

Eckstein to Receive American Inns of Court Sandra Day O'Connor Award

Maya M. Eckstein will receive the third annual 2003 Sandra Day O'Connor Award for Professional Service at the annual American Inns of Court Celebration of Excellence, to be held at the U.S. Supreme Court on October 11, 2003. The national award recognizes Eckstein's outstanding work in public service, pro bono and community service on behalf of indigent persons. The John Marshall American Inn of Court nominated her for the award.

"This is a fine endorsement of Maya's superb career, and Hunton & Williams is elated by the news of the award. I can think of no other lawyer more deserving," said George Hettrick, chair of the firm's community service committee.

The Sandra Day O'Connor Award was established by the board of trustees of the American Inns of Court Foundation as a national award to recognize an Inn member in practice for 10 or fewer years, for excellence in public interest or pro bono activities. The award is named in honor of Justice O'Connor, a long-time supporter of the American Inns of Court.

Eckstein is a member of the Hunton & Williams Community Service Committee and devotes time to the Women's

Advocacy Project, a Hunton & Williams partnership program that provides legal representation to victims of domestic violence. The program serves the Richmond YWCA Shelter, the Emergency Shelter, the Safe Harbor Shelter and Central Virginia Legal Aid.

"It's a responsibility," said Eckstein. Referring to members of her family lost to the Holocaust, she said, "My life has to mean something—to justify and to honor their sacrifices. I couldn't go through life not doing anything and justify my existence."

As a member of the VSB Young Lawyers Conference Pro Bono Committee, she contributed to its Virginia Domestic Violence Safety Project and developed the Crime Victim Compensation Program. The VSB Young Lawyers Conference recognized Eckstein as the 1999 R. Edwin Burnette, Jr., Young Lawyer of the Year, and she received its 2000 and 2003 Service Awards. Eckstein volunteered for the Virginia Wills for Heroes Program, developed by the Young Lawyers Conference and other organizations.

A graduate of Kent State University, Eckstein received her law degree from



Syracuse University, where she was Order of the Coif and associate notes and comments editor of the *Syracuse Law Review*. Before her 1997 arrival at Hunton & Williams, she served as a "pool clerk" for the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. In 2001, Eckstein took a sabbatical from Hunton & Williams to serve a one-year clerkship with the Honorable Roger L. Gregory, the first permanent African-American judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Ms. Eckstein serves on the board of directors of the Virginia League for Planned Parenthood and the Flagler Home at Saint Joseph's Villa, a two-year transitional housing program for homeless women and their children. She is an active member of the Virginia State Bar Access to Legal Services Committee and a member of the Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference board of governors.

Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Prelaw Institute



For a week in July, the VSB Young Lawyers Conference, the Millennium Diversity Initiative and the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond hosted 18 high school students at the second Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Prelaw Institute. The institute is designed to introduce African American students to careers in the law and give them the opportunity to meet civil rights icon Oliver W. Hill (foreground, center) and prominent African American lawyers and judges. This project was funded through a grant from The Virginia Law Foundation.

Participants were (left to right) Benjamin Collins, Terrence Wilson, Isaiah Wilson, Christina Gray, Amanda Washington, Stephanie Rose, Lauren Holmes, Quinesshia Harris, Zachary Lane, Vaughan Moss, Austin McLeod, Erica Holmes, Haywood Watkins, Lauren Boswell, Ashley Gaines, Margaret Harris, Mikeshia Montgomery and Jennifer McClellan, Prelaw Institute director. (Erica James not pictured.)



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

2004 LEWIS F. POWELL, JR., PRO BONO AWARD

The Lewis Powell Award honors Virginia attorneys and attorney groups that have made outstanding pro bono contributions. The Special Committee on Access to Legal Services annually reviews all nominations and selects the recipient. The award, a framed limited edition print of the painting *Patrick Henry Arguing the Parson's Cause*, will be presented at a formal award ceremony in 2004. **The deadline for receipt of nominations is January 9, 2004.** See future issues of *Virginia Lawyer* and *Virginia Lawyer Register* for criteria, past recipients and other details or visit www.vsb.org/awards.html#powell.

Oliver White Hill Law Student Pro Bono Award

Inaugurated in 2002, the Oliver Hill Award honors extraordinary law student achievement in the areas of pro bono publico, under-compensated or volunteer public service work and scholarship. It is administered by the bar's Access Committee which annually reviews nominations to determine if there should be a designee. **The deadline for receipt of nominations is January 9, 2004.** See future issues of *Virginia Lawyer* and *Virginia Lawyer Register* for criteria and other details or visit www.vsb.org/awards.html#hillaward.

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