

The newsletter of the Young Lawyers Conference of the Virginia State Bar

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A complete guide to the activities, people to contact, and opportunities to become active in the work of the Young Lawyers Conference in the coming year. So if you have an interest, the YLC invites you to make a call, or send an email, and get involved.

find it inside

Representing Whistleblowers

Jason M. Zuckerman

Eleven years ago, I was contemplating a response to a law school application essay about what inspired me to become a lawyer. I wrote my essay about Atticus Finch, the attorney in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* who stands up for justice by defending an African American falsely accused of raping a Caucasian woman in the Depression-era South. Going into law school, I hoped to become a civil rights lawyer.

While I was fortunate to do a lot of volunteer legal work in law school for prison inmates, I did not go into public interest law immediately after law school. The opportunity to get good training and pay off law school loans led me to practice at a big firm in D.C. While I had a much better experience at a big firm than I would have ever expected, I realized five years out of law school that I wanted my practice to focus more on serving the public interest. About a year and a half ago, I started my own practice focused on representing whistleblowers in retaliation claims and in *qui tam* actions. As I read about recent surveys showing record associate dissatisfaction, despite record salaries, I feel fortunate to have found a practice that is very satisfying and rewarding. The following are some of the reasons to consider practicing whistleblower law:

Exposing Fraud

Representing whistleblowers is about more than just pursuing a client's pecuniary interest. Litigating whistleblower cases serves a

Editor's note:

This article is one in an occasional series about Young Lawyers Conference members who have taken their practice in unusual or interesting directions, written in their own words. A few years ago, Jason Zuckerman left a job at a large firm in Washington, D.C. to open his own firm, specializing in whistleblower retaliation and *qui tam* claims under the False Claims Act. Here are his thoughts about that career move and his current practice. —CEG

public interest by exposing and in some cases, rectifying fraud and threats to public health and safety. In just the past year, I represented individuals who blew the whistle on lax security at a nuclear power plant, unsafe work conditions, deficient aircraft maintenance, predatory lending, billing fraud in a government contract, Medicare fraud, accounting fraud, and securities fraud. Many of my clients' disclosures resulted in government investigations or in some instances, caused their employers to rectify unlawful conduct without the need for government intervention. It is invigorating to perform work that benefits more than just my clients.

Most of the whistleblowers cases I have worked on are defended by large firms, with several attorneys assigned to the case. Despite their resources, I endeavor to stay ahead of the game and to litigate each case as though my client is represented by a big firm. The hours can be long, but I am inspired to litigate aggressively because I have tremendous respect for the courage and integrity of my whistleblower clients.

While their colleagues looked the other way or remained silent, my clients risked their careers

to stay faithful to their values and their professional responsibilities, and I owe it to them to ensure that they are made whole. Somewhat naively, my clients thought they would get a pat on the back for reporting fraud or health and safety violations. Instead, they suffered both express and subtle forms of retaliation, including diminishment of job responsibilities, demotions, harassment, and in some instances, termination. One of my clients suffered the type of retaliation that I thought was a thing of the past. Her car windows were smashed, she received voice mails threatening her life, and her husband received calls falsely alleging that she was having an affair at work. Worst of all, the company suspended her and deemed her unfit to work because she was feeling anxious (as would any normal person under these circumstances), and never took disciplinary action against the employees who retaliated against her. Representing clients who stand up for what is right, often at personal cost, is a privilege.

Challenging Issues

One of the reasons I enjoy my work so much is that the cases often entail complex issues and difficult choices. In many of the cases I

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see you in court

Michael R. Spitzer II

News and Practice Tips for Virginia Litigators

How Thick is the Icing on the Cake?

Even Where Attorneys' Fees Can Be Recovered, the Amount Remains to Be Proven

It is the plaintiff's attorneys' dream - the recovery of attorneys' fees as part of the damages in any case. Unfortunately, the "American rule," adopted in Virginia, states that the prevailing party in a case cannot recover attorneys' fees from the losing side without a contractual or statutory provision that specifically provides them. Thus, in most cases, the prevailing party cannot recover attorneys' fees. Even when the prevailing party can recover attorneys' fees, the prevailing party must convince the court that the attorneys' fees incurred were reasonable in order to recover them.

