



LOCAL BAR Connection

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BAR LEADERS INSTITUTE



© Chad Hunt

Robert J. Grey Jr.

The Bar Leadership Institute headliner for the March 8 session in Richmond will be Robert J. Grey, Jr. of Richmond, who will become president of the American Bar Association in August.


Grey will assume the ABA's top job exactly forty years after the only other Richmonder to hold the post—Lewis F. Powell, Jr., who eventually became a U.S. Supreme Court justice.

The world of law has changed tremendously since Powell's era. During Grey's term, the ABA will focus on jury reform, international arbitration and dispute resolution and the protection of civil liberties in the wake of international terrorism.

The color of ABA leadership has changed as well: Grey will be the second black person to serve as president. Dennis W. Archer of Michigan, the current president, is the first.

Grey practices with Hunton & Williams. He focuses on administrative matters before state and federal agencies and mediation. He has offices in Richmond and Washington.

Grey holds a bachelor's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. He received his law degree from Washington & Lee University in 1976.

He is a former president of the Virginia State Bar's Young Lawyers Conference, and he served on the VSB Council in the 1980s. At the ABA, he chaired the House of Delegates—the association's policy-making body. He has also served on ABA panels that oversee legal aid and indigent defendants, strategic planning and diversity. 

The appearance of author Margaret Edds at the March 19 Bar Leaders Institute in Abingdon is timely, given the American Bar Association's recent report on indigent defense in Virginia.

Edds, an editorial writer for the Norfolk *Virginian-Pilot*, became well versed on the defense of one man for her most recent book, *An Expendable Man: The Near-Execution of Earl Washington Jr.* (New York University Press).



Margaret Edds


She reports that Washington received inadequate representation at trial; he spent eighteen years in prison—more than half of them on death row—for a rape and murder he did not commit.

Inadequate court-appointed representation is commonplace in Virginia, according to the ABA's report, *A Comprehensive Review of Indigent Defense in Virginia*.

The study describes the system as “deeply flawed” and states that it “fails to provide indigent defendants the guarantees of effective assistance of counsel required by federal and state law.”

Problems cited in the study include low compensation of defense attorneys, inadequate investigatory and expert resources for the defense, erratic quality control of court-appointed counsel and no oversight of the system as a whole.

The report, which includes an executive summary, can be obtained at www.abanet.org/legal/services/sclaid/defender.

Edds's book describes similar problems in the defense of Washington. Her research led her to conclude: “The story of Earl Washington Jr. is more than an account of what happened to one man. It is a lesson in the frailty of human institutions.” 

LETTER from the Chair

In this edition of the *Local Bar Connection* you will find an article about the Fairfax Bar Association's new electronic system for evaluating judges.

The online process has drawn more lawyers to participate than did the previous system, which required returning forms by mail. But only 170 lawyers participated in Fairfax's most recent evaluation of sitting judges—not even ten percent of the bar association's eighteen hundred members.

Feedback from the bar is essential to help sitting judges know how well they are doing, and to help legislators know whether a judge whose term has ended should be reappointed to the bench.

Why haven't more bar associations developed a system to evaluate their sitting judges? And why, in those jurisdictions that have an evaluation system, is participation so low?


Is it because:

- (1) We are lazy?,
- (2) We are satisfied with our judges?, or
- (3) We think our voices/opinions will not be heard?

Last year, Delegate Robert McDonnell of Virginia Beach, the chair of the House Courts of Justice Committee, encouraged bar associations to establish an open judicial endorsement process. According to an article in the March 3, 2003, edition of *Virginia Lawyers Weekly*, McDonnell said legislators "are ignoring endorsements when there have been 'no interviews, no criteria, no bipartisan input.'"

Every year, fewer lawyers are elected to the General Assembly and assigned to the Courts of Justice committees. The nonlawyers who are serving have fewer contacts with judges and courts. Therefore, I am sure they would encourage and respect the opinions of your bar association's members.

I urge Virginia's local bars to GET INVOLVED! Talk to your delegation. Develop a process to fairly and effectively evaluate judges and potential judicial candidates. Set up a method to have your delegation listen to the bar's opinion. And respond to the Supreme Court of Virginia's judicial performance evaluation questionnaires in the six pilot jurisdictions where they're being sent out.

If we don't make the effort, then we cannot complain when we are left out of the judicial selection and retention process. 



