

The President's Letter



Foster Friedman
President

It has been quite some time since you last received an issue of Oyez. Our difficulty has been yet another transition in our Bar Office. I am pleased to announce that we now have two very talented, energetic individuals acting as Co-Executive Directors of the Alexandria Bar Association. Mary McElveen and Sidoux Mitchell took on the challenge of the day-to-day operations of our Association and the Alexandria Bar Lawyers Referral Service on January 17, 2007. In the intervening time, they have been able to roll up their sleeves and get the Association back on track with our membership services and events. We are excited to have them working with us and I encourage our membership to stop by the Bar Office to meet Sidoux and Mary and welcome them to the Alexandria Bar Association.

One of the continuing challenges for professional associations, including the Alexandria Bar Association, is the maintenance of membership numbers and the active participation of our members in the events and activities sponsored by the Association. In an effort to keep our Association vibrant and solvent, the Board of Directors is constantly engaged in an effort to develop programs and strategies to encourage Bar membership and participation by our members.

Currently, the Board of Directors is investigating the wisdom of amending our Bylaws to extend Active Membership to a broader segment of Virginia Attorneys who practice before the Courts located in the City of Alexandria but do not currently maintain an office or residence in the City. Our Bylaws presently define an "Active Member" as "Any member of the Virginia State Bar in good standing, who is lawfully licensed to practice law in Virginia, who is engaged in the practice of law in Virginia, who maintains his or her bona fide office for that purpose within the City of Alexandria, or who resides within the City of Alexandria and whose application for membership is sponsored by two (2) members in good standing of this Association."

The amendment under consideration would add new language offering membership to those Virginia attorneys who certified that a "significant portion of their practice was before the Alexandria Courts". The amendment would extend to attorneys who are members of the Virginia State Bar and practice before the Alexandria Courts the privilege of (i) voting in our elections for officers and directors; (ii) voting in our judicial recommendation process and (iii) holding office as a director or officer of the Bar Association.

If you have any opinions regarding this proposed amendment to our Bylaws, please take the time to call or write to me or any one of our officers and directors. Their names and contact information are printed elsewhere in this issue of Oyez. In addition, we hold regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Directors on the second Tuesday of each month in the Grenadier Room of the Law Library. Proceedings begin at 8:00am and we welcome any of our membership who may be interested in speaking on this, or any other subject.

On a final note, thanks to all who made the 2007 Gridiron such a success. We all enjoyed the new venue, the new menu, and of course, the usual professional production put on by Doug Steinberg and his talented cast.

—Foster

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Gridiron 2007

Wow, another Gridiron has come and gone. Many thanks to our most talented crew of characters, Drew Hutcheson (erstwhile announcer, stand up comic, and Lorton Jail promoter), John Rodgers (*defacto* music director), Mort Langstaff (musician extraordinaire), Frank Aschmann, Russ Hatchl, Todd Pilot, Katie Uston, Ron Minionis, Gwena Kay Tibbits, Mike Tompkins, Barry Diamond and Jack Coffey. Also, many thanks to YOU, the Alexandria Bar Association. This year the Alexandria Bar Association truly gave us a wealth of material, (a treasure lode of dys-function, if you will) for our skits. Also special thanks to all of our whacked-out local politicians that simply flood us with a tsunami of mike gaffes, ego blunders, and just general silliness.

We started off with an all too easy target: members of the board of directors of the Alexandria Bar Association. I know, I know, it's like shooting fish in a barrel (but wait, we'll get to Judge Haddock in a second). We made fun of President-elect Andrew Burcher's (played by the vivacious Barry Diamond) unique decision to move his practice to Woodbridge, but remain our Bar president. Our skit also poked fun at Woodbridge as the trailerpark-infested, Denny's consuming, honky-tonk loving, suburban nightmare that we all love to hate. Just think what we would have done to Andy if he had moved to Stafford? We also made fun of our own Old Town, the home of the eight-dollar latte and twenty-dollar sandwich.

