



THE RICHMOND BAR

Volume 30, Number 5

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

January 2022

U.S. District and Magistrate Judges provide comments to Bar's Administration of Justice 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 several of the **Honorable Judges for the Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond Division**. As in years past, the Judges were gracious with their time and spoke with candor to Committee members regarding pandemic challenges, jury trials, settlement conferences and professionalism.

The Honorable John A. Gibney, Jr. *U.S. District Court*

Judge Gibney recognizes that the last 18 months have been challenging for everyone. During the height of the COVID pandemic, Judge Gibney had hearings only in criminal cases, very few criminal trials, and essentially no civil trials. Grand juries were cancelled and there have been no naturalization ceremonies since the pandemic.

As the senior active district judge, Judge Gibney is charged with much of the administrative work attendant to running the Richmond Division. He worked as part of the EDVA COVID response team, through which the judges had to re-think nearly everything they do. In the interests of courtroom safety and social distancing, Judge Gibney reports that judges are utilizing three courtrooms for a trial: the main courtroom for witnesses, lawyers, and the jury; CCTV to a second courtroom where public can observe; and a third courtroom for jury deliberation with cameras blocked. He also reports that the EDVA COVID response team conferred with directors of implicated health districts, who emphasized the importance of social distancing. As a result, juries are not confined to jury boxes.

Instead, the jury is placed in the gallery and plexiglass surrounds witnesses and lawyers. As to jury selection, Judge Gibney reports that some judges are using questionnaires that include questions about topics such as childcare and immunocompromised status.

Judge Gibney believes that Zoom benefits the civil bar because it eliminates the requirement that the parties travel, but he is reluctant to hold any hearing in which he must evaluate the credibility of a witness to occur on Zoom. Another downside to Zoom hearings is that in a live hearing, the attorney's physical presence – body language and confidence – is important. Those characteristics are much more difficult to convey on Zoom. Judge Gibney reports that lawyers who do well "live," do well on Zoom. They are prepared and exhibit focus and brevity. He reports that out-of-town lawyers have the same problems on Zoom as they do during in-person hearings: they can be long-winded, expect continuances, and are not ready to get to the point. Overall, Judge Gibney acknowledges that the bar has done a really nice job of embracing changes and he is interested to see what components of the COVID changes stay post-pandemic.

With regard to case resolution, Judge Gibney states that the best form of ADR is a trial date, in that when the parties set a matter for trial, insurance companies are more inclined to settle.

Finally, Judge Gibney reports that he took senior status on November 1, 2021, at which point his service on the EDVA's COVID response team also concluded. He will not be taking on any more patent cases or bankruptcy cases, and will be sitting in Norfolk three Fridays a month, all day, to address criminal matters.

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Nominations sought for 2022 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 American Bar Association 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) Promote a better understanding of our form of government, especially the Bill of Rights;
- 2) Encourage a greater respect for law and the courts;
- 3) Stimulate a deeper sense of individual responsibility to the end that citizens recognize their duties as well as their rights;
- 4) Contribute to the effective functioning of our institutions of government; and
- 5) Inculcate a better understanding and appreciation of the rule of law.

Recipients include Jeff Schapiro (2021), The John Marshall Foundation (2018), S. Buford Scott (2013), Thomas A. Silvestri (2011), the Hon. Susan Clark Schaar and the Hon. Bruce F. Jamerson (2010), Laura Sanchez-de Solar (2008), Sister Cora Billings, Rev. Benjamin Campbell, Dr. Jack Spiro (2006), Dr. Warren Stewart (2005), Vernard W. Henley (2002), James E. Ukrop & Robert S. Ukrop (2001), Charlie McDowell (1999), Susanna M. Capers (1992).

Nominations for the Liberty Bell Award are due by 12:00 noon on February 18, 2022 and should be e-mailed to Julie M. Cillo, Chair of the Committee on Awards & Honors, jcillo@owenowens.com or Lee Martin at lmartin@richmondbar.org.

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 or mailed to Lee Martin, at P.O. Box 1213, Richmond, VA 23218

Williams Mullen welcomes two new lawyers to its Richmond office:

Lauren Walker joins the firm's Corporate Section where she will focus her practice on business and transactional law, and

Matt Anderson, an associate in the Labor, Employment and Immigration Section, will concentrate his practice on defending businesses in employment litigation matters.

