

The Oliver Hill Foundation

by Clarence M. Dunnville, Jr.

Oliver White Hill, now in his 95th year, is one of the last survivors of a small band of lawyers who—through the rule of law—brought down the American apartheid, or Jim Crow system, and changed the nation. Although Mr. Hill was involved in many important civil rights cases during much of the twentieth century, he is best known for his role in *Brown v. Board of Education*, which perhaps has had the most profound effect on law and society in America.

Professor Charles J. Ogletree of Harvard Law School has observed: “Any serious examination of the Civil Rights Movement’s heyday must go through Richmond, Virginia, and has to embrace the incredible efforts and accomplishments of Oliver Hill. As one of America’s most distinguished attorneys, and the Renaissance man of the Civil Rights Movement, Oliver Hill carved paths of justice from the schools to the streets of Richmond all the way to the United States Supreme Court . . . His words and deeds, like those of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Charles Hamilton Houston, Thurgood Marshall and Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, provide inspiration and direction for the 21st century civil rights leaders to continue the battle to make America the country it is destined to be.”

In October 2000, a few of Mr. Hill’s admirers, led by Cabell Brand of Salem, Virginia, and myself, founded the Oliver White Hill Foundation. A 501(c)(3) application seeking tax exempt status is currently pending before the Internal Revenue Service.

The goal of the Oliver White Hill Foundation is to carry on the work of Mr. Hill and his associates in the field of civil rights. Although Mr. Hill and his colleagues made a tremendous contribution to the nation in bringing down the walls of legal segregation, their work is incomplete. Unfortunately, there are many vestiges of the segregation era that remain to this day. It is true, as Professor Ogletree remarks, that Mr. Hill and other civil rights giants provide inspiration and direction for the 21st century civil rights leaders to continue the battle for equality. However, it is necessary for members



The board of trustees of the Oliver White Hill Foundation, Inc., at its organizational meeting. (l-r) Katherine Strickland, president; Alice Roberts, Norine Dunnville, Clarence Dunnville, Martin Jeffrey, Cabell Brand, and Oliver W. Hill.

of the legal profession to take a leading role in this endeavor, and lawyers need to be encouraged and trained to enter this field of public service. In our diverse society, where the minorities will become the majority in this century, all discrimination based on race, gender, national origin and sexual preference must be abolished. Much remains to be done to achieve this goal.

The Oliver White Hill Foundation, Inc., was formed with the expectation that it would be a vehicle to continue some of the unfinished work of Mr. Hill and his associates.

Among the purposes of the foundation is to function as an educational and policy center for the promotion and study of human rights. In this connection, the foundation wants to acquire Mr. Hill’s boyhood home in Roanoke, Virginia, and develop it as a center for the fostering of human rights.

The foundation perceives that there is a great need to inculcate young lawyers with new challenges facing civil rights and civil liberties, and to assist them to become advocates in the fields of individual rights and civil liberties. As its first project, the Oliver White Hill Foundation was fortunate to obtain a grant from the Virginia Law Foundation to enable it to sponsor two law students to serve as interns this summer with public interest law firms devoted to civil rights. One will be served at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc., and the second to be served at the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. (See insert on page 46.)

The foundation believes that this small step of sponsoring interns for public interest law firms focusing on civil rights is an important milestone in its development as an institution grounded in the traditions of Oliver W. Hill. The foundation would like to expand its efforts to assist young lawyers who may be interested in working as attorneys for organizations such as the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and the NAACP Legal Defense Fund after bar admission, but cannot afford to take such positions because of the low level of compensation. The foundation would



Clarence Dunnville and Oliver W. Hill in front of Mr. Hill’s boyhood home at 401 Gilmer Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia.

like to assist young lawyers who join these public service law firms by contributing toward the payment of student loans and providing other financial incentives.

The Oliver White Hill Foundation is led by Katherine Strickland of Roanoke, Virginia, the chair of the board of trustees. Strickland is the executive director of the Virginia Transportation Museum. Other members of the board of trustees are Cabell Brand, of Salem; Oliver W. Hill, Jr., of Richmond; Esther Vassar, of Newport News; Alice Roberts, of Roanoke; Martin Jeffrey, of Roanoke; Norine Dunnville, and myself.

The most important goals of the current board are to recruit new board members who will strengthen the foundation, and to recruit an advisory board of prominent lawyers with national stature, who can assist the foundation with its mission.

