

National Civil Rights Lawyer to Be Honored at Pro Bono Celebration

Frankie Muse Freeman, who will be 100 years old in November, will be honored at the Virginia State Bar Access to Legal Services Committee's Annual Pro Bono Conference in Hampton on October 26.

According to Karl A. Doss, director of Access to Legal Services, the Frankie Muse Freeman Organizational Pro Bono Award will be an annual award given to organizations that have made outstanding contributions in the area of legal services to the poor. "This award will be geared toward the law firms, corporate law departments, nonprofit organizations, law school programs, and bar associations that undertake pro bono initiatives, whereas exemplary pro bono service provided by an individual lawyer or group of lawyers will continue to be the focus of the Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Award. It's fitting that a Virginian whose humility is as large as her accomplishments in civil rights and equal justice

should have a pro bono award named in her honor."

Freeman was born in 1916 in Danville, Virginia, and graduated from Hampton University before receiving her law degree from Howard University in 1944. After opening her own law practice, Freeman served as co-counsel on a successful NAACP law suit against the St. Louis Board of Education. In 1952, Freeman worked as the lead counsel on an NAACP case, *Davis v. St. Louis Housing Authority* that ended legal racial discrimination in public housing in the city. Freeman went on to win the Supreme Court appeal of that case in 1954.

Freeman was the first woman to serve on the US Commission on Civil Rights after her appointment by President Lyndon Johnson in 1964. She was reappointed by Presidents Richard Nixon, Gerald Ford, and Jimmy



Carter, and successfully represented the NAACP in a number of landmark cases involving segregation in education and housing.

Freeman recently said of her work as an attorney, "I did whatever I felt I had to do to make a difference." Her numerous accolades for a lifetime of civil service include her 2007 induction

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VSb Adds New Assistant Bar Counsel

Laura Ann Booberg has joined the Virginia State Bar as Assistant Bar Counsel. A graduate of New York University and New York Law School, she has practiced law for over twenty years primarily in the areas of workers' compensation and social security disability. Booberg worked for The Boleman Law Firm and Geoffrey R. McDonald & Associates in Richmond before founding and running her own law firms from 2000 until joining the VSb in August.

A member of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association for over twenty years and a certified guardian ad litem, in her free time Booberg is an avid runner and tennis player. She is married to Christopher C. Booberg and has three children.



Lawyers at Leisure

Lawyers at Leisure is a new feature of *Virginia Lawyer* that profiles the interesting hobbies, passions, and projects of the members of the Virginia State Bar. In April, we profiled a gentlewoman farmer who raises sheep, cows, and horses in addition to her busy civil practice. In August we profiled six surfing lawyers who have been surfing together for over four decades in Virginia and around the world when they are not practicing law.

If you have a passion other than the law, or know a lawyer who does, please let us know by contacting Gordon Hickey at hickey@vsb.org.

Oblon Elected to Represent the 17th Circuit

David A. Oblon has been elected as the new 17th Judicial Circuit representative on the Virginia State Bar Council. His term begins immediately. The online election, between Oblon and Nathan J. Olson, was held August 29 through September 9. The seat became vacant when Rachelle Hill relocated to Colorado.



The VSB E-News

Have you been receiving the Virginia State Bar E-News? The E-News is a brief monthly summary of deadlines, programs, rule changes, and news about your regulatory bar. The E-News is e-mailed to all VSB members. If your Virginia State Bar E-News is being blocked by your spam filter, contact your e-mail administrator and ask to have the VSB.org domain added to your permissions list.

NOTICE: Check Your MCLE Hours Online Now

The Mandatory Continuing Legal Education compliance deadline is October 31, 2016. Go to <https://member.vsb.org/vsbportal/> to review your MCLE record.

An Interim Report was mailed to all active members in July. Please apply for any non-approved courses now to avoid a new late application fee for applications received over 90 days after course attendance.

Reminder: Of the 12.0 CLE hours required each year, 2.0 must be in ethics and 4.0 must be from live, interactive programs. If you have any questions, please contact the MCLE Department at (804) 775-0577 or mcle@vsb.org.

Have You Moved?

