



# THE RICHMOND BAR

Volume 29, Number 7

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

March 2021

## Don't miss the special Virtual Bench-Bar Conference program on March 18

The local bar associations have put together a one-of-a-kind virtual program that you won't find anywhere else! Make plans to attend the Virtual Bench-Bar Conference on Thursday, March 18, 2021 beginning at 9:00 a.m. This is your opportunity to bypass the confusion caused by the pandemic and get "fast-pass" tips from the experts on scheduling cases, updated docket procedures, jury trial processes, planning for virtual trials, and everything else you need to know for an efficient, successful court practice.

9:00-10:30 Break-Out Sessions (1.5 hr. of MCLE credit)

*Getting There is Half of the Battle - The "Fast-Pass" to Getting Your Case Heard*

Circuit Court Practice

Panelists: Wendy S. Hughes, Heidi S. Barshinger, Edward F. Jewett

General District Court Practice

Panelists: Linda J. McCollum-Moore, Barbara C. Shaw, Sharon Shelton

Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Practice

Panelists: Laura G. Griffin, Shannon Flinchum Meadowcroft, Felicia Edmonds-Rustin

10:45-12:15 Break-Out Sessions (1.5 hr. of MCLE credit)

*Court is Now in Session - Tips for Trying Your Case in the New Normal*

Circuit Court Practice

Panelists: Hon. David E. Johnson, Hon. Randall G. Johnson, Jr., Hon. W. Reilly Marchant

General District Court Practice

Panelists: Hon. Matthew D. Nelson, Hon. John K. Honey, Jr., Hon. David M. Hicks

Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Practice

Panelists: Hon. Jayne A. Pemberton, Hon. Margaret W. Deglau, Hon. Marilyn C. Goss

[See pages 4-5 for full details and registration information.](#)

## Notice:

## Composition of Nominating Committee

The membership is hereby notified that the Nominating Committee is composed of the following members:

Daniel E. Lynch, Chair  
Melanie A. Friend

Terrence L. Graves  
Charles G. Meyer III  
Thamer E. Temple, III

Douglas D. Callaway  
Anne G. Scher

To be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Association, tentatively scheduled to take place on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. at Willow Oaks Country Club, are a President-Elect, a Vice President, an Honorary Vice President, a Secretary-Treasurer and three new at-large members of the Board of Directors, and such other at-large members of the Board of Directors, if any, as may be necessary to fill any vacancies. The Committee will receive and review recommendations for all available positions.

Nominations should be in writing and mailed to Daniel E. Lynch, c/o Richmond Bar Association, P.O. Box 1213, Richmond, VA 23218 or e-mailed to him at [dlynch@lchslaw.com](mailto:dlynch@lchslaw.com) and must be received by 12:00 noon on **Wednesday, February 24, 2021.**

## Hanover and Henrico Judges offer comments and tips

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 for the Counties of Hanover and Henrico.** As in years past, the Judges were gracious with their time and spoke with candor to Committee members regarding technology, dockets, communication and preparation.

**The Honorable J. Overton Harris**  
*Hanover Circuit Court*

Judge Harris continues to appreciate the civility and professionalism of those who practice before the Court. Judge Harris encourages all practitioners to review the local rules, especially Local Rule 4. Continuances, even those agreed to by counsel, are rarely given when trial starts within 30 days or less. Judge Harris also advised counsel to schedule the appropriate amount of time for hearings and other matters. Judge Harris said that the Court fills its schedule and follows it closely. For example, if the litigants schedule a hearing on a matter that will take two hours for a thirty-minute time slot, the Court will likely have to continue the hear-

*continued on page 6*

*Social distancing restrictions remain in place, necessitating the cancellation of the RBA's luncheon set for March 25th. A decision on the Spring Cocktail Party scheduled for April 21st at Willow Oaks Country Club will be made in early March.*

## Share the news

If you've recently landed a new job or 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](mailto:lmartin@richmondbar.org) or mailed to Lee Martin, at P.O. Box 1213, Richmond, VA 23218

**Lauren E. Fisher** White has been elected a partner of **Christian & Barton, L.L.P.** She focuses her law practice on labor and employment counseling and litigation.

