



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I look forward to serving as your President, as we continue to adapt to the new normal. This year the Association will continue to expand online benefits and when public health conditions allow in-person gatherings.

This year's annual CLE Marathon is October 13-16, 2020, and all courses will be online. Faculty include Hon. Leonie M. Brinkema, Hon. James C. Clark, Hon. Nolan B. Dawkins (Ret.), Hon. Constance H. Frogale, Hon. Donald M. Haddock, Hon. Gerald Bruce Lee (Ret.), and Hon. Alfred D. Swersky (Ret.) with Association members from a range of practice areas. Save the date; online registration opens September 8!

Friendly reminder, please log in to your Profile to renew your membership online at www.alexandriabarva.org. Once logged in, click your name to renew. We are happy to continue providing members with this new ability to manage membership benefits online easily. Please renew your membership by September 1 to ensure you continue to receive notifications and uninterrupted access to valuable member benefits.

Thank you for your membership and service to the Alexandria Bar Association.

Sincerely,

Tamika Jones
President
Alexandria Bar Association

IN THIS ISSUE

2	List of Fellows
3	Welcome New Judges
3	Membership Meeting
4	Clerk of the Circuit Court
5	Judge Moores Retirement Luncheon
6	Gridiron
8	Supreme Court Admissions
9	Bar Leaders Institute
10	Wellness Resolutions
11	Beat The Odds
12	Board of Directors
15	Judge Dawson Retirement Celebration

ABOUT VIRGINIA BAR FOUNDATION

BY GREGORY L. MURPHY

The Virginia Bar Foundation (VBF) is not a well-known entity to most attorneys. The reason is that one rarely knows whether he or she is being nominated as a Fellow due to the confidentiality of the process, and when that occurs it typically is a surprise and goes unnoticed outside of the VBF. Because the nomination process is so shrouded in secrecy, little is reported about the existence of the honor and the VBF's laudable works through its Fellows. We would all be better served knowing what the VBF accomplishes and desires to inculcate amongst Bar members as to its significant contributions to our community and especially our profession.

Simply, its mission is "To promote, through philanthropy, the rule of law, access to justice, and law-related education," with its core belief "that no resident of Virginia should ever be denied meaningful access to justice."

Its grant program supports law-related projects that:
Offer improved access to legal assistance for the underserved, either directly or by facilitating the coordination of integrated networks of competent, affordable legal representation;
Cultivate an appreciation and understanding of the Rule of Law in society as a foundation of peace, stability, and prosperity;
Provide education in support of the above ideals.

With less than 500 members, the VBF Fellows comprise less than 1% of the Bar, who are recognized as leaders in the profession and in their communities, committed to the highest ideals of the law and to the concept of citizen lawyer. As an example of the VBF's philanthropy (over \$26 million donated to date), Chief Justice Lemons expressed, in his moving address to the Fellows at VBF's annual meeting in Williamsburg in January, appreciation for the VBF helping to make the Judicial Learning Center at the Supreme Court a reality. Moreover, he left the Fellows with an encouraging message about gratitude for their upholding and promoting public understanding of the Rule of Law through law-related education, while also offering legal assistance to the disadvantaged.

In order to better inculcate into all of us who practice law the virtues of the VBF, there should be a greater awareness of its laudatory objectives by identifying those who exemplify its values. To an extent, this is done through recognition of our peers who have and continue to be civic-minded. Yet, the efforts of many others who are worthy of this recognition may not be readily

known to the VBF. Thus, we should encourage each other to recommend a deserving peer to a current Fellow for potential nomination to a future class. In the Class of 2020, two from our ranks in Alexandria were honored, Drew Carroll and Deborah Matthews. They were amongst an elite class with a Supreme Court Justice and U.S. District Court Judge, as well as many other impressive members of the Bar. There are others who demonstrate these qualities and merit recognition as role models for others. Thus, I encourage everyone to view the VBF website for learning more about what we can do to make our profession better, and if you have someone in mind as a potential Fellow's candidate, do not hesitate to let Drew, Deborah or any of the other Fellows from Alexandria listed below know. The criteria is:

Be an active or associate member of the Virginia State Bar for at least ten years
Be a resident of Virginia
Be a person of integrity and character
Have maintained and upheld the highest standards of the profession
Be outstanding in the community
Be distinguished in the practice of law
Retired and senior status judges are also eligible. Sitting full-time judges are not eligible during their tenures.

