Q&A with Virginia State Bar President Michael W. Robinson

Patrick J. Austin

Michael W. Robinson did not intend to become a lawyer. He revealed in an interview with the Virginia Lawyer Register that he came from a background where going to college, much less law school, was an aberration rather than the norm. Today, he is the president of the Virginia State Bar. Mr. Robinson was sworn in as the new president during the VSB’s Annual Meeting in Virginia Beach in June. He now leads a state agency tasked with regulating and supporting nearly 50,000 Virginia lawyers.

I interviewed Mr. Robinson about his ascendency to the VSB presidency, the state of the legal profession, and advice he would give to newly licensed Virginia lawyers.

Q: Congratulations on becoming the 78th president of the Virginia State Bar. Describe what it was like to be sworn in and officially accept the position.

A: Thank you. Being installed as the president at the annual-meeting banquet is an event that gets put in the “life highlight” category. There was, of course, the honor of having the justices of the Supreme Court present and being sworn in by the chief justice. My wife Courtney and I were able to coordinate things so that all our children—we have five—were able to attend, which made it extra special. They were probably exposed to a part of my work that they may not have otherwise given any thought to. There is also the appreciation that comes with being with so many friends and colleagues, who, you can tell, are genuinely happy for you, and you know that you will enjoy their support in undertaking the role. We also had a great band after the banquet, so the attendees at the annual meeting had a great dance and opportunity to socialize. So, all in all, it was a tremendous night and truly a career highlight.

Q: Did the outgoing VSB president, Ed Weiner, give you any advice or tips on how to effectively handle the job?

A: Ed and I are old friends and talked frequently about the role even before he served as the 77th president of the Bar. And because we live so close to each other, we travelled together over the last couple of years for various bar events. So, we were both exposed to the commitment and the effort it takes and were able to act as sounding boards for each other. Ed did remind me, however, to try to pace myself, if at all possible, because there is so much activity going on. I think he is happy to be back practicing full time.

Q: Doris Causey is the president-elect of the VSB. Describe the relationship between the VSB president and president-elect. Do you all coordinate on VSB responsibilities?

A: I have a great relationship with Doris Causey, and she is going to be a tremendous president for the Bar. Our relationship is different, of course, from the relationship Ed and I had because of our friendship outside of bar work and the geographic proximity that allowed us to do more together. But, in general, the relationship between the president-elect and president is a combination of working together so that the president-elect is exposed as much as possible to the issues and the functioning of the Bar so that he or she can be more fully prepared when his or her year comes. Coordination is essential so that the president-elect helps the president on current issues and the president can likewise make sure that issues for the following year are appropriately addressed. The Bar’s structure in having the president, immediate past president, and president-elect serve as three officers serves the Bar well by having a constant mix of experience and on-going mentoring.
Q: How have you managed juggling a demanding full-time job as a partner at Venable, an AmLaw 100 firm, and the responsibilities of VSB president?

A: I am very lucky because of the tremendous support I received from Venable. When I first discussed my plans with the firm a few years ago, I was encouraged to continue to serve the Bar. Venable has a history of encouraging its lawyers to be engaged in all types of community, civic, and professional leadership roles. So I have been able to have the support of a firm that allows me to reduce some of my workload while being able to focus primarily on bar matters during this year. I consider it a privilege, and not everyone can do that for a full year.

Q: What do you think are the biggest challenges facing the legal profession today?

A: The practice of law is changing, and the pace of that change increases each year. The legal profession is facing different competitive pressures, and it faces a tremendous challenge in trying to provide legal services in a cost-effective manner. In addition, technology is changing the way the public seeks and obtains both substantive legal information and information about lawyers and legal services. There remains a great gap in unmet legal needs of the public. The VSB Study Committee on the Future Practice of Law (“FPL Committee”) just issued its initial report, and I recommend that report to everyone for their review and thoughts.1 The FPL Committee addressed many of the trends and changes in the practice.

Q: Do you have a specific objective or goal you’d like to achieve during your tenure as VSB president?

A: I do not have a “pet project,” so to speak. My goals during the year are to make sure, first and foremost, that the VSB stays focused on its mission. While we share the characteristics of an association, we are first and foremost a regulatory body that is focused on the protection of the public through the self-regulation of our profession. I think it is important that we make sure all of our members understand and appreciate our primary purpose. Our mission also includes the goal of improving the quality and availability of legal services to Virginia’s citizens, and I am eager to spend time addressing access-to-justice issues and hopefully engaging in a discussion and coordination among various bar associations to narrow the justice gap in Virginia.

