

The newsletter of the Young Lawyers Conference of the Virginia State Bar

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## Young Lawyers Unite: Service to the Bar and the Commonwealth Provides Theme for VSB Annual Meeting

Joanna L. Faust

As they do every year, the members of the Virginia State Bar came together for their annual meeting in Virginia Beach this past June. It was the 71st such meeting, and once again the Young Lawyers Conference—the VSB division for Virginia lawyers under the age of 36, or with fewer than three years of practice—showed that the younger members of the Bar are as active as their more experienced counterparts.

The meeting kicked off on Thursday, June 18, with a cocktail reception for attorneys and their families on the historic grounds of the Cavalier Oceanfront Hotel. The next morning, the YLC hosted the 28th Annual Run in the Sun, a 5K race down the Virginia Beach boardwalk. A near photo-finish between the first- and second-place runners—Thomas K. Kurui and Nathan J. Olson—made this year's race even more exciting than usual. Ruth Kurui and Amy Kelly led the women.

After the run, the YLC partnered with the VSB's General Practice Section to host a program for young lawyers trying to decide whether they wish to pursue solo practice. Called "Unlock Your Potential," the program examined the basics of forming and developing a law practice and offered suggestions for financing and marketing a solo practice. The panel was moderated by Sandra Chinn-Gilstrap and included Donald J. Gee, Carol B. Gravitt, Vincent L. Robertson, Sr., Lynn L. Robinson, and Cullen D. Seltzer.

At Friday's annual YLC luncheon meeting, incoming VSB president Jon D. Huddleston addressed the young lawyers gathered and outlined the VSB's path for the coming year. Outgoing YLC president Jennifer McClellan noted that on this 35th anniversary of the YLC's founding, the Virginia General Assembly had

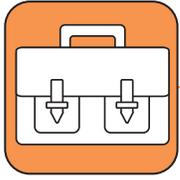
commended it for its many years of service to Virginia and the Bar as a whole. McClellan's remarks were followed by those of incoming president Lesley Pate Marlin, who emphasized that service to one's community and the Bar should be the goal of every young lawyer. She



▲ Power couple Thomas K. Kurui and Ruth Kurui, who took top honors in this year's Run in the Sun.

spoke eloquently of a phrase that had touched her when she first heard it in college: "Service is planting a tree under whose shade you will never sit." She encouraged YLC members to think about ways to get more involved with their communities.

On Saturday morning, the YLC hosted a debate for the candidates for Attorney General of Virginia. Ken Cuccinelli, a Republican state senator from Fairfax, Virginia, and Steve Shannon, a Democrat who represents the 35th District in the Virginia House of Delegates, faced



# corporate corner

David C. Nahm

## Issues of Interest for Virginia Transactional Attorneys

### Preventive Lawyering and Protecting the Corporate Veil

Everyone has his own reason for choosing to become an attorney. Some do it to help those in need or to seek justice; some because they want to make a good living and own things. Still others are just interested in the law. Whatever the reasons that led you to law school, they probably have a significant effect on how you engage in the practice of law.

I became a lawyer because I am anxious and worry too much. A nameless dread haunts me at all times. In the regular world that foreboding makes me something of a drip to be around. But it works well in my professional world: As an attorney, I am paid to worry about other people's problems, and to anticipate all the different ways that things can go wrong.

This is especially true with the corporate client. Litigators are like FEMA, sweeping in after a disaster and cleaning up. Corporate and transactional attorneys are like meteorologists, trying to anticipate the storm.

A good businesswoman sees reward and opportunity where others see only risk and ruin. This is why she is successful. (Of course, there are many who are not successful because the opportunity they thought they saw really *was* just risk and ruin, but that is a discussion for another time.) As corporate attorneys, we often represent people who are not trying to avoid risk but are actively engaging it. In advising a corporate client, the attorney can have a purely mechanical function—that is, drafting documents, filing those documents with agencies—or she can be more hands-on, filling the role of counselor. The more active corporate attorney goes beyond the mere requirements of the law and imparts the experience and wisdom gained over years of practice.

