

## **SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES**

### *Annual Conference*

*American Association of University Women of Virginia*

**March 13, 14, and 15, 2021**

### **AAUW OF VIRGINIA 2020 WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDEES**



**Senator Janet Howell** exemplifies the word “achievement.” As a volunteer, she first became a community leader: PTA president, Reston Community Association president, and chair of the State Board of Social Services. In 1992 her leadership abilities and expertise led her to the Virginia Senate, representing District 32, which covers parts of Fairfax and Arlington Counties. Now in her eighth term and second in seniority in the Senate, Senator Howell is the first woman to chair the Finance and Appropriations Committee, one of the most powerful positions in the Senate. In the 2021 session, she also served on the Education and Health, Local Government, Privileges and Elections, and the Rules standing committees.

Senator Howell is one of Virginia’s most influential senators. Her legislative priorities have focused on education, children and families, and equal rights for women, including reproductive choice and the ERA. She is credited with numbers of major legal reforms. She headed the overhaul of Virginia’s family violence laws and spearheaded mental health law reform following the VA Tech tragedy. In the 2020 session, after a dozen years of effort, her legislation for no-excuse in-person absentee voting passed just in time for the 2020 election. Another 2020 legislative achievement was her bill to regulate student loan servicers, which was signed into law.

Her outstanding career has resulted in numerous awards: National Child Advocate of the Year (American Academy of Pediatrics), several times “Senator of the Year” (Virginia Sheriffs), “Legislator of the Year” (both Virginia Housing Coalition and Victims and Witnesses of Crime organizations), “Lifetime Achievement Honoree” (Northern Virginia Technology Council), “Distinguished Leadership Award” (Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance), and “Champion of Justice” (Commonwealth Attorneys Association), among others. Called the “Technology Senator” because of her work in this area, Senator Howell was presented the first Lifetime Achievement Award by the Northern Virginia Technology Council.

Adding to her achievements, in 2019 Senator Howell authored a children’s book, *Leading the Way: Women in Power*. She wanted girls to learn about women who ignored obstacles to lead the way to improve our political system. It features 50 American women who stood up and blazed trails and even includes a guide for budding activists.

A graduate of Oberlin College (BA government) and the University of Pennsylvania (MA international relations), Senator Howell has been a trail blazer herself during a life of achievement.



**Scientist Ana Luisa Tió Humphrey** began dreaming about doing scientific research when she was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and met the girl who won the first-place prize in what was then the Intel Science Talent Search. This is a program of the Society for Science & the Public, which was started in 1942 as the Westinghouse Science Talent Search, and is considered “the nation’s oldest and most prestigious science and mathematics competition for high school seniors.”

When Ms. Humphrey embarked on her own scientific research, she began receiving prestigious national and international awards. One of her research projects, ColiFind, a digital image analysis application that identifies E. coli colonies in water quality tests, was the Virginia State Winner and Grand Prize runner-up at the 2017 U.S. Stockholm Junior Water Prize and took first place in the category of Math and Computer Science at the 2017 National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. Her research on exoplanets outside of our solar system won Best of Category in Physics and Astronomy at the 2018 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.

In 2018, Ms. Humphrey received a Virginia Governor’s STEM Phenom Award, which is awarded to a student “who applied STEM principles for exceptional ends to make the world a better place.” The award recognized her ColiFind app and her work as founder and president of the Watershed Warriors Initiative. The Initiative is an organization that writes and teaches hands-on environmental STEM lessons to elementary school students from mostly low-income and minority communities. Ms. Humphrey is passionate about sharing her love of space with students and has taught multiple classes on astrophysics and exoplanets at a local elementary school.

By 2019, Ms. Humphrey was a National Merit Scholar and valedictorian at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria. Her scientific research on exoplanets earned her the first place \$250,000 prize in the prestigious Regeneron (formerly, Westinghouse) Science Talent Search, surpassing more than 2,000 student entries. She was the first Latina to win the competition in twenty years and was one of 28 women who, by that time, had won first place in the competition since its inception.

