

Spotsylvania Lawyer “Joe Monday” Wins Lewis F. Powell Jr. Award For Pro Bono Work

Joseph W. Gorrell, a retired federal worker who nine years ago went to Rappahannock Legal Services Inc. to offer his services as a volunteer lawyer, is the 2005 winner of the Virginia State Bar’s Lewis F. Powell Jr. Pro Bono Award.

The award will be presented during the Fifteenth Annual Pro Bono Conference May 12.

When Gorrell, now seventy-two, arrived at legal services, he had an impressive resume that included three degrees in forestry and a law degree, forty-two years of service to federal agencies, and several awards. He did not, however, have experience with legal aid work.

But he was determined to be a long-term volunteer. He brought “considerable intelligence, enthusiasm and good humor to the table, and ... he was willing and able to learn whatever it took to become a competent volunteer legal aid attorney,”

William L. Botts III, executive director of Rappahannock Legal Services, wrote in a nomination letter for the award.

Former Rappahannock attorney Sandra L. Karison recalled how the overextended staff, during a review of pending cases, would chorus, “Let’s give this one to Joe.” “These cases would involve those with a particular need for Joe’s willingness to share his wealth of expertise and expansive heart,” she wrote.

Gorrell adopted Monday as his volunteer day, earning him the nickname “Joe Monday” from the agency, which quickly became dependent on his presence. “Remarkably, he was willing to take almost any kind of case and ... learn to do it well, whether it involved family, housing, public benefits, consumer or elder law,” Botts wrote.

Gorrell also established himself as a guardian *ad litem* for indigent children

and adults, and he now represents petitioners who are trying to become guardians and conservators.

Gorrell also contributes his time to Lawyers Helping Lawyers, an organization that helps people in the legal profession with substance abuse and mental health problems. He is part of a Fredericksburg group that works with the local juvenile and domestic relations court’s drug court program to mentor juveniles with substance abuse problems.

He holds a bachelor’s degree from Purdue University and master’s degrees from the University of California at Berkeley and Yale University. He received his law degree from Catholic University in 1968.



University of Richmond Student, Advocate for Sikh Rights, Wins Oliver W. Hill Law Student Pro Bono Award

Amandeep Singh Sidhu, a University of Richmond law student who immersed himself in fighting prejudice against the Sikh community after the terrorist attacks of 2001, has been named the 2005 recipient of the Virginia State Bar’s Oliver W. Hill Law Student Pro Bono Award.

The award will be presented during the Fifteenth Annual VSB Pro Bono Conference on May 12 at the law school.

Sidhu, born in Norfolk and raised in Chesterfield County, is the son of physicians originally from Punjab, India.

He was a teenager when he adopted the Sikh articles of faith, one manifestation of which is to wear a turban to cover uncut hair. When the September 11, 2001, attacks occurred, Sidhu was a College of William and Mary graduate working with American Management Systems Inc. in

Washington, D.C. That day, he was driven off a road by an irate driver.

His response was to become an advocate for Sikhs and other minority communities who were targeted in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks. He continued the work when he entered law school. As a founding member of the New York-based Sikh Coalition, he became involved in such issues as racial profiling, post-9/11 security and employment issues, and discussions with video game manufacturers and filmmakers about racist portrayals of Sikhs.

Meanwhile, Sidhu maintained a full academic load and took on more leadership responsibilities at school. He was elected secretary of the Student Bar Association in his first year and is now president of the association. In that role, he encourages all students to perform community services. Their projects include a mentoring program for elementary and middle

school children at a Richmond housing project.

As he was preparing for his law school exams in November 2004, a Chesterfield County gas station owned by Sikhs was set on fire, and graffiti hate speech was painted on outbuildings. Sidhu served as a liaison between the Sikh community and law enforcement.

In nominating Sidhu for the Hill Award, UR Law School Dean Rodney A. Smolla described him as “a young man who has spent much of his young life and all of his law school career emulating Hill’s devotion to justice, inclusion and civil rights for all people In my 24 years of law teaching, I can think of no student more deserving of an award bearing Oliver Hill’s name.”



