



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 24, 2012

2012 HENRICO AWARDS: CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN HENRICO COUNTY
HENRICO COMMUNITY LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER

RICHMOND, VA— The Greater Richmond Chamber announces that Lakshmi Challa of Challa Law Offices, Inc., has been named the 2012 Henrico County Community Leader of the Year. First established by the Chamber's Henrico Business Council in 2008, this award honors unsung heroes who show unwavering support for Henrico County and the business community, demonstrate dedication to the betterment and growth of Henrico County, and exhibit enthusiasm for and make a significant difference in their community. Lakshmi Challa is the Chief Executive Officer of Challa Law Offices, Inc., with offices in Virginia, North Carolina and India. She is perhaps best known for establishing the Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence Project. Working with the Virginia Poverty Law Center, Lakshmi established the Project to assist undocumented immigrants who are victims of domestic or sexual violence obtain legal status and lead a life free from the tyranny of their abusers and fear of deportation. Her creative solution to marshal additional assets by bringing law students from the University of Richmond's School of Law to assist on a pro bono basis dramatically expanded the effectiveness of the Project.

Under her leadership and with the pro bono assistance of a cadre of attorneys and law students, the Project has helped more than 50 women remain in the United States, work legally and provide for their families and children. Through her outreach, Lakshmi nurtures the next generation of leaders, provides them the opportunity to better understand the practice of law, and serves as a role model by demonstrating the vital importance of community service.

Additionally, Challa has provided legal expertise to Commonwealth Catholic Charities, supporting unaccompanied minors brought to the U.S.; has served on Senator Stolle's Illegal Immigration Task Force; and was appointed by Governor McDonnell to the Virginia Commonwealth University's Health Systems Board. She currently serves on numerous boards in the Greater Richmond Region and Central Virginia.

Prior Henrico Community Leader of the Year award winners include: Mark Smith, Midas of Richmond (2011); Denise Cranich, Innsbrook Foundation (2010); Kathleen Burke-Barrett, St. Joseph's Villa (2009); and Peter and Sharon Francisco, Peter Francisco Companies (2008)

EVENT: 2012 Henrico Awards: Celebrating Excellence in Henrico County
(program features video highlights produced by Mediapond, LLC)

DATE & TIME: Wednesday, May 2, 2012, 7:15-9:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Henrico Doctor's Hospital, Forest Campus Cafeteria, 1602 Skipwith Road, Henrico, VA

REGISTRATION: www.grcc.com or call (804) 783-9368

About Mediapond:

Mediapond is a digital design firm located in historic Rocketts Landing in Richmond, Virginia. By leveraging artistry and experience, Mediapond provides custom solutions that enable clients to communicate their brand message, thereby providing differentiation and growth in a competitive landscape (www.mediapond.com).

About the Chamber:

Since 1867, the Greater Richmond Chamber (www.grcc.com) has taken the lead to enhance and institute change in the Richmond region, making the region an ideal location for businesses to prosper. The Chamber, a not-for-profit business membership association with more than 1,300 member organizations and a professional staff of 24, is a catalyst for business development and the voice of business in Greater Richmond.

Contact:

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