The Oliver White Hill Foundation is very grateful to the Virginia Law Foundation for its assistance in launching its first project and looks forward to partnering with the Virginia Law Foundation in the future on other projects.

Lawyers are the gatekeepers of freedom. The Oliver White Hill Foundation sees as one of its major objectives instilling in law students the importance of the role of lawyers in protecting civil rights in a free society and raising financial resources to enable young lawyers to practice law in these areas. It is essential in this century to retain the gains of Mr. Hill and his associates in the field of civil rights, and to build upon those gains in the new millennium. The Oliver White Hill Foundation is seeking support from the legal community to assist it to accomplish its goals. 🍷



Clarence M. Dunnville, Jr., is an attorney with Hill, Tucker & Marsh, P.C., of Richmond. He is admitted to practice in Virginia, New York and New Jersey. A native of Roanoke, Virginia, Dunnville is a graduate of Morgan State University in Baltimore and Saint John's University School of Law.

Dunnville served as a voluntary attorney with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in the Mississippi project in the late 1960s. A former assistant United States attorney for the Southern District of New York and corporate counsel for AT&T, where he practiced corporate and international law, he has participated in numerous national and international conferences and seminars on various legal topics. In January 1999, he participated on a panel of lawyers and judges from France, the United States, Cote d'Ivoire and Senegal on constitutional law in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast) Africa. He served as lawyer in residence at Washington and Lee School of Law for the academic year 2000–2001.

Dunnville is a member of the Old Dominion Bar Association, the Bench Bar Committee of the Virginia State Bar, and is treasurer of the board of governors of the Senior Lawyers Section of the Virginia State Bar. He is a member of the Administration of Justice Committee of the Bar Association of the City of Richmond.

Oliver Hill Foundation Student Interns

Tanya L. Miller—Arlington, VA
Intern, Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights
Under Law, May 29, 2001

Education:

American University, Brussels

American University, BA in communications, legal economics and government

The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, Candidate for JD, May 2003

Honors:

Presidential Scholarship, Golden Key National Honor Society

Experience:

Special Assistant, Office of White House Liaison,
Department of State

Staff Assistant, Office of Counsel to the President,
The White House

Jacob T. Penrod—Staunton, VA
Intern, NAACP Legal and Education Fund,
May 29, 2001

Education:

James Madison University, BS in Sociology and Anthropology

Washington and Lee University of Law, Candidate for JD,
May 2003

Honors:

Summa cum laude graduate of JMU, Sociology Student of
the Year

Experience:

Paralegal: Hoover, Penrod, Davenport & Crist

Reflections of a Washington and Lee Lawyer-in-Residence

by Clarence M. Dunnaville, Jr.

I was fortunate to have been selected to serve as lawyer-in-residence at the Washington and Lee School of Law for the 2000–2001 academic year.

I arrived on Washington and Lee's campus on October 11, 2000, for the first of a number of visits to the campus during the year. Although I grew up in Roanoke, I was not familiar with Lexington, or aware of the beauty of the area. The small town atmosphere, coupled with the small size of the law school, is ideal for the study of law.

One of the things that impressed me about the curriculum is that, in the first semester of the first year, one of the required courses is "American Public Law Process." This course provides an introduction to the legal framework of American constitutional and administrative government. The course, combined with civil procedure courses, provide in the first year student an excellent platform for all that follows.

Washington and Lee has a holistic approach to developing lawyers. Its small size, with a total enrollment of 365 students, allows for a faculty to student ratio of 11 to 1. The University of Virginia has a faculty to student ratio 14 to 1. I observed that members of the faculty spend a great deal of time with students outside the classroom.

For many years, I have been aware of the impressive reputation of the Washington and Lee School of Law. I was aware that it has a very distinguished faculty, and many of the most prominent lawyers in the nation are Washington and Lee graduates.

Perhaps W&L's most illustrious alumni is the late Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr. (Class of 1931). In December 1989, after his retirement, Justice Powell announced his intentions to donate his professional and personal papers to the law school. The Powell Wing of the law school, which was completed in 1992 to house Justice Powell's papers, includes his chambers and his personal library.

As lawyer-in-residence, I was privileged to have the use of Justice Powell's chambers and library during my stays at the law school. I was permitted to use this distinguished office as a personal study and as a greeting room to meet with faculty members and students.

