

Justice Leroy Hassell, Sr., Elected Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia

The Virginia Supreme Court announced on August 27, 2002, the election of Justice Leroy R. Hassell, Sr., as the next chief justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia. Justice Hassell's term will begin on February 1, 2003.

With the impending retirement of Chief Justice Harry L. Carrico on January 31, 2003, new provisions of Virginia law, adopted by the General Assembly at its 2002 session, have taken effect whereby the chief justice shall be elected by a majority vote of the justices of the Supreme Court of Virginia to serve a term of four years. Previously the justice longest in continuous service served as chief justice.

A native of Norfolk, Justice Hassell graduated from the University of Virginia with honors in 1977 and earned his law degree from

Harvard Law School in 1980. A former partner at McGuireWoods, L.L.P., in Richmond, Justice Hassell was appointed to the Supreme Court of Virginia in December 1989 at the age of 34.

Justice Hassell has been involved in many civic activities, including being the youngest person to serve as chairman of the Richmond School Board. He also served as former director of the American Red Cross, Virginia State Conference of Christians and Jews, Richmond Renaissance, Inc., Legal Aid of Virginia and The Carpenter Center for the Performing Arts.

Justice Hassell will become the 24th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia and will be the Court's first black chief justice.

Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Prelaw Institute



For a week in July, the VSB Young lawyers Conference, the Millenium Diversity Initiative and the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond hosted 16 high school students at the first Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Prelaw Institute. The institute introduced African American students to careers in the law and gave them the opportunity to meet civil rights icon Oliver W. Hill (left foreground) and prominent African American lawyers and judges, including former Justice Charles Thomas (right). Participants were (left to right): Front row—Anthony Roberts; Tyree Yates; Andrea Willis; Shontae Derricott; Falara Hockaday; Vashiti Whitfield; Raven Thomas; Jennifer Gray and Jennifer McClellan, Prelaw Institute director. Back Row—Kristina Harris; Jeffrey Fleming; Seth Cardwell; Candyce Collins; Justin Charity; Michael Chapman and Shana Bennett.

Land Recognized by Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association



Norfolk attorney Laurence K. Land has received the first Presidential Award of Merit from the Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association. The award was created to recognize outstanding contributions by members of the local bar association. Land, who has practiced law for more than 26 years, was honored for his role in various projects through the community. He received his law degree from the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond.



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Johnston is a licensed attorney in Minnesota, and she has conducted legal risk management and ethics audits and reviews nationwide since 1987. She has recently returned to Virginia and has been retained by the VSB Malpractice Insurance Committee to assist with its overall risk management efforts on behalf of Virginia lawyers. **You may reach her at 250 South Reynolds Street, #710, Alexandria, VA 22304, or at (703) 567-0088.**

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Pandak Receives ABA Award for Public Sector Program

Prince William County Attorney Sharon E. Pandak was awarded the 2002 Nelson Award by the American Bar Association Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division on August 9, 2002, at the ABA annual meeting in Washington, D.C. The Nelson Award recognizes meritorious contributions to the ABA by a government or public sector lawyer.

In making the award, the Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division said, "Pandak has been a pioneer in presenting programs designed specifically for public lawyers during her many years as chair of the Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division's Continuing Legal

Education Committee: (www.abanet.org/govpub/meet.html). Since the initial presentation of the division's hallmark CLE program, 'Ethical Considerations in Public Sector Law' in 1994, she has helped develop the program into a traveling road show. Using real-life hypothetical scenarios presented in a humorous, thought-provoking format, the program highlights unique ethical issues faced by lawyers in public service. Because of Pandak's commitment to traveling extensively on her own time to foster the program, it has now been presented in 20 states and helped to fill a void in the availability of such programs."

Sharon Pandak has been County Attorney for Prince William County for 12 years.



Dialogue on Freedom Program Launched

In observation of Constitution Day on September 17, the American Bar Association encouraged lawyers across the nation, through its Dialogue on Freedom program, to help high school students explore and better understand the values that define us as Americans.

The ABA's Dialogue on Freedom is a national program exploring American values and civic traditions through classroom dialogue between lawyers or judges and high school students.

At any time during the year, bar members may present the program in coordination with schools' government or history teachers.

For ideas and more information, please visit the ABA's Dialogue on Freedom Web site, www.abanet.org/dialogue or contact Jennifer Sparger at the VSB with questions or for a starter packet at sparger@vsb.org.

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