



# THE RICHMOND BAR

Volume 30, Number 8

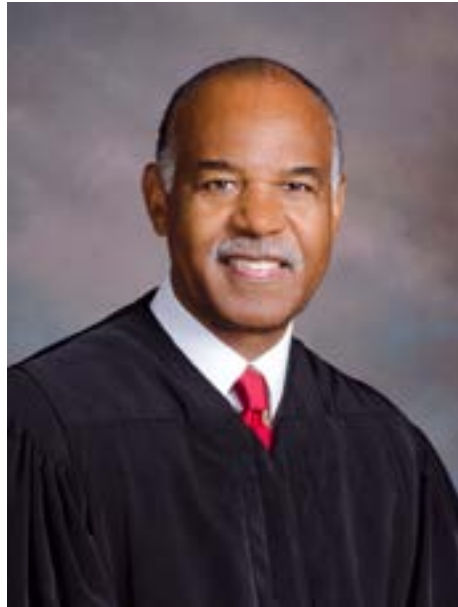
A newsletter for members of The Bar Association of the City of Richmond

April-May 2022

## Hon. Roger L. Gregory, Chief Judge of the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals to speak at Association's Law Day Luncheon

The Hon. Roger L. Gregory, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, will be the featured speaker at the Richmond Bar's luncheon on Monday, May 2, 2022. 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 <https://www.richmondbar.org/luncheons/>. **The deadline for reservations is 12:00 noon on Tuesday, April 26th. The Omni Hotel is now strictly enforcing the guarantee policy in our contract; we CANNOT take reservations after the deadline listed above.**

Cost to attend is \$32.00 for RBA members and \$37 for guests. **If you require a vegetarian meal or have a dietary restriction, please inform us at the time you make**



Hon. Roger L. Gregory

### **the reservation.**

Judge Gregory is the first African American to sit on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. He was nominated to the Court by President William J. Clinton on June 30, 2000. Judge Gregory was re-nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate for a lifetime appointment to the Court. Judge Gregory is the only person in the history of the United States to be appointed to the United States Court of Appeals by two Presidents of different political parties.

Judge Gregory graduated from Virginia State University in 1975 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree, summa cum laude and the University of Michigan Law School in 1978. He holds honorary degrees from Virginia Union University, Virginia State University,

*continued on page 11*

## Report of the Nominating Committee and Notice of Annual Meeting

Daniel E. Lynch, Chair of the Nominating Committee, has reported to the President the following list of nominees recommended by the Committee for the respective positions to be filled at the Association's Annual Meeting on April 20, 2022:

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| President-Elect:                     | Julie M. Cillo  |
| Vice President:                      | Deanna H. Hathaway                                    |
| Honorary Vice President:             | Hon. Jayne A. Pemberton                               |
| Secretary-Treasurer:                 | Jennifer J. West                                      |
| At-Large Board of Directors Members: | Sean P. Byrne, Lauren M. Waller, Robert S. Westermann |

R. Braxton Hill IV, the current President-Elect, succeeds automatically to the office of President for the next Bar year.

The Annual Meeting of The Bar Association of the City of Richmond will be held on Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at 5:30 p.m. at the Willow Oaks Country Club. The meeting precedes the Bar's Spring Cocktail party, which begins at 6:00 p.m.

T. O'Connor Johnson, President

Deanna H. Hathaway, Secretary-Treasurer

## Chesterfield judges discuss procedures, court changes

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 Courts of the County of Chesterfield**. As in years past, the Judges were gracious with their time and spoke with candor to Committee members regarding hearings, new judges and technology.

*continued on page 5*

Hello warmer weather and colorful flowers!  
Celebrate with your colleagues at the Bar's Spring Cocktail Party - see page 8 for details.