## Opening for substitute judge in 12th Judicial District

The Judges of the 12th Judicial Circuit announce that a substitute judge vacancy now exists in the circuit. Substitute judges are appointed by the Court pursuant to Va. Code Ann. § 16.1-69.9:1. Any member of the bar, both qualified and residing in the circuit, who desires consideration for appointment as substitute judge should provide application materials addressed to the Chief Circuit Judge and mailed or delivered to Ms. Tricia D. Muller, Administrator of Judicial Operations, Chesterfield Circuit Court Judges' Chambers, PO Box 57, Chesterfield, VA 23832-0905 not later than noon on Monday, March 1, 2021. Application materials should include a resume, cover letter, and written responses to the attached questionnaire. Application materials will not be returned. It is the Court's expectation that all substitute judges will preside in both the General District and Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Courts of the 12th Judicial District.

## Get involved - serve on a RBA committee

Members who volunteer to serve on Committees and participate in events are the lifeblood of the Association. The new Bar year will begin on June 1, and President-Elect John Anderson will be making new appointments to the Committees listed below. If you are interested in serving on a Committee, please contact Lee Martin at [lmartin@richmondbar.org](mailto:lmartin@richmondbar.org).

Administration of Justice  
Continuing Legal Education  
Judiciary  
Pro Bono

Communications  
Finance  
Membership

\* \* \* \* \*



Plans for the Bar's Spring Cocktail Party remain up in the air for now. If COVID positivity rates decline and the Governor lifts restrictions, the event will take place on Wednesday, April 21st at Willow Oaks Country Club from 6:00-8:00 p.m. A final decision will be made at the beginning of March. See the Bar's website ([www.richmondbar.org](http://www.richmondbar.org)) or the April-May newsletter for details.



### THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

#### Office Address

Eighth and Main Building  
707 East Main Street, Suite 1620  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

#### Mailing Address

P.O. Box 1213  
Richmond, Virginia 23218-1213

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**Fax:** (804) 648-7118

#### Officers

T. O'Connor Johnson, *President*  
John W. Anderson, *President-Elect*  
Jacqueline S. McClenney, *Hon. Honorary Vice President*  
R. Braxton Hill IV, *Vice President*  
Julie M. Cillo, *Secretary-Treasurer*  
Daniel E. Lynch, *Immediate Past President*

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Deanna H. Hathaway, 2017-2021  
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#### Staff

Lelia N. Martin, *Executive Director*  
Sharon R. Potter, *Membership Director*

*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

# The McCammon Group

is pleased to welcome our newest Neutrals



James W. Barkley, Esq.  
*Mediator and Arbitrator*



Hon. William D. Broadhurst (Ret.)  
*Retired Chief Judge, 23rd Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia*



Hon. Nolan B. Dawkins (Ret.)  
*Retired Judge, 18th Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia*



Hon. Elizabeth A. McClanahan (Ret.)  
*Retired Justice, Supreme Court of Virginia*



Hon. Charles S. Sharp (Ret.)  
*Retired Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia*

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For a complete list of our services and Neutrals throughout VA, DC, and MD, call 888.343.0922 or visit [www.McCammonGroup.com](http://www.McCammonGroup.com)

# Virtual Bench-Bar Conference

The local bar associations present a CLE program that you will not find anywhere else!

We are bringing together nine judges and nine clerks from each level of court in Chesterfield, Henrico and Richmond to provide you with the inside information on the newest changes and procedures for 2021 in all of the local courts. Bypass the confusion caused by the pandemic and get tips from the experts on scheduling cases, updated docket procedures, jury trial processes, planning for virtual trials, and everything else you need to know for an efficient, successful court practice. This is your “fast pass” to getting your case heard!

**Thursday, March 18, 2021**

**Via Zoom**

**COST:** \$100.00 (\$110 after March 10th)  
Rate for lawyers practicing less than 6 years and all public sector attorneys - \$80.00 (\$90 after March 10th)

**MCLE CREDIT:** This program has been approved by the Virginia Mandatory Continuing Legal Education Board for 3.0 hours of live, interactive credit. *CLE materials will be e-mailed to attendees prior to the program.*

All sessions will be recorded and, as part of your registration, you will be able to view them until April 30th. No MCLE credit is offered for viewing the recorded sessions.

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION:** Use the link below or return this form. Please indicate your break-out session preferences. There will be no refunds after March 10th. There will be no registration after 4:00 p.m. on March 17th.

