

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 15, at the Virginia State Bar Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach.

Awards of Merit

Arlington County Bar Association

The Arlington County Bar Association received an Award of Merit for its video history of the association, which was produced in honor of its 75th anniversary and shown at a special celebration in May, with Chief Justice Carrico and Justice Russell as featured speakers.

Fairfax County Bar Association

The Fairfax County Bar Association received an Award of Merit for its "Give Me Wings and I Can Fly!" project. The objective of this program is to equip every residential pod at the Juvenile Detention Center in Fairfax County with a computer loaded with educational software for students trying to earn their GEDs or trying to keep up with school-work.

Henrico County Bar Association

The Henrico County Bar Association received an Award of Merit for its Youth Education Program, an outreach to provide law-related education to students in Henrico County schools. Members of the HCBA served on the VSB Speakers Bureau, taught classes to elementary students, attended and participated in career days for middle and elementary school students, provided guided tours through Henrico County courts through a Court Docent program, distributed the *So You're 18* state bar publication to high school students and served as mentors to elementary school students in the county.

Loudoun County Bar Association

The Loudoun County Bar Association received an Award of Merit for its Expanded Leadership in the Law Summer Camp 2001. Now in its second year of operation, the camp provides an opportunity for rising high school seniors to learn first-hand about the legal system.

Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association

The Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association received an Award of Merit for the development and implementation of its Web site. The primary goal of this project was to deliver more efficiently information to members regarding MRWBA activities and legal topics of interest to members.

Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys

The Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys received an Award of Merit for its "Law Suits Day" project. Through its "Law Suits Day" project, the VABWA invited all professional women in the Richmond metropolitan area to donate professional clothing and accessories to The Greater Richmond Employment Assistance Team (GREAT) to assist women who are re-entering the workforce. GREAT is a welfare-to-work initiative that provides job readiness and job placement for these women.

Virginia Beach Bar Association

The Virginia Beach Bar Association received two Awards of Merit for its Mentor Program and its Web site.

The Mentor Program is a volunteer program designed to pair the new practitioner with an experienced lawyer who can provide practical advice to the new lawyer.

The VBBA launched its Web site in early 2000, and the site is now fully functional, offering the Executive Board an effective means of communication with the members.

Certificates of Achievement

City of Richmond Bar Association

The City of Richmond Bar Association was presented with two Certificates of Achievement for its *Changing Faces of the Richmond Bar Association* project and the publication of the *Metro Pro Bono Advocate*.

The bar association created a supplement to the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* that served to counter criticism of lawyers, and a newsletter that recognized local bar associations, organizations, law firms and government agencies in central Virginia for their pro bono services.

Norfolk-Portsmouth Legal Blood Drive

On August of 2000 the Norfolk-Portsmouth Bar successfully organized a blood and fund-raising drive in response to an emergency appeal for donations.

Prince William County Bar Association

The Prince William County Bar Association was presented with two Certificates of Achievement for its Middle School Essay Contest and its Pro Bono Reception. The Prince William County Bar Association, with the national CHARACTER COUNTS program, sponsored an essay contest in six county middle schools. The program teaches age-appropriate ethics to children.

Its pro bono reception celebrated its commitment to providing free legal services to the residents of Prince William County and the cities of Manassas and Manassas Park.

Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys

The Virginia Association of Black Women Attorneys was presented with a Certificate of Achievement for its Ida Paey Project. Recognizing the severity of juvenile crime in Hampton Roads, the VABWA has begun work in the area of recognizing, recording and applauding the historical involvement of African Americans in the judicial process in Virginia. Ida Paey was the first volunteer and probation officer of the Norfolk Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court, working tirelessly with African-American children and families from 1914 until 1950.

Arlington County Bar Association Celebrates 75th Anniversary

Celebration

The Arlington County Bar Association celebrated its 75th anniversary May 4, 2001, with a black tie event. This “labor of love,” as described by the bar’s immediate past president, Manny Capsalis, drew a sell-out crowd of 200 people and gave the ACBA an opportunity to honor outstanding members and reflect on its accomplishments. Capsalis served as master of ceremonies.

The Robert J. Arthur Distinguished Service Award, named after the guiding force in launching the bar’s CLE seminars, prior to the origin of accreditation, was presented to the Honorable Charles S. Russell (retired). Additionally, fifty-year members were honored by either a family member or friend who is an ACBA member.

Justice Russell and Chief Justice Harry L. Carrico, both of the Supreme Court of Virginia, reminisced about growing up in Arlington in the 1930s and 1940s. Justice Russell shared the boyhood experience of riding to town on his bike and becoming hooked on the practice of law as he watched a murder trial in the courthouse. Furthermore, a video capturing early footage of ACBA activities, was shown at the celebration. This project was researched and compiled by Donald Brittenham, the ACBA program chairman and director of the governing board.

“The anniversary banquet was not just a celebration of its past 75 years, but also a rededication to the association’s future,” said ACBA president Raymond Benzinger.

Community

A high level of participation in pro bono work is a trademark of the association, and Law Day has been actively and continuously promoted by the association since the 1960s.