Q: What are your thoughts on Virginia.freelagalanswers.org?

A: This program is a tremendous opportunity for the Bar and illustrates how the profession can adapt to changing technology to help Virginia citizens. Many times, people don’t know where to start, or have legal questions that may not require actual representation by a lawyer. The program allows people of limited financial means to post specific questions and for Virginia lawyers to provide answers without taking on an actual client. So I am very pleased that the Bar was able to undertake this program. We have received some wonderful accolades on the successful manner in which Virginia was able to roll out this new program.

Q: Is there a particular aspect of the Virginia State Bar that you think should be reformed or improved?

A: I cannot say there is any area that needs to be overhauled or reformed. We must always pay attention to our disciplinary system so that we can assure the public, the courts, and our colleagues at the Bar about the efficacy of the system. An efficient and fair disciplinary system benefits and protects the public, of course, but also broadly benefits the entire profession.

The Bar’s fee dispute-resolution program is getting some added attention, including investing time and energy into training for participants, as we try to make the program a bit more robust and ensure that Virginia lawyers appreciate the benefits of a program that can alleviate client disputes in a voluntary and efficient manner.

I also just read the column written by Karen Gould, the executive director of the VSB, which is published in Virginia Lawyer, and she raises interesting questions about the size and composition of Bar Council. Our governing council currently has eighty-one members. That is a fairly large council, which fosters diversity of participants and brings together views from lawyers in different geographic areas, practice areas, and experiences. Though, there are countervailing views based on research suggesting that smaller groups enhance the quality of debate and decision-making through enhanced individual participation and collegiality that leads to more vigorous discussion and vetting of ideas. That is an issue that bears discussion, even if it may not lead to changes. Nevertheless, you want to make sure you are appropriately looking at even basic issues like the size and composition of the governing body, and whether particular procedures remain the most efficient or appropriate way of going forward.

Q: How important is participation by newly licensed Virginia attorneys in bar activities? Relatedly, did your involvement with the Bar directly contribute to your ascension to VSB president?

A: I would encourage all newly licensed Virginia attorneys to become involved in the profession and to participate as much as possible in bar and am not limiting this.

Continued on page 4 ➤
Q&A with Trailblazing President-Elect Doris H. Causey

Patrick J. Austin

The 2017-2018 term will be historic for the Virginia State Bar, as Doris H. Causey will become the first legal-aid lawyer and first African American to lead the VSB as president. She is now serving as president-elect during Michael W. Robinson’s term as president.

I interviewed Ms. Causey about her new role, the challenges facing the legal profession, and her advice for new Virginia attorneys.

Q: Congratulations on becoming president-elect of the Virginia State Bar. What was the election process like?
A: The election process for president-elect of the VSB is governed by the Rules of Court. I filed my petition on October 3, 2014, to become president-elect in June 2016. The petition certifies that I served on the VSB Council and met the requirements to seek the office for president-elect, according to the Rules of Court. It must also contain the signature of at least 50 active bar members. I was the only person to file a petition. Thus, instead of an election in November 2015, I was voted on viva voce at the 2016 Annual Meeting pursuant to Part I of the Bylaws, Article III, Section 3 and Article IV section 5. My process was easier because I ran unopposed. However, the process to become president-elect includes volunteering years of service with the Bar.

Q: Did you know when you began practicing that you eventually wanted to serve in a leadership position with the state bar?
A: No. Judge Marilynn Goss and Curtis Hairston, Esq., encouraged members at an Old Dominion Bar Association meeting to get involved with the Bar by serving on committees and other bar activities. Their dialogue about bar service influenced me to volunteer.

Q: What are your responsibilities as president-elect?
A: My responsibilities are to serve as an ex officio member of the VSB Council and preside over the VSB Council in the absence of the president. Mainly, I support President Michael W. Robinson and assist him in carrying out the Bar’s mission.

Q: Tell me about your work with the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society, Inc.?
A: CVLAS handles a variety of cases, though primarily in the areas of family law and landlord-tenant disputes. Therefore, a large number of my cases involve these practice areas. My cases are only civil and my client’s households must fall below 125 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. CVLAS provides free legal services to low-income families within the central-Virginia area. CVLAS serves the cities of Richmond, Petersburg, Hopewell, Colonial Heights, and Charlottesville, as well as the counties of Albemarle, Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Fluvanna, Goochland, Greene, Hanover, Henrico, Louisa, Nelson, New Kent, Powhatan, Prince George, and Surry.

Q: Is there a particular area of your practice that you particularly enjoy?
A: Yes, family law.