The conference is sponsored by the following Richmond metropolitan area bar associations: The Bar Association of the City of Richmond, Chesterfield County Bar Association, Greater Richmond Criminal Bar Association, Henrico County Bar Association, Hill-Tucker Bar Association, Metro Richmond Family Law Bar Association, and Metropolitan Richmond Women’s Bar Association.

## Virtual Bench-Bar Conference - March 18, 2021

To register online: <https://www.richmondbar.org/events/event/bench-bar-conference/>

### To pay by check:

**PROVIDE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW AND INDICATE ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE YOUR PREFERENCES FOR EACH OF THE BREAK-OUT SESSIONS. PLEASE PHOTOCOPY AND RETAIN A COPY OF THIS FLYER FOR YOUR RECORDS AND RETURN THE ORIGINAL, WITH PAYMENT, TO THE BAR OFFICE AT THE ADDRESS GIVEN BELOW.**

- \$100.00 - lawyer attendee (\$110 after March 10th)
- \$80.00 - new lawyers attendee (\$90 after March 10th); Bar #/date admitted to practice: \_\_\_\_\_
- \$80.00 - Public sector attorney (\$90 after March 10th); Agency: \_\_\_\_\_
- Member of the Judiciary

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address (required) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Send form and payment to:  
 Richmond Bar Association  
 P.O. Box 1213  
 Richmond, Virginia 23218-1213

# Virtual Bench-Bar Conference

**March 18, 2021**

**9:00-10:30 Break-Out Sessions** (check the box corresponding to the session that you wish to attend) 1.5 hr. of MCLE credit

## Getting There is Half of the Battle - The “Fast-Pass” to Getting Your Case Heard

- Circuit Court Practice  
Panelists: Wendy S. Hughes, Clerk of Court; Heidi S. Barshinger, Clerk of Court; Edward F. Jewett, Clerk of Court  
Moderator: William T. Fitzhugh
- General District Court Practice  
Panelists: Linda J. McCollum-Moore, Clerk of Court; Barbara C. Shaw, Clerk of Court; Sharon Shelton, Chief Deputy Clerk  
Moderator: Brittany Rawlinson
- Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Practice  
Panelists: Laura G. Griffin, Clerk of Court; Shannon Flinchum Meadowcroft, Clerk of Court; Felicia Edmonds-Rustin, Clerk of Court  
Moderator: Melanie A. Friend

**10:45-12:15 Break-Out Sessions** (check the box corresponding to the session that you wish to attend) 1.5 hr. of MCLE credit

## Court is Now in Session - Tips for Trying Your Case in the New Normal

- Circuit Court Practice  
Panelists: Hon. David E. Johnson, Hon. Randall G. Johnson, Jr., Hon. W. Reilly Marchant  
Moderator: Doris H. Causey
- General District Court Practice  
Panelists: Hon. Matthew D. Nelson, Hon. John K. Honey, Jr., Hon. David M. Hicks  
Moderator: John A. Rockecharlie
- Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Practice  
Panelists: Hon. Jayne A. Pemberton, Hon. Margaret W. Deglau, Hon. Marilyn C. Goss  
Moderator: Christopher H. Macturk

You will receive 3.0 hours of live, interactive MCLE credit for participating in the program on March 18th. As an added bonus, all sessions will be recorded and you will be able to view them until April 30th. No MCLE credit is offered for viewing the recorded sessions.

*The local bar associations appreciate the support of the law firms sponsoring the technology making this program possible:*

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <a href="#">Allen, Allen, Allen &amp; Allen, P.C.</a>    | <a href="#">Barnes &amp; Diehl, P.C.</a>              |
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| <a href="#">Williams Mullen</a>                          |   |

# Dockets, continuances, and jury trials among the issues

*continued from page 1*

ing to another date after the allotted time has expired. For domestic relations cases, Judge Harris encourages counsel to engage a court reporter, when feasible. The ability to read a transcript of final arguments by counsel significantly helps the Court when drafting letter opinions.

Hanover Circuit Court has resumed bench trials with new protocols in place for the health and safety of litigants, attorneys, court staff and the public. It has been an adjustment for all involved but has been going well due to the efforts of court staff and the patience of attorneys and litigants. These recent bench trials will likely be an indicator for how jury trials will proceed once approval is granted. Given the strict protocols that are in place, bench trials have taken longer than usual. Once jury trials resume, Judge Harris believes that jury trials will take substantially longer than initially scheduled. For example, Judge Harris believes that a jury trial that would normally take one day will now take two days.