I've known attorneys who were fairly removed from their client's actions—they told

the client what to do and what not to do and let them loose. If the client didn't follow instructions, so be it. I've also known attorneys who follow their clients' actions more closely, continually reviewing and advising and attempting to stay one step ahead. Over time, I've grown into this latter type of attorney. I realize that makes me somewhat like a nervous mother shouting for everyone to slow down, don't splash and play nice, but no matter how far this analogy is stretched it still seems to make sense.

Now, a corporation can't poke its eye out, but it can have its veil pierced. As a young attorney, one of the refrains I often hear is that in Virginia it is very difficult—impossible, even—to pierce the corporate veil. Of course, the reason I hear this all the time is because in all of my cases, someone is trying to pierce someone else's veil. If something is attempted often, it's eventually going to happen. Considering how bad that can be for a client—suddenly, personal liability is on the doorstep—and how relatively painless it can be to avoid, it makes sense to keep it in mind when advising corporate clients.

In Virginia, courts use no set rule or criteria to determine whether disregarding the corporate entity is justified. *See Dana v. 313 Freemason*, 266 Va. 491, 587 S.E.2d 548, 553 (2003). The inquiry is a fact-sensitive one that seeks to answer this question: Is there any meaningful difference between the corporation (or limited liability company) and the person or persons who own it? "[T]he shareholder sought to be held personally liable has controlled or used the corporation to evade a personal obligation, to perpetrate fraud or a crime, to commit an injustice, or to gain an unfair advantage. . . . Piercing the corporate veil is justified when the unity of interest and ownership is such that the separate personalities of the corporation and the individual no longer exist and to adhere to that separateness would

work an injustice." *Greenberg v. Commonwealth*, 255 Va. 594, 604, 499 S.E.2d 266, 272 (1998).

The solution is to keep as much distance as possible between the natural person and the legal entity. The advice is simple: follow all of the required, and suggested, corporate formalities. Don't use the corporate bank account as your own bank account; articles of incorporation are not a license to do what you please, without consequence. Consider this entirely fictional (but all too plausible) dialogue:

*Attorney:* Let me see the minutes from your last annual meeting, please.

*Client:* Minutes? You mean something written down?

*Attorney:* Yes.

*Client:* Oh, we don't write stuff down.

*Attorney:* You should take minutes at your annual meetings.

*Client:* We have to have annual meetings?

*Attorney:* !

*Client:* I've also been siphoning off all of the profits of the company to my other businesses. And I've been signing everything personally, not as a corporate officer. That's fine, right?

Of course, you can make it clear to your clients that the law requires a corporation to keep minutes of meetings and, at its principal place of business, certain documents, like copies of its articles, bylaws, and minutes, a list of its stockholders, and a record of the number, class, and series of all outstanding stock. But if they aren't going to keep those records up, you can't make them. You can, however, explain the possible, if remote, repercussions of not doing so and offer to generate and help maintain some of these required records.

Consider the client who creates a new limited liability company for every transaction or real estate holding. In that situation, undercapitalization and commingling of personal and company funds is a significant concern. Though there are not as many formal requirements for limited liability companies as there are for corporations, it can't hurt to take those extra steps: have an operating agreement, have regular meetings, keep minutes.

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# message from the president

Lesley Pate Marlin



A little over 10 years ago, during my final days as an undergrad at the University of Virginia, I found a cryptic note from one of the secret societies taped to my Lawn room door. It requested a “small amount of my time” a couple of days later, just before midnight. I followed the very specific instructions detailed in the note. Upon arriving at the secluded designated location, I and the six others who had also been invited found a letter. That letter sent us on a scavenger hunt around Grounds. We found other letters along the way, containing inspirational quotations and messages—one of which read, in part: “Service is planting a tree under whose shade you’ll never sit.” That quotation crystallized the meaning and purpose of service to me, and it has been my screen saver ever since.

