

Honorable Mary Ellen Barbera • Angie Barnett • Dr. Roger N. Casey • Ronald Causey

MARYLAND

**THE DAILY RECORD**

Jonathan Schochor • Jane Shaab • James L. Sheav • Honorable James Smith • Joseph A. Sullivan • Betty Valdes  
Dr. David Kwabena Wilson

Evelyn O. A. Darden • Scott Dorsey • Janet Dudley-Eshbach • Stanford G. Gann Sr. • Susan Ganz • Chickie Grayson  
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SUCCESS AND LEADERSHIP

**AWARD  
2020**

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# Publisher's Note



**W**e are proud to present our fourth annual Icon Honors awards. We appreciate that you've adjusted with us as we've pivoted to a virtual awards ceremony to keep everyone safe.

Many of the 25 men and women you'll meet in these pages are well-known to you. A few you'll be meeting for the first time. But they all have some qualities in common:

- They have left an indelible mark on their chosen fields.
- They have displayed sustained leadership and integrity.
- They have withstood the whims and caprices of the moment to build what is lasting and durable.
- They have the vision to see what is meaningful and the drive and determination to achieve those goals.
- They have lifted up their colleagues and displayed selfless community service.

Honorees come from the field of education, politics, law and business. Each stands out in their own way, and they care about the communities around the state.

Cal Ripken Jr. was baseball's Iron Man setting the standard for work ethic as he played in 2,632 consecutive games during his playing career. But now, he's leaving his mark through the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation and Ripken Baseball both of which give back to the community including building youth baseball facilities.

Mary Ellen Barbera was a mother and a public school teacher when she was inspired to go into

law. She attended evening classes while keeping her day job and has been the chief judge for the Maryland Court of Appeals since 2013 and has led the court system through the pandemic.

Evelyn O.A. Darden was one of the first Black women to serve as an assistant attorney general in Maryland and worked with renowned trial attorney Johnny Cochran. In 1988 she founded the first Black mother-son law firm in the state.

Betty Valdes has dedicated her life to helping underserved communities by creating effective communications channels. She created, produced and hosted Que Pasa, a Spanish-speaking and award-winning cable TV show on Montgomery Municipal Cable. A native of Venezuela, she saw that the need of minority communities to be educated on the issues that affect them.

Dr. David Kwabena Wilson is the 10th president of Morgan State University and has served in that role for more than a decade. Under his leadership, Morgan has seen its highest graduation rate in 10 years as well as continuing its status as the top historically black college and university to produce Fulbright scholars with more than 149 awards in 44 countries around the world.

These are just some of the remarkable stories you'll read about in this magazine. We hope you find them not only informative but inspirational.

We thank our sponsors for this event including Presenting Sponsor Franklin Templeton; Live Stream Sponsor Towson University; Social Media Sponsor Rifkin Weiner Livingston LLC; and Virtual Celebration Sponsors Better Business Bureau of Greater Maryland; Epsilon Registration; McDaniel College; Merritt Companies; Salisbury University; Schochor, Federico & Staton, P.A.; University of Maryland, Baltimore; Venable LLP; and VPC, Inc.

**Suzanne Fischer-Huettner**

## How the honorees were chosen

The Icon Honors awards 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.

### Eligibility Requirements:

Must have a long-standing commitment to the Maryland business community; Must have a sustained commitment to community service and mentoring; Must be 60 years old or more to qualify; May currently be in the workforce or retired; and Must hold or have held a senior management-level position with significant authority in decision-making for their organization.

Winners were selected by The Daily Record.



## MARYLAND THE DAILY RECORD

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## MARY ELLEN BARBERA

*Chief Judge  
Maryland Court of Appeals*

“

*Remember that you stand on the shoulders of those before you and that you have an obligation to those who will need support from you”*

Court of Appeals Chief Judge Mary Ellen Barbera was raising young children and teaching in a public elementary school in Baltimore when she was inspired by a family member’s work in the Maryland Office of the Attorney General to attend law school.

She attended evening classes at the University of Baltimore and University of Maryland while continuing her day job, and after law school clerked for the late Judge Robert Karwacki, who moved from a trial judge to the Court of Appeals during her clerkship.

“He became a lifelong friend and mentor,” said Barbera, who has been chief judge since 2013. “By the end of the year in his court, I found appellate work to be my calling.”

Barbera has led the state court system through the pandemic. She ordered that courts be closed to the public and staffed for emergency matters. Judges were authorized to use electronic means to conduct legal proceedings when possible. The courts have resumed operations, including jury trials, after a phased reopening Barbera announced in May.

“Full operations will continue, so long as the level of COVID-19 positivity will allow them,” she said. “But the number of in-person events that can be scheduled must be fewer than before, as distancing in the courthouses and courtrooms must be maintained. The response of the courts and the Administrative Office of the Courts to make access to justice continue during the pandemic is an ex-

ample of a collective effort by the entire judiciary that should be recognized and of which I am deeply proud.”

Barbera has advised many law clerks and interns, whom she encourages to keep learning and listening.

“Remember that you stand on the shoulders of those before you and that you have an obligation to those who will need support from you,” she advised. “Get the best advice you can from a variety of sources and make principled decisions. Bear in mind always that it is the work that is important, not the person who is fortunate enough to be in the position to be able to do it.”



## ANGIE BARNETT

*President and CEO  
Better Business Bureau of Greater Maryland*

**“***We are a standards-based organization, and you have to meet or exceed those standards to become an accredited business.”***”**

**A**ngie Barnett started her career in social work but soon discovered she excelled in leadership roles in nonprofits, which led to a career change in 2001 when she became the vice president of membership for the Maryland Chamber of Commerce for six years.

“I was able to combine my nonprofit leadership, community engagement experience with the knowledge and experience of serving in a statewide business organization that was membership-driven.”

Barnett has been the president and CEO of the Better Business Bureau (BBB) of Greater Maryland for almost 15 years.

“The BBB is a tad bit like social work, parenting or a strong society – doing the right thing for the right reason; being fair, equitable, consistent; engaged for excellence and improvements; and building a

trustworthy community.”

Barnett has guided BBB as the relationship between businesses and consumers has evolved.

“Fourteen years ago, we received 12,000 to 14,000 complaints about Maryland businesses. Today, people are filing complaints less and posting reviews online instead,” she said in February.

“This is not fair to businesses because there’s no opportunity for dispute resolution. Businesses can only improve if they understand what a customer is unhappy with so they can figure out how to make it right and prevent it from happening again. And it’s not fair to consumers who may be influenced by false positives.”

Barnett is also guiding BBB through the pandemic by making tough but necessary cuts to provide opportunities to help

small businesses. “The pivot to adapt, adopt and serve more than ever before has been the most amazing transformation of our organization and one in which we have generated measurable success.”

Barnett believes that BBB’s business standard, when practiced, builds trust and consumers.

“We are a standards-based organization, and you have to meet or exceed those standards to become an accredited business. We call out substandard behavior through our consumer alerts, media reports and through our ratings and business profile products/services. In the end, I believe we have over this last decade especially helped create a stronger community of trustworthy businesses through our work, our voice and our engagement.”



# DR. ROGER N. CASEY

*President  
McDaniel College*



**A**s Roger N. Casey prepares to retire in June 2021 after 10 years as president of McDaniel College, he said he's proudest of the college's commitment to access and affordability.

"As a first-generation college graduate myself, I know firsthand the life-changing impact that higher education has had on my life," he said.

Under Casey, McDaniel invests more than \$40 million a year in grants and scholarships, including \$25,000 scholarships for children of schoolteachers, military personnel and alumni. As a result, McDaniel has been recognized for its commitment by Washington Monthly, Money Magazine and The Princeton Review, among others.

Casey welcomed McDaniel's largest freshman class ever this fall, despite the pandemic, and also topped 1,800 undergraduates for the first time. Students are more diverse, with almost 50% of freshmen identified as students of color. He said the college has built

its curriculum around the McDaniel Commitment, which guarantees every student will have at least two experiential learning opportunities.

Casey is also a national leader in higher education as chair of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, is on the American Council on Education board of directors and is the immediate past-chair for the Maryland Independent College and University Association.

Casey is planning a one-year sabbatical and then possibly returning to teach, perhaps at McDaniel's European campus in Budapest, Hungary. Casey remains committed to help-

ing McDaniel students grow.

"Learn to listen to people with whom you disagree and become friends with those most unlike you," he advises. "You must learn to listen to and analyze a myriad of ideas and positions, some of which are directly counter to your most sacred points of view. That is how you learn."

