



THE RICHMOND BAR

Volume 31, Number 7

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

March 2023

Hanover and Henrico Court Judges provide feedback to Bar Committee

In its continued effort to promote the administration of justice in the Richmond area and to facilitate cooperation between the bench and the bar, the Administration of Justice Committee recently concluded its annual interviews with the **Honorable Judges 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 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 Bar.

He notes that the docket in Hanover has been steadily picking up and reminds the Bar that no lings are accepted by fax in the Circuit Court, but can be emailed, mailed or hand delivered. He stated that the Court does not require a separate copy of briefs as the Clerk is very quick on their turnaround for presenting it to the Court.

If a hearing needs to be changed or moved the best thing to do is call chambers instead of the Clerk. Chambers will be the best point of contact for those types of situations.

As for the ongoing operations after the Covid pandemic, Hanover was never interrupted as much as other circuits. The backlog, therefore, has been smaller, and things have returned to normal. The Court never has and is not currently stacking jury trials.

Although everyone prefers in-person hearings or motions, the Court has allowed continued use of remote options under justified circumstances or there is agreement among counsel. In addition, the Court has seen increased requests for remote options since the pandemic.

The population in Hanover County has continued to grow, and the Court is adding another circuit courtroom in the existing courthouse that will be opening in May. The extra courtroom will allow the Court to handle even more matters.

Judge Harris encourages young lawyers new to litigation to seek the advice of older attorneys who practice in his courtroom to understand better the courtroom's rules and mechanics. He also encourages young attorneys to associate with more veteran attorneys on their matters to help them grow in the trial practice.

Judge Harris encourages any member of the bar to call Chambers or the clerk if there are any questions about court procedures or processes. They are more than happy to help.

The Honorable Hugh S. Campbell **and the Honorable David B. Caddell** *Hanover General District Court*

Judges Caddell and Campbell continue to emphasize how much they appreciate the civility and professionalism of the attorneys practicing in Hanover General District Court. There are only a few items they believe would increase the efficiency of the court.

Regarding criminal matters, the court requests that urgent matters be faxed, but if a matter is not urgent and no hearing is requested then hand delivery or regular mail is preferred. When sending in retainer letters please contact the clerk's office to obtain the officer's available dates. When filing a Motion to Re-Open a concluded case make sure details and support are provided as to why the case should be re-opened. The Judges see this a lot in traffic cases.

The Judges ask that when civil hearings or trials are set by one counsel that a letter is sent to opposing counsel and the clerk is copied.

The judges would like to thank the bar for
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Notice: Composition of Nominating Committee

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

T. O'Connor Johnson, Chair
Daniel E. Lynch
Terrence L. Graves
Brian L. Hager
G. Williams Norris, Jr.
Anne G. Scher
Douglas D. Callaway

To be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Association, scheduled to take place on Wednesday, April 19, 2023 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 T. O'Connor Johnson, c/o Richmond Bar Association, P.O. Box 1213, Richmond, VA 23218 or e-mailed to him at toj@thejohnsoninjuryfirm.com and must be received by 12:00 noon on **Monday, February 27, 2023**.

Law Day!

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Bar's Law Day Luncheon on Monday, May 1st featuring remarks by the Hon. Wesley G. Russell, Jr., Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia

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

Harman Claytor Corrigan & Wellman welcomes five new attorneys to the firm's Richmond office:

Gretchen A. Jackson is Senior Of Counsel, concentrating on insurance defense, transportation litigation, tort defense, business litigation and construction law;

Ronald P. Herbert joins as a Partner focusing on products liability, mass tort, and medical malpractice defense with extensive trial and appellate experience handling numerous complex litigation matters;

Sarah M. Collie is an Associate and focuses her practice on defending local governmental entities and their employees from claims asserting constitutional violations or other violations of federal law;

Imani E. Sowell joins as an Associate concentrating her practice on medical malpractice, products liability, and premises liability matters; and

Surge N. Moghaddassi is an Associate and defends cases involving motor vehicle liability, premises and products liability, professional liability, and commercial litigation.