Ms. Humphrey serves on the Board of Directors of Earth Force, a national nonprofit that engages students in project-based learning focused on environmental science and civics. She currently attends Harvard College, where she is double-majoring in astrophysics and physics and continuing her research on exoplanets. Ms. Humphrey serves as co-president of the Harvard Society for Astrophysics Concentrator, as vice-president of the Student Astronomers at Harvard-Radcliffe (the amateur astronomy club), and on the board of the Cuban-American Undergraduate Student Association.

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS



**Dr. Kelly Dittmar** is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Rutgers University–Camden and Director of Research and Scholar at the renowned Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at the Eagleton Institute of Politics. She is the co-author of *A Seat at the Table: Congresswomen’s Perspectives on Why Their Representation Matters* (Oxford University Press, 2018) (with Kira Sanbonmatsu and Susan J. Carroll) and author of *Navigating Gendered Terrain: Stereotypes and Strategy in Political Campaigns* (Temple University Press, 2015). Dr. Dittmar’s research focuses on gender and American political institutions with a particular focus on

how gender informs campaigns and the impact of gender diversity among elites in policy and political decisions, priorities, and processes.

Dr. Dittmar was an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow from 2011 to 2012. At CAWP, she manages national research projects, helps to develop, and implement CAWP’s research agenda, and contributes to CAWP reports, publications, and analyses. She also works with CAWP’s programs for women’s public leadership and has been an expert source and commentator for media outlets including *MSNBC*, *NPR*, *PBS*, *the New York Times*, and the *Washington Post*. Dr. Dittmar earned her BA from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and her PhD from Rutgers University-New Brunswick.

## GUEST SPEAKERS

In Alphabetical Order



**Kim Churches** is the chief executive officer of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), a leading voice in advancing equity for women and girls through research, advocacy, and education. Prior to joining AAUW, Ms. Churches was the managing director of the Brookings Institution, an internationally recognized public policy think tank. In that capacity, she strategically guided Brookings, providing vision and problem-solving skills while focusing on expansive partnerships, external relations, and advancement.

Ms. Churches also served as associate vice chancellor at the University of Denver, a director of development at the University of North Florida, and a division director at the American Heart Association. She is widely recognized for her success at working collaboratively in education, as well as for capacity-building for grassroots groups and national and international nonprofits.

In addition to her work at AAUW, Ms. Churches serves as the board treasurer of 1455, a new center for the literary arts in Virginia. She is a board member of DC Girls Baseball, a competitive baseball league for girls ages nine to 18. Ms. Churches also serves as a director on the board of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and is a member of the International Women's Forum of Washington, D.C., and the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

With her pragmatic approach, Ms. Churches is a dynamic and sought-after speaker at national conferences and conventions in many industries. She is regularly interviewed by top national media outlets and her insights on how to advance gender equity are routinely quoted in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *USA Today* and more. She has also written for national media outlets, including *CNN*, *The Hill* and *Fortune*, and she is a columnist for *MSNBC's* Know Your Value website.



**Lieutenant Colonel (USA, retired) Marilla J. Cushman**, Vice President of Development at the Military Women's Memorial Foundation, joined the Foundation staff in March 1997 as the Director of Public Affairs and Development. She served in that capacity until July 2020, when she assumed her current position. She is responsible for development of fundraising strategies and programs. Prior to joining the Foundation, she served nearly 25 years on active duty in the US Army, retiring as a lieutenant colonel.

LTC Cushman's assignments included Special Assistant for Public Affairs to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Chief Media Inquiries, Headquarters, Department of the Army; Chief, Public Affairs Plans and Policy Division, Headquarters, US Army Europe; Executive Director to the Defense Secretary's Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services; and Program Manager, Advertising and Sales Promotion, for the Army's "Be All You Can Be" Campaign, US Army Recruiting Command. She is a graduate of the US Army Command and General Staff College, a Summa Cum Laude graduate of the University of Maine with a BS in education, and also attended graduate school at the University of Kansas.



