

The President's Letter

With Spring comes warm weather, baseball, itchy, pollen-plagued eyes and the winding down of another year in the life of the Bar Association. That last happening of Spring is probably most notable to two people: myself and ABA President-elect, Andy Burcher. I recall fondly my excitement (read 'trepidation') last September as I was about to assume responsibility for the leadership of our august organization. I am genuinely excited this Spring as I contemplate the passing of the baton to Andy Burcher. The reason for my enthusiasm is twofold: one is that I have always truly coveted the office of Immediate Past President, and second is that I know the Bar Association will have a tremendous year in 2007-2008 under Andy's leadership.



Foster Friedman
President

My expressed goal for the past year was to increase participation by our membership in the Bar's events and programs. Overtaking events made that goal secondary to keeping the Association and Lawyers Referral Service afloat during our search for a new Executive Director. Along with filling the ED and Lawyers Referral posts, we have made great strides with participation numbers. Attendance at our monthly meetings and special events has shown increasing growth. Our monthly Bar luncheon is literally bursting at the seams, and we have decided to try a venue (Overwood on North Lee Street) that will better support our increasing numbers.

There are several factors that have contributed to this success, most notably the efforts of our new Executive Directors, Sidoux Mitchell and Mary McElveen. I also want to express my deepest appreciation for a Board of Directors that has provided outstanding support and guidance during the past year. My thanks to our Directors, Sarah McElveen, Heather Jenquine, Todd Pilot, Arthur Peabody and Seth Guggenheim and our Secretary Barbara Anderson for their work in organizing membership programs that provided continuing legal education credits at no cost to our membership.

In addition, I want to express our appreciation to Heather Jenquine and Sarah McElveen for their labors in organizing our Second Annual Mini-Golf Tournament and Picnic to be held at Kingstowne's Top Golf on June 7, 2007. Tickets and hole sponsorships are still available for a very reasonable fee and a portion of the proceeds is dedicated to the support of the good works of the Alexandria Bar Foundation. We look forward to seeing you and your guests at this family event.

We have a highly qualified slate of candidates running for office for Bar Year 2007-2008. You will have the opportunity to support the candidates of your choice in our election, held concurrently with our dinner Meeting on May 17th. The ballot this year also contains a vote on an initiative to amend our bylaws to permit active membership status for attorneys who certify that a significant portion of their practice is before the courts of the City of Alexandria, regardless of whether they reside or maintain an office within the City. Please make sure your voice is heard on this important issue.

—Foster

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CLE News

Elections!

Alexandria Bar Association Calendar

- May 11: Early registration deadline**
for VA State Bar annual meeting
- May 17: ELECTIONS**
(9 AM-3PM in Bar office, or
at Membership Meeting)
- May 17: Membership Dinner Meeting**
American Legion Hall
400 Cameron Street
- May 22: Board of Directors Meeting,**
8 AM, Grenadier Room
- May 30: Pro Bono Reception**
5:30 PM: Alexandria Court
house
- June 7: Mini-Golf at Kingstowne Top
Golf—sign up now!**

Upcoming CLEs and Educational Opportunities:

Contact the Bar Office for more
information, if needed.

May 1-July 31: Statewide Seminars on 2007-2008
Changes to Virginia's Sentencing
Guidelines

PLEASE NOTE:

**THE ABA WEBSITE IS UP AND RUNNING
AT ITS NEW ADDRESS:**

<http://alexandriabar.googlepages.com/home>

Some pages are still under construction, but
will be finished soon.

VIRGINIA STATE BAR NOTES

(VA State Bar 69th Annual Meeting: June 14-17—see www.vsb.org for details.)

Council Highlights

At its regular meeting on March 2, 2007, in Richmond, the Virginia State Bar Council heard the following significant reports and took the following actions:

Law School for Legislators

The Virginia State Bar Executive Committee reported that the VSB will sponsor a Law School for Legislators program for new members of the General Assembly at the beginning of the session in January every other year.

Professionalism Course Renamed for Former Chief Justice

The Virginia State Bar Professionalism Course was renamed the Virginia State Bar Harry L. Carrico Course on Professionalism to honor the former Chief Justice, who initiated, helped develop and spoke at more than one-hundred sessions of the course. Now -Senior Justice Carrico was honored by the bar during a ceremony at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts.

Special Assessment Proposed to Support Clients Protection Fund

The General Assembly approved statutory changes to authorize the Supreme Court of Virginia to assess each lawyer up to \$25 annually, with the funds earmarked for the Clients Protection Fund. This would be in addition to annual dues paid by each lawyer. The council approved implementing rule changes that will be sent to the Court for its consideration. If the Court authorizes the full assessment over the eight-year life of the legislation, the Clients Protection Fund will stand at about nine million dollars, the amount recommended by a 2005 actuarial study.

Other General Assembly Proposals

Two bills that the VSB opposed died in committee. One would have authorized third-year law students to represent the petitioner in involuntary commitment proceedings without the presence of a supervising licensed attorney. The other would have required every lawyer and judge in Virginia to contribute to a fund to compensate wrongfully incarcerated persons.

Senior Citizens Handbook

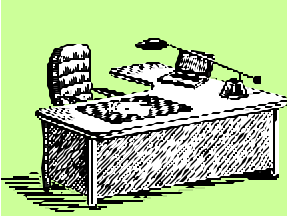
The Senior Lawyers Conference is updating the Senior Citizens Handbook, under the direction of William Oast.

Fees for Noncompliance

The VSB has proposed increasing fees for noncompliance with the certification and reporting deadlines for mandatory continuing legal education and delinquencies in meeting other annual membership obligations, as well as reinstatement fees for lawyers who are administratively suspended. The council without opposition approved the increased fees and recommended them to the Supreme Court.

