

MELISSA S. VANZILE
PRESIDENT

JENNIFER E. LATTIMORE
PRESIDENT-ELECT

ELIZABETH W. HANES
VICE PRESIDENT



JOLEY L. STEFFENS
SECRETARY

JOANNA L. SUYES
TREASURER

MELANIE A. FRIEND
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Shannon L. Taylor receives 2016 Women of Achievement Award from the Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association

The Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association ("MRWBA") proudly announces that The Honorable Mary B. Malveaux and Shannon L. Taylor, Esq. have been named as co-recipients of the MRWBA's 2016 Women of Achievement Award.

Shannon L. Taylor is the first woman to be elected as the Commonwealth's Attorney in the County of Henrico, where she currently serves, after a distinguished twenty-year career within the criminal justice system. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia and the University of Richmond Law School. She served as both an Assistant and Senior Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for the first part of her career, and then as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney, enforcing Project Exile and Project Safe Neighborhoods. She also served as Special Counsel to the Multi-Jurisdictional Grand Jury, enforcing violent crime prosecution. She briefly entered private practice as a defense attorney for Boone Beale, PLLC, before being elected in 2012 to her current position.

Ms. Taylor's contributions to the field of law are significant. She is described as a leader who "inspires others to believe that nothing is impossible to achieve if people come together and work toward a common goal," by one nominator. She currently serves, among her other duties, as an Ethics Committee member of the Virginia State Bar. In the recent past she served as a member of the Legislative Committee of the MRWBA, Governor Terry McAuliffe's Transition Committee, the Mental Health and Public Safety Policy Council, and the Curriculum Committee for the Virginia Association of Commonwealth's Attorneys. Colleagues continue to describe her as humble and accessible to all parties of the criminal justice system and as a person who embodies the qualities of a servant-leader. Ms. Taylor is committed to community service, strongly believing that as paramount to strengthening and achieving change within a community. As such, she encourages the members of her office to take an active role in their communities to promote the positive role of the Commonwealth's Attorney's office.

She is also passionate about assisting the citizens of Henrico, be it through the Victim Witness program, which she oversees, and her tireless work on cases, from investigation through trial. She never loses sight of the impact her office has on the citizens of Henrico County, reassuring the community of her commitment to fairness within the criminal justice system. Ms. Taylor is also a longtime advocate that the office of the prosecutor should be reflective of the community which it represents, and has fostered greater roles for both women and minorities under her leadership.

In both her past and present public duties she has served the community as a role model to the Richmond Bar through her diligent hard work and taking on the arduous task of daily improving our

criminal justice system from within. Ms. Taylor leads her office through her talent and commitment, and has taught younger members of the Bar that respect can be earned through hard work, diligence, and ethical conduct. We at the MRWBA are proud of Ms. Taylor's many contributions to the legal profession and to the community and are pleased to honor her with the MRWBA 2016 Women of Achievement Award.