At the time of the interview, Hanover Circuit Court had not yet returned to having jury trials since they were suspended due to COVID-19. Judge Harris said that Hanover Circuit Court had submitted its plan to resume jury trials but was awaiting approval from the Virginia Supreme Court. Hanover Circuit Court, which currently has two courtrooms, is giving consideration to building a third courtroom that would be larger and better equipped to function during a pandemic. This would be a large undertaking that would take substantial funds and possibly years to see to fruition.

As of September 2020, the first available trial dates were at least five months out. Judge Harris believes that once jury trials resume that Hanover Circuit Court will be able to catch up on the backlog of cases that were continued due to COVID-19. Trials are being scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.

## **The Honorable David B. Caddell** *Hanover General District Court*

Judge Caddell provided an update following a year of unprecedented changes brought on by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Judge Caddell and Judge Campbell would like to commend the bar and highlight the collegiality, professionalism, and preparedness of its members.

The Court has adapted well to the CO-

VID-19 pandemic and has implemented policies to ensure efficiency while prioritizing matters that require more immediate attention. The COVID-19 procedures are evident when walking into the Courthouse. Of note, if a party or attorney arrives at the Courthouse and is not permitted entrance because of a temperature check, or otherwise, the Clerk will issue a notice identifying the parties' new hearing or trial date. The Court remains flexible with continuances in the event of an exposure. When docketing cases, the Court is taking appropriate measures to limit the number of people in the courtroom. As a result, when scheduling trials during the pandemic, it is helpful for the Court to be provided with information regarding the number of witnesses the parties anticipate participating in the hearing or trial.

Also new this year for the Court is an e-summons program being piloted by the Ashland Police Department and Hanover County Sheriff's Office for traffic cases. The e-summons program is designed to make the summonses easier to read and assist clerks in processing traffic summonses.

Judge Caddell and Judge Campbell would like to remind attorneys to always file a notice of appearance for any kind of case: traffic, civil, or criminal. This request not only assists the Judges, but is extremely helpful to the Clerk's Office in docketing matters, specifically traffic dockets and civil return dates.

Otherwise, the Court continues to operate two courtrooms, with Judge Campbell presiding every day and Judge Caddell presiding as follows: a civil docket every Monday; a criminal docket in the mornings of the third, fourth, and fifth Tuesdays; a civil docket in the afternoons of the third, fourth and fifth Tuesdays; a criminal docket on Thursday and Friday mornings; and will hear both criminal and civil matters, including motions, on Thursday and Friday afternoons.

As in the past, the Commonwealth Attorney's Office does not get involved with traffic matters unless they specifically opt-in or the Officer requests them to do so. If a continuance is needed, defense attorneys should seek a continuance directly with the Clerk's Office after working with the Officer's available dates. With respect to continuances in criminal matters, defense attorneys should work with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office and file an agreement with the Clerk's Office.

Lastly, in civil matters, the Court con-

tinues to generally sign agreed orders. If a disagreement arises that requires a hearing, counsel should coordinate an agreed date and submit a motion and notice of hearing with the Clerk's Office for docketing. Also, to maintain efficiency, the Court wishes to remind counsel that when arguing a default judgment motion, bring evidence of debts and documentation necessary to support the default judgment.

## **The Honorable Shannon O. Hoehl** *Hanover Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court*

Judge Hoehl expressed that she has always been happy with the bar and found its attorneys to be cordial to each other and polite to the court. She shared her thanks for the lawyers generally being so well prepared and considerate.

The Hanover Juvenile and Domestic Relations court has been fortunate in that COVID-19 has not impacted its docket. The new courthouse is equipped with courtrooms that are sufficiently large so that everyone can maintain social distancing and, because cases are set by the hour, the parties are able to limit or eliminate contacts with others. Additionally, Judge Hoehl prefers in-person appearances to video conferencing but will take a meeting by Webex or another platform approved by the Supreme Court if requested. She has not received any requests for video hearings, likely because of the courtroom's spacious layout, but regularly grants requests for telephone hearings.

During hearings, if the parties can maintain social distancing, masks may be removed. Judge Hoehl remarked that it is often difficult for attorneys to sit six feet away from their clients. If they do so, then if the attorney speaks with the client then she or the other party will likely hear the attorney-client communication. Witnesses sometimes remove their masks, which Judge Hoehl said is helpful in that everyone is better able to evaluate the witness with their mask removed.

