



THE RICHMOND BAR

Volume 23, Number 6

A newsletter for members of The Bar Association of the City of Richmond

February 2015

Bar's March luncheon program features remarks by Ed McLaughlin, Director of Athletics at VCU

Ed McLaughlin, Associate Vice President and Director of Athletics, will be the featured speaker at the Richmond Bar's luncheon on Thursday, February 26, 2015. The luncheon will be held at the Omni Hotel beginning at 12:30 p.m. Reservations may be made by returning the enclosed flier or by calling the Bar office at 780-0700. Additionally, you may make a reservation by visiting <http://www.richmondbar.org/events/luncheons/>. The deadline for reservations is 12:00 noon on Monday, February 23rd. Cost to attend is \$29.00. **If you require a vegetarian meal or have a dietary restriction, please inform us at the time you make the reservation.**

The following members of the judiciary will be hosting Judges' Tables at the February luncheon: **Hon. Roderick C. Young, Hon. W. Reilly Marchant, Hon. Lawrence B. Cann III and Hon. D. Eugene Cheek.** At the time you make your reservation, please indicate if you would like to be seated at a judge's table.

Ed McLaughlin was named the sixth athletic director in VCU history on July 24, 2012. During McLaughlin's first two years, VCU has led the Atlantic 10 with an overall winning percentage of .645, the highest two-year span in school history. This past year, the Rams set a school record with nine programs reaching NCAA postseason events (men's cross country, men's soccer, men's basketball, women's indoor track & field, men's tennis, women's tennis, golf, and men's and women's outdoor track & field). For the second straight year, three programs earned top-25 rankings (men's soccer, men's basketball and baseball).

In the classroom, the 270-plus student-



Ed McLaughlin

athletes posted the highest GPA in school history with a 3.0 for the 2012-13 academic year. Externally, the department surpassed \$8 million in overall revenue for the second straight year. In addition, VCU Athletics secured the largest corporate partnership in history (\$4 million with HDL, Inc.) and the largest gift in history (\$3 million from Meadwestvaco Corporation).

Mr. McLaughlin, who spent six successful years as athletic director at Niagara prior to joining VCU, is a self-proclaimed college athletics lifer. In 2014-15, he'll celebrate his 24th consecutive year on a college campus which includes previous career stops at American University and Merrimack College.

He will serve as the chairman of the At-

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Hill-Tucker Public Service Award recipient is Clarence M. Dunnville, Jr.

Clarence M. Dunnville, Jr. will receive the Association's Hill-Tucker Public Service award at the Bar's February luncheon meeting. The award, which is named for its first recipients, Oliver Hill and Samuel Tucker, is awarded annually to members of the legal profession who render conspicuous public service and distinguish themselves in service to society beyond the practice of law.

Mr. Dunnville began his efforts in the civil rights struggle during college in the early 1950's when as a student at Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland, he

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U.S. Bankruptcy and City of Richmond judges meet with RBA Committee

In its continued effort to promote the administration of justice in the Richmond area and to facilitate cooperation between the bench and the bar, the Administration of Justice Committee recently concluded its annual interviews with the Honorable Judges of the Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond Division and the Honorable Judges of the City of Richmond. As in years past, the Judges were gracious with their time and spoke with candor to Committee members regarding their respec-

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See page 10 for information about the Bar's next *Private Conversation Series* event - "Running and Faith: A Conversation About Attorney Wellness and the Race Before Us"

Share the news

If you've recently landed a new job or plum promotion, share the good news with the Richmond Bar. Include your full name, your company's name and location, your new title and your areas of concentration in your letter, press release, fax or e-mail. Announcements can be e-mailed to lmartin@richmondbar.org.

Hirschler Fleischer is pleased to announce the promotion of two attorneys from the firm's real estate section. **Jeffrey P. Geiger** and **Marshall L. Jones** have been elected partners of the firm.

Mr. Geiger's practice is focused in the areas of Commercial Leasing, Commercial Real Estate Acquisition, Development & Disposition and Commercial Real Estate Finance among others.