The Richmond Bar appreciates the patronage of its
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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

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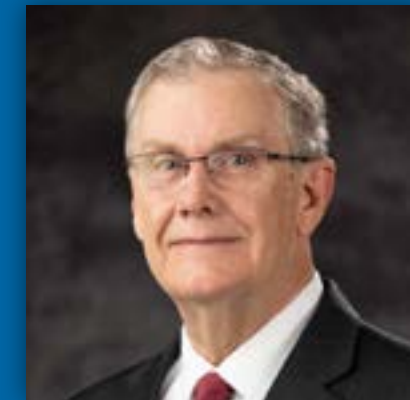
is pleased to welcome our newest Neutrals



Hon. Randall D. Smith (Ret.)
*Retired Chief Judge, 1st Judicial Circuit
Court of Virginia, City of Chesapeake*



Hon. Beverly W. Snukals (Ret.)
*Retired Judge, 13th Judicial Circuit
Court of Virginia, Richmond*



Hon. Bruce D. White (Ret.)
*Retired Chief Judge, 19th Judicial Circuit
Court of Virginia, Fairfax County*



Hon. James S. Yoffy (Ret.)
*Retired Chief Judge, 14th Judicial Circuit
Court of Virginia, Henrico County*

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On October 21st, the RBA held its annual Member Appreciation event at River City Roll. The evening was perfect - great venue, beautiful weather and tons of collegiality!



Federal judges discuss COVID challenges, technology,

continued from page 1

The Honorable M. Hannah Lauck *U.S. District Court*

Judge Lauck kindly shared some updates and observations with the Bar at our annual check-in on behalf of the Richmond Bar Association. COVID-19 has presented unprecedented challenge as the Court worked to balance the important interests of access to the judicial system, and pandemic related safety precautions. Judge Lauck commended the ongoing efforts of the work group at the Court who have continued to stay abreast of CDC guidelines and health updates, while issuing regular standing orders to help the public, court staff, and the Bar keep up to date with courthouse procedures. The efforts have been remarkable and a testament to all involved. As to the COVID working group, Judge Lauck expressed thanks to Chief Judge Davis, Judge Brinkema, Judge Gibney, and Judge Santoro.

The team at the Court continues to have periodic conference calls with health department heads and other informed officials to manage the process and adapt procedures. Ongoing important concerns include processing prospective jurors efficiently and ideally identifying those who cannot serve because of COVID related concerns before summons are issued.

Jury selection procedures to facilitate voir dire with appropriate social distancing takes time, but is manageable. Jury trials continue to typically require the use of multiple courtrooms with video feed to a second courtroom. With speedy trial concerns dictating the pace of criminal cases, restarting civil cases remains a challenge and the pace of civil cases is variable from one judge to another.

Judge Lauck shared some observations about the valuable opportunity for settlement conferences with the Magistrate Judges. The settlement conferences are a very effective way to save money and time as a case works through the litigation process. The presiding judge at the settlement conference will not be making dispositive rulings in the case and is able to accept all manner of information when discussing the case directly with the parties and counsel. Without the strict rules of evidence and procedure, the parties can have candid discussion with the Court, and through the settlement judge, with each other. These conferences are valuable in helping to enlighten clients, crystalize issues, and bring

cases to acceptable resolution. Focusing on the core of the case can be a challenge for all litigants, and settlement conferences encourage that process throughout.

The pandemic has seen a significant increase in the use of remote appearance by Zoom and other software platforms at various stages of the litigation process. While the remote video technology is helpful and necessary at times, Judge Lauck noted the benefit of in-person proceedings. The opportunity to meet the litigants, observe nonverbals, and encourage open communication is important and valuable. For example, Judge Lauck prefers not to accept guilty pleas by Zoom if an alternative in-person arrangement is possible.

Judge Lauck shared that the Court is fortunate to have another wonderful group of judicial law clerks this year. The clerks function as a mini law firm with excellent collaboration. Similarly, she complimented the Richmond Bar for the ethos of trust that predominates our bar culture. Judge Lauck encouraged attorneys from all practice areas to get involved in the Bar in order to interact with professionals outside their specific firm and area of practice, to make connections, and to contribute to the important professional work of the Bar.

The Honorable Henry E. Hudson *U.S. District Court*

Judge Hudson continues to be pleased with the practitioners in his Court. He says he has seen no problems over the past year and a half with the collegiality or professionalism of the Richmond Bar and encourages members of the Bar to remain steadfast in their commitment to professionalism. He encourages the bar to take advantage of the open door policy at the Eastern District of Virginia and call if they ever have any questions, within the bounds of ethics.