The Court's goal is to set cases not more than three months following the pretrial hearing for contested cases, to have the pretrial hearing within 30 days of filing, and to enter final orders rather than temporary ones. If a party requests an emergency hearing and provides adequate support for that emergency hearing, then the court will grant the request. If the Court denies the request for an emergency hearing, then a Guardian ad

# discussed by the Chief Judges in Hanover and Henrico

Litem (GAL) will be appointed. The GAL may then separately petition the court for an emergency hearing, if the GAL understands that an emergency does exist.

Attorneys who wish to serve as a GAL must also be on the Hanover Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court's court-appointed list. Attorneys are assigned a duty day and the Court does not know if criminal defendants will need counsel or if a GAL will be appointed on any given day. Accordingly, the attorney should expect to keep that day open or find a replacement attorney. Attorneys whose offices are located in Hanover County are typically preferred by the Court, both because attorneys are sometimes asked to appear in Court the same day as their appointment with little advance notice, and because a Hanover location is typically more convenient for client meetings.

Judge Hoehl offers an annual stakeholder meeting at which attorneys who serve as GAL, court appointed counsel, and people from state agencies can offer meaningful input in the Court's operation. This meeting is on hold because of COVID-19 but, will be scheduled when the meeting can be held in person.

## **The Honorable James S. Yoffy** *Henrico Circuit Court*

Judge Yoffy continues to appreciate the civility and professionalism of those who practice before the Court. Judge Yoffy stated Henrico Circuit Court is blessed with a strong group of Court appointed lawyers. The civil litigators are also excellent, and attorneys are generally knowledgeable and prepared.

Judge Yoffy warned counsel to schedule the appropriate amount of time for hearings and other matters. Judge Yoffy stated that "stacking" of issues was not permitted. There should be a Notice of Hearing for every issue and issues should not be added on to a hearing date unless approved by the Court. Judge Yoffy stated it was important for counsel to be on time or at least call the Court if they were running late.

Judge Yoffy cautioned counsel about filing last minute Motions in Limine. Judge Yoffy does not like to keep a jury waiting while the parties argue last minute motions.

Judge Yoffy was very proud of the fact that Henrico Circuit Court was one of the first jurisdictions to be approved for jury trials during the COVID pandemic. At the time of our meeting, Henrico had already

successfully held several jury trials. There are new protocols to protect jurors and counsel. During trials, all participants wear face coverings, except witnesses while testifying and jurors during voir dire. Judge Yoffy said that Henrico has not had an issue with people not reporting for jury duty and that the Court hoped to clear the criminal backlog by the end of the year and start civil trials in November.

Judge Yoffy wants to make sure it is known that a lot of credit for Henrico Circuit Court being able to start jury trials should go to Judge Wallerstein who created the plan.

During the continued COVID pandemic, the Court is more flexible with doing hearings by telephone or Zoom if the parties agree and if they do not agree a motion can be filed. The Court is generally inclined to grant those motions.

Judge Yoffy encouraged younger attorneys to seek out and try to find an older attorney to shadow.

Judge Yoffy wanted everyone to know that Henrico Circuit Court is open for business!

## **The Honorable John K. Honey, Jr.** *Henrico General District Court*

Judge Honey wishes to commend the local bar for its outstanding efforts, flexibility, civility, and resolve as the Henrico General District Court has implemented changes to operations and procedures during the pandemic. The judges, lawyers, clerks, other courthouse staff, Commonwealth's attorneys, and sheriff's office have worked together to ensure the administration of justice continues during this unprecedented time.

The Court now has an order in effect requiring every courthouse visitor to wear a mask. If a medical condition frustrates wearing a mask, then a face shield is permitted. Courtroom visitors are restricted to only parties, their lawyers, or their witnesses. No family members or observers are allowed. Visitors will have their temperature checked and will be asked COVID-19-related questions upon entry to the courthouse. If a party is denied entry to the courthouse after a temperature check and questioning, then the Court will continue that party's case. The Court is advising lawyers to wear a mask, to show up on time, and to avoid the courthouse if you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.

