



THE RICHMOND BAR

2023-2024 Special Edition

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

Introducing The Richmond Bar Association's "Special Edition" Newsletter!

The RBA has added this ninth publication for the purpose of reflecting on the past bar year & sharing important notices and information pertaining to the upcoming bar year. We hope you enjoy!

The Richmond Bar Association's Upcoming Events

LAW DAY LUNCHEON

May 1, 2024 | 12:30-2:00 PM

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES

Details coming soon!

SUMMER ASSOCIATE BREAKFAST

June 20, 2024 | 8:30 AM

Riverfront East Plaza Lobby

RBA NIGHT WITH THE SQUIRRELS

August 22, 2024 | 5:30 PM

The Diamond



FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A COMPLETE LIST OF EVENTS, SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

WWW.RICHMONDBAR.ORG/ALL-EVENTS/

'Tis the Season for Section Annual Meetings

For complete information see page 3.

Bankruptcy Section | May 21, 2024
12:30 P.M. | Downtown Hilton
CLE, Luncheon & Meeting

Business Law Section | May 15, 2024
5:0-7:30 PM | Shagbark
Social Event & Meeting

Corporate Counsel Section | May 14, 2024
Details Coming Soon
Social Event & Meeting

Environmental & Energy Law Section
May 1, 2024 | 5-6 PM | Brambly Park
Social Event & Meeting

Litigation Section | May 16th
6-8 PM | Shagbark
Social Event & Meeting

Real Estate Section | TBD
Details Coming Soon
Social Event & Meeting

Young Lawyers Section | May 23, 2024
6-8PM | Southern Railway Taphouse
Social Event & Meeting

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN: Remarks from RBA President

Julie M. Cillo

Putting together this Special Edition of our newsletter has been a fun look at a great year. I can't thank our Board enough for all of the time, energy, and ideas that they have committed to the RBA. Today, though, I want to give special recognition to two people who are our right hand and left hand: Annie Holland and Sharon Potter.

Annie is getting ready to complete her first year as our Executive Director and has done a tremendous job. She has brought great perspective and new approaches to help us evolve and improve. And, she has even learned how to deal with lawyers, which is a feat unto itself!



Sharon has been with us for over thirty years. In her role as Membership Director, she provides invaluable support to all of our programs including the bar as a whole and our Sections. Sharon does not like to be the center of attention and humbly watches our successes without taking any of the credit she deserves. So, if you see her at an upcoming event, be sure to give her an extra thank you.

As you look at the pictures and memories of this Special Edition, Annie and Sharon have been a huge part of making them happen. Thanks to both of you!

-Julie M. Cillo

Past President's Dinner

This month, twenty-two members of the Richmond Bar, including twelve past RBA presidents, the current Executive Committee, and the RBA staff, attended the annual Past President's Dinner at The Boathouse at Rockett's Landing.



Right to left: Gregory F. Holland, Douglas D. Callaway, James C. Shannon, Rick Witthoefft, Lee N. Martin, Hugh M. Fain III, Debra J. Prillaman, John K. Burke Jr., T. O'Connor Johnson, Daniel E. Lynch, Hon. W. Reilly Marchant, Jennifer J. West, R. Braxton Hill IV, Sharon R. Potter, Michael W. Smith, Julie M. Cillo, Deanna H. Hathaway, Annie M. Holland



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 **aholland@richmondbar.org** or mailed to Annie Holland, at P.O. Box 1213, Richmond, VA 23218

The *Witmeyer Law Firm* is proud to announce they have hired **Zach Cranford** as an Associate Attorney working with the firm in both their Ashland and Fredericksburg offices. Cranford started with the firm approx. 6 weeks ago and they are excited to have him as part of their lawyer group.

Connie Clay is happy to announce the opening of Clay Law, PLLC. Connie will assist clients in family law, conservatorships, guardianships, and child dependency matters. Connie is available to assist clients throughout Central Virginia, and she is available to assist attorneys with overflow work. Contact Connie at Hello@ClayLawVA.com.

At the Annual Meetings, the Sections will elect the Officers and Executive Committee to preside over the 2024-2025 term of the Section. The Nominating Committee of each Section has nominated the following persons:

Business Law Section

Chair: John "Jake" L. Spilman, Jr.

Chair-Elect: W. Ashley Burgess

Secretary: Clarke J. Bonney

Immediate Past Chair: Clay M. Bennett

Executive Committee Members:

L. Daniel Bidwell Edward B. Lumpkin

Rebecca C. Bowen J. Thomas O'Brien, Jr.

