



THE DAILY RECORD 2018

# VIP LIST

SUCCESSFUL BEFORE 40

VERY IMPORTANT PROFESSIONALS





## LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER

The honorees of The Daily Record's 2018 VIP List – Very Important Professionals Successful By 40 awards – represent an impressive array of the young professionals performing great work across Maryland every day.

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

Their career stories are fascinating and unique. Many of our honorees overcame great adversity to succeed, while others found their path only after detours along the way.

But they all reaped accomplishments through a strong work ethic and a drive to succeed.

Moreover, they learned quickly that giving back to their communities and lending a hand to others is part and parcel of their success.

Our honorees are leaving their mark on the neighborhoods, towns and

cities of our state and the institutions that shape life in Maryland.

In 2010, The Daily Record created its VIP List as a way to recognize younger professionals who are finding success in their careers and volunteer work. Judges choose our honorees based on their professional accomplishments, civic involvement and the overall impact of achievements.

Our 2018 VIP list winners are impressive individuals who are making an impact in their communities. I hope you will enjoy reading more about them in this publication and that you share these stories on social media and in your conversations with friends and colleagues.

The Daily Record is recognizing 54 VIP List honorees this year. And we know there are more out there to be recognized in 2019. You can help us to celebrate the achievement of young professionals you feel are deserving of this honor by nominating them. Visit [www.thedailyrecord.com](http://www.thedailyrecord.com) for more information and to make a nomination. We want to ensure Maryland's future leaders are rightfully given the recognition they deserve.

**Suzanne Fischer-Huettner**  
Publisher, The Daily Record

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# The Judging Process

The judging panel was composed of previous VIP List winners, who picked this year's honorees based on **professional accomplishment and commitment to their communities.**



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# STATE HOUSE, ANNAPOLIS

## Allyson Black



State Affairs  
Manager  
Baltimore Gas  
& Electric

**A**s state affairs manager for BGE, Maryland's largest natural gas and electric

utility, Allyson Black has helped develop and manage a tool that helps external stakeholders understand how BGE operates, its key initiatives and workforce, and its impact in the state.

"The advocacy tool has resulted in increased awareness and understanding of BGE operations by customers, community and business leaders, and state and local officials," Black said. "It has also resulted in stronger BGE partnerships with its customers and community members, which has led to a greater understanding of our policy and regulatory initiatives."

Black attributes her success to communicating with authenticity and integrity. "I work in a profession that relies heavily on relationship-building, and have been able to build many meaningful professional relationships by being an honorable and trustworthy colleague."

Black earned a bachelor's degree in English from Florida A&M University in 2002 and a Master of Public Administration degree from Florida State University in 2004. Prior to joining BGE in 2014, Black was executive director of government affairs for the Maryland Department of Human Resources.

Black is also a volunteer with Reading Partners Baltimore, which places adults in schools to help children develop reading skills through one-on-one tutoring. She has been a volunteer at Arundel Elementary/Middle School since 2014.

"The sessions provide students with a consistent and familiar tutor who helps them achieve academic success," she said. "It has given me the opportunity to help students in an area I am passionate about, and has allowed me to develop meaningful mentor relationships with the students that have been mutually valuable."

## Sarah Christa Butts, MSW



Executive Director, Grand Challenges for Social Work  
University of Maryland School of Social Work

Sarah Butts was 9 years old when her father was killed in a motorcycle accident. After his death, she said, she and her two younger siblings were raised in Baltimore by a single mother who struggled with drug addiction.

"From an early age, I was exposed to inequality, segregation and poverty, which inspired a deep commitment to and passion for social justice," Butts said. "My experiences ultimately inspired me to study

social work."

Butts was the first administrator of the American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare from 2013 to 2017, and was named executive director of Grand Challenges for Social Work in January 2017. "The grand challenges are really for society," Butts said. "The 12 Challenges are a call to action to address some of our most vexing, interrelated and large-scale problems – violence, substance abuse, environmental degradation, injustice, isolation and inequality."

Butts earned a bachelor's of social work degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and a master's of social work degree from the University of Maryland, Baltimore. She is studying now for a doctorate in public policy at UMBC.

Butts is also the chair of the UM SSW Homeless Council, which urges education and training to help the homeless population, and she has also volunteered with Habitat for Humanity and United Way Homeless Connect.

"I am humbled to have the opportunity to influence social work education, policy, and practice," she said. "I believe in giving back, so I support, guide, and mentor others as leaders have done for me. My career is about service and helping people, families and communities to be healthy and thrive."

## Lynden Renwick, Esq.



Vice President – Administration  
BrightKey, Inc.

Lynden Renwick was born in Australia and was an attorney there, but he had to start over when he moved to the United States for his wife.

He joined BrightKey, Inc, a small, woman-owned outsourced services and support company, and simultaneously earned a Master of Laws from the University of Baltimore in 2016, graduating at the top of his class with the highest GPA in the program's history, 4.18, and passing the Maryland Bar in 2017.

Now, he continues at BrightKey where he also is in-house counsel. BrightKey provides a full range of services, including call center and outbound telemarketing, warehousing and fulfillment, on-site mailroom, mail processing, and strategic marketing.

"As an immigrant and foreign attorney, I bring and use alternate perspectives to challenge legislation, and draw upon persuasive foreign authority during litigation," Renwick said.

Personally, he provides pro bono legal advice to individuals who cannot afford their own attorney. He aims to increase access to the law in areas where government-provided attorneys are not available.

He serves on the legislative committee of the Maryland Chamber of Commerce, helping represent businesses and small businesses before the Maryland legislature.

Renwick wrote a 370-page novel "A Part of You," which will be available on Amazon in paperback and e-book formats in November.

"I set out to write a story that would remind the reader what it feels like to connect with a character or story on an emotional level – to remember what it means to feel something," Renwick said about the novel. "Multiple test-readers reported that they bawled their eyes out for over 30 minutes after finishing the novel. Even if my book does not solicit tears like these, I hope that it makes every reader remember what it feels like to be touched by a story."

## Ashleigh DeFries Gallagher



Legislative Director, Maryland General Assembly  
Johns Hopkins  
Founder, Healthy Living with Ash

Ashleigh DeFries Gallagher's resume is not a short one.

Among other jobs, she's been a rape counselor at a crisis center in Tampa, Florida, a research assistant at the Columbia University School of Public Health, in New York City, and Senior Education and Outreach

Coordinator and Director of Social Media at the Johns Hopkins Center to Reduce Cancer Disparities, in Baltimore.

These days, Gallagher, 33, works as legislative director for state Sen. Bill Ferguson, a Baltimore Democrat, and as a dispenser of health tips and environmental friendly advice on the online platform she founded in 2017, "Living with Ash."

"Every day I gather information and resources in order to educate and create positive change in my city," Gallagher said. "My achievements are currently making positive changes at the individual, community and global level. ... Through the platform, I am able to encourage 25,000 people to adopt a healthier and more environmentally friendly lifestyle."

Gallagher credits her success to "hard work and believing in myself." But what also drives her, she said, is an interest in helping others and improving Baltimore.

"I think that helps guide me in the right direction because of how much I care, and because my motives are coming from the right place," she said. "I stand out because of the positive impact I am trying to make, as well as the breadth and gravity of what I am currently working on."

## Ryan Spiegel



Vice President/Partner  
Gaithersburg City Council/Paley Rothman

Ryan Spiegel is a partner at Paley Rothman law firm, has been a member of the Gaithersburg City Council since 2007, and is legislative chairman of the Maryland Municipal League.

In his role on MML, Spiegel has enacted a number of MML priorities that were pending for years, such as reimbursement of the local share of Highway User Revenues. This new law will result in millions of dollars of needed transportation funding for local governments.

He also worked to pass legislation to protect the privacy and personal contact information of residents who sign up for electronic newsletters and emergency text alerts from the government.

Under Spiegel's leadership, MML defeated two proposals that would have undercut local government zoning authority. In addition to his legislative work, Spiegel helped mentor local elected officials in Gaithersburg and around the state.

"Working behind the scenes, often without the glory or credit, to simply get things done – this is the way that I've pursued my roles as legislator and MML advocate," Spiegel said.

Spiegel said his biggest professional accomplishments are as a local legislator and advocate for municipalities.

"Being extremely responsive, respectful even in disagreement, and relentless in pursuing one's goal and working hard to maintain very high quality of work are all ingredients to being an effective public official who can be proud and who can deliver results," Spiegel said.

In addition to his work as an elected official, Spiegel is active in his faith community and his children's schools. As an attorney, he focuses his pro bono work on matters ranging from death penalty appeals in Alabama to helping immigrant children maneuver through the family courts. He has also represented low-income tenants being wrongfully evicted, Holocaust survivors seeking reparations, and refugees seeking asylum.



# NATIONAL HARBOR, OXON HILL

## Kendra Brown



Senior Director for Diversity, Inclusion, and Affinity  
American University Washington College of Law

**K**endra Brown was the policy director for the Congressional Black Caucus in 2016 when she negotiated a permanent extension of the Earned Income Tax Credit and the Child Tax Credit.

"It was a major victory for millions of families who work for low or modest wages, and I feel this is one of my leading accomplishments because of the impact of the legislation on families around the nation," she said.

She moved to her current position in December 2017, where she leads diversity and inclusion efforts, advises students and coordinates college visits for high school and undergraduate students. "My work continues the pipeline of bright and promising young people into the field of law."

Brown has a bachelor's degree in political science from Hampton University, a Master of Divinity degree from Howard University, a law degree from the Vermont Law School and a Master of Law degree from George Washington University Law School.

Brown leads community outreach programs as vice president of the Baltimore County Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, which has a service area of more than 830,000 people. The chapter's program areas include youth enrichment, health promotion and environmental ownership. She also mentors young people and is a youth minister in her church.

"I have helped people feel empowered, enriched, and motivated to be agents of change and help those in need," she said. "I am also an advocate for equity in education, a reduction in the school-to-prison pipeline, safeguarding the social safety net, and voter education and empowerment."

## Sonya Funna Evelyn



Senior Director, Programs and Innovation Department  
Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA)

**B**orn in Sierra Leone, Sonya Funna Evelyn was just 8 years old when her family immigrated to the United States for her father's job at The World Bank. Years later, civil war broke out in the African nation and she knew friends and family who were trying and needing to escape as she was studying at George

Mason University.

"It was just a matter of circumstance that made our lives so different," she said. "I could have potentially ended up in a similar situation to them had we not left Sierra Leone to move to the United States. It was that need to make an impact and really to help those that are in situations they are in just because of circumstance" that drove her into the nonprofit sector to effectuate change.

For the past decade, she has worked at Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). Starting as a technical adviser for health, she rose through the nonprofit, serving as senior technical adviser for primary and emergency health, director of the Program Technical Support Unit and up to her current position as Senior Director for Programs and Innovation Department.

"I have seen the work of nonprofits and I can stand by the work of ADRA," she said. "I see it. I go to the communities. I talk to people and they say, 'But for you guys, we would not have had opportunity.' 'But for you guys, our children may have died.' 'But for you guys, we may have not been able to send our kids to school.' Just really seeing that change and impact keeps me at ADRA. ... It is really part of my calling to do this (type) of work."

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## Our community rises when leaders step up

Let's join together in saluting Raf Olazagasti and all the VIP honorees.

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WELLS  
FARGO

Together we'll go far



## Dr. Josh Funk



Founder and CEO  
Rehab 2 Perform

During his sophomore year playing Division I lacrosse at Ohio State University, Josh Funk tore his labrum but was able to avoid surgery thanks to physical therapy.

A lifelong athlete, Funk knew he wanted to pursue the field of health care, but the injury made him realize a career in physical therapy was a natural fit. He earned his clinical doctorate in physical therapy from the University of Maryland Baltimore County in 2011.

