

President's Message

by Jon D. Huddleston



Let Me Tell You A Story

SPORTS ENTHUSIASTS WILL undoubtedly recognize the headline as the title of John Feinstein's wonderful homage to the legendary Celtics coach Red Auerbach. Auerbach was not only a masterful coach and general manager, but a raconteur of the highest order. Feinstein is one of my favorite writers and no slouch in the story-telling department himself. I have read most of his books — even *Forever's Team*, his tribute to the 1978 NCAA runner up Duke University basketball team, (Bill Foster's team not Coach Krzyzewski's). What I like about John Feinstein's works is that he revels in telling stories that are not squarely in the public eye. He has written books about small-college football, a terminally ill professional caddy, and the Army/Navy rivalry. He tells human interest stories that are significant but not necessarily high profile.

It is with this notion that I have set out to tell the story of the Virginia lawyer. Our profession and its members remain selflessly devoted to their communities despite the often humbling public perception. Adopting the mantra *Virginia Is for Good Lawyers*, we seek to tell the stories of several of our commonwealth's finest practitioners. We are off to an excellent start. In June, we established a YouTube channel, where we have posted several interviews under the heading "The Big Picture."

YouTube is an amazing phenomenon. At your fingertips, you can check out Walter Cronkite's last broadcast, watch a live version of Wilson Pickett's *Midnight Hour*, or review an ill-advised late night snowboard catastrophe involving a certain family friend and

Tech student who thought a home-made ramp was a cool idea.

You can also meet Jay Weinberg. Jay is a brilliant lawyer whose contributions to the Greater Richmond area are legion. He was instrumental in bringing the Virginia Holocaust Museum to Richmond, among his manifold contributions. In the video clip, Jay recalls that on his last day of law school, his dean told the graduating class that "As lawyers we were going to be experts in democracy and practitioners of humanity, an awesome responsibility if you think about it." Jay opines that his firm and he personally have always felt that the "commitment to community makes you a better lawyer." He adds, "The rule of law is not an abstract thing, it's very tangible, it's what every lawyer devotes a significant portion of his daily life to." These are wonderful, inspiring words from a very good Virginia lawyer.

Perhaps you watched the story about the Law Camp in Leesburg. In this episode Judge Thomas D. Horne, a Loudoun County Circuit Court Judge notes

Whether it is picking up trash or whether it's working on Law Camp or whether it's working with youth sports or doing something with respect to the legal profession, I think we as public servants owe a duty and responsibility. As members of the bar, we have a responsibility to other people in the community to reach out, to be able to help, to lead, to encourage, invite participation and do all we can to show that we as lawyers are not only leaders in the community; not only do we

have an honored profession, we have a vital and considerate interest in everything that goes on in the community.

I cannot really add a whole lot to that. It is the story of the Virginia lawyer that is key and it is the story that must be told.

You may have seen the episode with Chip Delano talking about his years of scouting and its continued relevance in our society and community. The images of the youth from all over the world with the international scout jamboree that Chip attended in London a couple of years ago are awe-inspiring. Although his kids have now passed the scouting age, Chip adds, "I have never grown up; I am going to stay involved in scouting." The Richmond area remains the better for Chip's efforts.

Certainly, I hope you will not miss Winchester attorney Pete Buchbauer helping to feed the hungry or our portrait of Stu Spirn on his thirty-plus years of youth soccer in Williamsburg. I hope you have connected with Judge Angela Roberts and discovered her tremendous work with adoptions. I can go on and on and on ... and I will for the remainder of the year.

Have we gone viral? Hardly, but I believe we are telling worthwhile stories. I believe that the public needs to know what Virginia good lawyers contribute on a daily basis. Please check out all of our *Big Picture* episodes on YouTube or the State Bar website at www.vsb.org.

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Our efforts are not limited to the video profiles. I have asked lawyers and judges from across the state to write essays about their lives, about their passions, about what drives them on a daily basis. Check out VSB.org and click on Reflections to read about the journeys of many of our best. George Shanks of Luray talks about the life of a small-town practitioner. Tidewater lawyer Lynn Marie Kohm talks about the importance of her faith and her quest for justice. Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Judge Pamela Brooks from Loudoun County understands the importance of her coaching and umpiring youth softball and how youth sports help keep kids out of her courtroom. Think they are all basically variations on a theme? Not for a moment. Look no further than Jim Korman's hilarious essay on his days at summer camp when he was called upon to defend the "worst waiter in history" and how he knew that he was destined to become a lawyer in real life. These reflections are simply not to be missed.

I am very proud of our online presence although I must confess I am still embracing Twitter and some of the other more foreboding aspects of social media. Nevertheless, we are doing all we can to get our stories out to the public. Please join me on this journey.

One of my ever-helpful colleagues reviewed a draft of this message before going to print and predictably commented, "But Jon, you are no John Feinstein." True enough, but so far, we are holding our own against him on YouTube. Stay tuned. ■