

## Drewry Receives Pro Bono Award

Lynchburg attorney Burton Leigh Drewry was recognized in May by the Virginia Legal Aid Society and the Lynchburg Bar Association for his pro bono contributions.



He was honored for consistently accepting cases in a pro bono program since 1994. Previous winners of the local award include attorneys Wanda Yoder, Steve Martin, Betsy Phillips and Frank Morrison.

Drewry, a graduate of the University of Virginia and the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond, was a prosecutor in Campbell County from 1984 to 1986 and in Lynchburg from 1986 to 1994. He is in private practice with the law firm of Cunningham & Drewry, in Lynchburg.

Drewry lives in Lynchburg with his wife, Anne, and children Robert and Rebecca.

## American Bar Association Tax Section Awards Elizabeth J. Atkinson National Pro Bono Award

Elizabeth J. Atkinson is one of two attorneys in the nation to receive the first annual Pro Bono Award presented by the American Bar Association tax section.



Atkinson, a tax attorney in the Norfolk office of Kaufman & Canoles, P.C., practices in the areas of IRS administrative proceedings and tax litigation. She received the Pro Bono Award during a ceremony held at the section's meeting on May 11, 2002, in Washington, D.C.

Atkinson was recognized for her outstanding and sustained contribution in providing free legal services and assisting low-income taxpayers facing tax disputes.

The ABA tax section Pro Bono Award is presented to law firms or individual lawyers who display outstanding commitment to pro bono activities. Atkinson shares the 2002 honor with Victoria Bjorkland, a partner with the law firm Simpson, Thatcher & Bartlett in New York City.

Atkinson serves on the board of the Community Tax Law Project, a low-income taxpayer clinic in Richmond, where she also acted as interim director on a pro bono basis. She is an officer of The Hampton Roads Tax Forum, a nonprofit group of tax professionals. Additionally, she is a member of the ABA tax section's Administrative Practice Committee and Closely-held Business Committee and on the board of governors of the Virginia State Bar taxation section and the taxation council of The Virginia Bar Association.

Atkinson received her undergraduate degree with honors from the University of Virginia and her J.D. with high honors from Michigan State University, Detroit College of Law.

## Roanoke Attorney David D. Beidler Receives Legal Aid Award

David D. Beidler, staff attorney at the Legal Aid Society of the Roanoke Valley, received the 2002 Virginia Legal Aid Award on Friday, June 14, at the legal aid luncheon at the Virginia State Bar annual meeting in Virginia Beach. The award is given to a legal aid attorney in Virginia whose work has an impact beyond the attorney's own service area, and who demonstrates innovation in advocacy on behalf of low-income clients as well as experience and excellence in service.

Beidler joined LASRV in 1984 after graduating from Antioch Law School. Since then he has been the mainstay of the Roanoke office in a variety of critical roles.

One of the Roanoke Valley's most experienced advocates in employment and unemployment law, Beidler is known for pioneering work under the Virginians with Disabilities Act. More than a decade ago, before the law was clear on certain points, he successfully convinced the city circuit court that the act's protections applied to citizens who were not disabled, but sub-

jected to discrimination on the basis of perceived disability.

As LASRV's specialist in housing law, Beidler serves as an important resource to the legal aid community as well as to LASRV's staff and clients. He has successfully litigated numerous cases on defective conditions, lease-purchase contract abuses, illegal rentals and overreaching use of the trespass laws to bar tenant guests.

Beidler will be remembered by Bedford citizens as the advocate who convinced Bedford County to make its courthouse accessible to the handicapped. He is an experienced consumer lawyer, and he serves as LASRV's representative to the Roanoke Regional Housing Network—a coalition of housing interests who have addressed a wide range of issues affecting the poor.

Beyond his legal work, Beidler has for many years represented LASRV on the state legal aid training committee, contributing many hours in planning, coordination and



Virginia Legal Aid Award recipient David D. Beidler, wife Wendy and daughter Amber at the Legal Aid Award luncheon sponsored by the Access to Legal Services Committee and Attorneys Liability Protection Society (ALPS).

recruitment to assure the high quality of the statewide training conference, where he has also lectured on a variety of topics.

