Mentoring Program
Reaches Out to Community Youth
by Jennifer Sparger

What began as his daughter’s project for her undergraduate thesis has become a successful mission for Judge Thomas Shadrick and the Virginia Beach Bar Association. Sponsored by the VBBA and directed by Judge Shadrick, a mentoring program for all third grade students at a local elementary school is now in its fourth year.

The mentors are lawyers, judges, police officers, sheriff’s deputies, former school teachers and other concerned citizens whom Judge Shadrick and the VBBA helped to recruit. These volunteers visit their assigned students every week, taking them out of class for an hour of one-on-one attention. Mentors assist their students with their weakest skills.

Studies have shown that children who are behind academically by the end of the third grade tend to remain behind throughout their school career.

“We are here to give them an adult who can broaden their horizons and set an example of what can be done with practice and hard work,” said Judge Shadrick, who is a mentor.

In an effort to ensure that each child is seen at least once a week throughout the entire school year, the VBBA has established three levels of mentors. Sole mentors are assigned to one student and commit to seeing that student at least once a week for an hour. Shared mentors are two mentors assigned to one student and alternate weeks in seeing the child. Alternate mentors are called upon by sole and shared mentors to fill in for them when they are not able to make it to the school for some reason.

Seatack Elementary School is one of eight elementary schools in the Virginia Beach area that does not meet SOL standards. “Seatack is expected to earn the state’s second highest accreditation rating for 2002–2003,” Judge Shadrick said.

“We do not want these kids to be let down,” he said. “Some of them already have too much of that in their lives.”
LETTER
from the Chair

At the start of each meeting of the Conference of Local Bar Association’s (CLBA) Executive Committee, members report on the recent activities of the local and specialty bars they represent. Based upon these monthly updates, the fall of 2002 has been an unusually productive season for Virginia’s bar associations. Some of these noteworthy bar events are highlighted within this edition of the Local Bar Connection. Other special occasions, like the Fairfax Bar’s Special Awards Dinner during which Chief Justice Carrico was honored with its Jurisprudence Award and the Prince William County Bar’s Legislative Forum, are also worthy of recognition.

Other bar projects discussed at our meetings have become regular events within the communities they serve and only get better each year. This is certainly true of the Page County Bar’s annual trip for local high school students to the United States Supreme Court, which occurred in October, and the Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association’s food drive to benefit a local food bank, now in its planning phase for a spring kickoff. Thanks to all the bar volunteers whose efforts contributed to the success of these remarkable programs.

Bar leaders and members throughout the state are encouraged to attend one of the CLBA’s 2003 Bar Leaders Institutes to be held in Richmond on March 3 and in Abingdon on March 14. This year’s programs promise to be invaluable opportunities for participants to both acquire new skills for bar leadership and to share information with other bar leaders.

In addition to planning the BLIs, Executive Committee members have been hard at work on the 2003 So You’re 18 handbook project, preparing a Spanish language version of the booklet. At a time when communities throughout Virginia are experiencing a growth in multiculturalism, this year’s So You’re 18 has special significance to increasing numbers of young people for whom Spanish is their primary language. The successful distribution of the So You’re 18 booklets depends upon the continuing commitment of local bars and their members to educating students about the legal system.

I look forward to seeing you at the BLIs in March.

Janine M. Saxe
Chair
Janine M. Saxe, Fairfax
Chair-Elect
Judith L. Rosenblatt, Virginia Beach
Secretary
Manuel A. Capsalis, Arlington
Treasurer
M. Janet Palmer, Richmond
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C. Butler Barrett, Emporia
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John Y. Richardson, Jr., Norfolk
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Alexander L. Taylor, Jr., Richmond
William T. Wilson, Covington

Celebrate Law Day—
May 1, 2003
Celebrate Your Freedom:
Independent Courts Protect our Liberties
For more information, visit
www.lawday.org.
The Comparative Jurisdiction Seminar was a groundbreaking joint initiative of the Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax and Prince William County Bar Associations, with local bars combining efforts to reap more than just profits. “We wanted to promote working together,” noted Yvonne C. McGhee, executive director of the Fairfax Bar, citing benefits for all four of the neighboring associations as well as their membership. The meeting was centrally located for all in the Fairfax County Government Center.

