

## VBBA – VBJDR ANNUAL CLE: SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

### Speaker Biographies

#### The Hon. Winship C. Tower (ret.)

Judge Tower presided over the City of Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court from 2000-2016, and was its acting Chief Judge from 2008 to 2010. Judge Tower, a certified mediator by the Virginia Supreme Court, is now with the McCammon Group, specializing in alternative dispute resolution and mediation involving family and business matters; equitable distribution; business, retirement, deferred compensation, stock options and real estate valuations, divisions and dissolution; property tracing; tax issues; income analysis; alimony; child support, custody, visitation and parenting plans; pre and post nuptial agreements; elder law issues, legal malpractice, construction and contracts. Prior to taking the bench, she was a former Partner and Past Chair of Family Law Practice Group with Kaufman & Canoles, P.C. Judge Tower is a Fellow with the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, the Virginia Law Foundation, and is a member of The Boyd-Graves Conference. She was a past member in the l'Anson-Hoffman Inn of Court, past chair, for the Board of Governors, Family Law Section of the Virginia State Bar, and a former member of the Board of Governors, Education of Lawyers Section and General Practice Section, for the Virginia State Bar. Judge Tower has served as Past Chair for the Domestic Relations Section; Member, the Commission on the Needs of Children and is a Former Member, the Commission on Professionalism, for the Virginia Bar Association. She was appointed by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia to serve on Advisory Committee on the Establishment of Family Law Courts in Virginia and the Futures Commission on Virginia Courts in the 21st Century, both in 2005. She is a past member of the Law Revision Committee of the Judicial Conference of Virginia for District Courts, a Former Member of the Liaison Committee for Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts, the Virginia Beach Bar Association, Former Co-Lead Judge, Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative, Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, and a Former Co-Lead Judge, Court Improvement Project, Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. Judge Tower is a Frequent speaker at Continuing Legal Education and Judicial Education Programs on family law issues and complex financial issues in mediation. She was the 2000 Recipient of Women of Distinction Award from YMCA of South Hampton Roads, and named among "Influential Women of Virginia" by *Virginia Lawyers Weekly*, in 2011. Judge Tower received her BA with Honors from Rollins University and her JD from the University of Virginia School of Law.

#### The Hon. Adrienne Bennett

Judge Bennett was appointed to the Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in April of 2020. Prior to that she served a long tenure with the Virginia Parole Board, where she was appointed in 2004, and became its Chairwoman in 2017. Prior to serving on the parole board, Judge Bennett was a lawyer in private practice focusing on criminal defense, juvenile, and family law.

### **The Hon. Tanya J. Bullock**

Judge Bullock currently serves as a presiding Judge of the Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. She is a native of Virginia Beach, Virginia. She is a graduate of North Carolina State University and received her Juris Doctor degree from Regent University School of Law in 2000. In 2016 Judge Bullock received an Executive Certificate in Multi-System Integration from Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform. After graduating from law school, Judge Bullock worked as a prosecutor in the Norfolk and Virginia Beach Commonwealth Attorney's Offices. Subsequently, she entered into private practice and started her own law firm, Bullock & Cooper, with her identical twin sister, Wanda Cooper. As a practicing attorney, her primary practice areas were criminal defense and federal civil litigation. Judge Bullock developed a niche in litigating what had become known as foreclosure rescue scams. In fact, she was at the forefront of getting Virginia's first foreclosure rescue scam statute passed in 2008. Judge Bullock and her firm received numerous honors and awards. She was named Judge of the Year by Regent University School of Law in 2019, was given an Outstanding Service Award from the Association of District Court Judges, received the Hampton Road's "Top 40 Under 40" Award by Inside Business, the Partners in Education Award from the Virginia Beach Public School System, the Urban League Silver Star Legacy Award, Outstanding Professional Woman Award and her firm was named, Virginia Beach's Business of the Year by the Department of Economic Development in 2011. Integrally involved in her community, Judge Bullock is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. and is an adjunct professor at Norfolk State University. She has served on the Virginia Board of Correctional Education, the Virginia Beach Community Development Corporation which focused on providing workforce housing and was a member of the Virginia State Bar Association's Disciplinary Committee. In addition, she is a proud graduate of the CIVIC Leadership Institute. In her spare time, Judge Bullock often can be found coaching recreational cheerleading, serving as a team mom for soccer and cheerleading or at the gym. She also enjoys competitive bodybuilding. In 2012, Judge Bullock was appointed by the Governor as a judge to the Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. She presides over criminal and civil cases involving juveniles, adults involved in disputes concerning support, custody, visitation, foster care and protective order cases. She is currently the Second Vice President of the Association of District Court Judges, a member of the Virginia Council of Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judges and was appointed by the Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court as a member of the Committee on District Courts. She serves on the District Courts Technology Committee, Forms Committee, is the Chair of the Judicial Liaison Committee for the Department of Juvenile Justice and serves as a Judicial Mentor. She is a member of the National Bar Association's Judicial Council and the Virginia State Bar's Judicial Division.