He also advises students to find joy in their lives. "I have found that the happiest people in the world are able to say two things every day: I learned something new today and I helped someone today. Always keep those principles at the forefront of each and every day."

**“***As a first-generation college graduate myself, I know firsthand the life-changing impact that higher education has had on my life***”**





## CONGRATULATIONS

**Dr. Roger N. Casey**

*and all of The Daily Record's ICON Honors Award recipients!*

Over the last decade, President Casey has supported the college's commitment to access and affordability. More than \$50 million in grants and scholarships is awarded annually to ensure that all students, regardless of their financial circumstances, can obtain a McDaniel College education.

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mentor and friend

**Angie Barnett**

on being named a 2020  
Icon Honors Award Recipient



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*“From the start, I recognized that establishing a culture based on collaboration and trust between our clients, colleagues and community members, would be our winning formula”*

## RON CAUSEY

CEO  
SC&H Group

**T**he most memorable moment in his long career in accounting, according to Ron Causey, came in 1991 when he decided to co-found SC&H Group.

“Over the past 30 years, we’ve steadily grown into a nationally and locally recognized management consulting, audit, and tax firm, serving clients from private sector businesses to Fortune 500 companies across Maryland and beyond,” Causey said.

Since its founding, his company has made a number of changes. In 2005, for example, Causey opened a mergers and acquisition arm, SC&H Capital, that has grown domestically and internationally. In 2015, he created

an employee stock ownership plan that gave workers ownership interest in the company.

“From the start, I recognized that establishing a culture based on collaboration and trust between our clients, colleagues and community members, would be our winning formula,” Causey said. “Continuing to listen and address their concerns is why we’ve been able to expand to 10 service lines and grow our team to nearly 300 employees.”

Asked what advice he would give the next generation of business leaders, Causey said: “Define your success by how you treat the people around you. Always see how you can lift others and solve their most pressing

issues.

Among other honors, Causey’s firm has been named both one of the top 100 accounting firms in the country and one of the best accounting firms to work for by Accounting Today, a national monthly magazine on the accounting business. Causey himself has been honored twice as a top local CEO for the year by The Daily Record.

He serves on several boards and committees, including the Stevenson University Board of Trustees and the University of Maryland Accounting Advisory Board, and is the varsity wrestling coach at Hereford High School.



*“Always pursue your dreams. Motivation, determination, perseverance, the North Star on the road less traveled will ultimately lead to a successful journey, by His Grace.”*



## EVELYN O.A. DARDEN

*Lawyer  
Law Offices of Addison-Darden*

**A**wards, honors and firsts are nothing new for Evelyn O.A. Darden, founder of the Columbia law firm of Addison-Darden.

A graduate of Morgan State University and the University of Maryland School of Law, her legal career began in 1976. Her early training began under the tutelage of Kenneth L. Johnson, a trailblazing civil rights attorney. At that firm and the Baltimore Office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Darden was responsible for several major class-action Title VII cases against Fortune 500 companies in Maryland, Delaware and Virginia, focused mainly on discrimination complaints from black and female police

officers, firefighters and steelworkers.

Darden was one of the first Black women to serve as an assistant attorney general in Maryland, and she worked for years with renowned trial attorney Johnny Cochran, who nominated her for the National Trial Lawyer of the Year for Public Justice Award in 2002.

Most recently, the western Howard County resident was inducted into both the Maryland Women's Hall of Fame and the Howard County Women's Hall of Fame earlier this year.

Darden founded her mother-son law firm of Addison-Darden in 1988 – the first Black mother-son law firm in the state.

In 2003, the firm was named trial lawyers

of the year by the Maryland Trial Lawyers Association for a successful class-action case filed on behalf of juveniles abused at state juvenile facilities in western Maryland.

Darden has served on various boards and organizations, including the Board of Directors of the YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County, and is active in her church and community.

“Never give up, even when barriers exist,” Darden said, when asked for advice for new legal leaders. “Always pursue your dreams. Motivation, determination, perseverance, the North Star on the road less traveled will ultimately lead to a successful journey, by His Grace.”



*“ We have always valued long-term relationships over a transactional mentality. If you sincerely value personal relationships with those with whom you do business, more than short-term profits, you will be successful, not only financially, but in life.”*

## SCOTT DORSEY

*Chairman/CEO  
Merritt Companies*

**S**ince he joined the then five-year-old Merritt Companies in 1972, Scott Dorsey has served in virtually every position in the Baltimore-based construction services and redevelopment company.

In the meantime, Merritt has grown to be one of the most experienced and largest construction companies in the greater Baltimore-Washington area, with more than 16 million square feet of commercial real estate properties.

“At this point in my career, I see every interaction with any of our younger team members as an opportunity to mentor, focusing on reinforcing our culture, the way we try to treat everyone with whom we interact,

valuing the creation of long-term relationships rather than transactions,” Dorsey said.

Dorsey serves as chairman of the board for the Maryland Economic Development Corporation and the Maryland Business for Responsive Government, and on boards for the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore, the Young Life-Urban Baltimore Board and the Baltimore County Economic Development Commission, among other organizations.

Other Merritt employees also are active with various professional and civic boards, Dorsey said, and volunteer for community projects and donate funds to a host of charitable organizations, from the House of Ruth to Pathfinders for Autism.

“We have always believed that contrib-

uting to the well-being of the community is an imperative for all businesses,” Dorsey said. “We do what we can to encourage our political leaders to provide the opportunity for economic growth and prosperity for everyone while providing support for those in difficult circumstances who need help.”

He added: “We have always valued long-term relationships over a transactional mentality. If you sincerely value personal relationships with those with whom you do business, more than short-term profits, you will be successful, not only financially, but in life.”

Dorsey earned his bachelor’s degree from Cornell University, in New York, and his MBA from Loyola University, in Maryland.



*“One day COVID-19 will be in the rear-view mirror; the next generation of successful citizen-leaders will be those who persevered despite present challenges.”*



## JANET DUDLEY-ESHBACH

*President Emerita and Professor  
Salisbury University*

**D**uring her 18-year tenure as president of Salisbury University, which ended in 2018, Janet Dudley-Eshbach was, she said, a risk-taker.

“Many people told me that the image that I had for the institution, to become one of the nation’s best public comprehensive universities, was overly ambitious,” she said. But during her nearly two decades as president, the school grew in both selectivity and size. That growth not only boosted the regional economy but produced a large number of students who have assumed leadership positions in business and government throughout our state – and beyond.

One measure of the school’s success,

Dudley-Eshbach said, is recognition by the prestigious Princeton Review of Salisbury’s Academic Commons library, built in 2017, as one of the top 20 college libraries in the country.

Mentoring students has provided Dudley-Eshbach with her most rewarding experiences, she said. As an example, she cited lobbying members of the Maryland General Assembly years ago on behalf of Salisbury with then-student Julia Glanz.

“Her political activism and leadership abilities blossomed, and today she is acting mayor of the City of Salisbury,” Dudley-Eshbach said. “I could not be more proud of her.”

Dudley-Eshbach earned her undergrad-

uate degree in Spanish and Latin American Studies from Indiana University and a doctorate in Hispanic literature from El Colegio de Mexico. She was the first woman to head Salisbury University in the school’s 75-year history.

“Stay positive,” Dudley-Eshbach said, when asked for advice for future business leaders. “The pandemic and political discord has created an environment in which far too many individuals have become cynical, negative and depressed.

“One day COVID-19 will be in the rear-view mirror; the next generation of successful citizen-leaders will be those who persevered despite present challenges.”



*His vision for leadership, Gann said, involves “time, effort and financial contributions to charitable and nonprofit educational groups and organizations.”*

## STANFORD G. GANN SR.

*Founding Shareholder & Member  
Levin & Gann, P.A.*

**S**ixty-five years after graduating from the University of Maryland Law School in 1955, Stanford G. Gann Sr., is still practicing law and still shows up at his Towson office virtually every workday.

All that experience adds a certain heft to his words of advice, and Gann had this to say to the next generation of legal or business leaders: “Professions are jealous mistresses. Therefore, treat and devote your life to being the best you can in your life’s pursuit.”

A lifelong resident of Baltimore, Gann was an undergraduate at the University of Maryland before law school. After law school,

Gann served two years in the Army with the Second Army Judge Advocate. In 1957, he established his private practice with fellow attorneys Ellis Levin and Calman A. Levin, a practice that eventually became one of the largest in the area.

