

Harrisonburg Attorneys Honored for Pro Bono Work

Three lawyers have been recognized for their extraordinary pro bono work done on behalf of Blue Ridge Legal Services (BRLS), the Shenandoah Valley's non-profit legal aid society. The lawyers are **Laura Evick** and **Jacob Penrod**, both of Hoover Penrod, and **Lucas Pangle**, of Wharton Aldhizer and Weaver.

Dana Cornett, president of the BRLS board of directors, presented the awards during the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Bar Association's annual Professionalism Seminar held October 18, 2017. "Our local bar as a whole provides outstanding support to legal

aid clients in our area, but these award recipients deserved special recognition for the level of service they donated," Cornett said.

Since 1982, BRLS and the Harrisonburg-Rockingham Bar Association have collaborated in the pro bono referral program to provide free legal services to financially disadvantaged members in the area. Over the last three decades, this bar's pro bono program has earned state-wide and national acclaim, including the national Legal Service Corporation's Rural Pro Bono Attorneys of the Year Award in 1993, the



Evick Penrod Pangle

Virginia State Bar's Lewis F. Powell Jr. Pro Bono Award in 1998, 2014 and 2016, the American Bar Association's prestigious Harrison Tweed Award in 1995, and a Pro Bono Service Award from the Legal Services Corporation in 2011.

Beale, Davidson, Etherington & Morris PC has relocated its Richmond office to the Boulders Office Park, located near the Powhite Parkway (Rt. 76), Chippenham Parkway (Rt. 150) and Midlothian Turnpike (Rt. 60). The new address is 1001 Boulders Parkway, Suite 510, Richmond, Virginia 23225.

Thomas C. Bunting has joined the Shields Law Firm as an associate. Bunting brings over 17 years of litigation experience to the firm. He has handled a wide array of personal injury, workers' compensation, traffic and DUI, and insurance disputes in his career, and has successfully tried cases at the state and federal level throughout Virginia. He will handle all manner of personal injury cases, as well as criminal defense and domestic relations.



Bunting

Bentham IMF announces two new hires, including one overseeing a new initiative to finance disputes stemming from bankruptcies and financial restructurings. Bentham's bankruptcy offering is headed by **Ken Epstein**, an experienced bankruptcy lawyer who will direct the firm's investments on behalf of debtors, creditors, and other stakeholders in commercial disputes.

Mr. Epstein was formerly a managing director in the restructuring group at financial guarantor MBIA; he previously was in the financial restructuring group at Cadwalader. **Christopher Young** has been added as in-house corporate and financial services lawyer to serve as the company's corporate counsel.

Nathan D. Childs has joined the Raleigh office of Midkiff, Muncie & Ross PC. Childs practices in insurance defense, including property and coverage claims, as well as matters related to ERISA. He received his JD from the Wake Forest University School of Law and his BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



Childs

Shannan M. Fitzgerald and **Gordon M. Phillips** have joined Christian & Barton LLP as associates in the litigation practice group. Fitzgerald holds degrees from the University of Richmond School of Law and the University of Virginia, and served as a law clerk for the Hon. Beverly W. Snukals, presiding judge for the Circuit Court of the City of Richmond. Phillips received degrees from the University of Richmond School of Law and Christopher Newport University, and served as a law

clerk for the Hon. William L. Osteen Jr., US District Court chief judge for the Middle District of North Carolina.

Brendan C. Horgan has joined the Richmond office of Midkiff, Muncie & Ross PC, where he represents insurance carriers in workers' compensation law. Horgan received his JD from the University of Connecticut School of Law and his B.A. from Wake Forest University. Prior to his private law practice, Brendan was a Lieutenant in the US Navy JAG Corp.



Horgan

The Judicial Inquiry and Review Commission of Virginia announces the selection of new counsel and assistant counsel beginning January 2, 2018, upon the retirement of Counsel **Katherine B. Burnett**. Current Assistant Counsel **Robert Q. Harris** will become commission counsel. Previously he served as director of the Commonwealth's Attorneys' Services Council and as an assistant attorney general in the Virginia Attorney General's office. **Benjamin H. Katz**, currently an assistant attorney general, has accepted the position of assistant counsel. He previously served as an assistant commonwealth's attorney in Alexandria.

Five Attorneys Receive Honors for Pro Bono Service

Joshua Elrod, Robert Hagan Jr., Rosalie Pemberton Fessier, Russell Wayne Updike, and Jeffrey Ward were recently given awards for their exemplary pro bono efforts in providing civil legal justice to the underserved.

Elrod is a partner at Mann, Vita & Elrod in Lexington. Hagan is a private practitioner in Fincastle who for years has championed the legal issues of the poor in Botetourt County. Fessier is a leader of Timberlake Smith's local government law and civil rights practice in Staunton. Updike is a partner at the law firm of Wilson Updike & Nicely in

Covington. Ward works as a partner at Franklin Denney Ward and Dryer in Waynesboro.

The awards were presented by Blue Ridge Legal Services, the Virginia Access to Justice Commission, Washington & Lee School of Law, and the judges of the 25th Judicial Circuit, which includes the counties of Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Botetourt, Highland, and Rockbridge, and the cities of Buena Vista, Covington, Lexington, Staunton, and Waynesboro.



Elrod Hagan Fessier Updike Ward



Harmon (left) and Walker

McGuireWoods' Board of Partners has elected litigation partner **Jonathan P. Harmon** to succeed Richard Cullen as chair. Additionally, the board appointed **J. Tracy Walker IV** to take the reins from Thomas E. Cabaniss as managing partner. Harmon and Walker were both recommended by their predecessors, who each served for 11 years at the helm and who will continue as partners at the firm.

Virginia ("Ginny") F. Shevlin has joined Blankingship & Keith PC's Family Law practice as an associate. She has successfully represented clients in a wide variety of civil litigation areas, but concentrates primarily in the area of family law. She represents clients in cases involving dissolution of marriage, pre- and post-nuptial agreements, property division, alimony, parental

relocation, child custody visitation, and child support.

Briana A. Stevens has joined Wharton Aldhizer & Weaver PLC. She received her JD from West Virginia University College of Law, where she was a member of the Public Interest Advocates and a board member of the West Virginia Fund for Law in the Public Interest. While in law school, she worked as a student attorney in the Child and Family Clinic, and interned with Legal Aid of West Virginia, ChildLaw Services Inc., and the Title IX Office of West Virginia University. She focuses her practice on civil litigation and family and domestic law.



Stevens

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