## 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

The crack of the bat! The roar of the crowd!  
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### Richmond Bar Night with the Flying Squirrels

**Thursday, June 9th**  
**featuring fireworks after the game**  
**(gametime TBD)**



Your reservation includes one field level ticket. In addition, the RBA has reserved space in the Segra Picnic Zone, an exclusive area near third base featuring a two hour all-you-can-eat buffet with hot dogs, hamburgers, pulled pork, baked chicken, macaroni & cheese, coleslaw, garden salad, cookies and Pepsi products. Beer and wine are available for purchase.

**COST:** \$15 per ticket for the first 100 tickets sold  
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\$30 per ticket after the first 100 are sold

Children 3 and under are free

Make reservations at <https://www.richmondbar.org/events/richmond-bar-night/>

All sales are final - no refunds.

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## 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

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Richmond, Virginia 23218-1213

[www.richmondbar.org](http://www.richmondbar.org)

**Phone:** (804) 780-0700

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

### Officers

T. O'Connor Johnson, *President*  
R. Braxton Hill IV, *President-Elect*  
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Julie M. Cillo, *Vice President*  
Deanna H. Hathaway, *Secretary-Treasurer*  
Daniel E. Lynch, *Immediate Past President*

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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

## Law Day Luncheon Registration Form

Please reserve a place for me at the **Monday, May 2, 2022** 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. (\$32.00 for RBA members, \$37.00 for guests; 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 <https://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 Tuesday, April 26, 2022.

**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 April 26th.**

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**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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## Court welcomes new judges and technology improvements

*continued from page 1*

### **The Honorable David E. Johnson** *Chesterfield Circuit Court*

Judge Johnson 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 is pleased with the level of preparedness and demeanor of the majority of the Bar that he sees in his courtroom.

He encourages members of the bar to remain committed to Court decorum at all points in litigation and to remain collegial even when it may be difficult to do so. Additionally, he advised that his office and the clerk's office are open for all questions as it pertains to court procedures and calendaring. If any questions arise, he encourages members of the bar to ask. Both are more than willing to assist in these needs, within the bounds of ethics.

He recommends that newer members of the Bar consult with and seek advice from tenured members of the bar regarding courtroom policies and procedures. He states that this will help them develop as they continue to gain experience.

The Court's docketing procedures are posted on their website and the Richmond Bar website, and he advises attorneys and their staff to review those before filing and setting motions.

Judge Johnson stated that the Court has returned to normal procedures as it was prior to Covid and has been for over a year, with safety measures still in place for Covid. Jury trials are proceeding as they normally would, and all of the courtrooms are open to hold juries. Over the past year the docket in Chesterfield has remained consistent in the number of cases filed, with a slight upward trend in criminal matters.

He encouraged counsel to come to the Courthouse or inquire with the Clerk about Chesterfield's AV improvements. All of the courtrooms are outfitted with advanced audio-visual equipment, and the Court is more than willing to allow attorneys to come and test their equipment out on their systems prior to a hearing or trial. In fact, Chesterfield has a room with the equipment in an attorney workroom at the Courthouse which is open to any member of the bar when the Court is open.

Last, and certainly not least, Judge Johnson was very pleased to welcome Judge Jayne Pemberton to the bench, who is an outstanding addition to the Chesterfield judiciary.

### **The Honorable Matthew D. Nelson** *Chesterfield General District Court*

Judge Nelson continues to appreciate the collegiality and professionalism of the bar on both the criminal and civil side. Attorneys have continued to zealously represent their clients while being able to whittle down facts to allow the court to serve its role as a third party neutral. With respect to recommendations for the Bar, the Court has no issues providing sufficient time for a case to be tried, but the Court wants to ensure the amount of time requested is an adequate amount of time. If counsel determine that the trial, or hearing, is going to take longer than the original time allotted, then respective counsel should contact the Court in order to reschedule the case for another date and/or time slot more suited for the appropriate time necessary to try the case.