So when I sat down to think about a theme for the YLC in the upcoming bar year and prepare this column, that quotation kept scrolling across my computer screen: “Service is planting a tree under whose shade you’ll never sit.” As I read the words over and over, I realized that the YLC truly embodies the spirit of that quotation. Year after year, the YLC plants trees under whose shade we’ll never sit. The YLC is all about service: service to its members, the bar, and the communities of the Commonwealth.

In June, at our annual luncheon at the VSB’s Annual Meeting, we celebrated 35 years of service. That milestone could not have been achieved without countless volunteers, circuit representatives, committee chairs, Board of Governors members, executive committee members, and past presidents. The YLC has benefited greatly in recent years from the leadership of our immediate past president, Jennifer McClellan, and the support of the VSB staff, especially our liaison, Maureen Stengel.

So what lies ahead, you may ask? Because we are all about service, that theme will underlie all things YLC in the next bar year. The YLC is proud of and intends to continue its legacy of service.

We have initiatives to serve our members. Our award-winning newsletter, *Docket Call*, will be distributed in a new electronic format, with only the fall issue remaining in print. We are planning to publicize resources to help our members survive the economic crisis that has plagued the nation and taken a particularly tough toll on young lawyers. We will continue publishing articles on practice-related issues of

*Service is planting a  
tree under whose shade  
you’ll never sit.*

*—Anonymous*

interest to young lawyers. Through our Board Match program, we are in the process of developing a Web-based portal that will connect our members to boards of non-profit organizations. Our professional development conference, which offers CLEs and networking opportunities, will be held on Friday, September 25, in Richmond and will focus on “Taking Your Practice to the Next Level.” Yet another networking opportunity is our annual bench-bar celebration dinner, which we are planning to host in the fall. For the newest members of our profession, we will sponsor the admissions and orientation ceremony and co-sponsor, with the General Practice Section, the First Day in Practice Seminar.

We will also continue to serve the communities of the Commonwealth. Just a few weeks ago, we hosted the Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Pre-Law Institute. The Institute had a record number of applicants this year, and the program educated and inspired aspiring young lawyers. Our Emergency Legal Services team is ready to jump into action in the event of an

unfortunate natural disaster. We will once again host several minority pre-law conferences. Through our Wills for Heroes program, we will continue providing wills to first responders.

We will also launch a new initiative aimed at cancer survivors and the law. As many of you know, these issues are near and dear to my own heart. The statistics are staggering and humbling: 1 in 4 people will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lifetimes. More often than not, cancer survivors struggle not only with treatment decisions but also legal problems that arise because of their diagnosis. Those legal problems may include employment matters, health insurance and Medicare, real estate or landlord/tenant issues, bankruptcy, and advance medical directives—to name just a few. So we will be developing a handbook to help cancer survivors navigate the variety of nagging legal issues they face as they fight their disease. We will also be sponsoring a CLE to train lawyers on the legal issues faced by cancer survivors. We hope that those lawyers, in turn, will help family members, friends, neighbors, and strangers who are fighting cancer and need legal assistance.

And these are only the highlights of what is ahead. We have many other programs, projects, and initiatives, all of which are designed to serve our members, the bar, and our communities. We are always looking for new volunteers and leaders. Please contact me at (202) 344-8033 or [lpmarlin@venable.com](mailto:lpmarlin@venable.com) if you would like to get involved.

The YLC needs help to carry out its legacy of service. We welcome your participation and hope that you’ll join us. We’ll plant new trees this year, and we’ll help those trees that we have already planted grow—so that others may some day benefit from their shade.

**Lesley Pate Marlin** practices labor and employment law at Venable LLP, in Washington, D.C. She can be reached at [lpmarlin@venable.com](mailto:lpmarlin@venable.com).



