


Legally Informed

Virginia lawyers do more than practice law. Through their local and specialty bar associations, they provide services that ensure legal access and assistance for all of Virginia's citizens, regardless of need or income level. This booklet, first published by the Conference of Local Bars in 2003, provides a sampling of the many programs that bars offer, including free legal information hotlines, family and domestic legal assistance, scholarships and competitions, lawyer referral services, and more. Although all are worthy, some have been selected by the Conference for an Award of Merit, which recognizes projects and programs of particular distinction. These are designated by the award icon. 

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Table of Contents

Programs by Bar Associations.....	2
Civic and Community Programs	4
Family and Domestic Legal Assistance.....	6
Immigration and Naturalization Assistance.....	7
Lawyer Referral Services	7
Legal Advice Related to Housing, Consumers, and Employment	8
Legal Advice Hotlines and Related Programs.....	9
Legal Assistance for Crime Victims.....	10
Legal Assistance for Non-Profit Organizations.....	10
Legal Assistance for the Mentally Ill.....	10
Legal Assistance for the Military	10
Legal Service for National and Local Emergencies	10
Programs and Scholarships for Law Students	11
Programs for Lawyers.....	11
Programs for Youth	14
Publications and Videos	17
Scholarships and Competitions.....	19
Speakers' Bureaus	20
Wills and Medical Directives	20
Participating Bar Associations.....	21

PROGRAMS BY BAR ASSOCIATION

Civic and Community Programs

Alleghany-Bath-Highland Bar Association
The Bar Association of the City of Richmond
Fairfax Bar Association
Henrico County Bar Association
Hispanic Bar Association of Virginia
Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association
Old Dominion Bar Association, Richmond Chapter
Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.
Roanoke Bar Association
Salem/Roanoke County Bar Association
Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys
Virginia Women Attorneys Association, Northern Virginia Chapter

Family and Domestic Legal Assistance

Chesterfield County Bar Association
Fairfax Bar Association
Henrico County Bar Association
Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.
Virginia Beach Bar Association

Immigration and Naturalization Assistance

Fairfax Bar Association

Lawyer Referral Programs

Alexandria Bar Association
The Arlington County Bar Association
Fairfax Bar Association
Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.
Virginia State Bar

Legal Advice Related to Housing, Consumers, and Employment

The Bar Association of the City of Richmond
Fairfax Bar Association

Legal Advice Hotlines and Related Programs

Fairfax Bar Association
Harrisonburg-Rockingham Bar Association
Henrico County Bar Association
Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.
The Virginia Bar Association

Legal Assistance for Crime Victims

Virginia State Bar

Legal Assistance for the Military

Virginia State Bar

Legal Assistance for Non-Profit Organizations

The Bar Association of the City of Richmond
Fairfax Bar Association
The Virginia Bar Association

Legal Assistance for the Mentally Ill

The Virginia Bar Association

Legal Services for National and Local Emergencies

The Virginia Bar Association
Virginia State Bar

Programs and Scholarships for Law Students

Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association
Old Dominion Bar Association
Old Dominion Bar Association, Richmond Chapter
Fairfax Bar Association

Programs for Lawyers

Alexandria Bar Association
The Arlington County Bar Association

The Bar Association of the City of Richmond
Fairfax Bar Association
Lee County Bar Association
Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association
Old Dominion Bar Association
Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.
Roanoke Bar Association
Scott County Bar Association
Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys
Virginia Beach Bar Association
Virginia Women Attorneys Association, Roanoke Chapter
Virginia Women Attorneys Association, Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter
Wise County & City of Norton Bar Association

Programs for Youth

Alexandria Bar Association
Asian American Bar Association
The Bar Association of the City of Richmond
Culpeper County Bar Association
Fairfax Bar Association
Fauquier County Bar Association
Henrico County Bar Association
Loudoun County Bar Association
Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association
Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association
Northern Virginia Black Attorneys Association
Old Dominion Bar Association, Richmond Chapter
Page County Bar Association
Roanoke Bar Association
Virginia Beach Bar Association
Virginia Trial Lawyers Association
Virginia Women Attorneys Association
York County-Poquoson Bar Association

Publications and Videos

The Bar Association of the City of Richmond
Campbell County Bar Association
Fairfax Bar Association
Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association
Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.
Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys
The Virginia Bar Association
Virginia State Bar
Virginia Trial Lawyers Association

Scholarships and Competitions

Accomack County Bar Association
Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association
Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.
Roanoke Bar Association
The Virginia Bar Association
Virginia State Bar

Speakers Bureaus


Virginia State Bar

Wills and Medical Directives


The Arlington County Bar Association
Fairfax Bar Association
Roanoke Bar Association
The Virginia Bar Association
Virginia State Bar


CIVIC AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS


All Fairfax Reads: This project, initiated by the Fairfax County Public Library System, was designed to promote community engagement in the reading of one book (*To Kill a Mockingbird*) with events taking place to stimulate conversation and thought. The **Fairfax Bar Association** sponsored a reenactment of the trial at the Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Courthouse. The entire community was invited and The Tapestry Theatre Company was in charge of producing the play. Members of the Fairfax Bar participated in the reenactment. (703) 246-2740.

 Annual Legal Food Frenzy: For the past 14 years, the **Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association** has organized a yearly food drive to help stock the Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia. Participants include lawyers, paralegals, and office staff from area law firms. Friendly competition among the firms accounts for the program's enormous success (324,505 pounds collected in 2007). Attorney General Robert F. McDonnell took the project statewide in 2007. Donna Bausch, (757) 622-2910.

Candidates' Forum: The **Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.** sponsors candidates' forums in election years for those seeking election to the state legislature and for constitutional offices in the 31st Judicial Circuit. This community service project is designed to heighten awareness of, and participation in, the election process and affords lawyers acceptable service to the legislature. The bar invites all candidates to participate, publicizes the event and selects a panel to research questions for the candidates. While the bar organizes the forum, attorneys do not participate on the panel, and the questions are not legal in nature. The forum is typically held in a local school and is reported on by local newspapers and videotaped for later television broadcast. www.pwcba.org.