His practice has focused mainly on corporate and business areas, including corporate organization, reorganization and partnerships. He also has extensive experience in taxation, mergers and acquisitions, real estate financing and development and family law. Gann remains involved in all phases of litigation.

His vision for leadership, Gann said, involves “time, effort and financial contributions to charitable and nonprofit educational groups and organizations.”

Asked about mentoring, Gann said that involves spending “uninterrupted time with young lawyers in providing oversight of work product, by allowing each associate to start a project on their own with only one direction from me and final review.”

And, after 65-plus years of practicing his profession, Gann said, his mentoring also involves “sharing my life’s experiences.”



# Salisbury University Congratulates



***Dr. Janet Dudley-Eshbach***  
***President Emerita***  
***Maryland Daily Record Icon Honoree***

As the longest-serving female president in the University System of Maryland, Dr. Janet Dudley-Eshbach strategically reshaped Salisbury University as a champion of diversity and inclusion, international education, and academic excellence. Thanks to her global vision, the campus grew in size, stature and reputation during her tenure from 2000-2018, opening over \$350 million in new facilities and launching two doctorates. Dudley-Eshbach credits "the teamwork of a generation of faculty, staff, students, alumni and donors."

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Merritt Companies is proud to salute our CEO, Scott Dorsey, on being named an ICON Honors award winner. Thank you for your leadership of the company, dedication to your employees and service to the community.

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## SUSAN J. GANZ

CEO  
*Lion Brothers Co. Inc.*

*“Seek out mentors who want to get to know the real ‘you,’ who can provide you the space to unpack whatever issues and burdens you’re carrying and help you reset”*

**A**s CEO of Lion Brothers Co. Inc. since the late 1980s, Susan J. Ganz has played an important role in the state’s manufacturing industry.

Based in Owings Mills and part of a Hong Kong business started in 1899, Lion Brothers is, according to its website, “the leading design and manufacturer of apparel brand identity systems” — brand logos, Girl Scout badges and the like.

And Ganz has made herself a powerful advocate and innovator in Maryland manufacturing.

“As vice chair of the Maryland Regional Manufacturing Institute, I have worked with (RMI President) Mike Galiazzo to highlight the relevance and opportunity of today’s

digital manufacturing and sought to advance manufacturing through community efforts,” Ganz said.

“Through the Maryland Manufacturing Commission, and as a past member of the Maryland Economic Development Commission, I have worked to bring an innovation and transformation mindset to the manufacturing industry in Maryland.”

Ganz’s advice to new budding leaders in the business world is simple: Find good, effective mentors.

“Seek out mentors who want to get to know the real ‘you,’ who can provide you the space to unpack whatever issues and burdens you’re carrying and help you reset,” she said. “Most importantly, seek out those

who can help you find the courage to make those hard decisions, and who are there to keep you moving along the path you are meant to travel.”

Her own mentoring experience has been satisfying. In one instance, a young man who served as her intern while he was in college eventually went to business school (she wrote his recommendation) and is now in a senior role at a Baltimore-based social enterprise.

“I never imagined when I said ‘yes’ to the intern, that it would develop into one of the most rewarding relationships I could imagine,” Ganz said.



*The task is  
“... critical  
for the  
growth of  
our residents  
in Maryland  
and the  
larger  
community,”  
she said.*



## CHICKIE GRAYSON

*Retired President and CEO  
Enterprise Homes*

Chickie Grayson enjoyed a multi-decade career providing homes for low-income families as President and CEO of Enterprise Homes.

Now known as Enterprise Community Development, the company creates affordable housing opportunities for individuals and families in Maryland and across the mid-Atlantic.

The task is “... critical for the growth of our residents in Maryland and the larger community,” she said.

After earning undergraduate and graduate degrees in urban affairs from the University of Maryland, Grayson started her career by applying to become a project manager at Enterprise in 1987.

Grayson went on to develop thousands

of rental and for-sale homes, working with architects, engineers, construction workers, banks and government agencies to provide a decent place for families to live. It’s a job that requires perseverance, creativity, willpower and the right financing.

For all of her accomplishments, she has received a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Baltimore District Council of the Urban Land Institute. She’s earned the HOPE Leadership award for her role in providing homeownership opportunities for minorities.

Grayson has also been the president of the Maryland Affordable Housing Coalition, has served on the board of directors for Parks and People Foundation and with the board of trustees of the Maryland Science Center.

As a woman working in a male-dominated

field, Grayson said, she has had the opportunity within her organization, professional organizations in real estate and volunteer activities to mentor several women new to their leadership positions.

“It is important to listen to women in new leadership positions and provide support, guidance, and help building leadership skills,” she said.

When it comes to building and leading a successful organization, Grayson said, the key ingredients are preparation and being ready for the right opportunity to come along, luck, consistent and transparent communication, and having a great development team filled with smart people.



*“Increase your investment in the education of the citizens and youth of Baltimore city for the current and emerging jobs that will be coming online in the coming years. These individuals will make up the next generation workforce and productive members of the city.”*

## J. HOWARD HENDERSON

*Principal  
Henderson Advisory Group LLC*

**J.** Howard Henderson has spent his adult life working to improve the living and working conditions of African Americans, other minorities, the underprivileged and the underserved.

The former president and CEO of the Greater Baltimore Urban League retired from the role in 2018 after 20 years with the organization. Henderson has been involved in many of the major civil rights issues in recent decades, including affirmative action, economic parity, political empowerment, fair housing and education.

From 1980 to 1993, he served as principal adviser and chief of staff to Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks, CEO of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Before his tenure began at the

NAACP, Henderson was appointed by West Virginia Gov. John D. Rockefeller, IV, in 1976 to serve as the director of the West Virginia State Employment and Training Division with the Governor’s Office of Economic and Community Development.

Henderson graduated from Marshall University with a Bachelor of Science degree in education and a master’s in Education Administration.

He is now the principal of the Henderson Advisory Group, which provides consultation to nonprofits, businesses and community relations strategists.

Henderson has worked with many young people who have asked for his guidance and mentorship through the years, and he continues to advise one who heads a national

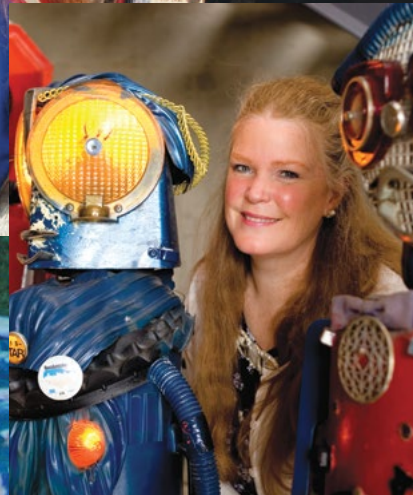
organization, acting as a sounding board as they deal with complex management issues, he said.

Since his retirement from the Urban League, Henderson has continued to support the Baltimore business community as a member of The Baltimore Convention and Tourism Board.

His advice to the next generation of business leaders: “Increase your investment in the education of the citizens and youth of Baltimore city for the current and emerging jobs that will be coming online in the coming years. These individuals will make up the next generation workforce and productive members of the city.”



**“**  
Baltimore,  
long infamous  
for its dark  
underbelly, should  
be a showcase  
for ‘what can and  
should be,’ as well  
as its remarkable  
and real strengths  
— a concept we  
have enshrined  
in our Jim Rouse  
Visionary Center  
whose wisdom  
and love for  
people and cities  
we champion.”



## REBECCA ALBAN HOFFBERGER

*American Visionary Art Museum*

**R**ebbecca Alban Hoffberger was accepted into college at the age of 15. But instead of attending, the precocious Hoffberger chose to become the first American apprentice of mime legend Marcel Marceau.

It’s one among many creative career choices Hoffberger has made, including founding and then directing the American Visionary Art Museum for 25 years.

She’s won honorary doctorate degrees from a host of colleges, including the Maryland Institute College of Art, Stevenson University and McDaniel College, as well as numerous awards, such as the 2011 Katherine Coffey Award by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums.

At the museum, Hoffberger leads a team

of what she describes as “triage miracle workers” on the smallest annual budget of Maryland’s 12 major cultural institutions.

Up until the pandemic hit, she said the museum averaged more than 100 weddings and corporate rental events per year. Most meaningfully to her, the museum has become a one-of-a-kind national museum and education center that won the coveted Urban Land Institute’s National Award for Excellence.