**Audrey Davis** has been the Director of the Alexandria Black History Museum since 2014 and joined the staff in 1993. The mission of the Alexandria Black History Museum is to enrich the lives of Alexandria’s residents and visitors, to foster tolerance and understanding among all cultures, and to stimulate appreciation for the diversity of the African American experience.

Throughout her tenure with the City of Alexandria, she has been recognized for her exemplary service and commitment to her profession. In 2004, she was appointed by Virginia Governor Mark R. Warner to the Board of the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy, and she was reappointed to that Board in 2007 by Virginia Governor Timothy Kaine, serving until her term ended in 2010. In 2008, she received a special merit award from former Alexandria City Manager James Hartmann for her contribution to the Freedmen’s Cemetery Memorial Design Competition Committee. In 2009, she was honored with the Salute to Women Vola Lawson Award by the Alexandria Commission on Women as that year’s City of Alexandria employee who had made the greatest impact on improving the role of women and girls in the City. In 2012 she was an essential part of the Office of Historic Alexandria team that achieved accreditation of all departmental facilities, including the Alexandria Black History Museum for the first time, as a “museum system” by the American Alliance of Museums. That designation, achieved by only eight municipal agencies nationwide, confirms the achievement of the highest standards and best practices recognized in the museum field.

Ms. Davis was one of five authors of the History Press book, *African Americans of Alexandria, Virginia: Beacons of Light in the 20th Century*, which chronicles the life of 63 African American men and women whose actions made a difference in the historic fabric of Alexandria, Virginia, during the years 1920 through 1965. The 2013 book, whose authors also include Char McCargo Bah, Christa Watters, Gwen Brown-Henderson, and James Henson, was the fourth biggest seller for History Press in 2013 and will be going into its third printing.

Ms. Davis has also served as president of the Alexandria Historical Society; a founding and current member of the Advisory Council of Virginia Africana: The Network of Museum, History and Preservation Professionals; a member of the American Alliance of Museums; a past president of the Virginia Association of Museums; and a member of the Association of African American Museums.



**Zahria Ford:** A Rock Ridge High School sophomore, “Zahria Ford made her mark as a major poetic talent earlier this month when her poem, ‘Colors,’ won her the Northern Region branch of the 2021 Strong Men & Women in Virginia History student writing contest.

“Poetry first captured Ford’s heart in the seventh grade when her English teacher gave students an opportunity to submit poems into a competition, and Ford’s entry ended up being published. Having only written around 10 poems since then, she said she uses the medium to channel months’ or years’ worth of explosive emotional energy.

“All that time I spend not writing, all of my emotions kind of build up together and I can put it all on paper,” she told the Times-Mirror. “That’s how I ended up writing ‘Colors.’ It took me a long time to process everything, to write it all.”

“The Strong Men & Women in Virginia History contest is put on by the Library of Virginia and Dominion Energy to commemorate Black History Month, inviting students to submit creative works that address ideas of social justice, marginalization and diversity. The winner of each region received a MacBook Air as a prize, as well as a \$1,000 award to his or her school.

“Ford said ‘Colors’ was largely inspired by her experience attending eighth grade in another county. Per her experience, that year was highly transitional since her classmates started to truly identify one another’s differences, which proved deeply affecting for Ford — one of the only Black children in the classroom.

“I feel like that was the grade where everybody kind of started to look at one another and be like, ‘Oh, she looks like me, and she doesn’t,’ she said. ‘I didn’t really have anybody to tell me, Oh, no, your hair is beautiful, your skin is beautiful, because I didn’t have that around me. I had to just sit there and deal with it.

“Skin color, hair texture and other attributes that distinguished Ford from other pupils are mentioned in “Colors’ as are the experiences of her class learning about slavery, or classmates asking discomfiting questions such as, ‘Are those extensions?’ or ‘Can I say the n-word?’