—Jean Kelleher Niebauer

From the Directors' Desks

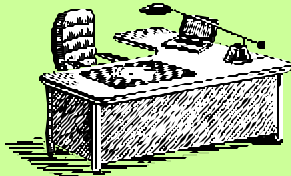


We might have hoped to avoid an apology in this issue of the Oyez, but unfortunately we cannot. In the interest of improving communication within the organization, we decided to change our telephone and internet service provider. Unfortunately, our old service was cut off in early April—a full week before our new service installation date. After many frantic communications and increasingly impatient calls to Verizon, we are now back online, and enjoying our new non-dial-up system.

Many of you have noted the demise of the Association's website—another casualty of our change of ISP. The new site is currently under construction and we hope to present you soon with a site containing all our organizational information and news items—a one-stop information center (frequently updated) that will have all the current information that we now are forced to send via email. One of our goals is to reduce the continuous stream of clutter in your mailboxes.

We would be remiss if we did not remind you of the upcoming elections on May 17. We hope you will join us at the bar office for a cup of coffee and a bite of something sweet when you come to cast your ballot.

Also, the 2007 membership campaign is just around the corner, so if you have a colleague or friend or neighbor who is eligible for membership, please encourage them to join!



Mary & Sidoux

Anyone for Golf?

Please join us on **June 7, 2007** for the Second Annual Mini-Golf Tournament and Bar Picnic. This year's event will again be held at TopGolf Kingstowne from 5:00 – 9:00 pm. 20% of the proceeds will be donated to the Bar Foundation. The remainder of the proceeds is used to support your Bar Association.

Bring your entire family and enjoy unlimited miniature golf on TopGolf's newly refurbished courses. Cost for the event is \$20 per adult and \$10 for children under 16. The price of admission includes a dinner entrée, chips and soda, and a chance to win prizes in the mini-golf tournament. A cash bar is available and T-Shirts will be sold. If you are a duffer yourself, bring your clubs to take advantage of TopGolf's state of the art driving range facilities and putting green (normal range fees apply). Then, once you are warmed up, bring your swing over to the Bar Association's Longest Drive Competition. \$10 buys you 20 swings and a chance to go home with fabulous prizes.

Even if you are not a golfer, come out and enjoy an evening with your colleagues. We had a strong turnout last year and are hoping for even more bar members to join us this year! Remember sponsorship opportunities are available for as little as \$200 and include recognition of your involvement with signage and free event tickets. If you are interested in helping to sponsor this event, please contact Heather Jenquine at (703) 683-9000 or via email at hjenquine@vafamilylaw.com.

Please RSVP for the bar picnic by May 24th so we can ensure enough food for everyone. To RSVP, contact the Alexandria Bar Office at (703) 548-1106 or alexbar@alexandriabar.com.

Classifieds

(If you know of anyone who would like to advertise in The OYEZ, our rates range from \$225 for a full page to \$70 for one-sixth of a page. Classified ads are also available for \$1 a word.)



2007-2008 ELECTIONS: May 17

Alexandria Bar Association 2007-08 Slate of Officers

President-elect:
Gwena Kay Tibbits

Secretary:
Barbara Anderson

Treasurer:
Hugo Blankenship

Directors at Large:
(3 positions open)

Seth Guggenheim

Heather Jenquine

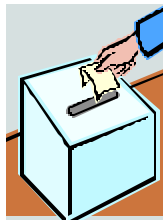
Sarah McElveen

Sean Schmergel

Stephen Swift

Katie Uston

Please stop by the Bar office to vote on Thursday between 9 and 3, and have a cup of coffee and a taste of something sweet, courtesy of your Executive Directors.



ELECTION PROCEDURE

On May 17, 2007, a ballot box will be placed in the Bar Association office at the Courthouse, 520 King Street. All active Alexandria Bar Association members may cast their ballots from 9:00 AM through 3:00 PM

on that day in the office. As prescribed by the by-laws, a proctor will be present during voting hours. Members may also vote in person at the annual meeting, to be held Thursday, May 17, 2007 at the American Legion Hall, 400 Cameron Street, beginning at 6:00 PM.

Any person qualified to participate in the voting process may tender an Absentee Ballot, provided the member cannot attend the meeting because:

1. Court appearance: member cannot leave Court to vote prior to the meeting.
2. The member is out of town and unable to appear at the meeting.
3. The member is ill, sick, or otherwise unable to attend.
4. Other personal emergency

The by-laws also permit nominations from the floor. The results of the election will be announced at the membership dinner.

The member tendering an absentee ballot must arrange for the ballot to be at the annual meeting at the time of polling and must attach a separate statement/certificate. The wording of the statement shall be as follows:

"I, _____, hereby certify that this absentee ballot is not employed merely to avoid attending the meeting and is not offered for personal convenience. I cannot attend the meeting because _____."

IF YOU FORESEE THE NEED FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT, PLEASE CONTACT THE BAR OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AT 703-548-1106 OR EMAIL US AT: alexbar@alexandriabar.com

If you have a colleague who is considering joining the Alexandria Bar Association, now is the perfect time to do so. Though our new membership campaign does not begin until June, new members who pay their dues in full at this time will receive all the benefits THROUGH JUNE OF 2008. That's an extra month absolutely free...Call the bar office for an application!

NEW MEMBERS?

ALEXANDRIA BAR ASSOCIATION
520 King St. Suite 202
703-548-1106

!!!! NEW E-MAIL: alexbar@alexandriabar.com !!!!

2006-2007 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Foster S.B. Friedman, **President**
E. Andrew Burcher, **President-Elect**
Barbara S. Anderson, **Secretary**
Gwena Kay Tibbits, **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