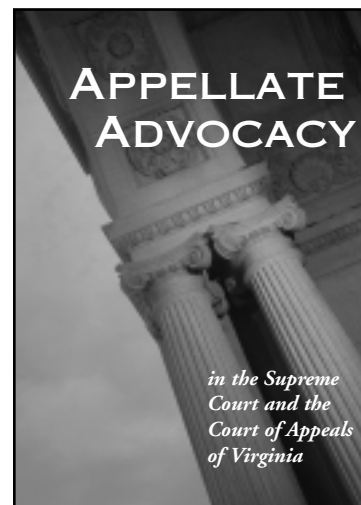
My duties as lawyer-in-residence were exciting and varied. I made a presentation to the faculty, spent time visiting classes, met with student groups, including editors of the law review, the Black Student's Association and the Public Interest Law Association. I also met with a number of faculty members and students individually in the Powell chambers.

I was extremely impressed with the students. I found them to be enthusiastic and smart.

In my discussions with students, I emphasized the importance of professional responsibility and ethical conduct. I also talked about the importance of lawyers in our society. One of the messages that I tried to impart to the students is that we live in a society where the rule of law prevails. I related many of my own personal experiences, including my experience as a young lawyer during the late 1960s with the Lawyer's Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Mississippi when a Mississippi deputy sheriff pointed a shotgun in my face and ordered me out of town because I was investigating improper action by the Mississippi Highway Patrol in extorting money from an 80-year-old black man. I pointed out that the rule of law ultimately prevailed in the Civil Rights struggle, and because of the hard work and perseverance of lawyers, America's system of racial segregation ended, and the United States is a much better nation today.

In a presentation to the faculty, I stressed that law students are the future stewards of the profession and that law schools are critical to developing "citizen lawyers," who are socially responsible. I urged that law students should be prepared to make a good living, but most importantly must be committed to justice and equality.

It was my good fortune, and one of the most memorable, rewarding experiences of my professional life to have been selected as lawyer-in-residence at Washington and Lee. I believe that my experience as a lawyer who has practiced in the public sector, as in-house counsel for a major corporation, in private practice and as a pro bono attorney during the civil rights struggle, enabled me to provide a unique perspective. I am grateful that I was able to share some of my experiences, concerns and ideas, and to provide some practical advice based upon my cumulative years of practice. 🍷



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Lawyer-in-Residence Program Affords W&L Students Practical Lessons in Law

by Dean David F. Partlett, Washington and Lee University School of Law

In the early 1970s, Sydney and Frances Lewis gave the Washington and Lee University School of Law a foundational gift to build an architecturally distinct, state-of-the-art facility to house the cramped school. Lewis Hall, dedicated in 1977, was a turning point for the School of Law. It ushered in a new era of growth, intensified scholarship and greater recognition as one of the 20 best law schools in the nation, according to *U.S. News and World Report*.

Like benefactors before them, the Lewises knew that a building alone could not guarantee a top-quality legal education. A legal education of that ilk mandates a deep inquiry into the law as it operates in society. It demands close and exacting analysis of the law in its own terms and externally by reference to relevant social sciences.

More than this, the law must be applied and practiced. Borrowing from Emerson, it depends upon men and women on the faculty ready to dig deep foundations and work while others sleep. For students, preparation in the law tests their ability to acquire critical habits of the mind and to apply learning to the advancement of a just social order.

Drawing on their concern for the welfare of their community, state and nation, and their devotion to the traditions of Washington and Lee, Sydney and Frances Lewis had a vision. They endowed the Frances Lewis Law Center to build within the law school's fine edifice special programs that would "initiate, stimulate, encourage and support research activity that considers legal institutions or doctrine in the context of relevant societal values." The center also was charged with postulating conclusions, "including any appropriate changes in the law or in the means by which the law is applied."

To fulfill that mission, the Law School saw an acute need to bring to it distinguished visiting scholars, judges and attorneys. The Lewis Law Center thus launched the judge-in-residence, lawyer-in-residence, and scholar-in-residence programs that give students a rare, bird's-eye view into the world of law awaiting them.

Students and faculty have benefited greatly from having in their midst judges and attorneys, including Justice Elizabeth Lacy of the Supreme Court of Virginia; Chief Judge G. R. D. Waldron of the County Court of Victoria, Australia; Douglas Bersharov of the American Enterprise Institute; Jeffrey L. Sher, Queen's Counsel, of Melbourne, Australia; and Michael Pertschuk of the Advocacy Institute.