Another skit filled with easy targets was the Bar Cruise. Our beloved bar has decided to put on a Bar-sponsored cruise like our sibling-rival (think Marsh, Marsha, Marsha) organization, the Fairfax Bar. Unfortunately, due to lack of funding, our Bar can only afford the good ship "Dandy" and can only afford to cruise to Colonial Beach instead of the Carribbean. Unfortunately, like the ill-fated Titanic, we find ourselves striking an iceberg in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay and the ship begins to sink. Judge Haddock (played by the stunning Frank Aschmann), knowing that only he can make life or death decisions, dons his Captain's hat and begins to decide which lawyers can get a space on the dwindling supply of life boats. Captain Haddock denies access to the boats to an undeserving Marty Gannon and Greg Murphy, then shoots an even more undeserving Michael McGettigan in the foot, because equity demands it be done. Now there is only one seat on the lifeboat remaining. Don Haddock thinks that perhaps he should take the last seat, when a slightly befuddled (diligently working on her vacation) Judge Kemler arrives on the scene. The skit ends with a foxy Judge Haddock taking the last seat, loaning Judge Kemler a pair of water wings, and giving her a heartfelt "Bon Voyagee", as the cast sings a rousing rendition of "Somewhere Beyond the Sea" to the soon to be drowned.

We also took a critical, gridiron view of Law Day. Sometimes on law day the teaching seems to only interfere with lawyers' egos, as they

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Alexandria Bar Foundation News

The Board of Directors of the Alexandria Bar Foundation wishes to thank all of the members of the Alexandria Bar Association who have made donations to fund Foundation projects over the past year. Bar Association members have supported the Beat the Odds program that provides scholarship assistance to young people who have overcome adversity to achieve positive goals. Each year the Foundation also funds a scholarship in memory of John Grad, Past President of the Foundation, to a high school student who best exemplifies and contributes both to the purpose and value of the Peer Mediation and Dispute Resolution Program at T.C. Williams High School.

Also this year, the Foundation partnered with Catholic University School of Law to provide six fellowships for law students to work at the Alexandria Public Defender Office.

In addition, the Foundation awarded grants to provide legal information and services to Alexandrians in need of assistance. The Foundation awarded grants to the Court Services Unit to translate information into Spanish for use by the public. In addition, the Foundation awarded a grant to the Alexandria Bar Association to support its bookmark project. The Association prints bookmarks for the public containing valuable information about the courts. The Bookmarks are distributed to the public throughout the courthouse. The Foundation awarded a grant to the nonprofit organization StopChild Abuse Now of Northern Virginia (SCAN) to support its Court Appointed Special Advocate program (CASA). CASA volunteers are trained community volunteers appointed by Judges to advocate for children in the juvenile court system.

*Every year the Foundation, along with the Bar Association, joins with other Northern Virginia jurisdictions to recognize the efforts of local lawyers at the **Pro Bono Reception**. This year, Alexandria will host the program on **Wednesday, May 30**, and it will be held at the City of Alexandria Courthouse. The Honorable Gerald Bruce Lee will be our keynote speaker.*

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Other Foundation activities over the year include working with Alexandria school children to produce a mock trial. This project, chaired by the Honorable Lisa Kemler, Circuit Court Judge, brings experienced practitioners to Minnie Howard School to work with students to conduct a mock trial on a topical issue. The students greatly enjoy the mock trial and school personnel appreciate the hardworking volunteers who contribute to the success of the program each year.

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None of these projects would be possible without the generous support of members of the Alexandria Bar Association. Thank you very much and please remember the Foundation again this year when making charitable contributions.

The Alexandria Bar Foundation is a 501 (C) (3) foundation and charitable contributions to the Foundation are tax deductible. If you are able to help this year, please send your contribution to the Bar Association Office at 520 King Street, Suite 202, Alexandria, VA 22314.

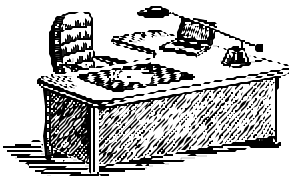
From the Directors' Desks

If, in the past six weeks, you have stopped by the Association's office, attended the Gridiron, stopped by a monthly meeting or lunch, or received a phone call from the LRS, you already know that there are two new people manning the Executive Director's desk.

Beginning work in mid-January, we have been engaged in getting up to speed on the workings of the ABA, while simultaneously keeping the Lawyer Referral Service operating, and planning and executing February's Gridiron at the Army Navy Country Club. In the process, we have met old members, recruited a few new ones, and begun to appreciate the strengths of this organization.

At every turn, we have found friendly faces, willing to explain processes, repeat information, and assist us in mastering the gargantuan task of learning the functions and responsibilities of the association.

As we become more knowledgeable, we are hoping to streamline office operations so that we may provide more efficient service to our members, the board of directors, and our LRS clients.



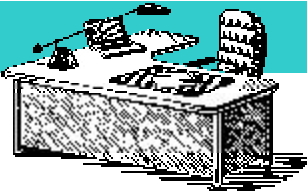
If you peek into the

office, you will see our planning calendar dominating one wall. Our goal is to be prepared for each upcoming event in the life of the association. To that end, we will be initiating conversations about activities well in advance of the actual event so that at least some of those all-too-familiar last-minute marathons can be avoided.

We of course would appreciate any help you can provide in keeping us ahead of the curve, rather than behind the eight ball. If you are planning a Bar event, have information about an upcoming CLE, or are simply holding a committee meeting that would benefit from bar-wide exposure, please contact us—for assistance, or merely to keep us in the loop.

While we may not be all-powerful, or ever-present, we can certainly take a stab at being omniscient—with your help.

Do stop in and say "hello" if you are in the Courthouse.



Mary & Sidoux

ATTORNEY WANTED:

Prince William County boutique AV-Rated litigation firm has opening for energetic Domestic Relations trial attorney to join established practice. Experience preferred, Ability to handle complex cases a plus and court room confidence a must. Send resumes: Attn: Dana Fax: 703-492-4201

Classifieds



Gridiron 2007 (continued)

jockey for position and spout legal tidbits of 'wisdom' to the students. The all-star panel included Jennifer Polard, recently retired and as rumor has it, actually cruising the Caribbean (played by the stoic, understated and demure Katie Uston), Marvin Miller (played by the exotic Jack Coffey), and 'judge' Ben Dimuro (played by the electrifying John Rodgers). As the valiant, under-paid, over-worked, and yardstick-wielding teacher (played by an equally stoic, understated and demure Kay Tibbits) attempted to elicit actual, usable legal information to the students, our panel responds with a blitzkrieg of clutter, including their unbridled joy to find you guilty (Jennifer), staring at his hand and asking for Cheetos (Marvin), and setting up their tee time (Ben). Our skit is sent off by a hilarious solo by John Rodgers about his decision to become a lawyer, set to "Dentist" (that's the song by Steve Martin) from the musical "Little Shop of Horrors."

Special mention should be made of the "Love Boat Theme" rendition by the scintillating Ron Minionis who will be appearing in Holiday Inn night clubs throughout the Commonwealth, and the interpretive Macarena performed by the (descriptive adjectives seem to fail, but perhaps 'stupefying' will do) Todd Pilot. Todd will be appearing at Chippendales near you.

So once again, it is time to bid fond farewell to Gridiron 2007, and welcome another year of judicial elections, crazed local politics, and you, yes you, the local Bar, because we are watching, always watching....hee, hee. So I sign off with my familiar salutation: "No one understands my art..."

—Doug Steinberg



Cast (left and below) bursting into song



Appreciative (?) audience (below)



Doug ("Anchors Aweigh") Steinberg



Upcoming CLEs and Educational Opportunities Contact the Bar Office for more information, if desired.

- March 21: Health Law Basics, Alan S. Goldberg, 5-7 PM, 2 MCLE credits, Fairfax Courthouse
 March 21: **PUBLIC FORUM: Guantanamo & Habeas Corpus: What Is at Stake?** Should Guantanamo detainees be able to challenge their detentions in U.S. courts? Panel Discussion, sponsored by ACLU of VA
- March 22: Cases in Professionalism & Civility, 9-11 AM, 2 MCLE ethics credits, Fairview Park (The Honorable Becky Moore is on the panel)
- March 22: Video replay: Representing Parents in Child Abuse & Neglect Cases, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM, LSNV Fairfax office, FREE (with representation obligation), 2.5 MCLE credits (Judge Stephen Rideout is a presenter)
- March 29: GMU Law School Networking Event— if interested, please check with Bar Office**
- April 12: Domestic Violence program, sponsored by LSNV, 5-8:30 PM, FFX- JDR Court
- May 8: Updates for Guardians/ ad litems, 1-4:30 PM, 3 MCLE credits, 3 GAL credits, FREE, Presented by Alexandria Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court. More info forthcoming.
- May 1-July 31: Statewide Seminars on 2007-2008 Changes to Virginia's Sentencing Guidelines



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NOTICE OF UPCOMING ELECTIONS

Pursuant to the by-laws of the Alexandria Bar Association, Articles 4 and 5, an election of officers and directors is to take place at the Annual Meeting in May of each year. The meeting will be held on May 17, 2007.