In determining reasonableness, Courts have devised a number of different formulas. At the federal level, the United States Supreme Court in *Hensley v. Eckerhart*, 461 U.S. 424 (1983) established the "loadstar" approach for assessing reasonable attorneys' fees. The loadstar approach takes an attorneys' hourly billable rate times the hours expended to establish a baseline fee, which can then be modified by the court depending on the perceived reasonableness of both the rates and the number of hours. The United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in *Barber v. Kimbrell's, Inc.*, 577 F.2d 216, 226 (4th Cir. 1978) adopted a similar lodestar approach for the assessment of attorneys' fees.

However, the Virginia Supreme Court has not adopted the loadstar method in calculating reasonable attorneys' fees. See *Holmes v. L.G. Marion Corp.*, 258 Va. 473, 480, 521 S.E.2d 528, 533 n.2 (1999). Instead, the Virginia Supreme Court has outlined seven factors that a trial court should consider when analyzing a case for recovery of attorneys' fees. In *Chawla v. Burgerbusters, Inc.*, 255 Va. 616, 499 S.E.2d 829 (1998), the Virginia Supreme Court set out a number of factors that the trial court

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may consider. These were: 1) the time and effort expended by the attorney; 2) the nature of the services rendered; 3) the complexity of the services; 4) the value of the services to the client; 5) the results obtained; 6) whether the fees incurred were consistent with those generally charged for similar services; and 7) whether the services

were necessary and appropriate. The plaintiff has the burden of proving by *prima facie* evidence that the attorneys' fees sought are reasonable. *Id.* at 623-24, 499 S.E.2d at 833. *Chawla* was recently reaffirmed by *Schlegel v. Bank of America, N.A.*, 271 Va. 542, 628 S.E.2d 362 (2006).

In terms of the evidence that needs to be presented to demonstrate a *prima facie* case of reasonableness for attorneys' fees, the Virginia Supreme Court has stated that expert testimony typically is required. See *Lee v. Mulford*, 269 Va. 562, 611 S.E.2d 349 (2005). However, where detailed billing records and affidavits in support of those billing records are provided, such evidence can be sufficient for the award of attorneys' fees. *Tazewell Oil Company, Inc. v. United Virginia Bank*, 243 Va. 94, 413 S.E.2d 611 (1992).

One important note with regard to the presentation of evidence for an award of attorneys' fees is that the evidence must be presented in the plaintiff's case-in-chief unless the parties stipulate that the issue of attorneys' fees will be presented to the Court following trial. While many courts had the custom of bifurcating the liability and attorneys' fees issues, the Virginia Supreme Court held in *Holmes* that the evidence of reasonable attorneys' fees had to be presented to the trier of fact in the case in chief unless agreed to by the parties.

The amount of an attorneys' fee award rests in the sound discretion of the trial court. While the award of any amount tends to be the exception rather than the rule, plaintiffs with a statute or contractual provision for attorneys' fees, as well as their defendants, should bear the loadstar method or the *Chawla* factors firmly in mind well before trial.

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message from the president

Maya M. Eckstein



Diversity in the Legal Profession Requires Active Encouragement

The Young Lawyers Conference has long been concerned about diversity. While great strides have been made in the legal profession with regard to diversity, it is readily evident that the profession still does not reflect society at large. In 2000, for example, attorneys of color made up less than 15% of the profession, but individuals of color made up approximately 30% of the U.S. population. <http://www.abanet.org/yld/chooselaw/diversity.shtml>. There simply are not as many minority associates, partners, solo practitioners, corporate counsel, government lawyers, or judges as there should be to properly reflect society.

For that reason, the YLC has developed a number of programs to address this disparity. For example, the YLC annually holds a pre-law conference for minority college students to teach them about preparing for law school, about the law school experience, and about the myriad careers that could be available to them after obtaining a law degree. From LSAT prep courses, mock law school classes, and a mock trial to panel discussions with the bench, bar and law students, the conference provides valuable information to Virginia college students considering a career in the law. The conference historically was held in Richmond, but, in an attempt to broaden its reach and impact, the conference last year was held at George Mason University and will be held there again in Spring 2007. In an effort to further broaden its reach and impact, this year the YLC also will hold a second, identical conference in southwest Virginia.

The YLC also annually organizes the Oliver Hill/Samuel L. Tucker Pre-Law Institute. The Oliver Hill Institute is a free, overnight, one week camp that targets at-risk high school students and encourages them to consider the legal profession. It gives the students the opportunity to meet with lawyers in a variety of positions (judges, corporate, government and private lawyers), allows them to perform mock trials, and encourages them against straying from a path leading to college and law school.