LIST OF FELLOWS

Alan S. Anderson (Alexandria) – Class of 2018
Barbara S. Anderson (Alexandria) – Class of 2017
William L. Babcock, Jr. (Alexandria) – Class of 2013
Marni E. Byrum (Alexandria) – Class of 2012
Robert L. Calhoun (Alexandria) – Class of 2013
Honorable Sean T. Connaughton (Alexandria) – Class of 2017
Bernard J. DiMuro (Alexandria) – Class of 1995
Cathryn F. Evans (Alexandria) – Class of 2019
H. Bradley Evans, Jr. (Alexandria) – Class of 1999
Kimberly A. Fiske (Alexandria) – Class of 2015
Honorable Johanna L. Fitzpatrick (Alexandria) – Class of 2006
Jeanne F. Franklin (Alexandria) – Class of 2003
Nina J. Ginsberg (Alexandria) – Class of 2016
Philip J. Hirschkop (Alexandria) – Class of 1991
Martha JP McQuade (Alexandria) – Class of 2014
Gregory L. Murphy (Alexandria) – Class of 2004
Stephen R. Pickard (Alexandria) – Class of 1999
Gant Redmon (Alexandria) – Class of 2006
Sandra Rohrstaff (Alexandria) – Class of 2014
Honorable John M. Tran (Alexandria) – Class of 2010
Lucia Anna "Pia" Trigiani (Alexandria) – Class of 2013

WELCOME NEW JUDGES



Thomas K. Cullen was sworn in as Judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court by The Honorable Constance H. Frogale on Wednesday, April 1, 2020, at 8:00 O'clock in Courtroom B on the First Floor of the Franklin P. Backus Courthouse, 520 King Street, Alexandria. The Honorable Thomas K. Cullen was robed by Robert S. Schonberger, his husband. Present on this occasion was the Hon Alyssa Emery (Chief Magistrate for District 19, Fairfax County), Dominika Bui (Chief Clerk of the JDR Court), Michael Barnsback, ESQ (a longtime friend of Judge Cullen); the JDR Clerks and Courtroom Deputy Sheriffs. Judge Cullen's formal investiture will be held at a future date to be determined.

The swearing-in of General District Court Judge Sonya L. Sacks was Wednesday, April 1, 2020, at 9:00 O'clock in Courtroom #1 on the Second Floor of the Franklin P. Backus Courthouse, 520 King Street, Alexandria. The Honorable Donald M. Haddock, Jr. gave the Oath of Office and swore in Sonya L. Sacks before Clerk of Court, Marion W. Jackson, and clerk staff. The Honorable Sonya L Sacks's investiture will be held at a future date to be determined.



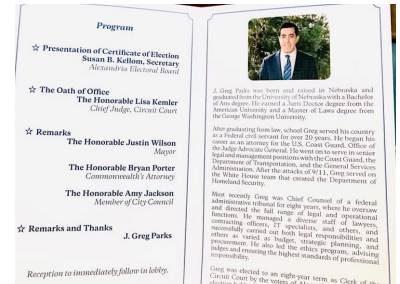
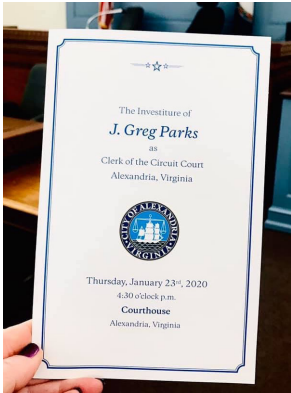
JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

January's membership meeting, sponsored by Planet Depo's, hosted over ninety members, guests, and sponsors. Networking with colleagues and meeting new members at Mia's Italian Kitchen.



CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

J. Greg Parks was sworn in as Clerk of Court for the Alexandria Circuit Court at an investiture ceremony held on Thursday, January 23, 2020, at the Alexandria Courthouse. Mr. Parks was elected in November 2019 to an eight year term as Clerk. He succeeds Ed Semonian who had held the office since 1980. The investiture included remarks by Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson, Commonwealth's Attorney Bryan Porter, and City Council Member Amy Jackson. Attendees included many members of Mr. Parks' family, members of the Alexandria Bar, and interested citizens. A reception was held following the ceremony.



