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# Letter from the Publisher



SUZANNE FISCHER-HUETTNER

The Daily Record’s recipients of the 2015 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 in 2011 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 2015 VIP list winners 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 Daily Record is recognizing 42 VIP List honorees this year, but we know there are more out there to be recognized in 2016. 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 fourth VIP — Very Important Professionals Successful By 40 awards — 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 were 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 42 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 is proud to present them to you.

Here are the distinguished past-VIP winners who comprised the judging panel.



**Awais Akbar**  
Johns Hopkins  
Medicine



**Gregory K. Kirby**  
Pessin Katz Law,  
P.A.



**Jonathon Rondeau**  
Family League of  
Baltimore



**Billy Apostolou**  
Universal Title



**Bobbie Laur**  
Towson  
University



**Maureen van  
Stone, Esq., M.S.**  
Kennedy Krieger  
Institute



**Tim Bojanowski**  
Zest Social Media  
Solutions



**Thomas  
Maronick, Jr.,  
Esq.**  
The Law Office  
of Thomas J.  
Maronick Jr., LLC

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Photo taken at Horseshoe Casino in Baltimore.

MAXIMILIAN FRANZ/THE DAILY RECORD



**Misti Aaronson**  
COO  
entreQuest

Misti Aaronson has had a significant impact on more than 300 companies in the Baltimore and Washington, D.C. area and has found jobs for more than 250 candidates through her work at entreQuest. Aaronson, 34, has been with the Baltimore-based firm for more than a decade, and was named chief operating officer last year.

She says her most significant professional accomplishment was making partner at the firm by the time she was 30.

entreQuest’s mission is to help organizations grow, regardless of their size, industry, or economy. The firm focuses primarily on talent acquisition, talent management, organizational development, and strategic business advisory services.

At entreQuest, Aaronson has helped develop and implement Impact Days with clients through initiatives that benefit the community through financial impact or volunteer work.

She is a 2012 graduate of the Greater Baltimore Committee’s LEADERShip Program and is an accomplished yoga instructor. Her passions include health and wellness, helping others achieve their personal best and spending time with her family and friends.



**Harmon L. (Monty) Cooper**  
Attorney  
Sedgwick LLP

Monty Cooper practices in the areas of environmental tort and product liability defense with Sedgwick LLP in its Washington, D.C. office. He has more than a decade’s worth of experience, including first-chair jury and bench-trial experience, and has litigated matters on behalf of corporate clients in state and federal courts across the

country. Since 2013, he has been selected as a D.C. Super Lawyers “Rising Star” and recognized by the National Bar Association with its “Nation’s Best Advocates” 40 Under 40 award.

A member of Leadership Maryland’s class of 2015, Cooper is chairman of the board for the Redevelopment Authority of Prince George’s County, where he has led the agency in selecting six development partners for infill development projects with a total cost of more than \$185 million. The agency’s affordable-housing programs have generated more than 260 loans worth more than \$4.2 million for homebuyers.

For his efforts in the community, he has been recognized by the national urban-affairs nonprofit Next City and the Prince George’s County Social Innovation Fund.





**Akeembra Lawrence**

Senior Manager, Board and Nonprofit Services  
Business Volunteers Maryland

Akeembra Lawrence describes herself as a matchmaker. As senior manager of board and nonprofit services at Business Volunteers Maryland, she matches businesses and individuals to nonprofit organizations.

She has been with the organization for more than one year, but has spent her career focused on education and nonprofit organizations.

Lawrence, 34, says her career is defined by connections, and she works to inspire volunteerism.

"I believe that the key to my success is that I'm fully committed to helping others succeed," she said. "Making time to help others is what brings me joy and fulfillment both personally and professionally."

Lawrence also looks for ways to give back to her community, often donating time and resources to community organizations. She also is a board member at Arundel House of Hope.



**Katherine Pinkard**

President  
Pinkard Properties

Katherine Pinkard is the fourth generation in her family to be involved in Baltimore commercial real estate.

Pinkard, 33, founded Pinkard Properties in 2012 along with her father, Greg. Her commercial real estate company specializes in third-party property management and community-centric development projects.

Pinkard said that as a state certified woman-owned firm, her goal is to inspire other young women to get into real estate development. "Women are not well-represented in this industry," she said.

Pinkard also is the vice-chair of the board of the American Red Cross Greater Chesapeake Region, board president of the Homewood Museum and is a volunteer with the University of Maryland Shock Trauma Trauma Survivor's Network. In 2014, she co-founded the organization Females in Real Estate (FIRE) with a good friend in the industry. "I take pride in my achievements being two-fold: inspiring other young women to join or get further involved in the real estate industry and inspiring the next generation of young professionals to get involved in philanthropy and volunteerism in the Greater Baltimore community," she said.



**Alicia D.D. Spoor, Au.D.**

President & Audiologist  
Designer Audiology, LLC

Alicia D.D. Spoor, Au.D., 35, opened Designer Audiology LLC in 2014.

