

School-To-College Program

by Jacquelyn E. Stone

As part of The Millennium Diversity Initiative, the Young Lawyers Conference of the Virginia State Bar will offer a program to encourage high school students of color to attend college and law school. This program—the “School-to-College Program”—will provide high school students with a comprehensive introduction to the American judicial and legal system.

The program will introduce students to the study of law and the opportunities for lawyers in the new millennium. At the end of the program, participants will be paired with an attorney mentor to assist the student through high school, college and law school.

The program will be held on a law school campus and students will have the experience of living in dormitories in a protected campus environment. The faculty will be comprised of law school professors, judges and visiting guest lecturers. Teaching assistant and student mentor positions will be filled by state and local bar association members, college students and high school teachers. In addition to classes, the course curriculum for the program will include mock trials, research and writing competitions, test preparation, field trips and guest lectures. The curriculum will stress academic readiness and explore trends in the legal profession.

The program will bring together college counseling resources, test preparation consultants, and volunteers from the state and local bar associations to provide students with the following:

- Scholarships for an on-site, specially tailored SAT preparation course and access to online test preparation resources;
- Grants of lawyer-donated frequent flyer miles, ground transportation, food and lodging to enable students to visit colleges and universities;
- Counseling by professional college counselors and trained volunteer attorney mentors to assist with college applications and financial aid requests.

The program will be chaired by Jennifer L. McClellan. If you are interested in helping develop and implement this program, contact the chair, Jennifer McClellan, at (804) 788-8200 or at Jmcclellan@hunton.com. Those interested in participating in the Program by mentoring a student, donating frequent flyer miles, or making a financial contribution, should also contact McClellan. ☺



Jacquelyn E. Stone is a partner in the Richmond office of McGuireWoods, L.L.P., where she concentrates on general business matters on behalf of corporate clients, legislative matters before the Virginia General Assembly, and regulatory issues before state and federal agencies. Stone is a 1980 graduate of the University of Virginia and received her law degree in 1985 from Harvard Law School. She has been actively involved in local, state and national

bar activities, and is a member of the Millennium Diversity Initiative.

Mentorship Program

by Donald J. Richardson

I began the Mentorship Program at the University of Richmond in the fall of 1998. The Mentorship Program pairs African-American first-year law students with African-American attorneys who practice in the Richmond area. Mentors meet with students during the student's law school career to guide and support the student through law school.

Students take advantage of the Mentorship Program by seeking the mentor's advice on various aspects of the law school experience, including preparing for and adapting to the “Socratic” method of teaching used by many law school professors; preparing for and successfully completing law school exams; selecting courses that will provide the student with a broad-based knowledge of Virginia law in anticipation of taking the Virginia bar exam; and developing the skills and contacts that will make it easier to find a job. The mentors are not paid for their services, and the students are not charged any fees.

Thanks to the efforts of people like Curtis M. Hairston, Jr., the former president of the Old Dominion Bar Association, the Mentorship Program held receptions at the University of Richmond during the fall of 1998 and the fall of 1999 to welcome the first-year African-American law students to Richmond. Many more attorneys volunteered as mentors. Because of them, and the members of the Millennium Diversity Initiative Committee, the Mentorship Program plans to provide mentors to minority first-year law students in all Virginia accredited law schools. It is hoped that before classes begin in August of 2002, we will have recruited enough mentors for every minority and non-traditional first-year law student in the commonwealth. ☺

If you are interested in becoming a mentor for a minority or non-traditional first-year student at any of the law schools in the Commonwealth of Virginia, please contact either:

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