Last fall, Clarence Dunnville was our lawyer-in-residence. A principal in the Richmond firm of Hill, Tucker & Marsh, Mr. Dunnville has had a distinguished legal career in government, corporations and the private bar. From his early days as an assistant U.S. Attorney during the Kennedy administration and his current work with the Richmond law firm of Hill, Tucker & Marsh, Mr. Dunnville has enjoyed a remarkably rich practice, which, in his enthusiastic work with W&L students, made him an ideal lawyer-in-residence.

This winter term, our judge-in-residence was Justice Brian Tamberlin of the Federal Court of Australia. Justice Tamberlin was an active colleague, giving feedback on faculty colloquia, teaching a course in "International Aspects of Intellectual Property Law" and meeting a wide variety of students at less formal occasions.

The variety of our scholars-in-residence is similarly remarkable. We have had internationally renowned jurists fill the position, including Dr. Yvonne Scannel of the Law School at Trinity College, Dublin, who visited in 1996; Hilary Charlesworth, Director of the Centre for International and Public Law at The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, who joined us in 1999; and Andrew Huxley, of the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, who visited during this year's spring semester.

In Virginia, with its fine bar and rich legal history, we have much talent to draw upon. Cal Woodard, a Yale- and Cambridge-trained historian and legal philosopher, visited in 1986 from the University of Virginia. In contrast, our commitment to the practice of law is seen in David Bruck—the Lewis Law Center's scholar-in-residence this coming academic year. Bruck's work defending individuals facing the death penalty, in South Carolina and elsewhere, has drawn national attention as public debate over capital punishment has intensified.

The vitality of the scholar-, judge-, and lawyer-in-residence programs exemplify W&L's commitment to law as a practical science. The law school steadily invests in its clinical legal education programs to further promote that end. Whether our students are engaged in the Black Lung Clinic, the Capital Case Clearinghouse or the Alderson Women's Prison Practicum, they see the practice of law in action. They learn the skills to harness effectively the hard analysis of the classroom. They gain an appreciation of the many opportunities available to them. And they help deliver justice to those in need of it across Virginia and beyond.

As the world of practice has drawn back from its role in educating new professionals, law schools must assume this critical task.

Today's students need windows into the realities of practice, more so than students in past decades. Our lawyer- and judge-in-residence programs enable W&L to expose our students to practitioners who have achieved much. It is a potent mechanism for inspiring students and helping them see how a life dedicated to the law is fulfilling, exciting and critical to society.

Where social justice is in short supply, and as the practice of law grows increasingly global, W&L is focused on the future. The life of our law school will continue to gain mightily from its well established lawyer-, judge- and scholar-in-residence programs. We will look intently for jurists within Virginia, while recognizing that issues now run nationally and internationally. And we are strengthened by our association with Virginia's deep pool of dedicated lawyers, judges and legal scholars.

For more than 150 years, the Washington and Lee University School of Law has married the classroom and the practice. We are committed to our student-centered methods in the teaching of law—and will remain so as we look ahead to our next 150 years. 📖



David F. Partlett was named dean of the Washington and Lee School of Law last year and joined the university July 1, 2000. He was a professor of law at Vanderbilt University Law School, where he also served as acting dean during the 1996-97 academic year. A native of Australia, Partlett earned his LL.B. from the University of Sydney School of Law in 1970, his LL.M. from the University of Michigan Law School and his S.J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law.

Olson Named Taxpayer Advocate



Nina E. Olson (left) was recently sworn in as National Taxpayer Advocate for the Internal Revenue Service. Olson is the former executive director of the Community Tax Law Project and received special recognition from the VSB at its annual Lewis F. Powell Awards Ceremony. Shown in Washington, D.C., were the Honorable Carolyn Miller Parr and IRS Commissioner Charles O. Rossotti.

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Highlights of Council Meeting

June 14, 2001

The Virginia State Bar Council took the following actions on June 14, 2001:

Budget and Finance

Council approved the 2001-2002 VSB budget projecting revenues of \$8,444,120 and expenditures of \$8,741,177.

Lawyer Discipline

Council approved and recommended to the Supreme Court amendments to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13 B. and K. of the Rules of the Virginia Supreme Court, which would open district committee hearings to the public and provide information about disciplinary complaints twenty-one days after a subcommittee sets a complaint for hearing and notice is sent to the respondent attorney. The proposed amendments would require two of the three members of a subcommittee to vote to set a matter for a hearing. Currently, one member of a subcommittee can set a hearing. The twenty-one day period will permit negotiation of private discipline in appropriate cases. The amendments define the kinds of matters that are appropriate for private, rather than public discipline, and create a presumption that a lawyer could receive no more than two private disciplines within a ten-year period. These amendments implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Public Access to the Attorney Disciplinary Process.