While the pandemic is ongoing, Chesterfield has been fortunate to return to practically business as usual, while still being cognizant of the Supreme Court of Virginia's Orders governing Courts during the pandemic, which currently still requires general district court personnel, including judges, to wear masks regardless of vaccination status. Docket numbers are returning to pre-pandemic levels and all parties, Judges and Attorneys, have adapted well to this return. For Judge Nelson, he has returned to the bench for trials and the Court still requires unvaccinated persons to wear a mask.

In Chesterfield, as previously noted, operations are close to business as usual from a pre-pandemic point of view. In Chesterfield, there is a preference for in person hearings, but to the extent a party requests a telephonic or zoom hearing, Judge Nelson does not intend to interfere with those requests and will work with the parties to facilitate those requests on a case by case basis with the Court making every attempt to accommodate such requests. When setting hearings/trials, the Court has remained steady and busy; but not overwhelmed. Cases are currently being set with about a two-month window. On

the criminal side, Judge Nelson is looking forward to the development of Chesterfield's new full-time public defender's office. And for both civil and criminal matters, to the extent an attorney has any feedback for the Court, Judge Nelson is open to any and all suggestions, comments, complaints, and/or feedback. For any issues that require the Court's attention, Judge Nelson says to call chambers.

Lastly, Judge Nelson spent time commending not only the bar, but the exceptional staff in Chesterfield. With respect to the Bar, Judge Nelson ended as he began, noting that the Richmond Bar should continue to strive to remain collegial in all aspects of the practice, be involved with the Bar and its functions, attend events, and do not lose the special role the Bar plays in our judicial system.

### **The Honorable Vanessa L. Jones** *Chesterfield Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court*

Just as in most other workplaces, the court has implemented a number of precautions to maintain the safety of all who enter the courthouse. This emphasis on protecting health and wellbeing has been especially necessary because the nature of the court's work means staff is unable to telework. Judge Jones notes that everyone has come together to work hard and conduct business in a safe manner rather than allowing uncertainty to push them off track.

While we all look forward to the light at the end of the Covid tunnel, Judge Jones has been pleased with stellar counsel coming into court prepared and putting forth their best efforts to zealously represent their clients – even amid a global pandemic. Judge Jones commends the attorneys appearing in her court for their professionalism and perseverance during unprecedented circumstances. Their commitment to providing counsel to their clients with excellence has not gone unnoticed.

In September 2021, the court was fortunate to welcome the Honorable Judge Travis R. Williams to the bench. Additional staffing changes have been deftly handled and have resulted in a cohesive unit that operates with diligence for the job and consideration for each other. Judge Jones has been particularly grateful to observe everyone checking in on one another and generously stepping

*continued on page 10*



## Confidential help available to legal professionals impacted by impairment

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.



It's the thirtieth anniversary of the Bench-Bar Conference!

Mark your calendar and plan to join your colleagues for the celebration on Thursday, October 20, 2022 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center.

Breakouts will include sessions on civil, criminal and juvenile & domestic relations law. Over 40 judges from the Metro area are expected to attend.



Looking for the most current judicial Orders and information on Court procedures during the pandemic? The RBA has added a special page on its website highlighting news released from the Supreme Court of Virginia, Court of Appeals of Virginia and local state courts in the Metro area. Use this link <https://www.richmondbar.org/local-court-orders/> or access the page from the bar's website ([www.richmondbar.org](http://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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## Spring Cocktail Party

Wednesday, April 20, 2022  
at Willow Oaks Country Club  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Cost to attend is \$50 per RBA member  
First non-member guest - \$50  
additional non-member guests - \$65

Includes an open bar and heavy hors  
d'oeuvres

Attire is business casual

Make reservations at <https://www.richmond-bar.org/events/event/spring-cocktail-party/>

\* \* \* \* \*

### 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.



Join us for a "Private Conversation Series" event

### Eat Well, Move Well, Be Well: Pro Tips for Living and Practicing Better

Thursday, March 31, 2022  
5:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
via Zoom

Attorneys are exposed to a variety of stresses in their profession, which can take a toll on their mental and emotional well-being. And the ABA National Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being has noted that "the current state of lawyers' health cannot support a profession dedicated to client service and dependent on the public trust." Your Association aims to change that!