Popular museum events include its annual land/sea Kinetic Sculpture Race, its free Hughes Family Theater “Flicks from The Hill” movies under the stars, and its Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Dare to Dream event that attracts upwards of 5,000 attendees.

The museum has become “Mothership to fresh thinkers and innovators in science, engineering, medicine, humor, philosophy and especially compassionate justice activists.”

Making positive social change requires the fiercest creativity and care, she said. Hoffberger advised young leaders to remember that loving kindness, enthusiasm, being on time and gratitude are essential traits to possess.

“Baltimore, long infamous for its dark underbelly, should be a showcase for ‘what can and should be,’ as well as its remarkable and real strengths — a concept we have enshrined in our Jim Rouse Visionary Center whose wisdom and love for people and cities we champion,” she said.



*“Above all, keep your family a priority in your goals, as they and your career are intricately intertwined.”*

## BARRY F. LEVIN

*Managing Partner, CEO  
Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr*

**A**s the managing partner and CEO of Saul Ewing Arnstein & Lehr, Barry F. Levin believes in leading by example.

He's done that in part by providing new and enhanced opportunities in the Baltimore-Washington area and throughout Maryland, supporting lawyers as they rise in the profession and encouraging active participation in the greater community through service on a variety of boards.

Levin himself is the chairman of LifeBridge Health Partners' Oversight Committee, and has served in a variety of roles there since 2014. He's also served as the vice chairman of the board of directors for Sinai Hospital of

Baltimore, at the Levindale Hebrew Geriatric Center and Hospital, the Northwest Hospital, Carroll Hospital and the Babe Ruth Birthplace Foundation.

As a mentor, soon after Levin took on his current professional role, he met with the firm's diversity and inclusion committee and developed a plan to attract and grow not just high-profile partners, but younger associates as well. The plan they set in motion is alive and well at the firm today and has allowed many diverse attorneys to grow and develop into highly productive partners, role models and leaders.

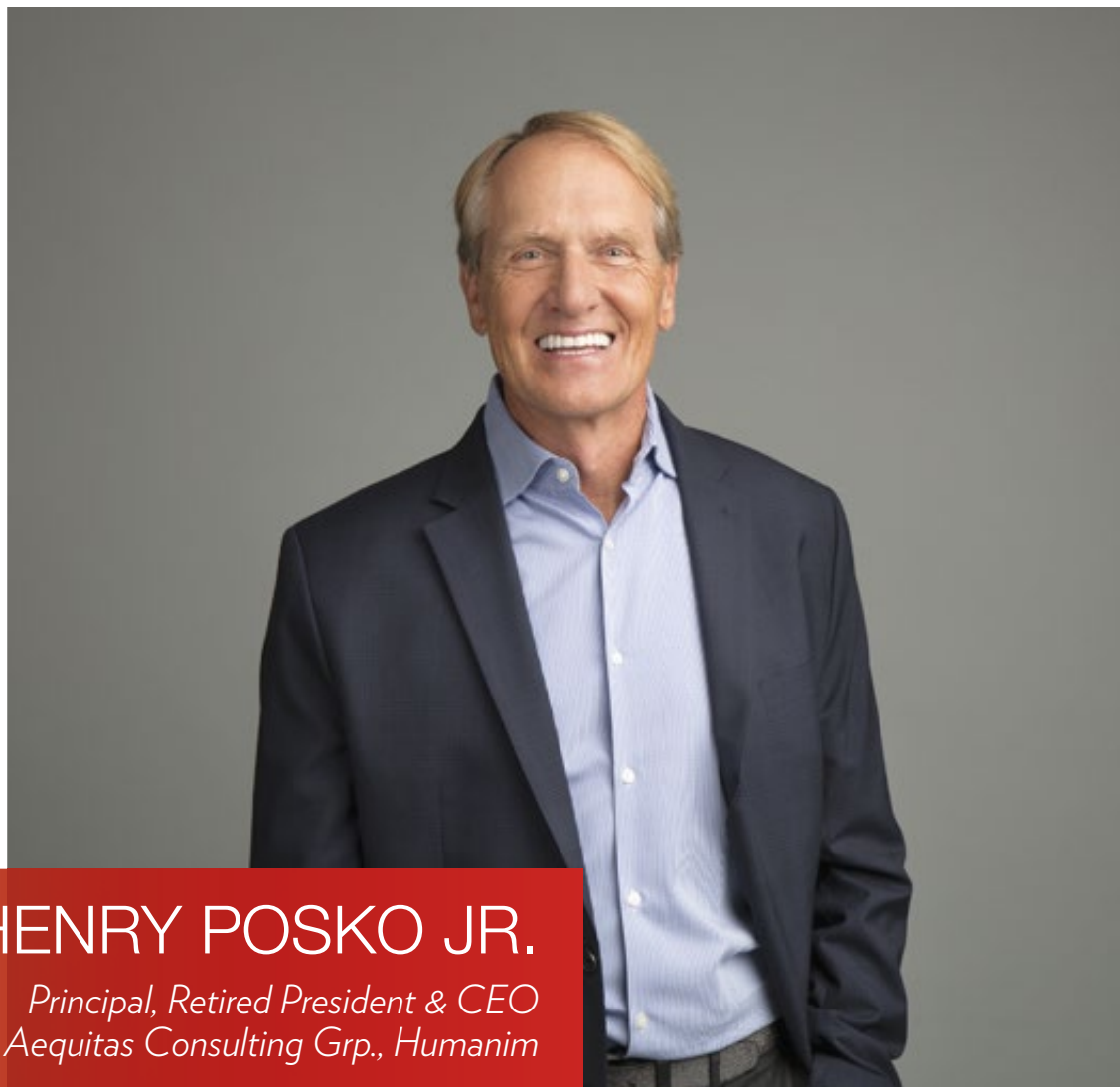
When the pandemic struck in March, Levin had to move 900 or more people in the firm

to a work-from-home environment in four business days. The company has since created programs and processes to keep everyone connected and productive. The firm also added and enhanced employee resources, including a new parenting resource group.

Levin said he'd advise folks starting out in their business or legal careers to set a foundation based on their highest moral and ethical values "... who you are at your core when nobody's watching." From there, set career and personal goals, develop plans to achieve them and focus consistently on implementing them, he advised. "Above all, keep your family a priority in your goals, as they and your career are intricately intertwined."



**“**  
*The impact  
can be  
measured  
through the  
individual’s  
achievements  
and their  
inevitable  
influence  
on their  
families and  
communities”*  
**”**



## HENRY POSKO JR.

*Principal, Retired President & CEO  
Aequitas Consulting Grp., Humanim*

**H**enry Posko Jr. retired in September as president and CEO of the nonprofit Humanim after a four-decade career.

Posko oversaw the organization’s shift from its beginning serving adults with developmental disabilities in Howard County into a vital service provider for the region. Humanim now also offers workforce development, behavioral health and youth services. It’s more than 400 employees serve more than 4,000 people throughout Maryland and Delaware.

Key to the organization’s success includes an individual’s human spirit, as well as a passionate board of directors, focused on developing a dedicated workforce.

“The impact can be measured through the

individual’s achievements and their inevitable influence on their families and communities,” he said.

Posko also launched Humanim’s social enterprise division in 2012, which trains and employs people with barriers to employment. The idea behind a social enterprise is that they’re business entities established and embedded in the organization that employs people Humanim would typically serve.

The division has grown into five social enterprises in the culinary, technology and construction sectors in Baltimore.

Posko has also received the Wave Maker Award as a developer for the Urban Land Institute, as well as the Associated Black Charities Champion Award for his role pro-

moting racial and economic equity.

A longtime mentor, Posko has seen five of his Humanim colleagues move on to become CEOs. Training, coaching and critical reflection are an important part of any mentor-mentee relationship, he said.

“It also allows them to look beyond their own circumstances to the external elements and people that might influence the choices they make and the actions they may take,” he said.

Leaders have a responsibility to create a culture that establishes an advantageous environment for employees to have equal access to opportunities, he said. And doing so enhances employee retention, attracts talent and can result in a positive bottom line.



## ALAN M. RIFKIN

*Managing Partner  
Rifkin Weiner Livingston LLC*

*“The most important advice I could give any young lawyer would be to consider themselves a steward of those fundamental objectives and to always keep that in mind when counseling clients”*

Over three decades ago, when Alan M. Rifkin first began practicing law, the concept of a practice area devoted principally to sports was fairly foreign. The field has evolved since then and Rifkin, managing partner of Rifkin Weiner Livingston in Annapolis, said he’s pleased to be considered one of the legal niche’s early advocates.