Judy Rosenblatt

Conference of Local Bar Associations Executive Committee 2003 – 2004

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Nancy Marie Reed, Luray

John Y. Richardson, Jr., Norfolk

Alexander L. Taylor, Jr., Richmond

William T. Wilson, Covington

Send your local bar election results to the CLBA

Check your officers list on the conference's Web site and update them as needed by sending new officers' info to Paulette Davidson at davidson@vsb.org.

www.vsb.org/clba

Help yourself, your profession and the people in your
community. Join Virginia Lawyer Referral Service.



See application at www.vsb.org/vlrs.html.

Online Judicial Surveys Draw More Lawyers

More Fairfax lawyers are participating in the Fairfax Bar Association's judicial evaluation process now that they can critique judges online.

With 170 lawyers filling out the evaluation forms in late 2003, participation is not as high as the association's president, Janine M. Saxe, would like to see. Fairfax has about 1,800 members.

But the number "far surpassed the level of participation prior to the implementation of the electronic survey procedures," she wrote in the December 19 *Fairfax Bar Journal*.

Fairfax first used the system in November 2002, to evaluate five sitting judges who were up for reelection and others who had completed their first year on the bench or were halfway through their terms.

About 150 lawyers logged onto the members-only Web site that year to critique the judges' demeanor, fairness, knowledge and other qualities.

The system's other component—evaluating candidates to fill judicial openings—drew more interest. It was first used in December 2002, when eight candidates

were vying for a general district judgeship. About 380 members went online to review the candidates' answers to a thirty-two-question survey and rate the candidates as "qualified," "recommended" or "highly recommended."

The electronic surveys are far less expensive than the cost of mailing surveys out to its members, Saxe said.

The association has begun tweaking the program in small ways. One question previously asked of participating lawyers—in your practice, do you primarily represent plaintiffs or defendants?—will be dropped, because many attorneys represent neither. And the association is considering offering training sessions to familiarize lawyers with the forms.

Why aren't more lawyers participating? "I'm not sure," Saxe said. One FBA member has suggested that "maybe it's because people are generally satisfied."

It could be that the limitations on who can participate in the survey are too stringent, Saxe said. Currently, the surveys are limited to lawyers who have appeared before the judge on three motions days or for one trial in the 24 months before the survey.



Saxe has another theory as well: "Unfortunately, it's hard to get people motivated for any reason . . . People are so maxed out with practice."

She urges FBA members to log on and weigh in. "To ensure that Virginia's judicial reappointment process is fair and effective, the individuals charged with that duty, our state legislators, must have credible and informative feedback from those attorneys who regularly practice before local judges. Your participation in the yearly FBA judicial evaluations is essential to the preservation of an independent and effective judiciary," she wrote in the newsletter. 🌸

Bar Leader of the Year Reminder

The deadline for nominations for the Conference of Local Bar Associations' 2004 Bar Leader of the Year Award will be Monday, May 3, 2004. Informational brochures have been mailed.

www.vsb.org/clba/barleader.pdf

Awards of Merit Reminder

The deadline for the Conference of Local Bar Associations 2004 Awards of Merit nominations will be Monday, May 3, 2004. Informational brochures have been mailed.

www.vsb.org/awardmerit.pdf

Richmond's Housing Law Program Celebrates Its Fifteenth Year

The Richmond Bar Association's Housing Law Program will celebrate its fifteenth year in 2004, making it, supporters say, one of the longest-running pro bono projects in the United States.

The program, which operates through the Legal Aid Justice Center, pairs indigent people facing housing disputes with trained volunteer lawyers, who see the case through to the end, including appeals if necessary.

The program—founded by Richmond lawyer Thomas G. Slater, Jr., and Anne B. Holton, now a Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations judge—has become one of the Richmond Bar's flagship programs, said Tara Louise Casey, who chairs the RBA's Pro Bono Services Committee. It receives considerable support, in terms of volunteer lawyers and financial contributions, from Richmond's biggest law firms.

Perhaps five hundred lawyers have volunteered through the Housing Law Program over the years, serving as many as five thousand clients, said Marcellinus L.M.B. Slag, a Legal Aid Justice Center attorney who oversees the program. The program has contributed to the development of

housing law, with one case going as high as the Supreme Court, he said.

Appeals are made possible through a Tenant Appeal Bond Fund, managed by the Greater Richmond Bar Foundation. A person who wants to appeal an eviction to Circuit Court must post a bond of up to six months' rent, Slag said. If the client's attorney, working with Slag, deems that the case has merit, the fund posts that bond—up to \$750—for the client, who then pays the money back in lieu of monthly rent payments.

