



2012

THE DAILY RECORD

VIP **LIST**

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BY
40

VERY IMPORTANT PROFESSIONALS



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Letter from the Publisher



SUZANNE FISCHER-HUETTNER

The Daily Record's recipients of the 2012 VIP List — Very Important Professionals Successful By 40 awards — represent an impressive cross section of the young professionals performing great work in Maryland each day.

These VIPs are the ones to watch, at law firms, companies large and small, hospitals, nonprofits and universities.

The Daily Record created its VIP List three years ago as a means of recognizing younger professionals who are finding success in their careers and volunteer work. Winners are selected on the basis of their professional accomplishments, civic involvement and the overall impact of achievements.

Our 2012 VIP list winners, selected from 78 nominees, are amazing individuals who are making an impact in their communities. We celebrate our honorees' accomplishments and hope that by telling their stories, other young professionals will be inspired. I hope you

will enjoy reading more about them in this publication.

The editors of The Daily Record selected the following 40 winners for the 2012 VIP List, but we know there are more out there to be recognized in 2013. You can help us to celebrate the achievements of young professionals you feel are deserving of this honor by forwarding us their names. We want to ensure Maryland's future leaders are rightfully given the recognition they deserve.

Suzanne Fischer-Huettner
Publisher
The Daily Record

VIP JUDGING PROCESS

The judging process for The Daily Record's second VIP — Very Important Professionals/Successful By 40 — was a particularly difficult task because the judges faced an embarrassment of riches. It turns out Maryland is chock-full of accomplished and impressive professionals age 40 or younger.

The judges spent several days reviewing applications before sitting down together to select the winners. The editorial staff was looking for

young professionals who are making especially significant contributions not just to their professions but to their communities as well. The judges emerged with a list of 40 young Marylanders whose influence is being felt across the state and beyond. They are an impressive group.

We hope you will enjoy the stories of these young go-getters. The Daily Record's editorial staff is proud to share them.

Congratulations!

THE DAILY RECORD STAFF

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JENNIFER ROBERTS
Assistant Professor, USUHS — F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine

Growing up, Jennifer Roberts said recently, she always enjoyed learning about science.

“I liked seeing how things worked,” she said, “seeing how they broke.”

With a love of working on a variety of different projects, she decided to go into research. While obtaining her master’s degree from Emory University, Roberts discovered she enjoyed public and environmental health research aimed at solving problems. She earned her doctorate in environmental Earth sciences from Johns Hopkins University.

Today, she divides her research into two themes: risk assessment and how climate change and environmental factors affect humans. Some of her projects include a health study on wind turbines and investigating air pollution and commuter patterns in the Washington metro region.

Working at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, the 38-year-old not only performs research, but also teaches several classes.

She said she enjoys her co-workers and the community atmosphere at the university, which is composed of about half military and half civilian personnel.

“Everyone here is so helpful,” she said. “We have some really great scientists here. ... The two communities mesh well.”



HEATHER DLHOPOLSKY
Associate, Linowes and Blocher LLP

Heather Dlhopsky has built her legal career on land use and environmental issues.

As an associate in Linowes and Blocher’s land use practice group, Dlhopsky assists with zoning, subdivision and site plan matters in Montgomery, Prince George’s and Charles counties.

Dlhopsky said her work builds on an internship she held after law school with the firm’s environmental practice group, assisting in the environmental aspects of real-estate transactions. Before joining Linowes and Blocher as an associate, Dlhopsky worked in the land use and real estate transactions groups at Hyatt, Peters & Weber LLP, focusing on Annapolis and Anne Arundel County.

Dlhopsky today serves as vice president for economic development and government affairs for the Greater Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce. She is the chairwoman of the Western Montgomery County Citizens Advisory Board, president-elect of Commercial Real Estate Women Maryland’s Suburban Chapter and is a board member of Purple Line Now, a group advocating for a light rail link connecting Bethesda, Silver Spring, College Park and New Carrollton.

She is a member of both the Maryland State and Montgomery County bar associations as well as the Urban Land Institute.



STEPHEN D. REIDY
Vice President, Sales and Account Management, UnitedHealthcare

When Stephen D. Reidy walks into his office at UnitedHealthcare, he said recently, he still has the same desire, intensity and goals of helping small businesses and their employees live healthier lives as when he started there 10 years ago.

For the past two of those years, the 35-year-old has served as vice president of sales and account management. Leading a team of 40 employees, Reidy aims to provide services to small businesses and company members in Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington.

Reidy said he enjoys helping others to improve their health through programs offered by the company. One, Small Business Wellness, offers cost-saving incentives for small businesses and their employees to stay healthy.

Reidy holds a bachelor’s degree in English from the University of Vermont.

“I graduated college with the typical dose of idealism that one would expect from a 22-year-old,” he said. “My family worked in health care and showed me that it was possible to make a difference.”



EERK BARRON
Counsel, Whiteford, Taylor & Preston LLP

Erek Barron builds on a wealth of public and private legal experience as a litigator in all aspects of the law.

Barron represents Whiteford, Taylor & Preston LLP’s clients in government investigations, corporate and business litigation. His work is concentrated in white-collar criminal defense and business and nonprofit law. Before joining the firm, Barron had his own

private practice, handling criminal and civil work.

His public service experience includes an appointment to President Obama’s transition team and work as lead counsel and policy advisor to Sen. Joseph Biden, D-Del., and the Senate Judiciary Committee. Barron also prosecuted RICO and conspiracy cases for the Justice Department’s Gang Squad and earned numerous awards and citations as a state prosecutor in Maryland.