# legal ethics corner

Jeffrey Hamilton Geiger

## You Make the Call



I am so over flying, pink-haired avatars. Yet, I keep on thinking about blogging and other social media. I mean, I already communicate online with my friends and family, so why not use it as a marketing tool? Let the graybeards go to lunch and guffaw over golf scores. In that same amount of time, I can revise my LinkedIn profile, update my Facebook page, and send tweets to my “followers.” Still, should I be concerned that I am now engaging in advertising and soliciting for clients?



Welcome to the twenty-first century! While the rules with respect to lawyers’ involvement with social media remain unsettled, you can successfully maintain an online presence that is beneficial to your career, to your firm, and to potential clients looking for representation. What follows are some suggestions that, while perhaps obvious, should be considered when using online media:

- Don’t talk about your cases. Even if you don’t name the parties involved, you’re bound to disclose something confidential, and your client may not gain from the exposure.
- If you say it online, assume that it will last forever (and be blown up as an exhibit at your malpractice trial).
- Consider seriously a social media policy for your firm, applicable to lawyers and staff alike.
- Don’t discuss a client issue online, even in general terms. For example, if you raise an issue about an employment question or an expert’s qualifications, you have to assume that opposing counsel will find out about your posting.
- Don’t give blanket advice! You do not know in what jurisdiction your audience resides, raising both malpractice and unauthorized practice of law issues.

- While you may want to talk about the non-confidential aspects of your closed cases (especially those that you win), don’t forget the required disclaimer: Past successes don’t guarantee future results.
- Beware of endorsements from clients or friends. While much work is generated from satisfied clients, Rules 7.1 and 7.2 of the *Rules of Professional Conduct* regulate how such endorsements may be made. For example, a quid pro quo agreement—in which you recommend a client, and she recommends you in return—generally is not appropriate. Recommendations by friends or family members who have not actually engaged your services may also be problematic under the Rules.

**Jeff Geiger** serves as Firm Counsel and Chair of the Business and Professional Liability Litigation Group with Sands Anderson Marks & Miller, P.C. You can reach him at [jgeiger@sandsanderson.com](mailto:jgeiger@sandsanderson.com).

*Annual Meeting, continued from page 1*

off before a packed house, in the first debate leading up to the election this November. Each candidate was given the opportunity to make opening remarks before answering pre-selected questions by the moderator. The audience also had the opportunity to submit questions to the candidates. Engaged, knowledgeable, and at times passionate, the candidates addressed topics ranging from gang violence to immigration to the future of abortion law in the Commonwealth.

After the debate, it was time to kick back. After a strong showing at the Grand Prize Raffle event, where a trip was awarded to the VSB’s Midyear Legal Seminar in Marbella, Spain, YLC members gathered on the beach for the 25th Annual David T. Stitt Memorial Volleyball Tournament, sponsored by the Chicago Title Insurance Company and Condo, Kelly &

Byrnes, PC, of Fairfax, Virginia. Teams faced off in the double-elimination tournament while spectators enjoyed the sun and frosty beverages. The Llamas took home the trophy for the second year in a row.

Once again, the VSB Annual Meeting was a place to relax, learn, and network with Virginia lawyers from across the Commonwealth—a chance not only to have fun and pick up some CLE credits, but also to mingle with the very people who could be on the other side of your next case or deal. As an annual beachfront pilgrimage, it’s hard to beat. We look forward to seeing you there next year.

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*Corporate Corner, continued from page 2*

Certainly, most clients don’t need this level of shepherding. Some do, though, and it is my obligation as such clients’ attorney not just to tell them what they must do but to take an active monitoring role and, where appropriate, to help with the implementation. By educating clients not just about the basics of the corporate existence but also about the importance of keeping corporate and personal concerns distinct, we can put our clients in a better place should the risks be realized.

**David C. Nahm** is an associate at Clark & Bradshaw, P.C., in Harrisonburg. You can reach him at [dcnahm@clark-bradshaw.com](mailto:dcnahm@clark-bradshaw.com).