 Credit Abuse Resistance Education Program (CARE): The **Bankruptcy Section of the Bar Association of the City of Richmond** established a Credit Abuse Resistance Education Program, through which bankruptcy attorneys talk about "financial literacy"—the wise use of credit cards. The program is presented to high school students. (804) 780-0700.


 International Delegation Program: The **Virginia Women Attorneys' Association, Northern Virginia Chapter**, organized this program to educate members from the South and Southeast Asia and South African legal, political, and academic communities about the U.S. legal system. The group was invited to the United States by the State Department International Visitor Program. Melissa Katz, (703) 385-1000.

 Kids in Crisis: Sponsored by the **Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association** in 2003, this town hall meeting focused on the community's role in preventing and treating juvenile delinquency. Participants included news anchor Barbara Ciara of WTKR, with opening remarks by the director of the Virginia Department of Juvenile Justice and a panel of experts from the judiciary, law enforcement, legal community, and the local public school system. The event also featured exhibitors from various youth service agencies and was held at the Norview Middle School. Donna Bausch, (757) 622-2910.

Law Suits Clothing Drive: Members of the **Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys** hold an annual business-dress clothing drive to obtain clothing for use by low income women applying for employment. Booths are set up in key locations across Richmond for distribution. idamcpherson@aol.com.

Legal Workshop for the Latino Community: Members of the **Hispanic Bar Association of Virginia** conducted a three-hour legal workshop at St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Fairfax, Virginia at the request of local clergy. The purpose was to combat the lack of legal knowledge among the Latino community in Northern Virginia. The workshop was conducted in Spanish, covering topics ranging from criminal, immigration, domestic relations and landlord-tenant law, in addition to basic issues regarding the hiring of an attorney, retainer agreements and filing bar complaints.

 1000 Voters, 1000 Voices: In an effort to increase voting among the 18-24 year old age group in the minority community, the **Old Dominion Bar Association, Richmond Chapter**, implemented a voter registration drive in the 2004 election year. Members identified various venues (churches, day care facilities, shopping malls) that would likely have the highest concentration of potential voters in the target age group. The project was publicized in *The Richmond Free Press*, and buttons and banners were designed to advertise the drive. www.odba.org.

 Santa in the Square: The **Roanoke Bar Association Foundation** and the Science Museum of Western Virginia sponsor a holiday party for children and their parents who are living in shelters in our area during the holiday season. The children enjoy a holiday feast, unlimited use of the Science Museum, entertainment, and a Planetarium show. They visit Santa's Workshop where they create holiday arts and crafts, and Santa's Sack where they select a small, special gift to wrap and give to their parents this holiday season. It is a truly magical evening - for the children, their parents, and Santa's elves! Cathy Caddy (540) 342-4509.

School Supply Challenge: At the beginning of each school year, the **Henrico County Bar Association** joins the Henrico Business Council of the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce to challenge one another to obtain donations of school supplies for the students of Highland Springs Elementary School. The challenge is designed to provide basic school supplies for children who would otherwise go without. hcba@comcast.net

Senior Citizens Law Day: The **Alleghany-Bath-Highland Bar Association**, in concert with the League of Older Americans, presented a Senior Citizens Law Day in Covington, Virginia on May 24, 2005. Members of the bar and the judiciary discussed the *Senior Citizens Handbook* and related aging issues with local citizens. It involved no fee and will serve as a blueprint for other interested bar associations. Copies of the handbook were distributed. Bill Wilson (540) 962-4986.


Senior Citizen Law Day: The **Roanoke Bar Association, Salem/Roanoke County Bar Association** and League of Older Americans Area Agency on Aging co-sponsored a Senior Citizen Law Day. A panel of attorneys with expertise in a variety of aging issues address those assembled and field questions. The seminar is intended to inform senior citizens in the Roanoke

Valley how to find and where to look for help in solving their problems. Cathy Caddy – Roanoke Bar (540) 342-4509; Mike Ferguson – Salem/Roanoke County Bar (540) 725-8189.

Senior Citizens Project – This **Prince Williams County Bar Association, Inc.** program, adapted from a model circulated by the Virginia State Bar’s Senior Lawyers Conference, provided volunteer attorneys to the two Senior Citizens Centers operated by the Prince William County Area Agency on Aging. The attorneys spoke about issues that affect seniors and distributed the *Senior Citizens Handbook*, which is published by the VSB’s Senior Lawyers Conference. Alissa Hudson, (703) 393-8865.


FAMILY AND DOMESTIC LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Chesterfield Protective Order Project: Volunteer attorneys from the **Chesterfield County Bar Association** provide free-of-charge representation to victims of domestic violence/family abuse who are seeking protective orders. Attorneys are assigned duty for a particular day and represent those persons who are scheduled for hearing on a preliminary protective order. If the preliminary order is granted, the attorney and victim return in 14 days for a full hearing on the issuance of a permanent protective order. The program is sponsored jointly with the Chesterfield County Victim Witness Assistance Program and the Chesterfield County Domestic Violence Resource Center. Deborah O’Toole, (804) 320-9100.


 Circuit Court Conciliators Program – The **Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.** established this program offering an alternative way to resolve civil discovery disputes. The conciliators—members of the bar association—are available to meet before the case is called on Motions Days. With their help, the parties try to resolve their disputes. The resolution is then submitted to the court for approval. The service is used by attorneys and self-represented litigants. It often can resolve or narrow disputed issues and save the judge’s time for other matters. Alissa Hudson (703) 393-8865.

Conciliation Program: Offered by the **Fairfax Bar Association**, this program is designed to expedite the disposition of cases and reduce the cost of lawsuits by helping to resolve the types of procedural motions and interim matrimonial disputes that tend to burden the legal system. The program’s conciliators are litigators, with expertise in both civil litigation and family law, who volunteer to help resolve motions and other preliminary disputes without charge. Conciliation is available to all litigants before the Fairfax County Circuit Court, whether or not the parties have an attorney. www.fairfaxbar.org

Family Legal Assistance Project: Through its Family Legal Assistance Project, volunteer lawyers with the **Fairfax Bar Association** agree to take on various types of family cases for indigent clients ranging from child custody, support and divorce, to adoption and name changes. The cases are thoroughly screened and the clients may be personally interviewed in advance. A file is then prepared with the necessary documentation and forwarded to the pro bono attorney with a case summary. www.fairfaxbar.org.