While looking at physical therapy practices, Funk noticed many model their rehabilitation programs through pain management, not optimal function, so he decided to start his own company, Rehab 2 Perform, in Frederick in 2014. Dedicated to reducing the risk of re-injury and getting patients to their optimal performance level, its model focuses on a hybrid between traditional physical therapy and personal training.

A second location in Germantown opened up nearly a year ago. The practice offers an internship program for high school, college and third-year doctor of physical therapy students. Funk also participated in more than 40 career days in area schools last school year.

"I have a passion for providing opportunities for young people to either learn the intangibles of what it is like to be successful or to learn a little bit more about a specific career," he said.

Funk enjoys being able to share health and wellness with others.

"I usually, ideally, use health and wellness as a vehicle for upgrading people's lives," he said. "Physical activity can be competitive for some. It could be social for others. It could be a sense of fulfillment and I think overall the more that we do to help keep people healthy or return them to health the more that we are enriching their lives."

## Jessica A. Quincosa, Esq.



Executive Director  
Community Legal Services of Prince  
George's County

During her first year of leadership at Community Legal Services of Prince George's County, Jessica Quincosa developed a new domestic violence program, received funding for a rent court pilot program and increased fundraising.

"As an executive director, I get to assist individuals in difficult situations with attorneys that make a difference in their lives," Quincosa said. "I have the opportunity to

connect two individuals that may change each other's lives professionally and personally."

She has increased the number of residents receiving assistance and relaunched a mentoring program for CLS' volunteer attorneys.

"As a first-generation American born, I feel lucky to have had so many opportunities to succeed," Quincosa said. "My parents taught me to work hard and to try even if failure was a possibility."

The new domestic violence program will help survivors of violence get a fresh start, including assessing and identifying their civil legal needs.

Quincosa previously served as a supervising attorney at the Maryland Court Self-Help Center of Maryland Legal Aid, where she assisted more than 18,000 Marylanders representing themselves in their cases.

Outside of her role directing the legal services agency, she is also a leader in the community. She is a board member of the Maryland Hispanic Bar Association and past president from 2016-2017. She is also an active member of the Maryland State Bar Association, including section council on Delivery of Legal Services Section, a committee member of Judicial nominations and co-chair of its Leadership Academy.

She serves as co-counsel of the Tahirih Justice Center, a national nonprofit providing legal services to those fleeing violence.

## Sierra B. Mitchell



Attorney  
Meng Law

Sierra B. Mitchell loves to say yes. Long before Shonda Rhimes published the bestselling book, "Year of Yes," Mitchell lived by this mantra and found that it changed her perspective on the world.

"Saying yes gets me out of my comfort zone, which is where the best learning happens. It allows me to meet new people and network. Plus, it gives me that good feeling of being able to help others

when they need you," she said.

Helping others is what she does on a daily basis as a domestic and estate attorney. In her practice at Meng Law, she helps families navigate complicated situations, helping to find a resolution to her clients' issues. She volunteers as a mediator at the Community Mediation Center for Calvert County and has helped dozens of families and community members reach resolutions outside of court.

As an officer and board member of the Calvert County and Southern Maryland Women's Bar Associations, she has raised thousands of dollars for local charities such as Farming for Hunger, Calvert Hospice and the Food Pantry. Mitchell also regularly hosts a Family Law Clinic at the Circuit Court for Calvert County. Together with her husband, Mitchell volunteers annually for Shop with a Cop.

While saying yes has opened many opportunities and a wide network, her favorite part of her work is working with children.

"I believe I have helped many young lives in helping navigate the confusing and stressful situations placed upon them by their parents' conflicts and choices. The best part of my work is in advocating for children. Nothing is more important than protecting that youth, spirit and innocence," Mitchell said.

## Walter L. G. Simmons



President & CEO  
Employ Prince George's, Inc.

In 2016, at the age of 28, Walter Simmons became the youngest local workforce development board director in Maryland and one of the youngest workforce board directors in the country.

Simmons is the director of workforce services in Prince George's County, which has the second-largest workforce system in the state of Maryland.

Previously, Simmons held various roles in workforce development and human services, including as a youth probation officer, out-of-school youth program manager and financial stability center manager.

In 2014, he was identified by the White House as a national leader in family financial stability center management and was selected to attend the White House Summit on Working Families.

The following year, he was invited to join the U.S. Secretary of Labor on a panel to discuss veteran employment, and in 2016, he was a featured speaker of the Department of Labor to discuss business engagement and apprenticeship in the U.S. public workforce system.

"I believe everyone is created equal, regardless of their income or title, and therefore I believe everyone should be treated with equal respect," Simmons said.

Simmons serves on the Board of Directors of the Maryland Workforce Association, the Maryland Skilled Immigrant Task Force, and multiple task forces for the Governor's Workforce Development Board and the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulations.

"Being humble and a servant has allowed me to stay grounded and keep working," he said.

Simmons credits his success both professionally and in his interpersonal relationships to that attitude, a strong work ethic, and never saying no immediately.

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Kramon & Graham  
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**Brian Southard**  
for his selection to the  
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all the nominees, including our own*

**Len Parrish**

Community & Economic Development Director

*on being honored as a member of  
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**THE DAILY RECORD**



# LAKE KITTAMAQUNDI, COLUMBIA

## MaryBeth Hyland

Founder, Chief Visionary  
SparkVision



As founder and chief visionary of SparkVision, MaryBeth Hyland takes on a wide variety of tasks: She leads workshops to help people align their values with their work; she works with companies to identify and bring life to their values and culture; and, she leads a groundbreaking research project on millennials in the workplace, one of SparkVision's specialties.

"I help multi-generational organizations who need an unbiased partner identify the gap between their current and ideal culture – ultimately empowering their people to own their role in crafting culture every day," she said.

"My work stands out because I don't just preach value-based environments, I live this work as an extension of my purpose every day – with my team, my relationships and within myself."

Hyland earned her bachelor's in social work from the University of Maryland, Baltimore County and master's in nonprofit management from the New School, in New York City.

She started SparkVision in 2015 after five years working with the United Way of Central Maryland as director of emerging leaders.

This year, Hyland and her husband created the LoveLens Couples Workshop, for which she facilitates workshops and officiates at weddings.

Hyland also has mentored numerous young people. An 8-year-old girl she started mentoring a decade ago is now her foster child and recently completed her freshman year of college.

A present and past member of numerous Baltimore-area boards, Hyland has been honored several times by The Daily Record, twice as one of the area's Top 100 Women, and last year was named a "woman on the move" by the Associated Black Charities, a Baltimore nonprofit.

## Elizabeth Edsall Kromm



Vice President, Population Health and Advancement  
Howard County General Hospital/Johns Hopkins Medicine

As a childhood cancer survivor, Dr. Elizabeth Edsall Kromm has dedicated her life to second chances. She strives to meld public health research and theory with clear, effective practice and application. This approach guided her in co-creating the Healthy Howard Health Plan, a Howard County-based universal health care plan that was developed before the Affordable Care Act.

Act.

As Vice President of Population Health and Advancement at Howard County General Hospital, Kromm built programs from scratch to help elderly, Medicare and Medicaid patients reduce their hospital visits in lieu of continuity of care. She launched a Rapid Access Program to provide behavioral health services more quickly to the community. Kromm was able to complete the program in less than eight months, and, to date, over 1,100 patients are linked to care. She is in the process of expanding the Rapid Access Program to the pediatric population.

Kromm also successfully launched StandUpHoCo, an anti-bullying initiative, bringing together recreation and parks, the library system, sports leagues, local businesses, private and parochial schools and government to raise awareness about the public health issue.

She sees her strengths as bringing people together, fostering partnerships and quickly moving from concept to action and outcomes.

"One of Elizabeth's greatest strength as public health advocate is her ability to work effectively with powerful people and agencies, on the behalf of people who have little or no power," Dr. Katherine Clegg Smith, a professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, wrote.

## Nicolette A. Louissaint



Executive Director  
Healthcare Ready

In times of disaster, a strong health care system is imperative. Yet, lack of communication and preparedness leaves many scrambling to address disaster crises. That's where Nicolette Louissaint, who heads Healthcare Ready, comes in.

Healthcare Ready strengthens health care systems "by connecting public sector needs to private sector capacities." The organization's "Rx Open" maps are activated when disaster strikes, so the public and emergency responders can see what pharmacies are

open in the affected area. This ensures that the disaster does not disrupt the normal flow of health care supply chains.

Louissaint led the charge, maintaining a continuous activation for more than 80 days to coordinate health care and public health response activities after Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, Maria and Nate in 2017. She is no stranger to disaster response. Prior to joining Healthcare Ready, Louissaint served as a senior adviser to the Ebola coordinator with the U.S. Department of State, and helped lead efforts to address the Ebola crisis in West Africa.

"In my role at the State Department during the 2014 Ebola outbreak, our team mobilized the global effort to ensure international support for the immediate response, which included building health care resources for impacted communities," she said.

She believes that her ability to ensure patients have access to health care during and after disasters, and her ability to combine her passion for community, public health and science makes her a true differentiator.

Louissaint received her Bachelor of Science from Carnegie Mellon University in 2006, her Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins University in 2010, and is working on obtaining her M.B.A. from the University of Baltimore. She served as Vice President of Policy and Procedures for the Greater Baltimore Leadership Association. She focuses her community involvement in science and health education organizations.

## Neveen H. Kurtom



Attorney  
Law Office of Neveen H. Kurtom, LLC

Encouraging and empowering young women to see their full potential is what Neveen Kurtom strives to do each day in her life. Leading by example, Kurtom, an Arab American, opened her own family law practice at the age of 26 and dedicates her free time to women's causes.

She currently serves as chair of the Howard County Commission for Women, and piloted the program "Discovering Your Path to Success" to

enable high school students the opportunity to ask successful women career and personal questions. Earlier this year, she helped collect feminine hygiene products to aid females living in poverty. Kurtom was also a panel speaker for Girl Up, a global leadership development initiative by the United Nations Foundation dedicated to positioning girls to be leaders in the movement for gender equality. In 2016, Kurtom was appointed by Gov. Larry Hogan as chair of the Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern Affairs. She also serves as vice chair of the Howard County Board of Appeals.

As a single mother of three boys, Kurtom seeks to demonstrate that women can be leading examples. She's the first in her family to become a lawyer, and her philosophy is to always give back to others.

"I think it's imperative for me to demonstrate to my sons that a woman can have a full-time job, be a good mother, and give back to her community in any way she can. To me, a woman's strength is knowing who she is, to push through adversity and leave an impacting mark on society," she said.



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THE DAILY RECORD



# Megan Benevento, Esq.



Associate Attorney Joseph, Greenwald & Laake, P.A.

Megan Benevento has been an

outspoken advocate for children since she was an undergraduate at the University of Oregon, where she was honored for her academic contributions to child advocacy.

Benevento wrote a thesis at the university that evaluated the state of child abuse and neglect in an Oregon county. Her work outlined how the county could achieve a 90 percent reduction in child abuse and neglect by 2030 by shifting to an approach that coordinates and aligns service efforts.

In her law practice, Benevento has fought for a family who alleged that their special-needs son had been sexually abused at school because of improper supervision. The parents felt the school dismissed their concerns and failed to intervene for other students, so she filed a lawsuit to ensure there would be an investigation into their claims.

“Since filing that suit, other families have come forward with claims of sexual abuse at the school,” Benevento said. “Giving families a voice, and being by their side when they realize that sharing their story and holding the school accountable for negligence helps keeps kids safe in the future, has been the most rewarding part of my practice.”

Benevento believes it’s her responsibility to work for the people in her community. “Exceptional advocacy to me is more than winning legal arguments in court,” she said. “My self-determination and drive to champion without compromise for the best interests of those who are vulnerable in our society will continue to define my contribution to the legal field and our community.”