“However, by the final stanza, Ford writes in celebration of her identity as a young Black woman, rather than feeling alienated by it. She bookends the poem with descriptions of her surroundings being fully saturated with color, a metaphor for the beauty she finds in her place in the world. ‘Colors’ concludes: ‘Blue sky, white clouds, color is back in stock. Brown feet taking steps to meet a dream down the sidewalk.’”

SOURCE: Excerpt from *Ashburn Teen’s Poem Wins Black History Month Writing Contest*, by John Battiston, *The Loudoun Times-Mirror*, February 17, 2021

**Colors**  
**By Zahria Ford**

Blue sky, white clouds,  
green grass, pink shoes.  
Brown feet on concrete,  
yellow sun brings heat

Tag or hide n' seek?  
So many games to choose!  
How about soccer?  
I sure hope we don't lose.

Run, kick, sweat and play,  
soggy shirts and dirty knees.  
Time to go home already?  
Ten more minutes, please!

Tucked in and a kiss goodnight,  
warm milk puts me at ease.  
When I grow up, I'll play forever,  
and nobody can stop me!

I grew up.

With age comes wisdom,  
with wisdom comes power,  
with power comes responsibility,  
a sad reality visited me.

Outdoors turn to cold floors,  
smart boards and numbered doors.  
Fun and play turn to dreary hallways,  
child prodigies and bums array.

Welcome to my 8th grade.

Same bullies, new words,  
darkened is my rainbow.  
Underground lies my halo,  
REST IN PEACE says the tombstone.

I'm the blackest in my class,  
the Jim Crow amongst doves.  
Does my white paint my black,  
or does my black paint my white?

Maybe I should change to make things right.

Straight hair, skinny bones,  
blue eyes, and new clothes.  
I do my best to fit in, but,  
sometimes I forget my skin tone.

"Class, today we're learning about slavery."  
I feel curious eyes turn to me.  
Up and down they look, every nook and cranny.  
Thinking about where I would be in that history.

Questions fall like raindrops in a hurricane.

Are those extensions?  
Can I say the n-word?  
Your braids make you look like an alien,  
like the one from The Predator!

Your hair looks so soft... can I touch it?  
Wow! It feels like a cloud!  
If I had hair like yours, I would be proud.

Shot dead every day,  
a zombie trying to crawl out its grave.  
Every bullet takes a bit of black with it.  
Lacking knowledge in my culture, it's a deficit.

Dark is bad. Lighten up!  
You're too young to be thinking about this stuff.

Think about,  
lipstick and makeup,  
iPhone and toys,  
manicures, pedicures,  
and joy!

Well... what about  
the darkness and light?  
Death and life?  
Dread and love?  
Murder?

Police on the streets  
could kill my family and me  
and I can't remember my skin color.

With age comes wisdom,  
with wisdom comes power,  
with power comes responsibility,  
a new reality visited me.

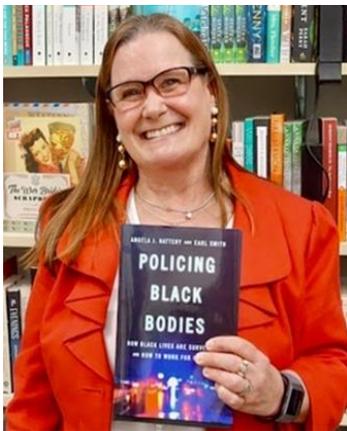
Reflection, connection, meditation.  
Writing is my therapy,  
my thoughts begin to speak.  
I hear and understand  
how depressed I used to be.

Red, purple, green, blue,  
yellow, cyan and orange.  
Once a rainy day with dismay  
is engulfed in a color explosion!

Living in different worlds  
makes me wiser now.  
With this new power,  
I hereby vow:

To remember who I am,  
don't worry what others think.  
black isn't bad, the opposite, really.  
It's bold, beautiful, and unique.

