Robert Grey Appointed to Diversity Position, Nominated for Legal Aid Directorship

Robert J. Grey Jr., a Richmond lawyer who served as president of the American Bar Association, has been named interim executive director of the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity.

The council is a newly formed organization of corporate legal officers and law firm managing partners dedicated to creating a diverse legal profession by eliminating impediments that preclude minorities and women from participating fully in the legal profession.

Grey is a partner at Hunton & Williams LLP. His duties as interim executive director will include increasing the council’s membership, establishing partnerships, creating best practices for promotion of diversity, and helping search for a permanent executive director. His term is expected to last six months.

In another appointment, Grey has been nominated by President Barack Obama to the eleven-member Legal Services Corporation Board of Directors, a nonprofit corporation that supports civil legal assistance to low-income Americans.

Grey serves as vice chair of his firm’s Pro Bono Community Service Committee.

W&L’s Smolla Designated “Legal Rebel” by ABA

Rodney A. Smolla, dean of the Washington and Lee University School of Law, is included among fifty legal professionals singled out by the ABA Journal Legal Rebels Project of the American Bar Association.

Smolla recently has gained attention for reforming the law school’s third-year curriculum to give students experience with real-life client interactions, simulated practice situations, and practice development training.

Professional development also is emphasized during the third year. Third-year students study and reflect on legal ethics, civility in practice, civic leadership, and pro bono service. (http://law.wlu.edu/news/storydetail.asp?id=376)

The Legal Rebels Project is profiling fifty professionals the magazine has identified as “leading innovators” in the law. Those persons’ stories are told in a series of online videos that will be posted through Thanksgiving.

The project is accepting nominations for “mavericks” who “are finding new ways to practice law, represent their clients, adjudicate cases, and train the next generation of lawyers. Most are leveraging the power of the Internet to help them work better, faster, and different,” according to the project’s website.

The project includes other components, including a Legal Rebels Manifesto (http://www.legalrebels.com/manifesto); encouragement to follow the project’s progress and chat about it through various social media (http://www.legalrebels.com/connected); and a Legal Rebels featured projects shop.

For more information, see http://www.abajournal.com/news/welcome_to_the_legal_rebels_project/.

Professional Guidelines To Be Published in Online Searchable Format

The Virginia State Bar Professional Guidelines for the first time are being published online in a searchable HTML format that will allow users to quickly access the sections they are looking for without flipping through pages or waiting for PDFs to download.

Because the format will meet most VSB members’ needs, print copies of the Professional Guidelines are not being mailed with the October 2009 issue of Virginia Lawyer. A limited number of copies will be printed and provided to members on request.

The print version is published each fall and contains the rules and regulations of the bar, including the Rules of Professional Conduct, attorney trust account regulations, mandatory continuing legal education regulations and forms, Virginia Consumer Real Estate Settlement Protection Act regulations, and portions of the Rules of the Supreme Court that outline VSB governance and the procedure for disciplining attorneys.

The online HTML version will allow members to browse the Rules of Professional Conduct by using a table of contents with hot links. Previously, the Professional Guidelines were available on the VSB website only as PDF files.

The HTML version will be updated throughout the year to provide a current version at all times. The print version is updated once a year. Changes approved by the VSB Council and the Supreme Court of Virginia are published online as a supplement.

The newly formatted Professional Guidelines is scheduled to be posted before the end of 2009. Watch your first-of-the-month VSB E-News for further details.
In Memoriam

Edwin Boyd Baker  
Keysville  
June 1942–June 2009

Norman Baum  
North Miami Beach, Florida  
March 1923–January 2009

Brenda Louise Friend Briggs  
Chester  
December 1943–June 2009

Laura Eve Brown  
New Bern, North Carolina  
August 1955–April 2009

James W. DeBoer  
Colonial Heights  
May 1946–July 2009

Robert Irving Dodge III  
Stafford  
August 1937–December 2008

Benjamin W. Dunlany  
Washington, D.C.  
August 1919–May 2009

Martha Bryan Ennis  
Fredericksburg  
August 1944–July 2008

James E. Harvey Jr.  
Green Cove Springs, Florida  
June 1919–April 2009

Robert J. Katz  
Washington, D.C.  
June 1939–April 2009

Edward Patrick Kelley Jr.  
State College, Pennsylvania  
September 1943–September 2008