Mr. Jones works with clients in commercial leasing matters, the purchase and sale of commercial real estate, HUD insured financing for multifamily and healthcare facilities, and condominium project development.

Dawn N. Perez-Slavinski has joined Christian & Barton, L.L.P. as an associate in the firm's health care and corporate practice groups. She will advise and represent clients on a variety of health care and business matters, including state and federal regulatory compliance, transactional matters and administrative litigation.

The Witmeyer Law Firm announces the addition of **Wes B. Witmeyer** as an associate attorney. He will concentrate his practice in the areas of criminal defense, civil litigation, personal injury and family law.

Anna K. Derewenda has joined Williams Mullen as a Partner in the Tax Law section. She focuses her practice on inbound and outbound international tax issues, the consequences of cross-border taxable and tax-free transactions, tax matters on corporate formation, reorganization, liquidations, and distributions as well as merger and acquisition transactions.

Chesterfield Court announces changes in judgement procedures

Wendy S. Hughes, Clerk of the Chesterfield Circuit Court has asked that we make lawyers aware of the following:

Effective immediately, unless otherwise required by law, pursuant to Virginia Code §8.01-446, judgments will only be docketed if the order entered specifically states that it is a judgment for money and shall be docketed.

Items noted below that automatically constitute a judgment or may constitute a judgment will be docketed accordingly.

- Orders for the payment of arrearages in support and maintenance, Virginia Code §§ 8.01-466, 20-78.2
- A decree for land or for specific personal property as identified in Virginia Code § 8.01-426
- Criminal fines and costs serve as judgments in favor of the Commonwealth, Va. Code §§ 19.2-336, 19.2-340, and 19.2-341. Restitution to the victim of a crime may be docketed when so ordered by the court or upon the written request of the victim, Va. Code § 19.2-305.2 (B)
- Federal and State tax liens: Va. Code §§ 55-142.2, 58.1-1805, Virginia Department of Social Services: Va. Code § 63.2-1927, Virginia Department of Labor and Industry: Va. Code § 40.1-29, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, Va. Code § 45.1-246 (D), Virginia State Corporation Commission: Va. Code § 12.1-37, and Municipal Improvements Assessments: Va. Code § 15.2-2412
- Orders of awards of the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission. Va. Code § 65.2-710
- Child Support Enforcement under Federal Social Security Act- 42 USC 651/666 (a) (4) (A)

Please direct questions to the Circuit Court Clerk's Office.



THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

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The views expressed in The Richmond Bar do not represent the policy or carry the endorsement of the Association unless specifically noted.

Edited by Lelia N. Martin

Luncheon Registration Form

Please reserve a place for me at the **Thursday, February 26, 2015** luncheon which will be held at the Omni Richmond Hotel at 12:30 p.m.

Name (please print): _____

Phone: _____

I would like to make reservations for the following guest(s): _____

Method of payment (check one):

- Firm billing. Firm: _____
- Check enclosed. (**\$29.00 per person, payable to "Bar Association of Richmond"**)
- At the door.
- Member of the Judiciary.

To comply with PCI regulations, credit card payment is not accepted by mail or Fax. For security purposes, you must register online at <http://www.richmondbar.org/events/luncheons/>.

If you require a vegetarian or special dietary meal, please inform us at the time you make the reservation.

Return this form to: Richmond Bar Association, P.O. Box 1213, Richmond, Virginia 23218-1213.

Reservations may be made by calling the Bar office at 780-0700 no later than noon on Monday, February 23, 2015.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Under the reservation policy, members who make reservations will be expected to pay whether or not they attend. No cancellations or refunds after noon on February 23rd. Reservations made by credit card payment are subject to a 5% service fee if cancelled by the appropriate cut-off date.

