

## Local & Specialty Bar Associations Honored for Public Service Projects

The Conference of Local Bar Associations Awards of Merit Competition recognized outstanding public service projects conducted by local and specialty bars throughout the state. The competition is divided into two groups: an Award of Merit, which is the highest award given for a project; and a Certificate of Achievement, which recognizes other programs and projects of high distinction. Awards were presented at the Bar Leaders Breakfast on Friday, June 14, at the Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach.

### Certificates of Achievement

**Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association** received a Certificate of Achievement for its "Debate between the Candidates for Attorney General," held on September 5, 2001. This event was completely orchestrated by a small bar and only one part-time paid staff. It afforded the candidates and attendees the opportunity to interact. The timing of the event was also key, as it was held in September—when the public begins to focus on the upcoming election. Finally, the event reaffirmed the status of women as proactive and engaged participants in the political process.

**The Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association** received a Certificate of Achievement for its 2002 Bench-Bar Conference, which provides an annual forum between the bench and bar in seminar sessions and at a luncheon. The 2002 conference was an event of "firsts"—the local federal judiciary was involved as faculty, and a keynote speaker was invited. Additionally, the conference was held in two different facilities. CLE credit was offered for attending the full day session.

**The Northern Shenandoah Valley Chapter of the Virginia Women Attorney's Association** received a Certificate of Achievement for its "Women's Sampler of the Law." With the help of a grant from the Virginia Law Foundation and a public relations plan, the NSVC-VWAA expanded an existing program to reach a larger audience. In an effort to help lessen the barriers that people may face when consulting attorneys or becoming involved with the judicial system, the program provided basic legal information to the general public—particularly members of the community who may have difficulty obtaining legal information.

**The Roanoke Bar Association** received a Certificate of Achievement for the creation of its highly functional Web site creation. Its benefits include cost savings on printed handbooks, postage, more efficient methods of registration for RBA events and distribution of the quarterly newsletter. The Web site will provide a general source of information for the public and give the RBA a presence in the community.

**The Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys** received a Certificate of Achievement for its Domestic Violence Step-by-Step Video Guide and brochure, with assistance from the Virginia Law Foundation. The VABWA prepared the video guide and brochure for victims of physical abuse—and those who assist victims of domestic violence.

**The Virginia Women Attorneys Association** received a Certificate of Achievement for its "You Be the Judge" seminar, a unique program targeted to women and minorities. It is presented at three- to four-year intervals to offer encouragement and information to anyone interested in seeking a judgeship. Speakers are successful jurists and, on occasion, members of the General Assembly. A significant benchmark of the program is that some attendees have become judges.

### Awards of Merit

**The Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Bar Association** received an Award of Merit for its Pro Bono Protective Order Project. People who have been subjected to family abuse and need protection for their health and safety may petition for a preliminary protective order from the court. In many cases, the petitioner does not have the resources to hire his or her own attorney. Through the assistance of volunteer attorneys, Chesterfield Juvenile and Domestic Courts, the Victim/Witness Office, Court Services and Central Virginia Legal Aid, the Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Bar devised a plan to assist these individuals on a pro bono basis. In 2001, 368 petitioners were assisted.

**The Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association** received an Award of Merit for its Flagler House Curriculum Project: *Teaching Women How to Fish*. Flagler House at St. Joseph's Villa, provides transitional housing for homeless women and children. The MRWBA has designated the first Monday of every month to be curriculum night, in which volunteers provide practical and useful legal information to the residents.

**The Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association** received two Awards of Merit for its Funniest Lawyer Contest and its Eleventh Annual Legal Food Frenzy. *Funniest Lawyer Contest*: This project raised funds for the premier children's health care facility in the Hampton Roads region—Children's Hospital of the Kings Daughters. The event involved seven attorneys who each performed a 5 to 10 minute stand-up comedy routine for a panel of distinguished judges. The event raised more than \$17,000. *Legal Food Frenzy*: A food drive in which 66,000 pounds of food (50,000 meals) were collected and distributed helped the homeless and hungry in Hampton Roads. The speaker of the kickoff luncheon and honorary chair was Virginia Attorney General Jerry Kilgore.

