

## SHARON STANLEY MERRIWEATHER

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

#### **Maryland Office of the Attorney General**

Baltimore, Maryland

**October 2016-Present**

##### ***Principal Counsel-Maryland Health Benefit Exchange***

- Provide legal counsel regarding rapid developments in healthcare reform, the Affordable Care Act, government regulatory law, privacy and data matters.
- Represent or supervise the representation of MHBE in all litigation that arises regarding the Maryland Health Connection, insurance affordability program eligibility determinations, procurement, and other matters.
- Advise the MHBE's Board of Trustees on pending or potential litigation matters, procurement appeals, and Open Meetings Act issues.

**July 2014-October 2016**

##### ***Deputy Counsel (Benefits and Litigation)-Maryland State Retirement and Pension System***

- Provided legal advice to the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System (the "System") on a wide range of pension benefits issues, such as compliance with the federal law (including the IRC), compliance with State law and regulations, plan eligibility for Employee Plan Correction Resolution System (EPCRS), members' eligibility for reemployment, payment of survivor benefits, and beneficiary determinations
- Represented or supervised the representation of the System in litigation that arises regarding pension benefits, investments, funding, securities, procurement, and other matters
- Advised the System's Board of Trustees on pending or potential litigation matters, disability appeals, and Open Meetings Act issues

**February 2011-July 2014**

##### ***Assistant Attorney General-Department of Budget and Management***

- Represented the Department's Employee Benefits Division ("EBD") by providing legal advice and counsel on all aspects of the administration of the State's employee health benefit program and its component health plan, including: eligibility to participate in the program; State subsidy obligations; procurement of health plan and other contractors related to program administration; cafeteria plan administration (IRC §125) and the administration of tax favored benefits; group health plan administration (e.g. COBRA, HIPAA, mandated coverage and benefits, etc.); and compliance with federal health reform law (PPACA)
- Represented the State of Maryland and Department procurement matters involving EBD before the Maryland State Board of Contract Appeals

**August 2006-February 2011**

##### ***Assistant Attorney General-Juvenile Justice Monitoring Unit***

- Acted as senior counsel to the director and staff of the Unit by providing legal advice and counsel on issues such as drafting and negotiating agreements, reviewing legislation, and complying with federal and State laws
- ***Criminal Appeals:*** Represented the State of Maryland in criminal appellate matters, including researching and writing briefs and oral argument in Maryland's courts of appeals.

- **Baltimore City Board of Elections:** Provided legal advice and counsel to the Baltimore City Board of Elections, including personnel and election law, and legislative issues

**February 2003-August 2006**

***Assistant Attorney General-Environmental Crimes Unit***

- Prosecuted State-level environmental crimes, including solid waste, water pollution, and hazardous waste violations, throughout the State of Maryland

**April 2000-February 2003**

***Assistant Attorney General-Correctional Litigation Division***

- Represented the State of Maryland, the Maryland Division of Correction, state officials and employees in prisoner federal civil rights litigation and state court hearings from the trial court through the appellate process
- Conducted in-service classes for correctional officer regarding relevant legal issues

**March 1998 - April 2000**

***Staff Attorney-Maryland Division of Pretrial Detention and Services***

- Defended the State of Maryland, the Division, its officers and employees in civil litigation in both State and federal courts, in cases involving torts and civil rights law
- Represented the Division in administrative appeals including, personnel appeals and inmate grievance appeals
- Provided legal advice and counsel to the officials and employees of the Division

**Brown, Goldstein & Levy, LLP**

Baltimore, Maryland

**August 1994 - February 1998**

***Associate***

- Practiced general civil litigation in both State and federal court with a concentration in torts and civil rights law

**OTHER EXPERIENCE**

**District Court of Maryland**

Annapolis, Maryland

**December 2005-December 2006**

***Volunteer ADR Mediator/Facilitator (Apprentice)***

- Acted as a mediator/facilitator to assist civil-case litigants in the District Court of Maryland in finding a resolution to their dispute as an alternative to proceeding with trial

**University of Maryland School of Law**

Baltimore, Maryland

**August 2002-August 2004**

***Adjunct Professor-Legal Analysis, Writing, and Research (LAWR) Program***

- Instructed first and second-year law students in pre-trial and appellate advocacy and legal research, through written assignments and oral arguments

## **EDUCATION**

### **University of Maryland School of Law**

Baltimore, Maryland

Juris Doctor, May 1994

*Awards:* William P. Cunningham Award - May 1994 (for academic merit and service), American Jurisprudence Award - Spring 1993 (Evidence)

*Activities:* The Business Lawyer - Associate Editor (1993-94)(Published in conjunction with the section of Business Law-American Bar Association), Black Law Students' Association - President (1992-93)

### **University of Delaware**

Newark, Delaware

Bachelor of Arts in Communication, June 1991

*Awards:* University Merit Award (four-year full tuition scholarship 1987-91), University of Delaware Black Student of Promise (1990 & 1991)

*Activities:* Gospel Choir-Member, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.-Lambda Gamma chapter-Membership Chairman

## **BOARDS/COMMUNITY SERVICE**

- President, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Iota Lambda Omega Chapter (Howard County, MD) (2020-present)
- Board Member, Pearl Foundation, Inc. (Howard County, MD) (2020-present)
- Board Member, Maryland Juvenile Services Education Board-serve as the MD Attorney General's designee (October 2021-present)

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- Member, Maryland Bar Association
- Admitted to the Maryland Bar (December 1994)
- Admitted to the United States District Court for the District of Maryland (April 1995)(inactive)