 Henrico County Protective Order Project: Initiated by the **Henrico County Bar Association**, the goal of this project is to offer pro bono representation to all petitioners who are granted a preliminary family abuse protective order by the Henrico County Juvenile and Domestic Relation Court. Upon returning to the courts for a permanent protective order, a

volunteer attorney appears at the hearing with that victim to assist him/her through the family abuse protective order process. www.henricobar.org

 Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court Conciliators Program – The **Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.** designed this program to provide an alternative to traditional court proceedings as a means of resolving all contested issues on the J&DR motions docket in the Thirty-First Judicial Circuit. This docket covers motions for temporary custody, temporary support and temporary visitation. Alissa Hudson (703) 393-8865.

Restraining Orders: With the assistance of established community outreach agencies such as ACTS/Turning Points, the **Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.** provides pro bono services to clients seeking temporary restraining orders. This program is initiated in conjunction with the court services intake office. At the time an individual files a petition for a restraining order, a Turning Points representative meets with him/her and, if necessary, attempts to locate an attorney from a list of about 50 volunteers. Attorneys often go beyond the initial obligation, and assist with appeals, visitation arrangements and related issues. www.pwcba.org

Uncontested Divorce: In conjunction with Legal Services of Northern Virginia, **Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.** members provide pro bono services to clients seeking uncontested divorces. Potential clients should contact Legal Services at (703) 368-5711 to be screened for eligibility. If eligible, attorneys assist the clients in completing the necessary forms, and an attorney provides legal representation in court or during the commissioner's hearing. www.pwcba.org.

Victims of Domestic Violence: The **Virginia Beach Bar Association** and the Hon. Ronald H. Marks, judge of the Virginia Beach J&DR District Court, in conjunction with the local Friends of the Juvenile Court, founded the highly regarded protective order program known as Concerned Lawyers Advocating Spousal Safety (CLASS). Bar association members volunteer to represent victims of domestic violence in protective order hearings. Jean Keary, (757) 427-3570.

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION ASSISTANCE

Immigration Assistance: Individual attorneys from the **Fairfax Bar Association** volunteer their time to help clients with immigration problems. www.fairfaxbar.org

LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICES

Northern Virginia

The **Alexandria Bar Association** sponsors a lawyer referral service for clients wishing to schedule an attorney consultation at a discounted rate. Referral attorneys practice in Northern Virginia, Washington D.C. and Maryland. LRS attorneys also participate in a modest means panel called the John D. Grad Program where they agree to take clients whose income does not exceed 225% of federal poverty guidelines for a set fee of \$75 per hour. Call (703) 548-1105.

The Arlington County Bar Association provides a bilingual (English/Spanish) lawyer referral service, with initial consultations at nominal fees. For more information, call (703) 228-3390.

The **Fairfax Bar Association** sponsors a bilingual (English/Spanish) lawyer referral and information service that operates during regular business hours as well as offering online referrals during evenings and weekends. Under an arrangement with Legal Services of Northern Virginia, clients who are ineligible for free legal services due to marginally “over-income” status may qualify for referral to the bar association’s limited number of modest means panel members. For more information, please contact the FBA Lawyer Referral and Information Service at (703) 246-3780 or www.fairfaxbar.org.

Criminal Law Subject Matter Panel: The **Fairfax Bar Association LRIS** designed this program to benefit members of the community in the Northern Virginia area needing legal help in the area of criminal law. The LRIS accomplished this task by providing a panel of criminal law attorneys who had met a minimum established level of objectively determinable standards relative to experience and continuing education in criminal law. Approximately 450 referrals are made to individuals seeking criminal lawyers each year.

Family Law Subject Matter Panel: Established by the **Fairfax Bar Association LRIS** to improve the quality of lawyer referrals for legal assistance with family matters. To qualify for the panel, attorneys must meet minimum standards for experience and continuing legal education. The program is administered by the Fairfax Bar’s Lawyer Referral & Information Service, which makes attorney referrals to about 850 individuals a year in need of family law services. (703) 246-2740.

The **Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.** provides a referral service for those seeking initial advice from an attorney at a reduced rate as well as online public access to the membership through a searchable database. Searches can be conducted by practice area, attorney’s last name or law firm. www.pwcba.org

Statewide

The **Virginia State Bar** offers a referral service that includes the names of attorneys statewide. Phone calls are answered by a referral specialist. Based on the information requested, the caller is provided with the name and telephone number of a lawyer in the community. Clients are entitled to consult with the lawyer for up to one-half hour for a fee of \$35.00. Further follow-up may require additional legal fees that can be discussed with the lawyer. Operates Monday through Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Call (804) 775-0808 or (800) 552-7977.

LEGAL ADVICE RELATED TO HOUSING, CONSUMERS, AND EMPLOYMENT

Housing, Consumer, Employment Law: Volunteer attorneys at the **Fairfax Bar Association** screen and interview financially eligible clients who are experiencing legal problems with housing, consumer or employment law. Housing cases include clients facing possible eviction; consumer matters include fraud, consumer credit, bill collection and repossession. Employment areas include unlawful termination, discrimination, wage loss and unemployment compensation cases. Attorneys agree to evaluate the matters and often undertake full representation. www.fairfaxbar.org.

Unlawful Detainers: **The Bar Association of the City of Richmond** delivers legal services to the indigent through its Pro Bono Housing Program. Clients in the program seek legal advice and/or representation in unlawful detainer actions in the general district courts. For more information, contact Marcel Slag at (804) 643-1086.

