



SPEAKER DON SCOTT

Virginia House of Delegates, 88th District

BIOGRAPHY

Don Scott has built a reputation for being a steadfast ally to his clients in the courtroom, and has brought that same spirit to the House of Delegates where he is known for being an advocate for working Virginia families.

He was born in Houston, Texas, where he and his siblings were raised by a single mother. A product of public schools, Don attended Texas A&M University. Upon graduation, he joined the Navy and served as a Surface Warfare Officer. This ignited his interest in pursuing law, and upon completion of his service, he earned his law degree from LSU Law School in 1994. After delivering the commencement address to Norfolk State University in 2024, he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters.

In 2002, Don took an entry-level job at a workforce development company, where he quickly moved up the ranks to Senior Vice President. However, his position required constant travel, and after the birth of his daughter, he decided to return to his original dream of practicing law to stay closer to home. In 2015 he opened his own law practice. Today, he is a partner at Breit Biniazan P.C. and serves his clients primarily as a personal injury attorney.

He entered public life in 2019 when he decided to run for the House of Delegates representing Portsmouth. Since that first election, he has had a meteoric rise from freshman to Minority Leader by his second term. After winning the majority in 2023, Don was unanimously selected by his colleagues as the first Black Speaker of the House of Delegates in its 405-year history. Don has made his mark running a tight ship. He is known for being efficient and tough but fair to his colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

He is a proud lifetime member of many civic and community boards and associations. He and his wife, Dr. Mellanda Colson Scott, reside in Portsmouth with their teenage daughter.

As Speaker of the House of Delegates, he is Chair of the Rules Committee, and he serves on the Governor's Advisory Council on Revenue Estimates; Virginia Growth and Opportunity Board; Commemorative Commission to Honor the Contributions of the Women of Virginia; Virginia State Crime Commission; and Commission on Electric Utility Regulation.

In the community, Don is a member of many boards and commissions and has spent his time outside the courtroom giving back.

Don is a member of the Portsmouth Bar Association, the Old Dominion Bar Association, the Virginia State Bar Association, the Virginia Association of Criminal Defense Attorneys, and the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association. He is also the former Chair of the Portsmouth Economic Development Authority and former President of the Southeastern Employment and Training Association. He is also a member of the Eureka Club and holds lifetime memberships in the NAACP, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 993, and American Legion Post #190.

Awards:

Climate Champion Action Fund

Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Foundation, WEB Du Bois Legacy Award

VACAPAF Award of Appreciation – 81st Convention

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Hugo A. Owens Humanitarian Award

Church and Community in Action Award – Political Leadership Award

Gloucester Institute, Robert Russa Moton Legacy Award

Norfolk State University Doctorate of Humane Letters

UNOS, Living It Forward Award

Virginia Union University MLK Award for Civic Leadership

Virginia Union University Living the Dream Legacy Award

VALCV Conservation Political Voice Award

Virginia Education Association 2024 Legislator of the Year Award