Council approved and recommended to the Supreme Court amendments to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13 F., which would enhance the bar's ability to deal with disability cases. Among other changes, the amendments would authorize the following: 1) bar counsel to initiate an investigation upon notice or evidence that an attorney is suffering from a disability; 2) the Disciplinary Board to order a medical examination for good cause shown in the interest of public protection; 3) the Disciplinary Board to appoint a guardian ad litem for an unrepresented attorney who is the subject of a disability; and 4) summary suspension of an attorney who fails to comply with an order entered in connection with a disability proceeding if the public or clients of the attorney were in jeopardy.

Council voted to table proposed amendments to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13 E., which would have allowed summary suspension of persons who plead guilty to serious criminal offenses under the first offender statute.

Mandatory Continuing Legal Education

Council approved and recommended to the Supreme Court amendments to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 13.2 and 17, which would change the deadline for MCLE compliance from July 1 to October 31.

Fifteen hours of CLE would be required during the July 1, 2001 to October 31, 2002, transition period.

Senior Lawyers Conference

Council established a Senior Lawyers Conference composed of all VSB members in good standing 55 years old or older and recommended an amendment to Part 6, § IV, ¶ 5, which would make the chair of the conference an ex officio member of Council.

Resolution Regarding JLARC Capital Punishment Study

Council adopted a resolution offering the bar's assistance to JLARC in the conduct of its capital punishment study.

Memorial Resolution

Council adopted a memorial resolution honoring the memory of past-president E. Griffith Dodson, who died May 8, 2001.

Don't Forget!

MCLE Certification Deadline July 31, 2001 to avoid Late Filing Fee

Attorneys taking courses after the June 30 completion deadline for compliance with the 2001 MCLE Requirement must pay a \$50 non-compliance penalty

Check your MCLE record on-line at
http://www.vsb.org/mcle/mcle_record.html

Virginia Law Foundation Announces Grant Awards

At its meeting on April 12, the Virginia Law Foundation board of directors approved 36 grant awards totaling \$522,489 for law-related projects across Virginia. Now in its eighteenth year of grant making, the VLF has provided nearly \$20 million in grant support to programs that provide civil legal assistance to low-income Virginians, law-related education to the public, public service internships for Virginia law students, and projects designed to improve the administration of justice.

The VLF awarded \$241,500 to 11 pro-bono/legal services projects, \$113,354 to 14 law-related education projects, \$101,635 to nine administration of justice projects, and \$66,000 to two recipients for public service internship programs. Funds are provided in support of these projects for a one-year period beginning July 1, 2001.

The Foundation board allocates 5 percent of its assets annually for grants and operations. During the current cycle, the VLF received 62 requests for funding totaling more than \$1.2 million.

See www.virginialawfoundation.org/newgrnts.html for the full list of awardees.

The VLF is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt entity; contributions to it are tax deductible. The foundation encourages donations from Virginia attorneys. For further information about the VLF, contact Sharon Tatum, executive director, at (804) 648-0112, or visit the foundation's Web site at www.virginialawfoundation.org.

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Charles F. Barnett

Roanoke

November 1944–December 2000

Toiya Dee Castleman

Richmond

September 1966–April 2001

Abraham J. Dere

Glen Allen

January 1914 to May 2001

E. Griffith Dodson

Roanoke

February 1914–May 2001

President, Virginia State Bar

1961–1962

James P. Hart

Roanoke

October 1907–May 2001

James Stuart Higgins

Stuart, FL

October 1950–April 2001

Thomas J. Moore

Richmond

August 1938–May 2001

Ronald Ricky Reiss

Newport News

January 1948–April 2001

Irving Turner

Falls Church

May 1916–March 2001

The Honorable E. Preston Grissom Honored for Lifetime Achievements

The Family Law Section of the VSB presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to the Honorable E. Preston Grissom for his dedication to the practice of family law and domestic relations. The award honors an individual who has made a substantial contribution to the practice and administration of family law in the Commonwealth. The award was presented Friday, June 15 at the VSB annual meeting in Virginia Beach.



