



The Henrico County Bar Association brought the Rule of Law Project to Godwin High School on October 10. The association presented a line-up of speakers to discuss the separation of powers and roles of the three branches of government. Among the speakers were Supreme Court of Virginia Justice Cleo Powell, Delegate John O'Bannon of the 73rd House District, and Roderick C. Young of the U.S. Attorneys' Office. Other participants included (seated, left to right) Jennifer Fox, Heather Szjada, Nerissa N. Rouzer, Tony H. Pham, and Suzanne E. Wade, (standing, left to right) Deputy Joel Lawson, Officer Allen Wilson, Officer Pete Siefert, Lori Lord, Daniel L. Rosenthal, Officer Craig Burton, Officer Sun Jung, Officer John Woodson, Timothy Isaacs, Angela B. Axelle, Officer Rafael Medina, G. Michael Pace Jr., Christopher H. MacTurk, Officer Clay Woodcock, Renu Brennan, Benjamin N. Spence, Kathryn Daughtry, Andrew McNevin, Deputy John Barnes, Melissa Y. York, Deputy Walter Allmon, James Parsley, Deputy Mike Genau, Ramona L. Taylor, Deputy Megan Clark, Deputy John Mizell.

Center Spreads the Rule of Law Project

by G. Michael Pace Jr.

With its beginnings in the Virginia Bar Association, and with the generous financial support of the Virginia Law Foundation, the Rule of Law Project is starting its fifth year, and now involves all state-wide bar associations and a growing number of local ones, some for the fourth and fifth time. We continue to expand our website offerings (www.ruleoflaw-vba.org), which provide on-line teacher resources, training materials, reading lists, and lesson plans for teaching the origin, meaning, and importance of the rule of law in society, together with training materials for volunteer bar members.

We created a Lawyer Advisory Committee to establish relationships with more local bar associations for the purpose of organizing Rule of Law Day in every community in Virginia on an annual and sustainable basis. We have also created a Teacher Advisory Committee comprising educators and administrators in Virginia and other states. The purpose of this committee is

to advise us about educational content and to create additional online materials for classroom use.

Working together, we will assure that Virginia is recognized as the leader in rule of law education nationwide.

The Rule of Law Project in the United States and the World

Created at Roanoke College in 2012, the Center for Teaching the Rule of Law (www.thecenterforruleoflaw.org) is a think-tank, research, scholarship, and training institute for rule of law education. It also serves as a forum for discussion about the relationship between the rule of law and society, nationally and internationally. The center is the vehicle by which the Rule of Law Project will be introduced to other states and countries. It is an independent Section 501(c)(3) educational charitable organization supported by private donations. The center received its first grant, of \$50,000, this spring from the Foundation for the Roanoke Valley. These funds help

support scholarship, programming, and operations. Other grant requests are outstanding. The center has an audacious goal of raising \$10 million within three to five years to fully endow its program.

We held the initial meeting of the center's board of directors on August 27 at Roanoke College. The members of the board of directors include: Kathy Mays Coleman, Senior Justice Lawrence L. Koontz Jr., Justice Cleo E. Powell, Diane M. Strickland, Guy K. Tower, and Anthony F. Troy.

None of the board members are required to raise money for the center. Their willingness to serve and the guidance they provide is greatly needed and appreciated.

Roanoke College has graciously donated office space and technical and operational support for the center. The college's reputation as an excellent liberal arts institution provides the perfect platform to engage students, faculty, staff, and the community in the center's activities, and for teaching our

Law and Society class. The center will have two student interns to assist in research and writing projects on rule of law-related subjects. We are working with several college organizations on a series of co-sponsored programs for this academic year.

In addition, we have expanded our curriculum to include “The Rule of Law and the Environment,” a topic of increasing national and international importance. Our environmental education curriculum will be led by Maggi Pace, our new director of Environmental Education and Social Media. Maggi is a Wake Forest University graduate with a major in biology, and a master’s degree in environmental education from Slippery Rock University. She began her new position on September 1. The other members of our staff are: H. Timothy Isaacs, vice president of education; John S. Koehler, director of communications; and Nancy H. Pace, administrative assistant.

We are bigger than we look. As a result of our relationship with the National Council of the Social Studies, the largest association of civics, social studies, and history teachers in the U.S., we are working on rule of law projects in Brookfield, WI, and Howard County, MD). Through our involvement in the National Council of Bar Presidents, we also helped start a rule of law initiative in Florida spearheaded by the Jacksonville Bar Association in its public schools. We expect schools in more states to adopt the Rule of Law Project this year.