During Covid-19, Judge Hudson said they went through a period of dormancy, but since the resumption of trials, they have gone well. Judge Hudson does warn practitioners to expect to need longer times to try a case. He also stated that the trials are awkward with the restrictions and requires an immense amount of patience from all parties involved. Criminal juries are tried with the jury in the public seating area with the witnesses up in the well and the Judge behind the attorney tables. Civil cases are tried with the jury still in the jury box. When asked if there were ways to correct for the awkwardness in the

jury trials, Judge Hudson thought there was not much a lawyer can do until we return to some sense of normalcy given the restrictions necessary to keep everyone safe.

Judge Hudson stated that his handling of hearings has returned to completely in person. He believes the proceedings are more controlled and the proceedings are more effective in person.

He states that the trend of new cases has not changed much in terms of types, but does say federal courts across the country have been inundated with prisoner related litigation for Covid related reductions in sentencing.

As far as the Magistrate Judges, the positions have been filled and the Judges are doing an excellent job administering settlement conferences as efficiently and quickly, in addition to their other responsibilities.

Judge Hudson anticipates that with the adoption of vaccinations and safety measures the Courts will return to normalcy quickly. He has seen that trend over the past year as the administration of Justice has continued to return to normal.

He encourages young lawyers to come observe trials and see more seasoned lawyers try cases. He also encourages young lawyers to take on as much pro bono work as possible to get experience.

The Honorable Elizabeth W. Hanes *U.S. Magistrate Judge*

Judge Elizabeth Hanes was sworn in as a magistrate judge in Richmond in June of 2020. Judge Hanes reports that the last year has been full of changes. One particularly noteworthy and positive change was the addition of Judge Colombell to the bench as a magistrate judge.

At the request of the committee, Judge Hanes explained how the Court's handling of settlement conferences has evolved during the pandemic. At the height of COVID, the Court transitioned all settlement conferences to the Zoom platform. Currently, however, almost all conferences are scheduled to be conducted in-person. Judge Hanes emphasizes that in-person conferences are the expectation because she has learned that although some cases can settle via Zoom, many will only settle through in-person mediation.

Judge Hanes still occasionally receives requests to conduct settlement conferences remotely or to allow some parties to participate via Zoom. A party requesting that a settlement conference be conducted via

juries, settlement conferences and judicial openings

Zoom should provide the specific reason for the request. In deciding whether to allow remote participation, Judge Hanes looks at several factors, including the current guidance from Chief Judge Davis, current COVID metrics, the complexity of the case, and the specific reason for the request. She also asks the opposing party if they have a position on the matter. Judge Hanes typically holds any request she receives until about six (6) weeks prior to the settlement conference given the changing nature of the pandemic. Because cases benefit substantially from in-person mediation, however, requests for remote settlement conferences are rarely granted. If a request is granted, Judge Hanes advises attorneys to remind clients and pro hac counsel that they should treat the virtual settlement conference as a regular court hearing. All participants should find a location that is free of distractions and be available to appear on camera. Judge Hanes prefers that counsel and litigants leave their cameras on during the conference because it ensures full participation.

Prior to scheduling a settlement conference, Judge Hanes's chambers will ask the attorneys if they have a sense of when the mediation should be scheduled in order to make it most conducive to settlement. The mediation must be held within the court's parameters (typically before summary judgment briefs are filed), but often an early mediation is beneficial. Judge Hanes notes that it is helpful if the parties have discussed the timing of the mediation prior to requesting the settlement conference date.

Settlement conferences typically start at 9:30 a.m. and are scheduled for three (3) hours. Judge Hanes generally has other matters that are scheduled for the afternoon. If a case has not settled in three hours but appears to have potential to settle if negotiations continue, Judge Hanes will allow the settlement conference to continue. However, the settlement process tends to be less efficient in the afternoon because of her other Court obligations.

On the day of the settlement conference, Judge Hanes greets the participants in the same room but quickly moves them into their own private rooms to begin the mediation. She does not ask counsel for an opening statement. When asked about how she handles lunch breaks during mediations, Judge Hanes explained that breaking for lunch disrupts the flow of the mediation and is an inefficient use

of time. Therefore, she informs the parties that they may purchase food at the market in the basement of the courthouse and that they may have lunch delivered if they anticipate a lengthy settlement conference.

The Honorable Mark R. Colombell *U.S. Magistrate Judge*

Judge Mark R. Colombell was sworn in as the new Magistrate Judge in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia in Richmond on May 10, 2021. Judge Colombell expressed his appreciation for the courtesy and support from the Bar during his first six months as a magistrate judge. He is enjoying his new role and has appreciated the professional interactions he has had with the local Bar.