Blue sky, white clouds,  
color is back in stock.  
Brown feet taking steps  
to meet a dream down the sidewalk.



**Dr. Angela J. Hattery** is Professor of Women and Gender Studies and Co-Director of the Center for the Study and Prevention of Gender-Based Violence at the University of Delaware. She earned her PhD at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Dr. Hattery is the author of 11 books, including her most recent book, *Gender, Power and Violence: Responding to Intimate Partner Violence in Society Today* (2019) which followed on the heels of *Policing Black Bodies: How Black Lives are Surveilled and How to Work for Change* (2018) as well as dozens of book chapters and peer reviewed articles.

Her forthcoming book (number 12), *Way Down in the Hole: Race, Intimacy, and the Reproduction of Racial Ideologies in Solitary Confinement*, explores the ways in which racial antagonisms are exacerbated by the structures of solitary confinement.

Dr. Hattery serves as a consultant to agencies that seek to combat violence against women, and she regularly appears as an expert on these issues with major U.S. TV and radio news media. She teaches courses on race and gender inequality, families, and methods. For more information, go to <http://smithandhattery.com>.

To Order *Policing Black Bodies* and *Gender, Power, and Violence*, go to <https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781442276956/Policing-Black-Bodies-How-Black-Lives-Are-Surveilled-and-How-to-Work-for-Change> and [Gender, Power, and Violence: Responding to Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence in Society Today - 9781538118184 \(rowman.com\)](https://rowman.com/ISBN/9781538118184/Gender-Power-and-Violence-Responding-to-Sexual-and-Intimate-Partner-Violence-in-Society-Today) For a 30% discount, enter this Code: RLFANDF30



**Dr. Diane M. Hodge** is Professor and the Director of the School of Social Work in Radford University's Waldron College of Health and Human Services. Dr. Hodge has been on the faculty at RU since 1996. She oversees the graduate and undergraduate programs in social work at both the Radford University campus and the Roanoke Higher Education Center. The programs focus on community-based, family practice through agencies and organizations that support people in the community, with elective areas of emphasis in mental health and school social work. Dr. Hodge is a frequent speaker and has published numerous research papers -- the most recent being a co-authored paper on *The Status of Women in Social Work Education: A Follow-Up Study*, published in the *Affilia: Journal of Women and*

*Social Work* (the only peer-reviewed, scholarly social work journal from feminists' points of view).

Dr. Hodge earned her PhD in social work from The Ohio State University and her Master of Social Work from the University of Michigan. She has been honored by being added to the Waldron Hall Research Wall of Fame for November/December 2012, February 2015, and October 2017. Also, she received a *Faculty of the Year Award*, which is presented by students at the School of Social Work.



**Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., EdD**, is Superintendent of Schools for the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS). ACPS serves 15,000 plus students who come from more than 145 countries and speak 132 languages, and Dr. Hutchings is tasked with the mission to ensure that “every student succeeds.” In 2018, he was named Superintendent of the Year by the National Alliance of Black School Educators.

Dr. Hutchings is a 1995 graduate from T.C. Williams High School, the public high school in Alexandria, Virginia, and returned to Alexandria 23 years later in July 2018 as ACPS Superintendent of Schools. Between 2013 and 2018, he was the Superintendent of Schools for Shaker Heights Schools, located in a suburb of Cleveland, Ohio.

An experienced educator and administrator, Dr. Hutchings has served as a teacher, assistant principal, and principal at the middle and high school levels. He began his teaching career in Manassas at Prince William County Public Schools and has worked in Chesterfield County Public Schools, near Richmond, and Nashville Public Schools in Tennessee - where he was named Tennessee Middle School Principal of the Year. He was previously a director of pre-K--12 initiatives and director of middle school programs with ACPS.