LEGAL ADVICE HOTLINES AND RELATED PROGRAMS

Ask a Lawyer: The **Henrico County Bar Association** sponsors an annual “Ask a Lawyer” project at area shopping malls. Volunteer attorneys provide 15-minute legal consultations at no charge to members of the local community. They answer simple legal questions or refer individuals to appropriate agencies or to the Virginia Lawyer Referral Service. The Henrico Bar also works in conjunction with the Hunton & Williams Church Hill Legal Clinic to provide pro bono legal services to low income and modest means clients who are ineligible for help from Legal Aid. www.hcba.org.

Civil Case Assistance: The **Harrisonburg-Rockingham Bar Association** provides a minimum of 20 hours of pro bono services related to civil law cases from each practicing member, and handles approximately 100 pro bono cases per year. Volunteers accept pre-screened referrals from Blue Ridge Legal Services (BRLS). Call (540) 433-1830.

Legal Clinics: **Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.** members hold legal clinics at the BARN Transitional Housing Facility, providing advice on a variety of legal topics to benefit current residents. www.pwcba.org.

Neighborhood Outreach Program: Volunteer lawyers from the **Fairfax Bar Association** regularly visit sites throughout the county, such as homeless shelters and family resource and community centers, to provide free legal advice and referral information. The lawyers also have the opportunity to give further assistance to resolve cases that arise if they choose to do so. The sessions are usually held on weekday evenings. www.fairfaxbar.org.

Telephone Hotline: The Young Lawyers Division of **The Virginia Bar Association** periodically sponsors a regional telephone legal advice hotline for low income and elderly clients from legal aid offices in Charlottesville, Petersburg and Richmond. This “preventive law” program helps resolve legal issues before they escalate. www.vba.org.

VBA Pro Bono Service Program: Led by The Honorable Harry L. Carrico of Richmond, Alfred M. Randolph, Jr. of Norfolk, and a Council comprised of lawyers from across the Commonwealth, this **Virginia Bar Association** community service program asks for 50 hours per lawyer/per year of pro bono service. Upon reaching the 50 hours, the lawyer is designated as a VBA Pro Bono Servant, or if the service is comprised of a mix of legal and non-legal community service, the lawyer is designated as a VBA Community Servant. The program is designed to encourage lawyers to meet their community and pro bono legal service goals. www.vba.org.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR CRIME VICTIMS

The Crime Victim Compensation Program: An initiative of the **Virginia State Bar's Young Lawyers Conference**, the program trains lawyers to provide pro bono representation to crime victims seeking compensation from Virginia's Criminal Injury Compensation Fund. www.vsb.org.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Lawyers for the Arts/Nonprofits: **The Virginia Bar Association** provides legal information to artists, art organizations and other nonprofits throughout the state. www.vba.org.

Northern Virginia Non-Profit Clearinghouse: Sponsored by the **Fairfax Bar Association**, transactional attorneys volunteer to represent community-based 501(c)(3) corporations that have various legal issues, ranging from incorporation to personnel matters. www.fairfaxbar.org.

Richmond-Area Pro Bono Clearinghouse: The Greater Richmond Bar Foundation, a nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable foundation affiliated with **The Bar Association of the City of Richmond** and a number of other voluntary bar associations run a pro bono clearinghouse to assist nonprofit groups in obtaining legal services. For more information, contact RBA Clearinghouse Coordinator Carol Deitrick at (804) 780-2600.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL

Help for the Mentally Ill: Sponsored by **The Virginia Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division**, volunteer lawyers in the project offer free legal advice to persons referred by Virginia Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI-VA). NAMI-VA provides background information on each case. Attorneys give written and/or oral responses to inquiries—or help clients try to locate affordable legal representation. www.vba.org

LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE MILITARY

Operation Enduring Lamp: Attorneys with general practice and/or employment law backgrounds or who have some familiarity with relevant federal military-focused “labor” law (Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act, USERRA) accept, in conjunction with the **Virginia State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service**, National Guard and reserve troop referrals from occasionally oversubscribed military legal assistance offices. For details about this joint ABA/VSB venture, Operation Enduring Lamp, including information on free training materials. www.vsb.org/probono.

LEGAL SERVICES FOR NATIONAL AND LOCAL EMERGENCIES

Emergency Legal Services: Sponsored by the Young Lawyers Emergency Legal Services (ELS) of the **Virginia State Bar** and **The Virginia Bar Association** volunteer lawyers provide telephone intake and referral, brief advice and limited client representation in times of disasters and national emergencies. Prospective clients are screened in the field and then told by on-site

emergency management agency personnel to call a toll-free legal services referral number where they are connected with an attorney. www.vsb.org or www.vba.org.

PROGRAMS AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR LAW STUDENTS



Colors of Justice Reception: This **Fairfax Bar Association** event celebrates and raises money for scholarships to encourage diversity in the legal profession. The program is tied to the Moot Court Competition at the George Mason University School of Law. Many people, including area judges, attorneys and GMU law deans, attend. (703) 246-2740.

Female Student Mentoring Program: Designed to foster relationships between female law students and female lawyers, the **Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association** has established a program to mentor female law students at the University of Richmond. Students are paired with mentors based on interests and areas of practice. Mentors and students set up their own schedules for meeting. Jayne Pemberton, (804) 648-0064.

The Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Scholarship for Law School Students: The **Old Dominion Bar Association, Richmond Chapter**, gives \$500 scholarships to first-year students at each of the 10 law schools in Virginia and Washington, D.C. The project honors the legacies of civil rights attorneys, Oliver W. Hill and Samuel W. Tucker. The funds are earmarked for the purchase of books. Recipients must demonstrate scholarship and community service reflecting the qualities of Msrs. Hill and Tucker. www.odba.org.


Spottswood Robinson Legal Scholars: The statewide **Old Dominion Bar Association** sponsors the Spottswood Robinson Legal Scholars program to provide meaningful legal internship opportunities to worthy law students who may have been overlooked by large law firms or other organizations in their summer employment and internship recruitment processes. This program is viewed as a means to "grow" membership in the short-term and to sustain that growth in the long-term by introducing and integrating the law students into the ODBA family early in their legal career. Carolyn Eaglin (703)352-6085.