## RED BRICK COURTHOUSE, ROCKVILLE

## Desiree de la Torre



Director, Community Affairs and  
Population Health Improvement  
Children's National Health System

Clinical care inside four walls tends to be the focus when it comes to changing health outcomes yet some results could be modified by individual behavior and social circumstance.

Health inequities exist and Desiree de la Torre, Director of Community Affairs and Population Health Improvement for Children's National Health System is driven to help residents and communities overcome

these barriers.

"I feel we (at Children's National) have such a responsibility being a strong brand in Maryland and Washington, D.C. that we need to do more than just provide clinical care and be able to provide other services that make people stay healthy and well," she said.

Graduating with a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles, de la Torre earned a master's in public health from Boston University and a master's in medical services management from Johns Hopkins University. She spent six years working in the Johns Hopkins Health System as a senior project manager, assistant director for health policy planning and director for community health improvement before moving to her current position at Children's National in 2015 as Director for Community Affairs and Population Health Improvement.

In October, she became a commissioner for the Montgomery County Commission on Health. The position allows her to work with council members and those at the county level to allow her a bigger impact and have an opportunity to influence the policy and decision makers that extend beyond the health care system.

## Zuberi Bakari Williams



Judge  
District Court of Maryland

At the age of 36, Zuberi Williams was appointed by then-Gov. Martin O'Malley as one of the youngest judges in Maryland history, and he takes seriously that opportunity.

In 2016, Williams started Maryland's participation with the ABA's Judicial Internship Opportunities Program (JIOP), a program aimed at getting law students of color, women and differing sexual orientations access where there would normally not be any.

He took JIOP to new levels by singlehandedly forging powerful relationships with some of America's top companies, including Facebook, Google, Discovery Channel and Under Armour. Williams on average hires five law student interns and personally walks them into companies' headquarters to meet with executives. Those meetings allow interns to learn how to be better candidates for employment while providing executives exposure to qualified diverse candidates in intimate settings.

"I believe that opportunity is the oxygen of our community," Williams said. "It is required to sculpt the true complexion of America's future and shortens long odds."

Williams is no stranger to long odds and how opportunity changes them. His mother is an immigrant from a small South American village, and his father was raised on the west side of Chicago's inner city. He said opportunities afforded to his parents helped them to succeed and set about a course for success for their family. He believes in passing that tradition on to his children and his community.

"I am obsessed with providing that oxygen to others, including the poor, people of color, women and members of our LGBTQ community to allow them authentic access to the 'American Dream,'" he said.

Williams' son was born with a rare genetic mutation that mimics Asperger's. Now 6 years old, Williams' son has spoken only three words. Williams spends time volunteering at his son's school for special needs children and said it is one of the most fulfilling parts of his life.

## Thomas "Tj" Keilty



Attorney  
Shulman, Rogers, Gandal, Pordy & Ecker

If there was one word to describe Thomas "Tj" Keilty, it would be persistent. Without persistence, he believes, he wouldn't be as successful.

"Both through my professional development and in my community, I strive to take action that results in improving the world around me. Persistence is what motivates me and persistence is what inspires my success," Keilty said.

It is that persistence and drive that helped Keilty bring justice to families impacted by groundwater contamination from a gasoline leak. His work as a law clerk on the trial team, helped secure a \$1.5 billion verdict for the families impacted, and he did this while attending University of Baltimore School of Law in the evening.

As a plaintiff medical malpractice litigator, Keilty strives to bring a calm demeanor during a time of chaos and trauma. This same poise helped his family when his mother passed suddenly from a rare autoimmune disease, scleroderma. He and his family's efforts raised close to \$1 million to fund research at the Johns Hopkins Scleroderma Center.

"The funds that Tj raised have had a major impact on fueling our Center to be able to accomplish its missions and to network with other researchers at Hopkins and many other institutions," Dr. Frederick Wigley, Director of the Johns Hopkins Scleroderma Center wrote. "In fact, now these funds support research and allow our investigators to initiate novel projects working toward new therapy for this now incurable disease."

Wigley says that Keilty's fundraising efforts have enabled the Center to see more than 60 patients weekly, and conduct 20 research projects that are currently underway.

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## OLD COURTHOUSE, TOWSON

## Lindsay Baublitz



Vice President  
SC&H Capital

Lindsay Baublitz believes her diverse business background has been a key to her success. In addition to her position with

SC&H Capital, an investment banking and advisory firm in Sparks Glencoe, Baublitz owns Near & Deer, a business that sells faux taxidermy, with her husband, Rick Baublitz.

"Owning my own small business provides me with a unique insight that my clients and colleagues appreciate," Lindsay Baublitz said. "My job is not the same every day; I need to be agile and provide insight for various businesses. I always put myself in my clients' shoes and think what I would do in their position, and then I'm able to provide genuine and honest feedback."

Baublitz is a business valuation adviser who helps companies implement or maintain employee stock ownership plans. Earning her Accredited Senior Appraiser (ASA) credential – while working two full-time jobs – has been her proudest professional accomplishment.

"Completing the lengthy and vigorous process set the stage for my career as a successful business valuation resource," she said.

Baublitz began volunteering with the Special Olympics after high school and, this year, was her company's team leader at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Day of Service at the Summer Games as the team helped set up the course.

"Year after year, I get to see the athletes' personal progress, which means a lot to me," she said.

She also mentors high school students in a Junior Achievement entrepreneurship program.

"I have experience running a small business and dealing with the challenges that come with a startup," she said. "From managing employees, sourcing materials, and managing online content to payroll, insurance and website development, I have a unique perspective students learn from as they build their business plans."

## Quinn Collins



Principal  
C + W Communications

Quinn Collins started her public relations and marketing business as a freelancer in 2010, when she was pregnant with her oldest daughter, and it has grown into a well-respected agency with five employees and local, regional and national clients.

"When designing C + W Communications, I wanted to provide a service for smaller to mid-sized businesses that needed the support of

an agency but may have thought it was out of reach," Collins said. "I created a work environment where our team works entirely remote. In turn, we get to know more of our community — supporting local coffee shops, restaurants and public spaces — and have become a true extension of our clients' brands."

Collins is on the board of directors for Reading Partners, where she has been a tutor for the past five years.

"Literacy is a game changer and fostering educational equity in Baltimore is something I am passionate about," she said.

She is a former member of the Junior League of Washington and Junior League of Baltimore. Next, she will volunteer with her oldest daughter's Girl Scout troop. "I hope to foster the confidence and entrepreneurial spirit the organization afforded me 30 years ago," she said.

For Collins, who has a bachelor's degree in communications and psychology from Denison University, the key to her success has been her willingness to listen to others. "I have learned so much more about others by listening to what clients want and understanding who they are and what drives them," she said. "It seems like an obvious trait, but it is a very rare quality."

## Jenna Laube, PE



Senior Project Engineer  
Groundwater & Environmental Services

Eight states. One of five women. These are the statistics that set Jenna Laube, Senior Project Engineer for Groundwater & Environmental Services (GES), apart from her peers.

At the young age of 32, Laube is one of five women senior project engineers at GES out of hundreds of employees worldwide. Her engineering licensure extends across eight states — Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North

Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Her expertise has not gone unnoticed. Known to her clients as highly knowledgeable, Laube was selected by the Vice President of Engineering at GES to assist in reviewing BP's environmental remediation systems in the U.S. and internationally. Her technical skills and dedication to her career have earned her five promotions in eight years.

"I'm a consistent and dependable team player and regularly get requested for projects. My clients know me as a highly knowledgeable and responsive consultant they can trust to make decisions on their behalf and ensure regulatory compliance," she said.

But she also knows when to humbly acknowledge her lack of expertise by identifying gaps and expanding her knowledge, when necessary.

When she is not designing equipment and treatment systems to clean up underground oil spills, Laube works to develop future female leaders through the Junior League of Baltimore. She regularly volunteers with environmental nonprofit organizations such as Blue Water Baltimore. She is also a trained crisis counselor and volunteers for the Crisis Text Line, as well as the Safe House of Hope to combat sex trafficking.

## Elizabeth R. Paal



Financial Planner  
Heritage Financial Consultants

Elizabeth Paal had a realization volunteering at a women's shelter while attending college in Tennessee.

As she watched the group of women rebuilding their lives with children by their side, she saw that anyone's life can change in the blink of an eye.

"What we need to do for each other is try to make life just a little easier and provide encouragement," Paal said.

She continues to volunteer weekly and is now

serving on the Board of Directors of the United Way of Central Maryland. She is the new chair of the Executive Council of Emerging Leaders United, comprised of 1,500 young professionals in Central Maryland.

As a certified financial planner, Paal's practice specializes in comprehensive financial planning in the areas of wealth management, retirement planning, education funding, risk management and estate planning.

Paal earned her Certified Financial Planner designation when she was 24 after taking preparation coursework through Kaplan University.

"Not all financial planners go through this grueling undertaking to get this certification, let alone first thing when they are starting in their career, but I was determined to be the best I could be," Paal said.

Paal has a bachelor's degree from Sewanee, The University of the South and is a Chartered Retirement Planning Counselor from the College of Financial Planning.

She is passionate about helping young professionals realize their financial goals, speaking at conferences and had a financial column for *Find Your Moxie* magazine.

Additionally, she volunteers with the Maryland SPCA and adopted a rescue pup, Jayce. She is a past membership chair of the Junior League of Baltimore.

In 2015, she was recognized by the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation as one of Maryland's finest for raising thousands of dollars to support its mission. She was also recognized by The Daily Record in 2013 as one of "20 in their 20s."

## Thomas K. Prevas



Counsel  
Saul Ewing Amstein & Lehr LLP

Thomas K. Prevas is a leader in environmental law but he is also a committed community advocate.

His passion is improving Baltimore and the lives of those who live in it.

"I am willing to stand up for what's right even when others are not, and lead resolutely by example," Prevas said.

He is an environmental and land use lawyer who helps clients with brownfield redevelopment, planning

and zoning and who litigates disputes over property rights and contamination, as well as enforcement actions with the Maryland Department of Environment.

In the community, he serves as a Baltimore City Planning Commissioner, as well as board secretary for the House of Ruth Maryland, where he has taken dozens of protective order cases since 2010 to help domestic violence victims and prevent abuse. He is the board secretary and treasurer for Seize the Days, a cancer charity and is the general counsel pro bono for the Homewood Community Partnership Initiative Development Fund, now known as the Central Baltimore Future Fund. He is also a board member for Win in Life Community Development Corporation and the Charles Street Development Corporation.

In 2017, he became a member of the Alumni Board at the Gilman School, where he works to promote diversity and citizenship at Gilman.

He is a co-chair of his firm's pro bono practice and is a leader in the Maryland State Bar Association, where he chairs the Environmental Law Section Council and is a member of the Judicial Nominating Committee. He is also helping the city's Department of Public Works develop an action plan to divert the city's solid waste from the incinerator and landfills.

Prevas earned his law degree from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, completed a teaching grant at Oxford University, Exeter College, and earned his bachelor's from The Johns Hopkins University.

## Robert Reynolds



Paramedic/  
Firefighter,  
Program  
Manager  
Maryland  
Department of  
Transportation  
Maryland  
Aviation  
Administration

Robert Reynolds leveraged his clinical experience and leadership skills to enhance a program that is saving lives at two major Maryland airports.

Reynolds helped expand and now manages the Access Defibrillation Program at Baltimore/Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport and Martin State Airport and buildings owned by the Maryland Department of Transportation. The program increased the out-of-hospital cardiac arrest survival rate far above the national average.

"I was able to save lives on a much more grander scale and be able to work with my peers to put clinical experience with policy experience to accomplish this achievement," Reynolds said.