Joseph A. Goldman

Environmental & Energy Section

Chair: Timothy G. McCormick

Chair-Elect: Jasdeep S. Khaira

Secretary: Katherine E. Kulbok

Immediate Past Chair: Timothy L. McHugh

Executive Committee Members:

Emily M. Guillaume C. Dixon Wallace, III

Benjamin E. Sloan

Young Lawyers Section

Chair: Shannan M. Fitzgerald

Chair-Elect: Reilly C. Moore

Secretary: Katherine M. Rockwell

Immediate Past Chair: William J. Egen

Executive Committee Members:

Timothy C. Benjamin Dylan D. Bishop Briana M. Jackson

Andrew T. Landrum Emily S. Mordecai Amanda L. Short

**Want to advertise in
the newsletter?**

The RBA offers organizations
the chance to submit
advertisements to be featured
in the newsletter.

Please email Executive
Director, Annie Holland, at
aholland@richmondbar.org
for our ad policy and rates.

**VJLAP offers support groups
for legal professionals**

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:

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

VJLAP educates on individuals on the impacts of chemical dependency and mental health disorders. Early treatment is key for successful recovery. For assistance call the VJLAP 24-Hour Confidential Help Line at 1-877-545-4682.

MAY

1st - Law Day Luncheon | 12:30-2:00 | Lewis Ginter
1st - Envir. & Energy Annual Meeting | 5:00 | Brambly Park
2nd - Board meeting | 12:30 | Hunton Andrews Kurth
7th - CLE Committee Meeting | 12:30 | Zoom
13th - Pro Bono Committee Meeting | 12:30 | Zoom
14th - Corporate Counsel Annual Meeting | **Details to come**
15th - Business Law Annual Meeting | 5:30 | Shagbark
16th - Litigation Annual Meeting | 6:00 | Shagbark
21st - Bankruptcy Annual Meeting | 12:30 | Broad St. Hilton
21st - Bankruptcy CLE & Lunch | 12:30 | Broad St. Hilton
22nd - RBA x JLAP Program | 4:00-5:30 | Zoom
23rd - YLS Annual Meeting | 6:00 | Southern Railway Taphouse
27th - RBA Office Closed

JUNE

3rd - Executive Committee Meeting | 12:30 | Zoom
6th - Board Meeting | 12:30 | Hunton Andrews Kurth
20th - RBA Summer Associate Breakfast | 8:30AM |
Riverfront East Plaza Lobby
27th - Family Law Section Social | 6:00 | Crafted

For a complete list and detailed
information regarding RBA events, please
visit our website at richmondbar.org

Chesterfield County Government is seeking an Assistant Commonwealth Attorney

A Chesterfield County application is
required and must be submitted online by
deadline. Visit **chesterfield.gov/careers** to
view instructions and to complete and
submit an application.

Position is open until filled (first review to
begin April 15, 2024)

Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority
(RRHA) is looking for an Associate General Counsel to
support the General Counsel in providing
representation of RRHA as an institutional client.

Visit [the website](#) for full job description.

Thanks to our 2023-2024 Select Sponsors





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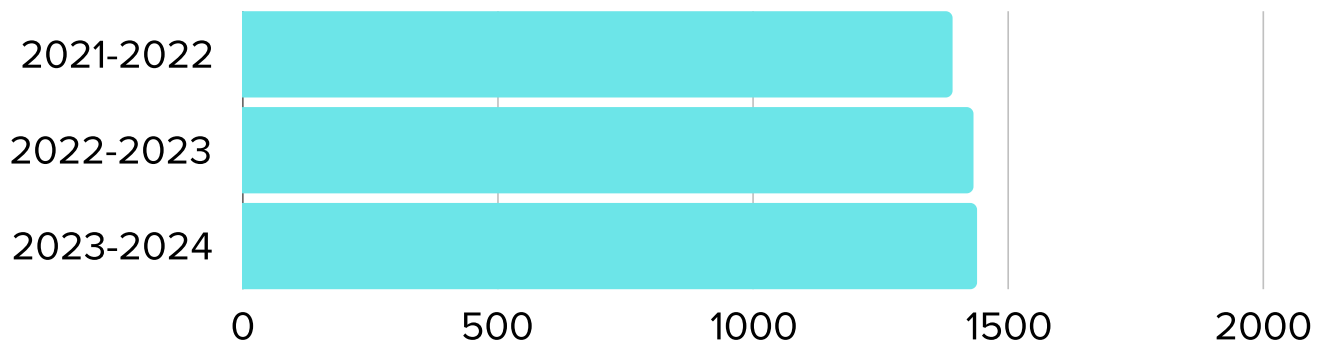
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THE RICHMOND BAR ASSOCIATION

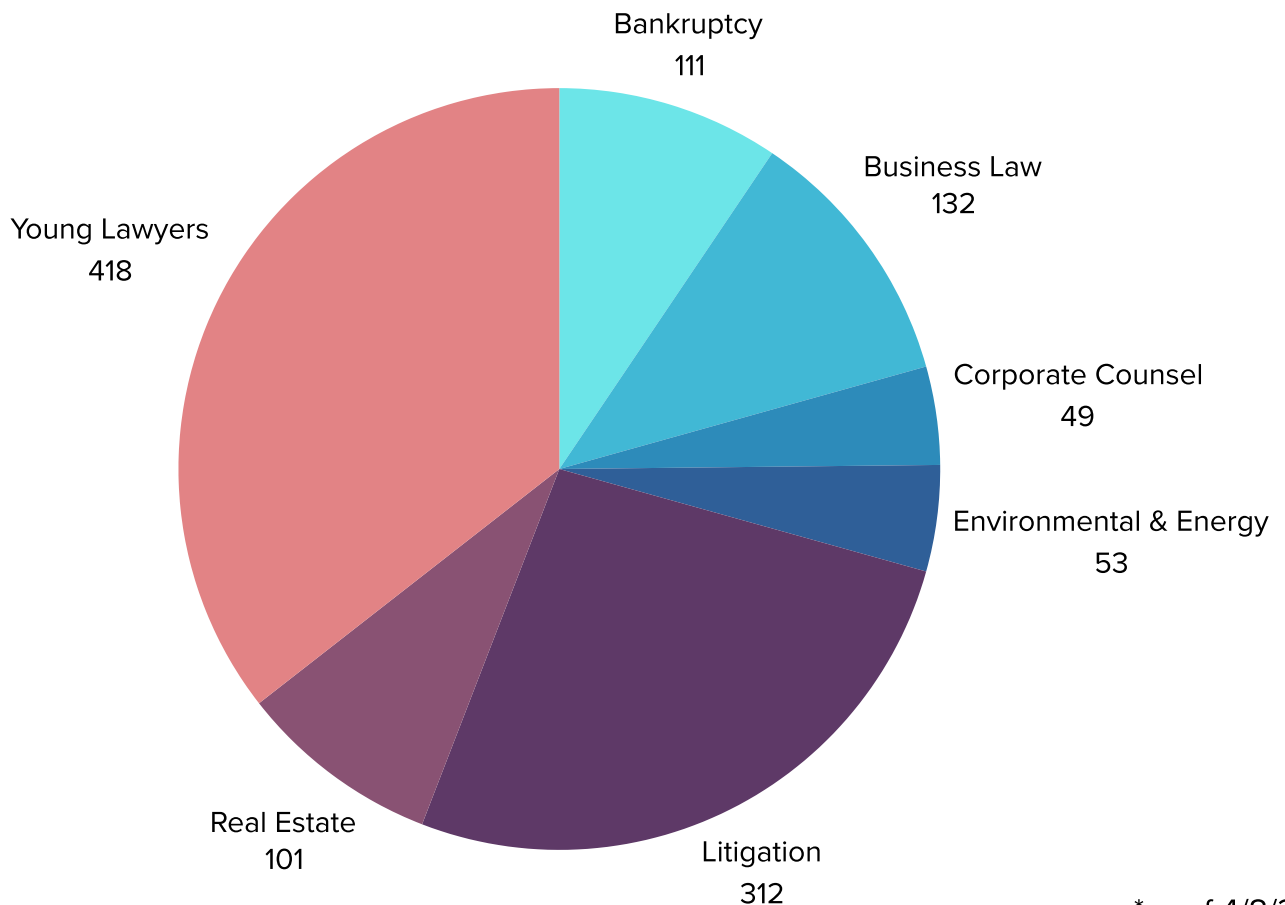
**YEAR IN
REVIEW**



Membership in Numbers, Year-Over-Year



Section Members*



*as of 4/8/2024



Membership that Makes An Impact

The purpose of the Richmond Bar Association is to (1) facilitate the administration of justice; (2) promote legal and judicial reform; (3) preserve the highest standards of integrity, dignity, honor, and courtesy among members of the legal profession; (4) establish and maintain an appropriate liaison with the judiciary and other bar associations; (5) cultivate and advance the cause of jurisprudence; and to (6) cultivate and promote the spirit of camaraderie and good fellowship among its members. To further its purpose, the RBA has put on...

15

CLE Seminars



304

CLE Seminar Attendees



8

Service Projects &
Community Events

1

Round(s) of
Judicial Interviews

22

Chief Judge
Interviews

>30

Section Events



12

Total Number of
RBA Committees

9

Total Number of
RBA Sections





Dynamic Programming & Engaging Events

Number of Attendees at Each Event

112

Squirrels Game

107

Member Appreciation Social

161

Bench Bar
Conference

130

Awards Luncheon

265

Holiday Cocktail
Party

145

Spring Cocktail
Party*

125

Law Day Luncheon*

1,031

Total Number of
Members who
Attended an RBA
Event

*Event has not yet occurred
at time of publishing.
Numbers are based on
both current registration
and estimates from
previous years.





Bar Year in Review

RBA Sections



Bankruptcy

The Bankruptcy Section enjoyed another active year. We've continued to hold regular CLE luncheons on an almost monthly basis. These events have been well-attended, averaging 40 participants per meeting. McGuireWoods graciously hosted our section's holiday party on December 6, 2023. The section was able to also set up a CLE for the holiday party and members indicated they enjoyed this event.

The Bankruptcy Section held the 22nd Annual Hon. Douglas O. Tice, Jr. Judicial Roundtable on April 10, 2024. Judge Tice has recently passed and we hope that this was another opportunity to honor his legacy in the law. We will be holding our annual business meeting on May 21, 2024. We anticipate Judge Phillips presenting at the meeting, with Judge Black and Connor William Symons. The current membership is at 107 Bankruptcy Section members. We'd love to see this number go up in the coming year and are working diligently to engage additional practitioners that could benefit from active membership.

-Johnie Muncy, Chair

The Business Law Section enjoyed another successful year. Section membership remains strong, and our members benefit from the diverse perspectives and contributions of practitioners from a growing number of law firms, businesses and government agencies from throughout the Richmond region. The success of our most recent CLE—a well-attended panel discussion of sweeping regulatory changes affecting our practices—is a testament to the membership's ability to draw on its collective resources to provide value to our local bar and the broader legal community. As this bar year draws to a close, we look forward to a new year of growth and engagement under the leadership of Jake Spilman and the Executive Committee.

-Clay M. Bennett, Chair

Business Law

Corporate Counsel

This bar year, the Corporate Counsel section of the RBA held a CLE & happy hour in conjunction with the Business Law Section in the fall which was well-attended. The Section continues to remain steady in its membership numbers, with hope to increase them in the 24-25 year. Tyler Green, incoming chair of the Corporate Counsel section, is working with the current executive committee to solidify the Officers and new slate for next year's executive committee. Details will be coming soon for the Corporate Counsel section's annual meeting and we hope to have a great turn out. Please reach out to Tyler Green or Ken Clendenin if you are interested in joining the executive committee or have questions about the annual meeting.

-Ken C. Clendenin, Chair



Environmental & Energy Law

The RBA Environmental & Energy Law Section is looking forward to a successful bar year in 2024-2025!

Family Law

The all new Family Law Section is looking forward to the next bar year to begin holding socials and educational programs for its members. The Executive Committee of the Section is hard at work planning these events and looks forward to seeing you there!

Membership in the Family Section of the Richmond Bar provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and practices among attorneys specializing in family law. This is accomplished through a variety of continuing legal education and social functions. Annual section dues are \$25 in addition to being a member of the Richmond Bar Association.

Litigation

The Litigation Section had another successful year. We welcomed a number of new members to the section this year and are pleased with their contributions so far.

We held another successful and well-attended Introduction to the Courthouse CLE and reception, which we hosted with the Richmond chapter of the Federal Bar Association at the Spottswood Robinson and Robert R. Merhige Jr. Federal Courthouse. That event is always extremely valuable to our members, because it gives all of us a chance to interact directly with the judges, magistrate judges and fellow practitioners.

