

## Norfolk Program Brings Chief Justice Home

WHEN JOHN Y. RICHARDSON WAS CHAIR of the Virginia State Bar Conference of Local Bar Associations last year, he started organizing a special homecoming celebration — an opportunity for Virginia’s Chief Justice to return to his Norfolk high school and talk to today’s students.

On March 19, 2009, Chief Justice Leroy R. Hassell Sr. and two guests went to Norview High School for a program on Diversity in the Professions. Norfolk City Manager Regina V.K. Williams and Rear Admiral Julius S. Caesar of the Navy Installations Command joined Hassell in answering students’ questions.

The students (Photo 1) asked how the speakers overcame challenges in their lives, and about allegations of sexual improprieties and crimes against women in the Navy. (For a Norfolk Public Schools news clip about the event, see [http://ww2.nps.k12.va.us/education/components/scrapbook/default.php?sectiondetailid=107394&&timestamp=1237905046&timestamp=1237905046&&cms\\_mode=view.](http://ww2.nps.k12.va.us/education/components/scrapbook/default.php?sectiondetailid=107394&&timestamp=1237905046&timestamp=1237905046&&cms_mode=view.))

After the presentation, students lined up for the speakers’ autographs (Photo 2, with Hassell on right), and Norview Principal Marjorie Stealey gave the Chief Justice a tour of the school’s Hall of Fame, where portraits are displayed of today’s high-achieving students, the Norfolk Seventeen (the first black students to integrate previously all-white schools, in 1958), and Hassell himself (class of 1973).

VSB President Manuel A. Capsalis wrote describing the event: “Because of [Richardson’s] efforts, ... students at Norview High School were supremely inspired. ... And given that this public high school requires every senior to apply to college — yes, everyone — I am firmly confident that we met many leaders of tomorrow. When you listen to how well the students spoke during the interviews, you get a small sampling of what we experienced, and a sense of what is possible.”

Photo 3 shows (left-right) Capsalis, Caesar, Richardson, Stealey, Norfolk Assistant City Attorney Derek A. Mungo, Hassell, and Williams. Mungo represents the school system, and he helped organize the program. He also is a Norview alum — class of ’76 — and works with a program that encourages black male students to achieve honors status.