The theme of the program was a comparison of unique practices in the Northern Virginia jurisdictions. Given the proximity of the judicial districts, it is not uncommon for area practitioners to visit one or more jurisdiction in a day. “A lot of area attorneys practice in several of the participating jurisdictions,” said Erik Gustafson, president of the Arlington Bar Association. “The opportunity to network with the judges and attorneys from these different counties may attract a larger attendance than any one of us could get on our own,” he stated, adding that he’s not aware of another time that circuit judges from the four jurisdictions have come together for a CLE event to discuss the differences in practice within their individual courts. The program drew approximately 150 attendees.

The seminar led off with a plenary session offering pointers from judges in each of the jurisdictions and the Eastern District. Speaking on behalf of the area bars were the Honorable Alfred D. Swersky, Alexandria Circuit Court; the Honorable Joanne F. Alper, Arlington Circuit Court; the Honorable R. Terrence Ney, Fairfax Circuit Court; the Honorable Leroy F. Millette, Prince William Circuit Court; and the Honorable Theresa Carroll Buchanan from the US District Court, Eastern District of Virginia. Glenn C. Lewis of the Lewis Law Firm moderated the Judicial Panel.

The plenary session steered attendees through the judicial labyrinth of Northern Virginia, delving in the idiosyncrasies of each jurisdiction. Seminar attendees learned practice tips on issues ranging from Motions Day to the proper settlement of cases. The session lasted two hours, allowing questions from the audience.

After the plenary session, attendees were offered a selection of break out sessions discussing diverse techniques and pointers from the respective jurisdictions. Jim Cottrell, Fairfax County; Cathy Croft, Prince William County; Karen Keyes, Arlington County; and Carolyn Grimes, Alexandria, covered the topic of domestic relations. Civil Litigation featured Michael Barnsback, Alexandria; Elaine Bredehoft, Fairfax County; David Oblon, Arlington County; and Tracy Hudson, Prince William County; Business/Wills/Estates discussed the differences from the perspective of the Commissioner’s office, with insight offered by Gary Lonergan, Alexandria Assistant Commissioner of Accounts; William Murray, Arlington Commissioner of Accounts; Tim Cope, Prince William Bar Association; and Jesse B. Wilson, Fairfax Commissioner of Accounts. Thomas Spahn rounded out the break out sessions covering the topic of Ethics.

The program was an overwhelming success, offering perspectives from each of the participating jurisdictions. “Although most of our attorneys practice law throughout Northern Virginia, their famil-

**CONNECTED continued on next page . . .**
“The Comparative Jurisdiction Convention was a programmatic success. We hope this achievement will open doors for future joint initiatives to provide enhanced member services and relevance to local bars in the DC metropolitan area,” concluded Yvonne McGhee.

Special thanks goes to the planning committee for the event: Jan Brodie, Fairfax Bar Association; Cathy Croft, Prince William County Bar Association, Foster Friedman, Alexandria Bar Association; Erik Gustafson, Arlington Bar Association; and Yvonne McGhee, Fairfax Bar Association. Another note of gratitude for the work of the area bar staff for their assistance in making the program a success.

Connected continued from page 3

“The Comparative Law CLE provided a framework for our attorneys to brush up on court procedures throughout Northern Virginia to improve their legal representation and better facilitate the ends of justice,” Wasowicz added.

“One of the more difficult things a voluntary bar has to do is balance the cost of membership with what we have to offer,” noted Erik Gustafson, of the Arlington Bar Association. “An event like this would be difficult for the Arlington bar to do without the cooperation of other bar associations. By sharing expenses, volunteer time, and pooling the attendance, it will be a richer event than if it were just one bar,” Gustafson added.

Need a project for Law Day 2003?

The Virginia State Bar reminds you and your members that its award-winning ad campaign is available for your use at no charge to you.

We have renewed the model rights for another three years and can make the campaign available on disk at your request. Placing one of the ads in your local print media could be an excellent local bar project for 2003! Your bar association’s name can be substituted for the Virginia State Bar.

For more information, please contact Rod Coggin, (804) 775-0585, or email coggin@vsb.org. To view the ads in better detail, please visit www.vsb.org/publications/ads/index.html.

Spread the word

Does your bar run a program or a project of interest to the greater community? Why not toot your own horn? Tell reporters in your area about the projects and good deeds your bar is doing. You create the press release, and we’ll send you a comprehensive list of all the media (radio, television, and newspapers) in your town, city or geographic region.

For a personalized list, call (804) 775-0586 or e-mail sparger@vsb.org.
Legislative Issues Forum Focuses on Education, Enlightenment

by Alissa N. Hudson

On October 9, 2002, the Prince William County Bar Association sponsored a Legislative Issues Forum, where legislators and lawyers to discuss issues of mutual concern to consider options towards resolution. This was accomplished in a relaxed, non-confrontational manner, with the focus being education and enlightenment regarding the issues presented. The Fairfax Bar Association and the Arlington County Bar Association cosponsored this issues forum held at George Mason University’s Prince William campus.

The Legislative Issues Forum followed guidelines established by the National Issues Forum, (NIF), a nationally recognized organization known for sponsoring public policy debates. However, the topics selected for this forum were limited to those which effect the legal community; thus, the event was open only to members of the participating bar associations.

Invitations to participate in the issues forum were sent to area bar association presidents and to all members of the Northern Virginia legislative delegation in June of 2002. Once the participating bar associations were known, each identified their legislative representatives who would comprise the steering committee to work on issue identification and preparation. To insure the greatest possible participation by the members of the three sponsoring bar associations, the entire membership of each bar was given the opportunity to participate in the process of identifying potential issues. The input from the membership was funneled through the above mentioned steering committee, and while most issues forums present a single issue for discussion purposes, three issues were presented at this forum: family law, criminal law and general practice.

These three practice areas impact a majority of attorneys’ practices and were chosen to appeal to the widest possible audience. (Issues selected for such a forum should have more than one possible solution and should not be so divisive as to polarize those present. Issues currently being studied by the legislature are ideal, or new concerns may be presented.)

The following issues were presented at the forum: Family Law: GALs, appointment and compensation; General Practice: accessibility of court records on the Internet. Criminal Law: issuance of subpoenas, differences in civil versus criminal practices. The chairpersons of the appropriate legislative committees were present and participated in the discussions at the forum, adding substantially to the consensus building which took place. Overall participation by the members of the Northern Virginia legislative delegation was tremendous, with 50% in attendance.

In light of the positive response from those in attendance, the Legislative Issues Forum will likely become a biennial event for the PWCBA, being sponsored in the fall of election years.

Public Service Opportunity: ABA Dialogue on Freedom

The American Bar Association encourages you to participate in a “Dialogue on Freedom”—a program exploring American values and civic traditions through classroom dialogue between lawyers or judges and high school students—in your community to help students explore and better understand the values that define us as Americans.

Materials and ideas are available at the ABA’s Dialogue on Freedom Web site, www.abanet.org/dialogue. You may also contact Jennifer Sparger at the VSB at (804) 775-0586.

The VSB is interested to learn about your involvement in the schools in your community. Please let us know about your efforts by e-mailing sparger@vsb.org.
HIGHLIGHTS from Around the Commonwealth

The Alexandria Bar Association held its Bench/Bar Dialogue & Reception on December 12, 2002, at the Alexandria Court house. Participants who had questions for the judges were to submit them before the reception.


Members of the Fairfax Bar Association have been participating in its area’s Alcohol and Other Drug Intervention Program. The program is designed to help students in the ninth through twelfth grades who have been suspended from school for alcohol and/or other drug violations.

The Local Government Attorneys of Virginia held its Fall Conference October 3–5 at the Double Tree Hotel Crystal City in Arlington. CLE sessions included “Legal Issues Related to the Emergency Response in the Post 9/11 Age” and “Managing Environmental Contamination.”

LGA held its 2002 Southwest Virginia Seminar on August 16 in Abingdon. The topics covered included FOIA, telecommunications, land use, personnel issues and ethics.

The Prince William County Bar Association held a blood drive with the American Red Cross on September 27, 2002.

The PWCBA held a CLE, “The Duty to Plan for the Death or Disability of an Attorney,” on September 6, 2002. The CLE was presented by Leslie Haley, Virginia State Bar assistant ethics counsel. Another CLE held was “DUI: Consult through Sentencing,” on September 27, 2002.

The Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association held the CLE “Federal Court Practice: Your Fears are Justified” on October 24, 2002 to provide state court civil practitioners with the fundamentals of federal practice in an effort to avoid costly mistakes.

On November 14, 2002, The NPBA presented “Practice Before the Norfolk Court.” This CLE included a presentation on court procedures and an introduction to the court for new attorneys.

For 2003, the NPBA has scheduled two CLEs—“Trial Advocacy” and “Current Trends and Issues in Local and State ADR Practice.”

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Members of the Arlington County Bar Association contribute their time to the Glebe Elementary School Homework Club. For one hour every Tuesday afternoon, five attorney volunteers help children with their homework.


