

David P. Baugh Is the 2006 Recipient of the Lewis F. Powell Jr. Pro Bono Award

David P. Baugh of Richmond is the recipient of the Virginia State Bar's sixteenth annual Lewis F. Powell Jr. Pro Bono Award.

Baugh was selected for his pro bono representation in numerous First Amendment cases, his zealous defense of indigent criminal defendants in complex court-appointed cases for nominal compensation, and his dedication to training other members of the defense bar through continuing legal education.

The award, named for a late U.S. Supreme Court justice from Richmond, is sponsored by the VSB's Special Committee on Access to Legal Services. It will be presented on April 26 at the Miller Center of Public Affairs at the University of Virginia, during the annual VSB Pro Bono Conference.

Baugh was named a "Human Rights Hero" by the American Bar Association for his representation of Ku Klux Klan member Barry Elton Black for burning a cross at a 1998 Klan rally in Virginia. Baugh, who is African American, took his defense of Black's free speech rights to the U.S. Supreme Court and prevailed.

He also served as a court-appointed lawyer to Mohamed Rashed Daoud Al-Owhali, an al-Qaeda member who participated in a 1998 bombing that killed 213 people and wounded thousands at the U.S. Embassy in Kenya. Al-Owhali faced the death penalty; he received life in prison without parole.

"I think every lawyer should take court-appointed cases," Baugh said in an interview. In many appearances before schools and community groups, he tries to convey the majesty of American law. His law firm in Richmond handles a steady stream of cases

with minimal compensation but with a "manifest injustice" that requires protection of constitutional rights. "Every time the government loses a case, the Constitution gets stronger," he said.

"I'm doing God's work—I'm a lawyer."

Charlottesville attorney Steven D. Rosenfield, who has worked with Baugh on pro bono civil litigation, nominated him for the award. "David has been a mentor and hero to countless criminal defense lawyers in Virginia since he moved here to practice criminal defense and civil rights law," Rosenfield wrote. As a board member of the American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia, Baugh "has represented for free students, prisoners, citizen speakers and a host of other individuals who have needed an advocate to protect them from the government," Rosenfield wrote.

Baugh is a graduate of Virginia State University and what is now the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University in Houston. He is a former assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia and the Eastern District of Texas.



David P. Baugh

Troutman Attorneys Receive James C. Roberts Award

McLean attorneys Tameka M. Collier and Mary C. Zinsner have received the James C. Roberts Award from their law firm, Troutman Sanders LLP, for their contributions to pro bono service.

The two were recognized for developing a vital pro bono program in Troutman's Tysons Corner office, where they work. They matched clients who needed pro bono help with lawyers. As a result, total pro bono hours contributed by attorneys in the Tysons Corner office in 2005 increased almost fourfold over the previous year, according to a press release.

In addition, Collier and Zinsner personally contributed a combined total of 240 hours to pro bono service in 2005.

Both attorneys work in the firm's complex litigation practice group. Collier, an associate, received undergraduate and law degrees from the College of William & Mary. Zinsner is a partner. She received a bachelor's degree from the College of the Holy Cross and a law degree from George Washington University.

The award is named for a Richmond attorney who in 1959—within two years of graduating from law school—assembled a small group of attorneys to provide counsel to low-income and elderly individuals. He was instrumental in creating what is now Central Virginia Legal Aid Society. Roberts still is an active volunteer and regularly donates time to The Virginia Bar Association's Pro Bono Hotline.

Fairfax Bar Recognizes Pro Bono Standouts

The Fairfax Bar Association recognized 2006 pro bono standouts during its February luncheon. The James Keith Public Service Award is bestowed by the bar association; the other awards are from the Fairfax Bar Pro Bono Program. Winners are:

William L. Schmidt, James Keith Public Service Award. Schmidt has chaired the Fairfax Law Foundation, cochaired the Community Outreach Committee and served on the Fairfax Bar Truancy Project Task Force. He has been a volunteer neutral case evaluator and motions day conciliator in Fairfax Circuit Court since 1997. His community outreach includes ringing the bell and chairing the board of advisors for the Salvation Army, repairing homes of needy people for the Fairfax Bar's Christmas program, Katrina Relief Fund work, and organizing the "Can-U-Care" Food Drive Program.