Judge Colombell has been impressed and pleased with the level of preparation the parties appearing before him have shown for the settlement conferences he has conducted to date. He encourages attorneys to advise their clients that the settlement conference process can be their "day in court," because he gives the parties a full opportunity to tell their story and interact with him during the conferences. He believes counsel appearing before him have done a good job managing their clients' expectations and understanding that the purpose of the settlement conference is to reach a compromise over disputed claims, not an adjudication on the merits. He enjoys the pre-conference ex parte communications he has with counsel, as they provide an excellent opportunity for him and the attorneys to be fully prepared prior to the settlement conferences. He encourages counsel to take advantage of his accessibility prior to the settlement conference so that issues can be identified prior to the actual conference.

Judge Colombell emphasized that counsel should be thoughtful and open with him about barriers to settlement. Specifically, he indicated that there can be timing issues with the settlement conference in terms of parties needing some initial discovery prior to engaging in settlement discussions. He has observed several conferences that occurred too early, and only at the settlement conference did it become apparent that additional discovery was needed to flesh out issues to allow for meaningful settlement discussions. He encourages counsel to be open with him regarding the timing, and the court will work with parties to schedule the conference at the appropriate time. Some

district judges include the conferences in their standard pretrial orders, and parties often feel compelled to schedule the conferences as soon as possible. If additional time and discovery are needed, however, he will work with parties on the scheduling of the settlement conference and communicate that to the district judge assigned to the case.

Judge Colombell also expressed appreciation for the University of Richmond project designed to assign pro bono attorneys to prosecute litigants for the purposes of their settlement conferences only. This limited representation provides excellent opportunities for attorneys, and especially young attorneys, to participate in the settlement conference process and be exposed to the federal bench. It is also incredibly helpful to Judge Colombell in assisting with settlement conferences involving pro se litigants. He relies on the attorneys' subject matter expertise, and the attorneys' role in the process is important. Judge Colombell reports that his office is able to resolve the vast majority of cases assigned to him for settlement conferences. He also emphasized that he considers himself at the parties' disposal once the case has been assigned to him for a settlement conference. He encourages attorneys to reach out to him if they feel a second settlement conference is necessary or if they believe he can assist in any way in aiding the resolution of the cases assigned to him.

Judge Colombell prefers in person settlement conferences, but he acknowledges that COVID is an ongoing and ever-changing concern. Thus, he is happy to schedule remote settlement conferences via Zoom. He does, however, prefer not to engage in a hybrid process where some parties are present in person and some are remote. He believes settlement conferences are more effective when all parties appear in the same fashion – either all in person or all via Zoom.

Judge Colombell emphasizes that preparation for the settlement conference is key. He encourages attorneys to provide full pre-settlement conference briefs that include an honest assessment of the strengths and the weaknesses of the parties' cases.

In general, Judge Colombell wishes to thank the members of the Bar for their professionalism and diligence in the matters they present to him.

Due to time limitations, Judge Payne was unable to meet with Administration of Justice Committee members this year.

Legal Recruitment & Staffing



We provide quality legal recruiting for attorney and staff roles to drive growth at your firm or to grow your legal career.

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RBA SPOTLIGHT

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Favorite Richmond Restaurant: The Roosevelt

Advice you'd give to a law student:

During the midst of your studies, focus on "the why." Understand WHY you are being taught WHAT you are being taught. Law school does not teach you the law, rather it teaches you a new way of thinking. Everything is interrelated so do not lose sight of the forest for the trees. As you approach graduation, have an end goal in mind that will guide your career path.

Person who influenced you the most: Betty L. Pinn (mother)

Favorite movie or TV show: The Wire

Nominations are Now Being Accepted for the 2022 RBA Awards!

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. Dunnaville, 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)

Hunter W. Martin Professionalism Award

Established in 1993, the Hunter W. Martin Professionalism Award is named after the first recipient, Hunter W. Martin. This award was created to be presented to Richmond Bar members who, throughout their lives and careers in the law, have best exemplified the conduct and high ideals embodied in the Bar's Principles of Professionalism. Nominees should possess an understanding of, and adherence to high ethical standards of conduct and tolerance, respect and civility toward clients, opposing parties, colleagues and the judiciary.