The by-laws provide that the offices of President-elect, Treasurer and Secretary are to be filled each year by election at the Annual Meeting and that the expired terms of any directors, who serve for two years, are also to be filled by election at the Annual Meeting.

The open positions are President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Director-at-large positions. Any active member in good standing of the Alexandria Bar Association is eligible to hold office.

Any members who are interested should contact Foster Friedman, our current president, at 703-683-4667 or at old-townlaw@aol.com.

If you are interested please feel free to contact any current or past member of the Board of Directors to learn more. You will undoubtedly find agreement among those who have served that it has been a positive experience.

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR MAY AWARDS

Every year, the Bar Association presents the **Don Mela Pro Bono & Community Service Award** to an attorney who has made an outstanding contribution to the community in the areas of legal pro bono work and/or community service to the legal and local community. The **Liberty Bell Award** is awarded to a non-lawyer who has made outstanding contributions to the legal community.

If you have a nominee for one of these awards, please send your nomination to the Bar Office, including a description of the nominee's service activities and a short paragraph on why they should receive the award.

IMPORTANT BAR ASSOCIATION DATES:

April 5: Monthly Networking Lunch, 12:30, Austin Grille
April 10: Board of Directors Meeting, 8 AM, Grenadier Room
April 19: Monthly Membership Dinner Mtg., American Legion Hall
May 8: Board of Directors Meeting, 8 AM, Grenadier Room
May 17: ELECTIONS & Monthly Membership Dinner Mtg.,

ALEXANDRIA BAR ASSOCIATION
520 King St. Suite 202
703-548-1106
2006-2007 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Foster S.B. Friedman, **President**
 E. Andrew Burcher, **President-Elect**
 Barbara S. Anderson, **Secretary**
 Gwena Kay Tibbitts, **Treasurer**
 Jean Kelleher Niebauer, **Immediate Past President**

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Seth M. Guggenheim, Arthur E. Peabody, Heather N. Jenquine, Todd A. Pilot

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
 Mary McElveen Sidoux Mitchell

First Annual Legal Food Frenzy Debuts

*Sponsored by Robert F. McDonnell, Attorney General of Virginia
and Coordinated by the Virginia Bar Association*

Virginia attorneys are encouraged to respond to a call from the Attorney General's Office to reduce hunger in Virginia by participating in a state-wide food drive called the **First Annual Legal Food Frenzy**. A recent study by the *Food Security Institute's Center on Hunger and Poverty* found that 594,000 people in Virginia are considered "food insecure." While there are many reasons for this problem, the bottom line is that there are children and adults who live in our communities and go to our schools that need our help.

To participate, simply complete the registration form, available at the Alexandria Bar office. You will be contacted with more details about your firm's participation, but it will basically involve setting up a collection box in your firm and encouraging members of your firm to contribute non-perishable food items. When the food drive is over, you can either deliver the donations to a local collection point or arrange for a representative to pick up what your office has collected. All donations collected in this area will go to the Capital Area Food Bank. For more information about this program, please contact Virginia Robinson at (703) 680-4664. Ms. Robinson is serving as our local contact for this program as a representative of the Virginia Bar Association. If your firm is interested in participating, use the attached form and register immediately.

The Attorney General's office is sponsoring a benevolent and friendly competition to encourage participation in the "Legal Food Frenzy." Regional awards will be given to the firms that collect the most food, based on staff size, and an overall award called "The Attorney General's Cup" will be presented to state-wide winner. The law firm of Walsh, Colucci, Lubeley, Emrich & Walsh, P.C, will be sponsoring a local reception in late March to honor local participants in the food drive, and has invited Robert F McDonnell, Attorney General of Virginia, to attend. So do your part to help stamp out hunger in Virginia and register today.

NEW FACES IN THE ALEXANDRIA BAR ASSOCIATION

Keep an eye out for these new members who have joined the organization in the past few months, and show them some of our famous Alexandria hospitality!

Greg Counts	Marcia Wright	Dwight Crawley	J.C. McElveen
Michael Lorenger	Susanne Carnell	Meredith MacKay	Erroll Moore
Jane Reynolds			

DELINQUENTS!!!!

We know it is hard to believe, but there are some members who have continued to enjoy the privileges of membership this year—dinners, LRS, information, events—but failed to pay their dues. If you are in arrears, the Bar Office would appreciate it if you would remedy this situation before we are forced to send reminders.

Brush up your golf game!!!

Watch for information on this year's mini-golf event, coming soon to a Bar Association near you!