The YLC also recognizes those that have reached the pinnacle of the legal profession - the judiciary. The YLC honors women and minority lawyers recently elevated to the bench at its Celebration Bench/Bar Dinner, at which young lawyers have the opportunity to interact with judges in a casual, relaxed atmosphere. The YLC will continue doing so until the elevation of women and minorities to the bench no longer seems an anomaly.

This year, the YLC will introduce a new program—the "Choose Law" program developed by the American Bar Association's

Young Lawyers Division. The program will be implemented in a number of schools across the Commonwealth this bar year, particularly during Community Law Week. Like the Oliver Hill Institute, the Choose Law program seeks to encourage minority high school students to become attorneys. It educates them about the legal profession, exposes them to attorneys in a myriad of legal careers, emphasizes the importance of law in society, highlights minority attorneys and judges who played crucial roles in obtaining and enforcing civil rights and ensuring opportunities for members of racial minority groups, stresses the importance of education, and instructs students on the steps they need to go to law school and become lawyers.

As President of the YLC, I hope for the day when such programs are unnecessary, for the day when the legal profession truly reflects society at large. Unfortunately, that day is still long in coming. Until it arrives, the YLC is committed to continuing to address the disparities and encouraging enhanced diversity in our profession.



▲ The YLC, together with the University of Richmond's T.C. Williams School of Law, recently hosted the Oliver Hill/Samuel L. Tucker Law Institute at the law school. The event is held annually to promote diversity in the legal profession by encouraging the participating high school students to consider a career in the law. Pictured with the students are Judge Roger Gregory of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals (center), and YLC board member Del. Jennifer McClellan (far right). The 22 participants in this year's event included students from six Richmond-area high schools (Thomas Jefferson, Richmond Community, Meadowbrook, James River, Armstrong, and John Marshall).



legal ethics corner

Jeffrey Hamilton Geiger

You Make the Call



Looking at her e-mail message from Don, Juanita realizes that he is asking for her to represent him in a professional liability action.

Sighing, Juanita thinks to herself that she is having another "they sure didn't teach you this in law school" moment. Handling the litigation is, of course, not the problem. Instead, Juanita wonders whether she can represent Don, when she is romantically involved with him.



In Virginia, the rules governing conflicts do not contain an express provision governing sexual relations between a lawyer and a client. It is not safe to assume, however, that the absence of language dealing with sexual relationships connotes their approval. While not adopted in Virginia, Rule 1.8(j) of the ABA Model Rules of Professional Conduct states that: "A lawyer shall not have sexual relations with a client unless a consensual sexual relationship existed between them when the client-lawyer relationship commenced." Thus, Juanita may be heartened in believing that because her

relationship with Don preceded any legal representation of him, no ethical strictures apply. The absence of a prohibition, however, does not equate to a license. In highlighting some of the concerns associated with such relationships, the comment to Model Rule 1.8 cmt. [17] states that:

The relationship between lawyer and client is a fiduciary one in which the lawyer occupies the highest position of trust and confidence. The relationship is almost always unequal; thus, a sexual relationship between lawyer and client can involve unfair exploitation of the lawyer's fiduciary role, in violation of the lawyer's basic ethical obligation not to use the trust of the client to the client's disadvantage. In addition, such a relationship presents a significant danger that, because of the lawyer's emotional involvement, the lawyer will be unable to represent the client without impairment of the exercise of independent professional judgment. Moreover, a blurred line between the

professional and personal relationships may make it difficult to predict to what extent client confidences will be protected by the attorney-client privilege, since client confidences are protected by privilege only when they are imparted in the context of the client-lawyer relationship. Because of the significant danger of harm to client interests and because the client's own emotional involvement renders it unlikely that the client could give adequate informed consent, this Rule prohibits the lawyer from having sexual relations with a client regardless of whether the relationship is consensual and regardless of the absence of prejudice to the client.

Juanita should, at a minimum, resolve whether her independent professional judgment and the emotional involvement of the client would conflict in her representation of Don. The bottom line: Juanita can likely both represent Don and continue her sexual relationship with him. But, as a practical matter, she should be very wary of doing so given the heightened disciplinary and professional liability issues surrounding lawyer-client sexual relationships.