The ACBA Lawyer Referral Service began in October 1969. More than 100,000 persons have received referral service for initial consultation at a nominal fee. This program continues as a major bar service. Bar members have provided advice at the bar’s booth at the Arlington County Fair, as well as through Legal Services of Northern Virginia for 23 consecutive years.

The ACBA is active in Christmas in April, a program that provides housing improvements to the underprivileged; the Glebe School Homework Club, where attorneys tutor on Tuesdays at an after-school program. The association also established and continues to provide substantial financial support to the Walter T. McCarthy Law Library, which is open to the public.



50-year members of the Arlington County Bar Association (left to right)—Ken Smith, Paul Varoutsos, Earl Shaffer, Louis Koutoulakos, Chief Justice Harry Carrico, Betty Thompson, Peter Kostic, Griffin Garnett, Jr., Bankead Davies, Judge William Winston and Justice Charles Russell.



Circuit court bench—Judge William Newman, Judge Joanne Alper, Judge Paul Sheridan, Judge William Winston, Justice Charles Russell and Judge Benjamin Kendrick.

Social Events

The social events of the bar have historically provided both comic relief and relaxation. For many years the ACBA conducted “Smokers,” which consisted of elaborate scripts and skits. In the 1960s and 1970s there were jointly held dinners by bar members and members of the Arlington Medical Society. Original Field Day events of the bar began in the late 1930s and included a full day of outdoor recreation, followed by a dinner dance. The Joseph C. Gwaltney Invitational Golf Tournament continues the tradition of golf outings.

The ACBA also has a custom of monthly luncheon meetings which occasionally include CLE programs.

Leadership

Leadership within the ACBA is well represented throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia: Four Virginia State Bar presidents hail from the ACBA—William D. Dolan, III, 1984–1985; C. Wynne Tolbert, 1971–1972; James H. Simmonds, 1958–1959; and Thomas W. Phillips, 1949–1950.

Other bar members who are respected leaders in the legal community include retired Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court Charles S. Russell and Retired Judge of the Court of Appeals Charles H. Duff. In the Eastern District of Virginia Federal Court are Chief Judge Claude M. Hilton and former U.S. Attorney Helen F. Fahey. ☺

Throughout the 33 years

(1967-June 2000) I served the

ACBA, I found the energy and

dedication of its leaders and

members to be a valuable

asset. Remembering the associ-

ation's history, learning and

cherishing the past, knowing

when to change, when to

adopt, and looking ahead on

various events and projects

has resulted in 75 successful

and productive years of this

association.

—Betty Waldow
(retired executive director)

Join a Practice Section

There are 21 specialty practice and substantive law sections of the Virginia State Bar.

For more information and a registration form visit the bar's Web site at

www.vsb.org/sections/

LOCAL & SPECIALTY BAR ELECTIONS

Franklin County Bar Association:

Jonathan Glenn Scott, President
William Pearson Davis, Vice President
Theresa Deanna Perdue Stone, Secretary
Barry James Jefferson, Treasurer
Carolyn Handy Furrow, Conference Representative

Halifax Bar Association:

Tracy Lyn Quackenbush, President
Joel Cawthon Cunningham, Jr., Vice President
Sandra Marie Saseen-Smith, Secretary
Sterling Byrd-Roberts, Treasurer
James Edward Midkiff, Conference Representative

Hampton Roads Chapter/VWAA:

Deborah Culpepper Waters, President
Polly Chong, Secretary
Amy Sue Morrissey, Treasurer
Deborah Culpepper Waters, Conference Representative

Middle Peninsula Bar Association:

Robert P. Brooks, President
Benjamin Elliott Bondurant, Vice President
Jeffrey William Shaw, Secretary-Treasurer
Michael Thomas Soberick, Conference Representative

Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association:

Robert J. Macbeth, Jr., President
Cheshire I'Anson Eveleigh, President-elect
Conrad M. Shumadine, Secretary
Stanley Graves Barr, Jr., Treasurer
John Y. Richardson, Jr., Conference Representative

New River Valley Chapter, VWAA*:

Stephanie Angela Murray, President
Patricia Hetreed O'Boyle, Treasurer
Stephanie Angela Murray, Conference Representative

Northern Virginia Women Attorneys Association:

Sheila Mary Costin, President
Kelly Sweeney Hite, President-elect
Catherine Mary Reese, Secretary
Jennifer Hsian McCabe, Treasurer
Sheila Mary Costin, Conference Representative

Roanoke Chapter, VWAA*:

Amy Lea Hansen, President
Heather Archer Shrock, Vice President
Lori Dawn Thompson, Secretary-treasurer
Elizabeth Kay Dillon, Conference Representative

Virginia Trial Lawyers Association:

John Chandler Shea, President
Irvin Victor Cantor, President-elect
Richard E. Railey, Jr., Vice President
Henry D. Garnett, Jr., Vice President
Peter Brent Brown, Vice President
Charles Joseph Zauzig, III, Treasurer
Gerald Arthur Schwartz, Treasurer
Craig Brian Davis, YTL Chair

Virginia Women Attorneys Association:

Linda M. Jackson, President
Elizabeth Kay Dillon, President-elect
Paula P. Newett, Secretary
M. Chris Floyd, Treasurer
Caroline Costle, Assistant Treasurer

*Previously Roanoke/New River Valley Chapter, VWAA