Michael Richard Kelly  
Washington, D.C.  
October 1964–April 2009

Hon. W.S. Kerr  
Gladstone  
October 1939–December 2008

Dickson Edwin Kesler  
Melbourne, Florida  
June 1944–September 2008

Milton William Kirkpatrick Jr.  
Fairfax  
July 1932–May 2009

G.L. Knight  
Springfield  
October 1925–May 2009

H. Bailey Lynn II  
Middleburg  
April 1943–September 2008

Alison Baird Macdonald  
Washington, D.C.  
February 1973–June 2009

Henry C. Mackall  
Fairfax  
April 1927–July 2009

Edward Francis Manning  
Fairfax  
February 1941–August 2008

Peter C. Manson  
Charlottesville  
January 1918–April 2009

Hon. D.B. Marshall  
Charlottesville  
June 1919–June 2009

John Michael McDonald  
Washington, D.C.  
July 1963–December 2008

Hon. Burch Millsap  
Englewood, Florida  
August 1923–June 2009

R. Dennis Osterman  
St. Michaels, Maryland  
February 1947–June 2009

Stephen Turner Owen  
Alexandria  
May 1943–July 2009

William M. Phillips  
Lynchburg  
August 1933–July 2009

Mary Elizabeth Pierce  
Midlothian  
January 1922–August 2009

Robert Nelson Pollard III  
Glen Allen  
June 1958–August 2009

Una Rita Quenstedt  
Sun City West, Arizona  
December 1907–April 2009

Dueward H. Scott Jr.  
Clifton Forge  
December 1926–February 2009

Donald E. Selby  
Charlottesville  
September 1925–March 2009

Louis Calvin Shell  
Petersburg  
December 1925–August 2009

Russell Edsel Sherman  
Fairfax  
September 1936–July 2009

J. Alvernon Smith Jr.  
Richmond  
May 1924–June 2009

Daren Myrl Stephens  
Alexandria  
June 1922–August 2008

Hugh C. Stromswold  
Spokane, Washington  
July 1919–June 2009

Alice Evans Watson  
Virginia Beach  
February 1918–September 2008

Donald G. Wise  
Portsmouth  
October 1938–May 2009

Melvin Reginald Zimm  
Norfolk  
November 1953–August 2009
Leigh Middleditch Receives ABA Honor

Leigh B. Middleditch Jr. of Charlottesville has been presented with the American Bar Association’s John H. Pickering Award for his outstanding service to the legal profession, educational projects, and his community.

The award is presented by the ABA Senior Lawyers Division in memory of a Washington, D.C., lawyer who was involved in many pro bono activities and law-related societal issues. Middleditch was honored July 30, 2009, during the ABA meeting in Chicago.

Middleditch has practiced for his entire legal career — starting in 1957 — with McGuireWoods LLP. He now is senior counsel to the firm’s Charlottesville office.

He has been an active volunteer with the Virginia State Bar and the ABA. He was chair of the VSB Senior Lawyers Section — before it became a conference — and a member of the VSB Committee on Lawyer Discipline, among other bar activities. His service to the ABA included a term as chair of the Senior Lawyers Division and membership on the Commission on Law and Aging.

His work in education includes the South African Lawyers Association Commercial Law Project, which presents seminars to black South African attorneys who were held back by apartheid.

In his community, he has volunteered with the American Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Child and Family Services, the Mental Health Association, Charlottesville Free Television, and many other nonprofit groups.

Local Bar Elections

Greater Richmond Intellectual Property Law Association
Brian James Teague, President
Matthew Robert Osenga, Vice President-Treasurer
Gregory Michael Murphy, Corresponding Secretary
Cheryl Lynn Black, Recording Secretary

Hispanic Bar Association of Virginia
Dennis Adrian Somech, President
Juan Ever Milanes, Vice President
Kristina Aurelia-Magraner Cruz, Secretary
Juan Carlos Estevez, Treasurer

Lynchburg Bar Association
Ronald David Henderson, President
Sharon Kathleen Eimer, President-elect
Burton Leigh Drewry Jr., Secretary-Treasurer

Newport News Bar Association
Herbert Valentine Kelly Jr., President
Robert Wayne Lawrence, President-elect
Mark Andrew Short, Secretary
Michael John Walsh, Treasurer

Roanoke Bar Association
Roy Vogel Creasy, President
Francis Hewitt Casola, President-elect
Lori Dawn Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer

Salem-Roanoke County Bar Association
Leisa Kube Ciaffone, President
Compton Moncure Biddle, 1st Vice President
Matthew Jason Pollard, 2nd Vice President
Patricia Ann McGee Green, Secretary-Treasurer
Lora Ann Keller, Judge Advocate

York County-Poquoson Bar Association
John Patrick Walsh, President
Melanie Barbour Economou, President-elect
Karla Jeanette Keener, Secretary
Patricia Ann Dart, Treasurer

Keep Up with the VSB — Read the E-News

Have you been receiving your Virginia State Bar E-News? The E-News is an important way of keeping informed about your regulatory bar.

We only send it out once a month — a brief summary of deadlines, programs, rule changes, and news to keep you on track professionally.

If you didn’t get yours, check your spam filter for October 1 and see if it’s in there.

If your Virginia State Bar E-News is being blocked by your spam filter, contact your e-mail administrator and ask to have the VSB.org domain added to your permitted list.