

When Shannon Taylor Took Office As Prosecutor, She Fired Seven Veteran Prosecutors With 150 Years Of Experience. The Richmond Times-Dispatch Confirmed She Fired People Because Of Their Race Or Gender.

Taylor Said That As Commonwealth's Attorney, She Hired More Women And People Of Color To Serve As Prosecutors And Ran Her Office Through The Lens Of "Compassionate Accountability," Putting A Greater Focus On Mental Health And Substance Use Issues

Taylor Highlighted Her Hiring Of Women And People Of Color When She Launched Her Bid For Virginia Attorney General. "She said that as commonwealth's attorney, she hired more women and people of color to serve as prosecutors and ran her office through the lens of 'compassionate accountability,' putting a greater focus on mental health and substance use issues.

("Shannon Taylor, Top Henrico Prosecutor, Launches Bid For Virginia AG," [The Washington Post](#), 6/19/24)

Taylor Described Herself As A "Progressive Prosecutor." "I do call myself a 'progressive prosecutor,' she said. 'Progressive' is to do things differently. That is exactly what I brought to that office and what I would continue to do if given the opportunity to move forward in a new role." ("Shannon Taylor, Top Henrico Prosecutor, Launches Bid For Virginia AG," [The Washington Post](#), 6/19/24)

Upon Assuming Office As The Henrico County Commonwealth Attorney, Taylor Fired Seven Prosecutors Because They Were White

The 2019 Virginia Progressive Voter Guide Highlighted Taylor For Her Commitment To Diversifying The Henrico County Attorney's Office. "During her tenure, Shannon has diversified the office so that it resembles Henrico County with women and minority prosecutors. She has enhanced the victim-witness program and has Spanish-speaking translators available." ("Shannon Taylor," [Progressive Voter Guide](#), Henrico County, VA, 2019)

Taylor Fired Prosecutors With Over 150 Years Of Collective Experience Between Them Upon Assuming Office As The Henrico County Commonwealth Attorney. "Incoming Henrico Commonwealth's Attorney Shannon Taylor will remove the top echelon of prosecutors in the office and bring in three new attorneys for her management team, one from Goochland County and two from Richmond. The moves announced by the newly elected prosecutor yesterday wipe out more than 150 years of cumulative experience in the office, not including veteran Commonwealth's Attorney Wade A. Kizer, who did not run for re-election and joined the office in 1986." ("Henrico prosecutors axed," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Dec. 3, 2011)

Taylor Fired Seven Prosecutors. "But in early December, Conway and six other esteemed prosecutors in Henrico County got pink slips from newly elected Commonwealth's Attorney, Shannon Taylor." ("New Commonwealth's Attorney Takes Office, Fires Seven Lawyers," [WTTR](#), 1/6/12)

Taylor In 2012: "I Stated Publicly That The Office Needs To Have More Diversity And I'm Going To Keep To That Public Statement." "In a Nov. 9 interview with CBS 6, Shannon Taylor was candid in that she wanted change in the commonwealth attorney's office that she hoped would better reflect Henrico's changing demographics. 'I stated publicly that the office needs to have more diversity and I'm going to keep to that public statement,' Taylor said." ("New Commonwealth's Attorney Takes Office, Fires Seven Lawyers," [WTTR](#), 1/6/12)

In 2015, The Richmond Times-Dispatch Endorsed Taylor's Republican Opponent Tony Pham, Citing Taylor's Decision To Fire Seven Career Prosecutors For The Sole Purpose Of Hiring A More Diverse Staff

Henrico prosecutors axed

("Henrico prosecutors axed," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, Dec. 3, 2011)

In Their Endorsement Of Her Republican Opponent in 2015, The Richmond-Times Dispatch Cited Taylor's Decision To Fire Seven Career Prosecutors For No Other Reason Than The Fact

They Were White Men. “Of more importance is the manner in which Taylor entered office: She promptly fired seven career prosecutors with more than 150 years of combined experience because, she says, she ‘made a promise that we were going to have diversity.’ That comes close to a confession that she fired people because they belonged to the wrong race or gender. Discrimination like that has no place in government. Henrico voters should thank Taylor for her service - and hand the office keys to Pham.”
(Editorial, “Vote for...,” *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 10/25/15)