### **The Hon. Deborah V. Bryan**

Judge Deborah V. Bryan is a Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court judge in the Second Judicial District, City of Virginia Beach, Virginia and was elected to the bench in 2004. After graduating *magna cum laude* from Virginia Tech in 1979 and a career as a contracting officer for the U.S. Navy and in the private sector, she undertook the Virginia Study Under An Attorney (Law Reading) Program, completed it in 1995 and was admitted to the Virginia Bar that year. Prior to her election to the Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court bench in 2004, Judge

Bryan's law practice included an emphasis on domestic relations and representation of children as a Guardian Ad Litem. Judge Bryan serves as an ex officio judicial member of the Board of Governors of the Family Law Section of the Virginia State Bar. She also serves on the Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission and is the Chair of the Committee on Access for Self-Represented Litigants for that Commission, on the Supreme Court of Virginia's Advisory Committee on Rules of Court, and has previously served two terms on the Judicial Council of Virginia. She has completed terms on the Executive Committee of the Judicial Conference of Virginia for District Courts and the District Court Forms Advisory Committee, and has served as a Mentor for the Supreme Court of Virginia's Mentoring Program for New Judges. She is a past President and Vice President of the Virginia Council of JDR Judges and serves on its Judicial Support Committee and previously as liaison to the Judicial Council. She has served a two- year term as Chief Judge of the Virginia Beach J&DR Court, as a lead judge for Va. Beach J&DR District Court's Court Improvement Committee and a lead judge for the Virginia Beach J&DR Court's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative program. She has been appointed by the Governor of Virginia to the Child Support Guidelines Review Panel for two terms and currently serves on that Panel. She is currently a member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and has served on its Military Issues Committee. Judge Bryan has appeared as a speaker and panel member for various judicial and bench/bar conferences, and has provided judicial pre-bench training for new J&DR judges in the areas of custody, visitation and support.

#### **The Hon. Cheshire l'Anson Eveleigh**

Judge Eveleigh was appointed to the Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court in March of 2019. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Eveleigh was with Wolcott Rivers Gates for 29 years, where she was a partner practicing in family law, civil litigation, alternative dispute resolution, and appellate advocacy. Judge Eveleigh was the Chair of the Virginia Family Law Coalition and worked heavily with the General Assembly on family law legislation involving custody and related matters. She was the 2017 recipient of the Virginia State Bar's Family Law Service Award. She received her bachelor's from Oral Robert's University and her JD from the College of William and Mark School of Law. Judge Eveleigh was also the past secretary of the Virginia Chapter of American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a diplomate in America College of Family Law Trial Lawyers, the past president of the Norfolk Portsmouth Bar Association, past chair of the Domestic Relations Council of the Virginia Bar Association, past chair of the Family Law Section of the Virginia State Bar, and past president of the Family Law Organization of Greater Hampton Roads.