Barron serves the public interest through the American Bar Association and the Maryland State Bar Association. As chairman of the MSBA’s Young Lawyers Section in 2011 and 2012, he created a first-of-its-kind, free mobile app that makes the rules of ethics and professionalism and the rules of evidence available to any lawyer with a smart phone or iPad. Barron also volunteers with nonprofits that serve adoption programs, the developmentally disabled, foreclosure prevention and at-risk youth.

**IT’S TIME FOR
CONGRATULATIONS**

Congratulations Stephen D. Reidy
and all the winners for being selected
to The Daily Record’s “VIP List”

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JESSICA TRZYNA
Executive Vice President, Weiss PR Associates Inc.

Jessica Trzyna said recently she knows all about overcoming challenges, citing two in her adult life that resulted in “significant achievements.”

The first was putting herself through Salisbury University while at certain times working three jobs and still “keeping my grades up.” She said she knew early in that time that she would be financially responsible for herself. And “while it was nerve-racking and exhausting at times, I can proudly say that I successfully accomplished my goal.”

Prepared to enter the business world with a communications degree, she chose the public relations field and became a two-time winner of the profession’s most prestigious national award, the Public Relations Society of America’s Silver Anvil. Locally, she served as the point person for the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education’s regional out-reach program, “Achievement Counts,” as well as the Greater Baltimore Technology Council’s community relations program, “Mosh Pit.”

In 2008, she faced her second challenge, starting her own firm with partner Ray Weiss.

“In the four years we have been in business, during the worst economy since the Great Depression, we’ve been able to grow and have enjoyed ourselves in the process,” she said. All of those challenges she successfully overcame in college “mentally prepared me.”



MICHELLE MAYER MOTSKO
Director, Barclays Capital Inc.

As a director with Barclays, Michelle Mayer Motsko works with high-net-worth clients to help them manage their wealth and achieve their financial goals.

“I’m very lucky,” she said. “I have some wonderful clients. I’m proud I can manage their money for them.”

One perk Motsko’s clients can enjoy are free tomatoes. The 39-year-old grows a variety of tomatoes in the backyard of her Owings Mills home. She started with one plant several years ago. This year, her greenhouse includes more than 150. She gives the produce away to those who can use it, including friends, family and clients.

Motsko also is involved in the Claudia Mayer Cancer Resource Center at Howard County General Hospital, named for her mother, who died of breast cancer at age 46. Team Conquer is a group she co-founded to help raise money for the center and cheer on members who are active in a variety of events. Motsko has completed more than 15 triathlons, she said.

“It’s a way to raise funds for a very important cause and do it in a fun and happy way.”

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SARAH JANOWITZ SEDLAK
Director of Business Development, Glass Jacobsen

As director of business development for Glass Jacobsen, Sarah Janowitz Sedlak has responsibilities that include traditional marketing, meeting with clients, maintaining established relationships and helping clients to grow their own companies.

“I really like my job,” she said. “It affords me the opportunity to meet a lot of new people.”

She also said she enjoys being involved in the dynamic business communities of Baltimore and Washington and working with people who are making a difference.

The 31-year-old earned a bachelor of arts degree in English from Washington and Lee University. After spending a year in England as a part of an exchange program for the British Lacrosse Association and U.S. Lacrosse, she returned to the D.C. metro region and worked with a consulting firm before joining Glass Jacobsen in 2007.

Janowitz Sedlak also helped to launch Business Volunteers Unlimited’s GIVE program five years ago, having noticed a void for young established professionals who wanted to give back but were unsure how to do so. GIVE’s 10-month program offers future movers and shakers a variety of seminars and volunteering opportunities. The program “has grown into something amazing,” she said.

Congratulations Holly O’Shea!
From your colleagues at FutureCare



Holly O’Shea, Vice President of Human Relations/Corporate Counsel/Corporate Compliance Officer of FutureCare Health and Management Corporation was recently named one of 2012’s forty ‘Very Important Professionals’ (VIP) by *The Daily Record*, which recognizes Maryland leaders based on their professional accomplishments, a commitment to inspiring change in their community, and their tremendous accomplishments achieved before or by age 40.

Founded in 1986, FutureCare has grown to 12 facilities throughout the greater Baltimore/Washington area. FutureCare is dedicated to providing the highest quality of care and service. We understand that each patient’s needs are unique. Whether dealing with a short-term condition or a long-term life adjustment, we are committed to excellence in our quality of care. Our compassionate clinical teams

offer unmatched expertise in their specialties. We provide specialized care in the areas of orthopedic and neurological rehabilitation as well as dialysis, ventilator and wound care. In addition to our quality services, we focus on comfort, individualization, and helping each patient reach his or her maximum potential, while giving each family peace of mind.



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DONDI WEST
Attorney and Senior Cyber Policy Analyst, Varen Technologies Inc.

Dondi West began his career as an information warfare officer in the Navy and as a consultant and trusted advisor to Department of Defense organizations.

“When we were starting to do certain things, I noticed that we often ran into legal boundaries,” he said. That prompted him, an Alabama native and graduate of Alabama A&M University, to earn a law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law while working full-time for the Navy and, later, Booz Allen Hamilton. He also holds a master of science degree in applied information technology from Towson University.

West said his most significant achievement, based on his earlier military experiences, was being able to “take two unrelated fields — cybersecurity and law — and marry them into a unique area of expertise.” That area is his specialty today in his work as an attorney and senior cyber policy analyst at Varen Technologies.