Q: What do you think are the biggest challenges facing the legal profession today?
A: Some of the biggest challenges facing the legal profession today are the justice gap and online legal-service companies.

Q: Has your volunteer work with the Bar helped you in your career?
A: Yes, I have had an opportunity to meet other attorneys and collaborate with various offices to meet goals and assist many within the indigent population. My volunteer work has benefited so many, and being able to speak one on one with other attorneys about the need for pro bono services has greatly benefited me as well as others. Additionally, serving on legal aid attorney there are more than 7,000 Virginians that need the assistance of an attorney. Most days are busy in multiple trials, preparing for trial, giving advice, or helping with forms. It is never a dull day. Also, I am the office manager for the CVLAS office in Richmond.
In a diffuse and diverse organization of more than 40,000 professionals routinely engaged in persuasive argument, some of its members, unsurprisingly, hold divergent views on the purpose of the Bar, the scope of its responsibilities, and its duties and obligations to its constituents and the public. In 2015, members of the Bar were split on whether to fund the Diversity Conference. Again, these debates go to existential questions such as what is the Bar and what should it be?

This year, the flash point issue is pro bono—the Access to Justice Commission’s proposal to implement reporting of pro bono hours and reporting of financial support of organizations who directly provide legal services. The proposal seems straightforward: we are already encouraged by Rule 6.1 to spend at least two percent of our billable hours on pro bono services, but currently we have only incomplete and circumstantial mechanisms to estimate pro bono participation. Gathering data and responsibly using information to measure our pro bono output would allow us to make informed decisions that improve access to justice for people of limited means, instead of using extrapolations and fuzzy guesswork to buttress such an important objective.

Opposition to the pro bono reporting proposal centers on feelings that the Bar is reaching too deeply into the moral or ethical decision-making of legal professionals. Such reporting would be an overstep from the Bar’s purpose, at least the detractor’s definition of the Bar’s purpose—to maintain minimum standards of competence and discipline the lawyers who do not meet that threshold.

But is that the Bar’s purpose? Is that what we, as the future of the Bar, want it to represent; merely a remote and detached disciplinarian unconcerned with justice, equality, and egalitarian progress?

Of course not.

Even aside from the question of what we future leaders of the Bar want to make it, that is not even what the Bar is supposed to represent currently. The Bar’s mission statement has three equally important objectives: (1) to regulate the legal profession; (2) to advance the availability and quality of legal services provided to the people of Virginia; and (3) to assist in improving the legal profession and the judicial system.

Sometimes those last two goals are overlooked, even though they are the spiritual nucleus of the mission of the Bar and the philosophical engine that drives the YLC’s broad array of programs and projects that foster diversity in the Bar. The goals help the disenfranchised, underprivileged, and overlooked Virginians, and make us feel like we have careers and a calling, not just a job.

Whether or not the pro bono reporting proposal is adopted, I am confident that the YLC will lead the Bar in pro bono service, because my long experience with the YLC has proven that you are all incredibly conscientious and generous professionals who understand that this is not just a profession, but an opportunity to have a part in building a just future. The Bar is not just an enforcer sweeping the margins, but a partner and collaborator in that egalitarian future. That is how I see our Bar, and I hope that, with our 10,000-plus voices, we can help resolve the existential angst that periodically seizes our peers and our profession and remind them of all the reasons we exist.

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President, VSB Young Lawyers Conference

or simply encouraging participation in the Virginia State Bar, although that it obviously where I put a certain amount of my efforts. There are terrific state-wide voluntary bar associations and affinity bar associations, as well as local bar associations. So, I would encourage newly licensed attorneys to look at associations that would be of particular interest to the lawyer, such as the VBA, VWAA, the ODBA, VADA, or VTLA. There are a host of others. I think it is even more important today in the context of social media that lawyers make an effort to fully participate personally in these associations. I think newly licensed lawyers will find their experiences with the bar associations richly rewarding, and that they will find willing mentors and develop lasting relationships with their fellow colleagues.

Endnotes:

Patrick Austin is a 2013 graduate of George Mason University School of Law. He now works in the Office of Information Policy of the United States Department of Justice. He is also Editor in Chief of Docket Call.
Helen Chong expanded the Commission’s mock-trial programs to provide homeschooled students the opportunity to gain exposure to the legal system they might not have had otherwise. Judge Daniel Ortiz of the Fairfax County Circuit Court played an important role in this expansion by leading a presentation to a group of homeschooled students. Judge Ortiz spoke about the roles of attorneys and judges in a criminal trial and held a question-and-answer session afterwards. The students greatly appreciated the opportunity to hear from the youngest judge in Virginia. Judge Ortiz provided the homeschooled students and their parents a tour of his courtroom and chambers while explaining various procedures and rules. Many of the children’s faces lit up with excitement, as they were grateful for this unique opportunity with a judge.