Since 2009, he has worked for the Maryland Department of Transportation Maryland Aviation Administration. He earned his associate's degree in Emergency Medical Services from Anne Arundel Community College, holds many emergency response certifications and is pursuing a nursing degree.

In his current position, he teaches CPR to hundreds of students. He was recognized in 2016 with the Life-Saving Award for going above and beyond to save the life of a woman choking at the airport.

"Those in public safety do not always get recognized and being committed to your passion is a must, in my case saving lives," he said.

He is a member of the Sudden Cardiac Arrest Steering Committee for the Maryland Institute for Medical Services and is on the Safety Committee for the Maryland Department of Transportation. He volunteered at the Anne Arundel Fire Department from 2002-2006.

He also assists with the Maryland Charity Campaign at the Maryland Department of Transportation, which raised more than \$20,000 this year.

Every Christmas, Reynolds participates in an annual toy drive with his colleagues and distributes them to needy kids in the Baltimore community.

"This is the most rewarding time of year for me because I believe this to be the most important childhood memories for children," Reynolds said.

**ORIOLE PARK AT CAMDEN YARDS  
(BABE RUTH STATUE), BALTIMORE**

## Shantell L. Roberts



President, Founder  
Touching Young Lives, Incorporated

After the loss of her daughter, Shantell Roberts committed her life to leading an organization that focuses on the health and well-being of infants and children.

Roberts' daughter, Tylour, died at age 1 of MRSA pneumonia. Roberts founded Touching Young Lives Incorporated to educate parents about the best care for their children and to provide resources.

In April 2017, she launched the Portable Alternative Crib initiative in Baltimore. The Portable Alternative Crib is a simple cardboard box that is a certified, safe sleeping space for infants and contains a variety of maternal self-care and infant care items such as diapers, wipes, onesies, infant hygiene products, preventative infant care literature and handmade crochet blankets to be used for swaddling.

More than 3,000 families have been provided with Portable Alternative Cribs.

She received the very first \$25,000 prize from the Johns Hopkins University Social Innovation Lab and traveled to Glasgow, Scotland in June to not only attend the International Conference on Stillbirth, SIDS and Baby Survival but to share the first year data on her work in Baltimore.

"As a bereaved mother, this work reminds me that my daughter's death was not in vain and that her legacy lives," Roberts said.

Roberts serves on the advisory board of the University of Maryland Department of Pediatrics Center for Infant and Child Loss. She is a dedicated support volunteer for newly bereaved mothers and an active board member. Most recently, she joined the United Way of Central Maryland's Emerging Leaders United Executive Council, participating in various service projects throughout Baltimore.

## Brian Southard



Principal  
Kramon & Graham, PA

In the five years since becoming a principal at Kramon & Graham, Brian Southard has created a successful niche market representing national homebuilders in all aspects of their business in Maryland.

Southard says it is his job to take on his clients' legal issues, create solutions and implement organized processes to minimize risk and the recurrence of those issues so that

his clients can continue focusing on the successful operation of their business.

"Most of my clients are homebuilders – so I take pride in the fact that, in a small way, I am helping to build quality homes and communities throughout Maryland," Southard said.

He says persistence is the key to his success in law.

In 2018, Southard was named one of The Best Lawyers in America by Real Estate Law. He has been named a rising star annually since 2011 by Maryland Super Lawyers.

He also was a "Baltimore's Finest 35-Under-35" honoree of the Maryland Chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation in 2011.

He has been a board member for the Maryland Building Industry Association, Land Development Council since 2015. From 2008 to 2016, he served on the board of the Community Law Center.

He earned his law degree in 2003 from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law and his master's in business administration the same year from the University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business.

## Sarah Diane Sheppard



Director of Workforce Engagement  
Governor's Workforce Development Board

Sarah Diane Sheppard serves as director of workforce engagement for the Governor's Workforce Development Board.

In that capacity, she develops strategic plans and writes policies to promote workforce innovation and opportunity for both employers and job seekers. She also is the liaison for the executive director with industry-led task forces and with state and federal agencies.

Sheppard also advises Gov. Larry Hogan about workforce development and training needs for Maryland's businesses.

Recently, Sheppard co-wrote a report to the governor on computer science education and professional development. The report involved engaging with more than 200 stakeholders to develop career pathways into computer-science-related fields and attract businesses to Maryland. Importantly, the report features a section on encouraging young women and minorities to consider computer science as a career. The recommendations from the report will help to shape industry and education throughout the state.

In addition to her professional role, Sheppard serves on multiple boards committed to serving under-served or at-risk youth. She also serves through Junior Achievement as a mentor for high school girls.

"The key to my success is to enter all situations with kindness and empathy and to always do my best to support and promote those who surround me," Sheppard said.

## Juan A. Webster



General Manager  
Kimpton Hotel Monaco Baltimore

With more than 15 years in the hospitality industry and dedication to improving the Baltimore community, Juan Webster, general manager of Kimpton Hotel Monaco Baltimore Inner Harbor, has won many awards recognizing his commitment to the community.

He was given the Humanitarian of the Year Award by the International Rescue Committee and a commendation from past and present mayors of

Baltimore for his local contributions. Webster and his wife Kisha founded the LACC Foundation, a nonprofit organization aimed at improving the lives of the homeless.

"Each time I am recognized I am reminded that I am a young African American male from rural North Carolina, born and raised on a dirt road with limited exposure and options," Webster said.

Webster serves on several local boards, including the mayor's Squeegee Corps, which guides Baltimore's youth to a path of employment; Kennedy Krieger Institute's PACT, which promotes the development of children with special needs; and Suited to Succeed, which works to improve the economic independence of women experiencing hardship by providing professional attire, career development, life skills training, networks of support and tools to help them to become successful in life.

He also serves as a Bridgebuilder and member of the Friends of St. Vincent de Paul Church to connect volunteers to local homeless, displaced and at-risk citizens for support.

In his time with Kimpton, Webster has created a partnership between Hotel Monaco and the Baltimore City Public Schools to develop an in-house achievement program highlighting students' achievements in the classroom and tying their achievements back to the local community.

"Statistically, I wasn't supposed to make it. I take pride in defying the odds and creating an avenue for the next generation of leaders," he said.



# ORIOLE PARK AT CAMDEN YARDS (EUTAW STREET), BALTIMORE

## Marie Grant



Vice President, Public Policy  
CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield

Before going to work for health insurance giant CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield in 2013, Marie Grant worked as director of governmental affairs for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (now the Maryland Department of Health), and before that, as a policy analyst at the Maryland Department of Legislative Services.

In all three roles, the 2004 graduate of the Georgetown University Law Center has focused on

health policy.

"My overarching career goal has been to work in health-care policy to inspire the development of a better health-care system," she said. "I have worked at three different places during my professional career, each with different perspectives on health care in Maryland, but all in furtherance of the same objective."

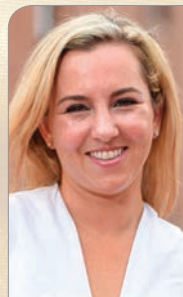
Grant added: "I have been fortunate to play a part in the realization of some significant improvements and look forward to continuing this work in the years to come."

An enthusiastic mentor, Grant supervises and advises recent masters-level graduates at CareFirst. She also advises interns through YouthWorks, Baltimore City's summer jobs program.

Grant, 39, also serves on the board of the Living Legacy Foundation, which facilitates organ, eye and tissue donations in Maryland, on the Baltimore City Charter Review Commission and is vice president of the Westowne Elementary School PTA, in Catonsville, which both of her children will attend in the fall.

In 2015, she was recognized by the *Daily Record* as one of the area's Leading Women.

## Patricia B. Jefferson



Principal  
Miles & Stockbridge P.C.

In the specialized legal world of bankruptcy law, Patricia Jeffersonian is one of Maryland's stars.

In this year's edition of Best Lawyers in America, the principal at the Baltimore law firm of Miles & Stockbridge was named one of the nation's top lawyers for bankruptcy and creditor-debtor rights, insolvency and reorganization law and bankruptcy litigation.

She also is president-elect of the Bankruptcy Bar

Association of Maryland.

Asked about the key to her success, Jefferson cites her ability to empathize with others.

"Lawyers often have a bad reputation as cold, impractical and hard to relate to and talk to," she said. Noting that a large part of a lawyer's job involves talking, she added, "I've found it serves us all well to spend a little more time listening."

Jefferson has been a board member of the Chesapeake Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association, a nonprofit organization that works to save troubled businesses, since 2010, and recently took over as president.

Her proudest professional accomplishment has been boosting the involvement and prominence of women in that organization, which, she said, was known as an old boys' club when she first joined, and "not particularly welcoming or easy to break into for young female professionals."

"I've spent the last 10 years working to change that," she added. "I'm proud to say that more than half our current board members are women."

As a female bankruptcy attorney, Jefferson said, she believes she has made that path "a little bit easier, or at least better trodden, for some of the new female bankruptcy lawyers coming behind me."

## Jon Kucskar



Advisor to the President  
University of Maryland, Baltimore

If Jon Kucskar were to sum up his philosophy on his life and career, it'd echo a sign that hangs in his mother's house: "Service is the rent we pay for living."

Dedicating his entire professional career to public service, Kucskar has served in a number of leadership roles including Deputy Legal Counsel to Gov. Martin O'Malley, Senior Commission Advisor to the Maryland Public Service Commission and Advisor to President Jay A. Perman at the University of Maryland, Baltimore.

During his tenure as Senior Commission Advisor, Kucskar lead the design, establishment and implementation of the Public Service Commission's grid modernization program to address the changing climate and energy resource landscape. The Public Conference 44 (PC44) project ensures Maryland's electric systems will be more customer-centric, affordable, reliable and environmentally sustainable.

In his current role as Advisor to the President, Kucskar oversees the University's efforts to acquire and build a new Community Engagement Center in West Baltimore – which will increase the opportunities for members of the community to gain skills through job training and pursue passions, such as yoga.

Kucskar is currently the Board President for the Downtown Baltimore Family Alliance, and serves on the boards of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law Alumni Board and the Bolton Hill Community Association. He also serves as a youth soccer coach for the Charles Village Recreation League.

"Jon's professional attributes should carry him far in his future career endeavors. He is extremely intelligent, driven and respected and admired by his colleagues. Jon also has a strong commitment to public service and a passion for environmental stewardship. I have no doubt he will make a profound and far-reaching contributions to our State in the years to come," says W. Kevin Hughes, Chairman of the Maryland Public Service Commission.

## Kelly A. Powers



Principal  
Miles & Stockbridge P.C.

Kelly A. Powers has worked to establish Miles & Stockbridge as a leading international family law practice, spearheading the return of dozens of missing children in cases involving international parental abductions of children.

She and her mentor Stephen Cullen, a principal and head of the Family Law Private Client Group, have handled more of these types of cases under the 1980 Hague Convention treaty than any other practice in the

world, said Miles & Stockbridge chair Nancy Greene.

John B. Frisch, former chairman and CEO of the firm, spoke about Powers when she received the Jean Crowe Pro Bono Award from the American Bar Association's Family Law Section in 2017.

"The work Kelly does – both in the day-to-day and in the wider ripples of creating precedent – changes people's lives, often dramatically, and helps set a course toward justice for those who have almost lost faith in the ideal itself," he said.

Powers was the lead associate in the 2012 Supreme Court case *Chafin v. Chafin*, which helped establish how Hague Convention treaty cases are handled in the court system today. She provides at least 750 hours of pro bono service each year for child abduction matters, including survivors of domestic violence who have fled their home countries to the U.S. to seek asylum and protection for their children.