Metro Pro Bono Sampler

Legal Aid Justice Center Housing Law Program <i>Provides pro bono legal assistance with housing issues ranging from eviction notices to unlawful detainers</i>	Marcel Slag	643-1086
Hunton & Williams Churchill Office <i>Provides pro bono services to financially limited persons in the areas of family law, housing & real estate, and guardianships</i>	George Hettrick	775-2248
Pro Bono Clearinghouse <i>A service of the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation that provides pro bono legal services to non-profit organizations</i>	Ali Fannon	780-2600
Legal Information Network for Cancer (LINC) <i>Information, counseling and referral for legal assistance with issues arising from the diagnosis and treatment of cancer</i>	Denise Kranich	562-0371, ext. 6
Richmond Domestic Violence Project <i>Represents victims of domestic violence in obtaining protective orders in Richmond J&DR Court</i>	Robbi Gray	775-1227
Harry L. Carrico Center for Pro Bono Services (UR Law) <i>Pro Bono services provided by law students and attorneys</i>	Tara Casey	287-1207
No Fault Divorce Program <i>Pairs volunteer attorneys with law students who together represent clients seeking no-fault divorces</i>	Tara Casey	287-1207
Central Virginia Legal Aid Society Emergency Lawyer Program <i>Provides volunteer attorneys to assist CVLAS in emergency cases</i>	Steve Dickenson	648-1012

For a comprehensive list of organizations and opportunities, visit the Bar's Pro Bono Resources page at <http://www.richmondbar.org/court-rulesresources/pro-bono-resources/>.

The McCammon Group

is pleased to announce our newest Neutral

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- HON. DONALD H. KENT (RET.)
- HON. LARRY B. KIRKSEY (RET.)



Hon. Thomas B. Hoover (Ret.)

After more than twenty years of distinguished judicial service, Thomas Hoover has recently retired. Judge Hoover served the 9th Judicial Circuit, encompassing the counties of New Kent, Charles City, King William, and King & Queen, for sixteen years, including over four years as Chief Judge. Prior to that appointment, he served as a Judge in the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court of the 9th Judicial District for three years, including two years as Chief Judge. Before his judicial service, Judge Hoover served thirteen years as Commonwealth's Attorney and enjoyed a successful career in private practice in Henrico County. Judge Hoover now brings his distinguished record of accomplishment to The McCammon Group to serve the mediation, arbitration, judge pro tempore, and special master needs of lawyers and litigants throughout the Commonwealth and beyond.



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For a complete list of our services and Neutrals throughout VA, DC, and MD, call 1-888-343-0922 or visit www.McCammonGroup.com

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Clarence Dunnville to receive Hill-Tucker Award

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participated in picketing racially segregated theatres; and engaged in lunch counter "sit-ins", which resulted in the end of segregated restaurant facilities in Baltimore, Maryland.

A graduate of St. John's University of Law, Mr. Dunnville joined the New York office of the Chief Counsel of Internal Revenue. He was subsequently appointed by Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York. As an Assistant United States Attorney, he tried cases in which the United States was a party, and handled a number of appeals in the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. Upon leaving the United States Attorney's office, Clarence joined the Law Department of AT&T in New York in 1965.

In 1967, he took a leave of absence from AT&T to serve as a volunteer Attorney with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Jackson, Mississippi. This was during the period of violent assaults on black citizens by the Ku Klux Klan and other hate groups, and the deprivation of black citizens of their right to vote, and other civil rights. Clarence represented black citizens in matters before the Federal Court in Mississippi, and provided legal advice and counsel. He was himself assaulted and chased out of the Town of Marks, Mississippi at gun point by a Mississippi law enforcement official while assisting a black citizen who was being deprived of his civil rights.

He returned to the law department of AT&T in 1968, where he worked on environmental matters, litigation and employment law. During that same time period, Clarence cofounded the Council of Concerned Black Executives and the Association for Integration in Management. Both organizations were devoted to improving opportunities for minorities within major corporations. From 1970-72, he was loaned by AT&T to head the New York Interracial Council for Business Opportunity, an economic development

organization founded by the Rockefeller family that worked with major banks, community leaders and government agencies to develop business projects for people of color.