We look forward to our Annual Judges Reception at Shagbark, where we look forward to gathering with and honoring all of the Richmond metropolitan area judges. Moving forward, we hope to continue to grow membership numbers and participation. We look forward to the next Bar year.

-Elizabeth S. Turner, Chair



R e a l E s t a t e

The Real Estate Law Section had a successful year. Membership numbers saw a slight increase year over year. We were also pleased to see new members joining who practice outside of the City of Richmond. Increasing the broader geographic reach of our membership further enhances the benefits of being a part of the Section. We enjoyed several socials, including our well-attended Clerks Dinner, which we hold every other year. That event is always extremely valuable to our members, because it gives all of us a chance to interact directly with the Clerks of the Circuit Courts for Richmond, Henrico, Chesterfield, and Hanover. Moving forward, we hope to continue to grow membership numbers and participation by having regular socials and increasing the numbers of CLE events offered. We look forward to the next Bar year under new leadership and an executive committee who all have experience governing the Section.

-Adam S. Young, Chair

Y o u n g L a w y e r s

The Young Lawyers Section has supported its members during the 2023-2024 bar year through fellowship and networking by hosting two event socials in October and February. The YLS's third and largest social of the year, the annual meeting, is still coming up in late May (date TBA).

The YLS also presented numerous opportunities for its members to give back to the community. In October, the YLS's service event series with Beyond Boundaries hosted upwards of 30 attorneys and law students through 6 different outings. The YLS also participated in NBC Call 12 in the fall, and answered legal questions from members of the public in the Richmond area. This Spring, the YLS got outside by sponsoring two James River Clean-Ups in April.

Finally, the YLS is excited to continue its tradition of putting together one of the most enthusiastic kickball teams in the Richmond area. This year we are hoping to put away the unofficial motto borrowed from the Chicago Cubs "Wait 'til next year!"

Our section would not have had such a wonderful year without its members. Thanks for joining us during the 2023-2024 bar year. Our activities have touched over 200 members of the RBA this bar year. We are excited to continue seeing old and new friends and colleagues this summer and during the 2024-2025 bar year!

-William J. Egen, Chair

S e n i o r L a w y e r s

Coming in June! Membership in the Senior Lawyers Section of the Richmond Bar will provide an opportunity for continued professional development and fellowship among its members. This Section will also serve as a resource for those members who wish to improve their technology skills and for those who are planning their transition to retirement. Finally, it is the mission of the Senior Lawyers Section to encourage the mentoring of younger members of the Richmond Bar by our more experienced members. Membership is open to all members of the Richmond Bar who have achieved the age of 65. Annual section dues are \$25 in addition to being a member of the Richmond Bar Association.



Bar Year in Review

RBA Committees

Judiciary

In January, the Judiciary Committee, along with the Greater Richmond Criminal Bar Association, the Hill-Tucker Bar Association—Richmond Chapter, and the Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association, interviewed candidates for the impending vacancy on the Circuit Court for the City of Richmond occasioned by the retirement of the Hon. W. Reilly Marchant. At the conclusion of the candidate interviews and the Judiciary Committee's deliberations, the Committee certified its recommendations to the Richmond Delegation. The Judiciary Committee appreciates the time and consideration of its members and the opportunity to be involved in the judicial selection process.

-Meredith M. Haynes, Chair

Administration of Justice

Almost 10 months ago (as of publication) the Administration of Justice Committee began its annual endeavor of surveying 14 courts and 22 judges sitting in the United States District Court, the United States Bankruptcy Court and the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Courts, General District Courts and Circuit Courts for Richmond City, Hanover County and Chesterfield County. Committee members sat down with the various judges who were gracious enough to share their thoughts with the Bar Association about what they are seeing in their various courts, what changes are being expected and what issues are still to be addressed. From these meetings, our committee members generated numerous reports which are available to the Bar Association at large and which provide a unique look inside the Courts in which we practice.

-Jeremy S. Williams, Chair

CLE

2023 was another strong year for the CLE Committee, which successfully pulled together eleven different CLE programs in the spring and fall, ranging in topics such as ethics, deposition strategies, and jury selection. The CLE Committee's use of Zoom to host these programs virtually over the last few years has grown in popularity and has generally increased CLE attendance across the board. The CLE Committee is poised for another great year in 2024 as Brad Michelle takes over as Chair from outgoing Chair Clay Hester. In addition to the CLE Committee's annual spring ethics program which was held on March 27, the CLE Committee is looking forward to hosting 8 new CLE programs in September and October.