Dr. Hutchings holds a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies from Old Dominion University; a master’s in educational leadership from George Mason University; and a doctorate in educational policy, planning and leadership from the College of William and Mary.



**State Senator Jen A. Kiggans**, a former Navy helicopter pilot and the first female military veteran to serve in the Virginia General Assembly, was elected in 2019 to represent Virginia’s 7th District, which covers parts of Virginia Beach City and Norfolk City. Senator Kiggans was one of the senators that voted “aye” for ratification of the ERA in 2020. She has served on the General Laws and Technology, Local Government, Rehabilitation and Social Services Committees.

Senator Kiggans’ career experience includes working as an adult-geriatric nurse practitioner beginning in 2012, serving as a navy helicopter pilot from 1994 to 2003, and working as a Japan exchange English teacher from 1993 to 1994.

Senator Kiggans earned an MSN in Nursing from Vanderbilt University, School of Nursing; a BSN in Nursing from Old Dominion University, School of Nursing; and a BA in International Relations from Boston University, College of Arts and Sciences.



**Chair Phyllis J. Randall** was elected Chair-At-Large of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors in November 2015 and reelected in November 2019. Her election was historic as she became the first person of color in Virginia’s history to be an elected chair of a County Board.

As Loudoun’s Chair At-Large, she represents Loudoun on various regional, state and national bodies including, serving as Chair of the Virginia Association of Counties Health and Human Resources sub-committee, Chair of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, President of the Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments (COG) and member of the COG Board of Directors as well as a member of the COG Human Services and Public Safety Policy Committee and the COG Regional Forward Coalition, and member of the National Association of Counties Health and Human Resources Committee. Chair Randall also serves on the Board of Supervisors’ Finance/Government Operations and Economic Development Committee and the Transportation and Land Use Committee.

In June of 2018, Chair Randall was selected as one of only twenty-five women in the country to be included in the 2019 class of *Governing Magazine’s* Women in Government Leadership Program. In addition, in 2018, 2019 and 2020, the citizens of Loudoun County voted Chair Randall Favorite Public Official, an honor which she is most humbled by and proud of.

From 2009-2011, Chair Randall served as Chair of Virginia’s Fair Housing Board under Governors Tim Kaine and Bob McDonnell. From 2014 to June of 2018, she served as Chair of Virginia’s State Board of Corrections under Governor Terry McAuliffe.

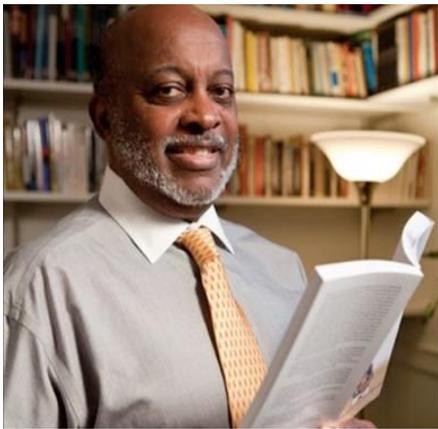
By profession, Chair Randall is a mental health therapist, working with substance abusing offenders in an incarcerated setting. This was a position she enjoyed for over fifteen years.



**Mayor Deanna Reed** was sworn into office on the Harrisonburg City Council on January 3, 2017, and then selected by her fellow council members as mayor—making her the first African American female mayor in Harrisonburg’s history. In 2019, Mayor Reed was selected by her colleagues to serve a third term as mayor. She serves as the Council Representative on the Social Services Advisory Board and the Parks and Recreation Commission; the Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Liaison; the City School Liaison; and the City Liaison to Eastern Mennonite University. Although this is Mayor Reed’s first public office, she is no stranger to Harrisonburg and its people because she is a native of the city.

Mayor Reed currently serves as the Director of Community and School Partnership for the [On the Road Collaborative](#); a non-profit youth empowerment organization that serves more than 300 middle school and high school youth annually. The organization helps students get on the road towards high school, college, and successful careers.