The CCHBA held its annual bar dinner at the Salisbury Country Club in Midlothian on October 24, 2002. The Honorable Donald W. Lemons, Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia, was the featured speaker. The CCHBA held its annual golf outing earlier in the day.

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The sessions began on Friday afternoon with “A Walk Through the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary System,” presenting differing perspectives from the Virginia State Bar’s Committee on Lawyer Discipline (COLD) and a defense attorney in private practice. VSB President Ben DiMuro made final comments. Following that presentation, a panel of several women members of the Virginia judiciary provided valuable tips for successful practice in Virginia’s state and federal trial and appellate courts. In the latter session, Judge Leslie Alden of the Fairfax County Circuit Court presented a comic “top ten list”—unquestionably one of the highlights of the Conference.

On Friday evening, the VWAA honored the women members of the Virginia General Assembly at a beautiful courtyard reception sponsored by Wachovia Corporation. During the evening, VWAA president, Elizabeth Dillon, presented VWAA Awards of Excellence to two delegates: Delegate Viola Baskerville, for her patronage of House Bill 1263, which was intended to improve women’s access to emergency contraception; and Delegate Terrie Suit, for her patronage of House Bill 488, which provides several safeguards against domestic violence and eliminates the marital rape exemption in Virginia.

Saturday morning began with a continental breakfast and a presentation, “On Being A Rainmaker,” in which a panel of Virginia women attorneys discussed their experiences and provided practical suggestions for developing and maintaining client relationships. The day’s CLE sessions included “Neutralizing the Playing Field: Managing the Difficult Opposing Counsel or Pro Se Party;” and “Negotiation and Communication for Lawyers,” a presentation from the perspective of a Circuit Court judge, the associate director of the Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission, a warden at a Virginia correctional center and a former public defender; and “Insurance, Data and Documents,” in which four attorneys provided practical advice on protecting data from an intellectual property perspective and ways to maximize insurance recoveries for loss.

During a luncheon following the morning presentations, VIPNet, a state organization that assists Virginia government organizations in providing information and services through the Internet, sponsored a very helpful presentation entitled “What Lawyers Can Do Online.”

On Saturday afternoon, many attendees participated in a golf tournament to benefit the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. Awards for the tournament were presented at a Saturday evening banquet sponsored by LexisNexis. The keynote speaker for the banquet was Catherine Whitney, the author and co-author of several books on law and politics, most recently including “Nine and Counting: The Women of the United States Senate.” Whitney offered humorous and inspiring remarks on the changing political landscape and the experiences of, and challenges for, women in political life. Following the banquet, she autographed copies of her book for attendees.

Additional copies of Whitney’s book are available to Virginia State Bar members by contacting the VWAA office (contact VWAA @aol.com) or the VWAA’s newsletter editor, Barbara Marvin (contact bmarvin@jackscamp.com). Materials from the CLEs presented at the conference are also available through the VWAA office.
FAIRFAX BAR ASSOCIATION HONORS
CHIEF JUSTICE CARRICO

by George W. Dodge, President-elect Arlington County Bar Association

On the evening of November 13, 2002, 290 lawyers and friends of the Honorable Harry Lee Carrico, Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court, attended a special awards dinner sponsored by the Fairfax Bar Association. The event was organized and led by Fairfax Bar Association President John A. Wasowicz; Yvonne McGhee, executive director of the FBA; and the officers, board members and staff of the FBA.

The program was moderated by Joseph A. Condo, past president of the Virginia State Bar (2000–2001) and Fairfax Bar president (1985–1986). The following awards were presented by Judge Richard J. Jamborsky (retired) and attorney James B. Pittelman:


The Jurisprudence Award of the Fairfax Bar Association was presented to Justice Carrico after speeches by four guest speakers. The opening speaker was Judge Arthur W. Sinclair, (retired). He concluded that no other Justice has worked harder and accomplished more than Chief Justice Carrico. Next, Fairfax Commonwealth Attorney Robert F. Horan, Jr., discussed Chief Justice Carrico’s goal to recapture legal professionalism. Justice Charles S. Russell (retired) discussed a Hunting Creek condemnation case involving him and the chief justice before their tenure on the Supreme Court of Virginia, which involved a view of a site that was under water. Chief Judge of the Virginia Court of Appeals, Johanna L. Fitzpatrick, spoke of working with Chief Justice Carrico and his hobbies of horse riding and cycling.