Clarence left AT&T in 1990 and moved back to his home state of Virginia to fulfill his commitment to civil rights and public service. He joined the Richmond, Virginia law firm of Hill, Tucker & Marsh, headed by Oliver White Hill, where he served as a principal attorney in a number of important civil rights cases, including the Black Farmers class action case, litigated in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. He also became involved in protecting the environment, and was appointed a member of the Virginia Waste Management Board, by two successive Governors of Virginia. In addition, he has served as counsel for two historical Black Universities and as Scholar in Residence at Washington and Lee University, School of Law.



Clarence M. Dunnville, Jr.

In 2007, he conceived of a pro bono program to provide legal services to senior citizens, and worked with the Virginia Department of the Aging, and the Washington and Lee University School of Law, and others to establish a program for senior citizens in Roanoke, Virginia. He was actively involved in the establishment of the Diversity Conference of the Virginia State Bar and was elected a member of

the conference upon its formation. In 2011, he organized a three day Conference on diversity in the legal profession held at the University of Virginia, School of Law, attended by judges, lawyers, law professors and students. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law for many years, and has recently been appointed a lifetime trustee.

He is currently working on projects to introduce restorative justice into the Virginia juvenile justice system, and to improve pro bono service among members of the Bar.

* * * * *

Save the date!

The twenty-fourth annual Bench-Bar Conference will take place on Thursday, October 22, 2015 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at the Omni Hotel. Breakout sessions will cover topics in the areas of civil, criminal and domestic relations law.



Members celebrate the festive season with colleagues and



John and Pamela Merrick with John and Mimi Burke



Hon. Beverly Snukals, Margaret Bacigal and Hon. Catherine Hammond

Irv and Rhona Blank with John McCammon

Nearly 500 lawyers, judges and their guests celebrated the season at the Association's Holiday Cocktail Party held on December 17th at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. The Association appreciates the continued support of The McCammon Group, the event sponsor.

Additional photos can be found on our website at www.richmondbar.org.



Kathleen Redmond, Gibby Wright, Rob Redmond and Windsor Betts



Gina Hammel and Judge Phillip Hairston

friends at the Bar's popular Holiday Cocktail Party



Preston Lloyd, Lauren Wheeling, Amber Ford and Amanda Weaver



Angela Watson and Veronica Neisler



Derrick and Linda Thomas



Hamill and Susanna Jones with Kay Wynn and Skip Jones



Chris Toepp, Patrick Henry, Alison Toepp and Van Smith



Julie Cillo and Kari Jackson

U.S. Bankruptcy and City of Richmond Judges offer

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tive Court's work and the performance of the bar in their courtrooms.

*Hon. Kevin R. Huennekens
and Hon. Keith L. Phillips
United States Bankruptcy Court
for the Eastern District of Virginia*

Representatives of the Administration of Justice Committee met with Judges Huennekens and Phillips in a joint meeting. The Judges were once again very complimentary of the bar in general, stating that the lawyers do a good job of handling matters before the Bankruptcy Court.

Judge Phillips has been on the bench just over a year, and feels that things are going very well. He has been involved in a number of judicial conferences and committees, and has enjoyed his time on the bench.

The Judges feel that the dockets are running smoothly, thanks in large part to wonderful Court staff and administrators. The Judges continue to welcome comments and suggestions from the bar on ways to improve the handling of the Courts' dockets and other procedural matters. The Judges recommend utilizing representatives of the Bankruptcy Liaison Committee to communicate issues and recommendations to the Clerk of the Court, Bill Redden.

The Judges remind the bar that trial dates will only be continued for good cause, and if other matters are going to be continued, attorneys are reminded that they need to communicate that continuance to their client. The Judges have observed that periodically debtors appear for hearings that have been continued, and they have apparently not been notified that they do not need to appear.