“You don’t find a lot of people with that skill set. It has allowed me to do a lot of great things,” West said.

Dedicated to other issues affecting veterans, military professionals and their dependents, West also counsels individuals and small businesses on issues including family law and consumer rights through his own law office in Columbia.



BRIAN MINNICH
Project Manager/Architect, Rubeling & Associates

As an award-winning architect and project manager, Brian Minnich has built his career on educational design.

Licensed in the states of Washington and Maryland, Minnich’s experience in creating structures and spaces for public, independent and charter schools can be seen throughout the nation’s Northwest and mid-Atlantic regions. In his time at Rubeling & Associates since 2003, he also has designed single- and multi-family homes, churches, senior living projects, health-care facilities, community centers, retail projects and country clubs. He organizes and manages the firm’s in-house classes and is a U.S. Green Building Council-accredited professional.

Minnich is active professionally as a volunteer for the National American Institute of Architects, serving as chairman for the national School and College Expo and judging national school design competitions.

He gives back to his home community in Carroll County by working with the Freedom Lacrosse League’s under-9-year-old boys’ travel team. Minnich also is a 2006 graduate of Leadership Carroll.



BRIAN L. MOFFET
Member, Gordon Feinblatt LLC

Brian Moffet estimates that about 80 percent of his case load involves the representation of large financial institutions such as national banks and mortgage companies in class-action law-suits.

“I think, by nature, I am a competitive person,” he said. “Litigation is very much like participating in sports.”

The 40-year-old, who has worked for Gordon Feinblatt LLC since August 2004, is chair-man of the firm’s commercial litigation and electronic discovery practice groups. He earned his law degree from the University of Baltimore in 1997.

Moffet said he most enjoys dealing with challenging issues and providing solutions to clients’ problems.

“I’m happy here,” he said. “I enjoy the work I do.”

Since 2005, he also has served on the board of Sinai Hospital. He was elected chair-man of the board in 2011 and will serve a three-year term.

His firm has a long history of being involved with the hospital. Moffet said he is the third Gordon Feinblatt employee to hold the chairman position.

While not a health care lawyer, Moffet said he enjoys learning about different aspects of the medical field through his work with the hospital.



JANE FRANKEL SIMS
Founder/Managing Attorney, Law Office of Jane Frankel Sims LLC

While Jane Frankel Sims was starting her own law firm five years ago, a friend gave her a plaque that she keeps on her desk today: “You must always push your limits because if you never fail, you will never succeed.”

Today, the Towson-based Law Office of Jane Frankel Sims has a thriving practice handling wills, estate tax and trust cases,

Frankel Sims said.

With all of the men in her family owning businesses, the 39-year-old said she’s always been an entrepreneur at heart.

A Baltimore native, Frankel Sims decided to become a lawyer because she has always been a justice-oriented person, she said.

“I like the idea of a rule-based system.”

Frankel Sims received a master’s degree in education from Stanford University and earned her law degree from Harvard University.

She said she enjoys counseling and helping clients with the myriad issues they face and learning about their own, unique stories. She stressed the importance placed on men-toring at her firm and said she encourages employees to “be confident and inspire confi-dence in others.”



JAMES BENJAMIN
Member, Pessin Katz Law PA

James Benjamin has made a career of defending businesses and insurers and advising business owners on structuring and cer-tification issues.

He represents property owners in Baltimore City in complex lead paint and toxic tort litigation, both in trial and during appeals.

His successes in the courtroom include defending property own-ers in lead paint cases involving Maryland’s Consumer Protection Act.

Benjamin also advises businesses concerning Minority Business Enterprise certifica-tion with the state Department of Transportation and MBE and Women-owned Business Enterprise certification in Baltimore City. He also advises small businesses by participat-ing in mentor-protege programs.

Before entering law practice, Benjamin served as a law clerk for Judge Ellen M. Heller in the Baltimore City Circuit Court. He later became an assistant city solicitor within the Baltimore City Law Department, where he successfully argued cases in Maryland’s Court of Appeals involving tenant eligibility for relocation benefits.

A 1994 graduate of the University of Maryland with a J.D. from Maryland’s School of Law in 2001, Benjamin today serves as a board member and president-elect of the law school alumni association. He also is a board member of the Pro Bono Resource Center.



BRIAN M. WHITE
President and Senior Vice President,
Northwest Hospital and LifeBridge Health

As president and chief operating officer of Northwest Hospital since last fall, Brian M. White said recently he works every day to ensure the organization is made “better than it is today by never settling or limiting a vision.”

Previously vice president of the hospital in Randallstown, White also is senior vice president of LifeBridge Health, Northwest’s parent company. Earlier, he served as vice president of business development for LifeBridge Health.

When he was named Northwest’s president, LifeBridge issued a statement in which White cited the role the hospital plays in the northwest Baltimore community: “I inherit a hospital with an intense focus on quality of care; one ranked among the best in patient, physician and employee satisfaction; and one that offers an uncommon blend of sophisti-cated medicine, technology and care.”

Today, White said that although he could proudly list large-scale projects and challenges he has dealt with since becoming the hospital’s president, “at the end of the day, I am just so proud and thankful for what my dedicated team at Northwest and I have been able to achieve in making this thriving community hospital stronger than when we found it.”



