



## Sybil Richard, R.Ph., M.H.A., Esq. Tallahassee, Florida

When it comes to the pharmaceutical field, Sybil Richard is all about policy. As Florida's Bureau Chief of Medicaid Pharmacy Services, she oversees the entire Florida Medicaid pharmacy budget, yet she knows there is much more to health care policy than crunching numbers.

"Growing up in New Orleans, I was always interested in health care. I was intrigued by the community pharmacist standing high up on a box," Richard said. "Pharmacists are the last point of contact before individuals take their health into their own hands. I enjoyed having influence at that point of care."

After graduating with a pharmacy degree from Xavier University, Richard worked in a retail community pharmacy before enrolling at Indiana University to pursue a dual degree in health administration and law. "I wanted to be in a position to help people get answers," she said. Her role model, younger sister Christie, also is a pharmacist.

Richard had her first opportunity to work in health care policy with the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, which represent the views and policy positions of chain community pharmacies. She was part of a team that reviewed laws and rules, analyzed impacts and helped communicate messages about the value and role of community retail pharmacy.

Today, Richard works on Medicaid budgets and reimbursements, as well as with individual cases and physicians on coverage policies and clinical issues. "When I took this job, I considered myself financially challenged," Richard said. "Now I balance a \$2.2 billion budget and have a staff of 20."

Because Medicaid by definition exists to serve the low-income population, Richard has firsthand experience with health care disparities among different populations. She hopes to continue to expand her knowledge of broader health care issues, and to play an integral role in the future of the Medicaid and Medicare programs. "Florida is one of the largest Medicaid states, but we are also one of the most innovative states in the country," Richard said. "I am really proud to be a part of that."

Richard also enjoys her role as a mentor to pharmacy students. "The profession has grown so much, and there are many career options for pharmacists," she said. "I tell students to know their hearts and do what feels right. There are a lot of dream killers, so they have to be committed to following their dreams."

As far as her own dreams, Richard aspires to one day be at the helm of health and human services for the country. She realizes it's a big job that requires a much broader focus on health care issues, which is why she's devoted to expanding her own knowledge. Now, she's serving on the federal commission for the State Prescription Assistance Transition Program, which is helping to develop transitions to Medicare for people on Medicaid.

"I enjoy being part of the creative process that shapes health care policy," she said. "Before I come to work each day I think how what I accomplish will impact today and what I can do to take it forward."



### ONE GOAL: *To Shape*

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 1914: Ralph Ellison, author, born.	<b>2</b> 1867: Congress enacts charter to establish Howard University.	<b>3</b> 1865: Freedmen's Bureau established by federal government to aid newly freed slaves.	<b>4</b> 1965: Bill Russell of the Boston Celtics honored as NBA most valuable player for fourth time in five years.	<b>5</b> 1770: Crispus Attucks becomes one of the first casualties of the American Revolution.
<b>6</b> 1857: Supreme Court issues Dred Scott decision.	<b>7</b> 1965: Supreme Court upholds key provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.	<b>8</b> 1951: The National Pharmaceutical Association incorporated under the laws of the state of Delaware. 1977: Henry L. Marsh III becomes first African American elected mayor of Richmond, Virginia.	<b>9</b> 1841: Amistad mutineers freed by Supreme Court.	<b>10</b> 1869: Robert Tanner Freeman becomes first black to receive a degree in dentistry. 1913: Harriet Tubman, abolitionist and Civil War nurse, dies.	<b>11</b> 1959: Lorraine Hansberry's <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i> opens at Barymore Theater, New York, the first play by a black woman to premiere on Broadway.	<b>12</b> 1932: Andrew Young, former U.N. ambassador and former mayor of Atlanta, born.
<b>13</b> 1773: Jean Baptiste Pointe Du Sable, black pioneer and explorer, founded Chicago.	<b>14</b> 1956: Montgomery bus boycott ends when municipal bus service is desegregated.	<b>15</b> 1947: John Lee, first black commissioned officer in the U.S. Navy, assigned to duty.	<b>16</b> 1827: <i>Freedom's Journal</i> , the first U.S. black newspaper, is founded. 1846: Rebecca Cole, second black female physician in the U.S., born.	<b>17</b> <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> 1885: William F. Cosgrove patents automatic stop plug for gas and oil pipes. 1890: Charles B. Brooks patents street sweeper.	<b>18</b> 1822: The Phoenix Society, a literary and educational group, founded by blacks in New York City.	<b>19</b> 1971: The Rev. Leon Sullivan elected to board of directors of General Motors.
<b>20</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 1883: Jan E. Matzeliger patents shoemaking machine.	<b>21</b> 1965: Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. leads march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, for voting rights.	<b>22</b> 1898: J.W. Smith patents lawn sprinkler.	<b>23</b> 1873: Slavery abolished in Puerto Rico.	<b>24</b> 1907: Nurse and aviator Janet Harmon Bragg born.	<b>25</b> <b>Good Friday</b> 1931: Ida B. Wells-Barnett, journalist, anti-lynching activist and founding member of the NAACP, dies.	<b>26</b> 1872: Thomas J. Martin patents fire extinguisher. 1911: William H. Lewis becomes U.S. assistant attorney general.
<b>27</b> <b>Easter</b> 1924: Jazz singer Sarah Vaughan, "The Divine One," born. 1930: Of the 116,000 blacks in professional positions, more than two-thirds were teachers or ministers.	<b>28</b> 1870: Jonathan S. Wright becomes first black state supreme court justice in South Carolina.	<b>29</b> 1918: Pearl Bailey, singer and actor, born.	<b>30</b> 1870: Fifteenth Amendment ratified, guaranteeing voting rights to blacks.	<b>31</b> 1988: Toni Morrison wins Pulitzer Prize for <i>Beloved</i> .		

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AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY CALENDAR  
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