In 2018, she became practice group leader for Commercial, Business and Real Estate Litigation – which includes Family Law & Private Clients as a subgroup. Powers was named an equity principal attorney in 2017 and director of the Miles & Stockbridge Pro Bono Advocate Program.

She has clients in the firm's Baltimore and Washington D.C. offices and has been instrumental in growing the firm's family law practice in the United Kingdom.

## Raf Olazagasti



Vice President, District Manager  
Wells Fargo Bank

Ruth Tyler's home was severely damaged by flooding in Old Ellicott City during the 2016 floods. An elderly woman, she needed help making repairs.

Raf Olazagasti stepped in with a team of 14 volunteers from Wells Fargo and Rebuilding Together, where he is a project lead.

They replaced her gutters, repaired and repainted the exterior foundation, waterproofed the crawl space where leaking had occurred and re-landscaped in the front and back. Olazagasti has helped with many such projects at Rebuilding Together, and he helped secure \$35,000 in funding to rebuild Old Ellicott City in the past two years.

At Wells Fargo, he supervises more than 115 employees.

"Raf is a passionate leader within Wells Fargo who leads by example every day," said Monica Mitchell, Wells Fargo vice president of Community Relations and Corporate Responsibility. "He takes pride in coaching and developing his team members and places a priority on instilling the value of both professional and community involvement to his team members."

Olazagasti also serves as the chair for the Wells Fargo Latin Connection Team Member Network in Maryland, and under his leadership the chapter has grown by more than 300 percent. It provides diverse team members with opportunities for professional and personal development.

Olazagasti is active in financial literacy education. This year, he received the Student Engagement Award from Woodland JobCorp for his financial literacy work with them over five years. He also works with the Maryland Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and La Comunidad Hispana for financial literacy.

He earned his master's in Business Administration from the University of Baltimore and a bachelor's from Towson University.

## Swapna Yeluri



Director of Pro Bono Programs  
Homeless Persons Representation Project

Swapna Yeluri is the director of pro bono programs with the Homeless Persons Representation Project, a statewide legal program dedicated to eradicating homelessness.

She supervises more than 400 volunteer attorneys, students, paralegals and other professionals on veteran benefits, discharge upgrade and criminal record expungement cases.

The organization helps veterans who are homeless or at risk of homelessness obtain critical Veterans Administration disability benefits, other federal and state disability benefits and discharge upgrades. The organization has clinics at both VA medical centers in Maryland and at rotating clinics in rural counties.

Yeluri said that empowerment is key to all her work.

On her first veteran's case, she won \$40,000 in back pay and \$3,000 monthly compensation on a case that everyone told her she should not file. But her client said this was the first time in 40 years that she ever shared her story, and Yeluri thought her story should be heard and was worth fighting for.

"I found that it takes very little to empower someone, but it can have such an impact on someone's life and in turn society as a whole," Yeluri said.

Yeluri participates in community outreach events and was a mentor with the Community Law in Action Program for six years.

Less formally but significantly, Yeluri creates snack bags to hand out to people experiencing homelessness.

"Swapna is wholly dedicated to public service, and her energy and enthusiasm for supporting our city's most vulnerable individuals is unmatched," said Hugh McClean, assistant professor and director of the Bob Parsons Veterans Advocacy Clinic at the University of Baltimore.



## Berke Attila



Chief of Fiscal and Strategic Management Office  
City of Baltimore, Department of General Services

**B**erke Attila was a newly hired budget analyst with Baltimore in 2011 when he used his analytical skills to help the Department of General Services improve its fleet modernization plan.

"The result was a new fleet financing plan that has replaced more than half of the city's vehicles in three years, cut maintenance and fuel costs by millions of dollars, and freed up a \$30 million sinking fund balance for new investments in street resurfacing, recreation centers and information technology," he said.

Attila earned a bachelor's degree in 2001 in materials science and engineering from Yildiz Technical University in his native Turkey, a Master of Business Administration in 2004 from the University of Baltimore and expects to graduate in 2019 from an Executive Education program at the Harvard Kennedy School at Harvard University. He also completed city training on Lean Business Process Improvements in 2017.

Attila said he has benefitted from having great leaders and mentors, and as a manager, is easily accessible and always available to guide others.

"I consider myself a new breed of a public servant who recognizes that the solution to underperforming city services is usually not more money, but more thought about how to make better use of existing resources," he said. "I am able to take complex tasks and break them down to allow my staff to learn and grow, empowering them to own a project and take the lead. I also try to make sure to share the limelight, putting my teammates in front of top brass to showcase their newly developed talents and successes."

## Drew Cook



Principle & Director of Investment Management  
Berman McAleer

**W**hen Drew Cook got his first job as a teenager, his grandfather made him a deal. For every dollar he put into a retirement account, his grandfather would match it.

"I watched (the account) grow," he recalls. "For me, there was something about the compounding effect of money that opened my eyes to saving early, saving often that created this inner drive in

me. I'd always been good at math but now I understood how math could be applied to the real world."

Cook has spent his entire career at the Lutherville-Timonium-based Berman McAleer starting as an intern and rising through the financial planning institution to be named the firm's youngest partner in its history. Since 2016, he has served as director of investment management.

Because the financial world is constantly evolving, adapting and changing, Cook finds the most rewarding part of his job being able to explain complex matters to clients and have them leave knowing he is looking out for their best interests.

Cook notes there is a consistent theme when it comes to his volunteer work -- education. For 15 years, he volunteered with the Hannah More Foundation serving as a board member and treasurer. Last school year, he volunteered bi-weekly at his alma mater, Loyola Blakefield High School, helping an economics class compete in the national Stock Market Game, a nonprofit which helps students to better understand the stock market and how to invest to achieve their financial goals.

"If you can get in (to mentor the) young, you can truly make a difference in guiding them on a path that hopefully will help them out tremendously," he said.



## Alan J. Dunklow



Assistant Attorney General  
Maryland Office of the Attorney General

Growing up in Michigan, Alan J. Dunklow learned a strong work ethic while working for his family's lawn-maintenance company by cutting grass, picking up leaves and installing docks along Lake Michigan.

"I understand that the product is a direct result of the process," he said.

After graduating from Grand Valley State University in Allendale, Michigan, Dunklow taught for three years in Baltimore City Public Schools as part of the Teach for America program. "I think education has opened up the world for me and so I thought that it was a good place to put my energy to see if it could do that for others," he said.

When Doris M. Johnson High School closed, he pursued and earned a legal degree from the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law.

"I wanted to be able to impact some of the law and policy that I saw impact teachers and students on a daily basis," he said.

Today, Dunklow serves as an assistant attorney general for the Maryland Office of the Attorney General.

"This is ultimately the job that I went to law school for so I feel grateful to be able to follow that path," Dunklow said. "On a daily basis, I think it does help to have that lens of how these (policies and laws) impact students and teachers in the classroom. ... I'm really thankful to work in an office where I am surrounded by people who like to work together but also push me to improve."

This year, he became adjunct faculty at his alma mater teaching first-year students written and oral advocacy.

Dunklow is also active with the Bar Association of Baltimore City's Young Lawyers Division serving on their public education committee.

"I've always thought that community service is important and I think that your community is ultimately where ever you are," he said.

## Toney A. Lawson



Executive Director  
The Be. Org

Just seven years after earning her bachelor's degree, Toney A. Lawson founded her own nonprofit, The Be. Org, devoted to developing Maryland's youth. Her commitment to community service began early on, and has been the driving force behind her nonprofit.

Through her sorority in college, Lawson realized her desire to serve Baltimore's youth, serving as program coordinator for the Rho Xi Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Emerging Young

Leader's Initiative. The program focuses on character building and leadership development for middle school girls. From there, she continued her service to youth as a volunteer for the Greater Baltimore Urban League Saturday Leadership Program, where she conducts a variety of workshops for high school students on personal, professional and leadership skills.

Lawson used that experience to start her nonprofit in 2014, which encourages and nurtures youth to live above their socially-imposed limitations. The goal, she says, is to build up and empower young people to withstand peer pressures, societal norms and other negative influences to achieve remarkable excellence.

In 2017, The Be. Org successfully operated its first annual summer camp for elementary students in a low-income community. The program was a success with 100 percent participant and parent satisfaction.

In 2016, Lawson also founded Bmore R.I.S.E. (Remedy Injustice by Setting the Example), a grassroots organization that raises awareness about social issues. Setting an example is exactly why she gives back to the community every day.

"My mission in life is to help young people push through life's barriers and continue dreaming. I am constantly reminded that they look up to me as a role model and I too must continue dreaming and not be limited by any barrier," Lawson says.

## Alexandria Montanio



Associate Attorney  
Gordon Feinblatt

Alexandria Montanio lives each day by this creed: "Function in disaster, finish in style." This mantra has landed her the 2018 Philanthropic 5 award from the United Way of Central Maryland, a board position on the Dundalk Renaissance Corporation, the chairman position for the Board of Directors for the Baltimore Teacher Supply Swap and countless other feats — all before the age of 30.

She works to demonstrate that lawyers can be champions for social justice, especially those in private practice. Some of her most challenging work comes from her pro bono cases, assisting children with special needs — and often during a difficult time.

Montanio negotiated a settlement agreement with the public school system for a student who had been sexually assaulted. Montanio's efforts ensured the student had access to classroom support and counseling services in order to continue with her education and address the trauma she suffered.

"The student missed nearly a year of school as a result of these events and seeing her family's relief when we were able to work out a way for this student to receive an education was one of the most rewarding professional experiences I've had," Montanio said.

As chairman of the Board of Directors for the Baltimore Teacher Supply Swap, Montanio secured \$125,000 worth of supplies to help teachers pay less out of pocket. She coaches the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law Black Law Student Association's negotiation team. Gordon Feinblatt, her employer, sponsors her team — which eases the financial burden that could otherwise prohibit some students from participating. Montanio loves seeing her hard work pay off, especially when her mentees succeed.

"Seeing that kind of growth in a student, and knowing she will go on to help others, makes the long practice hours after work and on the weekends worth every minute," Montanio said.

# 2018-2019 EVENTS



**October 25, 2018**  
Location TBD

A one-of-a-kind engagement providing world-class professional insights and career connections for Greater Baltimore's diverse workforce. PoC connects mid-level and executive professionals with industry-leading inclusive organizations.



**November 5, 2018**

**Hilton Baltimore BWI Airport Hotel**

Most Admired CEO honors talented business CEOs and nonprofit leaders whose leadership and vision are admired by those around them. Three-time winners are inducted into the Circle of Influence.



**December 3, 2018**  
**The Annapolis Westin**

Leading Women celebrates women who are age 40 or younger for the tremendous accomplishments they have made so far in their careers. They are selected based on professional community involvement and a commitment to inspiring change.



**December 17, 2018**  
**The Center Club in Baltimore**

The Icon Honors award recognizes Maryland business leaders over the age of 60 for their notable success and demonstration of strong leadership both within and outside of their chosen field.

## **WOMEN'S** Leadership Summit

**March 20, 2019**  
**Coppin State University**

The Women's Leadership Summit will convene Top 100 Women, Leading Women and Maryland's network of women professionals to learn about important topics facing women in business today, give back to the community and create mentoring relationships.

## **INFLUENTIAL** MARYLANDERS

**March 28, 2019**  
**Grand Lodge of Maryland**

Influential Marylanders honors individuals who have made a significant impact in their field and are influential leaders for their organization. Honorees are selected by The Daily Record's editors for significant contributions in their field. Three-time winners are inducted into the Circle of Influence.

## MARYLAND'S **TOP 100** WOMEN

**April 15, 2019**  
**Meyerhoff Symphony Hall**

Maryland's Top 100 Women recognizes high-achieving Maryland women who are making an impact through their leadership, community service and mentoring. Three-time winners are inducted into the Circle of Excellence.