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Barry F. Rosen, *Chairman and CEO*

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DOLORES DORSAINVIL
Senior Staff Attorney and Adjunct Professor, D.C. Office of Bar Counsel and University of Maryland University College

Dolores Dorsainvil is passionate about promoting professionalism and integrity in the legal community, she said recently. As a senior staff attorney with the D.C. Office of Bar Counsel, she investigates and prosecutes allegations of ethical misconduct by District of Columbia lawyers. Before working in D.C., Dorsainvil investigated and prosecuted cases of attorney misconduct in Maryland as an assistant bar counsel with the state’s Attorney Grievance Commission. Dorsainvil also is an adjunct professor at the University of Maryland University College, where she teaches legal ethics and law office practice management, and an adjunct professor at American University’s Washington College of Law, teaching legal ethics to second-year law students. She has published numerous articles on ethics for the District of Columbia and Maryland bars and also contributes to her own ethics blog, “The Gavel.” Dorsainvil mentors law students and, in 2005, started the Bar Mentor Project, designed to assist minorities in passing the Maryland state bar examination. Her family’s charitable foundation, the Dorsainvil Foundation Inc., has raised thousands of dollars and collected medical supplies for medical mission trips to Haiti.



DEVIN J. DOOLAN JR.
Partner, Saul Ewing LLP

Doolan has achieved success as an attorney by protecting the rights of employers in their relationship with employees. Working out of Saul Ewing’s Baltimore and Washington offices, Doolan represents employers nationwide before federal, state and administrative tribunals. His successful cases include claims of wrongful discharge, unfair competition, discrimination, harassment, disability and leave violations, breach of contract and wage and hour compliance, he said recently. Doolan negotiates and litigates disputes arising from non-compete, non-solicitation, trade secret and confidentiality obligations and also drafts and negotiates employment contracts, restrictive covenants, separation agreements and employment policies. He speaks frequently and writes about labor and employment matters. Before joining Saul Ewing, Doolan represented the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission in disputes before various state agencies, merit systems boards, police trial boards and state and federal courts. He is active in his community, sitting on the executive committee of the Lawyers’ Campaign Against Hunger, for which he organizes and promotes an annual fundraising campaign benefiting the Maryland Food Bank and the Capital Area Food Bank.



L. TERRI POWELL-BROWN
CEO, Paces Therapy Inc.

L. Terri Powell Brown initially wanted to be a pediatrician because of her desire to work with children. But she later turned to speech pathology as a means to cultivate more meaningful relationships with patients and their families, she said. “I like what I do, because it allows me to become [a part of] the fabric of the community,” she said. The 38-year-old, who holds a master’s degree in communication sciences and disorders from Howard University, started the Fort Washington-based Paces Therapy Inc. in 1999. Today, it serves clients in Southern Maryland, ranging from birth to 7 years old. Common concerns for the parents of her patients include not being able to understand what their children are saying or youngsters who don’t talk at all. After spending multiple sessions with her clients, she said she enjoys being able to build confidence in a child who stutters or help a silent autistic child communicate with her parents through words. “The ability to be understood means everything was worth it,” she said.



HOLLY O’SHEA
Vice President of Human Relations and Corporate Counsel, FutureCare Health and Management Corp.

While working as a registered nurse in 2003, Holly O’Shea decided to fulfill a lifelong dream and obtain her law degree from the University of Baltimore. She was admitted to the bar in December 2008, and has found that being a lawyer “is something I always wanted to do,” she said. The 40-year-old today is putting all of her schooling to use by working in both the health care and legal fields as the vice president of human relations and corporate counsel for FutureCare Health and Management Corporation in Pasadena. “It could not be a better marriage,” she said. Her work at FutureCare affords her the option of working in different areas of the law, including drawing up contracts, medical malpractice and HIPPA issues, she said. “There is nothing better than having meaningful work to do and solving problems for a lot of people.” The mother of two children, ages 2 and 5, also has been heavily involved with helping to start the Frederick Classical Charter School. “We really are a voice for a lot of parents,” she said. The school is set to open in August 2013.



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BRIAN MOFFET

&



BRIAN WHITE



COURTNEY THOMAS (photo on page 10)
Executive Director, Allegany County Human Resources Development Corporation

Courtney Thomas joined the Allegany County Human Resources Development Commission in 2002 as director of housing and community resources and became the agency’s first deputy director in 2006.

When she was named executive director in 2007, it was an organization in transition after several personnel changes and other developments, she said recently. Like many other community action agencies, she said, it had grown from a grassroots organization into a large, complex human service agency with “inefficient operations and limited coordination” among programs.

It became Thomas’s role to “articulate a clear mission and vision” for the agency and provide the necessary tools and opportunities to “create staff buy-in and investment” while also working with staff to ensure they would have the skills required to assist in meeting the agency’s mission.

Five years later, Thomas said she believes that creating a strong management team, expanding the agency’s services along with its annual operating budget during “tough economic times” and completing construction of a new facility have provided her most “challenging, educational and significant career experience” to date.



KATIE ESSING (photo on page 14)
Senior General Manager, The Mall in Columbia

As senior general manager of The Mall in Columbia, Katie Essing is behind its continued status as a venerable institution in Howard County and its future as a magnet to a redeveloped town center.

Essing’s roles include strategic planning, including recently announced plans to convert a 30,000-square-foot retail store and parking area into an open-air plaza with restaurants, shops and a new mall entrance. She is working to bring new tenants to the space, as well as administer the mall’s current leases, manage its workers and keep its common areas clean, safe and secure.