Previously, Spoor was part of the cochlear implant and hearing aid teams at Mayo Clinic in Arizona and a private practice audiologist in the Baltimore and Washington, D.C. areas. She specializes in tinnitus treatment and assistive technology and participates in humanitarian outreach efforts to populations with hearing challenges.

"I provide comprehensive hearing and balance health care services that improve the lives of my patients and those around them," Spoor said.

Spoor also has served as a member-at-large and secretary for the Academy of Doctors of Audiology, chair of the Audiology Quality Consortium, legislative chair and president of the Maryland Academy of Audiology and member of the Salus University Osborne College of Audiology advisory board.

Spoor also has mentored students nationwide and volunteers to supervise future Doctors of Audiology.



**Zenita Wickham Hurley**

Chief Counsel for Civil Rights and Legislative Affairs  
Maryland Attorney General's Office

For more than a decade, Zenita Wickham Hurley has dedicated her career to public service and the development of policies that ensure fair and equal treatment for all Marylanders, regardless of race, ethnicity or gender.

Hurley now serves as chief counsel for civil rights and legislative affairs in the Maryland Attorney General's Office.

Previously, she served for three years as special secretary of the Governor's Office of Minority Affairs. There she led negotiations to secure broad stakeholder support for transitioning non-profit organizations out of the state's Minority Business Enterprise, which focused the program's resources on addressing historical and continuing racial and gender discrimination against minority and women-owned businesses. Hurley also led the state's efforts to extend MBE credit to minority businesses working as prime contractors in state procurement.

In her current role, Hurley played a key role in securing the passage of the False Claims Act during the 2015 legislative session, enhancing access to public information and expanding consumer protections.

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Photo taken at Federal Hill in Baltimore.

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**Nona O. Carroll**  
Program Director  
Maryland Business Roundtable for Education

Nona O. Carroll is leading a multi-faceted youth empowerment movement that brings the business and education communities together on one front. Her efforts as program director at the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education (MBRT) include pushing for stronger standards and accountability in Maryland’s public schools. Carroll, 39, was at T. Rowe Price before joining the MBRT in 2011. At the MBRT, Carroll expanded the Maryland Scholars Speakers Bureau program into 52 eighth grade classrooms in the highest need school districts, reaching about 8,000 students. “I am fortunate to be an advocate for Maryland’s young people by providing access to opportunities where they can hear and learn from business professionals throughout the state,” she said. “Through our programs, I am hoping to inspire students to reach above what is expected, to the extraordinary, and become contributing members of Maryland’s future work force.”



**Chantal M. Joseph, Esq.**  
Attorney  
Law Office of Chantal M. Joseph, LLC

Chantal M. Joseph, Esq., is a driving force in the criminal defense, immigration and family law fields in Maryland. Joseph, 36, worked for about a decade in the Office of the Public Defender in Baltimore. In 2014, she started a new career as a solo practitioner to open her own firm, the Law Office of Chantal M. Joseph LLC. She says entering private practice has been her most significant professional accomplishment to date. “As the first attorney in my family, to have my own practice means the world not only to me but also my family,” Joseph said. She also is proud of her pro bono work through Catholic Charities of America. “As an attorney with an undeniable love for the underprivileged, I decided to volunteer with Catholic Charities and help those who cannot afford to pay for counsel realize the American Dream,” Joseph said.



**Orlando James Mayo**  
Partner  
TBMG

Orlando James Mayo, a partner at TBMG, represents a broad array of businesses and individuals in business litigation, criminal defense, regulatory investigations and serious personal injury matters. He has extensive experience in all facets of litigation and has represented national financial institutions, national energy conglomerates, real estate developers and multi-national manufacturers. Mayo, 40, routinely represents parties to business disputes concerning, among other issues, breach of contract, sales of goods under the Uniform Commercial Code, breaches of fiduciary duty and business torts. Prior to forming TBMG, Mayo was a solo practitioner for several years where he mastered the art of merging fiscal efficiency with stellar results for his clients. He also has volunteered as co-director of a mentoring program for Patterson High School students and has volunteered as a football coach for about 20 years. “I make every effort to have the young men I interact with aware of their worth and power – and the value of unfettered perseverance,” Mayo said.



**Genevieve de Mahy**  
Artistic Director  
Single Carrot Theatre

Genevieve de Mahy moved to Baltimore in 2007 as a founding member of Single Carrot Theatre. She is a talented interdisciplinary theater artist, primarily focused on directing, performing and writing. Her background in international development operations has largely informed her work as an artist and leader. She has worked on programs in Egypt, India, Indonesia, Morocco and Tunisia. When de Mahy, who now serves as Single Carrot’s artistic director, first arrived in Baltimore, there were few ensemble theater companies. Since Single Carrot’s founding, there have been dozens of small theater companies that have opened their doors. Single Carrot now is the fourth largest theater company in Baltimore. “We were pioneers in that movement that has invaluable enriched the Baltimore cultural scene,” she said.