Wilkins Scholarship: Established by Anne Wilkins in memory of her son, a Fairfax attorney, and sponsored by the **Fairfax Bar Association**, this scholarship is awarded annually to law students who are residents of, or plan to practice and reside in, Fairfax County. Criteria include academic performance, community activities, and financial need. www.fairfaxbar.org.

PROGRAMS FOR LAWYERS

Annual Caribbean CLE/Seminar: A past president of the **Virginia Beach Bar Association** started these trips to generate enthusiasm among the lawyers and judges and enhance civility and professionalism. All trips are built around the same principles; excellent CLEs, excellent accommodations and excellent adventures. The speakers of the CLEs always include state judges, top practitioners and sometimes a federal judge. Attendees can count on getting six to eight CLE hours. www.vbbarassoc.com


Annual Pro Bono Luncheon: In an effort to educate members about the ethical requirements for *pro bono* legal work, and to present *pro bono* opportunities, the **Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association** sponsors an annual luncheon to accomplish these goals. In its first year, the luncheon featured speakers from several area non-profits and an information table with brochures and representative from local organization seeking pro bono services. (804) 646-6642.


 Comparative Jurisdiction Seminar: A joint initiative of **Alexandria Bar Association, The Arlington County Bar Association, Fairfax Bar Association, and Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.**, this program allows attorneys in each of these counties to compare the unique practices of each jurisdiction. The program included a Plenary Session and smaller break-out sessions covering topics in civil procedure, criminal and felony processing, and traffic/DUIs. Held at the Fairfax County Government Center. www.fairfaxbar.org.

CLE Conference: The **Roanoke Bar Association** holds three or four CLE sessions annually, with 2.0 to 3.0 hours of CLE credit each. Topics vary and proceeds go to the James N. Kincanon scholarships. Cathy Caddy (540) 342-4509.

Free Breakfast Fridays: **The Arlington County Bar Association** organized a breakfast program to provide an additional opportunity for members to meet, socialize and network beyond the more structured atmosphere of a membership meeting. The site for the catered breakfasts is at the Arlington County Courthouse. Attendance is free for members and \$5 for non-members. (703) 228-3390.

Harold Marsh, Sr. Community Service Award: The **Old Dominion Bar Association** presents this award to attorneys for leadership, volunteer efforts, and application of business and legal skills in service to civic and community groups and organizations. Carolyn Eaglin (703) 352-6085.

 Jazz for Justice: This innovative program pairs the **Fairfax Bar Association** and George Mason University's Department of Music, in an annual fundraising jazz concert to benefit the Fairfax Bar Foundation and the Music Department. Student musicians perform and the Fairfax Bar sells tickets to the community. (703) 246-2740.

 Judges' Tables Program: To increase dialogue and interaction with the judiciary, **The Bar Association of the City of Richmond** enacted a program that invites judges from all levels of state courts to "host" individual tables at the bar's monthly luncheon meetings. Lelia Martin, (804)780-0700.

Judicial Feedback Program: Sponsored by the **Fairfax Bar Association**, this pilot program provides an informal mechanism for attorneys to submit both negative and positive feedback to the judges of the Fairfax County General District Court in an anonymous and non-confrontational manner. Comments are received through a judge-appointed facilitator. All communications between the attorney and the facilitator are held in the strictest confidence. The program seeks to promote honest and open communication between bench and bar. www.fairfaxbar.org



Northern Shenandoah Clerk/Bar Conference: In a variation on the bench/bar conference, members of the **Virginia Women Attorneys Association, Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter** organized a Court Clerk Conference. Held during the lunch hour, bar members submitted questions to the court clerks, and the clerks, in turn, were able to ask questions of attorneys as well as state their “pet peeves.” Nancy Glickman, (540) 662-5021.

Oliver W. Hill/Samuel W. Tucker Lifetime Achievement Award: The **Old Dominion Bar Association** presents this award to a practitioner with 30 years or more experience, who has offered important service to the bench, bar and public in promoting, upholding and elevating the standards of honor, integrity and competence in the legal profession. Carolyn Eaglin (703) 352-6085.

Past Presidents Council – In 2004 the **Virginia Beach Bar Association** established a Past Presidents Council to utilize the invaluable leadership and skills of past presidents of their bar. This Council serves as a committee to the Board of Directors and is governed by an Executive Committee consisting of five members of the Council. The objectives and goals for this Council are: to serve an advisory role and make general recommendations to the VBBA Board; organize a bi-annual or annual bench bar conference; establish and administer a charitable foundation of the VBBA; focus on developing ways to enhance services from the VBBA to its membership and increase membership and participation in the VBBA; and select recipients for the Past Presidents Council Award that will recognize VBBA lawyers and judges for special service to the bar and/or bench during the preceding year. www.vbbarassoc.com

The Practice of Law in Southwest Virginia: The **Roanoke Bar Association** designed an orientation program to help new lawyers, young lawyers, or lawyers relocating to the area. The program consists of a tour of the courts and libraries, a meeting with judges, and a discussion on professionalism and civility, followed by lunch at a regular monthly meeting of the Association. Cathy Caddy (540) 342-4509.





President Luncheons: In an effort to involve young attorneys in bar-related activities, **The Arlington County Bar Association** arranged informal luncheon meetings between the young attorneys and senior attorneys from the bar. Lunches were limited to no more than five new attorneys and two senior attorneys. Mary Evans, (703) 228-3390.

Quarterly CLE Luncheon: The **Virginia Women Attorneys Association, Roanoke Chapter** recently combined its luncheon meetings with a quarterly continuing legal education program. Based on the subject matter, members from outside the legal community are invited to participate (e.g. a program on elder law might invite nursing home administrators and healthcare professionals), adding to understanding of the subject matter and promoting camaraderie within the community. C. Kailani Memmer (540) 772-2320.



RBA Foundation Gala and Law Day Celebration: The **Roanoke Bar Association Foundation** sponsors an annual black tie event to celebrate Law Day, to announce the recipients of the Frank W. "Bo" Rogers, Jr., Lifetime Achievement Award and the Young Lawyer of the Year Award, and to raise money for the James N. Kincanon Scholarships. Cathy Caddy (540) 342-4509.