# Law Firms Take It to the Bank in the 2009 Legal Food Frenzy

Jacob S. Woody

The 2009 Legal Food Frenzy, which took place from March 30 to April 10, 2009, raised more than 1.65 million pounds of food for distribution to Virginia's food banks. This year's total surpassed the 2008 total by nearly 300,000 pounds, and it crushed the 2007 total by nearly a million pounds.

This year, 216 law firms participated in the annual food drive, up from 181 in 2008.

Derek Swanson of McGuireWoods LLP, who co-chaired the Frenzy along with Chris Gill of Christian & Barton and Katja Hill of LeClairRyan, can't say enough about the generosity of Virginia's legal community, calling the results of this year's effort "overwhelming." Certainly the legal community's outpouring couldn't have come at a time of greater need; according to Leslie Van Horn of the Federation of Virginia Food Banks, while definitive numbers for the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2009, won't be available for some time, demand for food bank services in the Commonwealth has seen an estimated increase of 20-40%. The Capital Area Food Bank, which serves Northern Virginia, has seen a 248% increase in the number of telephone calls seeking assistance, and the Fredericksburg Area Food Bank had seen a 40% increase in the number of citizens served. Partner agencies, such as emergency food pantries, youth programs, and emergency shelters, report serving 250-350 people a day. Before the downturn increasingly known as "The Great Recession," that number was 100 per day.

According to Swanson, the committee not only is looking forward to next year's competition but also working to "take the Legal Food Frenzy nationwide." Numerous attorneys general from across the county have expressed interest in similar efforts within their states. Attorney General Bill Mims made a presentation in June to the National Association of Attorneys General with the hope of laying the groundwork for a nationwide effort.

**Jake Woody** is a litigator in the Charlottesville office of McGuireWoods LLP. He can be reached at [jwoody@mcguirewoods.com](mailto:jwoody@mcguirewoods.com).



▲ Schettine & Nguyen, PLC, was awarded the Attorney General's Cup at a ceremony held at the Central Virginia Food Bank on May 28, 2009. From left to right: Attorney General Bill Mims, Jim Schettine, Angela K. Schettine, and Nhon H. Nguyen.

## And the Winners of the Third Annual Statewide "Legal Food Frenzy" Are . . .

### Attorney General's Cup Winner, Per Capita

Schettine & Nguyen, PLC (Richmond) 8,140.93 pounds per person

### Small (1-20 Attorneys) Law Firm, Total Pounds: "The Brunswick Stew Award"

Schettine & Nguyen, PLC (Richmond) 97,691.25 pounds

### Small (1-20 Attorneys) Law Firm, Per Capita: "The Shenandoah Apple Award"

Schettine & Nguyen, PLC (Richmond) 8,140.93 pounds per person

### Medium (21-100 Attorneys) Law Firm, Total Pounds: "The James River Shad Award"

Christian and Barton, LLP (Richmond) 68,415.25 pounds

### Medium (21-100 Attorneys) Law Firm, Per Capita: "The Hanover Tomato Award"

McKenry, Dancigers, Dawson & Lake (Virginia Beach) 1,397.88 pounds per person

### Large (101+ Attorneys) Law Firm, Total Pounds: "The Smithfield Ham Award"

McGuireWoods LLP 308,106.75 pounds

### Large (101+ Attorneys) Law Firm, Per Capita: "The Chesapeake Bay Blue Crab Award"

Cooley Godward Kronish LLP (Reston) 654.82 pounds per person

### Sole Proprietor (1-2 Attorneys) Law Firm, Total Pounds: "The Virginia Peanut Award"

Law Offices of David A. Greer, PLC (Norfolk) 5,050 pounds

### Attorney General's Cup Law School Winner, Total Pounds and Per Capita

University of Richmond School of Law 37,583.75 pounds, 85.22 pounds per person

## Total Donations By Regional Food Bank

Food Bank	Total Pounds
Blue Ridge Area Food Bank (Charlottesville area)	63,807.20
Capital Area Food Bank (Northern Virginia)	279,775.64
Central Virginia Food Bank (based in Richmond)	836,220.96
Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia (based in Norfolk)	374,821.20
Foodbank of the Virginia Peninsula	8,626.32
Fredericksburg Area Food Bank	12,688.00
Southwestern Virginia Second Harvest Food Bank	76,792.20