**Melissa Martinez**  
Associate  
McGuireWoods LLP

Melissa Martinez’s practice at McGuireWoods LLP focuses on intellectual property litigation, business litigation, business torts and contractual disputes. She has experience in trial and appellate matters and specializes in complex patent litigation involving consumer electronics, computer systems, GPS and wireless technology. Martinez, 32, joined McGuireWoods as an associate in 2012. She was an integral member of the firm’s team that represented an oil company in securing the largest reversal of monetary damages handed down by a Maryland court – more than \$1.5 billion in verdicts rendered by juries in two cases stemming from a 2006 underground gasoline leak at a service station in the state. Before entering private practice, Martinez was a judicial intern and law clerk to the Hon. Andre M. Davis in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland and the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals. Martinez has served as president of the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Maryland since July.



**Elijah Northen**  
Principal  
EN Architects

Elijah Northen launched his own architecture studio in 2014 after working for several firms, including Ayers Saint Gross. Northen, now principal at EN Architects, strives to enhance the Baltimore community by creating spaces that embody place and time. Since launching his office, he has completed several projects and is actively engaged in many more; including a prominent church renovation on Canton Square and an apartment building addition to a historic structure in Fells Point. He is currently collaborating with several local designers to launch Analogue, the acquisition and development branch of his office. “I want unite people and improve their lives through simple, relatable design, free of ego and complexity,” he said. Northen, 34, also serves as vice chair of Emerging Leaders United, a branch of the United Way of Central Maryland. He is a lecturer with the University of Maryland school of architecture where he recently lead a design studio focused on urban infill in Baltimore. Outside of his professional life, Eli is married and a father of 4 year-old twins.

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Photo taken at Enoch Pratt Library.

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**MacKenzie R. Garvin**

Special Assistant, Office of Economic and Neighborhood Development  
Baltimore City Mayor’s Office

MacKenzie R. Garvin’s work as special assistant in the Office of Economic and Neighborhood Development is dedicated to improving the quality of life for Baltimore residents through influencing policy, creating access to business and job opportunities and helping people fulfil their dreams of owning homes.

“I wake up every morning excited about the promise of Baltimore. I am devoted to the work because I know it means something and most importantly am grateful that I am the lucky one who gets to do it,” Garvin said.

Garvin says her most significant accomplishment has been her role in the development of the Regional Training Center in Park Heights and bringing the Jane Addams Resource Corporation to Baltimore to provide welding and CNC machinist training for low-income and displaced residents in Baltimore.

The goal, she said, is to help the most vulnerable populations in Baltimore obtain a job with “family-sustaining wages.”



**Robin McKinney**

Director  
Maryland CASH Campaign

Robin McKinney is director and co-founder of the Maryland CASH (Creating Assets, Savings & Hope) Campaign, a nonprofit organization that promotes financial security for working families. The Maryland CASH Campaign’s statewide network of partners annually prepares more than 19,000 free tax returns for low-income Marylanders, bringing in \$32 million in tax refunds, and provides free financial education classes and coaching through the Maryland CASH Academy, an online resource statewide.

“My job is to expand opportunities for low- to moderate-income individuals and families to achieve their financial dreams,” McKinney, 37, said. “As a trained social worker, I focus on people and their lives from the emotional side of financial decision-making, not just the math.”

For the past 14 years, McKinney has worked in the field of asset building, engaging in fundraising, advocacy and program and coalition management, including for the Annie E. Casey Foundation. She is a board member of the Corporation for Enterprise Development, Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition and the Rural Maryland Foundation.





**Aimee N. Metrick**  
Vice President, Public Relations, Beltway Region  
Comcast

As vice president of public relations for Comcast’s high-profile Beltway Region, serving Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia, parts of Delaware and West Virginia, Aimee N. Metrick has one of the most dynamic jobs in cable.

For eight years, Metrick, 38, has deftly handled all local PR opportunities, earning a reputation for her skills, dedication and passion.

“Aimee is clearly one of the cable industry’s best,” said Thomas Coughlin, senior vice president of Comcast’s Beltway Region.

Metrick also has served on the board of Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Chesapeake for about two years. She has combined her personal commitment to the organization with a professional opportunity as the executive sponsor and driving force behind Beyond School Walls, a workplace mentoring partnership launched in 2014 that helps at-risk children reach their fullest potential through one-to-one matches with Comcast employees.



**John E. Pastalow, III**  
Associate Financial Advisor  
Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

John E. Pastalow III is an associate financial advisor at Shuck and Associates, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc.

Pastalow, 38, has been with the firm since 2001 and has developed a reputation as a successful and dedicated financial adviser in the Baltimore metropolitan area.

“I’ve always been a strong believer in working hard, in an ethical manner and letting my results speak for themselves,” he said.