Melissa E. O'Boyle has joined **Gentry Locke's** Richmond office as a partner. As a member of the firm's Criminal & Government Investigations practice, she will work with clients to ensure compliance with increased regulatory oversight across a variety of industries including insurance, healthcare, government contracting, natural resources, banking, securities and financial institutions.



THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND

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

Edited by Lelia N. Martin



Spring Cocktail Party

Wednesday, April 19, 2023

at Willow Oaks Country Club

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Cost to attend is \$55 per RBA member

First non-member guest - \$55

additional non-member guests - \$70

Includes an open bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres

Attire is business casual

Make reservations at <https://www.richmondbar.org/events/event/scp-4-19-23/>



Principle of Professionalism #6

To be candid, courteous, truthful and reliable in our relationships with each other, our clients, opposing parties, and the judiciary, and to avoid conduct that we would regard as offensive if directed toward us.

The McCammon Group

is pleased to announce our newest Neutral



Geetha Ravindra, Esq.

Mediator & Vice President of Ombuds Services

Geetha Ravindra has recently joined The McCammon Group to serve as a mediator and as our Vice President for Ombuds Services. Geetha has over 30 years of dispute resolution experience in international, federal, and state organizations. She began her career with the Supreme Court of Virginia where she managed court-connected mediation programs for 11 years. For many years she provided mediation and training for the World Bank Group, and several federal and state agencies. Geetha then served as in-house Mediator and Ombuds for the International Monetary Fund and the Center for Global Development. Most recently, she was Director of Workplace Relations for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. She is an International Ombuds Association Certified Organizational Ombuds and a Virginia Supreme Court Certified Mediator. Geetha is past Chair of the ABA Section of Dispute Resolution, past President of the Virginia Mediation Network, and past Chair of the VSB-VBA ADR Committee. Geetha now brings this wide-ranging background and experience to The McCammon Group to serve the mediation and ombuds needs of lawyers, litigants, and organizations throughout VA/DC/MD and the Nation.

THE
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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

Administration of Justice Committee receives comments

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their continued patience and consideration as we all put our best foot forward in making court dockets run as efficiently and timely as possible post pandemic.

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

As we enter 2023, Judge Hoehl wishes to remind the bar of the opportunities available to serve as a guardian ad litem (“GAL”) and court-appointed counsel. The Court is experiencing a need for both, now more than ever. It is preferred that attorneys seeking to serve as a GAL also be on the Hanover Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court’s court-appointed list, and vice versa. The Court is appreciative of any attorney will to serve as a GAL or court-appointed counsel, or both. For attorneys on the list, you 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 their assigned duty 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. If you are interested in serving as a GAL and/or court-appoint counsel, please contact the Hanover Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court’s Clerk’s Office.

New this year, Hanover JDR has created a child-witness room. The child-witness room is located outside the courtroom and has been decorated with a children’s themed mural and outfitted with a television, DVD player, books, drawing easel, and other children’s play toys. The child-witness room is a welcome addition to the Court and will provide a place of comfort and security for children attending court. Judge Hoehl has opened the room and made it available for anyone that needs to bring a child to court – whether for criminal hearings, custody/visitation hearings, or if a child just needs to attend court for any reason.

Regarding the bar, 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. In addition to the cordiality, Judge Hoehl shared her

thanks for the lawyers generally being so well prepared and considerate. There is one area that attorneys can work on when appearing before Judge Hoehl and in Hanover Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court, which is attorneys being on time. While the Court understands busy and compact schedules, it does not like having to call attorneys to ask where they are. Instead, attorneys should proactively call the Clerk’s Office if running late. Another area for improvement by attorneys to not assume a case is continued because of an agreement between counsel. A case is not continued until an Order is entered. Lastly, effective January 1, 2023, the Court will not process DC-40 vouchers unless they are accompanied by the GAL certification.

The Court’s goal is to set cases not more than three or four months following the pretrial hearing for contested cases of three hours, 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, the Court will grant the request. If the Court denies the request for an emergency hearing, a GAL will be appointed. The GAL may separately petition the Court for an emergency hearing, if the GAL understands that an emergency does exist.