Our distinguished panel will provide you with practical tips and tools you can use to eat well, move well and be well in 2022 and beyond:

- Ashley Williams MS, C-IAYT, Founder of BareSOUL Yoga and Wellness and The Well Collective, and Mindfulness Educator;
- Bethany Watkins, RD, Founder of Happy Body Wellness nutrition, health and wellness company and anti-diet registered dietitian; and
- Matt Bitsko, PhD, LCP, Founder and Director of Summit Emotional Health and specialist in mood, anxiety and adjustment disorders

The program is free of charge and open to lawyers and judges in the Metro Richmond area, but registration is required to receive the Zoom invitation.

Reservations can be made by e-mailing Sharon Potter at [spotter@richmondbar.org](mailto:spotter@richmondbar.org) or by calling 804-780-0700.

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# RBA SPOTLIGHT



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**Favorite movie or TV show:**  
The Kitchen

**Advice you'd give to a law student:** Explore various areas of the law besides the ones that may initially interest you, as you may surprisingly discover a new passion.

**Person who influenced you the most:**

The person who influenced me the most is my mother, Deborah Smalls-Fowler. She taught me the importance of faith, kindness, and hard work, all core values of my personal and professional life.

**Favorite Richmond Restaurant:**

Lillie Pearl

## Judges reports

*continued from page 5*

up where needed.

Judge Jones is happy to report that case timelines are largely unaffected by the Covid resurgence. Despite the increase in continuances due to Covid exposure, she credits the whole team for pulling together to maintain a normal court docket. The efforts to minimize backlogs have kept cases running smoothly and enabled litigants to be heard within a reasonable amount of time. Even when the need to reschedule a case arises, the lines of communication have been open. Judge Jones encourages counsel and litigants to continue to be proactive in informing the court of their situations and to take advantage of the court's liberal continuance policy as needed.

Finally, Judge Jones thanks all of the court's stakeholders for their patience, understanding, and teamwork. The continued cooperation and dedication to maintaining safety while upholding decorum and efficiency make Judge Jones proud to serve on the Chesterfield Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court.

## Announcements

### Bankruptcy Section's Annual Meeting/ luncheon/CLE program set for May 24th

The Bankruptcy Section will host a luncheon/CLE seminar in conjunction with its Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 beginning at 12:30 p.m. at the Hilton Hotel, 501 E. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23219. It is anticipated that the program presented by the Honorable Keith L. Phillips 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 May 19, 2022; no refunds will be given after this date.

The Bankruptcy Section of the Richmond Bar is soliciting nominations for persons interested in serving on the section's Executive Committee to be elected during the May meeting. Nominations for the Executive Committee (one Executive Committee member position), along with a brief summary of the candidates interest and qualifications, should be forwarded to Amanda Koehn via email ([adkoehn@bolemanlaw.com](mailto:adkoehn@bolemanlaw.com)) no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 8, 2022. Questions may also be directed to Amanda Koehn or Peter Barrett ([peter.barrett@kutakrock.com](mailto:peter.barrett@kutakrock.com)). This year's Nominating Committee consists of Amanda Koehn, Justin Paget and Julia Adair.

### Young Lawyers Section Social set for March 31st at Southern Railway Taphouse

The Young Lawyers Section of the Richmond Bar cordially invites all current and potential members to a Social on Thursday, March 31, 2022. The event will be held at Southern Railway Taphouse located at 100 S. 14th Street, Richmond, VA 23219 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Enjoy an open bar and appetizers on the patio and reconnect with your colleagues and friends. Law students welcome.