In recent years, Rifkin helped develop the sports law curriculum at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law, where he’s also on the faculty as an adjunct professor of Sports and the Law.

Rifkin has served as the chairman of SCG Legal, one of the largest international

networks of law firms. Law firms in every state and in 80 countries around the world regularly exchange information about developments in the law through SCG Legal.

In his view, the practice of law serves to preserve and protect our institutions and society for the greater good.

“The most important advice I could give any young lawyer would be to consider themselves a steward of those fundamental objectives and to always keep that in mind when counseling clients,” he said.

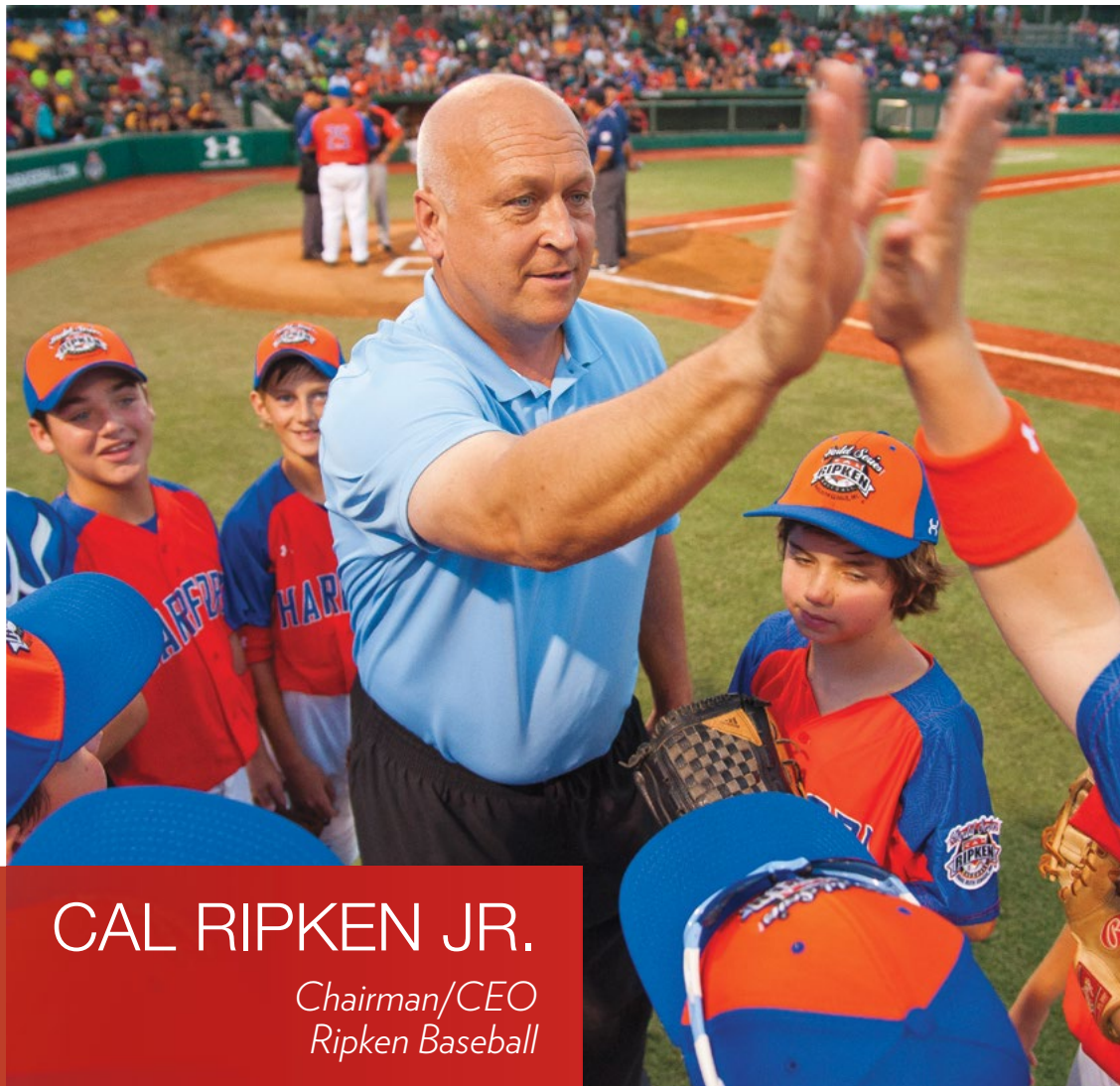
Rifkin has also had a great interest in mentoring others, and he’s done so in different ways. He coached youth sports at a variety of different levels. Through his experiences, he

learned that coaching a particular sport was significantly less important to him than helping mentor young athletes who came from all walks of life. Through sports, these young folks were taught the values of discipline, hard work and the reality that not every game is perfect and everyone has to deal with both failure and success, he said.

In recent years, Rifkin served as a member of the Cal Ripken Sr. Foundation board, which helps assist and mentor young athletes in at-risk communities throughout the country by developing youth athletic facilities in conjunction with the Boys & Girls Club of America.



*He has also authored several best-selling books including last year's "Just Show Up: And Other Enduring Values From Baseball's Iron Man," a children's book "The Longest Season," and a series of baseball-themed novels for middle school kids.*



## CAL RIPKEN JR.

*Chairman/CEO  
Ripken Baseball*

**F**or 21 seasons, Cal Ripken Jr. brought not only an unparalleled work ethic to the Baltimore Orioles, but power at the plate as well as defensive grace in the field.

Known as the game's Iron Man, he broke Lou Gehrig's 2,130 consecutive games streak in September 1995. Three years later, he voluntarily ended his streak at 2,632 games — a record many analysts believe will remain unbroken.

Throughout his career, he racked up many impressive honors, including 1982 American League Rookie of the Year, 1983 AL Most Valuable Player, two Gold Glove awards, 19

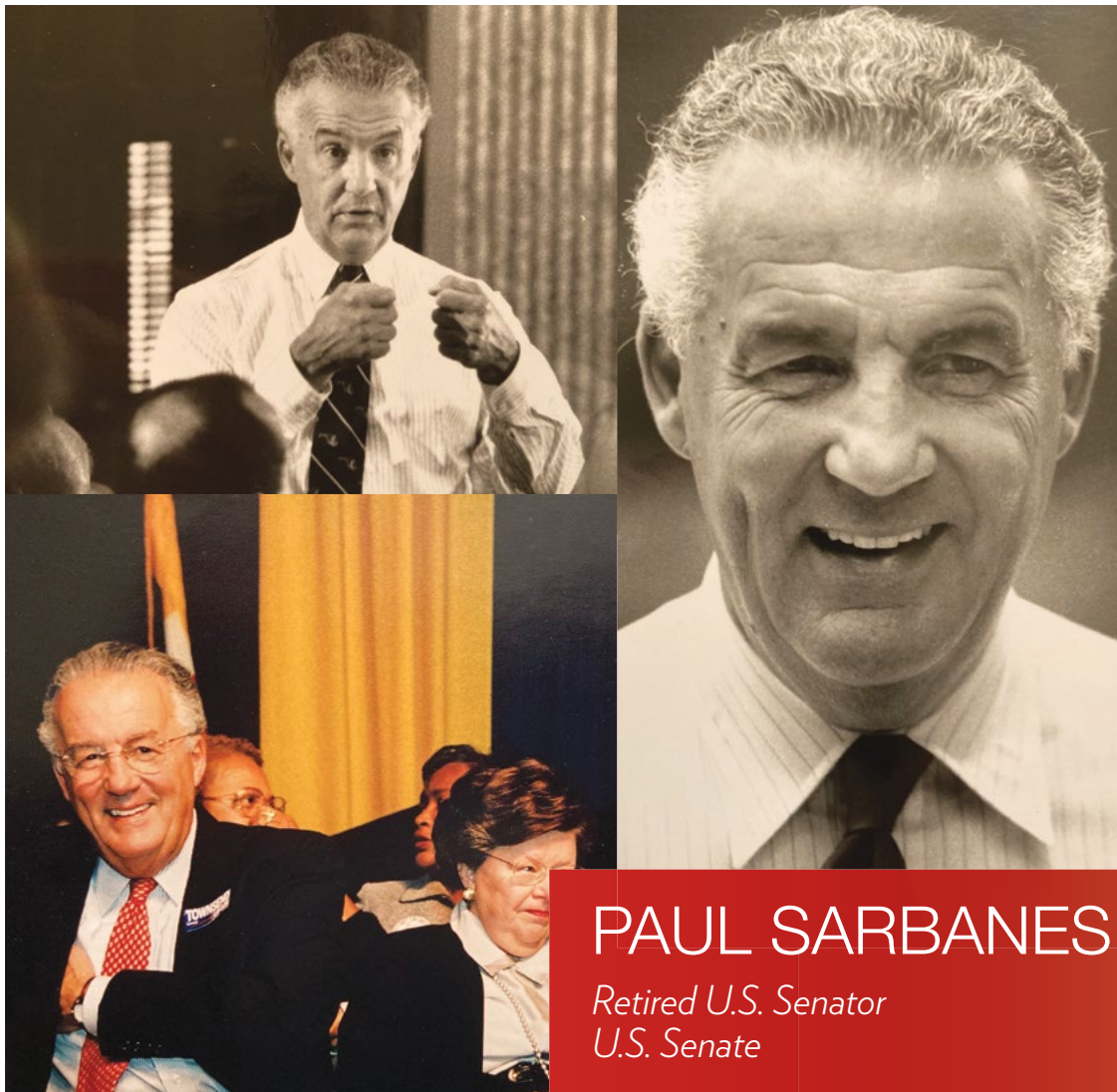
All-Star Game selections, eight Silver Slugger awards and a World Series championship with the Orioles in 1983. Named to the All-Century team, Ripken was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2007 in his first year of eligibility.