# VSB Council Votes for Diversity Conference Proposal

Lynn White

Despite criticism and objection from some Virginia lawyers and members of the public, whose feedback had been actively solicited, the Virginia State Bar Council voted to create a Diversity Conference at its June 18, 2009, meeting, by a vote of 51 to 13. A proposed amendment that would have added the chair of the Diversity Conference to the Executive Committee, which is a subset of the Council (see sidebar), failed by a vote of 33 to 30. The new Conference will, however, have a seat on the Bar Council. The Conference's

establishment remains subject to approval by the Supreme Court of Virginia, which received the Bar's petition on July 1.

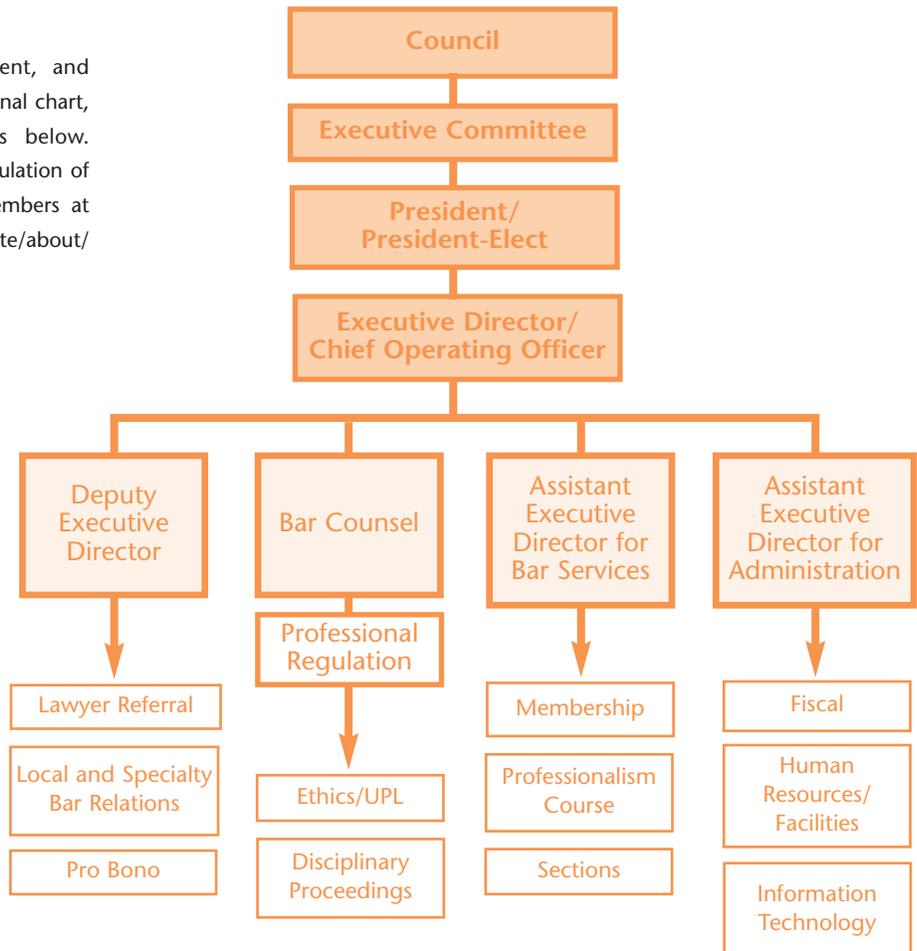
The stated goals of the Diversity Conference include fostering and encouraging diversity in admission to the Bar and advancement in the legal profession and the judiciary, serving as a catalyst for creating leadership and Bar service opportunities in the profession in Virginia, and working to ensure that the legal system is responsive to the legal needs of the people of Virginia. The VSB's Diversity Task Force, which

was appointed by then-VSB President Manuel A. Capsalis in July 2008 and which in early 2009 recommended establishment of the Conference, had avoided a precise definition of "diversity," noting that the term has a dynamic meaning that comprises not only a broad spectrum of differences in race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, citizenship, and geography, but which will be "constantly in flux" as Virginia's demographics evolve. All VSB members in good standing are invited to participate in the Conference, which will be