Judge Honey reports that the Court is quite busy with criminal, traffic, and civil matters after navigating COVID-19 and addressing a

backlog of cases. The backlog of cases due to the pandemic and related shutdowns now has been fully addressed. To maintain social distancing protocols, the Court has limited the amount of cases it hears per courtroom and has staggered the dockets to spread out cases. The Court is only hearing 30 cases for criminal and traffic matters and 40 cases for civil matters per docket. For example, the criminal docket is now spread across all five courtrooms with each one hearing six cases (or 30 cases total). The Court discovered this system is much more efficient and will be implementing this change permanently.

On the criminal side, video conferences have been implemented for arraignments, pleas, continuances, and bond motions if the defendants sign a waiver form agreeing to a virtual appearance. If the defendant agrees, probable cause trials are also conducted by video conference. The Court asks lawyers to provide early notice if a case will be tried in person so the Court can arrange transportation for incarcerated defendants. The Court encourages lawyers to advise their clients about the benefits of conducting criminal matters via video conference during the pandemic. The Court is setting criminal trials about 90 days out and asks lawyers to let it know if their clients will waive preliminary hearings so those matters can be addressed expeditiously.

On the civil side, video conferences have also been implemented if all of the parties agree. The Court also has added extra dockets for unlawful detainers to keep those matters moving efficiently.

The Court is in the process of creating a mental health docket and plans to submit that paperwork soon. The Henrico Police Department already has a mental health unit that works closely with Henrico Mental Health. If all major stakeholders work together on this new mental health endeavor, the Court hopes it will better address mental health issues in the community by offering an alternative to incarceration. The Court is always looking for community members to obtain treatment as an alternative to incarceration.

In sum, the year has been a trying one for the Henrico General District Court as the pandemic has forced all major stakeholders to refocus on the fundamentals of proper legal representation and the administration of justice. The stakeholders, however, have

*continued on page 8*

## Judges address COVID-19 restrictions and technology

continued from page 7

risen to the occasion in a spirit of resiliency and cooperation that is encouraging. The Court has been impressed with the general level of preparedness and professionalism of regular practitioners and encourages the bar to maintain this high standard.

### The Honorable Margaret W. Deglau Henrico Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court

Judge Deglau commends the local bar's response to the unprecedented issues created by COVID-19 and the resulting restrictions designed to stop the spread of the virus. Specifically, Judge Deglau appreciates that the local bar has worked to settle cases that should be settled so that the court maintains the ability to hear those cases that must be tried.

Judge Deglau anticipates that COVID-19 restrictions will continue for the indefinite future, which means that all persons entering the courthouse must wear a mask. If any person is unable to wear a mask, the court requires that person to wear a face shield while in the building. To comply with social

distancing requirements, only certain people are permitted to enter the court for trial as a matter of course, including law enforcement officials, summonsed witnesses, parties, and attorneys. If a trial witness appears at the courthouse but has not received a summons to appear, that witness will not be permitted entry unless and until a determination is made by the court that the person is a necessary witness. To ensure entry of your witnesses and avoid difficulty in this regard, Judge Deglau advises counsel to summons any necessary witness to trial.

Judge Deglau notes that the bar has successfully transitioned to conducting judicial settlement conferences by videoconferencing. Due to the success of increased settlement conferences during the last year, she anticipates that the court will order more matters to settlement conferences moving forward. Judge Deglau expects that the court will continue to make use of videoconferencing technology after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. She observes that expert witnesses testifying by WebEx as opposed to in-person greatly reduces the cost to litigate and we

should expect the court to continue with its expanded use of technology in a post-COVID-19 world.

Judge Deglau advises that the judges in this court are making more regular use of pre-trial scheduling orders and she advises attorneys to review those orders exceptionally carefully as many contain mandatory filing deadlines that, if missed, could lead to case dismissal or exclusion of evidence.

Judge Deglau is excited that all open positions in the clerk's office are currently filled; however, she notes that illness or mandatory quarantines due to suspected COVID-19 exposure reduce the staffing levels in the clerk's office at times. Due to social distancing requirements and the requirement that court files remain within the vision of the clerk's office personnel when reviewed by the public, there are situations when the clerk's office may ask attorneys seeking to review a court file to return at a later time to limit the number of individuals in the clerk's office at any one time. Judge Deglau asks that the bar continue to demonstrate patience with the clerk's office during these unusual times.

