



The MRWBA seeks each year to promote the stature of women in the community and to recognize those women who exemplify legal professionalism.

I. Awards Criteria:

Each nominee shall:

1. be a member of the Virginia State Bar. A nominee who is disabled or unable to practice or deceased will be considered as long as the nominee met the criteria prior to becoming disabled or deceased;
2. have earned the respect of the community at large for her professional and/or civic contributions;
3. have made significant contributions to the legal profession and to the community;
4. have at least five (5) years of professional experience as an attorney. If less than five years, the nominator should provide specific examples of exceptional circumstances;
5. have performed charitable work, *pro bono* legal services and/or any other activities of note that serve to promote the purposes of the MRWBA. (Purposes of the MRWBA are listed below.) However, it is not required that a recipient of the MRWBA Women of Achievement Award be involved in charitable activities;
6. have provided assistance to other women attorneys, particularly as a mentor;
7. have demonstrated leadership skills; and
8. each recipient must be a member of the Metro Richmond Women's Bar Association.

II. Nomination Package Requirements:

The nomination package must include the following:

1. a completed nomination form;
2. an updated, descriptive resume;
3. at least two (2) statements or letters of support for the nominee; and
4. a nominator statement describing the nominee's contributions to the stature of women in the legal profession.

III. Deadline:

All nomination packages must be received no later than 5:00p.m. November 1, 2011, by:

Melanie A. Friend, Esquire
CowanGates, PC
1930 Huguenot Rd.
PO Box 35655
Richmond, VA 23235
804-320-9100
mfriend@cowangates.com

IV. Purpose of the MRWBA

The purposes of the Association as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation follow:

1. To improve the professional competence of area lawyers, including its members, through education and other means;
2. To promote understanding and appropriate reform in the law; judicial procedure and the science of jurisprudence generally;
3. To preserve and promote the honor and integrity of the legal profession;
4. To support and enhance personal satisfaction and professional advancement of women in the legal profession and in the judiciary
5. To promote collegiality among women in the legal profession;
6. To facilitate and improve the administration of justice;
7. To promote the delivery of legal services to the entire community and to foster civic and community service;
8. To promote an increased understanding by the public of the legal system;
9. To inform and stimulate debate among the members of the Association on legal and social issues affecting the legal profession;
10. To undertake any other matters necessary or proper to the operation of a voluntary Bar Association; and
11. To do all things necessary or desirable to carry out the foregoing purposes.

MRWBA Past Award Recipients

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| 2010 | Pam S. Belleman |
| 2009 | The Honorable Cleo E. Powell |
| 2008 | The Honorable Audrey Franks; Maya Eckstein |
| 2007 | Karen Ann Gould |
| 2006 | Phoebe P. Hall |
| 2005 | Jacquelyn Stone |
| 2004 | Ann T. Burks; Barbara M. Rose |
| 2003 | Phyllis C. Katz |
| 2002 | Sharon S. England; Carolyn C. Levecchia |
| 2001 | Darrel Tillar Mason |
| 2000 | Mary R. Spain |
| 1999 | Barbara Ann Williams |
| 1998 | Virginia H. Hackney; Barbara L. Hulburt |
| 1997 | Virginia S. Duvall |
| 1996 | Patricia M. Schwarzschild; Anne Marie Whittemore |
| 1995 | The Honorable Jean W. Cunningham; The Honorable Anne B. Holton Linda F. Rigsby; The Honorable Beverly W. Snukals |
| 1994 | Claire G. Cardwell; The Honorable Bonnie C. Davis; Karen A. Raschke The Honorable Elizabeth B. Lacy; Julie D. McClellan; Sharon Maitland Moon The Honorable Kimberly B. O'Donnell; Virginia W. Powell; Debra J. Prillaman |