## **Leadership** *in Law*

**May 16, 2019**  
**BWI Hilton**

Leadership in Law recognizes Maryland's legal professionals – lawyers and judges – whose dedication to their occupation and to their communities is outstanding. This event also honors up-and-coming lawyers through the Generation JD award and identifies exemplary careers through the Lifetime Achievement Award.

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## Marianne Navarro, AICP



Special Assistant for Economic Development  
Mayor's Office of Strategic Alliances

When Marianne Navarro watches a local business benefit from a relocated streetlight or helps a family apply to receive free college tuition at Baltimore City Community College, she sees her work come to life.

Navarro is a professional urban planner with a focus on economic and community development. She created the Baltimore City Anchor Plan a program and initiative

that focused on collaborating with anchor institutions such as universities, along with nonprofit and community partners to revitalize Baltimore neighborhoods and promote economic opportunity.

The local community recognized the program for its impact in central Baltimore in 2017, and it was included in the 2016 State of the City address by then-Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake as a key component for economic development strategy.

It has evolved and is now integrated into the city's community and economic development initiatives under Mayor Catherine E. Pugh, such as quarterly meetings on the topic between the mayor and higher education presidents.

"As a public sector professional, I have always been inspired to work diligently on behalf of the public and taxpayer to make public resources and services work for communities and Baltimore City as a whole despite bureaucratic challenges," Navarro said.

She serves on the Board of Directors for the Urban Children Foundation, which works for every child in Baltimore to have access to extracurricular activities. She is also a girl scout troop leader for her daughter's troop in South Baltimore.

Navarro earned a Master of Community Planning degree from the University of Maryland, College Park and is working on a Master of Business Administration degree from Johns Hopkins University. She also has a bachelor's from Towson University.

## Divya Potdar



Principal  
Diva Law, LLC

By helping vulnerable people fighting insurance, big pharmacy and corporate entities, litigator Divya Potdar works to level the playing field and help them navigate the legal system.

Potdar opened her own civil litigation firm in February in Baltimore. Prior to that, she headed and expanded the litigation department at Wise Law LLC.

She's embracing having her own firm.

"I enjoy having a lot more client interaction and working on complex cases with a more hands-on approach," Potdar said.

She is the chair of the Young Lawyers Division of the Bar Association of Baltimore City, which hosts events to educate and engage city youth, seniors, local non-profits and young lawyers. She is also heavily involved in the Maryland Association for Justice and the Maryland State Bar Association.

"The legal profession has a unique and important role in the advancement of the local community," Potdar said. "I thrive on organizing people to build up Baltimore, starting with the most vulnerable people in need."

In addition to pro bono and "low bono" work, Potdar is passionate about the free events she plans for Baltimore youth, underprivileged seniors and young lawyers.

For instance, she helps organize a mock trial competition between two Baltimore public middle schools.

"This is often the first and only positive exposure to the legal world these children have had in their lives," Potdar said. "Many want to go to college to become lawyers and judges."

She also plants trees in her neighborhood and helps organize a Christmas party for children living in homeless shelters.

A city resident and self-proclaimed Marylander, Potdar earned her J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law and a bachelor of science in political science from Towson University.

## BAKER DONELSON



We are proud to congratulate our colleague Jennifer Curry, one of our Baltimore Office Shareholders, who is one of the honorees chosen for The Daily Record's 2018 VIP List.

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# BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART

## Van Brooks



Executive Director  
Safe Alternative Foundation for  
Education, Inc.  
Governor's Office on Service &  
Volunteerism

Van Brooks understands the hard work it takes to overcome adversity. In 2004, at 16 years old, he was paralyzed from the neck down by a football injury. He didn't give up: he graduated from high school in 2006 and earned a bachelor's degree in Mass Communications in 2012 from Towson University. A few months after graduating from Towson, Brooks was able to walk a few steps on his own.

Thankful for the community's support during his recovery, Brooks was ready for his next challenge in 2017 when he was appointed by Gov. Larry Hogan as executive director of the Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism, which manages 20 federally-funded AmeriCorps state programs that support disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures and veterans and military families.

Brooks was well-known in Baltimore before the state appointment because he was the founder, in 2012, of Safe Alternative Foundation for Education Inc. (SAFE), which provides afterschool, weekend, and summer learning opportunities for students through its SAFE Center in West Baltimore.

Opening the SAFE Center has been Brooks' proudest professional accomplishment, he said. "We are able to provide students the educational opportunities that will change the trajectory of their lives and lift them out of the cycle of poverty. SAFE was my thank you to the village who supported me when I was injured," he said.

He's proud that his life story inspires others. "Everything I have accomplished has been post-injury," he said.

## Deandra Coleman



Owner  
Deandra Coleman Interiors

Deandra Coleman said she appreciates that her work in interior design and home staging has been showcased in the region and recognized by her peers, but she has a different way of measuring her success.

"The true test of achievement has come in being sought by people wanting my mentoring and leadership in helping them break into the field," Coleman said. "My most significant

professional accomplishment has been watching the success of a new career that I've helped develop and shape."

As the founder of Youth Embracing Success (Yes!) program, Coleman partners with the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington, D.C., where she mentors middle and high school girls.

"My personal mission is to lead a life that girls can model and aspire to," Coleman said. "Using the setbacks that have happened in my life as teaching tools, I encourage the girls to embrace their ambition, find what inspires them and to be each other's cheerleaders."

Coleman earned a bachelor's degree in Communications Studies at the University of Maryland, College Park, a marketing certification at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, and a Master of Business Administration degree from BAU International University.

"Though by trade I design and style spaces, what I do for a living encompasses designing lives, shaping futures, and leading others to be their best," she said. "The heart of my work is very personal, and that allows me to stand out from my peers and care more about the outcome of others than just the pieces that I put into their home or place of employment."



## Lauren Eaton



Program Director  
Itineris

Lauren Eaton's life philosophy is "to ride the waves" meaning accepting and knowing in advance that there will be highs and lows throughout a day, week, month, year and lifetime. "When you can anticipate this, it makes it easier to chose a dedicated response to stress rather than an emotional reaction," she said. "This is key to all success: mindful responses rather than emotional reactions."

For more than 10 years, Eaton has worked in the behavioral health field beginning as a research assistant at Fordham and Tulane universities and Kennedy Krieger Institute, respectively. She has also served as a behavior analyst and clinical director at the May Institute and an assistant behavior services manager with Sheppard Pratt Health System.

Since 2016, she has been employed as program director for Itineris in Baltimore, working in collaboration with the clinical and executive directors to provide opportunities for more than 80 adults on the autism spectrum. Clients work, participate in their communities and/or receive vocational services.

"Itineris is a community where adults with autism can make friends and meaningful connections," Eaton said. "They are emerged in a culture with coaches and peers who value neurodiversity and the unique gifts we all bring to the table."

A graduate of Tulane University and the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Eaton is an adjunct professor at Simmons College in Boston teaching individual and group supervision courses for graduate students enrolled in the applied behavior analysis master's program.

## Jennifer L. Curry



Shareholder  
Baker Donelson

As a labor and employment lawyer at Baker Donelson, Jennifer L. Curry treats every client with equal importance and makes sure to let them know she hears them and understands their particular needs.

She fell in love with constitutional law as a history major at the University of Michigan. While clerking for the Baltimore City Circuit Judge Pamela J. White, the University of

Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law graduate became drawn to employment law.

Taking on cases as an associate for several years at both Franklin & Prokopik and Jackson Lewis, Curry moved to her current position in 2015. With a love of researching and writing, "I really enjoy the academic adversarial nature of being a litigator," she said.

With a love of Charm City and a passion to see the area grow, she became an executive board member for the Baltimore Chamber of Commerce in 2015.

"Businesses of all sizes are the lifeblood of this city and we need them to make the city stronger and healthier," she said. "Through the chamber, I have worked to make sure that current Baltimore city businesses have an environment that allows them to thrive and grow and to make sure that prospective business owners see the city as presenting the best opportunity for putting down long-standing roots."

She is also on the Cristo Rey Jesuit High School Leadership Advisory Council and a fellow with the Baltimore Bar Foundation. "I love this city and I want to see it be everything that it can be," Curry said. "I want to see the people who live here live in a city that takes care of them and appreciates them. It makes people want to be here as much as I do."

## Bryan R. Ebert



Associate Attorney  
Pessin Katz Law P.A.

Bryan R. Ebert has a number of family members who are health care providers and has watched them navigate the legal world that applies to the medical field. Drawn to the analytical, he decided to become a medical malpractice attorney defending providers and institutions.

"I liked the idea of being able to help those that help others," Ebert said. "In the world of health care, the Hippocratic oath says 'Do no harm' and that is ultimately what I think most physicians and nurses and physicians assistants are trying to do. ... I see how much good they do and I see how much they can impact folks' lives."

A graduate of the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, Ebert is an associate attorney at Pessin Katz Law P.A. The most gratifying part of his job is hearing from clients "Thanks! That helped a lot."

"Ultimately my goal is getting answers for people and getting resolutions to problems," he said.

Since 2015, Ebert has been an active member of First Tee of Greater Baltimore Young Professionals Board. He enjoys being part of the nonprofit which teaches youth the sport of golf and seeing participants get "the same joy out of a sport that I love."

Last year, he was named a Living Classrooms Foundation Rising Star, a program for young professionals to engage in philanthropic activities and network.

## Andrew Finkelstein



Vice President Capital Markets  
JLL

When selling office and industrial properties throughout the Baltimore region, Andrew Finkelstein, JLL's Vice President Capital Markets, enjoys telling the story of each property and building a narrative to convey its potential future.

He talks with potential owners about what the property will be in five years and what competing spaces in the area are doing. He also looks at how the asset could be changed to add increased value along

with why clients should buy.

The University of Pennsylvania graduate came to JLL in 2016. He previously worked at David S. Brown Enterprises as a senior associate and vice president of business development at Residential Title and KatzAbosch, respectively.

For the past year and a half, Finkelstein has volunteered at Sharp Dressed Man, a nonprofit offering free, gently used donated suits to men going on interviews after undergoing job training. He likes to let each gentleman be involved in the process by asking them questions about their preferences and taking before-and-after photos once a suit has been chosen.

"These guys are proactively really trying to take a step forward to either turn their life around or stop a downward slide or just get restarted again," he said.

Finkelstein has been a part of The Associated for 14 years by working to raise awareness and funds for programs that help those in need in Baltimore and Israel. He also is chair/co-founder of the real estate club at The Center Club.

"I think it's a great organization that really does benefit Baltimore as a whole by having a place for people to come together to network, to socialize that is in Downtown Baltimore," he said.

## Nora Howell Morgan



Program Director  
Jubilee Arts a Program of Intersection of Change

To Nora Howell Morgan, art is a catalyst for change and a tool for empowerment. As program director for Jubilee Arts a program of Intersection for Change, Morgan is credited with creating two programs that expanded Jubilee's offerings to Baltimore's youth.

Morgan created Art@Work, a five-week artist apprenticeship program that employs youth to

create highly visible murals and mosaics in west Baltimore. Since its inception in 2014, the program has enrolled 198 Baltimore youth who have produced 25 outdoor public art projects in Baltimore neighborhoods.

Morgan also created Youth in Business, an annual entrepreneurship program that serves 23 youth who live in the Sandtown-Winchester and Upton communities of west Baltimore. The youth gain hands-on experience while operating an art-based business.

Morgan is convinced that the arts have transformative powers, especially for older youth – a belief that was amplified after the death of Freddie Gray and the civil unrest that followed.

"These events further affirmed Nora's belief in the urgency of the need for more programming to serve older youth. She responded by using her strong collaboration skills to engage partners that could help expand the scale of the programs she was developing," said Reverend Dr. Karen Brown, grant writer for Intersection of Change.