With respect to those serving as a GAL, the Court wishes to remind all GALs to conduct a comprehensive investigation, which includes meeting with the child and both parties prior to court. It is only in rare circumstances that a GAL would not need to meet with a child prior to court. To the extent the GAL has not been able to conduct a thorough investigation, the Court would prefer the GAL request a continuance rather than proceed with incomplete or insufficient information.

Lastly, 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. Judge Hoehl met with stakeholders during the summer of 2022 and is looking forward to scheduling a meeting during the summer of 2023. For those interested, please contact the Clerk’s Office.

The Honorable John Marshall Henrico Circuit Court

Judge Marshall continues to appreciate the civility and professionalism of those

who practice before the Court. The Court is operating with five judges and, with recent renovations complete, now has six courtrooms.

The number of criminal juries has greatly increased with the recent change in state law that allows judges, not juries, to determine sentences. Given the overall increase in the number of criminal jury trials being scheduled and the longer than usual wait for jury trials, Judge Marshall encourages litigants to keep their trial dates and not request continuances unless absolutely necessary. When trials are continued, available trial dates are typically a year out from when they are continued.

Judge Marshall said that the Court is currently scheduling trial dates approximately one year from when the litigants contact the Court to schedule a trial date. Henrico Circuit Court can try four jury trials each day, with a priority given to criminal trials. Trials are typically set on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Mondays are usually reserved for domestic matters and Fridays for motions hearings. Given the number of civil matters that settle and criminal matters where there is a plea agreement, the Court has not yet had a problem with overscheduling but anticipates that could be an issue with the increase in criminal juries.

Judge Marshall praised the Court’s jury officers’ efforts in keeping jury trials moving smoothly. The Court has a jury panel for each courtroom and therefore counsel have been provided with their jury panel sometimes as early as two weeks in advance of the trial.

Judge Marshall encourages all lawyers, especially young lawyers, to always introduce themselves to the Court. Do not assume that the judge remembers your name. Further, Judge Marshall expects all counsel to communicate with each other to attempt to resolve discovery matters before appearing in Court. Henrico Circuit Court judges are more apt to award attorney’s fees in discovery disputes against counsel who fails to communicate by telephone, or at least by e-mail, to resolve a dispute before a hearing.

For motions in limine and other pretrial motions, Judge Marshall encourages litigants to file such motions and schedule hearings well in advance of trial. This help keep trials moving and prevents unnecessary delays.

Judge Marshall reminds attorneys that plan on using technology in the courtroom to make sure that their technology works

regarding dockets, juries, civility, GALs and new programs

well in advance of trial. The Court’s newest courtroom is equipped with multiple monitors for jurors, counsel, and witnesses. The Court encourages litigants to work with the Sheriff’s office as well as the Court’s IT department to work out any technical difficulties in advance so that trials are not delayed.

The Honorable Lauren A. Caudill Henrico General District Court

Henrico General District Court returned to pre-COVID protocol in 2022 which allowed more cases to be docketed and a more timely disposition. Judge Bondurant retired at the end of January and unfortunately his seat was not filled during the 2022 session of the General Assembly. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the retired and substitute judges who gave hours of their time to provide us the opportunity to operate five courtrooms on a daily basis. It is our hope that the General Assembly will fill the open judgeship during the 2023 session. We also begin the new year with the retirement of our wonderful clerk, Barbara Shaw, who leaves us at the end of January. We are very fortunate to welcome Carol Kennedy from the Richmond General District Court as our new clerk beginning February 1, 2023, who comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience. Please stop by her office if you are in Henrico to welcome Carol to our Henrico family.

In 2022 we witnessed continued success with our Mental Health Diversion Program, where individuals with serious mental health issues, who diagnosis contributed to their offense, have been diverted from standard court system channels into a program that provides wrap-around services to include mental health counseling, medication management and assistance in finding housing. These are individuals who have often experienced repeated incarceration due to not having proper services in place to address their mental health issues. With support from the County, we have now completed the required training to apply to the Virginia Supreme Court for a full Behavioral Health Docket which will extend services to an even greater number of individuals in the community.