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Whistleblowers, continued from page 1

am litigating, there is a government investigation being conducted while the parties are litigating the civil retaliation claim. The interplay between these proceedings raises a host of interesting issues, including the waiver of privilege when a party submits documents to a government agency, the use of confidential informants, and the admissibility of the findings of a government investigation to prove the merit of the issues that the whistleblower raised. Lately, I have represented several in-house attorneys who suffered retaliation when they raised concerns internally about actual or potential violations of SEC rules. Representing

attorneys raises complex issues of confidentiality and attorney-client privilege.

Whistleblower cases, however, also have some downsides. The clients require a lot of hand-holding to deal with the psychological trauma they have suffered, and to their credit, they are fixated on ensuring that the wrongdoing they exposed is adequately addressed and resolved. It is difficult to explain to whistleblowers why government agencies take so long to investigate and prosecute the wrongdoing they exposed.

Whistleblower cases tend to drag on for years, and some companies defend these claims by

making false allegations against the whistleblower. In a recent case, my client had a well-documented record of stellar performance, consistently receiving excellent performance evaluations and never having been subject to any disciplinary action. The company, however, tried to portray her as the worst employee in the company's history. Fortunately, however, the company kept offering shifting and contradictory explanations for terminating my client, thereby providing my client with strong evidence of pretext.

In addition to making false allegations about whistleblowers, some companies are inclined to

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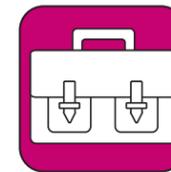
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defend whistleblower claims aggressively, sometimes resorting to intimidation tactics to try to convince a whistleblower to back down. Just recently, I had a case in which the employer threatened to blacklist my client if he would not dismiss his claim, and another case in which the employer filed frivolous counterclaims for breach of fiduciary duty and breach of the duty of loyalty. These tactics, however, almost always backfire and ultimately advance the whistleblower's position. In a wrongful discharge case, electronic discovery enabled me to prove that documents purportedly evidencing my client's poor performance were

drafted after her termination and backdated. Once I had clear proof that the documents were backdated, the company was more reasonable about the value of the case. In a Sarbanes-Oxley retaliation case, the employer's counsel alleged in a motion that I had engaged in unethical conduct by obtaining certain documents. Unbeknownst to this lawyer, I had obtained the documents from a public entity in response to my request under the Freedom of Information Act. The attorney's haste in attacking my credibility therefore undermined his own credibility before the judge.

At a time when too many attorneys are reportedly dissatisfied with their work, I feel fortunate to have found a practice niche that I enjoy and that I hope will advance the public interest.

Jason M. Zuckerman is Principal of the Law Office of Jason M. Zuckerman, PLLC and Of Counsel at The Employment Law Group.



corporate corner

R. Willson Hulcher, Jr.

Issues of Interest for Virginia Transactional Attorneys

Leaky Directors Can Happen to Anyone: HP's Boardroom Drama Provides Food for Thought

Hewlett-Packard has been in the news recently for its investigation into leaks that were traced to its board of directors. Coverage has primarily focused on HP's methods, and has glossed over the nature of the information leaked and the treatment of the director identified as the leaker (he has agreed to resign). Putting HP's methods aside, the content and consequences of a leak emanating from the boardroom raise special issues that should be considered by any company faced with one.

The impulse to treat a leak traced to the board aggressively is understandable. Since the board is privy to much of the most sensitive information at a company, and at the most sensitive times, an indiscrete director can do significant damage. Even if an initial disclosure is not particularly damaging, the knowledge that a member of the board is willing to disclose confidential information and could do so again can

undermine the trust among directors and between management and the board.

Despite the damage that may have been caused by a particular disclosure, and the implied threat of future leaks, there are reasons to treat a leak that can be traced to board with a level of sensitivity and candor that might not be extended to a leak that has been traced to another source. First, practically speaking, directors are difficult to remove. In Virginia and Delaware, and generally, directors can only be removed by a shareholder vote – in some circumstances only for cause. Depending on the circumstances – and the reaction of the accused director and the shareholders – it is possible an aggressive response could escalate the situation without succeeding in removing the director.

More fundamentally, directors have fiduciary duties to the company and its shareholders that require them to think and act independently of a company's management, and can lead to disagreement among the directors as to the appropriate course of action. A board member may have leaked

information for any number of reasons, but if the director felt his or her fiduciary duty required that some dispute or other information be made public then it is likely that an aggressive response to the leak that seeks to remove or otherwise reprimand the perpetrator will only result in more disclosures and embarrassment.

