

Your Second Season of Service Is Just Beginning

by Donna Bausch

We all look forward to a productive retirement, but the prospect can be daunting. Seeing retirement as a journey rather than a destination can help you identify developmental steps on a path toward the most rewarding stage of your life.

Getting Started

The American Bar Association has a Commission on the Second Season of Service. Its website aptly states: "With the upcoming transition of the 'Boomer' generation, possibly the single largest transformation of a workforce in modern times, the ABA is well positioned to help those of its members who wish to continue practicing law, either as a continuing form of income but with a new career pathway, as a form of public service or pro bono publico work, or in some combination of the two."

This rich site, <http://www.abanet.org/secondseason/>, links to topics such as malpractice "tail" coverage, dealing with the death of a small-firm practitioner, news, a discussion list, and frequently asked questions. The volunteer opportunity search engine permits searches by location and type of project.

Next Steps

If you're at least fifty-five, the best way to continue planning is to join the Virginia State Bar Senior Lawyers Conference. This conference is one of the most active and honored in the VSB, and its website provides hundreds of links to relevant and timely resources, as well as opportunities to serve your profession and the public. <http://www.vsb.org/slc/attorney/index.html>

Perhaps you have a law practice for which you need to plan a future, too. *The Lawyer's Guide to Buying, Selling, Closing, and Merging a Law Practice* is a valuable ABA resource offering practical advice and tips on the advantages of buying and selling a law practice; ethical aspects of acquiring a law practice; valuation of a law firm; tax consequences of retiring a partner's interest in a law firm taxed as a partnership; merging law firms; selling a niche practice; business responsibilities in closing a law practice; ethical aspects of winding down a law practice; file preservation; and ending client and employee relationships. The guide includes handy checklists, forms, sample agreements, and sample letters as well as material from the ABA's Model Rules of Professional Conduct. <http://www.abanet.org/srlawyers/publications/lawyersguide.html>

More to consider

You're a lawyer, so you know all about the need to have a current will, power of attorney, and advance directives. So often, those of us who know better neglect these basic tasks, which should be priorities. Past VSB Senior Lawyers Conference Chair Frank O. Brown Jr. provided specific advice in "Basic Estate Planning for (Senior) Lawyers" in the December 2000 issue of *Virginia Lawyer*. <http://www.vsb.org/publications/valawyer/dec00/brown.pdf>

While updating your estate plan, give some thought to your legacy. If you wish to continue support for law-related causes, consider a planned charitable gift to the American Bar Endowment, the Virginia Law Foundation, or your local voluntary bar

foundation. Keep in mind the important work done in your locality by your community foundation, as well. For tips, see <http://www.abendowment.org/>, <http://www.virginialawfoundation.org/support.htm>, and <http://www.norfolkfoundation.org/>.

In your spare time ...

Are you interested in continuing meaningful legal work after you've retired? There is a great need for pro bono services from active and retired lawyers. The best place to get started is on the VSB site, which provides links to myriad ideas and opportunities to give meaning to that second season of service. http://www.vsb.org/site/pro_bono/resources-for-attorneys/

The American Bar Association Center for Pro Bono Service provides a *National Pro Bono Opportunities Guide* that links to an inventory of pro bono projects. http://www.probono.net/aba_oppsguide/

The United Way can link your passions and skills to community needs. <http://volunteer.unitedway.org/index.cfm> They've even got an online quiz to help you. <http://volunteer.unitedway.org/quiz.cfm>

The Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) needs your unique expertise, which they will help you share with entrepreneurs who need sage counsel. <http://www.score.org/volunteer.html>

Volunteer Hampton Roads offers an online Volunteer Connection listing

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opportunities with nonprofit organizations. <http://www.volunteerhr.org/>

You may be surprised to find that you'll come to love the law more than ever when you use your training and experience as a volunteer. May your retirement journey be filled with adventure and reward.



Donna Bausch has been the law librarian at the Norfolk Law Library since 1992 and executive director of the Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association since 2002. She received a law degree from George Washington University, a master's in library science from Catholic University, and a bachelor's degree from Muhlenberg College. She is a past president of the Virginia Association of Law Libraries and the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries.