

VSB Welcomes Crista Gantz to the role of Access to Legal Services Director

Crista Whitman Gantz has joined the Virginia State Bar team as the new director of its Pro Bono/Access to Legal Services department. Her first day was Nov. 27.

Gantz' department serves to support, promote, and further all access to justice initiatives in the commonwealth — and its new director brings a passion for service to the position.

“Every lawyer goes to law school with high hopes for impacting people in need,” she says. “That’s what drew me to access to legal services.”

Gantz is a 2007 graduate of T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond. She previously served for three years as the client services director with the Legal Information Network for Cancer (CancerLINC).

“LINC does really amazing work for a small, specific population – cancer patients and their families in the Greater Richmond area,” Gantz says. “I learned

so much there.”

Prior to joining CancerLINC, she was an associate at LeClairRyan where she was involved in numerous volunteer and pro bono activities.

Gantz says she’s looking forward to having a wide impact on people in need — without going to court every-day. “I think that’s one of my talents: energizing and fostering engagement,” she says. “I want people to care about the work and get involved. It’s the most important and compassionate thing we can do with our law degree.”

Gantz has been a frequent guest at the VSB’s Access to Legal Service Committee meetings, has developed and presented at a number of pro bono trainings, and is a regular attendee at the Statewide Legal Aid Conference. She is



Karl A. Doss (left) and Crista Whitman Gantz

also the author of the article “Lawyering for a Cause: Do Good and Feel Great” from the special October 2014 Pro Bono issue of *Virginia Lawyer* magazine.

Outgoing Director Karl A. Doss accepted a position as deputy director at the Legal Services Corporation of Virginia, and his last day at the VSB was Dec. 15.

Changes to the Masthead at *Virginia Lawyer*

Following the recent departure of Virginia State Bar Communications Director Gordon Hickey, who retired after serving the VSB for seven years, Caryn Persinger has been named communications director of the bar and creative director of *Virginia Lawyer* magazine and *Virginia Lawyer Register*. Deirdre Norman has been made media manager and editor of *Virginia Lawyer* and *Virginia Lawyer Register*.

Persinger joined the bar as the graphic designer in 1999 and was later promoted to publications manager/webmaster. Norman joined the bar in 2015 as public information specialist and assistant editor of *Virginia Lawyer*. Jackie Kruszewski joined the department as communications coordinator and editorial assistant in November.

Readers can send their letters to the editor and substantive article proposals to Norman at dnorman@vsb.org. Subscription requests from non-members and publication requests go to Kruszewski at jkruszewski@vsb.org.

In addition to the magazine and register, the communications team oversees VSB news, publications and public resources, website management, press releases, public calendars, events marketing, and more. The team welcomes general feed-



Jackie Kruszewski (left), Caryn Persinger, and Deirdre Norman

back, suggestions, and hyperbolic praise at vsbnews@vsb.org.