Since retiring from the game in 2001, Ripken has made giving back to the baseball community his mission. He serves as chairman and CEO of Ripken Baseball which provides camps, tournaments and player development opportunities to youth throughout the East Coast.

He and his brother, Bill, created The Cal

Ripken Sr. Foundation in honor of their father. The nonprofit provides programs across the country for at-risk youth as well as partners with communities to build Youth Development Parks. These facilities are designed to serve as outdoor classrooms to provide youth in need with recreational, educational and athletic experiences.

He has also authored several best-selling books including last year's "Just Show Up: And Other Enduring Values From Baseball's Iron Man," a children's book "The Longest Season," and a series of baseball-themed novels for middle-school kids.



*At the federal level, he helped enact national environmental legislation such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act.*

## PAUL SARBANES

*Retired U.S. Senator  
U.S. Senate*

**W**hether at the state or federal level, Paul Sarbanes has spent his life fighting for Marylanders.

Born in Salisbury, he graduated from Wicomico Senior High School. He would go on to earn several academic honors such as graduating magna cum laude from Princeton University, a Rhodes Scholar at Balliol College, Oxford University and a cum laude graduate of Harvard University School of Law.

Elected to the Maryland House of Delegates representing District 2 (Baltimore), the Democrat served for two terms before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1971.

He represented the 4th District and later

the 3rd District during his three terms in office.

In 1977, he was elected to the U.S. Senate, a seat he would hold for 30 years. He served on two committees for his entire tenure in office, the Foreign Relations Committee as well as the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee where he served as chair from 2001 to 2002 and ranking minority member from 2003 to 2007.

He additionally was a member of the Committee on the Budget and the Joint Economic Committee.

Throughout his years as a public servant, one of his priorities was the environment. He co-authored the public law financing

Maryland's Program Open Space while at the Maryland General Assembly. At the federal level, he helped enact national environmental legislation such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act.

But he also fought to get federal resources to his beloved Chesapeake Bay. Some of his legislative accomplishments include the Environmental Protection Agency's Chesapeake Restoration Act, the federal native oyster restoration program and the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

Now retired, his son, John, holds the U.S. Representative District 3 seat he once occupied.



*“Get the best people. Give them the tools they need and get out of their way so they can do their job.”*



## WALTER SCHAMU

*President  
SM+P Architects Inc.*

**W**hen Walter Schamu first moved to Baltimore from Philadelphia in 1976, he was amazed by the city and its rich architectural heritage. He believes getting to know the city you work in is a crucial part of a person's career and encourages the next generation of business and legal leaders to do so.

“I think for architects to be successful in your own city and environs, the city's past and especially its architectural past is a baseline of information you need to possess before you begin to design anew,” he said.

The University of Pennsylvania graduate began Walter Schamu and Associates in 1982 focusing on residential work.

Schamu's father-in-law once told him, “Get the best people. Give them the tools they need and get out of their way so they can do their job.” It is a philosophy he has followed throughout his career.

Nearly 40 years later, the firm is now known as SM+P Architects Inc. with a hands-on focus to designing thoughtful, appealing and functional spaces for clients in a wide

range of industries including restaurants, schools, laboratories, private clubs and residences. Schamu serves as president.

“We have been fortunate to have played a design and reconstruction role in some of the city's and state's most celebrated buildings such as the B&O Roundhouse, the Bromo Seltzer Arts Tower, Alex Brown Building and the Peale Museum,” he said. “My hope is that we are well-positioned to press on for another 40 years with the great staff of architects we have.”



*Today, he serves as a senior managing partner and under his leadership, the firm has recovered more than \$1 billion on behalf of its clients.*

## JONATHAN SCHOCHOR

*Senior Managing Partner  
Schochor, Federico & Staton P.A.*

**A**s a renowned medical malpractice lawyer, Jonathan Schochor has been fighting for patients' rights for more than 45 years.

A graduate of Pennsylvania State University, he earned a Juris Doctor from the American University School of Law where he served as associate editor-in-chief of the Law Review. He began his legal career as an associate with McKenna, Wilkinson & Kittner and later moved to Ellin & Baker for a decade. He was named a partner at Schochor, Federico

& Staton P.A. in 1984. Today, he serves as a senior managing partner and under his leadership, the firm has recovered more than \$1 billion on behalf of their clients.

One of his most well-known cases was a class action case against Johns Hopkins Hospital. Dr. Nikita Levy, who worked as a gynecologist for a Hopkins' clinic in East Baltimore for more than two decades, was found guilty of secretly videotaping and photographing his patients. Schochor settled the case for \$190 million with settlement

payments mailed out to thousands of victims in 2017. The case became the largest, single perpetrator, sexual abuse settlement in United States history.

A member of the advisory board for Med-Star Institute of Quality and Safety, Schochor is also a respected lecturer speaking locally and nationally to professional groups. He has also testified multiple times before the Maryland General Assembly on legal issues involving tort reform and medical malpractice.



*Jane Shaab  
has been  
a longtime  
advocate  
for  
Baltimore's  
technology  
business  
and  
research  
scene.*



## JANE SHAAB

*Senior Vice President*

*University of Maryland Baltimore Health Sciences  
Research Park Corporation*

**J**ane Shaab has been a longtime advocate for Baltimore's technology business and research scene.

She is the senior vice president of the University of Maryland Baltimore Health Sciences Research Park Corporation as well as associate vice president for economic development.

A graduate of Rosemont College in Pennsylvania and the Goucher College Business Management Institute, Shaab previously served as executive director for The Greater

Baltimore Technology Council, director of economic development for the Maryland Chamber of Commerce and director of national marketing for Maryland Economic Growth Associates Inc.

Before joining the team for the University of Maryland BioPark, Shaab served as senior director of business development for the Office of Research and Development and senior director of corporate relations for the University's Office of External Affairs.

Committed to giving back to the community, she is a board member for the B&O Railroad Museum and was a founding member of Poe Baltimore Board of Trustees. She is also a member of the Greater Baltimore Committee and on the board of directors for the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance.

After being named to The Maryland Daily Record's Top 100 Women list three times (1997, 1999 and 2001), she became a member of the Circle of Excellence.



## JAMES L. SHEA

*Chairman Emeritus  
Venable LLP*

*“  
Work  
hard, never  
compromise  
on issues  
of integrity  
and treat  
everyone  
you meet  
with  
dignity and  
respect”*

Consistently ranked as one of The Best Lawyers in America among other accolades, James L. Shea, Venable’s Chairman Emeritus, has focused his career on corporate litigation trying cases in both federal and state courts throughout the country. His signature style consists of “aggressive, thorough counseling” – a style that has earned him recognition amongst his peers and within the community.

Shea became chair of Venable in 2006 and grew the firm’s footprint beyond Baltimore and Washington to New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco. When he first started at Venable, the firm employed about 300 law-

yers, with annual revenues of approximately \$65 to 70 million. Venable now employs more than 700 lawyers and brings in revenues over \$650 million.