The Judges note that parties filing pleadings and other papers with the Bankruptcy Court should be mindful of the rules related to certificates of service. Certificates of service should specifically identify all parties actually served, and should not make reference to other documents or simply state that the document was served on "all parties receiving ECF notices." Parties should also be diligent in updating their service lists with the information contained in the Court's mailing matrix, to ensure that all addresses are up to date and that additional parties who have made appearances with the Court are also receiving notices. Service lists are checked by both case administrators and law clerks, and those lists are being more carefully

reviewed to confirm that appropriate notice is being given to necessary parties.

The Judges remind that General Order 14-1 was entered December 1, 2014, specifically addressing the new Chapter 13 "no look fee" under Local Rule 2016-1(c). Practitioners who file Chapter 13 cases should pay particular attention to the new General Order to confirm adherence to the requirements and guidance contained therein.

The Judges encourage the bar to take note that Judges' dockets will be switched effective January 1, 2015. Judge Huennekens' dockets will now begin at 11:00 a.m., and Judge Phillips' dockets will convene at 9:00 a.m.

The Judges were very complementary of the work that that Bankruptcy Section of the Richmond Bar has done over the last year to encourage attorneys to handle Chapter 7 filings through the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society on a pro bono basis. The Judges are pleased with the bar's level of involvement in the pro bono initiative, and encourage all practitioners to get involved with the program to meet the needs of the community.

The Judges would also like to see the bar get involved in other community service initiatives, including assistance with pro se debtors, particularly in chapter 13 cases, where the chance of success for a pro se debtor is very small. The Judges also believe there are opportunities to provide assistance to the elderly who have specific and unique challenges.

Overall the Judges appreciate the collegiality and civility of the bar and look forward to another great year.

*Hon. C.N. Jenkins, Jr.
Richmond Circuit Court*

Judge Jenkins observes that the Richmond Bar has a long tradition of civility and professionalism. Judge Jenkins recommends that all young lawyers come to court and be introduced by senior partners from their firms to the judges in their first year of practice. Judge Jenkins recommends that solo practitioners request that a senior member of the Bar introduce them to the Court.

Another lesson for all lawyers, new and not so new, is to observe jurors closely and appreciate what jurors see. Lawyers should watch how jurors react to the conduct of the lawyers, clients and witnesses in court. Jurors pick up on almost everything that goes on in a courtroom – counsel's demeanor is

important, starting from how counsel sits, to what counsel wears, to how counsel interacts with clients and others. Jurors will pick up on any perceived negative behavior.

If jurors see counsel rolling eyes or acting rudely with a client or other people, they will possibly hold it against lawyers. Part of every attorney's job is to educate clients on how to appropriately act in court. Jurors almost always pick up on overreacting/overreaching and any other effort by the clients, witnesses or lawyers to oversell their case.

When asked for five top pieces of advice for lawyers, Judge Jenkins provided the following recommendations:

(1) Lawyers should introduce themselves to the court. It is always better to introduce yourself and your client rather than take a chance that the judge knows you. Judges like to refer to counsel by their names. It is amazing how often counsel forget to introduce themselves or their clients before launching into argument.

(2) In civil cases in particular, make meaningful efforts to meet and confer to try to resolve discovery disputes before filing motions. The meet and confer requirement does not appear to be as strongly adhered to as it was in the past and many discovery disputes could be avoided if counsel took this rule to heart.

(3) Counsel should always be mindful while in court proceedings to address concerns and arguments to the court, not opposing counsel.

(4) In both civil and criminal matters, when filing motions or briefs in the clerk's office for upcoming hearings, it is recommended that counsel send a courtesy copy of that brief or motion to chambers, particularly if the motion was filed close in time to the hearing date.

(5) When scheduling a hearing, do not underestimate the required amount of time needed. Also, be sure to notice additional motions requiring additional time or raising a brand new issue.

When asked about significant mistakes during trial, Judge Jenkins cautions:

(1) Attorneys often try to impeach witnesses with prior inconsistent testimony and fumble through the process. If not done properly, the effort often confuses the jury as to what the lawyer was trying to accomplish.