#### **The Hon. Timothy J. Quick**

The Hon. Timothy J. Quick began his legal career in 1994 as an Assistant Commonwealth Attorney for the City of Virginia Beach, and last served on the juvenile court team before entering private practice. In December 1999, he joined the law firm of Kalbaugh, Pfund, and Messersmith, where he practiced primarily insurance defense for three years. In 2003, he opened his own practice and litigated in every court in Hampton Roads. In 2008, Judge Quick was selected as the Deputy Capital Defender for Southeastern Virginia, and briefly served as the Acting Capital Defender before returning to private practice in 2010. He served as the president of the Virginia Beach Bar

Association in 2011. Judge Quick was appointed to the Virginia Beach Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court and took the bench in April of 2019.

**Christianna Dougherty-Cunningham, Associate City Attorney- City of Virginia Beach**

Ms. Cunningham is an Associate City Attorney with the City of Virginia Beach and has been with the City since 2004. She is currently assigned to the human services section handling the child welfare dockets, adult protective services, guardian and conservatorships, mental health and crisis services, behavioral health and developmental services, and human services protected information. She has previously handled §1983 defense, eminent domain, real estate related litigation, civil defense, collections, workers compensation, unemployment, and taxation. Prior to joining the City, Ms. Cunningham was an associate with Tavss Fletcher in Norfolk, VA, where she handled personal injury, medical malpractice, collections, eminent domain, guardianships, criminal defense, and domestic relations. Ms. Cunningham graduated from Arizona State University *cum laude* with a BA in Broadcasting and received her JD *cum laude* from Saint Louis University School of Law. She is presently the chair of the Virginia Beach Bar Association's Juvenile and Domestic Relations Committee and was the 2019-2020 President of the James Kent American Inn of Court. She is a part of the Virginia Beach Court Improvement Team/Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative, the Virginia Beach Racial and Ethnic Disparities Workgroup, the Virginia Beach Capstone Initiative, and is an active participant in the Virginia Department of Social Services Statewide Performance Improvement Plan as part of the Commonwealth's Court Community Workgroup. She is a grader for the Virginia State Bar Exam and a frequent judge for mock trial and appellate advocacy tournaments for both the College of William and Mary and Regent University Schools of Law.

**Cynthia Chaing, Esq.,**

In 2000, Cynthia Chaing graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Rio Grande, where she received her Bachelor's of Arts degree in English, graduating with additional full honors. She received her *juris* doctorate from Regent University and furthered her legal education studying under Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, of the Supreme Court of the United States, including studying with him at the University of Oxford and four international courts. Cynthia formerly owned a law firm from 2009 until 2017, and in 2018, this merged to form the firm Shupert Chaing. She provides legal advice and representation in all aspects of family law, including pre-marital and post-marital agreements, divorce, support, alimony, child custody, adoptions, order modifications and third-party rights. In addition, she handles contested and non-contested guardianships and conservatorships, as well as estate planning. She seeks to provide very candid and yet compassionate legal services to the residents of Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk and Hampton. Her friendly, yet very analytical approach, enables her to help her clients to achieve favorable results in both collaborative agreements and complex contested litigation. She is a member of the Virginia State Bar and the Virginia Beach Bar Association, where she co-chairs the CLASS program which provides free legal services in protective order matters. Since 2019, she has served as a CHKD board member of its Future Generations Board.

### **Richard Garriott, Esq.**

At Pender & Coward, P.C., Richard E. Garriott, Jr., handles a full range of family law matters, including divorce, child custody, property settlement and premarital agreements. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts from the University of Richmond in 1991, Mr. Garriott achieved a Master of Arts in 1993 from Ball State University. He earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Richmond School of Law. He is admitted to practice law in Virginia and before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia and the U.S. Court of International Trade (inactive). Mr. Garriott is a Fellow in the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, a Fellow in the International Academy of Family Lawyers as well as a Fellow in the Virginia Law Foundation and the American Bar Association Foundation. He was also named as a member of the 2009 class of Virginia's Leader's in the Law. Along with the top rating of AV Preeminent\* from Martindale-Hubbell, he has been included in The Best Lawyers in America\*\* and was selected by Virginia Business magazine in since 2011 as one of Virginia's Legal Elite in the family and domestic relations category. He has been included in The Best Lawyers in America since 2013. He has been listed on Super Lawyer's Top 100 Lawyers in Virginia for four years in a row. Mr. Garriott is a member of various bars and associations, including the Virginia Family Law Coalition and the Virginia Bar Association where he serves as Immediate Past-President. He is active in the L'Anson-Hoffman chapter of the American Inns of Court. Mr. Garriott donated his time on the advisory boards for the Mission of the Holy Spirit Shelter and the Seton Youth Shelter to help inner-city families and at-risk youth, and served as Chairman of the City of Virginia Beach Board of Zoning Appeals.