JUDGE MOORES RETIREMENT LUNCHEON

F. ANDREW (DREW) CARROLL III

The Honorable Becky J. Moore retirement luncheon was held at Belle Haven Country Club on January 31, 2020. Her family, friends, colleagues and elected officials filled the ballroom to celebrate Judge Moore's twenty-one-year tenure as a respected judge in our General District Court. Emcee, Drew Carroll, hosted a humorous and heartfelt sendoff. Drew, along with Carter Land and the then less honorable Jim Clark, hired Judge Moore just out of law school at what was then Land Clark & Carroll. Drew shared amusing anecdotes about Judge Moore's trials and tribulations as a young woman associate in a firm of young male partners.

The true depth and quality of Judge Moore's judicial career, however, was painted by the speakers who addressed the crowd. Speakers included Marni E. Byrum, President, Virginia State Bar; Caroline Kirkpatrick, Ph.D., Director, Educational Services Department, Office of the Executive Secretary; Supreme Court of Virginia; Commonwealth's Attorney Hon. Bryan Porter, City of Alexandria; Hon. Donald M. Haddock, Jr., Judge, General District Court; Marion W. Jackson, Clerk, General District Court; Hon. Constance H. Frogale, Chief Judge, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, and Judge Moore's daughter, Catherine Coulter. Judge Moore rounded out the speeches with a whole-hearted thank you for making her last day in office a memorable one.

Drew Carroll closed the luncheon with a deserved personal apology to Judge Moore for early indiscretions, followed by a sincere toast to Judge Moore for her years of dedicated service to the citizens of Alexandria and members of the Bar.



GRIDIRON

BY DOUGLAS A. STEINBERG



In normal times, my annual recap of the Gridiron is a fairly light hearted riff, where I make fun of the show that I (and my awesome cast, writers, and musicians) spent months putting together. This year, it is hard. Everything; right now, feels “hard.” Imagine only six weeks ago, we (the Alexandria Bar) were in a large room together. We were shaking each other hands, slapping each other on the shoulder, and hugging. We were telling stories and jokes. Sometimes the same stories and jokes, we had heard before, but we listened to them again, because that is what we do. We sat down and ate a communal meal in a restaurant and watched a show, on a crowded stage.

All of that. All of it, has been taken away from us. Our kids’ schools our closed. Our business’ are slowed or are in suspended animation. The Courts are hearing only the cases that “have to be heard.” Also, we are scared. A virus may put us, or a loved one, in the hospital. We have no natural immunity to it, and we (currently) can only be tested if we have symptoms and a doctor’s order. Is a cough just a cough? Is that hayfever? A cold? Let’s face it. Times are tough.

This nation has faced tough times before. We have faced homicidal maniacs such as Hitler, Mussolini and Tojo; during War World II. A four year struggle where the entire country sacrificed, and many families made the ultimate sacrifice and lost a parent, a sibling, or a child. This country tore itself in half during the Civil War where Americans killed each other on such terrible, bloody battlefields such as Gettysburg, Antietam, and Shiloh. We did persevere back then, and we will do so again.



The Jewish faith has a saying, usually at the end of the Passover Seder and at the end of the Ne’ila service on Yom Kippur; “[n]ext year in Jerusalem!” A concept, or a wish, that the Jewish Diaspora (The Jewish exile from Israel) would come to an end. So my friends, I shall now say “next year at the Gridiron!” Not quite as good, but let hope we shall soon recover and prosper. Since there are probably going to be a bunch of pictures without any context, I will give a brief recap.

Our opening song “Old Town Road” skated potential disaster. The song was probably 2019’s top pop song, and I wasn’t sure if: (1) we can sing this slow song and (2) would anyone (in the audience) get it? Turns out, in my (quasi-humble) opinion. We kicked it out of the park. Big thanks to Tom Tyler, Caroline Costle, Barbara Fakoury, and Nora Raum (who came up with the crazy idea) for pulling this one off.