Morgan's commitment to Jubilee Arts has increased the number of classes offered from 15 to 23; Increased attendance at the annual block party from 500 to more than 1,200 and saw class enrollment jump from 500 to 2,500.

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## Len R. Parrish



Director  
Harford County Community & Economic  
Development

Len R. Parrish recently led the merger of two major Harford County departments that will ultimately help connect people with housing, jobs and transportation.

Community and economic development are now one united department. Parrish helped grow a housing agency with fewer than 20 employees to a larger agency with more than 80 employees and the broader

focus.

"By building strong communities, we are able to ensure we have a workforce that companies are looking for and living wage jobs that people want," Parrish said. "We are able to provide educational opportunities for all and an environment where people want to live and raise their families."

Parrish emphasizes that it takes an entire community to make this happen, and attributes his own success to relationships.

Parrish chairs the Harford County Partnership Board for the United Way of Central Maryland and is a board member of a halfway house for women recovering from homelessness and substance abuse, the Homecoming Project, Inc. He is also a board member of the Harford County Chamber of Commerce.

He helped to initiate the County Executive's Day of Service program and helped bring Project Homeless Connect to Harford County, the first jurisdiction outside of Baltimore to host the event.

Last year, the department invested almost \$11 million in housing and community development projects, he said. They have also improved the transit system, investing in technology to improve route efficiencies and providing the first of several shelters for those waiting for transit.

## Channa Williams



Capital Budget Manager  
City of Baltimore

As a successful financial executive with more than 16 years of experience in corporate and government sector budget, finance and management, Channa Williams' most significant professional accomplishment was planning, organizing and directing the development and management of the Baltimore City Department of Public Works \$1.3 billion budget, which was adopted by the Baltimore City Council.

Outside of work, Williams volunteers to improve the lives of underserved youth. She is chairman of the board of AIRS/Empire Homes and serves on the board of The Nolita Project. She has volunteered in many other capacities, most recently for the Washington's 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Homeless Drive, as fiscal lead for the United Way and as AIRS/EHM Basketball Tournament campaign leader.

"She is zealous in her work with the nonprofit AIRS/Empire Homes," said Derek Mitchel, senior vice president at Grant Capital Management. "She is an active board member and is constantly encouraging involvement and engagement from our cohort and others."

Williams said she values humility and tries to focus on who she wants to be, rather than what she wants to be. She said her professional ethic is "When it is in your hands, make it better."

"To know Channa Williams is to not only recognize her professional talents but to cherish her," said Tiffany Royster, senior vice president at The Harbor Bank of Maryland Development Corporation. Royster and Williams are both part of the Greater Baltimore Committee LEADERSHIP program. "Her humanity drives you to want to seek her out and tackle some of Baltimore's biggest challenges."

Williams was a 2017 Black Business Review Finance Professional of the Year and a 2015 recipient of the Estate Planner Review Award.



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## Christine Buckley



Vice  
President,  
Fiduciary  
Adviser  
PNC Bank

**C**hristine Buckley learned the value of hard work growing up

on a farm in central Pennsylvania, where her parents worked several jobs. Now Buckley said she brings that same grit and dedication to her work for her clients at PNC Bank.

"I am challenged every day to find new ways to meet and exceed my clients' goals," said Buckley, who has a law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law and a Master of Laws in Taxation from the Georgetown University Law Center. "I work with clients to develop, implement and execute the terms of their financial and estate plans by always acting in their best interests and helping them achieve financial piece of mind and meet their goals."

Buckley is involved in several volunteer organizations, including the United Way of Central Maryland and Pratt Contemporaries. For the United Way, she has mulched, weeded and planted potatoes at the Filbert Street Garden and helped pack 500 summer bags for at-risk children to engage in activities during the summer. She also raised \$925, topping her goal of \$375, for a summer reading program through Pratt Contemporaries. Her efforts supported the cost of reading materials for 12 children.

"My philanthropic commitment to the community is driven by the desire to do the right thing and engage in activities that will make our community better than it was the day before," she said. "All we can do to bring about change is keep showing up and making small differences."

# BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF INDUSTRY

# Rachel Dolcine



CEO  
Compass Consulting and Training  
Solutions LLC

When Rachel Dolcine was in elementary school, she made a list of all the things she wanted to do when she grew up. One of the items was starting a business.

After earning a master's of public administration from the University of Baltimore in 2010, she founded Compass Consulting and Training Solutions LLC, which helps individuals launch and maintain small

businesses and nonprofits.

Her husband Pierre noted he always thought of a compass while thinking of her and her skill set.

"I'm really good at helping people figure out where they want to go and helping them get there," she said. "Even if someone gets off track, I am really good at getting them back on track and getting them back on their way."

She enjoys the independence of her own business and the ability to be as creative as she wants to be.

In 2015, she checked another item off her list when she started the Joseph and Vera Douglas Family Foundation Inc., a nonprofit named in honor of her late grandparents who were poor, but still gave to those in greater need.

Every year, the foundation goes to Jamaica for a mission trip seeking out the poorest areas and distributes food, clothing, school supplies, book bags and medical items. This year, Dolcine is working on adding an entrepreneurial training program for women so they may provide for their families.

"Purpose activates powers and amplifies your voice," she said. "As a woman, sometimes we lose our voice or we have a hard time finding our voice so once you find your purpose that is the first step to finding your voice. That's what I live by. I will not be silent."

# Panagis Galiatsatos, MD, MHS



Physician  
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Baltimore native Panagis Galiatsatos has accomplished a lot in his 34 years.

He earned a medical degree from the University of Maryland School of Medicine and a Master's in health science from the Duke University School of Medicine and is a pulmonary and critical care physician and an assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.

But Galiatsatos' proudest achievement is the organization he helped create in 2013: Medicine for the Greater Good.

MGG works with medical residents at Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center to promote health and wellness in Baltimore. Its initiatives include a support group for caregivers and a training program for lay health educators, who visit congregations to encourage health care awareness.

Galiatsatos has high hopes for his organization.

"If medicine is to reaffirm itself as a public trust, we must be responsive to the needs of patients in the 21st century," he said. "Having medicine transcend hospital walls and reach into the community, in order to attenuate the impact of non-biological factors (poverty, health care access, etc.) ... is what drives MGG's mission."

He added: "Through the physicians we train, the communities that are impacted and the research we are publishing, MGG is a force that will hopefully help lead a cultural change in medicine."

Among other awards and honors, Galiatsatos has won the Community Service Award from the Muslim Social Services Agency in Baltimore, the Rev. Tuggle Award for Community Service in east Baltimore and the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Award from Johns Hopkins University.



## Complete List of Winners 2010-2018

Misti Aaronson	2015	DeWitt Bauer	2014	Nona O. Carroll	2015	Genevieve de Mahy	2015
Sam Abed	2013	<b>Megan Benevento, Esq.</b>	<b>2018</b>	Jorge Eduardo Castillo	2016	<b>Desiree de la Torre</b>	<b>2018</b>
Dr. Jean Accius	2015	James Benjamin	2012	Dale Cathell	2016	Alicyn DelZoppo	2014
Earl Adams Jr.	2011	Merrick Benn	2012	Frances "Hall" Chaney III	2017	Katrina J. Dennis, Esq.	2014
Elizabeth L. Adams	2014	Samuel C. Bianco	2017	Emily M. Chiarizia	2014	Gregory Derwart	2011
Gabriel Adams	2013	<b>Allyson Black</b>	<b>2018</b>	Adam Sean Cohen	2011	Ryan Dietrich	2017
Christopher A. Adebajo	2014	Dalliah Mashon Black, M.D.	2010	Dan Cohen	2015	Michael Dodd	2013
Lauren Ades	2013	Tim Bojanowski	2014	<b>Deandra Coleman</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Rachel Dolcine</b>	<b>2018</b>
Karla Aghajanian	2013	Burke Bowers	2016	<b>Quinn Collins</b>	<b>2018</b>	Joanna L. Diamond	2016
Awais Akbar	2014	Calvin J. Bowman	2016	John Comberiate	2016	Jim Dickinson	2012
Roselyn Aker-Black, Psy.D	2016	Thomas "Toby" Bozzuto	2010	<b>Drew Cook</b>	<b>2018</b>	Heather Dhopolsky	2012
Matthew D. Alegi, Esq.	2014	Adrienne Breidenstine	2014	Veronica Cool	2010	Eloiza T.B. Domingo-Snyder, M.S.	
Ahmedur Ali	2011	Robyn Brenza	2013	Harmon L. (Monty) Cooper	2015		2017
Billy Apostolou	2014	Jacqueline Allen Brooks	2015	Luke Cooper	2015	Devin J. Doolan Jr.	2012
Heather Welch Arbogast	2016	<b>Van Brooks</b>	<b>2018</b>	Jill Crank	2016	Dolores Dorsainvil	2012
Mario Armstrong	2010	McKinley Broome	2011	Naomi Cross	2013	Patrick Dougherty	2015
Jamie Watt Arnold	2017	Melissa Chalmers Broome	2014	Dr. Dionne Nicole Curbeam	2016	Kelly Drnec	2016
<b>Berke Attila</b>	<b>2018</b>	Eric Brotman	2011	Charles Curlett Jr.	2011	Jessica duHoffmann	2011
Andrew Attman	2016	<b>Kendra Brown</b>	<b>2018</b>	Carlton A. Curry	2015	<b>Alan J. Dunklow</b>	<b>2018</b>
Robin F. Baker	2017	Monise A. Brown	2017	<b>Jennifer L. Curry</b>	<b>2018</b>	Josiah Dykstra, Ph.D	2016
Calvin B. Ball, Ed. D.	2014	Tammy Brown	2013	Anna Custer	2010	<b>Lauren Eaton</b>	<b>2018</b>
Dr. Nia Danielle Banks	2014	<b>Christine E. Buckley</b>	<b>2018</b>	James Dahlgren, Jr.	2017	<b>Bryan R. Ebert</b>	<b>2018</b>
Juan Barbaran	2016	Meighan G. Burton	2014	Alyce Dailey	2016	Joseph Edwardson	2011
Tim Barnhill	2012	Whitney A.N. Burton	2015	S. Dallas Dance	2016	Tim Elder	2010
Stephanie Baron	2016	Anthony Butler	2011	Emily Datnoff	2013	David Ellin	2013
Erek Barron	2012	<b>Sarah Christa Butts, MSW</b>	<b>2018</b>	Ted Davidson	2017	Diana M. Emerson	2017
April Baer	2011	Benjamin H. Carney	2017	Kimberly Davis, MBA, CPA	2017	Chad English	2010
<b>Lindsay Baublitz</b>	<b>2018</b>	Robert Carpenter	2010	Lester Davis	2017	Katie Essing	2012