Recent recipients: John W. Anderson* (2021), Barbara A. Williams (2020), James C. Shannon (2019), Hon. Douglas O. Tice, Jr. (2018), Everette G. Allen, Jr.* (2017), Michael W. Smith (2016), Claire G. Cardwell (2015), Thomas G. Slater, Jr. (2014), Hon. Dennis W. Dohnal (2013), Philip B. Morris (2012), Russell V. Palmore (2011), Wyatt B. Durrett, Jr. (2010)

John C. Kenny Pro Bono Award

In 1989, the Bar Association of the City of Richmond established its Pro Bono Publico Award, which is presented annually to a Richmond Bar member who has excelled in one or more of the following ways:

- (1) Demonstrated dedication to the development and implementation of pro bono projects to improve delivery of legal services to the poor;
- (2) Contributed significantly toward the development of innovative approaches to delivery of volunteer services;
- (3) Participated in an activity which resulted in addressing previously unmet legal needs or extending pro bono legal services to underserved segments of the legal community;
- (4) Successfully handled pro bono cases that favorably affected the provision of other services to the poor in the Richmond metropolitan area;
- (5) Participated in activities which resulted in the enactment of legislation that contributed substantially to the delivery of services (legal or otherwise) to the poor; and/or
- (6) Devoted significant time to furthering the delivery of legal services to the poor by handling one or more pro bono matters or providing training for or recruiting volunteer pro bono attorneys in the Richmond metropolitan area

Recent recipients: Carolyn A. White and Lindsay M. Pickral (2021), Lonnie D. Nunley III (2020), Tennille J. Checkovich (2019), Ann T. Burks (2018), W. Benjamin Pace (2017), Christopher M. Malone (2016), The Pro Bono Clearinghouse (2015), John M. Robb III (2015), Benjamin R. Lacy IV* (2014), Harry M. Johnson III and Scott C. Oostdyk (2013), Lakshmi Challa (2012)

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: Lindsey A. Strachan (2021), 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)

* - awarded posthumously

Members are encouraged to nominate any candidates who they believe are qualified for an award. To nominate an individual, contact any member of the Association's Committee on Awards and Honors listed below.

Julie M. Cillo (jcillo@owenowens.com)
R. Braxton Hill IV (bhill@cblaw.com)
Daniel E. Lynch (dlynch@lchslaw.com)

T. O'Connor Johnson (toj@thejohnsoninjuryfirm.com)
Deanna H. Hathaway (deanna@hathawayadair.com)

Congratulations to the recipients of 2021 RBA Awards!



RBA President Connor Johnson, Diane Anderson, and Claire & Marc Cerri (family members accepting the Hunter W. Martin Professionalism Award on behalf of John Anderson) and presenter Hugh Fain



RBA Pro Bono Committee Chair John Badman, Carolyn White and Lindsay Pickral (recipients of the John C. Kenny Pro Bono Award) and Connor Johnson



Connor Johnson, Lindsey Strachan (recipient of the Young Lawyer of the Year Award) and presenter Amy Smith

VJLAP is a valuable resource for impaired attorneys

The Virginia Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program (VJLAP) provides confidential, non-disciplinary assistance to lawyers, judges, law students, legal professionals, and their family members who are experiencing impairment as a result of substance abuse and/or mental health conditions.

Assistance is designed to:

- Prevent disciplinary problems for the professional
- Promote recovery
- Protect the working professional
- Strengthen the profession
- Support their families and professional associates

VJLAP educates members and prospective members of the legal profession regarding the impacts of chemical dependency and mental health disorders not only on you, but on your loved ones also. Early treatment is key for successful recovery.

For assistance call the VJLAP 24-Hour Confidential Help Line at 1-877-545-4682.

New page on Bar's website highlights Court/legal info

Looking for the most current judicial Orders and information on Court procedures? The RBA has added a special page on its website highlighting news released from the Supreme Court of Virginia, Court of Appeals of Virginia, local state courts and legal organizations in the Metro area. Visit <https://www.richmondbar.org/local-court-orders/> or access the page from the bar's website (www.richmondbar.org) by hovering over the "News" tab at the top of the home page and click on Local Court Orders.

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Principle of Professionalism #4

To be mindful that service is the keystone of the legal profession and to strive to make legal assistance available to all persons without regard to the ability to offer compensation.

Announcements

Bankruptcy Section kicks off New Year with a Luncheon/CLE on January 18th

On Tuesday, January 18, 2022 beginning at 12:30 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel, 501 E. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219 the Section will hold a program titled "Unpacking a Chapter 11 Prepack: Perspectives from Practitioners and the U.S. Trustee." Panelists are Sarah Boehm of McGuireWoods LLP, Jennifer Wuebker of Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP, and Kathryn Montgomery of the Office of the United States Trustee; Jennifer McLemore of Williams Mullen will serve as moderator. It is anticipated that the seminar will be approved for 1.0 hour of MCLE credit.

