

Virginia Lawyer Diversity Issue

When Virginia State Bar President Manuel A. Capsalis determined that he would make a priority of improving the number of minorities in the legal profession and in VSB leadership, Dawn Chase was assigned to research and write stories to support the initiative.

Chase, assistant editor of *Virginia Lawyer* and *Virginia Lawyer Register*, interviewed thirty-five judges, attorneys, law professors, about their experiences and ideas for improvement.

She will continue to write about the topic in future issues of *Virginia Lawyer*. In December, the magazine will focus on ideas that leading minority legal figures in Virginia have for encouraging minority persons to join the profession.

Before joining the VSB in 2003 as public information coordinator, Chase was associate editor of *Virginia Lawyers Weekly* for seven years, beginning in 1997. Previously, she was a beat reporter and feature writer for the *Richmond News Leader* for thirteen years. She covered religion, health and science, mental health, and consumer issues, and she wrote major series on

schizophrenia and head trauma. She also worked as a legal assistant for the Chesterfield County firm Bowen, Champlin, Carr, Foreman & Rockecharlie.

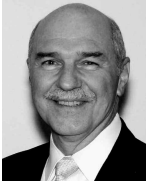
Chase has a bachelor's degree in mass communications from Virginia Commonwealth University.

Ideas for future diversity stories or comments on this issue are invited, and should be directed to Rodney A. Coggin at (804) 775-0585 or coggin@vsb.org.

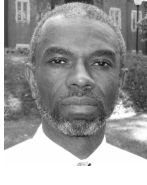


Chase

DIVERSITY THEME



Condo



Stubbs



McClellan



Dunnaville

Joseph A. Condo established the Millennial Diversity Initiative while he was president of the Virginia State Bar in 2000–01, and he now serves on the bar's governing council and as chair of the VSB Diversity Task Force. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. He has a bachelor's degree in political science from LeMoyne College and a law degree from Catholic University of America. He practices family law with Condo Roop Kelly & Byrnes PC in McLean. [page 16]

Jonathan K. Stubbs has taught at the University of Richmond School of Law since 1989—since 1995 as a professor of law. He holds undergraduate degrees from Haverford College and Oxford University, a juris doctor degree from Yale University, and master of laws and of theological studies from Harvard University. He is the editor of *Brown, The Big Bang and Beyond: The Life Story of Oliver W. Hill Sr.* [page 18]

Jennifer L. McClellan has been a leader in the VSB Young Lawyers Conference through much of her career as a lawyer. She developed the Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Prelaw Institute in 2000, currently serves as YLC President and on the VSB Council, and she is a member of the Diversity Task Force. She is an attorney for Verizon and represents Richmond as a delegate in the General Assembly. She has an undergraduate degree from the University of Richmond and a law degree from the University of Virginia. [page 27]

Richmond lawyer **Clarence M. Dunnaville Jr.** has been a driving force behind the Oliver White Hill Foundation for many years. He has been involved in civil rights and diversity projects throughout his career, which included serving as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York. Last year, he was presented with a Segal-Tweed Founders Award from the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. [page 31]

R. Webb Moore is a shareholder with Hirschler Fleischer PC in Richmond and serves on the publications committee of the VSB Construction Law and Public Contracts Section. He is a licensed professional engineer in Virginia and a patent attorney registered with the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office. [page 47]

Michael A. Branca is a partner at Peckar & Abramson in Washington, D.C. His practice focuses on construction and public contract law. He is the chair of the Government Contracts Section of the Federal Bar Association and a member of the board of governors of the VSB Construction Law and Public Contract Section. [page 48]

Kristan B. Burch is a partner in the litigation section of Kaufman & Canoles PC. Since joining the firm, Burch has focused on construction law and intellectual property law. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and a law degree from the College of

CONSTRUCTION LAW AND PUBLIC CONTRACTS THEME



Moore



Branca



Burch



Metz



Cheatham



Paulk



Shelley



Hamm

William and Mary. She is a member of the board of governors for the VSB Construction Law and Public Contracts Section. [page 52]

Todd R. Metz is a partner at Watt, Tieder, Hoffar & Fitzgerald LLP in McLean. He specializes in domestic and international construction matters. He is a graduate of the George Mason University School of Law. Metz is secretary of the VSB Construction Law and Public Contracts Section. [page 56]

Christopher W. Cheatham is an associate with Watt, Tieder, Hoffar & Fitzgerald LLP in McLean. He is a graduate of the University of Texas School of Law. Cheatham is the first practicing attorney in Virginia to be designated a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design accredited professional by the Green Building Certification Initiative. [page 56]

Courtney Moates Paulk is an associate in the litigation section of Hirschler Fleischer PC in Richmond. Her practice focuses on construction law, insurance coverage, and commercial, real estate, and land use litigation. She also handles civil and commercial

disputes that arise from employment and general business liability. She received a bachelor's degree from what is now Mary Washington University and a law degree from the University of Richmond. [page 60]

Blackwell N. Shelley Jr. has a civil litigation practice with Shelley & Schulte PC in Richmond. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and a law degree from Washington and Lee University. He is a member of the VSB sections on Trusts and Estates and Bankruptcy, the Richmond Bar Association's Bankruptcy Section, the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, and the Judicial Conference of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. [page 67]

Marie Summerlin Hamm is a past president of the Virginia Association of Law Libraries and is assistant director of collection development at Regent University Law Library. She holds a master's degree in library science from Syracuse University and a law degree from Regent University School of Law, where she has taught courses in legal research and writing as an adjunct professor. [page 68]