The fund is particularly helpful to people who live in subsidized public housing, who are at highest risk of becoming homeless, Slag said. "We have had many cases where, because of that fund, we could appeal."


The volunteer lawyers are given continuing legal education classes that cover landlord-tenant law, federal regulations governing public housing and Section 8 subsidized private housing, and state procedure. The training prepares them for cases that involve failure to pay rent, lease violations, evictions and the avalanche of judgments, attorneys' fees and late fees that drive people into homelessness, Slag said.

The cases don't always involve going to court, Casey said. "Oftentimes, the attorney really just acts as an advocate for the tenant," and can negotiate a settlement with the landlord.

The program won the Richmond Bar Association a Harrison Tweed Award from the American Bar Association in 1991.

Administering the program can be tricky. Potential conflicts are always an issue, with many of the landlords and the Housing Development Authority represented by the firms that supply the volunteers. Slag said the program is trying to recruit more small-firm lawyers and corporate counsel, to expand the pool. Thirty to fifty lawyers work for the program at any one time.

In addition to the service the project provides for the poor, "It's very good . . . for the attorneys themselves and for Legal Aid. The contact between the private bar and Legal Aid enhances both sides incredibly," he said.

More information on the program can be obtained by calling Slag at (804) 643-1086. 

Call for Local Bar Speakers Bureau Participation

Does your bar association have a speakers bureau? If so, the VSB Speakers Bureau would like to work with you.

In an effort to fill speaker requests more efficiently, the VSB Speakers Bureau would like to establish a cooperative referral policy with local bar associations. Since a number of local bar associations may have their own speakers bureau, the VSB would like to coordinate with them for administering requests for speakers in their own areas.

Ideally, if a request comes to the VSB speakers bureau in an area that has a local bar speakers bureau, the VSB liaison could contact the appropriate person at the local bar with the request information. Sometimes the VSB receives requests it cannot fill simply because it may have few or no volunteers in a particular geographic area. Such cooperation would help both the VSB and local bars better serve the people of Virginia.

If your bar association is interested in entering into such a referral policy with the VSB, please contact us with the name and contact information of the local bar speakers bureau coordinator. Or if you and other members of your bar are interested in serving on the VSB Speakers Bureau, please visit: www.vsb.org/publications/speakersbureau/index.html. Dawn Chase, e-mail: chase@vsb.org, phone: (804) 775-0586

CHESTERFIELD STARTS COURT-BASED MEDIATION — WITH A TWIST

Chesterfield County has joined the jurisdictions that have court-based mediation programs in place.

But Chesterfield's program has a new twist: As of November 12, 2003, all civil litigants in Circuit Court there must indicate whether they are willing to participate in mediation. In most cases, their attorneys must certify to the court that they have discussed with their client the availability of mediation, and they must indicate their client's willingness to participate or not.

The exception is civil appeals from Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, which are automatically referred to a mediation orientation session.

Chesterfield's new requirement is "not a rule of court, but it's an ethical consideration," said Stephen C. Hall, president of the Chesterfield County Bar Association. The *Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct*, in commentary to Rules 1.2 and 1.4, say that a lawyer has a duty to discuss alternative dispute resolution with their clients, where appropriate.

The court has sent word to the bar that "the judges in our circuit want to see this. They want to see that you tried this," he said.

Hall, who was part of the group that worked for three years to design the program, said the hope is "to permeate the Chesterfield culture with this idea that you might as well deal with this. It ain't going to go away

"The hardest part for lawyers is hoping their clients understand that this doesn't mean their lawyer is coming from a position of weakness." By saying that the court requires parties to consider mediation, "it helps you to sell it to your client," Hall said.

If one party in a dispute agrees to consider ADR, the court provides, at no charge, a mediation orientation session, during which a neutral explains mediation options and screens the case for appropriateness.


If the neutral says the case could be mediated and the parties agree, the court will provide a mediator at no charge. If the parties elect to go outside the court's con-

tracted mediation group, they bear the cost. Chesterfield is working with Commonwealth Mediation Group.

Throughout the process, the parties are free to opt out of the program. Their case continues on the docket and is assigned a trial date. If mediation results in an agreement, the case is dismissed.

The Chesterfield project is funded as part of a \$12,000 grant that covers programs in eight counties, said Geetha Ravindra, director of the Department of Dispute Resolution for the Supreme Court of Virginia,

The difference between Chesterfield's program and the others, she said, is that, in Chesterfield, "it's brought to [parties'] attention in a very direct way—the ability to attend a mediation orientation session—in every case."