The Honorable Sharon G. Jacobs Henrico Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court

This year, the Henrico Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court proudly touts an all-female bench. The Honorable

Marissa D. Mitchell, the Court’s newest Judge, spearheaded a “best practices” team for agencies serving children, including the Court Services Unit, the Commonwealth’s Attorney Office, the Department of Social Services, and the Guardian Ad Litem pro-gram. Representatives from each group get together to coordinate efforts and share their challenges and solutions.

Like many juvenile courts, the Henrico J&DR Court has been contending with two chief concerns: gun violence and truancy. Task forces implemented to seek solutions on both issues have made major advancements. First, the Virginia Juvenile Community Crime Control Act Program recently completed an RFP process to establish a weapons program. The contract was awarded to A New Legacy Family Services, and the program is identified as the Weapons and Violence Prevention Program. Second, collaboration among the Clerk’s Office/Court Services Unit, Henrico County Public Schools, the Henrico County Commonwealth’s Attorney Office, and Henrico County’s Deputy County Manager for Public Safety, Michael Feinmel, has resulted in a truancy protocol that seeks parental participation first through school social workers and only escalates to J&DR filings if the initial efforts are unsuccessful.

The biggest challenge faced by the Court over the past year has been a severe staffing shortage in the Clerk’s Office. Out of 23 positions, only 14 were filled at the time of Judge Jacobs’s interview in January 2023. Although cases are moving more slowly than is ideal, the Court is addressing the problem by consolidating dockets where possible and calling all hands on deck to help relieve the clerks’ extremely heavy workloads. Judge Jacobs is optimistic that this problem is abating, but in the meantime, she thanks those who appear before the court for their patience and understanding.

Efforts to promote efficient resolution at the district court level have been crucial. Henrico’s General District Court is located in a building separate from the J&DR Court. Last year, an arrangement was worked out for cross-designations so that individuals who are subpoenaed as witnesses are no longer required to go to two separate courts. For example, in the case of a DUI where the parent had a child in the car and therefore would also face child neglect charges in the J&DR Court, cross-designations keep the

cases together to make better use of witness and judicial time and allow the justice system to better serve the public.

Judge Jacobs drew attention to Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) cases. SIJS is an avenue for undocumented children to obtain legal status when they cannot be reunified with one or both parents due to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or a similar basis and it is not in the child’s best interest to return to their home country. The policy for the Henrico JDR Court is that one petition must be filed for custody by the child’s potential guardian and a second petition must be filed for the state court to make the federally required SIJS findings. Judge Jacobs emphasized that if SIJS cases come in a single petition, the Court must get in touch with the filing attorney to separate the case into two petitions, resulting in extra work for the clerks and potential delay in having matters ultimately resolved.

Similarly, to reduce the workload for clerks, the Court asks that attorneys refrain from duplicate filings. Please file a motion, petition, letter, order, or any other court paper or request by one method only: by email, in person, by fax, or by mail. All methods are acceptable. Using only one method of filing is strongly preferred.

The Court is grateful to all court-appointed counsel, retained attorneys, and guardians ad litem for the grace they have extended as the Court dealt with its staffing shortage. Judge Jacobs gave a special thank you to the Court’s Clerk, Shannon Meadowcroft, who has done a phenomenal job of balancing dockets, sitting as a courtroom clerk when necessary, managing administrative tasks, and filling in wherever she is needed. It is dedicated employees like Ms. Meadowcroft who help keep the wheels of justice in rotation at the J&DR Court.

Mark your calendar and plan to join your colleagues for the 31st annual Bench-Bar Conference on Thursday, October 19, 2023 at the Greater Richmond Convention Center. Breakouts will include sessions on civil, criminal and juvenile & domestic relations law.