Pastalow is also committed to aiding the Baltimore community through his considerable investment of time and energy in various community organizations.

He serves as chair of the young members committee at The Center Club and also is a member of its board of governors. He is actively involved with the Living Classrooms Foundation, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, A Friend to the Homeless Inc., and other community efforts.



**Christina Hester Snyder**  
Vice President & Senior Trust Advisor  
PNC Bank

Christina Hester Snyder has more than 20 years of financial services industry experience. In her current role as a senior trust adviser and vice president for PNC Wealth Management, Snyder assists clients with their estate and financial planning needs and the administration of trusts, IRAs and investment management

accounts.

“I am passionate about helping my clients achieve their financial aspirations and I consistently strive to provide an exceptional experience,” she said. My goal is to serve as a trusted adviser and ensure the client experience is positive from the outset.”

Committed to giving back to the local community, Snyder is a member of the BSO Planned Giving Advisory Council, a board member of Pratt Contemporaries and a member of the Baltimore Estate Planning Council, Women in Business at the Center Club and Women in Insurance & Financial Services. She is also a graduate of Getting Involved in Volunteer Experiences, a program operated by Baltimore Volunteers Maryland, and volunteers with a number of nonprofit organizations.

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Photo taken at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore.



**Dr. Jean Accius**

Director, Health and Long-Term Services and Supports Policy  
AARP

Dr. Jean Accius is a recognized thought leader on aging, health and long-term care issues. Accius, 36, is director of health and long-term services and supports policy at AARP.

He says his most significant accomplishment has been advancing innovative policy recommendations and bold solutions to ensure communities across the country have the resources they need to support older adults desiring to live independently for as long as possible. “I have the great fortune of waking up every morning thinking about innovative ways, through policy and advocacy, we can create a healthier society and increase the quality of life and care for older adults, their families and future generations,” he said. Accius also is involved in several civic and community organizations dedicated to addressing the challenges facing residents in Prince George’s County. Among other things, he is a member of Leadership Maryland, a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., and serves as the national chair of the public policy committee. He has volunteered at a domestic women’s center and nursing home and facilitated symposiums on health care and caregiving and more.



**Jacqueline Allen Brooks**

Senior Associate  
Saul Ewing LLP

Jacqueline Allen Brooks, a senior associate at Saul Ewing LLP, has developed a reputation as a top corporate and finance attorney. Brooks, 34, who was selected as a 2014-2015 fellow of the Maryland State Bar Association Leadership Academy, also is passionate about community service and pro bono work.

As part of the program, Brooks and her other fellows led a pro bono small business boot camp in West Baltimore, which provided aspiring entrepreneurs and existing small business owners with seminars about business planning and law that are important for forming and operating a small business. Participants also received free legal advice regarding starting a business or existing issues in their small business. Brooks recently received the Alex Fee Pro Bono Award, given by MSBA, based on her pro bono contribution. She also mentors Baltimore high-school students through Community Law in Action, volunteers with the Homeless Persons Representation Project to assist those that are homeless or at risk of being homeless with having their criminal records expunged and serves as a board member of the Homeless Persons Representation Project and the American Red Cross of the Chesapeake Region.





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### Dan Cohen

Chief Operations Officer  
Mindgrub Technologies

As chief operations officer at Mindgrub Technologies, Dan Cohen is focused on business development and sales. Outside of client communications, Cohen, 33, also oversees the information technology team and helps guide internal market-

ing strategies. He also serves as the firm's business architect, designing a sturdyfounda-

tion for growth. With a strong background in operations, Cohen continues to build a solid infrastructure by defining roles, streamlining communication channels and identifying opportunities for success.

"Since the growth and success of the company is a direct reflection of how I'm doing my job, I love to see the company be successful and be rewarded for the hard work we are all doing," he said. Cohen also has been a member of the Tech Board of The Associated and worked with the ADA of Maryland community as a young leader bringing awareness and raising funds to support ADA's mission of diabetes awareness.



### Patrick Dougherty

Chief Market Analyst  
Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore

As chief market analyst for the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore, Patrick Dougherty monitors trends in local economic development to compare the Baltimore region with the U.S. and other regional economies.

His research helps the EAGB in its efforts to identify areas of opportunity for growth in the region and helps prospective companies in their decision to grow in Baltimore.

"I construct a data-driven picture of how a business can benefit from operating in greater Baltimore," Dougherty, 24, said. "I'm able to synthesize information about Baltimore from disparate sources and communicate a clear narrative describing why Baltimore is a world-class place to live, work, learn and invest."

He also is responsible for the publication of thought leadership reports for EAGB and partner organizations.

Dougherty also remains active in the community outside of EAGB. In 2014, he graduated from Business Volunteer Maryland's GIVE program and serves as an Orioles analyst for Baltimore Sports and Life.





**Rebecca A. Fleming**

Partner  
Turnbull, Nicholson & Sanders, P.A.

