



## ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

*Virginia Blumenthal, J.D.*

Riverside City College, Class of 1968

Founding Attorney, Blumenthal Law Offices

Virginia Blumenthal is known throughout the community for her expertise in the courtroom and her dedication to Riverside Community College District.

An alumna of Poly High School and Riverside City College, Virginia's Riverside roots are grounded deeply in her hometown. Her parents lived in a Wood Streets home directly across from the College, her mother attended a class

and worked at RCC, and Virginia and her sister learned early in life to work hard, care for others, and strive to make a difference.

After a slow start at college—she admits to a 1.1 GPA in her first semester—Virginia hit her stride, which led to advanced degrees, including a juris doctorate that followed an earlier career as a teacher. It was as a criminal defense attorney, maneuvering in a man's legal world, that she built her reputation and became a high profile community leader.

The National Trial Lawyers named her as one of the Top 100 Trial Lawyers in the United States and she has been named as "One of the Best Litigators in California" and one of the "Most Influential Attorneys in the State of California." Outside the courtroom, her contributions are equally impressive.

Virginia is a fixture in Riverside, known for her volunteerism and public service. Named "YWCA Woman of the Year," she also is a recipient of the ATHENA award for community service and a holder of the Gold Key Award from Soroptomists International of Riverside. Her service to RCCD began in November 2006 when she was elected to the RCCD Board of Trustees. This year marked her third term as president of the Board.

Her selection as Alumnus of the Year recognizes her outstanding service to the college district, as well as her professional and community achievements. On the 100th anniversary of RCC, it is fitting that the year also coincides with the 50th anniversary of Virginia's connection with RCCD and its colleges.