Anxiety's Impact on Our Work and Ethical Responsibilities - Avoiding a Disruptive Cycle

Legal professionals are exposed to many stresses, which can impact their professional lives and jeopardize ethical competency. This program will teach attorneys how to develop and assess their wellness needs and risks and offer changes that can be made both at home and in the work-place. Gain a better understanding of how your brain and body function with and without chronic stress and learn what wellness and self-care mean for your practice and personal life. Speakers are Janet Van Cuyk, Deputy Executive Director of the Virginia State Bar and Barbara Mardigian, LPC, Clinical Director of the Virginia Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program.

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

You will receive confirmation of your registration.

The Zoom invitation and written materials will be sent 1-2 days prior to the program.

Free for RBA members who paid their 2022-23 dues by 9/1/22 and didn't attend one of the RBA's Fall ethics programs
\$75 for members (\$85 after March 21); \$150 for non-members (\$160 after March 21)
\$40 for support staff (\$50 after March 21)

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT THIS PROGRAM WILL BE APPROVED BY THE VIRGINIA MCLE BOARD
FOR **2.0 HOURS** OF LIVE, INTERACTIVE ETHICS CREDIT

Register using a credit card at <https://www.richmondbar.org/cle/registration/>. Checks should be mailed to Richmond Bar Association, P.O. Box 1213, Richmond, VA 23218. If you are eligible to receive the program free of charge, contact Sharon Potter at spotter@richmondbar.org.

Cancellation of registration for continuing legal education seminars is allowed up to one week prior to the seminar. Refunds or credits to a member's discount program account will be given up to one week prior to the date of the seminar.

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Nominations are being accepted for 2023 RBA Awards! Deadlines extended to May 12th

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: Edward D. Barnes (2022), 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)

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: Sarah B. Warner (2022), 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)

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: Kyle R. Elliott (2022), 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.

Deanna H. Hathaway (deanna@hathawayadair.com)

Julie M. Cillo (jcillo@owenowens.com)

T. O'Connor Johnson (toj@thejohnsoninjuryfirm.com)

R. Braxton Hill IV (bhill@cblaw.com)

Jennifer J. West (jwest@spottsfain.com)

Trail Walk on April 6th focuses on wellness in the legal profession

Join your colleagues for a fun, relaxing trail walk on April 6th beginning at 5:30 p.m. Walkers will take the loop that follows the scenic Belle Isle trail system. Participants will have the option of a 1.5 mile or 3 mile route. Additional information including the meeting spot will appear in the April newsletter.

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Visit us on Facebook, LinkedIn or our webpage, www.richmondbar.org, for the latest information on luncheons, seminars, socials and section events

Local judges and lawyers mingle at Litigation Section's annual reception

On January 26th, the Association's Litigation Section hosted its annual Reception Honoring the Judiciary which took place at Shagbark. Nearly 70 participants enjoyed the collegial atmosphere and promoted the good relations that we enjoy between our bench and bar



Metro Pro Bono Sampler

Justice Server <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
Legal Aid Justice Center Housing Law Program <i>Provides pro bono legal assistance with housing issues ranging from eviction notices to unlawful detainers</i>	Louisa Rich	643-1086
Hunton Andrews Kurth Churchill Office <i>Provides pro bono services to financially limited persons in the areas of family law, housing & real estate, guardianships and domestic violence.</i>	Cassandra Reynolds	775-2248
Pro Bono Clearinghouse <i>A service of the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation that provides pro bono legal services to non-profit organizations</i>	Ami Kim	780-2600
CancerLINC <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
Richmond Domestic Violence Project <i>Represents victims of domestic violence in obtaining protective orders in Richmond J&DR Court</i>	Robbi Gray	775-1227
Harry L. Carrico Center for Pro Bono Services (UR Law) <i>Pro Bono services provided by law students and attorneys</i>	Tara Casey	287-1207
No Fault Divorce Program <i>Pairs volunteer attorneys with law students who together represent clients seeking no-fault divorces</i>	Tara Casey	287-1207
Central Virginia Legal Aid Society Emergency Lawyer Program <i>Provides volunteer attorneys to assist CVLAS in emergency cases</i>	Steve Dickinson	648-1012
Community Tax Law Project <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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Client Portal

Access critical business intelligence and analytics on-demand and in real time from anywhere.