Paula Bowen has been instrumental in organizing all of the activities of the Commission. Serving as liaison since 2012, she guided Ms. Chong as she developed new programs from the ground up and was instrumental in the transition in leadership when Ms. Chong became a board member in 2015 and the two co-chairs took her place.

Get Involved: Celebrating Asian American Heritage Month & Inspiring Youth

The Children and the Law Commission is especially excited for a new event that will take place on May 20, 2017, in Fairfax, featuring Judge John Tran of the Fairfax County Circuit Court as the keynote speaker. The event will celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and is aimed at introducing high-school students to careers in the law. The Commission is planning to organize panels of speakers, including one that would highlight Asian-American members of the Virginia State Bar. The goal of this event is to inspire high-school students interested in pursuing legal careers, with a special focus on encouraging minority students.

For additional information about the above event, or to get involved, please contact the Commission Chairs at michaelssnodgrass@snodgrasslaw1.com or crystalshin@gmail.com or visit the Children and the Law Commission website at http://www.vsb.org/site/conferences/ylc/children-and-the-law.
Discovery in the digital age requires attorneys to become smarter and more knowledgeable about how people communicate. Gone are the days when all written communications physically existed and were placed in a central filing cabinet. Today, most written documents are stored in a digital format, and lawyers must be able to get to all of the information that those documents contain. In order to accomplish this task, you must make sure that you subpoena digital copies of any files that you can and request that all metadata be preserved and sent with the documents.

**WHAT IS METADATA?**

Generally, metadata is defined as data that describes and gives information about other data. In the context of computer systems, the term metadata often refers to the data and information surrounding the files on a computer system. File metadata can be very useful to attorneys because it can provide you with context and insight about the file and its creator. Moreover, metadata analysis need not be an expensive or time-consuming task. An attorney can conduct a large amount of metadata analysis in a few minutes with just a little bit of practice.

One might ask, In what situations could metadata help my case? Well, consider a scenario where a claimant states that a document was created or edited on a certain date. Or consider a scenario where a claimant states that a document was created or edited on a certain date. 4. Outlook E-mail

Outlook stores e-mail messages in two possible ways: (1) the .msg format; and (2) the .pst format. There are some technical differences, but both formats are native to the application. It is important to request and be able to handle .pst files, as the .pst file will contain more metadata.

The metadata can include from and to data, time sent, subject, folder stored in, domain and IP sent from, contacts, calendar items, and tasks.

**COMMON FILE TYPES AND THE DATA EACH MAY CONTAIN**

1. **Microsoft Office Documents**

Microsoft Office documents can contain a large amount of information. Some of the information can be found in the properties tab of the file, but some of it requires a separate tool to access. One such tool is MetaViewer, which you can find via a quick web search.

The metadata can include author, date created, date last edited and printed, total edit time, whether or not the document has been listed as a shared file, the user who last saved the file, the name of the company Office is registered to, and the application and version which edited the file.

2. **PDF**

PDF stands for “Portable Document Format.” This is a file format used for conveying data across multiple operating systems. The file stores data in a format that can be rendered as images.

The metadata can include the following: the creation program, the creator and author, and the title of the document. Unlike other document types, PDFs can contain nonstandard tags, so the actual data that you find will vary. One such example is history (including the number of saves and the program used to edit the document).

3. **JPEG**

JPEG or JPG is a compressed-image-file format that contains substantial metadata. Although not all JPEGs have metadata, files that are derived from digital cameras may contain data in the EXIF, “Exchangeable Image File Format,” which is a wealth of data. Programs enabling you to read this data are accessible online.

The metadata can include the following: make and model of the camera, the date taken and digitized, exposure information, artist name, software used, copyright information, GPS (if attached to camera), and camera serial number.

4. **Outlook E-mail**

Outlook stores e-mail messages in two possible ways: (1) the .msg format; and (2) the .pst format. There are some technical differences, but both formats are native to the application. It is important to request and be able to handle .pst files, as the .pst file will contain more metadata.

The metadata can include from and to data, time sent, subject, folder stored in, domain and IP sent from, contacts, calendar items, and tasks.

**Conclusion**

After this introduction to metadata, be sure to request any available metadata when you conduct discovery in your next case. Even if you do not understand every intricacy of it, it is worth a few minutes of time to learn a bit more about the case you are working on. In some instances, you may even break open the case with just a little investigative effort.