-Clay S. Hester & P. Brad Michelle,
2023 & 2024 Chair

Communications

Bar Year 2023-2024 was a period of reliable consistency for the Communications Committee. With Annie's guidance and support from our vendors, the committee's members regularly stepped up, facilitating the dissemination of quality content across our social media platforms and newsletter. We saw significant growth in followership and engagement on social media, which we are optimistic will translate into increased RBA membership and attendance at RBA events. Looking into the future, the Communications Committee remains in a good position to be a valuable asset for the RBA in accomplishing its goals.

-Gordon M. Phillips, Chair



Membership

This year, the Membership Committee significantly advanced the Bar's initiative to foster engagement with law students within the Association. The Committee welcomed its first law student liaison, Ashley Fine, and spearheaded the creation of a Summer Associate program. This program is set to debut with a breakfast event in collaboration with area law firms and promises to be an invaluable resource for summer associates in the Richmond area, inspiring their involvement in the Bar's activities while providing a robust support network among their peers. In addition to these endeavors, the Membership Committee upheld its traditional duty of ensuring timely dues payment from members and brainstorming ideas to implement in the future regarding membership activities.

-Brendan D. O'Toole, Chair

Thank You 2023-2024 Committee Chairs

Jeremy S. Williams
Administration of Justice

Clay S. Hester & P. Brad Michelle
CLE

Gordon M. Phillips
Communications

Meredith M. Haynes
Judiciary

Brendan D. O'Toole
Membership

Brooke P. Taylor
Pro Bono

Deanna H. Hathaway
Programs

Jennifer J. West & W. Benjamin Pace
Sponsors

Pro Bono

The RBA Pro Bono Committee has focused its discussions this year on defining its role within the broader landscape of pro bono endeavors in the Greater Richmond region. The committee has emphasized the importance of enhancing RBA's pro bono efforts in a manner that is both respectful of existing initiatives and logistically feasible. We are looking forward to the upcoming bar year to further finalize these initiatives and make an even greater impact in the Pro Bono space!

-Brooke P. Taylor, Chair

Programs

The 2023-2024 bar year proved to be one of the most exciting yet! The RBA hosted engaging and dynamic programs throughout the bar year; from the Squirrels game at The Diamond last summer, our Member Appreciation Social in the fall, the Bench Bar Conference in October, the November Awards luncheon, the Holiday and Spring Cocktail parties, and the May 1 Law Day luncheon to the financial wellness event this spring, the Private Conversation Series events, and the upcoming professional development series, the RBA was staying active throughout the entire year! We are looking forward to another successful programming year in 24-25.



Dear RBA Members,

As we reflect on the milestones and achievements of the past year in this special edition of our newsletter, I am profoundly grateful for the support and dedication to the Bar that each of you has shown over the last year. It has been, and will continue to be, an honor to serve as your Executive Director, and I am continually inspired by the commitment of our members to uphold the mission of our Association.

I want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation to each of you for your grace and warm welcome during the transition period. Your support and encouragement have been a source of inspiration, and I am truly grateful for the sense of camaraderie and community that defines our association.

The mission of the Richmond Bar Association—to aid in maintaining the honor and dignity of the legal profession, to promote legal science, and to advance the administration of justice—remains at the forefront of everything we do. Throughout the past year, I have been continually impressed by the dedication of our members to these principles. Your unwavering commitment to excellence serves as a shining example of integrity and professionalism, and is a testament to the legal profession in the Greater Richmond area.


I would be remiss if I did not take a moment to express my deepest appreciation to Sharon Potter, our renowned Membership Director, whose tireless dedication and wealth of institutional knowledge have been instrumental during this past year. The Richmond Bar Association truly does not move forward without her steadfast support.

I also extend my thanks to the Board and to our Section and Committee Chairs for their exemplary leadership and dedication to our shared mission. Their commitment to upholding the highest standard of professionalism has been instrumental in fostering a sense of community and collaboration within the RBA.

As we look ahead to the upcoming bar year, I am filled with excitement for the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we will continue to enhance the mission of the RBA, serving as stewards of justice and champions in the legal profession.

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your Executive Director, and I look forward to the 2024-2025 bar year!

 www.richmondbar.org

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 @richmondbarassociation

 PO Box 1213 | Richmond, VA | 23218

Sincerely,



Annie M. Holland
Executive Director
Richmond Bar Association