Hall said the first cases are just starting to trickle in, and "a number of plaintiffs who had filed cases have indicated a willingness" to consider mediation. He will have data to assess the success of the project in about six months, he said. 

The VSB Fee Dispute Resolution Committee Needs New Members

The Virginia State Bar's fee dispute arbitration program offers an informal mechanism to bring a satisfactory and expeditious resolution to attorney-client fee disputes. Arbitration hearings are conducted on a voluntary basis, and judgements of the CCRFD panel are binding upon both parties.

Fee-dispute committees are currently set up for the 10th, 11th, 13th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 23rd, 24th, 28th and 31st circuits and the Norfolk-Portsmouth area. All of these committees need more volunteer attorneys and lay members.

New circuit committees are needed in the unrepresented circuits. Members serve up to two three-year terms. They are called on an as-needed basis. At this time, fee disputes in these areas have to be handled in other circuits where panels are currently set up. This has caused large caseloads in several areas.

Fee dispute arbitration rules and guidelines, referral to a CCRFD, information on creating a CCRFD for your circuit and training videos are available by contacting Paulette Davidson at the Virginia State Bar. If you are serving on one of the current panels or would like to start a new one, please contact Paulette Davidson at (804) 775-0521 or davidson@vsb.org.

A copy of the rules and guidelines are available at the Virginia State Bar Web site (www.vsb.org/feedisputes.html).

Health Care Decision Program Available



Frank O. Brown, Jr. poses with Sprinkles the Clown during a Harvest Festival at a Richmond church last fall. Brown attended to promote National Health Care Decisions Week, during which people are encouraged to consider advance medical directives that address life support and organ donation.

The American Bar Association has developed a program that local bars can use to educate their communities about medical decisions—not only during Health Care Decisions Week, but year-round.

The ABA will even help pay for the program: Participating bars will receive up to \$500 reimbursement for materials and advertising costs.

Brown and other members of the Virginia State Bar Senior Lawyers Conference are ready to help with the programs.

For more information, contact Paulette Davidson at the VSB, at (804) 775-0521 or davidson@vsb.org. Information on the program can also be found at www.abanet.org/rp/committees/pt/e3/hcdw/home.html.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE LOCAL BAR RESOURCE LIBRARY

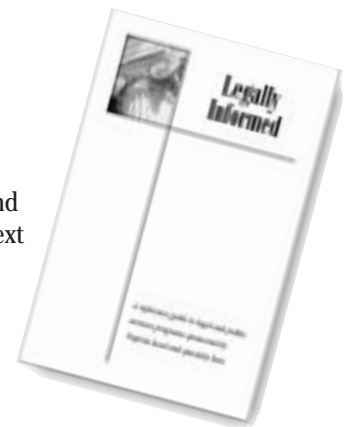
- **Conducting a Successful Capital Campaign**, the new, revised, and expanded edition of the leading guide to planning and implementing a capital campaign.
- **Conducting a Successful Major Gifts & Planned Giving Program**, a comprehensive guide and resource.
- **From Madison Avenue to LaSalle Street: Commercials from the ABA Awards for Dignity in Lawyer Advertising—Video** (12:29)

For a complete listing of available resources and videos, please visit the CLBA Web site at www.vsb.org/clba and look under Publications and Library Resources/Videos. Or you may contact Paulette Davidson at (804) 775-0521 or davidson@vsb.org.

Resource Guide to be Updated

Check your bar's information listed in this booklet and send updates to Rod Coggin by April 5 to be included in the next printing this summer. Contact Rod at coggin@vsb.org or (804) 775-0585

The booklet is available online at www.vsb.org/publications/brochure/legally_informed.pdf.



Save the Date

VIRGINIA STATE BAR

66th Annual Meeting

JUNE 17-20, 2004 • VIRGINIA BEACH

- Banquet Featuring ABA President-elect Robert J. Grey, Jr. as the speaker
- Showcase CLE on the "Sniper Trials"
Featuring Prosecutors and Defense Attorneys Involved in the Virginia cases
- Special Saturday Morning Program:
"Get a Life! Creating, Maintaining and Living with the Complete Lawyer"
featuring the Honorable Carl Horne III, U.S. Magistrate Judge of North Carolina
- 17th Annual Lawyers Expo • Run in the Sun & Volleyball and Tennis Tournaments

Brochure and Registration Information will be available in April.
www.vsb.org/anmtng

VSB Family Law Section ***Lifetime Achievement Award***

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** was established by the Virginia State Bar **Family Law Section** to recognize and honor an individual who has made a substantial contribution to the practice and administration of family law in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The award will be given at the discretion of the VSB Family Law Section Board of Governors.