(2) Trials are often delayed due to attorneys' failure to exchange and discuss jury

feedback to Administration of Justice Committee

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instructions prior to trial. These unnecessary delays can be drastically reduced by counsel adhering to the suggested practices and procedures regarding the exchange of jury instructions.

When asked about recent trends, Judge Jenkins notes that courtroom technology has evolved and improved enormously over the past few years. Almost every case involves requests to utilize some form of technology to assist with cases. Technology is a very effective tool for jurors. The Court would like to see more lawyers utilizing e-filing which is available now for civil cases only. The Court would also like to encourage more lawyers to use our Officer of the Court Remote Access (OCRA) system, which provides remote access to case files in both criminal and civil cases. Judge Jenkins reports that lawyer do a lot of things well in his courtroom. For the most part, the lawyers who come before the Court are respectful of jurors and the Court. Generally, lawyers who practice before our Court are well prepared for trial. Well prepared attorneys prevent unnecessary delays and allow the Court efficient management of its case load.

*Hon. Marilyn C. Goss
Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations
Court for the City of Richmond*

Judge Goss reports that the attorneys that regularly appear in the Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court (J&DR) continue to be knowledgeable about the case law and civil to fellow attorneys and litigators.

With the retirement of the Honorable Stephen J. Buis, the Court operates with four judges instead of five and therefore has made docket changes. These changes are needed to deal with an increased case load, including a 62% increase in abuse in neglect cases. The major changes affect cases with firm statutory timelines: emergency removals and preliminary protective orders in abuse and neglect matters, family abuse protective orders, detained juveniles charged with delinquent acts, and child dependency cases. Additionally, there has been a major change to the docketing of adult criminal matters.

The Court's docket schedule has been expanded for those cases with firm timelines, and adult criminal cases have been set during duty weeks as a blocked docket at 2 PM. The Court will continue with an

"exact time" docket structure for the morning cases, put into place. The majority of these changes take effect in mid-January. Judge Goss and the entire court appreciates the flexibility of both the Commonwealth's Attorneys, the Public Defenders and counsel as these changes have been put into place and will hear cases in the afternoon in a blocked docket format.

As a result of the heavy docket that each judge manages, Judge Goss recommends that counsel seeking continuances or changes in hearing schedules call the clerk office, determine the day of the week that the assigned judge hears the type of matter in need of a schedule change, and provide to the court with counsel's available dates on that weekday to ensure that the matter can be rescheduled in a reasonable amount of time. In addition, in light of the future date on which matters must be set, Judge Goss encourages counsel to file emergency hearing motions when warranted.

**Due to a pressing schedule, Judge Birdie Jamison of the Richmond General District Court was unable to meet with Administration of Justice Committee members this year.*

Look who's coming to lunch in 2015: register today

Mark your calendar and make plans to attend these upcoming RBA luncheons:

Thursday, February 26, 2015
Ed McLaughlin
Director of Athletics at VCU

Thursday, March 26, 2015
Melody C. Barnes
Former Director of the Domestic Policy Council and assistant to the President

Friday, May 1, 2015
Hon. Donald W. Lemons
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of VA

All luncheons are held at the Omni Hotel beginning at 12:30 p.m. Visit <http://www.richmondbar.org/events/luncheons/> to make a reservation.

The Richmond Bar appreciates the patronage of its 2014-2015 Select Sponsors:

- First Capital Bank
- Halasz Court Reporting
- Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company
- Protiviti, Inc.
- Superior Document Services
- Tranzon Fox

Join us for the next program in the Association's

"Private Conversation Series"

Running & Faith : A Conversation about Attorney Wellness and The Race Before Us

Justice William C. Mims will interview Bruce Matson about his recent book *The Race Before Us: A Journey of Running and Faith* as he leads a conversation about the "dimensions of wellness" that every lawyer should seek as part of a balanced life. Audience participation in the discussion is encouraged. Mr. Matson's book will be available for signing at the event.

Wednesday, February 18, 2015

5:45 - 7:15 p.m.