“I have led Venable and helped it grow to become the largest firm in Maryland and one of the largest in the U.S. and the world, but to remain solidly anchored in and committed to Baltimore,” Shea said.

In his career, Shea has prosecuted and defended major corporations in securities class actions, contract, breach of fiduciary duty and products liability cases. He was the lead in the defense of the Clean Water Act claim. Major clients include Johns Hopkins University, M&T Bank, Marriott International

Inc., CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield and many others.

Shea is active in the community and serves as Chair on a number of boards, including the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland, the Central Maryland Transportation Alliance, the Empower Baltimore Management Corporation, the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, the Greater Baltimore Committee and the Equal Justice Council, among others.

His advice for success is simple. “Work hard, never compromise on issues of integrity and treat everyone you meet with dignity and respect,” Shea said.



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**JONATHAN SCHOCHOR**

Founding and Managing Partner of Schochor, Federico and Staton, P.A.

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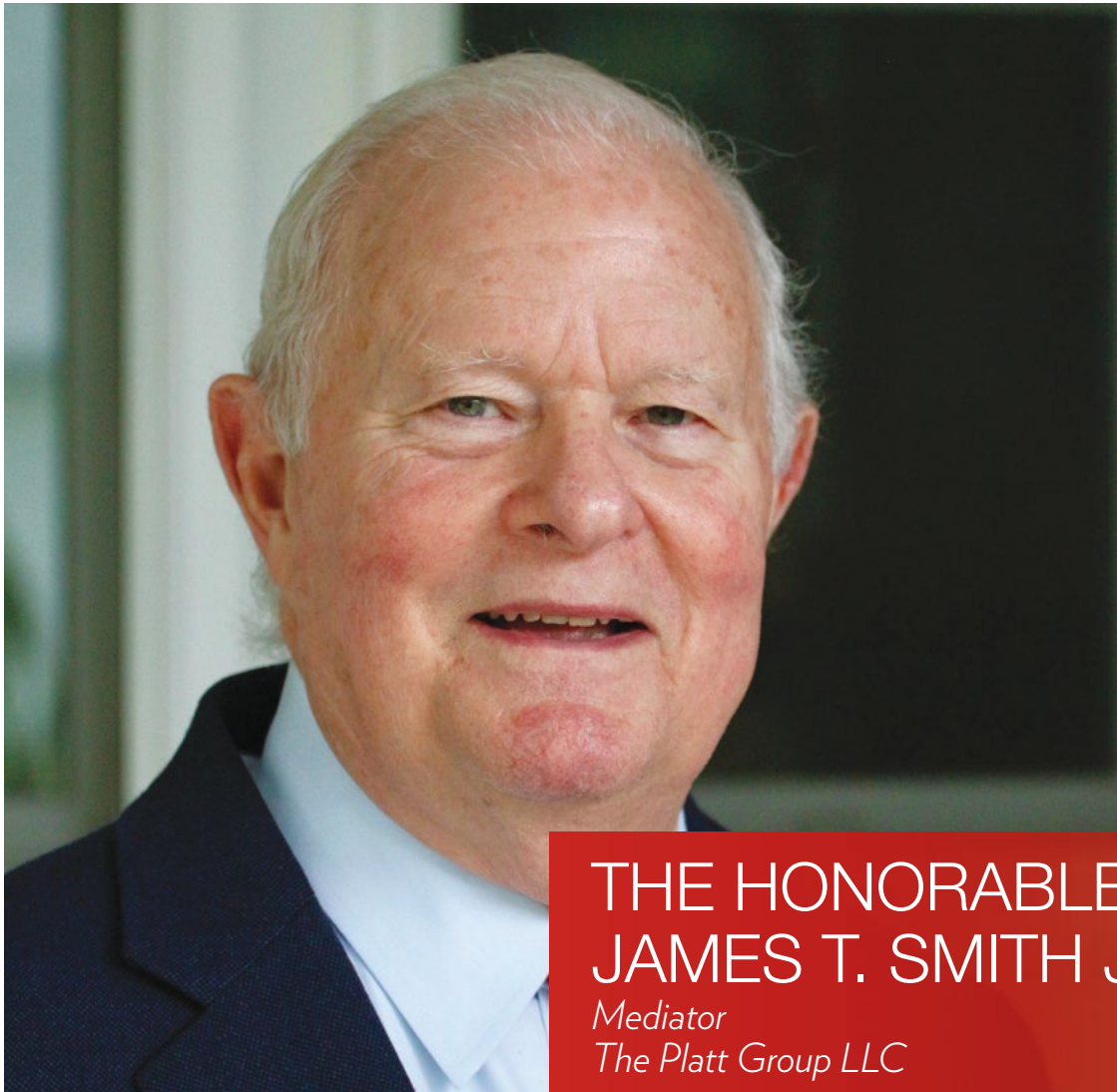


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## THE HONORABLE JAMES T. SMITH JR.

*Mediator  
The Platt Group LLC*

**A** lifelong resident of Baltimore County, The Honorable James T. Smith, Jr., has dedicated much of his personal and professional life to public service. He served as Baltimore County Executive for two terms, served for 16 years as a Judge on the Circuit Court, and seven years on the Baltimore County Council. Smith is a beloved arbitrator and mediator and currently lends his sharp resolution skills to Annapolis-based The Platt Group LLC.

After serving two terms in office as county executive, Smith joined his son's Towson law firm. Shortly thereafter in 2013, he was appointed as Maryland secretary of trans-

portation under Gov. Martin O'Malley. Smith oversaw a \$4.4 billion annual budget and was responsible for more than 10,000 employees.

Until May 2019, Judge Smith served on the executive team of the-Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh as her chief of strategic alliances, responsible for coordinating federal, state, municipal, nonprofit and foundation interactions with the city and overseeing eight Baltimore departments and agencies.

Smith was instrumental in revitalizing many main streets in Baltimore County, including adopting the Owings Mills Town Center Master Plan. He led the creation and funding of Baltimore's Neighborhood Impact

Investment Fund to revitalize Baltimore's disinvested neighborhoods.

He believes his greatest impact was his work in public service and that anyone can make a difference.

“Work hard at your craft, whether business or legal, and stay abreast of changes in your industry or practice. Treasure and protect your reputation as it is your most important asset. When you are settled in, reach out to your profession and get involved in activities and care about your community. Be willing to donate your time and talent to improve and strengthen the community where you live or where your business is located,” Smith said.



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*Sullivan is known for his “no-nonsense management style” and was instrumental in rebuilding and regenerating Legg Mason into a premier asset company.*

## JOSEPH A. SULLIVAN

*Former Chairman & CEO, Legg Mason  
Senior Advisor, Franklin Templeton*

Since 2013, Joseph A. Sullivan has served as president and CEO of Legg Mason. He served as the interim CEO before his unanimous appointment and was selected for his ability to bring a fresh perspective and renewed energy to the over century-old global asset management firm.

Sullivan is known for his “no-nonsense management style” and was instrumental in rebuilding and regenerating Legg Mason into a premier asset company. Since Legg Mason was acquired in February by Franklin Templeton, Sullivan remains chairman and CEO of Legg Mason and is a senior adviser working

closely with leadership at Franklin Templeton to “create meaningful long-term benefits for our clients and provide our shareholders with a compelling valuation for their investment.”

Sullivan joined Legg Mason in 2008 as senior executive vice president and chief administrative officer and also served as head of global distribution.

Sullivan served as trustee and former chair of the Securities Industry Institute, was former chair of the Fixed Income Committee of the National Association of Securities Dealers, a board member of the Bond Market Association and a member of the New York Stock Exchange Hearing Board.

Before Legg Mason, he served on the board of directors of Stifel Financial and as executive vice president and head of fixed income capital markets for Stifel Nicolaus from December 2005 until rejoining Legg Mason in 2008.

Sullivan has more than 30 years of industry experience, holding prior executive roles at Legg Mason Wood Walker, Dain Bosworth and Piper Jaffray.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts in economics from St. John’s University and is a graduate of the Securities Industry Institute at the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.



**“**  
*Be true to yourself and engage in a business you are passionate about. Follow the path of education over ignorance and you will be rewarded with success and happiness.”*



## BETTY VALDES

*Cable TV Host & Producer  
Montgomery Municipal Cable, Channel 16*

**F**or more than 50 years, Betty Valdes has dedicated her life's work to helping underserved communities by creating effective communications channels. Her love and passion for education, access to information, justice, the arts and cultures of the world inspired her to create and produce and host *Que Pasa*, a Spanish-speaking and award-winning cable TV show on Montgomery Municipal Cable.

