

Conference Examines Tax Issues in Today's Economy

National Taxpayer Advocate Nina E. Olson, who in 1992 founded Virginia's Community Tax Law Project to help the working poor, returned to Richmond April 20 to give a presentation at the Virginia State Bar's Pro Bono and Access to Justice Conference.

Olson (photo 1) focused her talk on federal tax matters related to current events: the tax implications for debt write-offs; availability of relief when the Internal Revenue Service places a lien on income and property; and protection from identity theft.

Other speakers at the event, sponsored annually by the VSB Access to Justice Committee, talked about legal challenges faced by military service members and former prisoners when they return to communities.

The audience included members of Virginia's legal services communities and representatives of military judge advocates general in Virginia.

Clarence M. Dunnville Jr. of Richmond was awarded the Lewis F. Powell Jr. Pro Bono Award. In presenting the award, Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations Judge Marilyn C. Goss said that Dunnville "gives his heart and soul to everything he does." John C. Brittain, chief counsel and senior deputy director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, paid tribute to Dunnville's character, bravery, and tenacity.

Dunnville called Powell "one of my great heroes" for his courage as Richmond's school board chair during massive resistance to court-ordered racial desegregation of public schools. Because of Powell's insistence, Richmond schools did not shut down as schools in other localities did.

Dunnville also lauded Powell, as a U.S. Supreme Court associate justice, for his role as the swing vote and author of the 1978 *Bakke* decision, which barred quota systems but upheld affirmative action programs. "Without the *Bakke*

decision, the whole landscape would be far different than it is today," Dunnville said. "Without *Bakke*, we might not have an Obama."

Photo 2 shows (left-right) Clarence Dunnville, Brittain, and two of Dunnville's sons—Andrew and Peter Dunnville.

Also at the conference, Miriam Renae Sincell (photo 3, center), a third-year student at the University of Richmond School of Law, was presented with the Oliver White Hill Law Student Pro Bono Award. Tara L. Casey (left), director of the university's Pro Bono Services Program, described Sincell's many legal services projects while a student. Dr. Oliver W. Hill Jr. (right), son of the late civil rights lawyer for whom the award was named, attended the program.

For an article on Dunnville's and Sincell's achievements, see page 35 of the April 2009 issue of *Virginia Lawyer*. (http://www.vsb.org/docs/valawyer magazine/vl0409_access.pdf)



photo by: Al Corey

Freddie L. Goode of Richmond Receives Legal Aid Award

Freddie L. Goode, senior managing attorney at Central Virginia Legal Aid Society, has been selected for the 2009 Legal Aid Award by the Virginia State Bar's Access to Legal Services Committee.

The award recognizes lawyers employed by legal aid societies licensed by the Virginia State Bar. Recipients are chosen for their advocacy, quality of service, and impact beyond their service area.

Since Goode joined CVLAS as a paralegal and law clerk in 1988, he has become successful in challenging denials of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income. "He also does a considerable amount of representation of older adults and disabled clients," according to the nomination letter from Henry W. McLaughlin III, CVLAS executive director.

Goode visits his clients in their own homes, hospitals, and adult homes. "A large number of clients have been able to escape lives of quiet desperation to enter

lives of dignity with a steady income and Medicare because of success in appeals to administrative law judges," McLaughlin wrote.

In addition to Goode's managerial duties at offices in Richmond, Petersburg, and Charlottesville, he routinely carries more than 180 cases and regularly works the agency's emergency rotation, to handle urgent cases such as stopping evictions.

He also has an "extraordinary record of innovation in recruitment and supervision of volunteers," McLaughlin wrote. Goode supervises more than twenty lay volunteers, who help with disability cases. In addition, he trains and backs up attorneys who volunteer to staff a pro bono hotline through CVLAS, in a program sponsored by the Virginia Bar Association.

A native of West Palm Beach, Florida, Goode has a bachelor's degree



(L-R) Jon D. Huddleston, Goode, and Manuel A. Capsalis

Photo by Al Cooney

from Golden Gate University and a law degree from the University of Florida.