McGuireWoods

Cost to attend is \$10

Beer, wine, sodas and light hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Attendance is limited to the first 50 registrants on a first come, first served basis. Free parking is available.

Reservations may be made by visiting <https://richmondbar.org/events/private-conversation-series/> or by calling 780-0700.

The Association appreciates the generosity of McGuireWoods for hosting the event.



Save the date!

Spring Cocktail Party

*Wednesday, April 22, 2015
at Willow Oaks Country Club
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.*

*See the March newsletter for
additional details.*



Ed McLaughlin to speak at February luncheon

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Atlantic 10 Finance Committee from 2014-16.

Judges are invited to attend the luncheon free of charge as guests of the Association. Judges who would like to be picked up at either the John Marshall Courts Building or the Supreme Court Building are asked to notify the Bar office by 1:00 p.m. on the day before the luncheon.

Please note that the Omni no longer controls the parking deck under the hotel and we are unable to provide any validation for parking.

Take part in the GRBF's Pro Bono Promise

In recognition of the critical need for pro bono legal services in our community and our professional responsibility to deliver these services, the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation (GRBF) has launched an initiative for all law firms, legal departments & solo practitioners in the central Virginia area. The Foundation asks participants to make the Pro Bono Promise with a commitment of a "percentage of professional time"* each year to providing pro bono legal service and related volunteer activities and/or through a proportionate amount of financial support of such efforts by others.

By making the Pro Bono Promise each participant agrees to encourage and facilitate the provision of pro bono legal services, to encourage and facilitate participation in volunteer activities designed to increase pro bono services, and to encourage financial support of the legal aid service providers who assist the disadvantaged in our community.

* "Percentage of professional time" for the Pro Bono Promise is based on the total billable hours of that firm/workplace (local office only), and speaks to the amount of hours the workplace should spend on qualifying pro bono service.

For more information, please contact Ali Fannon at afannon@grbf.org.

Announcements **Bankruptcy Section to hold luncheon/ seminar on February 12th**

The Bankruptcy Section will host its next luncheon/CLE seminar on Thursday, February 12, 2015 beginning at 12:30 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn, 501 E. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219. The program will feature a presentation by U.S. Bankruptcy Judge Paul M. Black entitled "A Primer on Judicial Estoppel and Bankruptcy: What Bankruptcy Lawyers, Trustees, and Trial Lawyers Need to Know." It is anticipated that the program will be approved for 1.0 hour of MCLE credit. Cost to attend the luncheon is \$35. Register using a credit card by visiting <http://www.richmondbar.org/sections/bankruptcy/> or calling 780-0700. Payment by check can be made by returning the form on the flyer that has been mailed to all Section members. Reservations must be received by February 9th; no refunds will be given after this date.

The Section appreciates the generosity of Tranzon, the sponsor of the event.

Litigation Section's Reception Honoring the Judiciary set for February 11th

The Litigation Section's annual Reception Honoring the Judiciary will take place on Wednesday, February 11, 2015 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Chez Foushee, 203 N. Foushee Street, Richmond, VA 23220 (corner of Grace and Foushee Streets). The event will feature heavy hors d'oeuvres and an open bar. Cost to attend is \$50 for Section members and \$65 for non-Section members. Register using a credit card by visiting <http://www.richmondbar.org/sections/litigation/> or calling 780-0700. Payment by check can be made by returning the form on the flyer that will be mailed to all Section members. Reservations must be received by February 6th; no refunds will be given after this date.

The Section appreciates the generosity of Planet Depos, the sponsor of the event.

Real Estate Section CLE seminar and Dinner set for February 10th

On February 10, 2015, the Real Estate Section will host its Winter CLE seminar and Dinner at C Street, located at 3325 West Cary Street. From 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Sheryl L. Herndon, Esquire of White & McCarthy will present a program entitled "The Perils of Real Estate Transactions for the Aging Client." It is anticipated that the seminar will be approved for 1 hour of MCLE credit. Cocktails will be served at 5:30 p.m. with dinner following at 6:00 p.m. Cost to attend is \$60 for Section members and \$75 for non-Section members. Register using a credit card by visiting <http://www.richmondbar.org/sections/real-estate/> or calling 780-0700. Payment by check can be made by returning the form on the flyer that will be mailed to all Section members. Reservations must be received by February 5th; no refunds will be given after this date.