For our opening skit, I wrote a script where I combined the easily blended concepts of “Apocalypse Now”, “Jaws” and “Gilligan’s Island.” I mean, how could you go wrong cramming these disordinate concepts together to answer the question (that clearly weighed heavily on our collective minds) what was up with Greg Wade’s crazy endorsement letter of his daughter?” So I had Greg Wade (played by famed Roanoke Virginia Thesbian Luke Young) kidnaped by cannibals off the coast of Tahiti. His rescue team included Phoenix



Ayotte (Denise Tassi), who has a boat, and her sidekicks; Joe King, (Guy Bowe) “the nerdy one”, and Todd Pilot (Drew Carroll) the “street smart” one; find Greg, (now the Island King) and subsequently eaten by the natives.

We made fun of Greg Parks (Drew Carroll) and David Lord (Cory Tisdale), as the new Alexandria power couple, thus having “Lord Parks” replace last year’s power couple of Colleen Haddow and Nick Gehrig AKA “Nickleen.” Greg learned which stamps to use as the new clerk of court from retiring Jedi Master, Ed Semonian, (Tim Tyler), who did his best imitation of “Baby Yoda” from Star Wars. Our song was “Love Court” derived from the B-52’s “Love Shack” and big thanks to Tom Tyler, Caroline Costle, Barbara Fakoury, and John Rogers (who came up with the zany idea) for

getting us through this song, that is really longer than you think it is, by the way.

We made fun of the Allstate ‘mayhem’ commercials with our mayhem-master Brent Schultheis, giving us his [f]all. We also nailed kinder gentler prosecutions with a song inspired by the Beach Boys, “Don’t Worry Brian” [thank’s to songster Drew “I Love the ‘60’s” Hutcheson], the local Delegates for ignoring the Bar Vote results, and our mayor for too many Bike lanes. Trump (Barry Diamond), gave us a brief visit and tried to find a new personal lawyer from the limited ranks of Republican Alexandria attorneys.

We finished with a madcap goodbye to Judge Becky Moore (Mary Horner), who passes out from eating a ‘magical’ brownie from Marvin Miller. She meets a very late white rabbit (Tom Tyler), an irritated caterpillar AKA Judge John Tran (Cary Greenberg), the Mad Hatter AKA Drew Carroll (Todd Pilot - see what I did Todd & Drew played each other), the Cheshire Cat AKA Claude Convissor (Denise Tassi), the Queen of Hearts (Gwena Kay Tibbits), the Walrus (John “mustache” Rogers). So, yes we are did “Alice in Wonderland” in case you are living in a cave somewhere and do not get the character references.



So big thanks to the entire cast, Guy Bowe, Drew Carroll, Jack Coffey, Caroline Costle (Music Director), Barry Diamond, Greg Dumont, Cary Greenberg, Mary Horner, Drew Hutcheson (Our Master of Ceremonies), Todd Pilot, Nora Raum, John Rodgers, Brent Schultheis, Denise Tassi, Gwena Kay Tibbits, Cory Tisdale, Tom Tyler, annnnnnnnnndddddd Luke Young. Also many thanks to Barbara Fakoury and her entire band. So Next Year at the Gridiron, my friends. Next year, indeed.¹

¹Also - no one understands my art.



SUPREME COURT ADMISSIONS

On March 3rd, six members of the Alexandria Bar Association were admitted to The Supreme Court of the United States by movant, Phil Hirschkop.

Jean Marie Kelleher has been Director of the City of Alexandria's Office of Human Rights since May 2000. Before that, she was a Managing Attorney at Legal Services of Northern Virginia, the region's legal aid program. Ms. Kelleher graduated from Connecticut College and received her law degree from the Washington College of Law at American University. She is a past President of the Alexandria Bar Association and has represented Alexandria on the Virginia State Bar Council and its Executive Committee. Ms. Kelleher is Immediate Past President of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies (IAOHRA); IAOHRA's members are state and local human rights and human relations agencies and commissions throughout the United States and Canada.

Jessica Leischner is a partner with Wade Grimes Friedman Meinken & Leischner PLLC, in Old Town Alexandria, where she practices exclusively in the area of domestic relations. Jessica graduated summa cum laude from Doane College, where she received her Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and Communications. After graduation, Jessica interned with the Washington, DC office of United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries, where she focused on public policy advocacy in furtherance of social justice. Jessica graduated summa cum laude from Creighton University Law School, with a Certificate in Alternative Dispute Resolution through the Werner Institute. Jessica is also the President of the Alexandria Bar Association.