 30th Judicial Circuit Bench Bar Conference: In order to provide its members with a Continuing Legal Education Seminar and to facilitate educational exchange, the bar associations of **Wise County & City of Norton, Lee County, and Scott County** inaugurated a CLE bench-bar conference. The inaugural conference was held during the dinner hour and featured The Honorable Leroy R. Hassell, Sr. and The Honorable Cynthia D. Kinser. In the Spring of 2005, this program was duplicated. Contact D. Sue Baker-Cox (276) 328-8122.

 Volunteer Service Awards: The **Roanoke Bar Association** is a Certifying Organization with the President's Volunteer Service Awards and recognizes its members with those awards as well as its own Certificates of Commendation. Cathy Caddy (540) 342-4509.

“You Be The Judge” Seminar: The **Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys** (VABWA) will host its first annual “You Be The Judge” seminar on September 15, 2005. The seminar is open to attorneys around the state who are interested in learning the Ins and Outs of how to become a judge, the application process, as well as how to obtain the proper support and endorsements. Charlotte Hodges (804) 819-5463.

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH

Barrister Book Buddies: Members of the **Roanoke Bar Association** and their professional staff spend one or two hours each month reading to elementary school classes designated by the Roanoke City School system. During the school year, the attorneys read to almost 900 students in 52 classrooms. At the end of the school year, the attorneys distribute a book to each child or each participating classroom for the students to keep as their own. These gifts are made to encourage the students to continue to read during the summer. Since 2003, the Roanoke Bar Association has donated approximately 900 book annually to participating students. Since 2004, the Mental Health Association has donated books for reading and distribution to each classroom. Cathy Caddy (540) 342-4509.


 Beat the Odds: This youth program sponsored by the **Alexandria Bar Association** with input and support from the juvenile justice system, public schools, and law enforcement, awards scholarships and grants to youth (ages 13-21) in the juvenile justice system who have “beat the odds” and overcome adversity and are working toward academic and achievement goals. The monies, which are given out at an awards banquet, can be used for education or personal necessities. Members of the bar raise money for the banquet through fundraising efforts in the local community. This program is modeled on a similar program initiated by the **Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.** Sidoux Mitchell, Alexandria Bar Association, 703-548-1106; Alissa Hudson, PWCBA, (703) 393-2306.

Bicycle Helmet Safety Program: The **Virginia Trial Lawyers Association** sponsors bicycle safety programs in high-risk school districts to encourage children to use bicycle helmets. As part of the program, doctors explain the devastating impact of brain injury and police officers go over local ordinances relating to helmet use. Members of the Trial Lawyers then present helmets to the children whose families often cannot afford the purchase. Valerie O’Brien, (804) 343-1143.


Book Nook: In association with the Art Museum of Western Virginia, members of the **Roanoke Bar Association** spend one hour on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month reading to elementary school students in the “Book Nook” established in the Center in the Square. Nicole Gearren, Manager of School and Family Programs at (540) 342-5768.

Civil Rights Mock Trial: Members of the **Old Dominion Bar Association, Richmond Chapter**, in collaboration with the Attorney General’s office and the Department of Corrections annually sponsor a mock trial of *Brown v. Board of Education* at the Juvenile Correction Center in Richmond. The objective of the mock trial is to motivate and educate youth about the significance of this landmark decision. www.odba.org.


College Essay Review and Shadowing Program: In partnership with John Marshall High School in Richmond, **The Bar Association of the City of Richmond** has initiated a program to mentor high school seniors with the essay portion of their college applications. The second part of the program includes an opportunity for those students interested in careers within the legal system to “shadow” attorneys at their place of work. (804) 819-5400.

 Color of Justice: This program targets college-bound minority high school students in Fairfax County to consider careers in the law as attorneys and judges. In many cases, these youth are the first in their families to seek a college education and consider graduate work. The program runs through a partnership of the **Fairfax Bar Association**, the **Asian American Bar Association**, the **Northern Virginia Black Attorneys Association**, the **Virginia Women Attorneys Association**, and in conjunction with the Fairfax Public Schools’ College Partnership Program, George Mason University School of Law, and the Virginia Women Judges Association. www.fairfaxbar.org.

Court Docents Program: In conjunction with the Yorktown Women’s Club, the **York County-Poquoson Bar Association** provides attorney docents for high school government students visiting general district and circuit courts. All high school students in the county participate in this program. James Barnett, County Attorney for York County (757) 890-3340.


 Devonshire Alcohol and Drug Program: Sponsored by the **Fairfax Bar Association**, this three-day seminar for youths 13-18 held in 2003-2004 was designed to provide information on the addiction process and to enable students to assess their own level of personal involvement with alcohol and drugs. The seminar reached over 250 youth with drug and alcohol problems. www.fairfaxbar.org.


Fairfax Court Tours: This program cosponsored by the Fairfax Law Foundation of the **Fairfax Bar Association** and the Fairfax County Public Schools provides court tours for selected eighth graders from all twenty-four Fairfax County public and parochial middle schools. Its goal is to give students a first-hand look at how our judicial system operates. www.fairfaxbar.org.

 “Keepin’ It Real,” Youth Rap Sessions: Members of the **Old Dominion Bar Association, Richmond Chapter**, volunteer to speak to youth housed at the Juvenile Detention Center in

Richmond. Though discussion, role playing, and questions and answers, these youth have the opportunity to be exposed to positive role models that sometimes include the prosecutors, judges, and defense attorneys who were involved in their particular criminal cases. www.odba.org.


Law Day Speakers Program: In conjunction with Law Day celebrations, members of the **Culpeper County Bar Association** speak to students at area schools on topics related to law and government. Dale Durrer at (540) 727-3441.


 Leadership in the Law Summer Camp: The **Loudoun County Bar Association**, with the assistance of the Leesburg Circuit Court, has established a week-long, overnight summer law camp for high school juniors in Loudoun County. In 2004, **Fauquier County Bar Association** joined the program and expanded to include Fauquier County public and private high schools. Campers, along with local attorneys, spend a week in June in various law-related activities including mock trials in an actual courtroom. The camp is intended to help high school students gain an appreciation of our judicial system and develop reasoning, analytical, and oral advocacy skills. Contact Karen Stapleton at (703) 777-0307.