### YLS Report of Nominating Committee; Spring Social/ Annual Meeting date set

Pursuant to Section 4.07 of the By-Laws of the Section, a Nominating Committee was appointed to nominate officers and Executive Committee members for election at the Section's Annual Meeting and nominated the following individuals for their respective positions:

*Officers:*

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Joel R. McClellan, Chair         | William J. Egen, Chair-Elect            |
| Shannan M. Fitzgerald, Secretary | Allison F. Rienecker, Immed. Past Chair |

*Executive Committee Members:*

|                   |                       |                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Douglas E. Pitman | Barry D. Gabay        | Shevarma T. Pemberton |
| Reilly C. Moore   | Katherine M. Rockwell | Andrew T. Landrum     |

At the Section's Annual Meeting, the officers and Executive Committee members named above will be presented for election. When finalized, details on the Annual Meeting will be sent to members.

\* \* \* \* \*

Visit us on our webpage, [www.richmondbar.org](http://www.richmondbar.org), for the latest information on luncheons, seminars, socials and Section events.

## Welcome new members

The Richmond Bar Association welcomes the following new members:

Tyler Sanders  
Julia Wadsworth  
Charles Wallace

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.

## Law Day luncheon

*continued from page 1*

sity, Virginia Commonwealth University, Widener University, Saint Paul's College, and The American University.

Judge Gregory began his legal career as an associate with the firm of Butzel, Long, Gust, Klein & Van Zile in Detroit, Michigan. He later associated with the firm of Hunton & Williams in Richmond, Virginia. In 1982, he formed the law firm of Wilder & Gregory with L. Douglas Wilder. Upon Wilder's election as Governor of Virginia, Gregory became managing partner of Wilder & Gregory. He served as managing partner and head of the litigation section of the firm until his appointment to the bench.

He served on the Brown v. Board of Education 50th Anniversary Commission established by the President and Congress to commemorate that landmark decision. By appointment of the Chief Justice of the United States, he served as Chairman of the Judicial Conference Committee on the Administration of the United States Courts from 2006 – 2009.

Judge Gregory's past leadership positions include Chairman of the Industrial Development Authority of Richmond and President of the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia. He is a past rector of and has served on the Board of Visitors for Virginia Commonwealth University. Judge Gregory served on the Board of Visitors of Virginia State University and also, as an adjunct professor of Constitutional Law. He presently serves as Trustee Emeritus for the University of Richmond.

Judges are invited to attend the luncheon free of charge as guests of the Association. However, reservations are required and must be made 48 hours in advance of the program.



Business Law Section members enjoyed food, libations and games at their Social held on February 24th at Topgolf.

# CALENDAR

## April

- 4 Executive Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
- 5 Bench-Bar Conference Committee meeting, 5:00 p.m., 2nd floor conference room
- 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
- 26 Finance Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom

## May

- 2 RBA Law Day Luncheon, Omni Hotel, 12:30 p.m.  
Speaker: Hon. Roger L. Gregory, U.S. Court of Appeals
- 3 Bench-Bar Conference Committee meeting, 5:00 p.m., 2nd floor conference room
- 5 Board of Directors meeting, 12:30 p.m., TBD
- 9 Pro Bono Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
- 10 CLE Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
- 18 Litigation Section Annual Meeting and Judges' Reception, 6:00 p.m., Shagbark
- 19 Lease Committee, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom
- 24 Bankruptcy Section Luncheon/Annual Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Hilton Hotel
- 30 Bar office closed for the holiday
- 31 Executive Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom

## June

- 2 Board of Directors meeting, 12:30 p.m., Hunton Andrews Kurth and via Zoom
- 7 Bench-Bar Conference Committee meeting, 5:00 p.m., 2nd floor conference room
- 9 RBA Night with the Squirrels, time TBA, The Diamond
- 16 Lease Committee, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

## July

- 4 Bar office closed for the holiday
- 5 Bench-Bar Conference Committee meeting, 5:00 p.m., 2nd floor conference room
- 21 Lease Committee, 10:00 a.m., via Zoom

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