Before coming to Maryland in 2005, Essing served General Growth Properties Inc. as group vice president for marketing in Columbia, Mo., where she planned strategic direction and programming for 19 properties. Essing launched several programs, including holiday programming, rest-room attendants, a Santa pager program and greeters.

She also worked to secure local and national sponsorship deals, gift card income, samplings and shows. Essing is active in the community, working with the United Way of Central Maryland-Howard County and the Howard County Partnership Board. She also holds several key positions in the Columbia Patuxent Rotary, which earned her designation as the 2011-12 Rotarian of the Year.



JIM DICKINSON
Director of Programs and Leadership Development,
Business Volunteers Unlimited Maryland

Jim Dickinson helps individuals and organizations get the most out of volunteerism.

As director of programs and leadership development for Business Volunteers Unlimited Maryland, Dickinson not only leads that organization’s efforts to help potential volunteers find meaningful opportunities, but he also heads the group’s educational offerings for volunteers and nonprofit leaders. He often works with local business and nonprofit leaders to find ways that volunteers can help solve community challenges.

Previously, as BVU’s director of community engagement, Dickinson helped to organize large group days of service for business professionals statewide, helping them build partnerships with public schools. He also worked to connect professionals with skill-building, pro bono consulting opportunities at local nonprofits.

Dickinson has served as a senior organization development consultant and senior human resources analyst at Erickson Retirement Communities and also held positions with the Association of Baltimore Area Grantmakers and the Marion I. and Henry J. Knott Foundation.



YOLANDA SONNIER
Partner and co-founder, Randall & Sonnier LLC

Yolanda Sonnier handles mainly family law cases in her work, and many of her clients come to her at vulnerable moments in their lives.

The 39-year-old said recently she aims to provide them with professional counsel that will help them through the rough parts.

At the end of each day, “I know my law firm has made a difference in a child’s life,” she said.

When she was deciding on a career path, her father, Wilbert Sonnier, suggested becoming a lawyer because of her vocal demeanor. She said earning a law degree at the University of Baltimore was a way to help people.

As a clerk for Judge Marcella A. Holland from 1997 to 1998, Sonnier used the experience not only as a job, but also a way to learn about court procedures and law practices.

The experience “gave me the confidence to start my own practice,” which she ran for three years before co-founding her current practice, the Baltimore-based Randall & Sonnier LLC.

Passionate about helping children, Sonnier also gives her time to several nonprofits aimed at helping children to succeed.

“Anything that is going to make a difference for a child, I am willing to do.”



MERRICK BENN
Attorney, Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice LLP

Business deals — both middle market and big ticket — have been the key to Merrick Benn’s success as an attorney, he said recently.

He has originated acquisitions of manufacturing lines, corporate and commercial aircraft, barges, tankers, railroad rolling stock, software, technologies and, most recently, a mine. His deals have covered leases of all types, loans, commercial paper transactions, and securitizations. GE Capital, M&T Bank and BB&T Equipment Finance Corp. appear on Benn’s client list.

His practice also includes syndicating and participating in existing transactions, and his work with special forms of credit enhancements includes letters of credit, guaranties and insurance policies. Benn also counsels clients on acquiring and disposing of loan and lease portfolios. He lectures frequently on the negotiation and documentation of equipment lease transactions and has authored several publications on equipment leasing and special contracts.

A member of both the Maryland State and American bar associations, Benn also is a member of the Associated Young Leadership Council, a board member and legal counsel for the Baltimore Junior Association of Commerce and a member of the Equipment Leasing Association.



THARA TAYLOR
Director of Development and Communications,
Living Classrooms Foundation

Thara Taylor said recently she values equal opportunity for disadvantaged individuals and believes education is “the key to empowering young people.”

As a former special education teacher, she found that “hands-on, experience-based learning is the most effective.”

That approach has made the Living Classrooms Foundation — for which she serves as director of development and communications — successful in “inspiring positive futures” for the youths it serves. A Baltimore-Washington-based nonprofit, Living Classrooms provides a distinctive competency in what Taylor calls “learning by doing” through its own charter school, after-school and supplemental education programs and environmental experiences, with a special emphasis on serving students who live in high-risk environments. It also seeks to eliminate barriers to success for young adults and families through community development, workforce preparation and life skills training.

Taylor said her family’s involvement in charity and her own background in philosophy and business marketing have contributed to her growth in the organization and her drive to “raise critical support and awareness” to sustain its effective programs in the region it serves.



DAVID HODNETT
Vice President, Trust Advisor, PNC Wealth Management

As a Boy Scout, David Hodnett earned the rank of Eagle Scout, and that honor, he said recently, “laid the foundation for every accomplishment I would make in my academic and professional career.”

Those accomplishments have been significant, from the degrees he earned from Morgan State University, the University of Baltimore and the University of Maryland’s School of Law, to his current position as vice president and trust advisor for PNC Wealth Management.

While he uses his knowledge of trusts and estate administration to help his clients to meet their financial and estate planning needs, he also serves the community as a board member of several nonprofits, including Roberta’s House, a family grief and loss center; the Elijah Cummings Youth Program in Israel; the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland; and the Baltimore Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America. He serves as a district chairman for the Boy Scouts and uses his Eagle Scout experience to lead all Scouting volunteers in West Baltimore.

“As I contemplate my commitment to helping my community, I have come to realize and appreciate the significance of the investment my family, friends and community made in my future.”