 Middle School Mock Trial Project: Attorneys from the **Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association** taught a 10-week course to 22 students, including opening statements, direct examination, cross examination and closing arguments. The students practiced their skills, then presented their trial before two local circuit judges and juries made up of students. The association plans to repeat the program annually. Donna Bausch (757) 622-3152.

Mock Interview Program: This one-day program pairs high school juniors and seniors at the J.R. Tucker High School with volunteer members of the **Henrico County Bar Association**. The attorneys work with the students to help them improve their interview skills for college and future employment. www.henricobar.org.

Page County Law and Government Program: At teachers' request, members of the **Page County Bar Association** give presentations to area students, from kindergarten to high school, on topics related to law and government. Students also participate in a yearly field trip to visit the United States Supreme Court. Contact George Shanks at (540) 743-7102.

 Partners in Education: Members of the **Henrico County Bar Association** have created a unique four-part educational and mentoring program with Highland Springs Elementary School, located in a low-to-middle class neighborhood in eastern Henrico County. The program includes donation of school supplies, mentoring and tutoring students in reading, a bi-yearly government education program, and a local government field trip. www.henricobar.org.

 Partnership with Thomas Jefferson High School: Members of the **Metro Richmond Women's Bar Association** have partnered with Richmond Public Schools to sponsor lectures, tours/field trips, and donations of legal magazines, journals and books for Thomas Jefferson High School. The program seeks to increase the students' knowledge of history and the law and inspire the students to pursue legal careers. (804) 786-8199.

Seatack Mentoring Program: A program that combines the bench, bar, and law enforcement community, the **Virginia Beach Bar Association** participates in a mentoring program for third graders at the Seatack Elementary School. Each child is paired with a mentor, which includes lawyers, judges, sheriff deputies, and police officers. The program is in its sixth year. Jean Keary, (757) 427-3570.



Youth Court: In association with the Greater Roanoke Valley Character Coalition, the **Roanoke Bar Association** assisted in establishing and operating the first Youth Court to be established in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Youth Court is a peer-run tribunal that holds youth accountable for their conduct while teaching them about the justice system. Youth Court is now held in two local high schools and focuses on the needs of offenders, victims, and the community while affording students the opportunity to develop problem-solving, communication, and analytical skills. Cathy Caddy (540) 342-4509.

PUBLICATIONS AND VIDEOS

The following booklets and videos are a sampling of the many that are available through local and specialty bars. For more information, go to the individual bar's website.



Circuit Court and General District Court Time-Saver Manuals: The **Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.** publishes a "time saver" manual to introduce newly practicing attorneys and those who practice in multiple jurisdictions to general civil and criminal procedures for each level court in the district. The manual also provides useful practice tips and procedures designed to increase efficiency in working with the respective courts and clerks' offices. www.pwcba.org.

Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Pamphlet: In cooperation with the Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court, the **Fairfax Bar Association** has developed a booklet to help its citizens understand the services available for resolving various domestic problems within that court. Currently published in English and Spanish with plans to make the booklet available in other languages. www.fairfaxbar.org.

Homebuyer's Manual: Developed by the Real Estate Section of **The Virginia Bar Association**, this manual assists those who are purchasing a home in Virginia by discussing legal and other considerations involved in such a transaction. Although it is useful to any home buyer, it is particularly directed to first-time buyers. Also available online at www.vba.org.

Protecting Children Video: **The Virginia Bar Association** sponsored this video geared towards those members of professions required to report child abuse under Virginia law (social workers, teachers, health care providers, and law enforcement personnel). The video provides guidance on recognizing and reporting child abuse and neglect. www.vba.org

Road to Justice Video: Produced by the **Virginia Trial Lawyers Association**, and partially funded by a grant from the Virginia Law Foundation, this video and accompanying teaching materials emphasize that the rights and privileges of living in a free society create a duty to participate as a responsible citizen. The video illustrates the differences between criminal and


civil trials, and emphasizes the right to trial by jury. Appropriate for middle and high school students. Members of the Young Trial Lawyers Section often volunteer to show the video and are available for questions. Valerie O'Brien (804) 343-1143.


The Senior Citizens Handbook: The **Senior Lawyers Conference** and the **Young Lawyers Conference** of the **Virginia State Bar** sponsor the distribution of the Senior Citizens Handbook, a comprehensive booklet compiled by the Central Virginia Center on Aging. Copies may be obtained by calling the Virginia State Bar at (804) 775-0500 or visiting its Web site at www.vsb.org/publications/senior/index.html.

So You're 18: This booklet, developed by the **Virginia State Bar's Conference of Local Bar Associations**, presents a comprehensive discussion of legal rights and responsibilities that change when an adolescent turns 18. The booklet is distributed to local high schools, district courts, and other venues applicable to reach young people. Available in English and Spanish. www.vsb.org/clba/index.html.

Spare the Child: This program was designed by a subcommittee of the **Family Law Section of the Virginia State Bar**, comprised of judges and lawyers. These professionals see what happens to children going through the process of parental separation, divorce, and custody litigation. This program will show you examples of the harm that parents can cause their own children, when children are put in the middle, and ways parents can "spare the child" from being harmed by parental conflict. Financially assisted by the Virginia Law Foundation. Pamphlets and videos available. (804) 775-0548.

Understanding Your Domestic Relations Rights in Virginia: For more than a decade, the **Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association** has created this booklet to educate the general public on legal topics related to family violence and divorce, and to provide an overview of relevant procedures in the circuit and juvenile & domestic courts of Virginia. Catherine Crooks Hill (804) 786-8199.


 Victims of Domestic Violence Video: With assistance from the Virginia Law Foundation, the **Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys** have prepared a step-by-step video and brochure for victims of physical abuse and for those who assist the victims. This project disseminates information, educates victims, develops a safety plan, and briefly describes using the legal system. For more information, contact VABWA President Ida Outlaw McPherson at (757) 827-2912.

