Professionalism for Law Students Program Launched

The Virginia State Bar’s Section on the Education of Lawyers and the Standing Committee on Professionalism have initiated a pilot program on professionalism for law students. It began in February at the University of Richmond and Washington & Lee University.

The state bar has been committed to instructing and modeling professionalism in an age when law practice is increasingly marked by incivility and commercialism. Its mandatory course on professionalism is required of all those newly licensed to practice in Virginia. This new law school program is designed to present the bar’s aspirations of professionalism to law students in Virginia as early as possible in their legal training—preferably during the second semester of their first year of study. The education section, whose board of governors includes the deans of each of the Commonwealth’s six accredited law schools, and the Professionalism Committee, which has overseen the Professionalism Course since its inception in 1988, have collaborated to develop a program modeled on the mandatory course, and which accounts for the nature, focus and constituency of each of the law schools.

This work was carried out by a joint subcommittee of the two groups, chaired by United States Magistrate Judge B. Waugh Crigler, of Charlottesville. The subcommittee has worked closely with representatives from the Virginia law schools for the last several years to develop the curriculum, select the faculty and finalize the format for the presentations. The program features lectures on professionalism, relationships with clients, and relationships with the courts—combined with students’ group discussions of hypothetical questions.

The pilot program faculty was selected from among the best and the brightest lawyers and judges in Virginia. Most of them have served on the faculty for the mandatory professionalism course, and have established reputations for conducting themselves in a manner consistent with the highest standards of the profession. They are individuals with whom law students can readily identify, and whose achievements they can view as reasonably attainable. Justice Elizabeth B. Lacy, Glenn C. Lewis, Charles F. Witthoef, Stephen A. Isaacs, Julia B. Judkins, and Curtis M. Hairston participated at the University of Richmond, on February 18th; and U.S. District Judge Gerald Bruce Lee, Phillip V. Anderson, Rodney G. Leffler, U.S. Magistrate Judge Pamela Meade Sargent, and Joseph W. Richmond, Jr. participated at Washington & Lee University on February 29th. Judge Crigler served as program chair at each location and Dean John Pagan, of University of Richmond, and Acting Dean Mark Grunewald, of Washington & Lee, provided welcoming remarks at their respective schools. The state bar, including the education section and the Professionalism Committee, are indebted to these lawyers and judges for their enthusiasm, and for their commitment of time, talent and energies to make this endeavor successful. The bar is also extremely grateful to the University of Richmond and Washington & Lee University for their unwavering support and commitment to this program.

By all accounts, the two pilot programs were a success from the student perspective. Although attendance was not mandatory, a majority of the first year class participated in the programs at each school. Based on students’ evaluations at each location, the programs were rated “outstanding”—and “not repetitive of law school.” The goal of the education section and Professionalism Committee is to expand the program to all six Virginia law schools in the near future. The faculty for the pilot programs has agreed to work with Judge Crigler to refine the program and train additional faculty for future programs.

Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Award

The Honorable Paul F. Sheridan, chief judge of Arlington Circuit Court, received the Criminal Law Section’s Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Award at the section’s 30th Annual Seminar in Williamsburg. Sheridan is a former faculty member for the state bar’s Course on Professionalism; former member of the board of governors of the Section on the Education of Lawyers; and currently serves as a member of the VSB Bench-Bar Relations Committee.
Michael A. Glasser Announces Candidacy for VSB President-elect.

Michael A. Glasser, age 46, of Norfolk, Virginia, has announced that he will seek the office of president-elect of the Virginia State Bar. As of the March 15 filing deadline, he was the only declared candidate. Upon confirmation, he will serve as president-elect of the Virginia State Bar in 2000–2001, and president in 2001–2002.

Mr. Glasser graduated with distinction from the University of Virginia and received his law degree from the University of Richmond. He has served the bar in various capacities, including member of the Council of the VSB since 1993, member of the Disciplinary Board since 1995, member of the Budget and Finance Committee since 1997, and member of the Executive Committee since 1998. Mr. Glasser also served as a member of the bar’s Committee on Participation by Women and Minorities.

Glasser and Glasser, P.L.C., which consists of 17 lawyers and more than 150 paralegals and staff, practices in the areas of products liability, asbestos and lead litigation, personal injury, commercial litigation and creditors’ rights. Mr. Glasser has lectured extensively and litigated in the areas of real estate, foreclosure and creditors’ rights.

Mr. Glasser and his wife, Lori, have three sons: Bern, 11; Jacob, 9; and Ross, 6.
Canadian Bar Adopts VSB Campaign

The Canadian Bar Association (CBA) has adopted the VSB’s award-winning public education campaign, and will run the series of advertisements throughout its 12 provincial and territorial branches.

The five print advertisements were created by the Virginia State Bar and the Virginia Commonwealth University Adcenter. The campaign is available to interested state, local and regional bars. The Oregon State Bar was the first bar to license the copyrighted campaign.

The CBA is a voluntary organization representing approximately 36,000 lawyers, judges, notaries, law teachers and students. Approximately two-thirds of all practicing attorneys in Canada are members of the CBA.

The series of advertisements can be viewed on the Web at www.vsb.org/publications/ads/index.html. For more information, contact Rod Coggin at (804) 775-0585 or coggin@vsb.org.

Jeffrey Yeates Wins Writing Contest

Jeffrey Yeates of the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William & Mary is the winner of the VSB Corporate Counsel Section’s annual law school student writing contest. A William & Mary Draper’s Scholar, Yeates will spend the 2000–2001 school term studying international and comparative law at the University of London. His essay is published on the VSB Web site at www.vsb.org/sections/cc/essay.html.

William L. Winston Award

Retired Arlington Circuit Court Judge Thomas R. Monroe was honored with the William L. Winston Award by the Arlington County Bar Foundation. The award, named for the retired circuit court judge, recognizes members of the community “who have contributed substantially to the advancement of education, knowledge and enlightenment of the American system of jurisprudence and law.”

Pictured are Monroe (front), and (left to right): Retired Supreme Court Justice Charles S. Russell, Arlington Circuit Court Judge Benjamin N.A. Kendrick, Retired Arlington Circuit Court Judge William L. Winston, and Retired Arlington Circuit Court Judge Paul D. Brown.

IN MEMORIAM

Dennis Allen Dearing
March 1946—February 2000
Towson, MD

Ellana Causey Johnson
February 1958—November 1999
Reston

David Frankman Peters
August 1941—March 2000
Richmond