**The Old Dominion Bar, Richmond Chapter** received an Award of Merit for its Oliver W. Hill and Samuel W. Tucker Scholarship. A \$500 scholarship is presented to a first-year student at each of the 10 law schools in Virginia and the Washington, D.C., area to honor the legacies of Oliver W. Hill and Samuel W. Tucker. The funds are earmarked for the purchase of books. Recipients must demonstrate scholarship and community service reflecting the qualities of Hill and Tucker.

**The Prince William County Bar Association** received an Award of Merit for both its "You and Your Attorney" brochure and its Uncontested Divorce Project. *About the brochure*: The brochure educates clients on the merits of court-appointed counsel and provides guidelines to working with counsel. All clients who receive court-appointed counsel in the Thirty-First Judicial Circuit will receive the brochure at the time such appointments are made in the courtroom. *About the project*: The Prince William Bar sought to alleviate the caseload at the Prince

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## LOCAL & SPECIALTY BAR ELECTIONS

### **Alleghany-Bath-Highland Bar Association**

Edward Kenneth Stein, President  
Betty Kay Cauley, Vice President  
Melissa Ann Dowd, Secretary-Treasurer

### **Bar Association of the City of Richmond**

Ann Turner Burks, President  
James K. Cluverius, President-elect  
Stephen Earl Baril, Vice President  
Theodore J. Markow, Honorary Vice  
President  
Michael Nehemiah Herring, Secretary-  
Treasurer

### **Franklin County Bar Association**

William Pearson Davis, President  
Theresa Deanna Perdue Stone, Vice  
President  
Allen Wayne Dudley, Jr., Secretary  
Barry James Jefferson, Treasurer

### **Henrico County Bar Association**

Daniel Leigh Rosenthal, President  
William Jacob Viverette, President-elect  
Nancy Linda Quinn, Vice President  
Andrew Michael Condlin, Secretary  
John Kimpton Honey, Jr., Treasurer

### **Lynchburg Bar Association**

William Earl Phillips, President  
Esther Shepherd McGuinn, President-  
elect  
Burton Leigh Drewry, Jr., Secretary-  
Treasurer

### **Metro Richmond Women's Bar Association**

Carolyn Anne France White, President  
Stephanie Elaine Grana, President-  
elect  
Clair Agnes Harrington, Vice President  
Robin Jill Wells, Secretary & Historian  
Anne Marie Cushmac, Treasurer

## **Awards of Merit** *continued from page 55*

William branch of Legal Services of Northern Virginia. The Pro Bono Committee of the PWCBA used the client screening protocols in place at LSNV to determine eligibility. Volunteer attorneys assisted low income clients, using forms approved by the courts in the Thirty-first Judicial Circuit, to handle uncontested divorces.

**The Bar Association of the City of Richmond** received an Award of Merit for its Pro Bono Clearinghouse Project, dedicated to developing, promoting and sponsoring programs that provide services to the poor. The Pro Bono Clearinghouse provides an effective link between nonprofits and legal talent who can provide counsel on a variety of legal issues facing nonprofit agencies. With a grant from the Community Foundation, the Clearinghouse has been able to match volunteer attorneys with "in need" nonprofits. The Clearinghouse maintains a database of volunteers, categorized by firm, years of experience and areas of expertise. Primary liability insurance was recently purchased to cover the Clearinghouse volunteers.

**The Virginia Trial Lawyers Association** and the **Fairfax Bar Association** each received an Award of Merit for their seminar series held after 9/11. Within days after September 11, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America promised pro bono legal services to all victims and the families in obtaining full redress from the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund. A non-profit organization—Trial Lawyers Care (TLC)—was established to train volunteer lawyers and handle day-to-day intake of families and assignment of lawyer volunteers. The Virginia Trial Lawyers and the Fairfax Bar Association responded by obtaining information on the fund and organizing a training seminar, featuring several of the country's leading attorneys. More than 40 attorneys attended the seminar. MCLE credit was sought and secured.

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