From customizable alerts and layouts to robust reporting, Client Portal has dynamic and interactive dashboards that give you the insights you need to **improve profitability**—including key financial metrics such as:

- Invoicing totals by period
- Accrued, but unbilled, work-in-progress
- Aging detail
- Payment status and history
- Aggregate invoicing totals over time, including visual alerts of budget attainment
- Budget consumption

Contact us to learn how your organization can benefit from **Client Portal**.



Renee Covington

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RBA SPOTLIGHT



PRESTON LLOYD

Williams Mullen
Member since 2011

Person/mentor who influenced you the most: I've had some incredible professional mentors but my mother's example stands out. Her path led from law school (the first class of women at W&L) to in-house with a corporation, and ultimately to leading a community foundation

in Hampton Roads. Her professional success influenced how I think about the role of attorneys in bettering our community, which in turn was a big part of why I felt at home with my colleagues at Williams Mullen.

Favorite place to vacation: Bald Heald Island, North Carolina. Being a barrier island with no cars (and spotty cell service), it's a great retreat to unplug with family. It's become our 5-y.o.'s happy place too.

Favorite Richmond restaurant: Heritage – esp. when the Richmond Forum has a speaker at the Altria Theater down the street.

Favorite book: A Year In Provence by Peter Mayle – hilarious account of an ex-pat living in the south of France

Your pets: Our 2-y.o. golden retriever, Brookie, makes up for what she lacks in training with enthusiastic affection. She rules the house.

Advice you'd give to a law student: Enjoy the ride. The practice of law can be professionally rewarding, but often it's a grind. You have three years to explore, to dream, to experiment and to change your mind. There will be plenty of time to learn how to practice law – for most of us, that starts after the Bar Exam. You probably won't get another opportunity for diverse and wide-ranging intellectual exploration.

Your main hobby: Trout fishing -- in the Shenandoah National Park or Shields Lake near our home in Byrd Park (which the state actually stocks!).

Welcome new members

The Richmond Bar Association welcomes the following new members:

- Kollin Bender
- Savanna Clendining
- Shannon Delano
- Meredith Doswell
- Emily Fahey
- Abram Gagnon
- John Harms
- Erin Harrigan
- Matthew Hawkins
- Katherine Lafayette
- Harley McClellan
- Benedict Roemer
- Rebecca Seeger
- Noriya Shahadat
- Magnolia Stuart

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.

RBA's website is a useful resource

Did you know that you can renew your dues and register for events online using your Visa or MasterCard? The Bar's website, www.richmondbar.org, is also an easy way to locate information on awards, events, Sections, Committees and local court procedures and news.

Manage your own membership information using the Bar's on-line Pictorial Directory. You can also use the Directory to search for members' contact information, undergraduate and law school affiliations and areas of practice listings, as well as photos if they have been provided.

From the webpage, access the Directory by hovering over the Membership tab and clicking on Member Directory. Enter your username (your Virginia State Bar number) and password (default password is RBA2012) in the Membership Directory login box on the right side of the page. You will have the opportunity to change the default password from your personal page. If you do not have a VSB number or have questions, contact Sharon Potter at the Bar office at 804-780-0700 or spotter@richmondbar.org.

Announcements

Litigation Section teams with Federal Bar in February for program at U.S. Courthouse; CLE seminar/social set for March 16th

The Litigation Section and the Federal Bar Association, Richmond Chapter have joined forces to present a CLE program followed by a reception at the Spottswood W. Robinson III & Robert R. Merhige, Jr., U.S. Courthouse on Tuesday, February 28, 2023. The CLE program, titled "Introduction to the Federal Courthouse," begins at 2:30 p.m. (Courtroom 7000) and will feature presentations by expert practitioners and Richmond Division judges.