Grissom, a former 1st Circuit representative to the VSB council, was the founding chair of the Chesapeake Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services Board. He has served as chair of the VSB Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee and as a member of the Family Law Section board of governors. Grissom has served as judge to the 1st Judicial Circuit Court of Chesapeake and the Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court of Chesapeake. He has also served as president of the Virginia Counsel of J&DR Court Judges and is a former member of the Judicial Inquiry & Review Commission.

A former partner with White, Reynolds, Smith, Winters, Grissom, Townsend & Lucas, of Norfolk, Grissom is a member of the Norfolk & Portsmouth and Chesapeake Bar Associations. He has been a member of the McCammon Group since 1998 and a certified mediator since 2000.

Grissom earned his B.S. from the University of Richmond and his LL.B. from the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond.

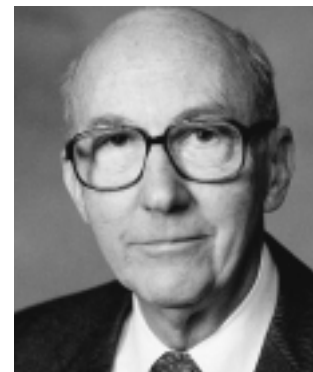
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available to all Virginia attorneys on questions related to legal malpractice avoidance, claims repair, professional liability insurance issues and law office management, call the VSB's risk manager, Falls Church lawyer John J. Brandt at

1-800-215-7854.

Roanoke Attorney T.L. Plunkett, Jr., Receives Tradition Of Excellence Award

Theodore La Drue ("T.L.") Plunkett, Jr., a Roanoke attorney with Plunkett & Oehlschlaeger, was awarded the Virginia State Bar's Tradition of Excellence Award on Saturday, June 16, at the bar's annual meeting in Virginia Beach. The award is presented annually by the General Practice Section to an attorney who has dedicated time and effort to the activities that assist the community while improving the standing and image of general practitioners in the eyes of the public.



Plunkett has served in numerous capacities within the Virginia State Bar. He was a member of the VSB council from 1979 to 1988 and was a member of its executive committee from 1983 to 1988. Plunkett was also a member of the VSB Senior Lawyers Section board of governors from 1995 to 1998.

He served as vice president of the Virginia Bar Association from 1971 to 1972.

On the local level, Plunkett has served as president of the Roanoke Bar Association from 1973 to 1974. He has served as president of the Conference of Local Bar Associations from 1981 to 1982. He was the first chairman of the Roanoke Legal Aid Committee steering its birth through controversial water to the great pro bono services it renders today. He is also an active member of Roanoke's Estate Planning Council.

Plunkett is one of only 20 members from the Roanoke Valley elected a Fellow in the Virginia Law Foundation, which is strictly limited to one percent of the active lawyers in the Commonwealth.

Serving as a commissioner in chancery for the courts of Roanoke City since 1951, Plunkett has been a quasi-judge to whom the official judges have looked for guidance longer than any other corresponding judicial agent. As commissioner of accounts since 1984, he has been a major influence in the integrity of the local system of resolving and concluding the necessary accountings of more than 1,000 cases.

Plunkett received his undergraduate degree from Roanoke College in 1946 and his law degree from the University of Virginia in 1948.

Roanoke Attorney Recognized as Young Lawyer of the Year

Roanoke lawyer Edward B. Walker received the R. Edwin Burnette, Jr., Young Lawyer of the Year Award from the Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference at its annual luncheon meeting on June 15, 2001 in Virginia Beach. The award is named for Lynchburg General District Court Judge R. Edwin Burnette, Jr., a former president of the Virginia State Bar, the Young Lawyers Conference (YLC) and the Lynchburg Bar Association. The Award is given annually to the young lawyer who best exemplifies Judge Burnette's distinguished record of service to the Bar and to the public. Recent winners of the Award include U.S. Magistrate Judge Pamela Meade Sargent, Richmond lawyers Shawn A. Copeland and Maya M. Eckstein, and Tidewater lawyer Barry G. Logsdon.

Walker is a 1990 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and received his law degree from Washington and Lee University in 1996. Walker began his career with Mundy, Rogers and Frith in Roanoke where he worked until June, 2000. He then started a solo law practice specializing in plaintiff's personal injury cases and providing special assistance to select business clients. Walker is a past chairman of the Personal Injury Litigation Lawyers Association of Roanoke and past board member of the Roanoke chapter of the American Red Cross Blood Services. He serves on the Executive Committee of The Virginia Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division (YLD). Walker has served on various YLD committees, served as a YLD mentor in Roanoke-area schools and a youth home, and started the YLD's Law School Council Program at Washington and Lee University.