MONICA GARCIA HARMS

Principal, Stein Sperling Bennett De Jong Driscoll PC

Monica Harms said recently her most significant achievements in her life and career so far go hand in hand because both deal with being a parent.

When she became a mother to her two young daughters, she said, “it gave me a new perspective in dealing with my clients who are fighting for custody and access of their own children.”

Fighting for them is the focus of her family law practice. She is proud of her past success in helping parents to advocate for what they believe is best for their children, she said.

“I believe that I am at my best professionally helping parents navigate through very high-conflict custody cases.”

While she and her husband “treasure opportunities to shape our own children’s lives and to teach them about life as they grow,” she also has served as a court-appointed attorney advocating on behalf of other minor children. Whether in those cases or representing a parent confronting a difficult custody issue, Harms said she seeks “the best possible outcomes” for her clients and their children.

“The gratification I feel as a mother of my two daughters drives me to fight for the interests of the families I represent,” Harms said.



JAHANTAB SIDDIQUI

Campaign Manager, U.S. Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger

Jahantab Siddiqui said recently he fell into politics accidentally.

Initially a business and marketing major at the University of Maryland College Park, he joined the Student Government Association and discovered a passion for pursuing change.

“I found that while it takes a lot of hard work and requires a lot of hands stirring the pot, the impact of politics on our day-to-day lives is just too big to ignore,” he said.

The 26-year-old graduated in 2008 with a bachelor of arts degree in government and politics. After serving on a number of political campaigns and working as a special assistant to U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski, today he serves as the campaign manager for U.S. Rep. C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger.

“I like government because I learned long ago that, through public policy, we can make a positive impact,” he said.

Siddiqui’s company, J.S. Strategies, provides communications and public relations support to nonprofits and other small clients. He also serves as a board member for the Howard Community College Education Foundation.



HEIDI KLOTZMAN

Founder and CEO, HeidnSeek Entertainment LLC

Been to any great parties or events recently?

You may have Heidi Klotzman to thank for the fun outing.

The 31-year-old is the founder and CEO of the Baltimore-based HeidnSeek Entertainment LLC, which coordinates special events and promotions for individuals as well as a variety of businesses. Klotzman also produces a weekly online entertainment guide sent to more than 42,000 young professionals in the area.

Klotzman grew up around the entertainment industry. Her father is a national concert promoter, and her mother works as a celebrity event planner.

She said she can recall seeing packed arenas full of people, all out to enjoy an event and escape life’s troubles for a short period. “I wanted to be a part of something magical and special” that brought people together for enjoyment, she said.

She began her company in 2005 while attending Goucher College and has already made an indelible mark on Baltimore’s nightlife scene.

But after seeing a void in advice or assistance for professional women in their 20s to 30s, Klotzman also recently helped to put together a monthly group called Jill Of All Trades.

“It’s half business and half personal,” she said. “It’s like a support group.”



EDWARD MEISTER

Vice President, Sales and Marketing, Wells Fargo

Edward Meister has been with Wells Fargo for his entire professional career, beginning as a sales development consultant to his current job as vice president of sales and marketing.

Through nearly a decade, the 32-year-old said he has witnessed the company grow into a huge presence in the marketplace.

“It’s been fun,” he said. “I got lucky. I have to be honest.”

Meister earned a bachelor of science degree in business management with a minor in human resources from York College in 2002.

“I’ve always been drawn to financials,” he said. “It’s something I enjoy doing personally.”

As vice president of sales and marketing, he is heavily focused on branding and running sales strategies.

“I enjoy interacting with the local communities, the customers and volunteer teams,” he said.

Meister also was recently named Corporate Volunteer of the Year by Big Brothers Big Sisters for his role in the Bowl For Kids’ Sake fundraiser, which this year raised \$200,000.

Saul Ewing LLP congratulates our attorneys
Francie C. Spahn and Devin J. Doolan Jr.



on being named to the *Daily Record’s* VIP List for 2012.
We look forward to more great things to come!



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ADAM SPENCE
Principal, Spence & Buckler PC

Adam Spence said recently he plays two key roles and goes between them all the time.

One is his professional job as a Towson-based attorney, representing businesses and individuals while also mentoring lawyers newly admitted to the Maryland State Bar Association. The second is his extensive volunteerism, principally with the Rotary Club and

the Boy Scouts.

Spence was recognized as Rotarian of the Year by the Towsontowne Rotary Club in 2008 for distributing thousands of dictionaries to third-grade students and organizing food bank and book drives for various local charities. Now, the Boy Scouts occupy most of his community time, from the 65 Scouts in his own son's pack to his responsibility for 3,500 Scouts as a district chairman, he said.

"I might go to a Scouts breakfast and then a networking lunch. It becomes seamless," Spence said, adding that he has adopted Rotary International's commitment to "Service Above Self" as his own commitment as well. Born in New Zealand when his father was stationed there in the Navy, Spence said he's "Kiwi by birth, but not much else. I'm about as true-blooded an American as they come."



MARK TYLER
Attorney, Wicomico County Department of Social Services

Mark Tyler said recently he's always been interested in pursuing areas of legal practice laced heavily with public policy and government intervention, particularly those that address the needs of children born out of wedlock or to an absent parent.

Such work has been the focus of his career. Tyler started out as a prosecutor in the Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's

Office. "I enjoyed that work not only because of the positive difference I believe my job made in the lives of victims," he said, but also it was "critical in the implementation and execution of various public policies."