*continued on next page*

## Did You Know?

The Council, Executive Committee, President, and Executive Director sit atop the VSB organizational chart, an abbreviated version of which appears below. Opportunities to take an active role in the regulation of the legal profession are available to YLC members at almost every level. See <http://www.vsb.org/site/about/> for more information.





# see you in court

Robert E. Byrne, Jr.

*continued from previous page*

self-funded and is expected to include local and specialty bar associations, law schools, and individual lawyers. Requests to join the Conference should be submitted by VSB members to Karen Gould, VSB Executive Director, at the Bar's office in Richmond.

Enhancing the diversity of the judicial system has been a priority for the Young Lawyers Conference and the VSB as a whole. The YLC, through its dedicated members across the Commonwealth, organizes a number of programs each year that aim to strengthen the profession and serve the people of Virginia in the same ways that the Diversity Conference will. The YLC encourages diversity among high school students considering the profession with the annual Oliver Hill / Samuel Tucker Pre-Law Institute, and among college students at the Minority Pre-Law Conferences in northern Virginia, southern Virginia, and the Tidewater areas. A number of YLC programs, including No Bills Night, Community Law Week, and Immigration Outreach, target under-served diverse populations statewide. A wide variety of young lawyers attend and benefit from the professional development that comes from each year's First Day in Practice, Unlock Your Potential, and Professional Development Conference activities, and the Women and Minorities in the Profession Commission develops resources to assist lawyers in those groups. And each fall's Bench-Bar Dinner in Richmond honors and highlights the achievements of members of the profession who have ascended to judicial office in the prior year. With the establishment of the Diversity Conference, the VSB continues to show its ongoing strong commitment to serving the profession and the public.

## News and Practice Tips for Virginia Litigators

### Supreme Irony? Appellate Practice in a Trial Court

I know what many of you are thinking. "I'm a trial lawyer here in the Old Dominion, and my firm's appellate attorneys will handle any appeal that may be necessary in my case." Perhaps it's true that you have no aspirations of performing appellate. But it is entirely untrue—and, indeed, a grave error for you to believe—that because you are a trial lawyer you're accordingly not an appellate attorney. Trial practitioners must constantly be setting the stage for the case at the next judicial level, even if they will never darken the door of an appellate court. Like it or not, trial attorneys are also appellate attorneys.

The reason for this is simple: the grounds and bases for appeals are set and preserved by trial lawyers, not appellate lawyers. A case in the hands of the most skilled appellate attorney in the world is doomed if the lawyer who handled the trial did not properly preserve or set the record for appellate review. Given this sobering thought, there are three basic things trial attorneys must keep in mind if their appeals are to withstand rejection by the state and federal courts serving the Commonwealth of Virginia.

First, and perhaps most basic, make worthy objections to your opponent's evidence. An objection alerts the trial judge that the evidence conflicts with applicable law, and it grants the court an opportunity to correct the legal defect at that time and place. The Supreme Court of Virginia reporter is littered with cases where meritorious legal arguments were roundly dismissed for failure to object to the intended evidence below.

Second, when your opponent's objection to your proposed evidence is sustained, be sure to make a proffer of what your evidence would have been. Though the trial court could, conceivably, change its ruling after hearing what the evidence would have been, the real reason to include this evidence is to allow the appropriate appellate court to judge whether the trial court committed error in its evidentiary ruling. Like failing to object, failing to proffer will waive your appeal point. *King v. Cooley*, 274 Va. 374, 380–81 (2007) ("[W]hen testimony is rejected before it is delivered, an appellate court has no basis for adjudication unless the record reflects a proper proffer.") (citations omitted).