Rebecca A. Fleming is a partner at Turnbull, Nicholson & Sanders, P.A., where she focuses her practice on family law. Over the course of her 15-year legal career, Fleming has developed an appreciation for the emotional complexities of family law issues, and treats all clients with the utmost respect and dignity while they face the most personal issues that a court case can involve. Fleming, 40, is the treasurer of the Baltimore County Bar Association, vice president of the Baltimore Carroll Chapter of the Women’s Bar Association, president of the Dissenters Law Club and a member of the Section Council of the Maryland State Bar Association Family and Juvenile Law Section. In addition, she serves on the character committee of the Maryland State Board of Law Examiners for the Second Appellate Circuit (Baltimore and Harford counties) and was recently appointed by Gov. Larry Hogan to serve on the Judicial Nominating Commission for the 4th District (Harford County). She is also a member of the Harford County Bar Association.



**Talley H-S Kovacs, Esq.**

Senior Associate Attorney  
Pessin Katz Law, PA

Talley Kovacs’ practice at Pessin Katz Law, PA focuses on complex civil litigation, insurance coverage disputes and business litigation. She has motions and trial experience in state and federal courts. She worked in public policy, homeland security and public health and clerked for the Hon. Clayton Greene, Jr. on the Maryland Court of Appeals prior to entering private practice with Pessin Katz in 2011, where she serves as a senior associate attorney. As part of her civil litigation practice, she is a member of the PK Law’s “Flood Team,” a group of attorneys who represent a national insurance carrier in ongoing catastrophic claims across the country related to storm damage and has contributed to a unique case management process that allows the firm to handle a large volume of complex first party property damage cases in an efficient and effective manner. Kovacs also is an ambassador for the United Way of Central Maryland, Emerging Leaders United and a member of the alumni board of the Francis King Carey School of Law at the University of Maryland, among other community groups. She is a long-time supporter and former member of the board of directors for the Downtown Baltimore Family Alliance.



**Jeffrey M. Judge**

Certified Financial Planner  
MetLife Premier Client Group

Jeffrey M. Judge has worked as a certified financial planner at MetLife Premier Client Group since 2011. “I help my clients protect the things and people that they love,” Judge, 32, said. “There is no greater motivator than love and when you allow that to be the common denominator behind your financial decision making, it takes away the uncertainty and the fear.” Judge says that his most significant professional achievement is helping his mother retire by giving her the confidence to know that after years of hard work she could retire and had sufficient income to live comfortably after years of hard work. Judge also works with The Helping Up Mission, Habitat for Humanity, Rebuilding Together and other charities and has been involved in the Bel Air Lions Club, Perry Hall White Marsh Business Association and other organizations.



**Lance Scott**

Founder  
Bay Harbor Wealth Management

Lance Scott began his career in the financial services industry working for his father who owned and operated a yacht financing company based in Fell’s Point, with offices nationwide. Scott, 34, launched Bay Harbor Wealth Management five years ago. “I felt that I could have worked for a large wealth management firm as a financial adviser and been successful, with less risk,” Scott said. “But I also knew that I could add a unique value that was lacking in my industry to Maryland business leaders and entrepreneurs that do not have the same benefits as very wealthy investors.” He also hosts “The Road to Retirement” radio show on CBS and Clear Channel in Baltimore. He sponsors and teaches a course at Loyola University designed to help people nearing retirement to acquire tools to make sound financial decisions and also volunteers with the nonprofit organization Stocks in the Future, which helps drive financial literacy in Baltimore area middle schools.

**TURNBULL, NICHOLSON & SANDERS**  
Congratulates  
*REBECCA A. FLEMING*  
on being named to the  
**Very Important Professionals List for 2015**







Photo taken at National Harbor.

MAXIMILIAN FR ANZ/THE DAILY RECORD



**Michael P. O'Day**  
Partner  
DLA Piper

In more than a decade at DLA Piper — the last three years as partner — Michael P. O'Day has built a national litigation practice handling complex commercial disputes. He has represented and achieved important victories on behalf of the firm's notable clients, including Marriott, Travelers, Cigna, Allstate and

NVR, among others. "Integrity, professionalism and hard work have been the keys to my success," O'Day, 39, said. "My litigation practice is diverse, and I have been able to adjust to the significant changes and demands of the legal market. Handling high-stakes matters throughout the country is challenging and rewarding. I am proud of building a successful practice and developing strong client relationships while also having a balanced family life." He also gives back to his community through DLA Piper's Combat Related Special Compensation pro bono program for disabled veterans. Among other things, O'Day oversees the applications for extra benefits for disabled veterans who served in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. "The firm-wide program has been extremely successful and resulted in awards of monetary benefits for injured combat veterans," he said.



**Adeyinka O. Ogunlegan**  
Vice President, Public Policy & Outreach  
Chesapeake Public Strategies

Adeyinka O. Ogunlegan relaunched her career in 2013 after taking five years to focus on her family and raise her two young children. Since then, she has quickly climbed the ranks at Chesapeake Public Strategies in Rockville and now works as vice president of public policy and outreach.

