



## Melissa A. Little

Associate

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### BIOGRAPHY

Melissa Little's practice focuses on education matters. Prior to joining Blankingship & Keith, Melissa advocated on behalf of youth in school administrative hearings. As a trial attorney, Melissa also represented both plaintiffs and defendants in civil matters in state courts throughout the Commonwealth.

Melissa is also an active member of the American Bar Association. She currently serves on the Youth at Risk Advisory Committee and Chairs the Young Lawyers Division Minorities in the Profession Committee. Melissa has taken on several leadership roles within the Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference as well, including serving as a Representative for the 4<sup>th</sup> District and chairing the Professional Development Conference for two consecutive years. The ABA YLD and the VSB YLC have honored Melissa for her service to the bar and the community.

As a community member, Melissa was appointed to the City of Alexandria Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission. In this role, Melissa works with the City of Alexandria, Alexandria City Public Schools, and related public and private entities to ensure that the City is best meeting the needs of its youth and their families.

Educationally, Melissa accepted a full academic scholarship to the University of Akron School of Law. During this time, she served as an Assistant Editor of the Akron Law Review and clerked for a judge at the Akron Municipal Court.

### PROFESSIONAL HONORS & ACTIVITIES

- American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division "Star of the Quarter" Award, 2017
- Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference Outstanding Service Award, 2015 and 2016
- Greater Washington Area Chapter, National Bar Association "Member of the Month" Award, 2016
- Assistant Editor - Akron Law Review, 2010
- Akron Law Board of Trustees Academic Scholarship Recipient, 2008-2011
- Akron Law Outstanding Woman Award, 2011
- University At Albany Student Commencement Speaker-Africana Studies Department, 2008

### PRACTICE AREAS

Education Law and Litigation

### BAR ADMISSIONS

Virginia State Bar (2011)  
District of Columbia (2014)  
Eastern District of Virginia (2013)

### EDUCATION

University of Akron School of Law, 2011  
University at Albany, Summa Cum Laude, 2008

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

District of Columbia Public Schools Career Coach, 2017  
Children Youth & Families Collaborative Commission, Commissioner, 2016- Present  
"What Do Lawyers Do" Initiative, organizer/speaker, 2016  
"Knowledge is Power" Voting Rights Program, Co-Chair, 2016  
"My Brother's Keeper" Initiative, volunteer, 2015  
Legal Aid Justice Center, Pro-Bono Attorney, 2012-2014