Whiteford, Taylor and Preston, Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year. In addition to accepting clients through the Pro Bono Program's Neighborhood Outreach Program, the firm has partnered since 2002 with Homestretch, a transitional housing program that helps homeless families achieve more productive lives.

Charles A. Tievsky, Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year. In 2004, he began single-handedly staffing a clinic that provides immigration law assistance at the Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center. He represents individuals, lobbies for immigration reform, provides resources to immigrants and educates the community to dispel myths about immigrant communities.

Russ Reiff, Pro Bono Paralegal of the Year. An independent paralegal, Reiff works on behalf of residents of Mondloch House, a shelter program for homeless people.



Fairfax Circuit Judge Jane Marum Roush presented William L. Schmidt with the Fairfax Bar Association's James Keith Public Service Award, which recognizes pro bono legal service and other volunteer contributions.

U.Va. Law Student to Receive the Oliver White Hill Law Student Pro Bono Award

Ryan T. Almstead, who will graduate this year from the University of Virginia School of Law, will receive the 2006 Oliver White Hill Student Pro Bono Award, bestowed by the VSB Special Committee on Access to Legal Services.

Since he began law school, Almstead has immersed himself in volunteer work. He had logged more than five hundred hours of pro bono and community service work by the fall semester of his third year. One hundred uncompensated hours were spent with the Legal Aid Justice Center in Charlottesville, where he worked with the Mental Health Law Clinic and provided outreach to patients at Western State Hospital in Staunton.

Almstead, a graduate of Union College in Schenectady, New York, began pro bono and public service work before law school, when he volunteered at a Boston-area high school, working with English as a Second Language students, and at a

nursing home in San Carlos, Costa Rica. Last summer, he was a housing unit clerk at the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii.

He plans to work for legal aid in upstate New York after graduation. He is originally from Linlithgo, New York.

In nominating Almstead for the award, Kimberly Carpenter Emery, an assistant law school dean at U.Va. wrote, "Ryan came to law school with the explicit goal of helping low-income clients in need of legal assistance. ... It is hard to think of another student who has so consistently demonstrated a commitment to serving those members of our society who lack access to justice."

Two Legal Aid Justice Center attorneys endorsed the nomination. "Ryan's enthusiasm, patience and understanding breeds confidence in poor clients who often need a human boost to carry on in a difficult life," wrote Alex Gulotta, executive director, and John Conover.



Ryan T. Almstead

The award will be presented during the annual VSB Pro Bono Conference April 26 at the Miller Center of Public Affairs at U.Va.

The award is named for a Richmond civil rights attorney who led efforts to integrate public schools.

Northup Is Pro Bono Partner at Troutman Sanders

Stephen A. Northup has been appointed the first pro bono partner at Troutman Sanders LLP.

In the new job, he will work with pro bono committees in each of Troutman's offices in the United States, in hopes of expanding the number of hours donated by the firm's 630 lawyers. He will work with Dorothy Jackson, whom Troutman recently hired as a full-time pro bono coordinator.

Jackson is based at the firm's headquarters in Atlanta. Northup works in Richmond, where he will continue his practice that focuses on complex business disputes.

Under his guidance as chair of the firm's pro bono committee, Troutman reemphasized a policy that encourages its attorneys to donate at least fifty hours annually to pro bono legal work, for individuals or nonprofit organizations without ability to pay.

The firm began posting an intranet menu of volunteer opportunities, tracks pro bono hours of its attorneys, and publishes a report that gives credit for the work.

That work led the Virginia State Bar's Special Committee on Access to Legal Services to give Northup its Lewis F. Powell Jr. Pro Bono Award in 2004.

According to recent statistics, 60 percent of Troutman lawyers did some pro bono work, Northup said. Almost 30 percent donated twenty or more hours, and seventy-seven lawyers provided fifty or more hours. Some took on projects that required hundreds of hours.



Stephen A. Northup

Troutman Sanders has offices in Atlanta; New York; Raleigh, N.C.; Washington, D.C.; London; and Hong Kong. In Virginia, the firm has offices in Richmond, McLean, Virginia Beach and Norfolk.

"My goal is to get 100 percent participation" of lawyers donating at least twenty hours, Northup said. "Lawyers are often the butt of jokes, ... but most lawyers take seriously the obligation" to provide pro bono services.