Chief Justice Carrico then offered his “rebuttals” to each of the four guest speakers. According to Carrico, at the age of 26, one year out of George Washington University law school, he was asked to consider serving as a judge after the death of Judge Ritchie. In 1943 Carrico was appointed as a judge of the Trial Justice Court (now General District Court) and began a career that spans 60 years—his tenure in the Trial Justice Court from 1943 to 1951 (except for his service with the US Navy during World War II), private practice from 1951 to 1956; and Circuit Court Judge for the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit with Paul Brown and Arthur W. Sinclair from 1956 to 1961. On June 30, 1961, Carrico became an associate justice on the Virginia Supreme Court, the first justice from northern Virginia. Then on February 1, 1981, Harry Lee Carrico was sworn in as the 23rd Chief Justice in Virginia history. He is the longest serving Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court and has nearly 42 years on the Supreme Court of Virginia bench.

Chief Justice Carrico praised attorneys engaged in pro bono work and continued his advocacy of that issue. He reminded the audience that lawyers are in a profession that can “do a lot of good for other people.” He urged that “every lawyer should engage in pro bono work” adding that 30 percent of Virginia attorneys have not done any pro bono work and that Congress has cut the funding to Legal Services Corporation. His final words on that subject were the “poor and troubled need help.”

Expressing that Fairfax is his “home bar,” Carrico concluded with how much he was honored by this event. Similar to the other speeches of Chief Justice Carrico that I have heard, his commentary transcended any focus upon himself. Listeners heard nothing about his leadership and participation in the Judicial Council of Virginia, Conference of Chief Justices, National Center for State Courts and a variety of committees in which he has served. To most of the lawyers, Chief Justice Harry Lee Carrico’s accomplishments were already known.

CLBA Information Available on the Web

Local bar information may be no further than a click away. The CLBA Web site contains information useful to both CLBA members and the general public. In addition to providing general information on the CLBA, the site includes:

- local and specialty bar contacts
- calendar of events
- listing of publication and library resources
- listing of CLEs
- information on Awards of Merit and the Bar Leader of the Year Award
- downloadable version of Local Bar Connection and So You’re 18

www.vsb.org/clba
AREA LAWYERS AND JUDGES ENGAGE IN FRANK DISCUSSION AT 2003 BENCH-BAR CONFERENCE

by Lee Martin

More than 250 lawyers and judges attended the eleventh annual Bench-Bar Conference, held at the Omni Richmond Hotel on October 17, 2002. A collaborative effort of seven local and specialty bar associations in the metropolitan Richmond area, the conference is designed to promote dialogue between the bench and the bar. The Conference regularly examines current issues in law practice and in the administration of justice.

The format for this year included a panel discussion with audience participation and breakout groups. The breakout session topics featured issues of interest to civil, criminal and juvenile and domestic relations practitioners including courthouse technology, the impact of state budget cuts, equitable distribution and the process of taking a case “under advisement.” Many agreed that a highlight was a breakout session featuring former jurors from recent trials who shared their experiences. A thought provoking General Session, entitled “Now More Than Ever—Local Bar Associations’ Relevance to Your Practice and Your Community,” featured remarks by Lt. Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, Justice Elizabeth B. Lacy, Wendell L. Taylor, Charles F. Witthoeft, and Kenneth P. Ruscio, Ph.D.

The participating bar associations, the Richmond Bar; the Chesterfield-Colonial Heights Bar; the Henrico Bar; the Metropolitan Richmond Women’s Bar; the Old Dominion Bar, Richmond Chapter; the Criminal Bar and the Metro Richmond Family Law Bar, are already planning for the next Bench-Bar Conference, which is set for October 16, 2003.

The co-chairs of the Bench Bar Conference Committee were James C. Cosby, of Cantor Arkema, PC, and Thomas Johnson, of the Gee Law Firm. The Honorary Chairperson of the Conference was Justice Elizabeth B. Lacy.

Mark Your Calendar for the EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL BLI Bar Leaders Institute

Virginia State Bar Conference of Local Bar Associations

Monday, March 3, 2003
T.C. Williams School of Law
University of Richmond
Keynote Speaker:
The Honorable Leroy R. Hassell, Chief Justice, Supreme Court of Virginia

Friday, March 14, 2003
Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center
Abingdon

Topics to include:
• multi-bar/community partnering • planning and presenting a CLE
• participating in legislative issues • CLE credit

For more information, see: www.vsb.org/clba/bli03.html