

VSB Honors Attorneys

The Virginia State Bar presented awards to the following lawyers during its annual meeting:

WILLIAM R. RAKES LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION AWARD

Presented by the Section on the Education of Lawyers in Virginia.

W. Taylor Reveley III, College of William & Mary



W. Taylor Reveley III, the 27th president of the College of William & Mary, is honored for his long-standing and dedicated efforts in the field of legal education. He is the College of William & Mary's John Stewart Bryan Professor of Jurisprudence. He was previously dean of the William & Mary Law School and earlier practiced law at Hunton & Williams for almost three decades, including nine years as the firm's managing partner. William R. Rakes, for whom the award is named, wrote that "For many years Taylor Reveley has worked tirelessly to advance the legal profession through the improvement of legal education in law school and throughout a lawyer's career."

TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Presented by the General Practice Section.

W. Joseph Owen III, Owen & Owens, Midlothian



W. Joseph Owen III's work as a general practitioner is enhanced by extensive involvement with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Law firm partner Sam Kaufman described Owen as the quintessential general practitioner. "It is not uncommon for him to handle a felony criminal matter and a complex civil dispute in the same week," Kaufman

wrote. Owen & Owens co-founder Mary Burkey Owens wrote that Owen is "able to handle a vast array of legal issues and handle them all well." Owen serves the community as state chair and member of the national board of trustees for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and locally for the FCA chapter at Armstrong High School in Richmond. He is a founding member of NorthStar Community, a Christian-based organization that assists families struggling with addiction. He is also a member of the University of Richmond's Athletic Council; he is a speaker for the Strike Out Substance Abuse program; he created the Grayson Owen Firearm pledge in memory of his late son; and he is vice chair of the Chippenham Place Community Development Authority Board.

VIRGINIA LEGAL AID AWARD

Presented by the Special Committee on Access to Legal Services.

John R. Rellick, Rappahannock Legal Services



John R. Rellick has been managing attorney for the Tappahannock branch office of the Rappahannock Legal Services since 1984. The office serves the civil legal needs of seven rural Virginia counties of Westmoreland, Richmond, Northumberland, Lancaster, Essex, King & Queen, and King William. In nominating Rellick, Ann H. Kloeckner, executive director of RLS, wrote, "John is the glue that holds our office together. He is the generous mentor to other attorneys, both in RLS and throughout the legal services community in Virginia, actively participating in listservs with helpful insights. He is a sensitive advocate, a manager with a light touch, and not afraid to speak up when any injustice is apparent. He enjoys an enviable reputation among all who know him as a compassionate, principled advocate. He is the model all other legal services advocates would do well to emulate."

CLARENCE M. DUNNAVILLE JR. ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Presented by the Diversity Conference.

Darrel Tillar Mason, Darrel Tillar Mason PLC, Richmond



Darrel Tillar Mason, of Manakin Sabot, has been a champion of civil rights and equal opportunity her entire forty year professional career. In 1973, after receiving her master's degree from Virginia Tech, Mason wrote the school's first affirmative action plan. After receiving her law degree from the University of Virginia in 1981, Mason represented plaintiffs in a number of civil rights cases and in the 1990s began representing children with disabilities and their families. In 2000 Mason founded the Center for Special Education Advocacy, a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving families of disabled children experiencing challenges in securing an appropriate education. She was appointed to the Virginia Office of Protection and Advocacy in 2010 and became chair in 2012. She is also the president of the Virginia Disability Law and Advocacy Fund which supports the work of VOPA. She also has held many offices in the VSB. Attorney Marni E. Byrum wrote in nominating her for the award: "Darrel has been a stalwart soldier in the trenches of fighting for equal rights in employment and education as well as a leader in advancing the legislative changes to protect those rights. Darrel is a credit to the legal profession."

Awards continued on page 44

LOCAL BAR LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD (TWO WINNERS)

Presented by the Conference of Local Bar Associations.

Lori D. Thompson,
LeClairRyan,
Roanoke

Lori D. Thompson has practiced in Roanoke since 1997 when she graduated from the University of Virginia Law School. Her contributions to the local and statewide bars and the community have been extensive and widely recognized. Thomas H. Miller, president of the Roanoke Bar Association, wrote that, "Many of the ideas for which our bar has been recognized over the last several years were the fruit of the imagination of Lori. ... She is a tireless worker."



Polly Chong,
Newport News
Polly Chong has been a member of the Greater Peninsula Women's Bar Association since 1996. She served as chair of the association's annual Charity Gala for ten years, was a volunteer for the Color of Justice Program, and a member of the Judicial Nominations Committee. Elwood Earl "Sandy" Sanders Jr., of Lantagne Legal Printing, wrote that, "Polly Chong is an attorney with a tremendous passion for equal justice under law and demonstrates it by her many civic and bar activities."



R. EDWIN BURNETTE JR. YOUNG LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Presented by the Young Lawyers Conference.

Christopher R. Fortier, Vienna
Christopher R. Fortier has been chair of the annual Professional Development Conference for two years and last year



expanded that program from Richmond to a second location in Northern Virginia. He also has planned to expand it to Hampton Roads later this year. Fortier also founded the Professional Development Series, which broadcasts YLC programs and other bar organizations' content throughout the bar year, one program each week. He recorded the Professional Development Conference segments and content from other bar organizations including the American Bar Association's Young Lawyer's Division and developed a schedule to air the programs. He also has worked with VSB staff to develop a website and its contents. YLC President Brian R. Charville wrote: "While the PDS is still quite new and its effects aren't yet known, there is no doubt that Chris's vision and hard work have led to the creation of a useful practice resource for the YLC's members. Chris simply has enviable abilities to brainstorm and implement programs that serve our profession well."