To check or change your address of record with the Virginia State Bar, go to the VSB Member Login at <https://member.vsb.org/vsbportal/>.

Go to “Membership Information,” where your current address of record is listed. To change, go to “Edit Official Address of Record,” click the appropriate box, then click “next.” You can type your new address, phone numbers, and email address on the form.

Contact the VSB Membership Department (membership@vsb.org or (804) 775-0530) with questions.

2017 Law in Society High School Scholarship Contest Explores Transgender Legal Issues in Schools

The Litigation Section and the Communications Committee of the VSB have announced the topic of the 2017 Law in Society essay contest, which awards almost \$7,000 in scholarship money to the eight Virginia high school students with the best essays on a matter pertaining to trending legal issues.

This year the hypothetical deals with the topic of transgender students and their rights in schools, particularly as they relate to Title IX laws and state and federal jurisdictional issues. Recently, public awareness of the transgender community has grown, largely in part to the publicity generated by Caitlyn Jenner's Diane Sawyer interview, *Vanity Fair* cover, and television show, *I Am Cait*.

At the same time, the judicial system has seen a flurry of legal initiatives designed to protect gender identities, including guidance from the Obama administration that Title IX protects gender identity and gender expression, as well as lawsuits by parents and students who believe Title IX pertains only to biological sex, not gender identity.

In 2016, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit became the first appellate court to affirm the Obama Administration's position in the case *G.G. v. Gloucester County School Board*. In that case, a Virginia high school student named Gavin Grimm sued school officials over its policy requiring all students to use the bathrooms and locker rooms of their biological gender

or "an alternative appropriate private facility."

This contest asks Virginia high school or home school students age 19 or younger to write an essay between 750–1000 words discussing these issues. First prize is \$2,300, second prize is \$1,850, third prize receives \$1,350 and there are five honorable mentions of \$250 each. The contest is intended to inspire an interest in the legal system and the US Constitution.

Complete rules for the essay contest and a full hypothetical may be found on the VSB website at <http://www.vsb.org/site/public/law-in-society>. The entry deadline is February 10, 2017.

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into the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta; the NAACP's highest honor, the Spingarn Medal in 2011; the 2014 Spirit of Excellence Award from the American Bar Association; and in 2015 President Barack Obama appointed Freeman to serve as a member of the Commission on Presidential Scholars.

Freeman will be presented with a certificate from the Virginia State Bar at the awards dinner that includes a stanza from her favorite hymn which says:

*"If I can help somebody, as I travel along
If I can help somebody, with a word
or song*

*If I can help somebody, from doing wrong
No, my living shall not be in vain."*

Freeman will be recognized at the Lewis F. Powell Jr. Pro Bono Award Dinner and Ceremony at the Hilton Hampton Hotel and Convention Center. For more information, please contact Karl Doss at (804) 775-0522 or doss@vsb.org.

Hoover Penrod to Receive Powell Award

The Lewis F. Powell Jr. Pro Bono Award will be awarded to the Harrisonburg law firm of Hoover Penrod PLC. Founded in 1935, the firm was nominated by John Whitfield, executive director of Blue Ridge Legal Services Inc., and Molly Bell, the Blue Ridge's referral coordinator. Said Whitfield and Bell, "The good works done by this firm and its members are unparalleled in the region."

Every lawyer at the firm assists with pro bono cases for Blue Ridge Legal Services, while ten lawyers have contributed more than 3,200 hours and assisted on more than 560 cases to date. Hoover Penrod has provided more than \$820,000 in pro bono value over twenty-five years. Firm lawyers also volunteer on the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Bar Association's (HRBA) pro bono Family Law hotline.

Lawrence Hoover Jr. helped form what is now the Blue Ridge Legal Services in 1977 while David Penrod serves as one of the HRBA team leaders for pro bono referrals and was largely responsible for organizing an attorney fund-raising campaign that has benefited Blue Ridge Legal Services for fifteen years.

The Powell award was established by the Special Committee on Access to Legal Services of the Virginia State Bar to honor attorneys and attorney groups that have made outstanding pro bono contributions. This year's award will be presented October 26 during the Virginia State Bar Pro Bono Conference and Celebration in Hampton.