## William & Mary Student Receives Hill Award

Réco Alana Thomas, a third-year student at William and Mary School of Law, received the Oliver White Hill Law Student Pro Bono Award Wednesday, May 15, at the Lewis F. Powell, Jr., Pro Bono Award ceremony in Williamsburg.

The Hill Award was inaugurated by the Virginia State Bar in February, 2002. It honors extraordinary law student achievement in the areas of pro bono publico and under-compensated public service work in Virginia. The VSB's Special Committee on Access to Legal Services administers the award and will annually review nominations to determine if there should be a designee.

In addition to completing public service fellowships with public defender offices the past two summers, Ms. Thomas worked more than 100 additional uncompensated hours on indigent defense mat-

ters. She has volunteered with Student Legal Services, providing guidance to members of the William and Mary community, as well as with Juvenile Service/House Arrest, working with juveniles in a house arrest program.

Additionally, Ms. Thomas' list of law school activities is most impressive. She has served as both office manager and newsletter editor for the William and Mary Office of Student Volunteer Services; Disaster Services Committee chairperson of the Student Red Cross; member of the board of directors of the Public Service Fund; graduate outreach chairperson for the Alan Bukzin Bone Marrow Drive; president of the Student HIV/AIDS Peer Educators & Health Outreach Peer Educators; and a member of Phi Alpha Delta legal fraternity.



Réco Thomas is the first recipient of the Oliver White Hill Law Student Pro Bono Award. Pictured here are Glenn Lewis, chair of the Special Committee on Access to Legal Services, Ms. Thomas and VSB President Michael Glasser.

# Highlights from the 12th Anniversary VSB Pro Bono Conference



The VSB Special Committee on Access to Legal Services hosted the Annual Pro Bono Conference in Williamsburg this year at the College of William & Mary's Marshall-Wythe School of Law. About 130 attorneys and paralegals attended a ceremony and CLEs on Wednesday and Thursday, May 15–16.



The 12th Annual Lewis F. Powell, Jr., Pro Bono Award ceremony and reception was held Wednesday evening. The ceremony included the inaugural Law Student Pro Bono Award, named after civil rights icon Oliver W. Hill, who participated in the award ceremony. The award's first recipient, Réco A. Thomas, was recognized for her volunteer work with several public defender offices. Senate Courts of Justice Special Counsel and noted criminal defense attorney, Steven D. Benjamin of Richmond, was the guest speaker.

*The committee thanks former Powell Award recipient John M. Levy, who dons the mantle of emeritus professor of law at William & Mary in July, for his gracious attention to detail as in-house contact for the conference proceedings.*



1: Famed civil rights attorney Oliver Hill, for whom the VSB inaugural law student pro bono award was named, received a standing ovation at the Powell Award ceremony, in tribute to his pioneering work. Thanking him for his comments is VSB President Michael Glasser.

2: "Pro Bono Ethics in the Civic Emergency Context" was moderated by Andrea Bridgeman, counsel, Freddie Mac, and new member of the VSB council.

3: Brett Zwerdling served as moderator, and John Bevis served as presenter for the "Emerging Federal Bankruptcy Regulations" seminar. (Mr. Zwerdling also assisted with two other conference sessions, including ethics. He is the state bar director for the 2001–02 VSB/VBA Young Lawyers Emergency Legal Services Project.)

4: Southwest Legal Aid Society Senior Attorney Debra Sifford spoke about the (historical) New River Valley Private Bar Involvement (PBI) Model at the "Attracting Young Lawyers to Rural Practice and Special Commitments" seminar. Lane Kneeder also addressed public service and law reform opportunities and voluntary bar commitments. Access Committee member Butler Barrett (center) served as moderator.