Scott A. Nerlino is a 2013 graduate of George Mason University School of Law. He is an attorney and currently a data scientist at Aptima, Inc. working on DARPA’s Plan-X, a foundational cyberwarfare program to develop platforms for the Department of Defense, to plan for, conduct, and assess cyberwarfare. He can be reached at Scott.Nerlino@blueteam.io.
The ESPN 30-for-30 documentary “OJ: Made in America” is a must-see for any new attorney. Why? Because a major aspect of the documentary (and the landmark criminal case) involved the ethical implications of the defense strategy pursued by the “dream team” of defense lawyers—Johnnie Cochran, Barry Scheck, F. Lee Bailey, etc.—in representing infamous football star O.J. Simpson.

The documentary examines how, in a time when relations between the police department and the minority community of Los Angeles were severely fractured (in light of the Rodney King beating, multiple police brutality cases, and a history of corruption within the police department), Johnnie Cochran and his team were accused of playing the “race card” when defending Simpson. Many alleged that the litigation tactics used by the defense team were outright unethical.

**Teaching Points**

Regardless of which side of the fence you fall on concerning the outcome of the case, the documentary features a myriad of “teaching points” for a young lawyer. Throughout your career, you will be asked to engage in behavior that may call into question your ethics. You will be pushed to do things that, in your everyday life, you simply would not do. As a criminal defense attorney, I can tell you this conflict comes up more than occasionally.

Often, the ethical decisions that you will have to make in cases will not be the huge decisions, but the small ones. Therefore, you may be compelled to “cut corners,” or take the easy road simply because it is likely no one will notice.

**Personal Ethics Must Prevail**

When making decisions involving your case strategy and what you advise to clients, remember that while you may win or lose any particular case, your personal ethics will define you in the long run. As you progress through your career, you want to be able to not only look the opposing counsel in the eye, but yourself in the mirror every morning when you get up. The only way to be able to do that is to place the highest value upon your ethics.

Back to the O.J. Simpson trial: Whether or not the defense did the “ethical thing” is up for debate. Frankly, many actions that call into question ethics are not so clear cut. When in doubt, get opinions from your more seasoned, respected members of the Bar. Of course, you should review the Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct as well. Never hesitate to call the Virginia Ethics Hotline (the number is on the back of your bar card) for additional guidance.

**James S. Abrenio** is a 2008 graduate of Syracuse University School of Law. He now practices criminal defense and personal injury law with Ben Glass Law in Fairfax, Virginia.

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Get social:
Young Lawyers Conference Board of Governors

Dean E. Lhospital
President
Charlottesville
434-872-0893
dean@cvillelawyers.com

Christopher R. Fortier
President-elect
Oakton
757-880-1019
crfortier@gmail.com

Brian T. Wesley
Secretary
Richmond
804-644-2888
bwesley@reyoldswesley.com

Regenea A. Hurte
1st District Representative
Newport News
757-926-7223
rahurte@gmail.com

Shemeka C. Hankins
2nd District Representative
Norfolk
757-664-4811
Shemeka.hankins@norfalk.gov

Melissa Y. “Missy” York
3rd District Representative
Richmond
804-622-1131
myork@hccw.com

Laura O’Brien
4th District Representative
Fairfax
703-224-0888
labrien@kdbfamilylaw.com

Jennifer A. Fulmer
5th District Representative
Fairfax
703-504-9153
jenniferhaberlin@yahoo.com

Joshua Parrett
6th District Representative
Stafford
540-717-0460
parrettlaw@gmail.com

Kristopher R. McClellan
7th District Representative
Norfolk
610-761-4806
kristopher.mcclellan@gmail.com

Lindsey A. Coley
8th District Representative
Roanoke
540-983-9376
coley@gentrylocke.com

Paula A. Bowen
9th District Representative
Martinsville
276-403-5470
pbowen@ci.martinsville.va.us

Rachel Wolfe
10th District Representative
Norton
276-223-4130
r.wolfe@wwrrlawfirm.com

Hon. Helen Chang
At-Large Representative
Manassas
703-361-6100
hcesquire@gmail.com

Providence E. Napoleon
At-Large Representative
Washington
202-683-3854
providence.napoleon@allenavery.com

Edwin J. Wu
At-Large Representative
Portsmouth
757-396-6840
edwinjwu@gmail.com

Melissa Alfano
At-Large Representative
Reston
202-370-0138
alfano.melissa@gmail.com

Farnaz F. Thompson
At-Large Representative
Charlottesville
434-982-2941
fthompson@Virginia.edu

Nathan J. Olson
Immediate Past President
Arlington
703-934-1480
nolson@cgglawyers.com
The YLC coordinates a variety of programs in service to both the Bar and the public. If you are interested in assisting with any program or committee, please contact any YLC Board Member, Program Chair or Co-Chair, or your Circuit Representative.