Mayor Reed has been a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. for over 32 years and serves on the advisory team for the Iota Alpha Chapter of James Madison University. In 2015, she was recognized by the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County Commonwealth Attorney as the Citizen of the Year. She was featured on *Essence Magazine's* [2018 "100 Woke Women List."](#) In 2019, Mayor Reed was recognized by the Library of Virginia as one of the [Strong Men & Women in Virginia History](#).



**Dr. Earl Smith, PhD** is *Emeritus* Professor of American Ethnic Studies and Sociology at Wake Forest University. Dr. Smith currently teaches classes in Sociology, African and African American Studies, and Women and Gender Studies at George Mason University and the University of Delaware. He earned his PhD at the University of Connecticut.

His teaching and research focus on sociology of sport, social stratification, criminal justice, and race. He is the author of 12 books, including his most recent book, *Gender, Power and Violence* published in 2019, and *Policing the Black Body*, which was published in 2018, as well as dozens of book chapters and peer reviewed articles. He has authored several books on the impact of social inequality on Black families. His book *Race, Sport, and the American Dream*, which has been published in three editions, remains the only book on the market that examines structural racism in SportsWorld.

On a regular basis he is consulted as an expert by the New York Times, USA Today, and a variety of other news outlets. He teaches courses on race and ethnicity, social problems, and race, gender, sexuality, and sport. For more information, go to [smithandhattery.com](http://smithandhattery.com).



**Susheela Varky, Esq.** is the Director of the Center for Family Advocacy and Legal Assistance for Victim-Immigrants of Domestic Abuse (LA VIDA) at the Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC). She has been involved in the public interest arena for 30 years.

In DC, Ms. Varky gained national and local experience in housing and women's issues at organizations such as McAuley Institute, The National Housing Trust, and Women Empowered Against Violence. In 1998, she joined the national drafting committee of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and helped write VAWA's original housing provisions. Since moving to Richmond in 2003, Ms. Varky has worked for Legal

Information Network for Cancer and the Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Since joining the VPLC as a staff attorney in September 2007, Ms. Varky has worked in the domestic and sexual violence arena, the statewide support organization for the local legal aid offices in Virginia, collaborating with state and local stakeholders, conducting trainings, engaging in advocacy, providing legal consultations, and taking compelling domestic and/or sexual violence, immigration-related cases through the LA VIDA pro bono legal clinic she started in 2009. In addition to these responsibilities, Ms. Varky leads VPLC's Center for Family Advocacy, where she oversees team members' work on family law, immigration, and child welfare.

Ms. Varky received her BA from Tufts University in 1986 and her JD from the Washington College of Law at The American University in 1993. She is licensed in VA, DC, and in PA, and lives in Richmond, VA.



**Brittany Webb-Lane**, Park Ranger at the Booker T. Washington National Monument, prides herself in educating the public about the life and times of Dr. Booker T. Washington. Booker T. Washington National Monument, located in Franklin County, Virginia, is where Dr. Washington (1856–1915) was born a plantation slave and then was freed by the Emancipation Proclamation. He went on to become a renowned orator, author, educator, advisor to U.S. Presidents, and founder of the Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University) in Alabama.

Ranger Webb-Lane, born and raised in Franklin County, began her National Park Service career in 2009 as a seasonal park guide at the Booker T. Washington National Monument. In 2015, she became a Park Guide at the Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, located in Tuskegee, Alabama. A strong believer in the power of investing in youth, Ranger Webb-Lane successfully managed over 50 collegiate volunteers, while serving as the site's Volunteer Coordinator. She was promoted to Park Ranger and in 2018 moved back to her original national park, Booker T. Washington National Monument, to give back to the community that invested in her years ago. She is one of the small percentage of national park rangers who are minorities, and the even smaller percentage who are women of color.

Ranger Webb-Lane holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in African American Studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and holds a Master of Arts degree in Public Administration from Strayer University.