The award will recognize an individual who meets the following criteria:

- A singular and unique contribution to the practice of family law in Virginia;
- Dedication to excellence in the practice of family law;
- Performance in the field of family law with competence and integrity; and
- Commitment to the abiding importance of service to families through the legal system.

The deadline for the receipt of nominations is April 16, 2004.

The deadline for the receipt of the nomination form and the supplemental information, which specifies the manner in which the nominee meets the criteria for the award, is April 16, 2004. **Please complete and submit the nomination form at your earliest convenience.** For more information see www.vsb.org/awards.html.

18TH ANNUAL **Tradition of Excellence Award**

sponsored by the
VIRGINIA STATE BAR GENERAL PRACTICE SECTION

The General Practice Section of the Virginia State Bar is seeking nominations for its 18th Annual Tradition of Excellence Award, which will be presented at next year's Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach on Saturday morning, June 19, 2004.

This award recognizes an outstanding lawyer who embodies the highest tradition of personal and professional excellence in Virginia and, in doing so, enhances the image and esteem of attorneys in the Commonwealth.

To qualify, nominees must be current members of the Virginia State Bar in good standing who have practiced for a minimum of ten years, five of which

must be in general practice. Nominees also should have achieved both personal and professional distinction in their community.

The General Practice Section must receive your nomination by close of business on Friday, April 23, 2004.

The recipient of this year's Tradition of Excellence Award will be notified on or before June 1, 2004. The recipient will be invited to be the honored guest of the General Practice Section at the Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting.

For more information, call Patricia Sliger at (804) 775-0576. or see www.vsb.org/awards.html.

Mark Your Calendar

N I N E T E E N T H A N N U A L



BAR LEADERS INSTITUTE

Virginia State Bar Conference of Local Bar Associations

March 8, 2004

**T.C. Williams School of Law
University of Richmond**

Keynote Speaker: Robert J. Grey, Jr.,
ABA president-elect

March 19, 2004

**Southwest Virginia
Higher Education Center, Abingdon**

Keynote Speaker: Margaret Edds, author of
*An Expendable Man: The Near-Execution of Earl
Washington Jr.*, and editorial writer for the *Virginian-Pilot*

LUNCHES SPONSORED BY ATTORNEYS LIABILITY PROTECTION SOCIETY (ALPS)*

Any updates/changes to the schedules will be posted on the VSB Web site at <http://www.vsb.org/clba/bli04.html>

For additional information call (804) 775-0521 or (804) 775-0590 or e-mail clba@vsb.org.

Richmond BLI—March 8

T.C. Williams School of Law, University of Richmond

9 A.M. – 3:30 P.M.

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:30 A.M.

9:00 A.M. WELCOME:

Judith L. Rosenblatt, Chair, CLBA Executive Committee

GREETINGS: *Jeannie P. Dahnk*, President, VSB

SO YOU'RE 18 UPDATE: *George W. Shanks*

Treasurer, CLBA Executive Committee

9:30 A.M. VIRGINIA LAW FOUNDATION: *Jon D. Huddleston*

Member, VLF Board of Directors

9:45 A.M. NUTS & BOLTS OF LEADERSHIP:

- *Glenn C. Lewis*, Moderator, Past President, Fairfax Bar Assoc.; VSB Council Representative—18th Circuit
- *Lelia Martin*, Executive Director, Richmond Bar Assoc.
- *Janine Saxe*, Past Chair, CLBA Executive Committee President; Fairfax Bar Assoc.
- *Kristina Keech Spitler*, Chair, Membership/Mentoring Committee, Prince William County Bar Assoc.
- *Alexander L. Taylor, Jr.*, Immediate Past President, ODBA, Richmond Chapter; Member At-Large, CLBA Executive Committee

10:45 A.M. BREAK

11:00 A.M. BREAKOUT SESSIONS (by size)

SMALL BARS—

- *M. Janet Palmer*, Secretary, CLBA Executive Committee

MEDIUM BARS—

- *John Y. Richardson*, Member At-Large, CLBA Executive Committee

LARGE BARS—

- *Manuel A. Capsalis*, Chair-elect, CLBA Executive Committee

NOON

LUNCH *

Speaker: *Robert J. Grey, Jr.*, President-elect, ABA

1:00 P.M.