**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 YLC 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.

Contact:  Annie Cai Larson  
aclarson@mcguirewoods.com

Sponsors Coordinators: 
Latasha M. Ellis  
jeff@spencershuford.com
Volunteer Coordinator:  
Jasmine R. McKinney  
jasmine@cvlas.org

**ANNUAL MEETING/PROGRAMS**
This committee plans a CLE or other special interest program to take place during the Bar’s Annual Meeting held each June in Virginia Beach. During gubernatorial election years, this committee typically schedules a debate.

Contact:  Colleen Haddow  
chaddow@coltenlaw.com

**ANNUAL MEETING/ATHLETICS**
This committee is responsible for organizing the “Run in the Sun” 5 kilometer foot race and the David T. Stitt Memorial volleyball tournament, both sponsored by the YLC during the Bar’s Annual Meeting in June in Virginia Beach.

Contact:  Craig E. Ellis  
CEllis@cityofchesapeake.net

**BENCH BAR CELEBRATION DINNER COMMITTEE**
Each year the YLC 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.

Contact:  Anna Birkenheir  
annabirkenheier@gmail.com
Nerissa Rouzer  
nrouzer@oag.state.va.us

**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 traditionally held the day after the Fall Admission and Orientation Ceremony.

Contact:  Abrar Azamuddin  
abrar.azamuddin@gmail.com

**DOCKET CALL NEWSLETTER**
The editor and editorial board of the Docket Call are responsible for publishing four issues of the YLC’s newsletter each year.

Contact:  Patrick Austin  
paustin@hsinjurylaw.com

**NON PROFIT BOARD MATCH**
Board Match is a program that the YLC is developing to provide an opportunity for local non-profit organizations to solicit new board members and board participation from area lawyers.

Contact:  T. Alex Cloud  
acloud@pzlaw.com

**PRACTICE TIPS SERIES**
This committee solicits and prints practice tips from a variety of young lawyers across the state in all areas of the law.

Contact:  Alexander T. MacDonald  
at.macdonald@email.wm.edu

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE**
This program implements a one day CLE program addressing practice tips and professionalism issues specific to young lawyers.

Contact:  Laura Lieberman  
laura.lieberman@gmail.com
Jesse Beringer  
jergerer@foley.com
Melissa A. Little  
millittle170@gmail.com
Joel R. McClellan  
jmcclellan@marksandharrison.com

Christopher Pitera (Richmond)  
Pitera@oag.state.va.us
Rachel Radspinner (Virginia Beach)  
rachel.radspinner@racklaw.com
Jonathan Puvak (Roanoke)  
Puvak@gentrylocke.com
Catherine Huff (Roanoke)  
huff@gentrylocke.com

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES**
Contact: Julie Cook  
jcook62@gmail.com

Kiana Noorishad  
Knoorishad@gmail.com

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SAFETY PROJECT**
The committee is responsible for developing programs to raise awareness about legal issues related to domestic violence. The DVSP has, for example, distributed a Safety Brochure and a Legal Pamphlet in both English and Spanish to domestic violence victims statewide. The DVSP also trains attorneys to provide pro bono representation to domestic violence victims.

Contact:  Stephanie M. Kelly Buck  
Stephanie.Buck@fairfaxcounty.gov
Sarah Collins  
collins@livesamyers.com

**EMERGENCY LEGAL SERVICES**
This committee, in conjunction with VBA-YLD, 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 in the event of natural disasters and other declared emergencies.

Contacts: Sarah E. Cox  
Sarah.cox@dpor.virginia.gov
Emily M. Martins  
emartins@lawmh.com
IMMIGRANT OUTREACH
This committee designs projects, including the Immigration Outreach Education Regarding Deportation Ramifications of Criminal Convictions program, to raise awareness about the legal issues facing Virginia’s immigrant population.

Contacts: Giovanni DiMaggio giomaggio@gmail.com
Alexandra “Sasha” Prokopets sasha.prokopets@gmail.com

LEGAL HANDBOOK FOR CANCER SURVIVORS
Recognizing the need for a resource addressing the legal issues faced by cancer survivors in the Commonwealth, the YLC plans to develop a Handbook covering topics such as insurance, employment, advance medical directives, and wills. Once drafted and approved by the VSB’s Publications committee, the Handbook will be printed and distributed to medical facilities and cancer advocacy organizations throughout the Commonwealth.

