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NEW MEMBERS *Please welcome:*

Jessica Shelly Lefevre
Law Office of Jessica Shelly Lefevre
703-836-3515

Paul Mengel
PilieroMazza, PLLC
202-857-1000

Chanel Urrutia
Law Student at GMU/
Law Clerk at Harvey & Binnall, PLLC
703-888-1943

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note that credit for the Miss Mallory Cruise pictures which were featured in the October Oyez should have gone to Daniel Mauler of Redmon, Peyton and Braswell. Thank you Dan for your continued work as one of the Association's unofficial photographers.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Francis of Assisi was known for saying, "For it is in giving that we receive." As we embark on the holiday season, the importance of a spirit of generosity is at the forefront of our minds. As a diverse association, our members come from a variety of backgrounds and life circumstances. Many of us are now in a position to try to lend a hand to those who are struggling to get ahead. One of the best ways that we have collectively accomplished this in the past is through Beat the Odds.

For many years, the Foundation (the charitable arm of the Alexandria Bar Association), has run this phenomenal program that provides Alexandria youth who have overcome substantial adversity scholarships to assist in accomplishing their educational dreams. Past winners have included refugees from war-torn countries, children from the foster care system, young people who have turned their lives around after negative encounters with the delinquency system, and students with substantial disabilities. Dozens of applications are screened each year by the Beat the Odds Steering Committee, who meet with students to determine where aid can best be provided and where accomplishment can be rewarded.

Many of us have had the opportunity each spring to attend the awards ceremony here at the courthouse, where we have heard the moving stories of the award recipients who are destined for college because of generosity of our association's members. Maybe you are asking yourself, how can I help? There are four concrete areas in which we could use your assistance.

Attending *Anything Goes*: Each year the Beat the Odds Steering Committee in coordination with the Alexandria Commonwealth's Attorney hosts an annual fundraiser at the Little Theater of Alexandria (600 Wolfe Street) where we gather for a reception and watch a play. The cost of a ticket is only \$35 (or five tickets for \$150) and the money goes directly to providing scholarships for Beat the Odds recipients. This year's production is the fantastic Cole Porter musical, *Anything Goes* and it will take place on Friday, January 13, 2017. The reception is at 6:30 p.m. (hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer are complimentary) with the play at 8:00 p.m. To get a ticket, please contact the Alexandria Bar Association office at (703)548-1106.

Sponsorship: We are mindful that many people are looking for tax-deductible charitable giving options towards the end of the year. While the cost of the ticket to *Anything Goes* isn't tax-deductible (as you receive something of value in exchange), any donation above the cost of the ticket can be written off as a charitable contribution. If you make a charitable donation to Beat the Odds between now and the play, you will be listed as a sponsor of the event and will be recognized at the program. For more information, please contact me at david.lord@alexandriava.gov.

Buying a Raffle Ticket: In the past we had a silent auction as part of the reception before the play. This year we are going to try a 50/50 raffle with other additional prizes in lieu of the silent auction. Raffle tickets will be \$10.00 each

President's Letter continued on page 2



Established 1928

**THE ALEXANDRIA
BAR ASSOCIATION**

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BAR OFFICE HOURS

9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Monday to Thursday

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9:00 am to 3:00 pm
Monday to Thursday

Alexandria Bar Association
520 King Street, Rm 202
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703-548-1106
Fax: 703-548-4292

President's Letter continued from page 1

or 3 for \$20.00. For more information contact the Bar office or Jeanne Franklin at jfranklin@franklinsolutions.net or Foster Friedman at friedman@oldtownlawyers.com.

Becoming a Mentor: During November's dinner meeting we highlighted the different opportunities for mentorship. One of those opportunities is to directly assist Beat the Odds recipients. This particular mentorship program was designed so that the help we provide these young people doesn't end with the

scholarship but includes partnering with an attorney who can provide the student with practical advice on how to navigate the world of higher education and professional life. If you are interested in becoming a Beat the Odds mentor, please contact Nick Gehrig at ngehrig@rpb-law.com.

