

VIRGINIA'S Leaders IN THE Law 2010

Linda L. Bryant

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**Name**

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Honor

Champion for victims of juvenile crime and domestic violence

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Education

B.A., University of Virginia
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Who was your most important mentor and how did this person impact your career?

A few people have influenced my career significantly: Attorney Frank Sofocleous taught me the importance of dedication and the pursuit of excellence, no matter how large or small the legal matter. Attorney Greg McCormack taught me that a good defense attorney makes our justice system stronger. Former Commonwealth's Attorney Jack Doyle (now a Norfolk Circuit Court Judge) taught me to prepare, present the case, then trust the process and not focus on the final result. (I am still working on this one.) Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney Phil Evans is a masterful trial attorney who taught me to follow every lead and know every detail of a case. Norfolk Commonwealth's Attorney Greg Underwood has been a mentor to me in many ways - everything I've been able to do involving youth in the last year is because of his leadership and guidance. He taught me that prosecutors have great potential to capture the hearts and minds of young people while teaching them to make good choices.

What do you consider your biggest personal accomplishment and why?

My 13-year old daughter - she is healthy, happy and grounded.

What is the best bit of advice you ever received?

There is no such thing as failure if you grow from the experience.

How do you achieve a balance between your professional life and your personal life?

I spend as much time with my daughter as I can. My husband and I have a few select TV shows for which the world must come to a halt. I try to run when I can. Running helps clear my head.

If you hadn't become a lawyer, what field would you have entered?

Film production. I worked for a video production company while in college at U.Va. Our company filmed many of U.Va.'s athletic events and did highlight vignettes on student-athletes.

What is your favorite book or movie and why?

"Gladiator," because of the "Battle of Carthage" scene. This is the scene in which Maximus and his fellow gladiators were supposed to be slaughtered but instead stood their ground and won the fight.

What are two facts about you that most people, including your closest friends, may not know?

I like to create scrapbooks. Pictures, scrapbooks, construction paper and other mementos completely cover our dining room table.

I went to Stanford University for a few months to study documentary film production before I decided to go to law school.