At the invitation of the World Justice Project (www.worldjusticeproject.org), we participated in World Justice Forum IV at The Hague in July. We also participated in World Justice Forum II in Vienna in 2009 and Forum III in Barcelona in 2011. This year’s participants included more than 600 people from 100 countries. We presented each of the four days of the forum and led group discussions on the topic “Youth and the Rule of Law.” Our involvement led to requests to provide rule of law education in Jamaica, the Philippines, and Burundi and closer to home in Texas. In addition, we expect to be

included as the rule of law education component in a new U.S. Department of State program that hosts delegations from other countries.

Our existing relationships also continue to expand:

Virginia Department of Education — Patricia Wright, Superintendent for Public Instruction, will again endorse the Rule of Law Project for inclusion in all public schools. We have received this endorsement each year since our beginning.

The Virginia Consortium of Social Studies Specialists and College Educators (VCSSE) — We have been invited to present at the last three VCSSE annual conferences in Williamsburg. This year, the annual meeting will be held in Roanoke in October, where we have been invited to speak and will sponsor a teacher reception.

American Bar Association Commission on Civics Education — The Rule of Law Project continues to be designated as a “best practices” program for all state bar associations.

Legacy International — This spring, Legacy asked us to present the Rule of Law Project to a group of twenty-two Indonesian secondary school exchange students and their teachers. These students were very engaged and extremely well versed in the relationship between the rule law and democracy, exceeding the understanding of most American students.

The Virginia Holocaust Museum — We are pleased the Rule of Law Project and rule of law education will continue to be part of the offerings of the Virginia Holocaust Museum in its program again this year.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters/Oliver Hill House/Roanoke City Public Schools/Roanoke Bar Association/Rule of Law Project — This fall, these organizations will collaborate to provide after-school educational programs at the Oliver Hill House for students ages 7 to 12 in four inner-city elementary schools.

Center staff and Roanoke Bar Association members will teach students about the rule of law and citizenship. This is a perfect example of relationships that develop to address a need and improve communities. We are proud to be part of this effort. The center will be meeting with national representatives of Big Brothers and Big Sisters about using the Oliver Hill House experience as a pilot project for similar ones across the country.

I will end with my favorite story from this past semester. The Moton Museum is the former public school in Farmville that closed its doors to students during the “massive resistance” era in Virginia in the 1950s and ‘60s. A new school, Prince Edward Academy (now called the JB Fuqua School) was created for white students while a generation of black students was denied a public education. Later, Prince Edward County recreated and integrated its public school system. The former Moton School became the Moton Museum, under the strong leadership of Lacy Ward Jr. Moton is a sobering yet hopeful reminder of a part of our history during which the rule of law was suspended and the concept of equality did not include everyone.

With the wonderful help of members of the Prince Edward County Bar Association, we held Rule of Law Day in

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G. Michael Pace Jr. is general counsel to Roanoke College in Salem. He is also the president and CEO of the Center for Teaching the Rule of Law and the creator of its signature program, the Virginia Law Foundation and The Virginia Bar Association Rule of Law Project. He is a member and past president of The Virginia Bar Association, a member of the American Bar Association, and of the National Conference of Bar Presidents. He is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and a board member of the Virginia Law Foundation. He served as managing partner of Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore LLP from 1999 to 2012 in Roanoke and remains of counsel to the firm.

Farmville on April 27. For the first time, students, teachers, and administrators of the two schools came together to talk about their history. The day included remarks by Justice Cleo Powell, Lacy Ward Jr., and local officials, followed by breakout sessions to discuss the presence and absence of the rule of law in our history, and its enduring nature as the basis for hope, justice, fairness, stability, and equality for all people.

Everyone involved left with a greater appreciation for the need to be constantly reminded about how democracy is supposed to work. It was a magnificent day, one we hope to recreate from year to year. This experience, as much as any other so far, makes clear the importance of what we do.

With the encouragement, participation, and support of members of the bar, we are making a difference to

teachers, their students, and to the communities in which they live. Together, we will help create new generations of citizens who understand that without enlightened and active citizen participation, democracy is not sustainable.

As we plan for another busy and exciting school year, let's always remember what Abraham Lincoln told us: "Teach the children so it will not be necessary to teach the adults."