## Nominations for the Following Awards are Now Being Accepted

### Hill-Tucker Public Service Award

The Hill-Tucker Public Service Award is named after Oliver W. Hill and Samuel W. Tucker who received the first award in 1989. This award was created to be presented to Richmond Bar members who render conspicuous public service and otherwise distinguish themselves in service to society beyond law practice.

Recent recipients: George K. Martin (2020), Doris H. Causey (2019), Michael N. Herring (2018), Hon. Mary E. Langer (2017), Jennifer L. McClellan (2016), Clarence M. Dunnville, Jr. (2015), Hon. Tim Kaine (2013), Henry W. McLaughlin III (2010), O. Randolph Rollins (2009), Hon. Elizabeth B. Lacy (2008), John V. Cogbill III (2007), Chief Justice Leroy R. Hassell, Sr. (2006),

*The deadline to submit a nomination for this awards is 12:00 noon on May 14, 2021.*

### Young Lawyer of the Year

Established in 2011, the Young Lawyer of the Year Award is presented by the Bar Association of the City of Richmond to a member of its Young Lawyers Section. The Award is given to a young lawyer who has excelled in the practice of law to date and who has shown the potential to become a leader in the legal profession in one or more of the following ways:

- (1) By exceeding the expectations of clients and employers;
- (2) By providing service to the community outside the practice of law;
- (3) By changing and improving perceptions of the legal profession in the Greater Richmond community; and
- (4) By taking a non-traditional path to success in the practice of law.

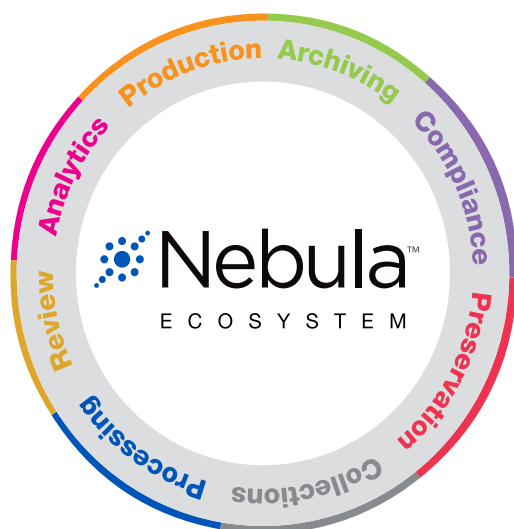
Recent recipients: Sean D. Hicks (2020), Alexandria E. Cuff (2019), Devika E. Davis (2018) Amanda E. DeBerry (2017), Lisa J. Hedrick (2016), Joley L. Eason (2015), John A. Merrick (2014), Melanie A. Friend (2013), Kimberly A. Skiba (2012)

*The deadline to submit a nomination for this awards is 12:00 noon on April 16, 2021.*

Members are encouraged to nominate any candidates who they believe are qualified for an award. To nominate an individual, contact Lee Martin ([lmartin@richmondbar.org](mailto:lmartin@richmondbar.org)) or any member of the Bar's Committee on Awards and Honors listed below.

T. O'Connor Johnson ([t.oconnor@hundleyandjohnson.com](mailto:t.oconnor@hundleyandjohnson.com)) John W. Anderson ([janderson@spottsfain.com](mailto:janderson@spottsfain.com))  
R. Braxton Hill IV ([bhill@cblaw.com](mailto:bhill@cblaw.com)) Julie M. Cillo ([jcillo@owenowens.com](mailto:jcillo@owenowens.com)) Daniel E. Lynch ([dlynch@lchslaw.com](mailto:dlynch@lchslaw.com))

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## Metro Pro Bono Sampler

<b>Justice Server</b> <i>Provides pro bono attorney volunteers with an on-line case management and referral system that enables them to accept and work on pro bono cases right from their own computers</i>	Ami Kim	780-2600
<b>Legal Aid Justice Center Housing Law Program</b> <i>Provides pro bono legal assistance with housing issues ranging from eviction notices to unlawful detainers</i>	Louisa Rich	643-1086
<b>Pro Bono Clearinghouse</b> <i>A service of the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation that provides pro bono legal services to non-profit organizations</i>	Ami Kim	780-2600
<b>CancerLINC</b> <i>Information, counseling and referral for legal assistance with issues arising from the diagnosis and treatment of cancer</i>	Chris Williams	562-0371, ext. 6
<b>Richmond Domestic Violence Project</b> <i>Represents victims of domestic violence in obtaining protective orders in Richmond J&amp;DR Court</i>	Robbi Gray	775-1227
<b>No Fault Divorce Program</b> <i>Pairs volunteer attorneys with law students who together represent clients seeking no-fault divorces</i>	Tara Casey	287-1207
<b>Central Virginia Legal Aid Society Emergency Lawyer Program</b> <i>Provides volunteer attorneys to assist CVLAS in emergency cases</i>	Steve Dickinson	648-1012
<b>Community Tax Law Project</b> <i>Provides free legal help to low wage families and individuals experiencing economic harm because of a tax problem.</i>	David Sams	358-5855