 Virginia's Foster Care Process and You: The **Campbell County Bar Association** along with others associated with the foster care process in the Campbell County produced an educational video to assist clients and other litigants involved in child neglect and abuse cases to understand procedures such as emergency removal proceedings, protective orders and other issues related to foster care placement. The video is applicable for all Juvenile and Domestic Courts in the state. Its goal is to promote the best interest of the child and permanency of the child's placement. Aubrey Rosser, Jr. (434) 369-4728.

Working with a Lawyer: In response to frequently asked questions about working with a lawyer, the **Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.** has developed a brochure that sets out basic information about the legal profession and addresses such issues as finding, hiring and working with a lawyer. www.pwcba.org.

You and Your Court-Appointed Attorney: The **Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.** produces a public education brochure that is given to clients receiving court-appointed counsel. The brochure seeks to dispel many of the common myths about court-appointed counsel and to provide a general guide for working with an attorney. Printed in English and Spanish, it is distributed through the clerk's offices in all three courts at the time such appointments are made. The brochure represents a collaborative effort between the PWCBA, court-appointed attorneys and the judiciary in the Thirty-first Judicial Circuit and was funded, in part, by grants from the PWBC Foundation and the Virginia Law Foundation. www.pwcba.org.


Your Guide to Civil Litigation in General District Court: **The Bar Association of the City of Richmond's Pro Bono Committee** provides educational materials to help *pro se* litigants (those who represent themselves in court) with the preparation and presentation of their cases. The publications on civil procedure, housing and commercial transactions will be made available at clerks' offices, subject to court approval. Available in English and Spanish. Lelia Martin, (804) 780-0700.

 Your Guide to Landlord-Tenant Disputes: **The Bar Association of the City of Richmond Pro Bono Committee** has created this brochure to educate the public on the system and procedures related to landlord-tenant cases. Costs for the creation of the brochure are underwritten by the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation. (804) 780-0700.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND COMPETITIONS

Accomack County Scholarship Program: Members of the **Accomack County Bar Association** have established scholarships for local high school seniors. Recipients are selected by school administrators, and awarded scholarships at school commencement exercises. Gordon Vincent at (757) 787-3330.

Character Counts!: This essay competition sponsored by the **Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.** is open to all middle school students in the 31st Circuit. It encourages children to write about positive character attributes. www.pwcba.org.

 James N. Kincanon Merit Scholarship: The **Roanoke Bar Association Foundation** awards scholarships to graduating high school seniors or students attending a four-year college, university or law school. The students must demonstrate diligence in and commitment to their studies, academic excellence, and an interest in the pursuit of the study of law. Applicants must be residents of the City of Roanoke, the City of Salem, or the County of Roanoke, or have graduated from a high school located in those jurisdictions. Cathy Caddy (540) 342-4509.

Law Day Poster Contest: **The Virginia Bar Association** in conjunction with local bars sponsors a poster contest for elementary and middle school students across the Commonwealth as part of Law Day festivities. www.vba.org.


Law in Society Essay Competition: Sponsored by the **Virginia State Bar's Publications & Public Information Committee and Litigation Section**, this annual writing competition limited to Virginia high school students provides awards of savings bonds up to \$1000 to the those students who are judged to submit the best essay on a given topic of legal concern. www.vsb.org.

NPBA Foundation Essay Contest: The **Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association Foundation** undertook an essay contest for local high school seniors. Each year, two scholarships—one for \$2,500 and one for \$1,000—are awarded. Students are honored at a bar association meeting. Donna Bausch (757) 622-3152.

SPEAKERS BUREAUS

VSB Speakers Bureau: The **Virginia State Bar's Speakers Bureau** matches volunteer attorneys with schools, community groups, and civic organizations seeking legal information on various topics. www.vsb.org/publications/speakersbureau/index.html.

WILLS AND MEDICAL DIRECTIVES

 Wills for Heroes: Several bars have joined together to provide community firefighters and police officers with free estate documents such as wills, powers-of-attorney, and advanced medical directives. Participating bars include the **Roanoke Bar Association, The Virginia Bar Association Young Lawyers Division** and the **Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference**. For information in Roanoke, contact Cathy Caddy at (540) 342-4509; for other areas of Virginia contact the Virginia State Bar www.vsb.org or the Virginia Bar Association www.vba.org.

Wills for Seniors: **The Arlington County Bar Association** sponsors a Wills Program for senior citizens. Simple wills are prepared for those with qualifying incomes at reduced fees not to exceed \$150. Mary Evans, (703) 228-3390.

Wills-on-Wheels: Sponsored by the **Fairfax Bar Association**, finds lawyer volunteers to draft end-of-life and other planning documents such as wills, health care directives and powers of attorney for indigent clients. www.fairfaxbar.org

PARTICIPATING BAR ASSOCIATIONS

Accomack County Bar Association
Alleghany-Bath-Highland Bar Association
The Arlington County Bar Association
Alexandria Bar Association
Asian American Bar Association
The Bar Association of the City of Richmond
Campbell County Bar Association
Chesterfield County Bar Association
Culpeper County Bar Association
Fairfax Bar Association
Fauquier County Bar Association
Harrisonburg-Rockingham County Bar Association
Henrico County Bar Association
Hispanic Bar Association of Virginia
Lee County Bar Association
Loudoun County Bar Association
Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association
Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association
Northern Virginia Black Attorneys Association
Old Dominion Bar Association
Old Dominion Bar Association, Richmond Chapter
Page County Bar Association
Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.
Roanoke Bar Association
Scott County Bar Association
Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys
The Virginia Bar Association
Virginia Beach Bar Association
Virginia State Bar
Virginia Trial Lawyers Association
Virginia Women Attorneys Association
Virginia Women Attorneys Association, Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter
Virginia Women Attorneys Association, Northern Virginia Chapter
Virginia Women Attorneys Association, Roanoke Chapter
Wise County & City of Norton Bar Association
York County-Poquoson Bar Association