

The Smt. Indira Gandhi Endowment Lecture was instituted by Dr. Sr. Helen Vincent in 1985 in memory of India's first and till date only woman Prime Minister. It cannot be denied that she was a remarkable leader with shrewd political acumen and a truly empowered woman. Since empowering women to take their rightful place in the world is the mission of Stella Maris, we have used this forum to invite luminaries and big time achievers to inspire generations of students with thought provoking and motivational lectures.

Last year we had our very own alumna, Dr. Malini Parthasarathy, Co-Chairperson of the The Hindu, who delivered a very insightful lecture on the political climate of India and our role as historians in safeguarding and upholding the secular fabric of the nation.

We are truly delighted that for the second time in a row we had a distinguished alumna with amazing credentials deliver the endowment lecture. Ms. **Sheela Murthy** was a student of the Department of History from 1979 to 1982. She was awarded the best outgoing student of the college in 1982. Ms. Sheela Murthy is the very embodiment of an empowered woman and her achievements stand testimony to her abilities, her zeal and determination, her leadership skills, legal prowess, entrepreneurial spirit and winning personality.

Ms. Sheela Murthy is the Founder president and CEO of the Murthy Law Firm, which is the world's pre-eminent US immigration law firm. The firm has offices in Baltimore, Maryland and Seattle, Washington D.C. The firm has liason offices in Chennai, Hyderabad, Bangalore and Mumbai. Sheela Murthy completed her Master of Laws from Harvard Law School, and is regularly invited to speak there. She and was admitted to practice as an attorney in New York, Maryland, and the U.S. Supreme Court. Located in Baltimore County, Maryland, her firm of approximately 100 professionals concentrates in the area of U.S. immigration law. Murthy practiced with major law firms in New York and Baltimore before launching her own firm in 1994, which was then known as the Law Office of Sheela Murthy.

She presents papers and speaks on complex immigration law issues before the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) and other national and international organizations, including the International Bar Association in London and the Center for International Legal Studies in Salzburg.

A regularly featured writer, sharing information with her colleagues on consular matters and other immigration law topics, Ms. Murthy is often called upon by

television network affiliates and newspapers to discuss immigration law, she is also featured in many international publications for her worldwide practice, for her leadership in the business community, and for her philanthropic work. She and her firm have been awarded the AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell. This is the highest rating for lawyers and represents a measure of esteem for which attorneys strive. It recognizes Murthy for her outstanding legal abilities, acknowledged by her peers, and signifies the highest professional ethics and conduct. Murthy also has been featured in *The New York Times*, *The Daily Beast*, and a blog and video by *The Story Exchange*.

- She is a member of several legal and professional organizations, Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), Cancer Treatment Centers of America (CTCA), Eastern Region, Board of Directors, since 2011, Maryland Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors, since 2010; Chair 2015-2017; MurthyNAYAK Foundation, Founder and Board of Directors, since 2001, Women's Business Council, Board of Advisors, since 2006, ASHA for Women, Washington D.C., Board of Advisors, since 2009

Murthy is also known for her philanthropy. She is generous with financial donations through the MurthyNAYAK Foundation, but she is also generous with her time. She serves on numerous boards, sharing her time and business acumen to strengthen area nonprofits and other organizations. She is also an alumna of the Department of History, Stella Maris College. Notable among her many awards and honors over the years:

- Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year (2009), 500/5000, Murthy Law Firm among the fastest growing private companies in America (2010), Leadership in Law Award, The Daily Record
- Who's Who Legal as an internationally-recognized business / corporate immigration lawyer (2007)
- Top 25 lawyers in Baltimore-Washington, Baltimore Business Journal (1999)
- Best Lawyers[®] in America (since 2016)
- Maryland Super Lawyer (since 2007) and holds the pre-eminent lawyer rater from Lexis-Nexis.
- Philanthropist of the Year, Toquille Society, United Way (2009) for her pledge of \$1 million

- [Clementine Peterson Award for Philanthropy](#), United Way of Central Maryland (2014)
- 40 Under 40 Emerging Business Leaders (2001)
- [20 Most-Admired CEOs in Maryland](#)
- 50 Most Influential Marylanders (2012)
- 50 Most Influential Marylanders (2012)
- [Circle of Excellence of the Top 100 Women](#) (2007)



Ms Sheela Murthy visits the Stellarchives