VIRGINIA STATE BAR PRO BONO & ACCESS TO JUSTICE CONFERENCE

Thursday May 12, 2005
University of Richmond School of Law

SPECIAL ISSUES IN IMMIGRATION LAW

Exploring the Collateral Civil Consequences of Status Problems & Criminal Convictions

The Virginia State Bar's 15th Annual Pro Bono Conference is sponsored by the VSB Special Committee on Access to Legal Services. This 6 Credit CLE also includes 1.5 ethics credit hours. You may attend a single session or any combination of events. Please help our planning by indicating your preferences on the registration form.

There is a required fee of \$25 for text materials and an optional fee of \$11 for an RSVP catered Box Lunch for Thursday. Attendees with advance registrations may pay CLE text and RSVP lunch fees at the door.

PROGRAM AGENDA—University of Richmond School of Law

9:30–10:00 A.M.

Registration

10:00–10:10 A.M.

Welcome & Opening Remarks by Robert J. Stoney

10:10–11:30 A.M.

(1.5) General Ethics Session Moderated by David P. Bobzien.

Scanning Developments: Are We Spotting Trends or Finding Access to Justice Anomalies? With hypotheticals incorporating concepts from the following:

James M. McCauley: Helping Pro Se Litigants via Proposed UPL 207 (social workers assisting pro se litigants) and Proposed “Unbundling” Rule Amendments; New Corporate Counsel Rules that Limit Pro Bono Service Options; and LEO Advisory Opinion 1798 (caseloads).

Maya M. Eckstein: Emeritus Rule; Future Studies — The Civil Gideon Concept & Related Canadian Initiative.

Robert J. Stoney: Social Consequences of a Strained Indigent Criminal Defense System.

Michael N. Herring: Indigent Defense Reform Efforts in the 2005 General Assembly Session.

Rick Jones: Holistic & Community Lawyering — the Harlem (NY) Neighborhood Defender Cross-over Model.

David Bobzien and James McCauley: Hypos/Q&A Session.

11:30–11:40 A.M.

Morning Break (refreshments)

11:40 A.M.–12:40 P.M.

Immigration Law: Substantive Issue Spotting — Moderated by William L. Botts III and Robert J. Stoney

Eliot Norman: Immigration Consequences of Criminal Convictions; and

Jill A. Hanken: Virginia General Assembly 2005 Session — Immigrant Access to Public Benefits.

12:40–1:15 P.M.

On-site Reserved Lunch or BYO Brown Bag

1:15–3:00 P.M.

Exploring Career/ Volunteer Service Options & Resources in Immigration and Other Complex Practice Areas: The Tool Box Approach.

Linda M. Boykin (Moderator): Telephone Hotline Referral Model with Brief Advice — the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center; Other Legal Aid Resources.

Christina A. Wilkes: Equal Justice Works Fellow, Just Neighbors Ministry Inc. A Special Unaccompanied Minor (Child Rescue) Pro Bono Project.

Allen Orr Jr.: Training & Mentoring Opportunities for Young Lawyer Members of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

M. Imad Damaj Ph.D.: Collaborations/the ACLU of Virginia and Muslim Coalition Example.

Amandeep Singh Sidhu: Sikh Coalition Goals & Volunteer Opportunities.

Mary Holper: CAIR Coalition— Incremental Commitments/ Structured Jail Visits as a Volunteer Service Option.

3:00–3:20 P.M.

Mid-afternoon Networking Break (refreshments)

3:20–5:05 P.M.

Regulatory Compliance/The Business Side of Public Interest Law

Arlene K. Beckerman (Moderator): Fiscal Integrity/Finding Investors to Seed & Sustain Your Project: What Do Volunteers Have to do With It?

Phyllis C. Katz and Prof. Ann C. Hodges: Forming and Guiding Law-related Nonprofits/ Lessons from U/R's Inaugural Interdisciplinary Course.

Natalie J. Wilson: Community Tax Law Project—Serving ESL Clients; Limited Help for Start-up & Maturing Nonprofits.

5:05 P.M. CLE Adjournment

VIRGINIA STATE BAR PROBONO & ACCESS TO JUSTICE CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION FORM Thursday, May 12, 2005 VSB Pro Bono Conference University of Richmond School of Law

Please enroll me for the May Conference sponsored by the VSB Committee on Access to Legal Services. I am indicating below the sessions/events I plan to attend. Approval is pending for a total of 6 MCLE credits, including 1.5 ethics hours.