Contact: Kristi Cahoon Kelly kckelly@kellyandcrandalaw.com

MENTAL HEALTH LAW COMMITTEE
This committee puts on a free, semiannual CLE in different locations around Virginia. The CLE explains notable developments in Virginia mental health law as they apply to aspects of all practice areas. Mental health laws touch a broad range of practice areas, including employment, family law, trusts and estates, civil rights and criminal law. The course is presented in an engaging format consisting of panelist discussion, audience participation and hypothetical problems.

Contact: C.M. Jackson CJackson@new.idc.virginia.gov

MINORITY PRE-LAW CONFERENCE
This committee plans a seminar that strives to expose 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. The event is held in Northern Virginia, Southern Virginia, and Tidewater.

Contact: Northern Virginia Nichelle Charles Nichelle.charles@gmail.com
Jazzirelle Sepulveda js2cp@virginia.edu
Hampton Roads Myra Benjamin myra.benjamin@gmail.com
NO BILLS NIGHT
The Conference, through this committee, conducts No Bills Nights to provide a forum for the public throughout Virginia to raise legal issues and to seek information regarding their legal rights, without cost. This year, the Conference hopes to put on programs in Abingdon, Charlottesville, Danville/Martinsville, Lynchburg, Fredericksburg, Northern Virginia, Staunton/Lexington, Richmond, Roanoke, Tidewater and Winchester/Harrisonburg.

Statewide Contact: D. Adam McKelvey dmckelvey@crandalaw.com
Regional Contacts: Abingdon (VACANT)
Charlottesville (VACANT)
Danville/Martinsville: R. Colby Warren colby@haymorehollandlaw.com
Fredericksburg (VACANT)
Lexington/Staunton (VACANT)
Lynchburg (VACANT)
Northern Virginia: Kristina Wolf wolf@uscourts.ca.gov
Richmond: Christopher Pitera Cpitera@aaa.state.va.us
Roanoke (VACANT)
Tidewater (VACANT)
Winchester (VACANT)

OLIVER HILL/SAMUEL TUCKER PRE-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 enables at-risk, minority students to attend a weeklong comprehensive seminar that encourages them to become members of the legal profession.

Contact: Alicia N. Roberts Anroberts1@gmail.com

PRO BONO (VACANT)

RULE OF LAW DAY AT THE CAPITOL
The purpose of this program is to educate 400 at-risk middle school and high school students about rule of law principles and the operations of their state government. Students take a field trip to the Virginia Capitol where they learn about the legislative, executive and judicial branches from various government officials in these branches. Prior speakers at this program include the Governor of Virginia, the Virginia Attorney General, Justices of the Supreme Court of Virginia, and Senators as well as Delegates from the General Assembly of Virginia. After students listen to these speakers at the General Assembly Building and the Supreme Court of Virginia, students are divided into groups to discuss different factual scenarios with attorneys, judges, and law enforcement officers assigned to their specific group.

Contact: Justin Sheldon js2cp@virginia.edu

WILLS FOR HEROES
In response to the events of September 11, 2001, the Young Lawyers Division of the South Carolina Bar Association created a program called Wills for Heroes to allow the legal community to show its appreciation for the efforts and sacrifices made by firefighters, police, sheriffs and emergency medical technicians. This committee, in conjunction with VBA-YLD, has developed and implemented a program in the Commonwealth to provide simple wills, advanced medical directives, and powers of attorney to First Responders on a pro bono basis.

Contact: Jonas Callis jcallis@pennstuart.com

WOMEN AND MINORITIES IN THE PROFESSION
Contact: Victoria Walker victoria@victoriawalker.com
In 2016, the YLC updated the former circuit representatives with a District Representative program. This network is designed to meet three objectives: 1- to provide a liaison between practicing young lawyers on the local level and the Young Lawyers Conference Board of Governors; 2- to promote statewide communication and participation among young lawyers in the projects and activities of the YLC; and 3- to increase the quantity and quality of public service legal programming throughout the Commonwealth. The primary responsibility of each District Representative is to organize and carry out an annual project for young lawyers in his or her judicial district. These projects have ranged from CLE programs to community service programs to YLC membership projects. If you are interested in becoming a District Representative or assisting with any of the projects of the YLC, please contact any YLC Board Member or your District Representative.

