

Kimberly Emery is Legal Aid Volunteer of the Year

Kimberly Carpenter Emery is the first recipient of the Charlottesville-Albemarle Legal Aid Society's Volunteer of the Year Award.

As a member of the board of directors for the past five years, she collaborated with legal aid to develop grant requests to the Jessie Ball DuPont Fund on behalf of the University of Virginia School of Law. The grants helped establish clinical programs at the law school—for housing, child advocacy, and mental health—that help deserving clients and attract student volunteers at legal aid. Emery raised funds for legal aid's capital campaign and assisted the organization in a planning process mandated by the federal government.

A 1991 graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law, Emery is assistant dean for public service and director of the Mortimer Caplin Public Service Center.



Chris Graham Receives Hunton & Williams Pro Bono Award

On July 19, 2001, Chris Graham, an associate on the Hunton & Williams environmental team, was presented with the Hunton & Williams Pro Bono Award at the firm's Richmond office by Thurston Moore, managing partner, and George Hettrick, community service committee chair.

A member of the community service committee, Graham is responsible for two of Richmond's Pro Bono Menu programs: the Pro Bono Criminal Appointments Program and the Veterans Pro Bono Consortium Program. He volunteered on more than 10 pro bono cases last fiscal year.



PRO BONO Opportunities

VLAS Develops Referral Program

The Danville Office of Virginia Legal Aid Society has developed a way to help the private bar get clients while increasing their participation in the Danville Bar Association's Pro Bono Involvement Program. If an attorney agrees to accept at least two pro bono case referrals a year, the attorney's name can then be placed on a second Fee Generating Referral List. The Fee Generating Referral List includes cases not normally handled by the Virginia Legal Aid Society. These cases may involve criminal charges, traffic violations, personal injury law suits, malpractice claims or settlement of estates.

When a person has requested representation in an area of law not handled by the local legal aid office, the person is given the names of attorneys who do handle that problem. All fee arrangements are decided between the client and the attorney. The attorney receives an additional referral source at no cost to them while fulfilling their pro bono obligation under Rule 6.1 of the Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct. Both the local bar and the indigent client benefit from this program.

The Farmville and Suffolk offices of Virginia Legal Aid Society also maintain similarly-linked referral programs. For more information, please call managing attorney David Pugh in the VLAS Danville office at (804) 799-3550.

Lawyer Group Formed to Help Disabled Children in Schools

A group of attorneys and parent advocates from around Virginia has established an organization to support families with disabled children in their disputes with school systems.

According to Richmond attorney Darrel Tillar Mason, president of the Virginia Coalition for Students with Disabilities Legal Advocacy Center, the group's goals are: to provide families with the legal assistance they need to represent their child's educational rights; to help train other lawyers in Virginia to provide expert representation in educational matters for special-needs children; to support advocacy and legal interventions that ensure local school districts provide appropriate educational services to disabled children; and to provide the support necessary to ensure that relevant government agencies comply with state and federal laws.

The board includes attorneys Darrel Tillar Mason; Peter Wright of Deltaville; Philip Barr of Poquoson; Mary Kathryn Hart of Richmond; Malcolm Higgins of Virginia Beach; and Sharon England of Richmond. Other special education

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PRO BONO Opportunities

advocates on the board include Candace Cortiella of Burke; Maureen Hollowell of Norfolk; and Denise Swanson of Roanoke.

For more information contact the Legal Advocacy Center at 4600 Cox Rd., Suite 205, Glen Allen, VA, 23060; (804) 967-2556; fax: 967-2554; Lbattin@aol.com.

PBI Options at Legal Services of Eastern Virginia

Attorneys seeking new public service opportunities in the Tidewater area have several options if they are interested in affiliating with a licensed legal aid society. The former Peninsula Legal Aid Center is now Legal Services of Eastern Virginia (LSEVA). Primarily federally-funded, LSEVA is headquartered in Hampton. It also serves low-income clients in the cities of Hampton, Chesapeake, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Poquoson, Virginia Beach and Williamsburg as well as the counties of Accomack, Gloucester, James City, Matthews, Middlesex, Northampton and York.