PROFESSIONALISM, CIVILITY ISSUES FROM THE JUDICIAL POINT OF VIEW (CLE pending)

- *The Hon. Johanna L. Fitzpatrick*, Moderator Judge, Court of Appeals of Virginia
- *The Hon. Michael J. Cassidy* Judge, Fairfax General District Court
- *The Hon. S. Bernard Goodwyn* Judge, Chesapeake Circuit Court
- *The Hon. Anne B. Holton* Judge, Richmond J & DR Court
- *The Hon. Thomas D. Horne* Judge, Loudoun Circuit Court

2:00 P.M.

BREAK

- 2:15 P.M. **A PROPOSAL: GET YOUR MEMBERS ENGAGED IN PUBLIC SERVICE** (A presentation by the VBA Community Service Program)
 - *Michael J. Quinan*, Executive Committee Member; VBA Community Service Program
- 2:30 P.M. **ETHICS FOR THE BAR LEADER** (CLE pending)
 - *Thomas E. Spahn*, Moderator, McGuireWoods, LLP
 - *Bernard J. DiMuro*, Immediate Past President, VSB
 - *James M. McCauley*, Ethics Counsel, VSB
 - *David S. Mercer*, President, Lawyers Helping Lawyers Board of Directors

- 12:30 P.M. **LUNCH ***
Speaker: *Margaret Edds*, Author of *An Expendable Man: The Near-Execution of Earl Washington Jr.*, and editorial writer for the *Virginian Pilot*
- 1:30 P.M. **VIRGINIA LAW FOUNDATION**
Howard C. McElroy, Member, VLF Fellows Council
- 1:45 P.M. **PROFESSIONALISM/CIVILITY FROM THE JUDICIAL POINT OF VIEW** (CLE pending)
 - *The Hon. Cynthia D.F. Kinser*, Moderator Justice, Supreme Court of Virginia
 - *The Hon. Suzanne K. Fulton* Judge, General District Court, 30th Judicial Circuit
 - *The Hon. C. Randall Lowe* Judge, Washington Circuit Court
 - *The Hon. Jacqueline F Ward Talevi* Judge, Roanoke City General District Court
 - *The Hon. James C. Turk* Judge, U.S. District Court, Western District of Virginia

Abingdon BLI—March 19
Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center
Abingdon
11:00 A.M. – 4:15 P.M.

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 10:30 A.M.

- 11:00 A.M. **WELCOME:** *Judith L. Rosenblatt* Chair, CLBA Executive Committee
GREETINGS: *David Bobzien*, President-elect, VSB
SO YOU'RE 18 UPDATE: *George W. Shanks*, Treasurer, CLBA Executive Committee
- 11:30 A.M. **NUTS & BOLTS OF LEADERSHIP**
 - *Joseph A. Condo*, Moderator; Past President, VSB
 - *Daniel R. Bieger*, Immediate Past President, Washington County Bar Assoc.
 - *Cathy Caddy*, Executive Director, Roanoke Bar Assoc.
 - *J. Brenton Fleming*, Past President, Wise County & City of Norton Bar Assoc.
 - *Jackson S. White, Jr.*, Past President, Washington County Bar Assoc.

- 2:45 P.M. **A PROPOSAL: GET YOUR MEMBERS ENGAGED IN PUBLIC SERVICE**
A presentation by the VBA Community Service Program
 - *Wade W. Massie*, Council Member, VBA Community Service Program
 - *The Hon. Pamela M. Sargent*, U.S. Magistrate Judge Member, VBA Board of Governors
- 3:00 P.M. **BREAK**
- 3:15 P.M. **ETHICS FOR THE BAR LEADER** (CLE pending)
 - *Thomas A. Leggette*, Moderator Woods, Rogers & Hazlegrove, PLC
 - *Paul E. Fletcher III*, *Virginia Lawyers Weekly*
 - *James M. McCauley*, Ethics Counsel, VSB
 - *John T. Molumphy III* Board Member, Lawyers Helping Lawyers

REGISTRATION

Reserve a place for me at the 19th Annual Bar Leaders Institute. I understand there is a \$40 fee, which includes workshop materials and an Ethics CLE program.
Please check one: Richmond Abingdon

Name _____ Preferred first name (for name tag)

Bar Title _____

Bar Association _____

Address _____

City and State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Please return this registration form and your check made payable to the Virginia State Bar to:
 Local & Specialty Bar Relations, Virginia State Bar, 707 East Main Street, Suite 1500, Richmond, Virginia 23219-2800

Awards

Phyllis C. Katz of Richmond has received a **Woman of Achievement Award** from the **Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association**.