### FIRST DISTRICT
Judicial Circuits 1, 3, 5, 7, 8
1 - City: Chesapeake
3 - City: Portsmouth
5 - Cities: Franklin & Suffolk
  Counties: Isle of Wight & Southampton
7 - City: Newport News
8 - City: Hampton

### SECOND DISTRICT
Judicial Circuits 2, 4
2 - City: Virginia Beach
  Counties: Accomack & Northampton
4 - City: Norfolk
Carteia V. Basnight
carteia.basnight@gmail.com

### THIRD DISTRICT
Judicial Circuits 6, 11, 12, 13, 14
6 - Cities: Emporia & Hopewell
  Counties: Prince George, Surry, Sussex, Greensville, & Brunswick
11 - City: Petersburg
  Counties: Amelia, Dinwiddie, Nottoway, Powhatan
12 - City: Colonial Heights
  County: Chesterfield
13 - City: Richmond
14 - County: Henrico

### FOURTH DISTRICT
Judicial Circuits 17, 18
17 - City: Falls Church
  County: Arlington
18 - City: Alexandria

### FIFTH DISTRICT
Judicial Circuits 19, 31
19 - City: Fairfax
  County: Fairfax
31 - Cities: Manassas & Manassas Park
  County: Prince William

### SIXTH DISTRICT
Judicial Circuits 9, 15
9 - City: Williamsburg
  Counties: York, James City, Charles City, New Kent, Gloucester, Matthews, Middlesex, King William, King & Queen
15 - City: Fredericksburg
  Counties: King George, Stafford, Spotsylvania, Caroline, Hanover, Westmoreland, Richmond, Essex, Lancaster & Northumberland

### SEVENTH DISTRICT
Judicial Circuits 16, 20, 26
16 - City: Charlottesville
  Counties: Madison, Greene, Albemarle, Fluvanna, Goochland, Louisa, Orange, & Culpeper
20 - Counties: Loudon, Fauquier, & Rappahannock
26 - Cities: Harrisonburg & Winchester
  Counties: Frederick, Clarke, Shenandoah, Page, Rockingham, Warren

### EIGHTH DISTRICT
Judicial Circuits 23, 25
23 - Cities: Roanoke & Salem
  Counties: Roanoke
25 - Cities: Covington, Lexington, Staunton, Buena Vista, Clifton

### NINTH DISTRICT
Judicial Circuits 10, 21, 22, 24
10 - Counties: Appomattox, Buckingham, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, & Prince Edward
21 - City: Martinsville
  Counties: Patrick & Henry
22 - City: Danville
  Counties: Pittsylvania & Franklin
24 - Cities: Lynchburg & Bedford
  Counties: Nelson, Amherst, Campbell, & Bedford

### TENTH DISTRICT
Judicial Circuits 27, 28, 29, 30
27 - City: Galax & Radford
  Counties: Pulaski, Wythe, Carroll, Grayson, Montgomery, Floyd, Giles, Bland
28 - City: Bristol
  Counties: Smyth & Washington
29 - Counties: Giles, Bland, Tazewell, Buchanan, Russell, Dickenson
30 - City: Norton
  Counties: Wise, Scott, Lee

### VACANT

### Abigail E. Murchison
murchison@gentrylocke.com

### J. Court Shipman
shipman@gentrylocke.com

### Meghan K. Lackey
mklackey@wytheco.org
YLC Board Liaisons for District Reps:

District Rep Liaisons:

1st District
Regenea Hurte: rahurte@gmail.com
Edwin J. Wu: ewinjwu@gmail.com

2nd District
Shemeka Hankins: Shemeka.hankins@norfolk.gov

3rd District
Missy York: myork@hccw.com
Farnaz Thompson: fthompson@virginia.edu

4th District
Laura O’Brien: lobrien@kbdfamilylaw.com
Melissa Alfano: alfano.melissa@gmail.com

5th District
Jenny Fulmer: jenniferhaberlin@yahoo.com
Helen Chong: hcesquire@gmail.com

6th District
Josh Parrett: parrettlaw@gmail.com

7th District
Kris McClellan: kristopher.mcclellan@gmail.com
Providence Napoleon: providence.napoleon@allenover.com

8th District
Lindsey Coley: coley@gentrylocke.com

9th District
Paula Bowen: pbowen@ci.martinsville.va.us

10th District
Rachel Wolfe: rwolfe@wrrlawfirm.com

If you are interested in becoming a District Representative or assisting with any of the projects of the YLC, please contact any YLC Board Member or your District Representative.

A full listing of volunteer opportunities and a volunteer form can be found at http://www.vsb.org/site/conferences/ylc/getting-involved