

## Lynchburg Attorney Renae Reed Patrick Receives Legal Aid Award

Renae Reed Patrick, managing attorney at Virginia Legal Aid Society, received the 2003 Virginia Legal Aid Award on Friday, June 20 at the Virginia State Bar's annual meeting in Virginia Beach. The award is given to a legal aid attorney in Virginia whose work has an impact beyond the attorney's own service area, and who demonstrates innovation in advocacy on behalf of low-income clients, as well as experience and excellence in service.

A graduate of the University of Colorado and the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary, Patrick has been a member of the Virginia bar since 1981 and a legal aid attorney for nearly 20 years.

In her Lynchburg office, Patrick is responsible for representing low-income clients, supervising three other legal advocates, two support staff and a pro bono coordinator who administers a program involving 80 local attorneys in assisting Virginia Legal Aid clients.

To encourage law students and college students to consider legal aid as a career, she trains and supervises students at the Lynchburg VLAS office. A former president of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association, Patrick is the current secretary-treasurer of the Lynchburg Bar Association.



## Legal Aid Justice Center Exceeds Capital Goal

The Legal Aid Justice Center of Charlottesville announced on May 1 that it exceeded its \$1.85 million capital campaign goal to purchase a building at 1000 Preston Avenue—successfully securing its second matching grant of \$100,000 from the local Perry Foundation and a \$275,000 challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation of Flint, Michigan.

“It is fitting that we are making this announcement on Law Day. Local lawyers and law firms gave this campaign credibility in the year 2000 with more than \$150,000 in gifts and pledges. Their continued support has provided an additional \$200,000, of which \$115,000 has come in since the first of the year, helping put us over the top,” Executive Director Alex Gulotta said. “The success of the legal arm

of the campaign is largely attributable to the leadership of Ed Lowry, Rick Richmond and Ralph Feil—and their law firms,” he said.

Gulotta said that lead gifts from John and Renee Grisham and the Dave Matthews Band provided “critical milestones in the road to success.”

He said that capital contributions received after May 1 will be used to maintain the property and may also help rehabilitate a house for rental to another non-profit agency, and undesignated contributions will support the civil legal problems of those in need, Gulotta said.

“What is truly amazing, is the breadth of the support we have received from this com-

munity. In three short years, we have moved from having a handful of donors, to nearly a thousand. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of them,” he said.

On May 29th the Legal Aid Justice Center held an open house for the community.

The Legal Aid Justice Center offers free civil legal services to low-income families throughout central Virginia and to low wage immigrant workers statewide, maintaining offices in Charlottesville, Richmond, Petersburg and northern Virginia.

For more information, contact Alex R. Gulotta or Joey Conover at (434) 977-0556.

## 13th Annual VSB Pro Bono Conference

This year, the VSB Pro Bono Conference was held in conjunction with the May 9 Annual Juvenile Law & Education Seminar, co-sponsored by the Virginia Public Defender Commission and the University of Richmond T.C. Williams School of Law. The half-day May 8 Pro Bono CLEs were followed by an evening award ceremony.

*Right:* Shown, from left to right, are University of Richmond Emeritus Professor of Law Robert E. Shepherd, Jr., Oliver W. Hill, and May 2003 University of Virginia School of Law graduate Angela A. Ciolfi. Ms. Ciolfi received the bar's 2003 Oliver White Hill Law Student Pro Bono Award at the evening ceremony. Inaugurated by the VSB in February, 2002, the award is sponsored by the Virginia State Bar's Special Committee on Access to Legal Services and honors extraordinary law student achievement in the areas of pro bono publico and under-compensated public service work in Virginia. [*Richmond Attorney Steven D. Benjamin was honored with the Lewis F. Powell, Jr. Pro Bono Award for his extensive volunteer efforts to improve the justice system and for his zealous advocacy on behalf of indigent criminal defendants.*]



*Above:* The bar's Access to Legal Services Committee, the sponsor of the May 8 conference, heard reports on services and resources available to *pro se* litigants during a breakout session. Among the presenters (from left to right) were: VSB Ethics Counsel James M. McCauley, National Center for State Courts Staff Attorney Paula Hannaford-Agor, Access Committee Chair Robert J. Stoney, Central Virginia Legal Aid Society Executive Director Henry W. McLaughlin, Virginia Department for the Aging Legal Services Coordinator Terry L. Raney and King F. Tower, who spoke about an interdisciplinary pro bono project to assist clients with mental health issues.