Thank you so much to each of you for the continuing generosity that you have shown over the years. On behalf of the Board of Directors we wish you and your family very happy holidays and a wonderful New Year.

Office Next to Alexandria Courthouse Available:

Law office next to courthouse in Alexandria, Virginia available immediately.

Large office, sunny with windows overlooking King Street - includes two conference rooms, kitchen, receptionist and more.
Group of attorneys has been in this office for 15 years, one is retiring.

Call David
(301) 526-1475
or email:
david@kiyolaw.com

The office address is:

510 King Street, Suite 400, Alexandria, VA 22314

Law Office Near Kingstowne in Alexandria

Established law firm has two nicely furnished, windowed offices w/desktop computers and printers for use in a possible "Of Counsel" relationship to the firm. Use of small and large conference rooms, administrative support, phone/fax/copier/scanner, Internet, and WestlawNext may be included.

Those interested should provide a cover letter expressing interest and a resume by email (Subject line: RESUME) to firm@aalaw.com.

The Office address is:
Oak Tree Plaza, 6078 Franconia Road
Suites C & D
Alexandria, VA 22315

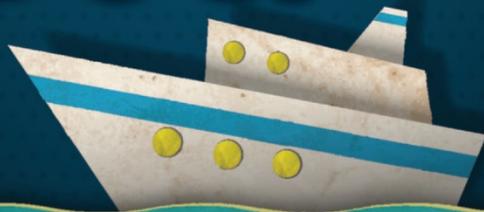
LTA'S AUDIENCE CHOICE SEASON



presents

Anything Goes

A Musical Comedy



lyrics and music by **Cole Porter**

book by **Guy Bolton** and **P.G. Wodehouse**

produced by **Maria Ciarrocchi** and **Mary Beth Smith-Toomey**

directed by **Stefan Sittig**

All aboard Cole Porter's *S.S. American!* Winner of three 2011 Tony Awards, including Best Revival of a Musical, *Anything Goes* takes sail between New York and England with a colorful group of passengers aboard the well-appointed cruise liner. Wall Street broker Billy Crocker finds himself hopelessly in love-at-first-sight with socialite Hope Harcourt, who is traveling across the pond with her rather drab fiancé Lord Evelyn Oakleigh. Before Billy knows what's happening, he is a stowaway. Luckily, the songstress Reno Sweeney and second-rate mobster Moonface Martin are there to help Billy sing and dance his way into Hope's heart. Join LTA for an evening of hilarious disguises, memorable music, and tap-dancing sailors. *Anything Goes* is a classic, and LTA audiences voted it their top musical in the "Audience Choice" survey!

JANUARY 13, 2017

Alexandria Bar Foundation "Beat the Odds"

Come join the Alexandria Bar Association for our annual fundraiser for the Beat the Odds Scholarship program

Friday, January 13th, 2017

Reception at 6:30 p.m.

Play at 8:00 p.m.

\$35 per ticket or 5 for \$150

Tickets can be purchased from the Alexandria Bar Association at

(703)548-1106.

OCTOBER MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP DINNER (10/20/16):



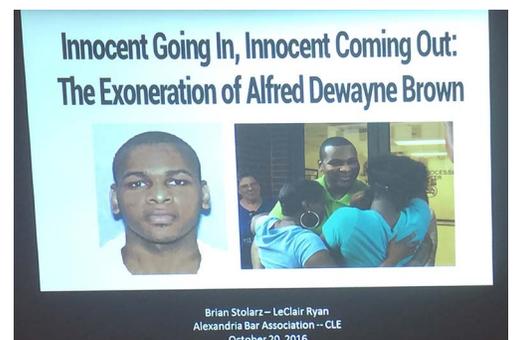
Brian Stolarz (Guest Speaker), Gerylee Baron, and Chris Brown

In October we returned to the American Legion for an Oktoberfest dinner with two outstanding speakers. Brian Stolarz, of LeClairRyan, joined us to talk about his remarkable work exonerating Alfred Dewayne Brown from Death Row in Texas. Mr. Brown was just released in the Summer of 2015, after being sentenced to death in October of 2005 for two murders he did not commit.