The firm is a full-service government and public affairs firm providing lobbying, outreach, public relations, crisis communications and more to companies in Maryland and throughout the Washington, D.C. metro region. "I re-entered the work force and quickly established myself as a leader who can deliver results," Ogunlegan, 33, said. "In the short time I have been with Chesapeake Public Strategies, I have been promoted twice, earned international awards recognizing our work and expanded the firm's relationships in new jurisdictions." She also serves on Volunteers of America-Chesapeake's human rights committee and is a member of the Prince George's County Chamber of Commerce legislative action committee and provides pro bono immigration assistance through local community organizations.



**Miguel Palmeiro, Esq.**  
Managing Partner  
The Law Office of Miguel Palmeiro

Miguel Palmeiro, Esq., has gone from working in his brother's law office to managing his own boutique law firm in Rockville in just a few years. Palmeiro, the managing partner of The Law Office of Miguel Palmeiro, earned his law degree in 2006 and has developed a reputation as a skilled and passionate attorney.

"Every client that I've helped has been my most significant professional accomplishment," he said. "That's why I get up in the morning, to help people in need." Palmeiro also is active his county and state bar association and recently was elected to the Maryland Hispanic Bar Association's board of directors. Palmeiro is fluent in Spanish, Portugese, French and English. He also works with the Maryland Office of the Public Defender as a pro bono initiative member and serves as a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

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Photo taken at Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

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**Whitney A.N. Burton**  
**MHP, MSW, CPH**

Linkage to Care Coordinator  
STAR TRACK, University of Maryland School of Medicine

Whitney A.N. Burton works with youth and young adults living with HIV/AIDS between the ages of 12 and 26.

As linkage to care coordinator at STAR TRACK at the University of Maryland School of Medicine Department of Pediatrics, Burton’s goal is to keep patients in comprehensive medical care via education, psychosocial assistance and consumer-driven and centered care services, such as job assistance and support groups.

Burton also creates innovative programs based on consumers’ needs, including a drop-in workout class for young mothers for weight loss, space for consumers to practice the online versions of the MVA drivers’ test and art therapy groups.

“While these programs may not appear to address peoples’ chronic conditions, they actually do, as having a driver’s license assists with people making their appointments in a timely manner, weight loss reduces their risk of developing HIV-related diseases and art therapy can be utilized as an alternative and positive coping method to replace drug use,” she said.



**Rachel Hirsch**

Senior Associate  
Ifrah PLLC

Rachel Hirsch is a civil litigation and white collar criminal defense attorney at Ifrah PLLC.

A senior associate at the law firm, Hirsch, 32, primarily works in the online advertising and Internet gaming spaces.

Having developed her professional career alongside these growing industries, she understands her clients’ needs like few others. She speaks their language, deeply understands their businesses and is familiar with the legal challenges they may encounter. Since navigating the complex regulatory and legal issues of affiliate advertisers and Internet gaming platforms is second nature to Hirsch, she knows what it takes to resolve business interruptions and get their internet-based business clients back up and running.

“Within the span of four to five years, I was able to establish a name for myself as an expert in online marketing-related issues in what is otherwise a male-dominated field,” she said.



**Luke Cooper**

Founder & CEO  
Peach

Luke Cooper is founder and CEO of Peach Labs, a venture-backed technology startup that is revolutionizing the insurance industry.

Cooper, 38, grew up in a single-parent household with a father in jail most of his life. He put himself through college playing basketball and earned his law degree from the Syracuse University College of

Law. Cooper practiced law, serving a stint as in-house counsel at State Farm, and later allowed his entrepreneurial spirit to flourish and started Peach, where he was accepted in the prestigious TechStars Rising Stars program in Colorado.

Cooper’s fast-growing company has an ambitious goal to tie real-time property loss to 21st century insurance solutions. And they are doing just that with their patented solution DropBot, which automatically detects damage to your smartphone and handles the repair or replacement in just a few hours.

“I am living proof that entrepreneurship is the most effective tool in solving abject poverty,” Cooper, a board member of TEDCO, said. He also supports the Greater Baltimore Living Classrooms and the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship.



**Kara McKinley Kunst**

Director of Legislative Affairs  
Office of Baltimore City Council President

As director of legislative affairs in the Office of the Baltimore City Council president, Kara McKinley Kunst says she has the privilege of working to improve the city by working to create, advocate for and implement public policies that protect communities, create jobs and strengthen accountability and invest in the city’s youth.

“As part of my work, I get to develop and implement policies that have a direct impact on the lives of that that live, work and play in Baltimore,” she said. “The policies that I’ve helped develop have led to individuals being able to access jobs or find summer programs for their children or gain access to the resources need to open a new business.”