## Complete List of Winners 2010-2018

Matthew Esworthy	2012	Alexandra Jellerette	2010	Randal Mills	2010	Angela Scott	2013
<b>Sonya Funna Evelyn</b>	<b>2018</b>	Christian Johansson	2010	Brian Minnich	2012	Lance Scott	2015
Ron Fairchild	2010	Larissa Johnson	2017	Brian Moffet	2012	Dr. Samantha Scott	2014
Jason Farley	2010	Lisa Hall Johnson	2016	<b>Alexandria Montanio</b>	<b>2018</b>	Sarah Janowitz Sedlak	2012
Danny Farrar	2013	Ricardo R. Johnson, Esq.	2016	Wes Moore	2013	Andrew Segall	2013
Lanaea Featherstone	2016	Samuel Johnson Jr	2017	Ryan B. Moran	2017	Dorry Segev	2010
Camille Guevara Fesche	2017	Todd Johnson	2010	<b>Nora Howell Morgan</b>	<b>2018</b>	Jamie Seward	2013
<b>Andrew Finkelstein</b>	<b>2018</b>	Chantal M. Joseph	2015	Nick Mosby	2012	Steven Sharkey	2017
Christy A. Fisher	2017	Jeffrey M. Judge	2015	Michelle Mayer Motsko	2012	Indira Sharma	2016
David R. Fitzell	2017	Nilesh Kalyanaraman, M.D.	2014	Carla N. Murphy	2014	Mark Shaver	2012
Rebecca A. Fleming	2015	Rena Kates	2016	John Murphy	2011	Guy Sheetz	2015
Casey Weinberg Florance	2015	Caroline Kauffman-Kirschnick	2016	Patrick Murray	2013	<b>Sarah Diane Sheppard</b>	<b>2018</b>
Lionel Foster Jr.	2011	Jeff Kayce	2011	<b>Marianne Navarro, ALCP</b>	<b>2018</b>	Brian Shepter	2011
Seth Franz	2016	Kayleigh Toth Keilty	2017	Ryan Nawrocki	2017	Nicole Sherry	2010
Jeremy Frederick	2010	<b>Thomas (Tj) Keilty</b>	<b>2018</b>	Lena Nazarian	2011	Jahantab Siddiqui	2012
Joanna Freeman	2017	Toyja E. Kelley	2010	Kimberly Neal	2013	Jane Frankel Sims	2012
Holly Freishtat	2010	Kari M. Kelly	2016	Elijah Northen	2015	Meghan Simmons	2010
Michael G. Fried	2017	Jesse Ketterman	2010	Myra Norton	2011	<b>Walter L. G. Simmons</b>	<b>2018</b>
Amy Burke Friedman	2016	Gregory K. Kirby	2014	Michael P. O'Day	2015	Michael Siri	2011
Hon. Karen Chaya Friedman	2010	Nic Kipke	2017	Damian O'Doherty	2011	Michelle Siri	2013
<b>Dr. Josh Funk</b>	<b>2018</b>	Heidi Klotzman	2012	Adeyinka O. Ogunlegan	2015	Christina Hester Snyder	2015
Maria Fuster	2011	Talley H-S Kovacs	2015	<b>Raf Olazagasti</b>	<b>2018</b>	Yolanda Sonnier	2012
Kimberly Fusco	2014	<b>Elizabeth Edsall Kromm, PhD.</b>	<b>2018</b>	Brittany T. Oliver	2017	Tracy Sorzano	2013
<b>Panagis Galiatsatos, MD, MHS</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Jon Kucskar</b>	<b>2018</b>	Erin O'Keefe	2013	<b>Brian S. Southard</b>	<b>2018</b>
Matthew D. Gallagher	2010	Sonia Kumar	2011	Jeanette Ortiz	2016	Francie Cohen Spahn	2012
<b>Ashleigh DeFries Gallagher</b>	<b>2018</b>	Kara McKinley Kunst	2015	Holly O'Shea	2012	Chris Spann	2010
Geoffrey M. Gamble	2017	<b>Neveen H. Kurtom</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>Elizabeth R. Paal</b>	<b>2018</b>	Adam Spence	2012
MacKenzie R. Garvin	2015	Dr. John C. LaMattina	2014	Trisha Paine, Esq.	2017	<b>Ryan Spiegel</b>	<b>2018</b>
Sommer Gentry	2010	Laura Latta	2016	Tracey Paliath	2011	Harry T. Spikes II	2016
Michael Gibbs	2011	<b>Jenna Laube, PE</b>	<b>2018</b>	Miguel Palmeiro	2015	Alicia D.D. Spoor, Au.D.	2015
Scott T. Gibson	2017	Bobbie Lauren	2014	<b>Len R. Parrish</b>	<b>2018</b>	Dr. Erica Staaterman	2016
Brendan Gill	2014	Lara Law	2013	John E. Pastalow	2015	Jennifer J. Stearman	2011
Morgan Gilligan	2011	Katherine Lawler	2013	Melinda Peters	2010	Jeremy Steinberg	2012
Matt Goddard	2010	Akeembra Lawrence	2015	Laura Pierson-Scheinberg	2014	Janine DiPaula Stevens	2014
Duff Goldman	2010	<b>Tonee A. Lawson</b>	<b>2018</b>	Thomas S. Picklerton III	2017	Jason St. John	2011
Melissa E. Goldmeier	2016	W. Grace Lee	2011	Katherine Pinkard	2015	Ian C. Taylor	2014
Eduardo González	2012	Gary Leibowitz, Cole	2010	Kevin Plank	2010	Thara Taylor	2012
<b>Marie Grant</b>	<b>2018</b>	Dr. Jasmine Lydia Leigh	2016	Jason Plotkin	2016	Rebecca S. Teaff	2017
J. Steven Green	2010	Mindi B. Levin	2014	Keshia Pollack	2011	Courtney Thomas	2012
Torbin Green	2012	Max Levitt	2017	David Posin	2014	Christopher Thomaskutty	2011
Sara E. Gross	2017	Ira A. Levy	2011	<b>Divya Potdar</b>	<b>2018</b>	J. MacGregor Tisdale	2010
Julian Haffner	2016	Angie Lienert	2013	L. Terri Powell-Brown	2012	Betsy Fox Tolentino	2014
Michael Hardy	2013	Rachael L. Lighty	2015	<b>Kelly A. Powers</b>	<b>2018</b>	Aaron N. Tomarchio	2011
Monica Garcia Harms	2012	Catalina Rodriguez Lima	2016	Hannah Powers	2011	Gordon Brooks Trimper	2010
LaTara Harris	2010	Ivonne Corsino Lindley, Esq.	2016	<b>Thomas K. Prevas</b>	<b>2018</b>	Chris Trumbauer	2014
Heather Harvison	2011	Michelle Lipkowitz	2010	Shameeka Price	2015	Jessica Trzyna	2012
Craig R. Haughton	2014	Ingrid M. Lofgren	2014	Christopher W. Roberts	2015	Harel Turkel	2014
Geoff Hengerer	2016	<b>Nicolette A. Louissaint</b>	<b>2018</b>	Ajmel Quereshi	2010	Jessica Tural	2010
Mary Ann Henker	2011	Amy Luppens	2013	<b>Jessica Quincosa</b>	<b>2018</b>	Mark Tyler	2012
Quinton Herbert	2013	Jaime Walker Luse	2015	Amy Eva Raehse	2014	Ashley Valis, MSW	2014
Ronna Hertzano	2013	Scott Warner MacMullan	2015	Elliott Rauh	2013	Maureen van Stone, Esq. M.S.	2014
Cheryl Dennison Himmelfarb	2010	Dana Marlowe	2016	Brian Razzaque	2017	Christie Vera	2012
Rachel Hirsch	2015	Thomas Maronick, Jr., Esq.	2014	Stephen D. Reidy	2012	Thiru Vignarajah	2011
David Hodnett	2012	Todd Marks	2013	<b>Lynden Renwick, Esq.</b>	<b>2018</b>	Lori A. Villegas	2011
Aubreana Stephenson Holder	2017	Melissa Martinez	2015	Angelique Rewers	2013	Jaclyn Vincent	2013
W. Brett Hollander	2011	Stephen Martino	2010	<b>Robert Reynolds</b>	<b>2018</b>	Matthew Vocci	2013
Kenneth Paul "Kip" Hollar Jr.	2016	Orlando James Mayo	2015	Carrie Rich	2017	Ali von Paris	2017
Michael Hood	2013	Scott McCaskill	2011	Donna K. Rismiller	2011	David Warschawski	2010
Danette Howard	2013	Michael S. McDevitt	2010	Jennifer Roberts	2012	Dina Wasmer	2010
Kevin G. Hroblak	2011	Kristen Campbell McGuire	2011	<b>Shantell L. Roberts</b>	<b>2018</b>	Laurie M. Wasserman	2014
Alexandra Hughes	2016	Martha McKenna	2011	Dennis Robinson, Jr.	2013	Jessica P. Weber	2017
Hughie Duval Hunt	2010	Robin McKinney	2015	Nan Rohrer	2013	<b>Juan A. Webster</b>	<b>2018</b>
Cheo Hurley	2012	Joe Mechlinski	2010	Brett Rogers	2011	Brent Weiss	2015
Zenita Wickham Hurley	2015	Edward Meister	2012	Otis Rolley, III	2010	Thomas M. Weschler Jr.	2016
<b>MaryBeth Hyland</b>	<b>2018</b>	Benjamin Meredith	2017	Jonathon Rondeau	2014	Dondi West	2012
Rafael Irizarry	2010	Derek Mitchell	2017	Beth Ronnenburg	2011	Brian M. White	2012
Amy Ives	2011	Monica Mitchell	2011	Jason Rose	2011	Angela Whittaker-Pion	2014
J. Buck Jabaily	2010	<b>Sierra B. Mitchell</b>	<b>2018</b>	David S. Rosen	2017	Alice Wilkerson	2017
Tonya Jackson	2013	Michelle N. Mendez, Esq.	2014	Jeffery S. Rosen, CPA	2014	<b>Channa L. Williams</b>	<b>2018</b>
Christopher Janian	2010	Aimee N. Metrick	2015	Adam Rosenberg	2011	Chelsea A. Williams, MPH, CCPH	2017
<b>Patricia B. Jefferson</b>	<b>2018</b>	Jennifer Meyer	2013	Julie Rubin	2011	<b>Zuberi Bakari Williams</b>	<b>2018</b>
				Rudy Ruiz II	2015	Rachel Yasser	2013
				Delora R. Sanchez, Esq.	2017	<b>Swapna Yeluri</b>	<b>2018</b>
				Heather Sarkissian	2010	Brock Yetso	2017
				Bryan Saxton	2017	Caryn York	2017
				Michael Schiffer	2011	Mark A. Yost, Jr. Esq.	2014
				Isaac Yitzy Schleifer	2017	Matthew J. Youssef	2016
				Jeremy S. Scholtes, Esq.	2017	Tong Zhang	2013

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Chimes has been making a positive difference in the lives of the individuals we serve for more than 70 years. We see potential in everyone, and we've proven adept at helping our individuals achieve that potential. We are driven to help the individuals we serve achieve three main goals:

- To live as independently as possible, guided by **choice**
- To understand, respond to and realize the potential of their **capabilities**, and

- To serve as productive, contributing members of their **community**.

Chimes Family suite of services fall predominately within three distinct, but aligned businesses:

- **Behavioral Health**, which encompasses mental health and substance abuse—two conditions that are often intertwined. For decades, Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems, based in Exton, Pennsylvania, has been a leader in this area. Holcomb has improved the lives of thousands of people with a wide range of diagnoses, including the growing scourge of opioid abuse. In addition to treatment programs, Holcomb operates preventative education programs in many area schools designed to help shape the behaviors of adolescents and young adults, providing them the tools and guidance necessary to avoid the perils of addiction.
- **Employment Services** Chimes supports those who need a hand up, not a handout. Our employment services business provides opportunities for nearly 1400 individuals with disabilities in one of the nearly 50 contracts we service throughout the mid-Atlantic. With a good, honest job and the supports needed to succeed in that job Chimes employment services employees are building for themselves lives of dignity, accomplishment and independence.
- **Intellectual and Developmental Disability Services** It is impossible to over-estimate the impact that supporting someone with special needs has, not just on the individuals themselves but on their families and caregivers as well. Chimes is uniquely positioned to lead the way in delivering individualized supports to help educate, train, employ, house, and otherwise assist vulnerable and under-resourced population.

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Chimes provide services to over 26,000 people in 6 states, the district of Columbia and Israel. With a rich history spanning over several decades. Our network of services and supports emphasize and promote the unique abilities of each person, with a focus on achieving and sustaining each person's well-being and independence.



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