Mr. Stolarz told us how he and Mr. Brown have become forever bonded by the experience, so much so that they see one another regularly. Mr. Brown is now like part of his family. If you want to learn more regarding this incredible legal work and the ordeal which Mr. Brown endured, you can look into obtaining Mr. Stolarz's book about the case, *Grace and Justice on Death Row: The Race Against Time and Texas to Free an Innocent Man* (available now through Skyhorse Publishing).

David Lord then took extra time to prepare a description of the lengths at which prosecutors go in order to avoid travesties such as the one Mr. Stolarz discussed. In Alexandria there is an in depth office manual (as well as the statewide VACA manual to refer to) and the prosecutors attend CLEs focused on ethics. The focus for prosecutors is placed upon ethics and not conviction rates. There are also prosecutor focused organizations (such as the Center for Prosecutor Integrity) which have tried to step in and fill the void left by Virginia Ethics Rule 3.8. Finally, as it relates to disclosing exculpatory evidence, prosecutors work to routinely train and educate police officers regarding their obligations.

A number of interesting questions followed regarding Mr. Brown's case and the manner in which criminal cases are handled here in this jurisdiction. We greatly appreciate Mr. Stolarz and Mr. Lord taking the time to speak with us. We also appreciate all of the members who joined us for this dinner.



MENTORS AND MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP DINNER (11/17/16):



Rebecca Wade, Barry Diamond, and Dipti Pidikiti-Smith.

In November we gathered for Charlie's Thanksgiving feast with a focus upon mentorship. Association members, Tom Cullen, Dipti Pidikiti-Smith, and Nicholas Gehrig took time to speak with us on this topic and arrangements were made to connect younger Association members with mentors.

Tom Cullen (who is also an Alexandria Bar Association Past President), started the program by sharing with us his experience many years ago as a young lawyer in Alexandria. He named many attorneys who acted as mentors to him and helped to answer case related questions as he was developing his practice. He credits the collegial atmosphere of Alexandria for allowing those types of relationships to occur and he encourages all Alexandria attorneys to continue this long-standing tradition.



Association Member and Alexandria Bar Association Past President, Tom Cullen, talks with members about his work in Panama as the Director of a program funded by US Dept. of State to assist the Republic in its transition from a mixed inquisitive to an accusatory system. Mr. Cullen spent almost four years in Panama doing this work.

We were also fortunate to have Mr. Cullen tell us about his work in Panama as the Director of a program funded by U.S. Department of State. Tom came in at the ground level to assist the Republic in all aspects of its transition from a mixed inquisitive to an accusatory system. He spent almost four years in Panama doing this extraordinary work.

Dipti Pidikiti-Smith talked with us about the CLEO Legally Inspired College Kohorts of Students (CLICKS) program which empowers underserved high school students through structured mentorship and exposure to the legal, sports, and health professions. She spoke to raise awareness of the program and to let interested members know that it is always seeking additional attorney mentors. If you are interested in mentoring/volunteering or finding out more information about the CLICKS program you can do so at (240-582-8600, Ext. 202 or info@clicksmentoring.org). Also see: <http://cleoinc.org>.

Finally, Nick Gehrig reiterated the importance of the Beat the Odds mentorship program by reminding us about some of the overwhelming odds which these high school students have overcome. Being a mentor to one of the students who have received a scholarship from the Alexandria Bar Foundation Beat the Odds Program is a relatively limited time commitment. Please contact Mr. Gehrig if interested (ngehrig@rpb-law.com).

We were also very pleased to have Judge Kemler and Judge Tran joining us for the evening and appreciate their continued support of the Association.

ATTORNEY PROFILE: JEAN KELLEHER—by Dipti Pidikiti-Smith of Legal Services of Northern Virginia


Q: Tell us a little about yourself.