The Section member and government rate to attend is \$30; the non-Section member rate is \$45. Register using a credit card by visiting <https://www.richmondbar.org/bankruptcy/>. Checks can be mailed to the Richmond Bar Association at P.O. Box 1213, Richmond, VA 23218. Reservations must be received by January 13th; no refunds will be given after this date.

The Section's next luncheon program is set for Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at the Hilton beginning at 12:30 p.m. and features a program titled "Cramming and Stripping – Who Says Real Estate Issues in Bankruptcy Are Boring?"

Real Estate Section to host An Evening with the Circuit Clerks on February 10th

Join your colleagues at the Real Estate Section's "An Evening with the Circuit Court Clerks" on Thursday, February 10, 2022 at Willow Oaks Country Club (6228 Forest Hill Avenue, Richmond, VA 23225). The evening will kick off with cocktails at 5:15 p.m. followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. At 6:45 p.m. the Clerks will make brief remarks with time allowed for a question and answer session.

Cost to attend is \$55 for Section members and \$60 for guests. Reservations and payment can be made online at <https://www.richmondbar.org/real-estate/>. Checks can be mailed to the Richmond Bar Association at P.O. Box 1213, Richmond, VA 23218. Reservations must be received by February 4th; no refunds will be issued after this date.

The Section would like to thank [Fidelity National Title Group](#) for sponsoring the event.

We want to see what the RBA means to you!

Whether you're networking on your own or at an RBA event, share photos and short videos on your personal social media channels. Please tag the Richmond Bar Association in these posts. This will provide us with fresh content as well as help grow the Association's presence in the Richmond community.



Welcome new members

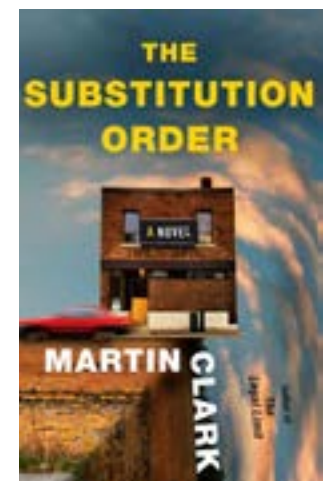
The Richmond Bar Association welcomes the following new members:

- David Allen
- Michael Alley
- Karl Canby
- Jennifer Castillo
- Karlina Dudley
- Taylor Fisher
- David Harbach
- Makiba Jackson
- Benjamin Johnson
- Abigail Lahnston
- Megan Larkin
- Tanner Long
- Dannieka, McLean
- Courtney McMullan
- Emily Mordecai
- Francis Morris
- John O'Malley
- Linda Scott
- Sara Shariff
- Jacob Weiss
- Michael Wilgus
- Sarah Zacharias

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.

* * * * *

Join your colleagues at the RBA luncheon on Thursday, February 24th featuring the Hon. Martin Clark, award-winning author of legal thrillers!



CALENDAR

January

- 3 Executive Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
- 6 Board of Directors meeting, 12:30 p.m., Hunton Andrews Kurth
- 10 Pro Bono Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
- 11 CLE Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
- 17 Bar office closed for the Holiday
- 18 Bankruptcy Section luncheon, 12:30 p.m., Hilton Downtown Hotel
- 24 Finance Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
- 31 Executive Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom

February

- 3 Board of Directors meeting, 12:30 p.m., Hunton Andrews Kurth
- 10 Real Estate Section Dinner, 5:15 p.m., Willow Oaks Country Club
- 22 Bankruptcy Section luncheon, 12:30 p.m., Hilton Downtown Hotel
- 24 RBA Luncheon, 12:30 p.m., Omni Hotel
Speaker: Hon. Martin Clark, author of legal thrillers
- 28 Personnel Committee meeting, 12:00 noon, TBD
- 28 Executive Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., TBD

March

- 1 Nominating Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., TBD
- 3 Board of Directors meeting, 12:30 p.m., TBD
- 14 Pro Bono Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
- 15 CLE Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom

April

- 4 Executive Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
- 5 Bench-Bar Conference Committee meeting, time and location TBD
- 7 Board of Directors meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
- 20 Annual Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Willow Oaks Country Club
- 20 Spring Cocktail Party, 6:00 p.m., Willow Oaks Country Club
- 25 Executive Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom

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