The association recognized the extensive pro bono work she has done throughout her career. Katz practices employment and local government law with **Sands Anderson Marks & Miller**.

Among the pro bono projects cited by the Women's Bar: Katz co-founded the Legal Information Network for Cancer (LINC), through which eighty volunteer lawyers provide pro bono help to more than four hundred cancer patients a year, primarily in the Richmond area.

She also helped establish Virginia Commonwealth University's Certificate Program for Managers of Not-for-Profit Organizations, and she teaches management and law courses for that program.

Local Bar Connection readers keep an eye out — Katz and LINC co-founder **Ann C. Hodges**, a law professor at the University of Richmond, are considering a new project.

They hope to develop a how-to manual that local bar leaders and cancer

advocacy groups could use to develop a LINC-type program in their areas.

The **Richmond Bar Association** has recognized attorney **Allison L. Held**, in part for her work with LINC, which she served as program director before joining the State Corporation Commission as a utility and telecommunications lawyer.

In receiving the **John C. Kenny Pro Bono Publico Award**, Held told a story about intervening on behalf of a cancer patient who was fired from her job after diagnosis. The settlement they were able to reach gave the woman "peace of mind," so she could live out her final days comfortably.

Currently, she serves as an ex-officio member of the LINC board, and she chairs a committee created to expand LINC's services to the Hampton Roads area.

She also is on the board of directors of the Virginia Minors Access Project.

Prince William County Attorney **Sharon E. Pandak** has received the **2003 Edward J. Finnegan Award for Distinguished Service** from the **Local Government**

Attorneys of Virginia.

The award recognizes her "exceptional" professionalism. As county attorney since 1989, "she is known for her thorough preparation, well-reasoned positions, professional conduct and zealous advocacy," the LGA's resolution states.

She has served as president of Legal Services of Northern Virginia, as a member of the Board of Governors of the Virginia Bar Association, and as a member of the Virginia State Bar Council.

A former president of the LGA of Virginia, Pandak has worked nationally, as well. She developed a program, "Ethical Considerations in Public Sector Law," which she has presented in more than twenty states and in Canada.

Her work helping the American Bar Association develop programs for local government attorneys won her the ABA's 2002 Nelson Award, which recognizes meritorious contributions by a government or public sector lawyer.

Also in 2003, Pandak received the **Prince William County Bar Association's** highest honor, the **Arthur W. Sinclair Professionalism Award**.

To Win Equality by Law: *Brown v. Board* at 50 Law Day 2004 • May 1, 2004

In a composite Nation like ours, made up of almost every variety of the human family, there should be, as before the Law, no rich, no poor, no high, no low, no black, no white, but one country, one citizenship, equal rights and a common destiny for all. —Frederick Douglass

America's circuitous march toward equality has changed our society and our institutions in ways the founders could not have imagined. Through law and the courts, one group of Americans after another has redefined "equality" in a fiercely contested process that may never be complete.

No milestone in this process is more important than the Supreme Court's 1954 ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*. *Brown* not only struck down laws segregating public schools, but also sounded the death knell for government-sanctioned segregation generally, made all Americans more aware of our Constitution's promise of equality and helped launch the civil rights movement.

Law Day 2004 will celebrate the 50th anniversary of this historic case. By commemorating the Court's decision in *Brown*, Law Day can help illuminate the meaning of equality in our democracy and the role of law, advocates and courts in establishing and protecting our rights.

ABA Law Day Planning Guides will be distributed at the CLBA's Bar Leaders Institutes in Richmond and Abingdon. If you are unable to attend and would like to get a copy of the Planning Guide, please visit the ABA's Web site at www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday/home.html.

Do you have favorite memories of practicing law in Alexandria? **The Alexandria Bar Association** is collecting stories about the “good old days,” in preparation for its seventy-fifth anniversary this year. Send your vignettes to ABA President **Thomas K. Cullen** at The Alexandria Bar Association, 520 King Street, Room 202, Alexandria 22314, or e-mail them to alexbar@erols.com.

The **Richmond Bar Association** has a new program to lure members to its monthly luncheon meetings: It has invited Richmond-area judges to “host” tables. RBA members are randomly assigned a seat, where they know they will be able to interact with a judge.