The same can be said of his work in the child support unit of the Wicomico County Department of Social Services, of which he's been a part since 2009, when he and his wife relocated to the Eastern Shore after she completed her pediatric residency at the University of Maryland Medical Center.

Now with their own three children, Tyler cited the tremendous value they bring to his life and his career, in which he sees "far too many people having multiple babies and doing very little to support them." Accordingly, he said, "advancing the cause of supporting our most vulnerable, our children, is such a rewarding job."

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EDUARDO GONZÁLEZ
Attorney, The González Law Firm LLC

Eduardo González very much enjoys practicing law.

"My goal is to treat every client as if they are my only one, whether that's making a phone call, answering another question or taking time to explain something that needs more explaining," he said recently.

Practicing in his Salisbury office, he principally works in the areas of criminal, traffic/DWI/DUI, immigration and family law. He has tried jury and non-jury trials in nearly every type of criminal case, from DUI to attempted murder, he said.

A graduate of the University of Maryland Baltimore County, González earned his law degree at the State University of New York at Buffalo and returned to Maryland to begin his career. He started out as a law clerk in the Somerset County Circuit Court and later worked as an attorney in the Maryland Office of the Public Defender, where he said he handled 10 to 20 criminal cases a day "and loved every minute."

In his spare time, he writes articles for newspapers and magazines. But he considers his selection last year as part of The Daily Record's 2011 Leadership in Law honorees to be his most significant achievement. "I was especially humbled because of the accomplishments of my fellow honorees — individuals who dedicated their careers to bettering their profession and the lives of those around them," González said.



Johns Hopkins Medicine
congratulates

Mark Shaver

and all of the 2012 VIP Award recipients



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Stein Sperling congratulates
MONICA GARCIA HARMS,
co-chair of the firm's family law practice,
on being named to The Daily Record's
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TORBIN GREEN
CEO, Smalltimore Events LLC

Torbin Green's life requires balance between his main job as assistant manager of patient services at the University of Maryland Medical Center and his other endeavor as CEO of Smalltimore Events, an event management company that he co-founded in 2005.

Smalltimore's vision is to celebrate local music, art, style, culture and business through social interactions on what is new and upcoming around Baltimore, Green said recently. From a community block party to assistance with a specific function, Smalltimore helps individuals, committees, groups, nonprofits and local businesses to create "memorable experiences around the Charm City," Green said.

His most significant achievement so far, he said, was the planning, creation and management of the Rum & Reggae Festival and Baltimore Beer Festival. He created both from scratch on shoestring budgets, which is "very hard" for first-year festivals, he said. But they were well-received, and "we raised more money for the charities involved. I'm proud of that," he said.

As for the daily balancing of his two jobs, "it is tough to do, but I like to stay active," he said. "I was motivated by helping the community and others, and it just worked."



TIM BARNHILL
Principal, Vice President, Hord Caplan Macht

With more than 15 years of architectural experience, including international studies and work at sites throughout the United States, Tim Barnhill said recently he is proud to be one of the youngest principals and owners at Hord Caplan Macht, one of the largest architectural firms in Baltimore. He has spent a large part of his career focusing on project development and assisting health-care and corporate clients, and his portfolio includes the design of many different building types, on which his roles have progressed from project manager to principal in-charge.

"I feel a personal commitment and responsibility to my clients to ensure they are completely satisfied with their facility," Barnhill said. Accordingly, he cited as one of his most rewarding achievements the design of the Levindale Geriatric Center, part of the LifeBridge Health community in the Baltimore area.

The long-term care facility is intentionally designed "to bring patients out of their rooms into vibrant social common spaces, where they can interact with each other, with staff and with visitors," Barnhill said. "When I visit the facility and see how different it is from traditional nursing homes and observe how invested the residents are in this unique community, I feel very proud of what we achieved."



CHEO HURLEY
Vice President, Community and Economic Development,
Park Heights Renaissance Inc.

With a background in finance, real estate and administration, Cheo Hurley has been described in an alumni profile in a Gilman School publication as a “perfect fit” for his job.

His reciprocal pride in Gilman is surpassed only by his pride in his hometown, which he demonstrates as vice president for community and economic development of the nonprofit organization executing the official master plan for the Park Heights neighborhood.

Hurley worked previously in a similar capacity for the Forest City-New East Baltimore Partnership, for which he helped to plan and manage more than \$250 million in real estate development.

“Those are two of the biggest redevelopment projects in the city, both trying to turn around decimated neighborhoods,” Hurley said. They also were “very dear to my career. They helped me and all the people I work with change the landscape of the city, creating safer neighborhoods and better housing and just making Baltimore better in general.”

Gilman’s profile also cited Hurley as a “shining example” for current students on the importance of continuing their education well beyond college, as Hurley did, earning master’s degrees from American University and the Carey School of Business at Johns Hopkins.



MATTHEW ESORTHY
Partner, Shapiro Sher Guinot & Sandler

Esworthy has earned top legal honors and ascended to the top of several professional organizations while working as a partner in the litigation department at Shapiro Sher Guinot & Sandler, concentrating on general civil and criminal litigation.

Esworthy’s work in white-collar criminal defense, complex commercial litigation, securities litigation, partnership disputes, employment law and appeals has earned him Martindale Hubbell’s AV Peer Review Rating, reserved for lawyers with the highest ethical standards and professional ability.

His successes have included defending a Baltimore law firm in a multimillion-dollar defamation and invasion of privacy lawsuit brought by a public official, representing minority shareholders of a Fortune 500 company in a complex shareholder dispute and handling a civil conspiracy/intentional tort lawsuit involving internationally renowned recording artists, producers and record labels.