Travis MacRae graduated from the Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania State University in 2009. Upon graduation he served as an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Manassas for five years. In 2013 he became an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Alexandria. He still serves in that capacity today. Travis has appeared in all levels of the Virginia court system, as well as the District Court for the Eastern District Court of Virginia, the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, and the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Sarah McElveen is an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Alexandria, Virginia. Prior to joining the City Attorney's office, Sarah worked as an associate attorney at Richards, McGettigan, Reilly and West, P.C., Wade, Friedman & Sutter, P.C. and Land, Carroll & Blair, P.C., all in Old Town Alexandria. Sarah served as a law clerk to the Honorable John F. Anderson, United States Magistrate Judge, in the Alexandria Division of the Eastern District of Virginia. Sarah is a graduate of the College of William and Mary where she got her B.A. in music and anthropology, and of the American University Washington College of Law, where she earned her J.D.

Meghan Roberts graduated from Catholic University with a BA in Social Work in 2001, graduated from Fordham University with a master's degree in social work and the Law in 2002, graduated from Catholic University Columbus School of Law in 2009. I have worked with the Alexandria City Attorney's Office since October 2007, initially as a full-time law clerk while attending law school at night and was hired as a full time Assistant City Attorney when I passed the Virginia Bar in July of 2009. I currently represent the Department of Community and Human Services when children are abused and neglected and also handle all personnel work for the City as their employment attorney.

Kathleen M. Uston is an Assistant Bar Counsel with the Virginia State Bar in Alexandria, Virginia, and an adjunct professor of law at American University Washington College of Law teaching Ethics for Trial Lawyers. She received her J.D. from George Mason University School of Law in 1991 where she served as President of the Student Bar Association and as a Justice on the Moot Court Board. Ms. Uston was previously in private practice focusing in the areas of attorney ethical defense work, GAL representation, and civil litigation. While in private practice, she also served as a Commissioner in Chancery for the Circuit Court for the City of Alexandria. Ms. Uston is a past President of the VSB Young Lawyers Conference during which time she served on the VSB Council and Executive Committee. She also served as vice-chair of the American Bar Association Young Lawyers Division Solo and Small Firm Committee. Ms. Uston is a former President of the Alexandria Bar Association and the National Organization of Bar Counsel. Ms. Uston is currently serving as the NOBC's Delegate to the American Bar Association House of Delegates, is a member of the National Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being, a member of the Presidential Committee on Wellness of the Virginia State Bar, and served as a member of the Virginia Committee on Lawyer Wellness formed by the Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court. Ms. Uston has lectured extensively on the subject of attorney ethics and co-authored the updated edition of *Lawyers and Other People's Money* with Frank Thomas, Esquire.



If you are interested in admission to The Supreme Court of the United States and a member in good standing of the Alexandria Bar Association, please email alexbar@alexandriabarva.org by August 31, 2020 for October term 2021. Admission date will be between October 2021 and April 2022.

BAR LEADERS INSTITUTE

BY BARBARA ANDERSON

Nick Gehrig, Tamika Jones, Jill Calabria, and our own Marni Byrum, attended this year's Bar Leaders Institute (BLI) on March 6, 2020 at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden in Richmond, Virginia. BLI is a one-day program sponsored by the Conference of Local and Specialty Bar Associations to train and provide resources to current and prospective local and specialty bar leaders.

Marni Byrum, President of the Virginia State Bar, welcomed attendees and applauded local and specialty bar leaders for coming together to learn from one another about programs and opportunities to enrich their bar associations and members.

There was a presentation of a variety of specialty programs from various bar associations that can be replicated in other parts of the State, including two that Alexandria already supports: Senior Law Day and Jazz4Justice! It was good to hear about how other bar associations handle these programs.

The highlight of the day was a panel presentation by Justices Stephen R. McCullough, William C. Mims and Cleo E. Powell of the Virginia Supreme Court. They spoke from their own experience about the important role local bar associations perform to support the relationships between Judges and attorneys. Holding events creates a collegial atmosphere for networking outside of the courtroom as attorneys work to represent clients. The Justices also joined the bar leaders during the lunch hour to answer specific questions and socialize.



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WHEREAS, the Alexandria Bar Association is committed to well-being in the year 2020!

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that its members make the following well-being resolutions . . .

MORE YOGA!

Be a better listener and say thank you more often.

Build my model airplanes.

TAKE 10 MINUTES IN THE MORNING TO SET AN INTENTION AND MEDITATE.