Kunst, 32, says she is most proud of her work securing passage of the city’s local hiring ordinance, which helps to hire more Baltimore residents to work on Baltimore government contracts.





Rachael L. Lighty

Executive Director, External Relations,  
Communications and Media Relations  
Laureate International

Rachael L. Lighty was the lead spokesperson for BGE until April, when she joined Laureate International, a higher education provider with more than 80 universities that educate 1 million students in 29 countries.

Laureate’s more than 80 universities educate 1 million students in 29 countries.

At BGE, Lighty’s most significant professional accomplishment was the management of the crisis communications and media relations, effectively managing risk to BGE’s reputation daily and throughout the restoration efforts during extreme events, including two hurricanes, a derecho and several winter storms.

Lighty, 32, is a board member of the United Way of Central Maryland’s Emerging Leaders United and vice president of the Baltimore Public Relations Council.

As a certified cause consultant through the Georgetown University Center for Social Impact, Lighty provides pro bono strategic communications, media relations, social media and digital engagement consultation for The Literacy Lab in Washington, D.C.



Jaime Walker Luse

Litigation Partner  
Tydings & Rosenberg LLP

Jaime Walker Luse, 37, began her career at Tydings & Rosenberg LLP as a summer associate and now is a litigation partner where she defends businesses of all sizes in commercial and employment litigation.

An advocate who has prevailed in many difficult trials, she has experience in the state and federal courts of Maryland, District of Columbia and Virginia. In addition to her commercial litigation practice, Luse defends employers against employment-related claims, including discrimination under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, violations of the Family Medical Leave Act, claims brought under the Americans with Disabilities Act and unlawful retaliation.

She is an active member of the DRI-The Voice of the Defense Bar and was appointed to its Law Institute, which is responsible for seminars and alternative forms of CLE programming. Luse is a member of the board of directors of The Columbia Orchestra and a 2015 graduate of Leadership Howard County’s Leadership Premier.



Guy Sheetz

Executive Vice President, Supply Chain  
Medifast, Inc.

Guy Sheetz, 34, oversees the procurement, logistics, product development and manufacturing operations at Medifast Inc., a manufacturer and provider of weight-loss and healthy living products and programs.

“My role at Medifast helps to enhance the customer experience to make weight maintenance and healthy living easier,” he said. “Through Medifast, we are helping people get healthy and change their lifestyle.”

Sheetz also is involved in the community and actively supports a number of local volunteer and youth organizations. He is a member of the President’s Advisory Council at McDaniel College where he the college and helps with alumni events. He also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and Medifast’s Community Impact Programs.

He encourages his team and employees to volunteer time at the Maryland Food Bank and Believe in Tomorrow Children’s House at Johns Hopkins, among other organizations.



Brent Weiss, CFP, ChFC

Principal  
Brotman Financial Group, Inc.

Brent Weiss, CFP, ChFC joined Brotman Financial Group, Inc., in October 2005 as an associate. In January 2011, at age 28, Weiss became a principal of the firm. He chairs the investment and planning committees and delivers financial planning and wealth management advice for the firm’s clients.

Weiss graduated with Cum Laude honors from the University of Notre Dame in 2005 with a degree in finance. He is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNERTM (CFP®) practitioner and a Chartered Financial Consultant® (ChFC®). He is a graduate of the Leadership Baltimore County class of 2013 and is currently serving on their board of directors.

Weiss is president of the University of Notre Dame Club of Maryland. He also is a member of the university’s Monogram Club (a national network of university athletes) and serves as the coordinator for Region 12 of the Alumni Association.

Weiss was recognized by Forbes Magazine as one of its “30 Under 30” in the field of finance in 2012.

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DLA Piper congratulates all of those named on *The Daily Record’s* VIP List, including our colleague Michael O’Day. Michael is not only a dynamic lawyer with a thriving practice but an outstanding mentor and role model. We are proud to call him our colleague and friend.







Photo taken at Lawyer’s Hall in Annapolis.

MAXIMILIAN FR ANZ/THE DAILY RECORD



### Scott Warner MacMullan

Managing Member  
Scott MacMullan Law, LLC

Scott Warner MacMullan, 34, started his own solo practice in 2012 and now is managing member of Scott MacMullan Law LLC, a criminal defense and personal injury practice. He has developed a reputation as a successful attorney who also helps young lawyers who are entering the profession.

He recently was a member of the Maryland State Bar Association Special Committee on Law Graduates, which developed an incubator to help young lawyers. MacMullan also is frequently contacted by young attorneys seeking advice about starting their own practices.

He is involved in public service projects through the Maryland State Bar Association, participates in Homeless Resource Day and is a member of the American Bar Association Commission for Homelessness and Poverty.

He recently was on the Anne Arundel County “Great Give” Planning Committee, which helped raise more than \$900,000 for 186 nonprofit organizations.



### Shameeka Price

Principal Broker/Owner  
Capital Structures Real Estate LLC

Shameeka Price, owner of Capital Structures Real Estate LLC, has developed a reputation as one of the top female brokers in Prince George’s County.