The Section appreciates the generosity of the sponsors of the event, Ken Forti, Erie Insurance and James McNight, Surveyor.

Young Lawyers Section to sponsor social at Social 52

On Wednesday, February 18, 2015, the Richmond Bar Association Young Lawyers Section will sponsor a social event for the University of Richmond Law School and the William and Mary School of Law designed to introduce law students to the RBA, local attorneys, and specific practice areas. The event will be held at Social 52 (located at 2619 W. Main Street) from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Complimentary drinks and appetizers will be provided. Attorneys interested in attending should contact John Merrick at jmerrick@hccw.com for additional details.

Welcome new members

The Richmond Bar Association welcomes the following new members:

Madelyn M. Buckley
Kevin S. Elliker
Shane Frick
Brielle M. Hunt
Eileen S. Jackson
Kari E. Jackson
Ronald C. Jones
Nathan Kramer
Carla Laroche
Timothy L. McHugh
Rakesh J. Parikh
William T. Reisinger
Kathleen A. Sicuranza
Kenneth R. Simon
Dawn N. Perez-Slavinski
Ian A. Spreat
Frank Talbott
Natalie A. Warrington
Amanda M. Weaver
Ryan E. Wind
Anne E. Witt

Nominations sought for Liberty Bell Award

The Committee on Awards and Honors is accepting nominations for the Liberty Bell Award. The Award is based on criteria established by the ABA to recognize persons outside the legal profession who have served to promote a better understanding of our government. The award is given to persons who:

- (1) Encourage a greater respect for law and the courts;
- (2) Stimulate a deeper sense of individual responsibility to the end that citizens recognize their duties as well as their rights;
- (3) Contribute to the effective functioning of our institutions of government; and
- (4) Inculcate a better understanding and appreciation of the rule of law.

Nominations should be submitted no later than 4:00 p.m. on February 13th to Vern Inge, Chair of the Committee on Awards & Honors, at vernon.inge@leclairryan.com.

CALENDAR

February

- 2 Executive Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., Bar office
- 3 Membership Committee, 12:30 p.m., 2nd floor small conference room
- 5 Board of Directors meeting, 12:30 p.m., Hunton & Williams
- 6 Finance Committee meeting, 12:00 noon, 2nd floor conference room
- 10 Real Estate Section CLE Seminar/Dinner, 4:30 p.m., C Street
- 11 Litigation Section Judges' Reception, 6:00 p.m., Chez Foushee
- 12 Bankruptcy Section luncheon, 12:30 p.m., Hilton Garden Inn
- 18 Young Lawyers Section Social, 5:30 p.m., Social 52
- 18 Private Conversation Series: "Faith & Running," 5:45 p.m., McGuireWoods
- 25 Nominating Committee, 21:30 p.m., Bar office
- 26 RBA Luncheon, 12:30 p.m., Omni Hotel
Speaker: Ed McLaughlin, VCU Athletic Director

March

- 2 Executive Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., Bar office
- 5 Board of Directors meeting, 12:30 p.m., Hunton & Williams
- 9 Pro Bono Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., 2nd floor conference room
- 10 CLE Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., 2nd floor conference room
- 26 RBA Luncheon, 12:30 p.m., Omni Hotel
Speaker: Melody C. Barnes, assistant to President Obama and former Director of the Domestic Policy Council
- 30 Executive Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., Bar office

April

- 2 Board of Directors meeting, 12:30 p.m., Hunton & Williams
- 7 Bench-Bar Conference Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m., 2nd floor conference room
- 13 Executive Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., Bar office
- 22 Annual Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Willow Oaks Country Club
- 22 Spring Cocktail Party, 6:00 p.m., Willow Oaks Country Club

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