There are a number of other legal issues that may be implicated by a director's leak and should be considered when faced with one. For instance, it may violate a confidentiality agreement or the corporation's code of conduct, or trigger securities or listing standard requirements. Such additional considerations will be fact sensitive.

Ultimately, it may be necessary for the leaker to leave the board, but before that occurs it is probably in the best interests of the board and the company to try to understand what the underlying issues are, whether they are legitimate and if they can be addressed. By doing this in an upfront manner, meeting with the board and individually with each director, it is more likely that any real problem will be found and addressed and that any necessary changes can be made with the minimum amount of bitterness and embarrassment.

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TWENTY-SIXTH CIRCUIT

Cities: Harrisonburg & Winchester
Counties: Frederick, Clarke, Shenandoah, Page, Rockingham, Warren

Timothy M. Mayfield
(540) 667-1330

TWENTY-SEVENTH CIRCUIT

City: Galax & Radford
Counties: Pulaski, Wythe, Carroll, Grayson, Montgomery, Floyd, Giles, Bland

Nathaniel H. Lyons
(276) 728-7082
nylons@chillsnet.org

TWENTY-EIGHTH CIRCUIT

City: Bristol
Counties: Smyth & Washington

Cameron S. Bell
(276) 623-4421
cbell@pennstuart.com

TWENTY-NINTH CIRCUIT

Counties: Giles, Bland, Tazewell, Buchanan, Russell, Dickenson

Mandy Varney
(276) 988-7979
mcv@awwlaw.com

THIRTIETH CIRCUIT

City: Norton
Counties: Wise, Scott, Lee

Suzanne Kerney-Quillen
Office of the Commonwealth Attorney,
Wise County/City of Norton

THIRTY-FIRST CIRCUIT

Cities: Manassas & Manassas Park
County: Prince William

Cameronne Mary Powell
(703) 690-6800
cameronne@yahoo.com

Jennifer Beth Zary
(703) 361-0776
jzbz@shaclaw.com

2006–2007 YLC Guide to Involvement Program Chairs

SERVICE TO THE BAR

ADMISSION AND ORIENTATION CEREMONY:

This committee is responsible for organizing and staging a special ceremony sponsored twice a year by the Conference at which time all newly licensed attorneys are given the opportunity to appear before the Supreme Court of Virginia to be admitted to practice in the courts of Virginia. Because the Court sits in Richmond, this committee typically is comprised principally of young lawyers practicing in the metropolitan Richmond area

Chair: **Francie Scott**
Hunton & Williams
Richmond
(804) 788-8200
fscott@hunton.com

ANNUAL MEETING

This committee plans the special interest program that takes place during the Bar's Annual Meeting held in Virginia Beach each June. The program typically is on Friday afternoon and is a CLE program of particular interest to young lawyers. This committee is responsible for organizing the "Run in the Sun" 5 kilometer foot race and the "Beach Volley Follies" volleyball tournament, all sponsored by the Conference during the Bar's Annual Meeting in June.

Programs: **Demian McGarry, Esq.**
The Carlberg Law Firm
Alexandria
(703) 549-5551
dmcgarry@carlberglaw.com

Athletics: **Maureen Danker, Esq.**
Condo, Roop, Kelly & Byrnes
McLean
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mdanker@crkblaw.com

BENCH/BAR CELEBRATION DINNER:

Each year the YLC, through this committee, hosts a dinner to honor newly elevated women and minority judges from across the state. The dinner provides an opportunity for young lawyers to interact with judges in a casual, relaxed atmosphere. The date of this year's dinner is yet to be announced, but will be in the Spring of 2007.

Chair: **Daniele E. Herndon**
Jackson & Campbell, PC
Washington, DC
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danieleherndon@JacksCamp.com

BOARD MATCH

Provides an opportunity for local non-profit organizations to solicit new board members and participation by young lawyers in their area.

Chair: **Kevin DeTurris**
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McLean
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kdeturris@hunton.com

DOCKET CALL

The editor and editorial board of the *Docket Call* publish four issues of the Conference's newsletter each year. This award-winning newsletter, which you are reading, contains information about the Conference's activities and other information of particular interest to young lawyers is circulated to every member of the Conference.

Editor: **Christopher E. Gatewood**
Hirschler Fleischer, PC
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cgatewood@hf-law.com

FIRST DAY IN PRACTICE SEMINAR

In conjunction with the General Practice Section, this committee plans and implements the First Day in Practice Seminar for new lawyers, which is traditionally held the day after the Fall Admission and Orientation Ceremony.