In 1993, Walker founded the Marrow Donor Center of the Virginias, which is a leading registry that finds marrow donor matches for terminally ill patients with blood related diseases such as leukemia. The center is responsible for assisting patients, their families, and physicians in the western half of Virginia and the entire state of West Virginia. The center has consistently been among the nation's leaders in recruiting donors and finding marrow matches for patients.

Walker may be best known for founding the Downtown Music Lab in Roanoke, an after-school recording studio and music pro-

gram for regional high school students. Every day after school and throughout the summer, the lab makes musical instruments, instruction, and recording equipment available to high school students in two downtown Roanoke facilities. In its first two years, the lab has produced three CDs of student music and provided numerous performing opportunities for student talent, including Amateur Night at the Apollo Theater in New York City. Community groups in other cities across the country are interested in establishing similar music labs in their regions, and preliminary efforts to establish The Harlem Music Lab in New York are underway.



In addition to other board positions and community activities, Walker serves as a board member for the Center for Innovative Leadership, and he established the Roanoke Regional Issues Group, which encourages young professionals to become involved in resolving significant public issues in their particular regions. Through Walker's efforts, the Roanoke Regional Issues Group has held interactive meetings with gubernatorial candidate Mark Warner, Dennis Fisher, Chief Executive Officer of the Carillion Biomedical Institute, and other business executives and community leaders. Walker also works with his high school alma mater, Episcopal High School in Alexandria, on special projects. He was the driving force behind the creation of the Allen C. Phillips Prize for Integrity In Action at Episcopal, which was awarded the past two years to John Casteen, president of the University of Virginia, and U.S. Senator John McCain, respectively. As part of the award ceremonies, President Casteen and Senator McCain addressed the Episcopal student body on matters of character and integrity.

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Local Bar Leader of the Year Award

The Conference of Local Bar Associations presented the Bar Leader of the Year Award to Gregory T. St. Ours, of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County Bar Association, at its annual Bar Leaders Breakfast on June 15, in Virginia Beach. This award recognizes leaders in their local bar associations who have made significant contributions to their profession and their community.

“Greg has demonstrated strong and effective leadership as a member of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County Bar over the last decade, setting a new standard of excellence for those that followed. Under his leadership, the bar, as a whole, was reorganized, re-energized, and many new projects were undertaken,” said Jenifer D. Cupp, president of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Bar Association.

During his term as president of the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County Bar, St. Ours took steps that had a lasting impact on the quality of the association such as revising and updating the bylaws and encouraging participation in the Bar Leaders Institute in March of each year. He supported the formation of a young lawyers section and formed a social committee which promotes collegiality among bar members as well as the bench. Under his leadership, the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County Bar was awarded the American Bar Association’s prestigious Harrison Tweed Award for its nationally recognized pro bono program operated in conjunction with Blue Ridge Legal Services.

“Greg has been a leader by example,” said John E. Whitfield, executive director of Blue Ridge Legal Services. “His support of pro bono legal services and equal justice for the poor has been constant,” he said. St. Ours served on The Virginia Bar Association’s Pro Bono Committee, the Virginia State Bar’s Access to Legal Services Committee, and finished a five-year term on the board of directors of Blue Ridge Legal Services.

“Greg has not only served in committee and board roles in his pro bono efforts, but has done his share of the ‘heavy lifting’ as a pro bono attorney,” Whitfield said. “Recently, Greg handled a consumer’s dispute with a contractor who had done shoddy work. As a pro bono referral from Blue Ridge Legal Services, he handled the case as though he were representing his firm’s best corporate client. He ultimately negotiated a post-trial settlement of the case that was favorable to his low-income client. This typifies his pro bono leadership and professionalism,” he said.

Since his tenure as president, and in addition to his pro bono efforts, St. Ours served on the Conference of Local Bar Associations’ executive committee, and has been a participating faculty member at numerous Bar Leaders Institutes. Within the Harrisonburg-Rockingham County Bar, he continues to serve on its nominating committee, judicial selection committee and the ad hoc judicial nomination committee.

In addition to his strong support and involvement in activities of the local bar association, St. Ours served in other leadership posi-



Gregory T. St. Ours with Joseph M. Cochran, immediate past CLBA chair (left) and immediate past VSB president Joseph A. Condo

tions. He is a member of the board of governors of the Antitrust, Franchise and Trade Regulation Section of the Virginia State Bar and has previously served as a member of the board of governors of the Health Law Section. He is the immediate past chair of the Health Laws Council of the Virginia Bar Association.