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CLBA Honors Bar Associations

The following bar associations received awards from the Conference of Local Bar Associations during the Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting. The awards recognize projects that serve the bench, the bar, and the people of Virginia.

The CLBA makes information on winning projects available to other groups that want to consider similar programs. For information, contact Paulette J. Davidson at Davidson@vsb.org or (804) 775-0521.

AWARDS OF MERIT

For excellence in bar projects

First-time Awardees:

Alexandria Bar Association

Senior Citizens Law Day, partnering with Senior Services of Alexandria to provide factual information to the community about the legal issues related to planning for aging, care needs, and services available to meet the needs of its citizens. Pro bono professionals were available to attendees.

Fairfax Bar Association

Judicial Funding Task Force, working to restore funding for at least one circuit court and at least one general district court judge until the Supreme Court's Judicial Workload Study is completed; and attempting to minimize the impact of proposed 5 percent budget cuts for each of the next two years.

Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association

Judicial Programs Project, providing association members with multiple opportunities to meet with members of the judiciary.

Roanoke Bar Association

Handling Section 1983 Civil Rights Cases in Federal Court, providing a CLE program to increase the number of attorneys qualified to be added to the court-appointed list for Section 1983 cases.

Salem/Roanoke County Bar Association

Lawrence L. Koontz, Jr. Opinions Project, a seven-volume collection of the published judicial opinions of Justice Koontz during his tenures on the Court of Appeals of Virginia and the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Sustained Project:

Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association

Mentorship Program, helping new attorneys and law students since the 2004-05 bar year to navigate their careers and to provide learning and networking opportunities to participants.

Southwest Virginia Workers' Compensation Bar Association

Quarterly Luncheon CLE Program, providing low-cost, innovative, and educational programs to members of the bar and other interested professionals.

CERTIFICATES OF ACHIEVEMENT

For high achievement in bar projects

Alexandria Bar Association

Resolvers Program, which assists pro se parties who do not have the resources to hire an attorney or to seek alternative advice and guidance when attempting to resolve issues surrounding custody and support of their children, and to assist the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court with its heavy caseload.

Loudoun County Bar Association

Back to School Drive, to provide a resource to the community and to assist needy families with the cost of supplies needed at the beginning of school.

Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association

MRWBA Website Project, increasing publicity for the members and providing members and the public access to information about the association.

The Prince William County Bar Association Inc.

Breakfast at S.E.R.V.E., working with Securing Emergency Resources through Volunteer Effort, the Young Lawyers Group of the PWC Bar provides Sunday breakfast for about forty residents of the organization's shelter, half of whom are children.

Virginia Women Attorneys Association

Justice is a Woman: Women and the Judiciary, an event designed to encourage more women to seek judicial positions.

Local and Specialty Bar Elections

The Alexandria Bar Association

Sean Peter Schmergel, President
Sarah Elizabeth McElveen,
President-elect
David Andrew Lord, Secretary
Nicholas John Gehrig, Treasurer
Christopher Mory Wright, Director
Dipti Pidikiti-Smith, Director
Joseph John DiPietro III, Director
Christina Margaret Brown, Director

In Memoriam

Edward Henry Beck

Burke

January 1950 – April 2013

Frank Leroy Benser

Bowling Green

June 1945 – May 2013

James F. Brown

Charleston, West Virginia

December 1920 – December 2012

Henry Cappello

Naples, Florida

April 1920 – July 2010

Isabelle Cappello

Naples, Florida

March 1921 – August 2012

William John Coffey

Newport, Rhode Island

August 1941 – November 2012

The Honorable William J. Cox

Fredericksburg

June 1931 – November 2012

The Honorable Herbert I. L. Feild

Hudgins

June 1928 – May 2013

Richard Rothwell Fuller Jr.

Richmond

October 1951 – May 2013

Karl S. Landstrom

Arlington

February 1909 – January 2013

Carroll P. Freeman

Lynchburg

November 1944 – December 2003

Jack Merrick Fulton

Richmond

March 1932 – May 2013

John H. Getreu

McLean

March 1924 – November 2012

John E. Greenbacker

Halifax

October 1917 – June 2005

Deborah Anne Osborne Jordan

Athens, Georgia

May 1957 – August 2012

Nancy Glaser Lagow

Richmond

May 1949 – April 2013

E. Eugene Luther

Ashburn

January 1924 – January 2013

James F. McHale

Poolesville, Maryland

August 1916 – March 2010

William Read Miller III

Richmond

March 1922 – January 2013

Robert Thomas Molloy

Washington, D.C.

May 1917 – March 2009

William B. Noonkester

Bristol

May 1937 – August 2012

Robert J. Norvell

Boerne, Texas

December 1924 – October 2011

John B. Rees Jr.

Athens, Georgia

March 1931 – September 2012

John T.L. Richards

Alexandria

January 1922 – March 2013

Leonard S. Sattler

Arlington

June 1925 – November 2012

Anthony William Scott

Midlothian

December 1978 – March 2013

Charles Curtis Sheffield

Hopewell

December 1940 – December 2012

James E. Sheffield

Richmond

October 1932 – March 2013

Philip Raoul Tetu

Falmouth

September 1933 – April 2013

Hardy Barricks Traylor

Colonial Heights

June 1941 – May 2013