Chair: **Ryan Ayers Glasgow**
Hunton & Williams LLP
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rglasgow@hunton.com

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The 2007 YLC Professional Development Conference will be held in the spring, at a date and place still to be announced. This annual career development program features topics such as setting career goals for yourself, establishing a legal career plan, and discrete skill building that adds to your worth. The committee is looking for volunteers to assist with the event and encourages all Virginia young lawyers to attend for the education, networking, and CLE credits provided at the PDC.

Chair: **William Boyle Porter**
Blankenship & Keith
Fairfax
(703) 691-1235
wporter@blankeith.com

SERVICE TO PUBLIC

COMMUNITY LAW WEEK

Promotes the ABA's Law Day theme each year through programs during the first week in May devoted to enhancing awareness and appreciation of the role of law in American life. The committee works in part through local bar associations, on a statewide basis. Included among the activities are presentations in the media, and public programs, through schools and other forums.

Chair: **Nathan Olson**
Cooper Ginsberg Gray, PLLC
Fairfax,
(703) 934-1480
nolson@cgglawyers.com

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SAFETY PROJECT

The DVSP distributes a Safety Brochure and a Legal Pamphlet to domestic violence victims statewide and trains attorneys to provide pro bono representation to domestic violence victims.

Chair: **Kenneth Leo Alger, II, Esq.**
Commonwealth's Attorney's Office
Woodstock
(540) 459-6129
kenalger@shentel.net

EMERGENCY LEGAL SERVICES

Together with the VBA-YLD, this committee has developed and implemented a statewide Emergency Legal Services Response Plan, which includes training volunteers and working with other bar organizations to establish communication plans and provide emergency legal services in the event of natural disasters and other declared emergencies.

Chair: **Jeffrey H. Geiger**
Sands Anderson Markes & Miller
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J. Barrett Lucy
Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore
Roanoke
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barrett_lucy@gentrylocke.com

IMMIGRANT OUTREACH

This committee designs projects, including the Immigrant Outreach-Education Regarding Deportation Ramifications of Criminal Convictions program to (1) educate members of the bar regarding immigration law issues and (2) reach out to Virginia's immigrant population.

Chair: **Sarah Louppe Petcher**
Colten Cummins Watson & Vincent
Fairfax
(703) 277-9716
sarahlouppe@yahoo.com

Hugo R. Valverde
Valverde and Rowell, P.C.
Virginia Beach
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JUVENILE RIGHTS HANDBOOK

This year, the YLC will assist with the distribution of its handbook on Youth Rights. The handbook, which was written in cooperation with the Just Children's Program of the Legal Aid Justice Center in Charlottesville, Virginia, identifies and explain the rights of juvenile in three important arenas: 1) Schools; 2) Police Custody and 3) Courts.

Chair: **Joseph P. (J.P.) Cooney**
Jones Day
Washington, DC
(202) 879-3741
jpcweeney@jonesday.com

MINORITY PRE-LAW CONFERENCE

This committee presents a one-day seminar that exposes college students, especially minority students, to many aspects of a legal career. From LSAT prep courses, mock law school classes, and a mock trial, to panel discussions with the bench, bar, and law students, this course provides valuable information to Virginia students considering a career in the law.

Co-Chairs: **Samantha Ahuja**
Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice
Washington, DC
(202) 857-4528

Tomika N. Stevens
Philadelphia, PA
Tnstevens@juno.com

NO BILLS NIGHT

Annual No Bills Nights enable members of the public, throughout Virginia, to raise legal issues and to seek information regarding their legal rights, without cost. This year the YLC plans to put on programs in Abingdon, Charlottesville, Danville/Martinsville, Lynchburg, Fredericksburg, Northern Virginia, Staunton/Lexington, Richmond, Roanoke, Tidewater and Winchester/Harrisonburg. Several programs are broadcast on local television stations.

Statewide Chair: **Darren W. Bentley**
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To assist, please contact statewide chair
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(6) Lynchburg

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J. Whitten Ellerman
Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore
Roanoke

(11) Tidewater

Julia E. Keller
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Email: jkeller@glasserlaw.com

(12) Winchester

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Darren W. Bentley, at (434) 793-8200
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OLIVER HILL/SAMUEL TUCKER LAW INSTITUTE

The Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference in conjunction with the Millennium Diversity Initiative and the University of Richmond T.C. Williams School of Law has designed a program, the Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Law Institute, to facilitate diversity in the legal profession. The program invites at-risk, minority students to attend a week long comprehensive seminar that exposes and encourages them to become members of the legal profession.

