

Howard W. Martin
President
Virginia State Bar

Dear Mr. Martin:

The October issue of *Virginia Lawyer* is a terrific tribute to Oliver W. Hill. As you know, I had the pleasure of working for Mr. Hill at Hill, Tucker & Marsh when some twenty-two years ago Mr. Hill hired me to become the newest associate of the firm. I also counted him as a friend and a mentor. You and Rodney Coggin are to be commended for highlighting his contributions to the bar in this issue.

I was particularly struck by your tribute to him. While it is important for attorneys to celebrate his civil rights accomplishments, we risk in doing so relegating him to a very narrow perch. Your article praised him for his courage and tenaciousness

during the era of massive resistance, but your article also did so much more. You reminded members of our bar that “Oliver White Hill epitomized the best of Virginia lawyers.” Period.

Thus, his practice at the bar remains not only a testament to exceptional civil rights work, but prevails as a shining example to all lawyers of what a Virginia lawyer should strive to be: dignified, of high character, and of exceptional legal attainment.

Richard D. Taylor Jr.
Judge
Circuit Court of the City of Richmond

Letters

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