Legal Services of Eastern Virginia has a three-pronged private bar involvement (PBI) program for area attorneys who wish to volunteer. LSEVA PBI attorneys may opt to participate in the Neighborhood Assistance (State) Tax Credit Program (NAP) through which 45% of the value of the donated services is recognized by the Commonwealth. Other options include membership on two types of 100% pro bono panels. One panel handles referred cases. The other staffs a pro bono telephone hotline offering "brief service" or "advice and counsel" to indigent clients from LSEVA main or branch offices in Hampton, Virginia Beach and Norfolk. For more information or for a Volunteer Enrollment Form, please contact PBI Attorney Coordinator, Cheryl J. Avery, at (757) 827-2912, ext. 21 or Cheryl@lseva.org.

Fund Drive to Address Legal Service Deficit with Tax Credit for Personal Donations

Officials at Rappahannock Legal Services, Inc. (RLS), in Fredericksburg, say that RLS is facing a funding crisis because of an ongoing 15% cut in state funding for the new fiscal year. RLS has been forced to turn away applications due to lack of resources.

RLS, a private non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, has provided free civil legal services for nearly 3,000 to 4,000 low-income persons annually in the Rappahannock River watershed since 1973, including 300 to 400 pro bono cases. Representation of these clients has included nearly 100 civil protective orders against domestic violence and about \$1.2 million in child support, disability and other awards.

RLS must, after the use of all available reserves, still make up a \$25,000 deficit for fiscal year 2002 to maintain existing services. RLS hopes to do this through a salary freeze for all staff through calendar year 2002, a summer 2001 private attorney fund drive (\$10,000 goal) and a summer 2001 solicitation of area churches and synagogues (\$10,000 goal). Last year, similar fund drives raised \$8,285 from local attorneys and \$9,147.50 from local churches.

RLS invites all Virginia attorneys to consider a tax-deductible gift of up to \$200. Under a July 1, 2000, amendment to the Virginia Neighborhood Assistance Act—a Virginia code that is effective through December 31, 2001—individuals may receive annual state income tax credits (not deduc-

tions) equal to 100% of the amount of annual personal contributions to RLS between \$50 and \$200.

Virginia Rule 6.1: "Voluntary Pro Bono Publico Services," which encourages Virginia lawyers to voluntarily donate 2% of their professional time to pro bono legal services, provides that direct financial support to legal services programs like RLS may serve as an alternative method of fulfilling a lawyer's responsibility under the rule.

For more information on making a personal donation, contact: Rappahannock Legal Services, Inc.
910 Princess Anne Street, 2nd Floor
Fredericksburg, VA 22401
(540) 371-1105, phone
(540) 371-1114, fax
RLSFRED@erols.com

Coalition to Sponsor Providers' Directory

The Virginia Pro Bono Coordinator's Network (PBCN), is partnering with the legal services community and others to complete an on-line "Providers Directory of Legal Services, Pro Bono and Community-based Programs." Project developers are interested in listing law-related nonprofit groups. They also will list attorneys, through a password protected portal, as mentors for other lawyers in transactional and litigation matters or as pro bono counsel or co-counsel in complex cases. Practice areas where the need for help from experienced members of the private bar is especially acute include: bankruptcy and debtor/creditor; civil, elder, and disability rights; employment; consumer; economic development; environmental; family law, including domestic violence; federal litigation; habeas corpus; health care; housing, foreclosure, and landlord/tenant; immigration; social security; tax; and, wills and advance directives. If you or your firm would like to be listed or simply learn more about the project, please e-mail Paralegal Specialist Lori Thompson at lthompson@justice.com.

Roanoke Pro Bono Hotline Needs Volunteers

Due to a merger between the Roanoke and Harrisonburg legal aid offices, the Roanoke Pro Bono Hotline is expanding to serve clients from the Roanoke Valley area north to Winchester. Volunteers in the Roanoke area are needed to staff the hotline calls in this expanded territory.

Hotline sessions are scheduled twice a week in the Roanoke offices of Blue Ridge Legal Services. Volunteers are trained to handle questions from several areas, including domestic relations, driver's license restoration and landlord/tenant issues. Virginia MCLE credit is available for the hotline training seminar. The hotline generally requires two hour sessions twice per quarter.

Persons interested in volunteering can contact Melissa Amos Young at (540) 983-9390 or e-mail melissa_young@gentrylocke.com or Victor Skaff at (540) 983-9464 or e-mail at victor_skaff@gentrylocke.com.

Visit the Pro Bono page on the VSB Web site for **pro bono training and opportunities** listed at www.vsb.org/probono/.