There are several registration options: (private sector rate/public sector rate)

- Option 1: CLE + Reception + FBA/RBA Membership*: \$125/\$100
- Option 2: CLE + Reception: \$50/\$40
- Option 3: Reception Only: \$25/\$15

**Not a member of the FBA or RBA? Option 1 includes membership in the FBA through September 30, 2023, and the RBA through May 31, 2023, plus the CLE and Reception.*

To register, email LA Kuykendall (la.kuykendall@troutman.com) by Feb. 21, 2023 with your name and option. Checks for the associated program cost should be made payable to "FBA Richmond Chapter" and mailed to LA Kuykendall, Troutman Pepper Hamilton Sanders LLP, 1001 Haxall Point, Richmond, VA 23219.

Visit <https://www.richmondbar.org/litigation/> for full details.

On Thursday, March 16, 2023 the Litigation Section will host a CLE seminar followed by happy hour beginning at 3:30 p.m. at Spotts Fain, 411 E. Franklin Street, Suite 600, Street, Richmond, VA 23219. Speakers for the program, titled "To Plea, or not to Plea - A Primer on the Plea in Bar," are Eddie Bagnell of Spotts Fain and JJ Siegner of Allen, Allen, Allen and Allen. It is anticipated that the program will be approved for 1.5 hour of MCLE credit. Space is limited to 30 Litigation Section attendees on a first-come, first served basis. Cost to attend is \$20; register at <https://www.richmondbar.org/litigation/>.

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Do you have a suggestion for a luncheon speaker, a great idea for a wellness event or an interesting topic for a Private Conversation Series program? The Programs Committee is hard at work planning events for the 2023-24 Bar year. Contact Deanna Hathaway (deanna.hathaway@kinsaleins.com), Chair of the Programs Committee.



Notice: Appointment of YLS 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:

- Allison F. Rienecker
- Alexandria E. Cuff
- Kyle R. Elliott
- Lindsey Strachan Komisin
- Gibson S. Wright
- Joel R. McClellan

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 Friday, February 17, 2023. 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.

Shannan Fitzgerald, Secretary
c/o Richmond Bar Association
P.O. Box 1213 Richmond, Virginia 23218
shannan.fitzgerald2@rva.gov

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 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) by hovering over the "News" tab at the top of the home page and click on Local Court Orders.

CALENDAR

March

- 13 Pro Bono Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
- 14 CLE Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
- 16 Litigation Section CLE seminar & happy hour, 3:30 p.m., Spotts Fain
- 20 Executive Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
- 23 Board of Directors meeting, 12:30 p.m., Hunton Andrews Kurth
- 28 CLE Seminar: Anxiety's Impact on Our Work and Ethical Responsibilities, 4:00 p.m., via Zoom

April

- 3 Executive Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
- 4 Bench-Bar Conference Committee meeting, 4th floor conference room
- 6 Board of Directors meeting, 12:30 p.m., Hunton Andrews Kurth
- 6 Trail Walk, 5:30 p.m., Belle Isle Trail
- 19 Annual Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Willow Oaks Country Club
- 19 Spring Cocktail Party, 6:00 p.m., Willow Oaks Country Club
- 20 Finance Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
- 24 Executive Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom

May

- 1 RBA Law Day Luncheon, Omni Hotel, 12:30 p.m.
Speaker: Hon. Wesley Russell, Jr., Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia
- 2 Bench-Bar Conference Committee meeting, via Zoom
- 4 Board of Directors meeting, 12:30 p.m., Hunton Andrews Kurth
- 8 Pro Bono Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
- 9 CLE Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom
- 10 Executive Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., Bar office
- 23 Bankruptcy Section Luncheon/Annual Meeting, 12:30 p.m., Hilton Hotel
- 29 Bar office closed for the holiday

June

- 8 Board of Directors meeting, 12:30 p.m., Hunton Andrews Kurth
- 6 Bench-Bar Conference Committee meeting, 5:00 p.m., 2nd floor conference room
- 19 Bar office closed for the holiday
- 26 Executive Committee meeting, 12:30 p.m., via Zoom

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City of Richmond
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