The Legal Aid Award was presented June 19, during the VSB Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach.

Indigent Defense Seminar Draws National Speakers

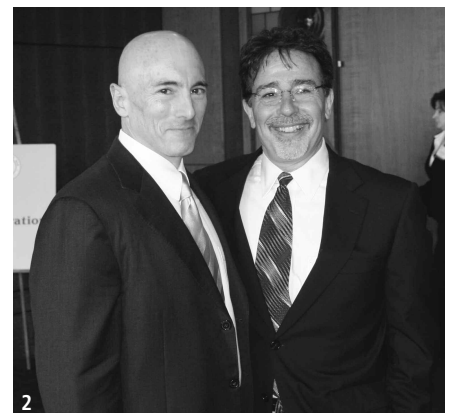
The Fifth Annual Indigent Criminal Defense Seminar—a free continuing legal education program for attorneys who take court-appointed cases—took place April 3, 2009. The program was live in Richmond, with simultaneous webcasts in Weyers Cave and Wytheville.

Speakers included Colette Tvedt of Seattle (shown in photo 1 with Virginia Chief Justice Leroy R. Hassell Sr.). She talked about using persuasive storytelling to minimize sentences.

Also among the seven guest speakers was David S. Rudolf (photo 2, right, with seminar organizer Steven D. Benjamin). Rudolf—of Charlotte, North Carolina,—described how, by



risky and provocative cross examination of a codefendant in a case that involved a revenge killing over a drug deal gone



bad, he was able to show the jury the codefendant's propensity for violence.

Pro Bono, Court-Appointed Work in Brunswick, Fairfax, and Franklin Counties Recognized

Lawyers who have done significant pro bono or court-appointed work in Brunswick, Fairfax, and Franklin counties are being recognized by the Virginia State Bar with Circuit Awards.

The awards are part of an ongoing pilot project, now in its third year, to recognize extraordinary contributions to the Virginia judicial system by lawyers in selected circuits. Recipients were nominated by lawyers in their home circuits. Awards will be presented in ceremonies in each designee's jurisdiction.

The 2009 recipients are:

R. Clinton Clary Jr. of the Sixth Judicial Circuit. Clary is a 1979 graduate of Hampden-Sydney College, and he received a law degree from the University of Richmond in 1983. He is a former assistant commonwealth's attorney for Brunswick County. He practices with Slayton Bain & Clary in Lawrenceville.

Since 1987, Clary has taken state court-appointed criminal defense cases with charges that range from misdemeanors to capital murder. He and one other attorney handle most court-appointed cases in Brunswick County.

He is president of the Brunswick County Bar Association, and he recently served on the VSB's Third District Committee for attorney ethics cases.

David A. Furrow of Rocky Mount, in the Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit. He holds bachelor's, master of business administration, and law degrees from the University of Virginia, and has practiced law for almost thirty years.

He has represented many court-appointed clients, and "is known in our circuit as the attorney to appoint to the most serious and difficult cases," according to the nomination letter from John T. Boitnott of the Franklin County Bar Association. Furrow has been appointed

counsel in more than fifteen capital murder cases.

In Furrow's representations, "[t]he opposing side to the case and the court will never know the difference between the highest-paying client and the pro bono client, because the quality of representation is the same," Boitnott wrote.

Robert J. Stoney, with the Fairfax firm of Blankingship & Keith PC, in the Nineteenth Circuit. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and a law degree from the College of William and Mary.

According to the nomination letter from his firm, Stoney began representing pro bono clients in criminal and civil matters as soon as he began practicing, and continued for over two decades. "His cases have involved cutting-edge legal theories and those that simply — and importantly — provide relief for those individuals who would not have had ... counsel" without his efforts.

His cases have involved evictions, three death penalty appeals, domestic violence, and litigation over denied insurance coverage after an automobile accident. He spends up to one hundred hours per year on pro bono cases. He also takes a case or two each year for no fee, and the client donates what would have been the fee to legal aid. He mentors associates in his firm who do pro bono work, and he has helped lead several organizations that promote legal services for indigent persons.



Clary



Furrow



Stoney