Price, 38, has expanded her company beyond loans and home buying and also launched the nonprofit program Financial

Education & Empowerment Development, which is dedicated to spreading financial literacy.

“My level of education in my career has allowed me to support my clients in all situations as it related to purchasing and maintaining their homes,” she said. “In 10 years and over 100 transactions, I am proud to say that my clients have not had to experience any foreclosures.”

Price also is on the board of directors for the Prince George’s County Chamber of Commerce, a board member at Reid Temple Senior Services Inc, and recently was named Entrepreneur of the Year by the chamber.



### Christopher W. Roberts

Attorney  
Lerch, Early & Brewer, Chartered

Christopher W. Roberts, an attorney at Lerch, Early & Brewer, Chartered, has earned a reputation as a star in the legal community. A family law attorney, Roberts is dedicated to helping his clients manage one of the most difficult times in their lives — when they are separating or divorcing.

Roberts’ service to his clients did not let up when two years ago he was diagnosed with Hodgkin lymphoma. During his six months of chemotherapy, Roberts maintained a full case load, continuing to assist his clients and their families. He also continued in his leadership roles in the legal community and his community at large during his illness and treatment. A tireless champion for the Special Olympics, he reprised his role as a co-chair for the Montgomery County chapter’s second annual Inspiration Walk, even running a 5K in the event. Having completed six months of chemotherapy in December 2013, Roberts has had a clean bill of health for more than a year and continues his dedication to his practice and his involvement in the community.



### Rudy Ruiz II

Executive Director, Secondary Education Services  
Baltimore City Public Schools

Since moving to Baltimore one year ago and joining Baltimore City Public Schools as its leader for college and career readiness, Rudy Ruiz II has consistently strived to improve the lives of the city’s students.

Ruiz, 37, was one of only two staff members that Baltimore City Schools CEO Dr. Gregory Thornton brought with him from Milwaukee. Ruiz began as a teacher in the Milwaukee public school system and worked his way up to become the director of college and career readiness for that city’s public school system.

“I support the youth of Baltimore in making a successful transition to adulthood, helping break generational cycles of poverty,” he said.

Ruiz also remains active in the community. He is a member of the GBC LEADERShip class of 2015 and serves on the board of the Middle Grades Partnership in Baltimore. He also is pursuing a doctorate in education at the Johns Hopkins Graduate School of Education.





**Carlton A. Curry**  
Executive Director  
Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners

As executive director at the Maryland Board of Physical Therapy Examiners, part of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Carlton A. Curry oversees the safe practice of physical therapy among 7,800 professionals in the state.

Curry, 40, also engages emerging professionals by highlighting ethical considerations and challenges by visiting academic programs in Maryland.

“It is my hope that my professional work has led to safe, ethical practice of health care,” he said.

Curry also mentors young people and emerging leaders, particularly self-identified LGBT young adults.

In Curry’s current role, he also provides internship opportunities to students interested in public health, public service and the law.

He also volunteers and occasionally teaches at Baltimore Aikido, where he works to integrate conflict resolution and ethical engagement with martial arts training.



**Casey Weinberg Florance**  
Principal Attorney  
Stein Sperling Bennett De Jong Driscoll PC

Casey Weinberg Florance’s practice of family law is shaped by the unique perspective she developed as a child of divorced parents in two different households.

“I understand both the short-term issues and long-term consequences of separation, divorce and custody disputes,” she said. “There are no successful cookie-cutter approaches in life or in family law, so I enjoy helping my clients understand all their options and working with them to achieve their goals.”

Florance, 33, believes that lawyers have an obligation to serve their community beyond the practice of law. Among the many leadership roles she has held within the Bar Association of Montgomery County, she spearheaded the committee to create and implement the organization’s inaugural Leadership Development Academy, now going into its third year.

“My focus is on helping others be successful,” she said. “Whether it’s my clients, my colleagues within my own firm, or new legal professionals looking for career or case advice.”

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President, Downtown Partnership  
of Baltimore Inc.

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In an effort to attract and retain young talent in the region, the Economic Alliance launched BaltimoreStory.com in January 2015 to provide a platform for the people living and working in the region to share their experiences and insights. Essays, photos, events and more are shared via [www.baltimorestory.com](http://www.baltimorestory.com) and its associated social channels. These stories will help change the perception, showcase the amazing lifestyle, professional opportunities and community engagement that exist in Greater Baltimore, and demonstrate why others have found success and happiness in Baltimore. Visit [www.baltimorestory.com](http://www.baltimorestory.com) to access and share photos, top ten lists, favorite restaurants, parks and festivals, and insights into the best neighborhoods and the coolest office spaces from Ellicott City to Westminster and Towson to Annapolis. Follow Baltimore Story: [@bmorestory](#); [facebook.com/baltimorestory](#); [bmorestory](#)

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