Cheryl G. Ragsdale, a member of the association’s Board of Directors, came up with the idea. “We have been overwhelmed by the support of the judiciary and the bar for this new program,” she wrote to a judge. “Our goal is to provide this new opportunity to invigorate an already healthy discussion between the bench and the bar in the Richmond metropolitan area.”

The **Henrico County Bar Association** has launched a Pro Bono Protective

Order Project in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court.

In Henrico, protective orders are heard weekdays at 1 P.M. Through the program, volunteer lawyers sign up for particular days. The Henrico Victim/Witness Assistance Program refers a petitioner to a lawyer in advance of the hearing, and the lawyer instructs the client to come to court the day for which he or she has signed up.

Petitioners are required to sign a Pro Bono Program Agreement that limits representation to the permanent protective order hearing.

For more information or to volunteer, call Taryn Davis with the Victim/Witness Assistance Program, at (804) 501-5744.

Want to get your bar association’s name publicized in an usual way, and make a little bit of money? For the past two years, the **Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association** has hosted a Point Reduction Class for motorists who have been busted for traffic violations. The association provides a space for the classes, a certified instructor teaches it, and the students pay fifty-five dollars each

—a small amount of which goes to the NPBA.

Donna Bausch, the association’s executive director, said the NPBA class is listed with others on the Department of Motor Vehicles Web site, but she suspects most of the students are referred by attorneys or the courts.

“I suppose you could make an argument that it’s a public service,” Bausch said. “People are desperate for it. And the demand goes up around the holidays. It must have been a very festive holiday in this area.”

The **Thirtieth Judicial Circuit** will meet for its first **Bench-Bar Conference** on Friday, April 30, 2004, at the Lonesome Pine Country Club in Big Stone Gap. The program will begin at 12:30 P.M., and end with a reception at 5:45 P.M. **Chief Justice Leroy R. Hassell, Sr.**, will be the guest speaker at the 6:45 P.M. dinner.

The Thirtieth Circuit comprises Wise, Scott and Lee counties.



LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS IN YOUR AREA?

The VSB Young Lawyers Conference’s Admissions and Orientation Ceremony will take place on June 7, 2004. If you wish to have membership information and/or applications handed out by the VSB Local/Specialty Bar Relations office, please contact Paulette Davidson at (804) 775-0521 or via e-mail davidson@vsb.org.

CLBA Information Available on the Web

In addition to providing general information on the CLBA, the CLBA Web site contains information useful to both CLBA members and the general public, including:

- local and specialty bar contacts
- calendar of events
- listing of publication and library resources
- listing of CLEs
- information on Awards of Merit and the Bar Leader of the Year Award
- downloadable versions of *Local Bar Connection* and *So You’re 18*

www.vsb.org/clba

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Local Bar Connection

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707 East Main Street, Suite 1500
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2800
Telephone: (804) 775-0590
Fax: (804) 775-0501
Internet: www.vsb.org
E-mail: clba@vsb.org

Editor:

Barbara O. Allen

Contributing Editor:

Dawn Chase

Graphic Design & Production:

Caryn B. Persinger

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and Pro Bono Coordinators.

*The views expressed herein are not necessarily
those of the Virginia State Bar.*

Local and Statewide Bar Association Officers and Conference Representatives VSB Executive Committee and Council Members Presidents and Chairs of all VSB Sections, Special Committees and Conferences

You are cordially invited to attend the VSB Annual Meeting and Bar Leaders Breakfast of
the Conference of Local Bar Associations (CLBA) on **Friday, June 18, at 7:30 A.M. in
the Orion's Roof Restaurant at the Cavalier Oceanfront Hotel in Virginia Beach.**
During this meeting:

- VSB President-elect David Bobzien will share his goals for next year;
- Awards of Merit winners will be recognized; and
- The 2004 – 2005 CLBA Executive Committee will be elected.

We hope you will be able to join us on June 18th for the Bar Leaders Breakfast. The
breakfast will be completed before the start of CLE programs offered on Friday morning.
If you plan to attend, please complete and return the form below or e-mail us with your
information at CLBA@vsb.org by **Monday, June 14.**

Name: _____

Title: _____

Bar Association: _____

Please return this registration to Paulette Davidson at the Virginia State Bar, 707 E. Main Street, Suite 1500,
Richmond, VA 23219-2800 or fax to (804) 775-0501.

If you would like more information on the Annual Meeting, please contact Bar Services at (804) 775-0514 or
visit the VSB Web site at <http://www.vsb.org/anmtng> for registration forms, schedules, or to register on-line.