Esworthy serves as chairman of the Cyber Crime Committee of the American Bar Association’s Criminal Justice Section and also is a member of the ABA’s Criminal Justice Section Task Force on E-Discovery and the Maryland State Bar Association’s Special Committee on Voir Dire. He serves on the boards of Baltimore nonprofit Civic Works Inc. and the Clarence H. “Du” Burns Memorial Fund Inc., for which he is also serves as general counsel.



NICK MOSBY
Councilman, 7th District, Baltimore City Council

Born and raised in Baltimore, Nick Mosby said recently he remembers the excitement of his mother, grandmother and teachers when Kurt Schmoke became the city’s first elected African-American mayor.

He knew as early as the third grade that he, too, wanted to run for public office one day. Today, the 33-year-old represents the city’s 7th District on the Baltimore City Council.

“I just love helping people,” he said. “I have a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering, so problem-solving comes naturally to me.”

One of his proudest moments in his first year in office was the passing of a law banning liquor stores from selling any products to children under 18.

He remembers growing up seeing other children purchasing chips and candy sold near cigarettes and alcohol: That’s “not a good place for our children to be in.”

The passage of the law in June was very important to Mosby, who plans on displaying that piece of legislation in a frame in his office.

Another source of pride is Mosby’s involvement, along with Blue Water Baltimore, in an anti-litter campaign, “One Piece,” which encourages residents to pick up one item of trash a day.

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JEREMY STEINBERG
Partner and Vice President of Outsourced Sales, entreQuest

Jeremy Steinberg said recently he believes the entrepreneurial spirit is “the backbone of this country.”

As the son of an economics professor who was an AFL-CIO president, he said he considers himself fortunate to have been hired out of a University of Maryland classroom, where he earned a degree in finance, by another professor who was involved in a start-up company. Over the next several years, Steinberg moved five times, working with several fast-growing companies on their national expansion efforts. He devised and implemented strategies for sales growth and scalability that helped multiple small operations to grow and led him to work within Fortune 500 organizations as well.

“The lessons I learned through hiring, expansion and growth laid the foundation for a business career that has never looked back,” he said. Now, as a partner and vice president of outsourced sales for entreQuest, he designs sales systems and processes that help businesses to improve production, profitability and management.

He also sits on the board of directors of Sales and Marketing Executives International and is active within the Greater Baltimore Technology Council and Greater Baltimore Committee. Frequently invited to present at regional and national business events, he also is a guest lecturer at Towson University.



MARK SHAVER
Senior Director, Business Development and Strategic Alliances,
Johns Hopkins Medicine

Mark Shaver said recently that he loves being a part of the Johns Hopkins Medicine family because of the organization’s push to give back to society.

“Every day, there are people here trying to help others,” he said.

Working as the senior director of business development and strategic alliances, the 38-year-old leads the unit in charge of searching for, developing and maintaining business opportunities with corporate and strategic partners, from start-up entities to Fortune 40 companies.

Those partnerships allow Hopkins professionals the ability to do more with their skills and to expand their knowledge to make a difference to a greater number of people, he said.

Shaver served previously as Johns Hopkins Medicine International’s head of strategic alliances and secured partnerships in several countries, including Japan and Mexico.

With a master’s degree in business administration from the University of Maryland, Shaver worked for JP Morgan’s fixed income division, managing foreign currency accounts before joining Johns Hopkins in 1999.

Shaver serves on the board of directors for the Maryland Chapter of the Association for Corporate Growth, which aims to develop middle-market companies.



FRANCIE COHEN SPAHN
Attorney and LEED AP BD+C, Saul Ewing LLP

Attorney Francie Cohen Spahn first approached her clients in 2002 about the benefits of green building.

She acknowledged recently that many of those clients thought she was going to discuss ways to mitigate asbestos and mold, not support sustainable designs.

The University of Maryland School of Law graduate said she was one of the first lawyers in the state to become a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design-accredited professional. She later obtained designation as LEED Building Design and Construction from the U.S. Green Building Council. She has worked at Saul Ewing LLC for more than 10 years.

“There is a better way to build,” she said. “I wanted to bring that knowledge to my clients.”

Cohen Spahn, 39, said she always saw herself as a lawyer.

“I wanted to be a part of something that could change my community and make it something better.”

She worked previously in fundraising, so she thought handling estates and trusts would be the best fit in her legal career. Married to a builder/developer, she took a class in real estate law and was hooked.



CHRISTIE VERA
Director of Development and Marketing,
National Kidney Foundation of Maryland

Christie Vera said recently she comes from a family of social workers, so “working in the nonprofit world was a natural fit for me.”

First, however, she spent five years in the corporate world in New York. And while she gained valuable experience and great training, Vera said she “knew something was missing. I missed the feeling of being able to make a difference in the community.”

She volunteered for other organizations, and “I knew it was a passion of mine and I wanted to do it full-time,” she said.

Starting in 2006 with the March of Dimes Foundation, Vera improved that group’s visibility and supported its fundraising efforts in Central Maryland.

Last year, she became director of development and marketing for the National Kidney Foundation of Maryland, dedicated to preventing kidney and urinary tract diseases and improving the health and well-being of individuals and families affected by them. Among other accomplishments, Vera led a team that helped the 10th annual Baltimore Kidney Walk to reach new fundraising levels in May. Vera does it all while also working as a mother.

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