Chair: **Yvette Anita Jones**
LeClair Ryan, P.C.
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Rasheeda Niambi Creighton
Richmond
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STUDENTS DAY AT THE CAPITAL:

The Students Day at the Capital is introduces students to government and the law through a hands-on learning experience, including tours of the Governor's Mansion, Capitol Building, and the Supreme Court. In addition to the tours, the students will participate in question-and-answer sessions with local attorneys and mock legislative sessions conducted by House and Senate staff members. The date of the 2007 program will be determined by the date of completion of the ongoing Capitol Square construction.

Chair: **Lindsey H. McGinnis**
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2006–2007 YLC Guide to Involvement Program Chairs

VOTER EDUCATION:

The Young Lawyers Conference has teamed with the Virginia State Board of Elections to ensure the distribution of Virginia Voter Rights and Responsibility brochures. These brochures are provided to the public to clearly outline their voter rights, as well as their responsibilities in protecting those rights.

Chair: **Sona Rewari**
Hunton & Williams
McLean
(703) 714-7512
srewari@hunton.com

WE THE JURY:

Panel discussion including former jurors, judges, and experienced counsel to advise young lawyers on effective advocacy and refining your presentation for a jury trial. Date TBD for Spring 2007.

Chair: **Esther Slater McDonald**
(202) 514-9500
Esther.S.McDonald@usdoj.gov

WILLS FOR HEROES

In response to the events of September 11, 2001, this program allows the legal community to show its appreciation for the efforts and sacrifices made by firefighters, police, sheriffs and emergency medical technicians ("First Responders"). This committee provides simple wills, advanced medical directives, and powers of attorneys on a pro bono basis to first responders.

Chair: **Erin S. Whaley**
Troutman Sanders LLP
Richmond
(804) 697-1389

COMMISSIONS

CHILDREN AND THE LAW

The YLC Commission for Children and the Law is tasked with the development of programs and initiatives to improve the treatment and experience of those of the Commonwealth's youngest citizens who come into contact with the judicial system.

Chair: **Barry Jay Waldman**
Waldman & Associates, PLLC
Fredericksburg
(540) 891-1414

PRO BONO

The Pro Bono Commission assesses current pro bono programs and develops programs to improve the quantity and quality of pro bono activities of young lawyers. The commission will concentrate on: (1) Researching the amount and quality of pro bono work for young lawyers at Virginia law firms, with an aim to evaluating whether or not we are meeting the ABA's 5% pro bono challenge, and (2) Focusing on the rewards to young lawyers of pro bono involvement.

Chair: **A. Michael Signer**
Wilmer Hale
Washington, DC
(202) 663-6554
michael.signer@wilmerhale.com

WOMEN & MINORITIES IN THE PROFESSION

The commission will present this year, as in past years, the Oliver Hill Institute and the Minority Pre-Law Conference. In addition, the commission seeks to develop further events to better target young people within its focus areas who are not reached by current efforts.

To assist, please contact Jackie McClenney
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INTERNAL OPERATING COMMITTEES

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LONG RANGE PLANNING—NEW PROJECTS

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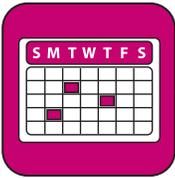
NEW PROGRAMS REVIEW

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Winter YLC Events

- 11/03** | YLC Board Dinner
- 11/04** | YLC Board Meeting
- 12/07** | VSB Professionalism Course
- 01/18** | VSB Professionalism Course
- 01/26** | YLC Board Dinner
- 01/27** | YLC Board Meeting
- 03/08** | VSB Professionalism Course
- 03/16** | YLC Professional Development Conference (tentative)
- T.B.D.** | Spring 2007, Virginia Beach YLC Immigration Seminar, The Immigration Consequences of Criminal Convictions.

Contact hugo.valverde@gmail.com for more info.

For a complete up-to-date list of events, please visit: <http://www.vsb.org/site/events/>

Address Change?

If you have moved or changed your address, please see the VSB Membership Department's page on the Web for an address update form at www.vsb.org/site/members/.

Docket Call

A quarterly publication of the Young Lawyers Conference of the Virginia State Bar.

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