

MANY THANKS TO OUR GUEST SPEAKERS
VLLC Town Hall, “Civil Rights and Immigration Enforcement”
April 29, 2017

Speaker Bios



MARK HERRING became the 48th Attorney General of Virginia on January 11, 2014. He is working to keep Virginia families safe in their communities and neighborhoods, providing legal services to the Commonwealth's agencies, boards, commissions, colleges and universities, and fighting for justice, equality, and opportunity for all Virginians.

Mark has lived most of his life in Loudoun County. After receiving bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Virginia, he graduated with honors from the University of Richmond School of Law before returning to Loudoun and establishing a successful law practice in Leesburg.

Mark got his start in public service as the town attorney for Lovettsville, and then was elected as a member of the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors. Prior to serving as Attorney General, he served eight years in the Senate of Virginia, representing parts of Loudoun and Fairfax Counties, working to bring technology-based economic development to the Northern Virginia region, secure transportation funding for needed projects, and make both state and local governments more accountable to the citizens of Virginia.

He and his wife, Laura, have been married for 25 years. They have two children in college, daughter Peyton and son Tim. They are members of the Leesburg Presbyterian Church.



COLONEL W. STEVEN FLAHERTY is the Virginia State Police Superintendent and serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Department. Appointed by Governor Mark R. Warner in October 2003, Colonel Flaherty oversees the Department's mission to provide the Commonwealth with a comprehensive, responsive statewide police department, independent yet supportive of local and federal law enforcement agencies; to preserve law and order; to enforce traffic and regulatory laws; and to provide security and safety services to citizens of Virginia.

Colonel Flaherty began his distinguished law enforcement career with the Virginia State Police in October 1975 as a graduate of the 61st Basic Session. As he progressed through the ranks of the Department, Colonel Flaherty's assignments included the Academy, the Safety Division, Bureau of Field Operations (BFO), and Bureau of Administrative and Support Services (BASS).

ASIF BHAVNAGRI, Policy Assistant, Secretariat of Public Safety and Homeland Security

Asif Bhavnagri previously served as Press Assistant in Governor McAuliffe's Communications Office since January 2014. Prior to working in the administration, he served on Governor McAuliffe's transition team. Asif is a native of Richmond, and a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University where he studied Political Science and African American studies. He spent several years as an intern in the Virginia General Assembly, assisting members of the House of Delegates on a variety of issues from healthcare to education.

CAPTAIN PHILIP J. CECERE, JR has more than 26 years of law enforcement experience, all with the Prince William County Police Department. Hired in 1987, he began his career as a patrol officer assigned to the Operations Division. During his career, Captain Cecere served as a detective in the Vice & Narcotics Bureau. He also served on the Department's SCUBA and SWAT Teams. He also served as a Basic Training Instructor at the Academy and was a Firearms Training/Special Projects Supervisor. Captain Cecere returned to the Operations Division as a Patrol Supervisor in the Eastern District, and then Watch Commander in the Western District. His most recent assignment was as Deputy Commander in the Special Operations Bureau, responsible for the TTRU, K-9, and Crime Prevention Units as well as Special Events. He is a graduate of the West Point Leadership Course.

Captain Cecere holds a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Bluefield College. He is also a graduate of the University of Virginia's Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service (LEAD). He is currently serving as a county-wide Evening Operations Commander.



LAVONDA GRAHAM-WILLIAMS began her law career as a litigation associate with Huff, Poole and Mahoney, PC. in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Her practice involved criminal and civil defense in the State and Federal court systems, including DWI, juvenile offenses, white collar crimes, landlord-tenant matters, contract disputes, and IDEA litigation.

Currently, she is a criminal defense attorney with the Law Offices of Lavonda N. Graham-Williams, Esq. where she advocates for and defends the rights of those persons charged of criminal offense in the Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area. Her extensive defense experience has resulted in the successful resolution of matters across the criminal defense spectrum including but not limited to domestic assault, child support enforcement, juvenile crimes, narcotics offenses, firearm violations, sex offenses, serious traffic matters, financial crimes, and misdemeanor and felony offenses in both the State and Federal court systems.



ARMANDO GUZMÁN Born in Mexico and educated abroad, Armando has created a strong name and presence for himself in Washington, DC. For two decades he has covered the White House and the U.S. Congress. Since the mid 1980's he has been the lead correspondent reporting on every single major story from Washington, first with KSBW NBC, and later with Univision, **TV Azteca**, and **Azteca America**.

His extensive experience as a political journalist has led him to interview the last five US presidents and vice presidents, as well as many heads of state such as Mikhail Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin, Lech Walesa, Nelson Mandela, Yasser Arafat, Margaret Thatcher, Tony Blair and countless Latin American Presidents. In 2004 he returned to Washington, where he has been bureau chief for two television networks, **TV Azteca** and **Azteca America**. He has been producer and anchor of "*Issues; Caras Y Voces*" since 2007. He has won many awards and recognitions in United States and Mexico.