for that link in your email on August 1!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Deanna Hathaway, Communications Co-Chair, by phone (804-257-9944, option 1) or email at deanna@hathawayadair.com.

[Click here to view Sponsorship Levels](#)



On June 26, 2018, MRWBA Past Presidents and founders held its annual social to welcome Elizabeth Hanes.

Women of Achievement Award

Nominations for MRWBA's 2018 Women of Achievement Award Recipient are due by October 15, 2018. All necessary information can be found on the Nomination form, [click here](#).

Do you have news to share with our members?

Email Communications Co-Chair, [Laura Manchester](#).

Breakfast with the Henrico County Circuit and General District Court Judges

This breakfast will be held on Wednesday, September 26, 2018, at 8:00 a.m. in Cafe 1611 on the second floor of the Henrico County Administration Building.

A light breakfast will be served. This event is FREE for HCBA members. The cost is \$5.00 for non-members who may pay at the door.

Breakfast with the Henrico County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judges

This breakfast will be held on Friday, September 21, 2018, at 8:00 a.m. in the Henrico J&DR Courtroom #6.

A light breakfast will be served. This event is FREE for HCBA members. The cost is \$5.00 for non-members who may pay at the door.

2018-2019 Programs & Events

All luncheons will be held at 12:30 p.m. at Willow Oaks Country Club (unless otherwise noted)

September Luncheon
Wednesday, September 5, 2018

Guest Speaker: Abigail Spanberger (D), United States Congressional Candidate for Virginia's 7th District

[Register Here](#)

October Luncheon
Wednesday, October 17, 2018
12 p.m.

Topic: Networking Luncheon

"Balancing the Scales"
Wednesday, October 3, 2018
Time/Location: TBD

A movie presentation and discussion on implicit bias and diversity with Guest Speaker Sharon Rowen, Esq.

November Luncheon
Wednesday, November 7, 2018
"CLE credits pending"

Topic: Pro Bono Luncheon
Guest Speaker: Cris Gantz

December Luncheon
Wednesday, December 5, 2018
12:00 p.m.

Topic: Annual Holiday Luncheon and presentation of the 2018 Women of Achievement Award

January Luncheon
Wednesday, January 9, 2019

Topic/Guest Speaker: TBD

February Luncheon
Thursday, February 7, 2019
"CLE credits pending"

Topic: "Staying on the Right Side of the Line"
Guest Speaker: Ashley Davis, Esq.

March Luncheon
Wednesday, March 6, 2019

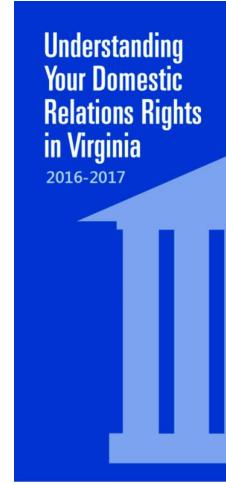
Topic/Guest Speaker: TBD

April Luncheon
Wednesday, April 10, 2019
12 p.m.

Topic: Annual Legislative Luncheon (CLE)
Guest Speakers: Local Legislators TBD

May Luncheon
Wednesday, May 1, 2019

Topic: Annual Business Meeting & Networking Luncheon



View an electronic copy of the pamphlet on the [MRWBA website](#). To order, please contact Public Service Co-Chairs, [Adalyn Brugger](#) & [Valerie L'Herrou](#).