Sweat more and be more active!

SET ASIDE TIME FOR GARDENING, ART AND CREATIVITY.

Be patient with myself.

Sleep 8 hours/day.

YOUR RESOLUTION HERE:

Speak to your loved ones more often (maybe on your drive home from work each day) and tell them you love them.

Take vacations so you won't feel overwhelmed.

Sit in the fresh air more, do more puzzles, and stay connected with friends from other states.

Travel more!

Reflect each day on what you are grateful for.

Spend more time at the beach.

BEAT THE ODDS

BY TAMIKA JONES

Although the Beat the Odds ceremony and reception were canceled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Beat the Odds Committee of the Foundation of the Alexandria Bar Association awarded twelve deserving students funding ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000 to go towards their continuing education this fall. The Committee reviewed 13 applications.

I am pleased to announce Hannah Bangura, Mia Bennett, Kiva Calloway, Diondre Charlton, Najee Dillard, Anna Faruki, Brianna Lacayo, Illiana Moses, Emilio Rivera, Rema Sankok, Annaya Santos, and Amidu Sesay, as this year's successful awardees.

Brianna Lacayo is our highest award recipient and was awarded \$4000. Brianna attends T.C. Williams High School and has a 3.6 GPA. Brianna has been accepted at multiple schools, namely, Norfolk State, George Mason, Old Dominion, Virginia State and others. Brianna has not yet chosen which college to attend but wherever the choice, they will be lucky to have Brianna.

Annaya Santos was awarded \$2500 from BTO. Annaya plans to study criminal justice in the fall and has not decided on which college to attend. Currently Annaya is a senior at T.C. Williams High School.

Hannah Bangura is a \$1500 award recipient. Hannah is a past 2019 BTO winner and currently attends Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA). Hannah has a goal work in the healthcare field. Hannah plans on focusing on pediatrics and knows it will be lot of schooling but is determined to reach her goal.

Diondre Charlton received a \$1500 award from BTO. Diondre is also a past winner. Diondre attends Delaware State and is majoring in mass communications. Diondre is an avid athlete and hopes to play football for Del State as its Quarterback.

Najee Dillard also received \$1500- Najee currently attends Brigham Young University in Utah and is also a past award winner. At BYU, Najee has a 3.25 GPA and is majoring in technology and engineering.

Illiana Moses was awarded \$1500- Illiana has a 3.1 GPA at Delaware State with dreams to obtain a masters in SW from Howard University.

Emilio Rivera, another past winner, was awarded \$1500 from BTO. Emilio currently attends NOVA and has a 3.5 GPA. Emilio wants to become a computer engineer and will graduate with an Associate's Degree in May. Emilio plans on attending a 4-year university and has sights set on Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Rema Sankok, received \$1500 from BTO- Rema is currently enrolled in a 13 month nursing program and hopes to finish in May 2021. Past winner but did not start college until this year.

Kiva Calloway was awarded \$1250 from BTO- Kiva is a first time applicant. Kiva is a Senior at T.C. Williams high School and plans on attending NOVA in the Fall.

Amidu Sesay is a \$1250 award recipient and currently attends NOVA. Amidu plans to transfer to George Mason University and wants to obtain a degree in psychology.

Mia Bennett was awarded \$1000- Attends Virginia State University and is a marketing major. Graduated from TC Williams and is a first time applicant.

Anna Faruki was awarded \$1000 from BTO. Anna currently attends the University of Virginia and is a sophomore. Anna is a prior BTO winner in 2018 and 2019.

As Chair of Beat The Odds Committee this year, I learned that it is a lot of hard work to overcome obstacles that a lot of us take for granted. I have always felt that education is a key component in the fight to equal the playing field for those born in poverty or face other unfortunate circumstances. You never know what someone is going through and it is important to be empathetic and vigilant in advocating for the least among us. I am reminded of the poem "All Because I Didn't Have a Pencil" by Joshua T. Dickerson, and it is as follows:

The Foundation extends its thanks to everyone who volunteered and contributed \$20,000 this fiscal year through direct donations when renewing Association membership dues, holiday bell ringing, and last year's play, "A Few Good Men" at The Little Theatre of Alexandria.