Kindly assist our planning efforts by checking the events you expect to attend.

Thursday, May 12, 2005 CLEs

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10:00 – 11:30 A.M. | General Ethics Session Moderated by VSB President David Bobzien |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11:30 – 11:40 A.M. | Morning Break (refreshments) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11:40 A.M. – 12:40 P.M. | Immigration Law: Substantive Issue Spotting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12:40 – 1:15 P.M. | On-site Reserved Box Lunch or BYO Brown Bag |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1:15 – 3:00 P.M. | Service/Resource Options: Immigration & other Complex Practice Areas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3:00 - 3:20 P.M. | Mid-Afternoon Networking Break (refreshments) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3:20 – 5:05 P.M. | Regulatory Compliance and the Business Side of Public Interest Law |

Evening Pro Bono Award Ceremony and Reception

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7:30 – 9:30 P.M. | Award Ceremony with reception following immediately (no charge) |
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NAME (Please print or type)

PREFERRED NAME (Badge)

FIRM

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL

- Enclosed is the required \$25 registration fee for CLE text materials. I will pay the required \$25 registration fee at the door.
 I would like to order the optional lunch (\$11). Regular Vegetarian

If you wish to receive lunch, please check the box (even if you will be paying at the door) so that we may plan accordingly. If you do not order lunch, you may wish to bring a bag lunch as there are no restaurants close by.

Please fax (804) 775-0582 or mail this form to Joy Harvey, Virginia State Bar, 8th & Main Building, 707 East Main Street, Suite 1500, Richmond, VA 23219.

For additional information on the Pro Bono Conference, please call the VSB Access to Legal Services office at (804) 775-0548 or 775-0522.

If you inadvertently receive a duplicate brochure, please share it with an interested colleague. A copy of this registration form is also available on the Virginia State Bar's Website at www.vsb.org/probono.

Directions To University of Richmond School of Law

West

I-64: Take Exit 183/Glenside Dr. south. Continue south on Glenside Dr. to Three Chopt Rd., turn left on Three Chopt Road.** From US 60 (Midlothian TnPk): Turn left on State Rte. 147 (Huguenot Rd.), continue to Three Chopt Rd., turn left on Three Chopt Rd.**

Southwest

US 360 (Hull Street Rd.): Turn left on State Rte. 653 (Courthouse Rd.), continue on State Rd. 653, this will become State Rte. 147 (Huguenot Rd.). Continue to Three Chopt Rd., turn left on Three Chopt Rd.**

North

I-95, US 1, US 301, (Do Not Take I-295): Take Exit 79 to I-64 west, continue west on I-64. Take Exit 183-A/Glenside Dr. south. Continue south on Glenside Dr. to Three Chopt Rd., turn left on Three Chopt Rd.**

East

I-64, US 60: West on I-64. Take Exit 183-A/Glenside Dr. south. Continue south on Glenside Dr. to Three Chopt Rd., turn left on Three Chopt Rd.**

South

I-85 to I-95: Take Exit 67/State Route 150 (Chippenham Pkwy.), continue to State Rte. 147 (Huguenot Rd.), turn right on State Rte. 147. Continue to Three Chopt Rd., turn left on Three Chopt Rd.**

Returning

to I-64 from campus: Street positions and names are somewhat confusing to area visitors. From Three Chopt Rd., drivers should turn right onto the street named Horsepen Rd. to return to I-64. This street's name changes to Glenside Dr. and leads to I-64.

**Three Chopt Road to Main Gate: Turn west on Towana Dr. or Boatwright Dr.

Lodging: A limited number of hotel rooms are available for Wednesday night and Thursday night, May 11 and 12 at the reduced rate of \$83.62 including tax via single/double occupancy at the Sheraton Richmond West Hotel located at 6624 West Broad Street within several miles of the University. Hotel room availability is "first come first served" as this is "race car week" in Richmond. Reservations, with deposits, must be made prior to Tuesday, April 26th to obtain the special rate by calling 1-800/325-3535. **Be sure** to ask for a nonsmoking room if that is your preference and **to mention that you are attending the May 12 VSB Pro Bono Conference.**