

## YLC Conference Supports ABA Jury Initiative

"I consider trial by jury as the only anchor ever yet imagined by man, by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution."

—Thomas Jefferson



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### Savalle C. Sims, 2004–2005 Young Lawyers Conference President

The legal profession does not operate in a vacuum. It depends upon the skill, expertise and commitment of not only lawyers, but also people outside the legal profession, to ensure that laws are upheld and administered fairly, efficiently and evenly.

Perhaps one of the greatest ways that the public at large gives back to the legal profession is through the American jury system. The right to trial by jury is a fundamental right of American jurisprudence guaranteed by the United States Constitution as well as individual states' constitutions. Thomas Jefferson, a Virginian, once said that he considered "trial by jury as the only anchor ever yet imagined by man, by which a government can be held to the principles of its constitution." Jurors provide a tremendous service to our profession and society at large. They give of their time and leave their families and employment to cull through and consider facts and to apply those facts to the law to facilitate the resolution of disputes.

Past Young Lawyers Conference President and current American Bar Association President Robert J. Grey Jr. is devoting his term to creating better juries. He has launched the American Jury Initiative to strengthen the jury as a democratic institution and enhance Americans' understanding of its role in our system of law and government. The ABA Young Lawyers Division has joined its support by creating a program designed to educate high school students about the importance of jury service. The Virginia YLC has pledged its support to Robert Grey's initiative and looks forward to implementing projects designed to educate the bar and public about jury service this year. One of those opportunities will be at the fourth Professional Development Conference.

The PDC was first created and presented by the YLC under the leadership of Tracy Giles and O'Kelly McWilliams. It is a comprehensive program that offers CLE and non-CLE programming designed to address substantive legal and professional issues facing young lawyers. The YLC will hold its fourth annual PDC at the University of Virginia Darden Graduate School of Business Administration in Charlottesville on March 18–19, 2005.

As part of the PDC, the YLC is pleased to announce that it will hold a dialogue between the bench, bar and jurors entitled. *We the Jury: A View from the Box*. U.S. District Judge James P. Jones of the Western District of Virginia will moderate a panel of

jurors and litigators. Panelists will include noted criminal defense attorney Craig S. Cooley and noted civil litigator Julia B. Judkins. The program will offer rare and valuable insights into the inner workings of juries in criminal and civil cases and promises to be a one-of-a-kind event.

In addition to the *We the Jury* dialogue, this year's PDC will include programs led by experienced and well-respected practitioners, including Stuart A. Raphael on temporary restraining orders and injunctions; Thomas E. Spahn on privilege issues; the Honorable Jane M. Roush on legislative and case law developments for Virginia litigators; and the Honorable Terrence R. Ney on effective oral advocacy. Topics of other sessions will include legal accounting issues, mediation, negotiation and drafting effective contracts. The PDC will also feature noted practitioner and author Jacob A. Stein as its keynote speaker.

We hope that young lawyers will avail themselves of the wonderful programming that this year's PDC will provide.

I look forward to seeing you in Charlottesville. ☺

### R. EDWIN BURNETTE JR. YOUNG LAWYER OF THE YEAR AWARD



#### Seeking Nominations

The Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference is seeking nominations for the R. Edwin Burnette Jr. Young Lawyer of the Year Award.

This award honors an outstanding young Virginia lawyer who has demonstrated dedicated service to the YLC, the profession and the community.

The nomination deadline is April 29, 2005. Letters of nominations and any supporting materials should be sent to:

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