

**BUSINESS**

## Richmond Lawyer Among Minority Standouts

Troutman Sanders' Ashley L. Taylor named to top-50 list

**W**ith all the election-year hoopla surrounding Barack Obama, the nation's first minority presidential candidate of a major party, Richmond attorney Ashley L. Taylor, in another cycle or two, could pose a formidable political counterbalance. He's a minority attorney with one of the nation's top-100 firms, he has experience in Virginia state government — and he's a Republican.

In late May, Taylor of Troutman Sanders was named to the National Law Journal's list of "The 50 Most Influential Minority Lawyers in America." If that distinction didn't put him in exclusive company already, he is one of only a handful of U.S. lawyers who specialize in attorneys-general investigations. When one or more states sue a company — as in California's recent suit against mortgage lender Countrywide Financial Corp. — Taylor is the type of attorney who can defend a corporation.

Taylor's slow to take credit for his recent law-journal honor, instead noting that it's a positive reflection on his firm. "It sends a signal that this particular law firm pro-

vides minorities with significant opportunities," he says.

His expertise in government investigations and complex litigation was forged partly during his time as a deputy attorney general under Mark Earley from 1998 to 2001. Taylor also served as counsel to former attorney general Jerry Kilgore, who failed in his 2005 bid for the governor's office.

Though Taylor says he's happy in private practice and has no immediate plans for political office, he expects to be working for the Republican Party in this year's campaign. "I'll be active with the McCain folks," he says.

—Jack Cooksey



BY JUAN CONDE  
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### A Request for Help

Welcome to August. Here at TV-8 we're gearing up for the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Association Telethon over the Labor Day weekend, Sept. 2-3.

I rarely get on a soapbox in this column, but I'm asking you to watch us (and to help) raise money for Jerry's Kids. I believe in their cause. The youngsters I've met

who have neuromuscular diseases live remarkably brave and courageous lives, their families manage unfathomable hardships, and without your help, a terrible cycle of

struggle and loss will continue unabated.

We'll be working to improve the lives of area families who are among the most deserving I've ever met.