Third, be particularly vigilant if your case rests on a legal theory that has not been adopted in the Commonwealth of Virginia. If so, chances are pretty strong that a trial judge is not going to allow a jury instruction on that particular defense or cause of action. But if your claim or defense survives to the jury instruction stage, it is vitally important that you present the proposed jury instruction to the court at that time and, when it is denied, preserve your objection. If your cause of action is struck at the demurrer or motion to dismiss stage, make sure the order regarding that ruling reflects your objection.

These are just some of the basic things trial attorneys must consider as they position their cases for appeals, even if they have no intention of arguing the case at the appellate level. For a far more in-depth analysis of this subject, be sure to attend the 2009 Professional Development Conference in Richmond on September 25. At this year's conference, "Taking Your Practice to the Next Level," Steve Emmert, one of the most prominent appellate practitioners in Virginia, will present additional thoughts on appellate practice that every attorney in Virginia should know. And that includes those of you who never intend to present or argue an appeal.

**Lynn White** is a YLC member and a member of the Virginia Leadership Institute's board. For more information on VLI, please visit [www.virginialead.org](http://www.virginialead.org) or send an e-mail to [info@virginialead.org](mailto:info@virginialead.org).

**Bob Byrne** is a litigation associate at MartinWren, P.C., in Charlottesville. You can reach him at [bbyrne@martinwrenlaw.com](mailto:bbyrne@martinwrenlaw.com).

## Help Wanted

We need your help! The Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference needs **program chairs** and **committee members/volunteers** for many of its programs in the 2009-2010 bar year.

Becoming a program chair or a committee member/volunteer is an excellent way to get involved in the YLC to serve the profession and the public. If you are interested in any of the leadership positions or volunteer opportunities listed below, please contact:

**Lesley Pate Marlin**, at (202) 344-8033 or [lpmarlin@venable.com](mailto:lpmarlin@venable.com)  
or

**Brian Charville**, at (703) 228-3100 or [bcharville@arlingtonva.us](mailto:bcharville@arlingtonva.us)

More information about each of these programs can be found on the YLC's website, at <http://www.vayounglawyers.org/>.

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The YLC is currently seeking individuals to serve as **Chairs** for the following programs:

Northern Virginia Minority Pre-Law Conference  
Domestic Violence Safety Project  
Mental Health Reform Pro Bono Commission  
Women & Minorities in the Profession Commission  
Health & the Law Commission

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The YLC is currently seeking individuals to serve as **Regional Chairs for the No Bills Night program** in the following cities and regions:

Charlottesville  
Fredericksburg  
Lexington/Staunton  
Lynchburg  
Martinsville  
Northern Virginia  
Roanoke  
Tidewater  
Winchester

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The YLC is currently seeking a **Volunteer Coordinator** for the Admissions & Orientation Ceremony, which will be held in Richmond in early November and early May.

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The YLC is also seeking **committee members/volunteers** for the following programs:

Annual Meeting – Programs Committee  
Bench-Bar Celebration Dinner  
CLE on Legal Issues Facing Cancer Survivors  
*Docket Call*  
Community Law Week  
Domestic Violence Safety Project  
Legal Handbook for Cancer Survivors  
Immigrant Outreach  
Northern Virginia Minority Pre-Law Conference  
No Bills Night

**Docket Call** is seeking volunteer writers.

If you are interested in penning a regular quarterly column or an occasional feature article, please contact Joanna Faust, at [joanna.faust@leclairryan.com](mailto:joanna.faust@leclairryan.com).

## Address Change?

If you have moved or changed your address, please see the VSB Membership Department's page on the Web for an address update form, at [www.vsb.org/site/members/](http://www.vsb.org/site/members/).

## Docket Call

A quarterly publication of the Young Lawyers Conference of the Virginia State Bar.

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### Board Liaison:

Brian Charville

### Design & Production:

Madonna G. Dersch

*Docket Call* welcomes contributions from members of the YLC.

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