5: "Spotlight on Indigent Criminal Defense" was moderated by Jim Hingley, with Julie Strandlee, legislative counsel and director of grassroots operations of the ABA.

6: Taking a break in between seminar sessions were Charles Staples, senior attorney, Legal Services of Eastern Virginia (LSEVA) (Norfolk/Portsmouth); Maureen Hill-Hauch, pro bono coordinator, Rappahannock Legal Services (Fredericksburg); and Paulette Taliaferro, senior attorney, (LSEVA-Williamsburg).

7: Access Committee member Fernando Groene served as moderator of the seminar on "Civil Rights and Civil Liberties: Child Detainee and Foreign Student Clients," and Chris Nugent of the ABA and Kent Willis of the Virginia ACLU were presenters.

## W&L Fund, Fellowship Support Public Interest Law

In an effort to lessen the financial burden placed on recent and future graduates choosing to serve the public interest, Washington and Lee School of Law has established the Edmund D. Campbell Public Interest Fund. The fund totals \$2,000 each year for up to three years for each recipient.

Kieran Bartley (class of 2000) is the first recipient of the Campbell Fund. He began working at Blue Ridge Legal Services in Harrisonburg in August 2000 and focuses on family law, bankruptcy, landlord-tenant issues and consumer law.

Latanya White (class of 2001) is the second recipient of the Campbell Fund. She is working with the Defender Association of

Philadelphia. Next year, a third graduate will be chosen so that W&L will be presenting three Campbell awards each year.

Recipients must work for federal, state or local government or a nonprofit organization.

The family and friends of Edmund D. Campbell, Sr., for whom the fund was named, as well as the law firm of Jackson & Campbell, formed the fund to honor Campbells's work and to provide an incentive for W&L graduates to choose public interest law. Campbell was devoted to civil rights and successfully fought Jim Crow laws and Virginia's resistance to school desegregation. Campbell graduated

from W&L in 1918 and from the W&L School of Law in 1922.

Additionally, James Talbert-Slagle, who graduated from W&L in 2000, is the first from W&L School of Law to receive the Skadden Arps Fellowship. The fellowship is offered by the law firm of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom, L.L.P., and provides a salary, benefits and debt service for one year, with possibility of renewal for a second year. Talbert-Slagle was chosen from 25 national finalists. Skadden Arps awards its fellowships to graduating law students and outgoing judicial clerks who provide legal services to the poor, elderly, homeless and disabled, as well as those deprived of their human or civil rights.

## Virginia State Bar Honors Legal Aid Volunteer

The Virginia State Bar recognized Donald T. Floyd for his eight years and thousands of hours of pro bono service in representation of legal aid clients. Floyd received the Lewis F. Powell, Jr., Pro Bono Award at the 12th annual VSB Pro Bono Conference Wednesday, May 15, at the College of William & Mary Marshall-Wythe School of Law.

The award was created 12 years ago to honor former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., who was instrumental in creating federally funded legal service programs while a partner at the law firm of Hunton & Williams.

Floyd, who formerly lived in Richmond, is a retired insurance executive who earned his law degree from the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond—after a career in business and

service in the military. In 1994, Floyd began volunteering at Richmond-based Central Virginia Legal Aid Society (CVLAS) to make a pro bono contribution and to obtain experience as a lawyer while considering choices for entry into private practice. Within a relatively short period of time, he decided to forego private practice.

Floyd was nominated for the Powell Award by the CVLAS staff and former staff. Nominations cited his uncommon willingness to assist legal aid clients in what are termed miscellaneous cases, typically difficult assignments reserved for veteran staff lawyers. CVLAS also noted its appreciation for his role as co-counsel in numerous



Donald T. Floyd was this year's recipient of the Lewis F. Powell, Jr., Pro Bono Award, presented by VSB President Michael Glasser.

foreclosure cases and for his telephone hotline assistance to clients through a project CVLAS jointly sponsored with The Virginia Bar Association. Floyd received the 1997 Pro Bono Publico Award of the Bar Association of the City of Richmond.