### **Ameet Habib, Esq.**

Ameet I. Habib joined the Wolcott Rivers Gates in May 2013. Mr. Habib received his J. D. from Cleveland State University, Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and was admitted into practice in Virginia in 2007. He is a skilled litigator with more than ten years of experience who concentrates his practice in the areas of divorce, custody, child support and visitation, as well as some general civil litigation. Prior to joining WRG, Mr. Habib was a staff attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Virginia, representing clients throughout the area with a variety of legal needs. Mr. Habib also has experience in the United States Supreme Court as he was one of two legal externs selected to work in the Office of the Clerk of the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Habib is honored to be on the boards of the Virginia Zoological Society, Nauticus Foundation, and Green Run Collegiate, where he is able to continue to give back to this community that he calls home.

### **Cassandra F. Hargrave, Esq.**

Cassandra F. Hargrave, Esq. is a solo practitioner. She has been a solo since beginning the practice of law in 2008. At her firm, C. HARGRAVE LAW, LLC, Ms. Hargrave practices several types of law, focusing mostly on the practice of family law. Ms. Hargrave graduated from the best university in the land, the one and only Virginia Tech. She attended Regent University where she graduated with her Juris Doctor. Ms. Hargrave is married with a young son who is the apple of her eye. When she is not practicing law, Ms. Hargrave enjoys adventures with her son, coaching basketball, mentoring children, baking with new recipes, and traveling as much as possible. Ms. Hargrave prides herself on honesty and integrity in all that she does.

### **Bretta Z. Lewis, Esq.**

Bretta Lewis, Esq. is a member of the Domestic Litigation team at the Virginia Beach law firm of Wolcott Rivers Gates, representing clients in divorce, custody, and various other matters in Juvenile and Circuit Court. Ms. Lewis has been certified as a Guardian *Ad Litem* for children since 2005 and has more than two decades of experience trying cases involving complex domestic issues including child and spousal abuse, neglect, and child emotional and behavioral issues. Ms. Lewis holds degrees from The University of Virginia (1994), George Mason University (1996), and the Marshall Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary (2000), where she is currently an adjunct law professor. Since 2006, Ms. Lewis has served the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary process, as a Committee and Board member, and was elected in 2020 to Bar Council. Ms. Lewis is a frequent lecturer and faculty member for multiple bar and professional organizations, authoring and teaching seminars on ethics and professionalism, as well as advanced family law topics and issues related to the representation of children. She was selected in 2018 to serve as a faculty member of the Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Course required of all new members of the Virginia State Bar.

### **Jennifer B. Shupert, Esq.,**

Jennifer B. Shupert, Esq. graduated with honors from Oklahoma Christian University where she received a B.S. in Family Studies & Child Development. She received her Juris Doctorate from Regent University School of Law in 2003. She has been practicing law in the Commonwealth of Virginia for almost 17 years and focuses her practice on the area of Family Law, including divorce, custody, support, pre- and post-marital agreements, and adoption. Jennifer was selected by Super Lawyers as a "Virginia Rising Star" for eight years, a Virginia Super Lawyer for 2019, and was awarded a spot as a Top Lawyer for Coastal Virginia for 2018-19. She has been a Fellow of the Academy of Adoption and Assisted Reproduction Attorneys since 2016. Jennifer has been a committee member of the Virginia Beach Bar Association since 2017, first serving as the Chair of the CLASS Committee, a member of the JDR Committee, and now as a co-Chair of the Destination CLE Committee. Jennifer and Cynthia Chaing attended law school together, and in 2017 decided to merge their firms to become Shupert Chaing. Together they provide candid, yet compassionate, legal services to the residents of Hampton Roads.