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

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## Announcements

### Young Lawyers Section hosts a clean-up at Bellemeade Park on March 6th

The RBA Young Lawyers Section continues its commitment to the community. Join your colleagues for a service project at Bellemeade Park, next to Oak Grove-Bellemeade Elementary School, on Saturday, March 6 from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. Volunteers will be helping to maintain Bellemeade Park so it may continue to thrive as the school's outdoor learning campus and a place of gathering for the Bellemeade community. Participants will be scanning the banks of Albro Creek for litter, seeding the pollination garden, mowing, raking and removing cuttings. Please e-mail Barry Gabay at [barry@burchlaw.com](mailto:barry@burchlaw.com) for more information and if you'd like to participate.

### YLS: Notice of Appointment of Nominating Committee

Pursuant to Section 4.07 of the Bylaws of the Young Lawyers Section of The Bar Association of the City of Richmond, notice is hereby given that a Nominating Committee has been appointed to consider candidates and nominate officers and Executive Committee members for election at the Section's Annual Meeting. The members of the Nominating Committee are as follows:

Kyle R. Elliott	Alexandria E. Cuff	Lindsey A. Strachan
Alyson M. Brown	Matthew R. Strauser	Andrew T. Landrum

Any group of 10 or more members of the Section may make nominations by submitting the name of any nominee to the undersigned Secretary of the Section by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 17, 2021. In addition, any member of the Section may suggest candidates for consideration by the Nominating Committee. Suggestions for consideration shall be made by notifying the undersigned.

Alison F. Rienecker Secretary  
c/o Richmond Bar Association  
P.O. Box 1213  
Richmond, Virginia 23218  
[allisonrienecker@gmail.com](mailto:allisonrienecker@gmail.com)

## Welcome new members

The Richmond Bar Association welcomes the following new members:

Elizabeth Brightwell  
Laura Camden  
Sharif Gray  
Katherine Jimenez  
Aleksandra Johnson  
Paul Johnson  
Sarah Kinzer  
Lyle Kossis  
Katherine Lehnen  
Anna Pesetski  
Samuel Petto  
Jason Shorter  
Liza Simmons  
Joshua Stenhjem  
Noah Streett

Each new member is contacted by a member of the Board of Directors to encourage them to become active in Bar activities. We invite all RBA members to reach out and welcome our new members.

\* \* \* \* \*

Visit us on Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram or [www.richmondbar.org](http://www.richmondbar.org), for the latest information on seminars, socials and section events

The Richmond Bar appreciates the patronage of its 2020-2021 Select Sponsors:

# CALENDAR

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## March

- 1 Personnel Committee meeting, 12:00 noon, TBD
- 1 Executive Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., TBD
- 4 Board of Directors meeting, 12:30 p.m., TBD
- 8 Pro Bono Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
- 9 CLE Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
- 18 Virtual Bench-Bar Conference, 9:00 a.m., via Zoom
- 29 Executive Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., TBD

## April

- 1 Board of Directors meeting, 12:30 p.m., TBD
- 6 Bench-Bar Conference Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m., TBD
- 21 Annual Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Willow Oaks Country Club
- 21 Spring Cocktail Party, 6:00 p.m., Willow Oaks Country Club
- 26 Executive Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., TBD

## May

- 3 RBA Law Day Luncheon, 12:30 p.m., Omni Hotel  
Speaker: Hon. Marla Graff Decker, Court of Appeals of VA
- 4 Bench-Bar Conference Committee meeting, 5:30 p.m., TBD
- 6 Board of Directors meeting, 12:30 p.m., TBD
- 10 Pro Bono Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., TBD
- 11 CLE Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., TBD
- 31 Bar office closed for the holiday

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