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Virginia's Better Half

First Lady Anne Holton has been recognized with a 2006 Outstanding Women Award by the YWCA of Richmond

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Capital News Service -- Virginia's first lady, **Anne Holton**, needs to make space on her mantle in the Executive Mansion after being presented a **2006 Outstanding Women Award** by the **YWCA of Richmond**.

Holton won in the law category for her work as a judge in the Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court. Holton has served the court as a justice since 1998, but resigned the position in December to focus on being Virginia's first lady.

"In my work in the courts, I witnessed how important the work of caring organizations like the YWCA can be in helping abused women and their children get back on their feet," Holton said. "I am honored to be recognized by such incredible advocates for the most vulnerable in our community."

Holton, 48, earned her law degree from Harvard Law School. After graduation, she clerked for **U.S. District Judge Robert R. Merhige Jr.** She later served as an attorney with the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society for a decade. In 1998, the General Assembly appointed Holton to the position of juvenile court judge.

While on the juvenile court bench, Holton also served on Virginia's Child Support Guideline Review Panel and on the Virginia Court Improvement Program advisory committee, which focused on adoption and foster care. She also chaired the Millennium Team, a task force aimed at improving the court's processing of foster care cases involving abuse and neglect.

Holton has been married to **Tim Kaine**, Virginia's governor, since 1984. She is the daughter of former **Gov. Linwood Holton**. The Kaines have three children: Nat, Woody and Annella.

The YWCA Outstanding Women Awards have been given annually in 10 fields since 1980. Awards are given in categories of arts, business, communications, education, health and science, human relations, government and politics, law, religion and volunteerism.

Nearly 80 women were nominated for awards this year. Winners are selected based on their leadership skills, high levels of both personal and professional achievement, commitment to equality and racial harmony, and impact on the community.

The first lady and her fellow award recipients will be formally recognized at the 26th annual Outstanding Women Awards luncheon on Friday, April 21, at the **Greater Richmond Convention Center**.

Proceeds from the luncheon will benefit various YWCA programs, such as domestic violence shelters, 24-hour crisis hotlines, sexual assault response services and the Child Development Center. For ticket information,

ywcarichmond.org.

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