Valdes has spent her life creating shows and networking with local community organizations "to provide vulnerable populations with critical resources to improve their socio-emotional well-being and quality of life." She continues to partner and collaborate with organizations and business leaders to

help community members fulfill their dreams of entrepreneurship and financial independence.

She is a longtime mentor to young Latinos and has been the recipient of the Maryland Top 100 Women award by *The Daily Record* three times. In 2011, she was inducted to *The Daily Record's* Top 100 Women Circle of Excellence. She regularly volunteers her time at the Spanish Catholic Center helping immigrants achieve the dream of U.S. citizenship.

As a former librarian in Montgomery County, Valdes, a native Venezuelan, saw the desperate need among the minority communities to be educated on the issues that affect them. She set out to do that and never

looked back. She founded the Montgomery County Government Hispanic Employees' Association to promote compensation benefits for employees who provide their language expertise for county services.

Her advice for success stems from Manero: "Be true to yourself and engage in a business you are passionate about. Follow the path of education over ignorance and you will be rewarded with success and happiness. Demonstrate leadership skills like empathy, ethics, integrity and resilience. Teach, train and lead by example, and be guided by knowledge," Valdes said.





*He was  
named  
one of the  
nation's top  
100 leaders  
in higher  
education  
by the  
American  
Association  
of Higher  
Education in  
1998.*

## DR. DAVID KWABENA WILSON

*President  
Morgan State University*

**D**r. David Kwabena Wilson serves as the 10th president of Morgan State University, bringing more than 30 years of experience in higher education administration. Wilson holds four academic degrees including a Bachelor of Science in political science, a Master of Science in education, a Master of Education in educational planning and administration and a Doctor of Education in administration planning and social policy from Harvard University.

Wilson joined Morgan State in July 2010 and has instituted several accolades for the historically black college. He helped elevate

Morgan State from a moderate research classification of R3 to an R2, a status reserved for doctoral universities with high research activity. He helped Morgan achieve a second-year retention rate of above 70%.

Wilson also achieved the highest alumni participation in giving rate of 17%, a rate higher than most private historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and higher than many public regional universities nationwide.

Morgan State has also seen its highest graduation rate in 10 years as well as the continuation of their status as the number one HBCU in Fulbright scholars and grantees

with 149 awarded in 44 countries.

He is the author of two books and is the author of more than 20 scholarly articles. He was named one of the nation's top 100 leaders in higher education by the American Association of Higher Education in 1998.

As a child with 10 siblings on a sharecropper's farm, Wilson's hard work, tenacity and encouragement from his father and teachers helped him become the first person in his family to attend college.

His educational philosophy is about putting the student experience first and hopes to make Morgan State a leader in producing the next wave of the nation's innovators.



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We're committed to pursuing innovation with one goal in mind: delivering meaningful benefits to our clients. From embedding artificial intelligence into our research and investment decision-making to creating a fintech incubation center on our main campus, we've made innovation a cornerstone of our business and culture. And that lets us rapidly harness the power of new technologies and other advances for our clients.

### **Connections That Matter**

In a business as complex as investing, no individual has all the answers. We believe that connections with others are a source of critical perspective. So we build valuable connections between our clients, our portfolio managers, business leaders, and economic experts.

We've also committed ourselves to being good corporate citizens. That includes fostering a more inclusive investment environment, empowering our employees to volunteer in their communities, and helping create a brighter future through charitable giving.

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Towson University is Maryland's university of opportunities. With more than 150 years of experience pushing possibilities, TU is recognized as one of the top 100 public universities in the nation and a leader in academic excellence, research and discovery.

As the largest university in Greater Baltimore and Maryland's fastest-growing university, Towson University's momentum is always accelerating with 23,000 current students and more than 100 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs in the liberal arts and sciences and applied professional fields. Undergraduate research and experiential learning in an inclusive environment are among TU's hallmarks. TU enjoys an increasingly diverse campus, reflective of its surrounding community of greater Baltimore and the State of Maryland, through an institutional commitment to inclusive excellence where all students thrive and reach their fullest potential.

Towson University is also nationally ranked for student diversity and social mobility by U.S. News & World Report. TU is one of only a handful of institutions where graduation and retention rates are the same for all students.

Towson University is also nationally ranked for student diversity and social mobility by U.S. News & World Report. It is widely recognized as one of the best values in higher education by Forbes, U.S. News & World Report, Washington Monthly and Kiplinger's Personal Finance. TU is also one of just nine institutions in the U.S. with more than 85 percent of its student body registered to vote, according to Washington Monthly. An anchor institution located amid one of the East Coast's cultural and economic epicenters, TU is a beacon and powerful catalyst in the Mid-Atlantic region partnering with hundreds of businesses and organizations, impacting communities and fueling change.

TU's 165,000 alumni also play essential roles in their communities. They're transforming classrooms and health care settings, leading businesses and nonprofits—they're innovators, creative forces and champions for the public good. More than 95,000 TU alumni live and work in Maryland and Washington D.C, enhancing the region's economy and quality of life.

TU is investing \$700 million in campus infrastructure over the next seven years — including two new major academic buildings on a 329-acre suburban campus. The new science complex will provide state-of-the-art teaching and research laboratories as well as classrooms in support of a growing STEM faculty and students. Set to open in 2021, the new science facility will be the largest academic building on TU's campus, and will be home to one of just four ABET-certified cybersecurity programs in the world. TU is also the state's largest provider of health professionals, which is why a new College of Health Professions building, slated for completion in 2023, is another crucial response to enrollment and workforce demand.

With a relentless commitment to the public good, TU's momentum is strong — and growing even stronger.



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Established in 1989, RWL and its attorneys have an impressive record of service to the state and in the practice of law. From the outset, the Firm was built upon the practical recognition that a client's business and legal issues can often be addressed through a comprehensive approach that may involve all or several of the branches of government.

Built upon that multifaceted approach, RWL has established itself as a "go to" Firm in the areas of business and commercial transactions, administrative law, complex commercial litigation, sports franchise and media law, government relations, procurement law, gaming law, intellectual property and licensing matters, sales, mergers and acquisitions, and white-collar proceedings.

RWL attorneys thrive on pursuing the most challenging matters, issues and cases on behalf of its clients.

Often involved in matters of significant public interest and concern, RWL has represented many of Maryland's most recognizable household names including: the Maryland Jockey Club and the Preakness® Stakes, the Baltimore Orioles, the Maryland Automobile Dealers Association, Caesars Entertainment, Curio Wellness, MileOne, the Abell Foundation, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, prominent health care and other institutions, major developers, name-brand companies such as Google, Uber, Facebook and FedEx, as well as whistleblowers in false claims act cases, plaintiffs in serious personal injury matters and consumers and others in national class action suits.

To best achieve its clients' objectives, RWL understands that often creative solutions should be considered. Known for its "team approach" to the practice of law and consummate dedication to its clients' interests and objectives, RWL's attorneys have the experience and abilities to help you and your business navigate through the maze of Maryland laws, regulations and governmental institutions.

Whether in a courtroom, boardroom or hearing room, the Firm's attorneys have the knowledge and experience to provide you and your business with sound legal and practical business advice. RWL's team of business, litigation, contracts and government relations attorneys regularly appear before arbitration and mediation panels, state and federal courts, legislative hearings, the Board of Public Works, the Board of Contract Appeals, and the state and federal appellate courts.

As partner Arnold Weiner, one of the state's most well-known litigators says, "I'm often delighted but never amazed by the extraordinary dedication and talents of the lawyers in this Firm."

Others have been equally laudatory, including in written court opinions. In a class action matter, Ninth Circuit Federal District Court Judge Fernando Olguin wrote, "The results obtained by class counsel are impressive. Achieving these results undoubtedly took...the most capable and experienced professionals in the country...."

And, lawyers involved in matters with the Firm have been complimentary as well. A partner at Cooley LLP recently wrote, "Time and again, I have been impressed by RWL's deep dedication to their clients' interests and strategic vision. They represent their clients with professionalism, zealous advocacy and great skill."

With offices located in the state capital of Annapolis, Baltimore, and the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, Rifkin Weiner Livingston LLC (RWL) provides an important link to principal business, commercial and governmental centers.



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**and all of this year's exceptional honorees.**