St. Ours practices law in the Harrisonburg firm of Wharton, Aldhizer & Weaver, P.L.C. He and his wife, Debbie, have eight children, all of whom enjoy backpacking. Greg is also a licensed private pilot.

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Local & Specialty Bar Associations Honored for Public Service Projects

The Conference of Local Bar Associations' Awards of Merit Competition recognized outstanding public service projects conducted by local and specialty bars throughout the state. The competition is divided into two groups: an Award of Merit, which is the highest award given for a project; and a Certificate of Achievement, which recognizes other programs and projects of high distinction. Awards were presented at the Bar Leaders Breakfast on Friday, June 15, at the Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach.

Awards of Merit

Arlington County Bar Association

The Arlington County Bar Association received an Award of Merit for its video history of the association, which was produced in honor of its 75th anniversary and shown at a special celebration in May, with Chief Justice Carrico and Justice Russell as featured speakers.

Fairfax County Bar Association

The Fairfax County Bar Association received an Award of Merit for its "Give Me Wings and I Can Fly!" project. The objective of this program is to equip every residential pod at the Juvenile Detention Center in Fairfax County with a computer loaded with educational software for students trying to earn their GEDs or trying to keep up with school-work.

Henrico County Bar Association

The Henrico County Bar Association received an Award of Merit for its Youth Education Program, an outreach to provide law-related education to students in Henrico County schools. Members of the HCBA served on the VSB Speakers Bureau, taught classes to elementary students, attended and participated in career days for middle and elementary school students, provided guided tours through Henrico County courts through a Court Docent program, distributed the *So You're 18* state bar publication to high school students and served as mentors to elementary school students in the county.

Loudoun County Bar Association

The Loudoun County Bar Association received an Award of Merit for its Expanded Leadership in the Law Summer Camp 2001. Now in its second year of operation, the camp provides an opportunity for rising high school seniors to learn first-hand about the legal system.

Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association

The Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association received an Award of Merit for the development and implementation of its Web site. The primary goal of this project was to deliver more efficiently information to members regarding MRWBA activities and legal topics of interest to members.

Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys

The Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys received an Award of Merit for its "Law Suits Day" project. Through its "Law Suits Day" project, the VABWA invited all professional women in the Richmond metropolitan area to donate professional clothing and accessories to The Greater Richmond Employment Assistance Team (GREAT) to assist women who are re-entering the workforce. GREAT is a welfare-to-work initiative that provides job readiness and job placement for these women.

Virginia Beach Bar Association

The Virginia Beach Bar Association received two Awards of Merit for its Mentor Program and its Web site.

The Mentor Program is a volunteer program designed to pair the new practitioner with an experienced lawyer who can provide practical advice to the new lawyer.

The VBBA launched its Web site in early 2000, and the site is now fully functional, offering the Executive Board an effective means of communication with the members.

Certificates of Achievement

City of Richmond Bar Association

The City of Richmond Bar Association was presented with two Certificates of Achievement for its *Changing Faces of the Richmond Bar Association* project and the publication of the *Metro Pro Bono Advocate*.

The bar association created a supplement to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* that served to counter criticism of lawyers, and a newsletter that recognized local bar associations, organizations, law firms and government agencies in central Virginia for their pro bono services.

Norfolk-Portsmouth Legal Blood Drive

On August of 2000 the Norfolk-Portsmouth Bar successfully organized a blood and fund-raising drive in response to an emergency appeal for donations.

Prince William County Bar Association

The Prince William County Bar Association was presented with two Certificates of Achievement for its Middle School Essay Contest and its Pro Bono Reception. The Prince William County Bar Association, with the national CHARACTER COUNTS program, sponsored an essay contest in six county middle schools. The program teaches age-appropriate ethics to children.

Its pro bono reception celebrated its commitment to providing free legal services to the residents of Prince William County and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park.

Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys

The Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys was presented with a Certificate of Achievement for its Ida Paey Project. Recognizing the severity of juvenile crime in Hampton Roads, the VABWA has begun work in the area of recognizing, recording and applauding the historical involvement of African Americans in the judicial process in Virginia. Ida Paey was the first volunteer and probation officer of the Norfolk Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court, working tirelessly with African-American children and families from 1914 until 1950.