Special thanks go to everyone who volunteers for the Beat the Odds Program. Specifically, I want to give a huge thanks to the Board of the BTO Committee, Misha Gill, Treasurer, Nick Gehrig, Secretary, Jeanne Franklin, Julianne Miller, and Anna Chludzinski, Chair of the BTO Selection Committee, without whom this program would not have been a success. I also want to thank the Beat The Odds Selection Committee Members who interviewed each applicant and met as a committee to advocate for the applicants and award winners, Xue Connolley, Ellen Dague, Jeanne Franklin, David Hagan, Peggy McCoy, Julianne Miller, Clarissa Pintado, and Katie Uston.

If you would like to volunteer as a mentor to our award recipients please let me know. We need to ensure all of our awardees are successful and have help in navigating their bright futures.

Beat the Odds scholarship The Alexandria Beat the Odds program is an adaptation by the Alexandria Bar Foundation, of the nationally recognized program, initially developed by the National Children's Defense Fund. The purpose of the Alexandria Beat the Odds program is to honor outstanding high school students who have overcome tremendous adversity, demonstrated academic excellence and given back to their communities. The program identifies and rewards young people who have experienced significant hardship in their lives and supports and trains them to become future adult leaders. The high-profile awards events send a clear signal that someone does care and understand what it takes to stay in school and perform well while coping with adversity in their personal lives.

*I woke myself up,
Because we ain't got an alarm clock.
Dug in the dirty clothes basket,
Cause ain't nobody washed my uniform.
Brushed my hair and teeth in the dark,
Cause the lights ain't on.
Even got my baby sister ready,
Cause my mama wasn't home.
Got us both to school on time,
To eat us a good breakfast.
Then when I got to class the teacher fussed,
Cause I ain't got no pencil.*

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Hello Bar Association,

Greetings from your Lawyer Referral Service Chairperson! Just a friendly reminder to sign up for the ALRS service if you haven't for the year. It is a steal at \$80, for a year's membership for a lead generator service for you, and it supports programs for the bar. I just recently had a client who was initially referred to me through the ALRS come back for another matter. He has also referred me two other cases for persons who retained my services. I have more than made up for the cost of joining the service every single year, and have been able to give advice to persons who really have appreciated my help.

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**RPB congratulates the Alexandria Bar Association
and its members on another fine Gridiron performance!**



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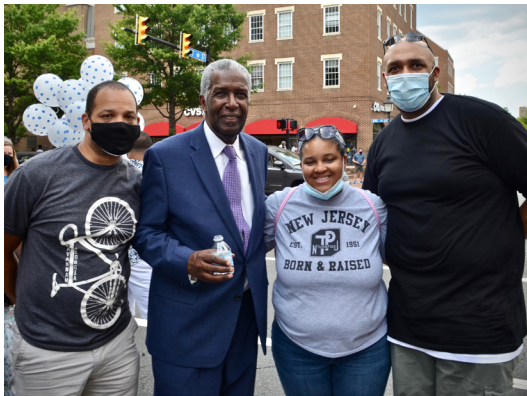
JUDGE DAWKINS RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

CATHRYN EVANS

After 26 years as an Alexandria Judge, the Honorable Nolan B. Dawkins retired with quiet goodbyes in chambers on June 26, 2020. Judge Dawkins was celebrated by his fellow circuit court judges and chambers staff before he was obliged to add his own portrait to the wall of retired barristers who came before him. Then, under the ruse of one last photograph on the courthouse steps with Chief Judge Lisa B. Kemler and Judge James C. Clark, Judge Dawkins walked outside where he was greeted—Covid-19 Style—by a courtyard filled with well-wishers and loved ones.

Many family members and friends were joined by federal and state judges as well as clerks, deputies and colleagues that spanned his judicial career—from 1994 to present. Judge Dawkins, clearly touched, was genuinely surprised by the courthouse send-off and all involved enjoyed the much-deserved fanfare, despite masks and social distancing, for a judge that touched so many lives.

Members of the community and Alexandria Bar Association also arrived by car for a surprise parade in his honor—a moving party necessitated by the pandemic. Judge Dawkins waved, smiled and posed for photographs with the 100-car drive-by of vehicles filled with family, friends and fans. Before the courtyard applause and car-parade, Judge Dawkins received a heartfelt video montage, cards, and letters to commemorate his distinguished forty-year career as a respected judge who served in both the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court and the 18th Judicial Circuit Court.



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