

## **Woman Of The Week: RHONDA HILL WILSON** **February 21, 2007**



*Rhonda Hill Wilson, Attorney at Law/Owner, The Law Office of Rhonda Hill Wilson, PC, Radio Host: "Truth Rising", on WURD 900-AM, Philadelphia, PA, speaks to Marilyn Russell*

### **By Marilyn Russell**

As we continue to celebrate Black History Month I can't think of a better nominee than this week's Woman of the Week, Rhonda Hill Wilson. The first woman in her family to earn an advanced degree, Rhonda has been practicing law in Philadelphia for nearly three decades. Rightfully nominated to WOTW as a hard worker who consistently gives back to the community, she is a true leader in every sense of the word. Rhonda is so dedicated to education for African Americans (as well as all people), she recently made such a sizeable donation to the United Negro College Fund, she has been asked to lead Philadelphia's first United Negro College Fund (UNCF) "A Mind is" Annual Giving Society (AMI), which honors UNCF's most generous supporters.

In addition to being an incredible role model, Rhonda is the Host of "Truth Rising," a radio show that highlights local, national and international legal and political issues to a devoted audience. An accomplished and award-winning leader, Rhonda has presented, lectured and taught across the board on topics such as nursing-home litigation, deposition strategies, ethics, damages, direct and cross-examination and the essentials of civil litigation. She's also been named one of the Top Black Lawyers in the Tri-State area by The Network Journal and has received the Presidential Award from the National Bar Association. She serves on many Boards, including the Board of Governors for the Philadelphia Trial Lawyers Association, and acts as the organization's membership coordinator.

**WOTW:** How did you get your start?

**Rhonda:** After attending law school and working for the government, insurance companies and other businesses, I decided to start my own practice.

**WOTW:** What do you like best about having started your own practice?

**Rhonda:** I love being my own employer. In starting my own business, what I like best is actualizing my vision for my own legal practice. This allows me to provide clients with the service and attention they want, need and deserve. I am and wish to remain a compassionate, honest and accessible plaintiff's attorney. And, since I run the show...I can determine how my time is spent – which means, with the clients, with my family and with the community.

**WOTW:** What is the hardest thing for you to accomplish?

**Rhonda:** Graduate Law School.

**WOTW:** Of what are you most proud?

**Rhonda:** I am most proud of my daughters and their growth and development into young women.

**WOTW:** Describe your overall philosophy and how you utilize it with your responsibilities at work.

**Rhonda:** My work philosophy is to be personally prepared in my work and provide that example to those who work with me. It's important to me to allow my colleagues to grow and develop, while providing them with clear direction. As far as my clients are concerned, my philosophy is to listen, be honest and be accessible.

**WOTW:** If you could change one thing in our world, what would it be?

**Rhonda:** Women would be in charge!

**WOTW:** What is your guilty pleasure?

**Rhonda:** Going to the Spa.

**WOTW:** If you could bring only one book with you on the 'deserted island,' what would it be?

**Rhonda:** The Bible.

**WOTW:** What advice can you share with someone starting out in your field?

**Rhonda:** In addition to the qualifications of a law degree and bar membership, for a woman trial lawyer to open her own practice, she must have deep professional community contacts and solid contacts within the faith-based community. Also, have a strong business plan and the appropriate financing in place.

**WOTW:** What's next on your horizon?

**Rhonda:** The goal continues to be growing my practice specializing in the area of nursing home negligence, thereby protecting the elderly and other victims of harm. I also want to create a business to pass down to my daughters should they choose to become lawyers. Additionally, I was just named chair of the Philadelphia area "A Mind is" Annual Giving Society, a national contributors' program of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). I'm very excited about the opportunity to be working with UNCF since I am dedicated to higher education assistance and enhancing the quality of education in America.

You can listen to "Truth Rising" on WURD 900-AM every Friday from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. The show's content and topics include local, national and international legal and political issues that are of interest to her listening audience.

Also, Rhonda has a few speaking engagements coming up including the ATLA-NJ Education Foundation's Boardwalk Seminar 2007 (April 26th) at Bally's in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Details on this and other seminars, as well as a full biography of Rhonda Hill Wilson can be found at her website: [www.rhwilson.com](http://www.rhwilson.com).

It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from.  
The ability to triumph begins with you – Always.

- Oprah Winfrey