A: I grew up in Boston and was lucky enough to be raised in a family that valued education and encouraged both males and females equally to succeed. My Dad was an Irish immigrant with a 6th grade education, but he was one of the most intelligent persons I have ever known. He worked hard, on the railroads, and as a laborer and a gardener. My Mom was the daughter of immigrants, but became a Latin scholar at Boston University when most women did not attend college. I was the youngest of three, and the youngest of all the first cousins on both sides of the family. I was fascinated by them. Our house was crowded, with Irish cousins coming and going, but the tea kettle was always on...

Q: How did you enter the field of law?

A: I truly believed I could be whatever I wanted, so I became determined to be a lawyer. If you look at my high school yearbook, you will see "Law and Politics" beneath my photo! I needed a scholarship for college, so I sought out schools with an excellent reputation and a large endowment. My high school guidance counselors were not helpful, so I went through the list of colleges and universities in the back of the family dictionary and made my own list. I then drew a circle with a 100-mile radius around Boston, because I would have had to live at home if I attended college within driving distance of Boston! I chose Connecticut College, majored in history, became active in student

government, moved to Washington, DC after graduation, and attended American University's Washington College of Law in the evening program.

Q: Describe your career (s).

A: Working as a temp when I first arrived in DC after college graduation, I was assigned to a law firm that handled major litigation and I assisted the firm's paralegals with document production and digesting depositions. I was pulled into an Alaska Pipeline case, because one of the partners thought I was a law student, and then he was so embarrassed that he hired me on the spot! I was required to obtain a paralegal certification, so I attended Georgetown's Program and then applied to law school the following year. I have worked for large firms, small firms, the Fairfax Bar Foundation, Legal Services of Northern Virginia and now the City of Alexandria. I have concentrated in civil litigation, child advocacy, special ed law, adoption, family law and civil rights. Public interest law has always been my preference. I have been Director of the Alexandria Office of Human Rights since 2000 and really love working for the City and living 4 blocks from my office.

Q: Which case did you find the most rewarding to work on?

A: While at LSNV I helped to launch The Law Center for Children (TLC) with a grant from the Freddie Mac Foundation. One of my clients was a 17-year-old new mother who was living with the baby boy's paternal grandparents in Fairfax County. The baby's father was incarcerated. The grandparents had obtained custody of both mother and baby and planned to move out of the country, taking my client and her baby with them. The plane reservations had been made. She came to my office in tears begging to stay in the US with her baby and live with her own father.

From client intake interview through custody hearing, I had the responsibility to file the case, to drive to the western edge of Fairfax County to serve papers, to work with three guardians ad litem, to interview my client's father and visit the home where Mom and baby would live, to prepare the witnesses, and to argue the case. Although there was a socio-economic imbalance between the parties, it occurred to me that my client's father was a Latino version of my own hard-working immigrant father, so I was able to argue persuasively in the best interests of both children.

We prevailed and then my client and I surprised everyone by offering a creative and liberal visitation schedule for the grandparents, because they would be traveling to the US on business regularly.

Q: What do you think are the top challenges facing the legal profession or challenges faced by the public (you can pick)?

A: Access to justice is a challenge faced by the public, especially for individuals who are low-income, lack education, or have limited English proficiency.

Q: What is your favorite law-related quote and why does it resonate with you?

A: The preamble of the Constitution stands out for me: "We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution..."

It remains imperative for all of us to study the Constitution and to learn from history.

Q: What types of community-based events do you participate in?

A: Children's initiatives and programs are my focus. I am on the Board of Trustees of the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria and have worked on the Gala for many years, co-Chairing the 25th anniversary event. I have worked on the Beat the Odds Program of the Bar since the beginning and have assisted with our bell-ringing for children's charities. I served on the Virginia Bar Association Commission on the Legal Needs of Children.

Q: What role does your family play in making you great at what you do?

A: This question brings to mind a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson's essays: "The reward of a thing well done is to have done it." I strive to do my best whatever the endeavor. My children and now my new grandson, William, inspire me every day. My oldest son, Patrick, is a member of the Massachusetts Bar, and was sworn in at Faneuil Hall. He is working for a Boston firm that handles land use and real estate development matters, concentrating on the preservation of affordable housing. His wife Betsey is a nurse. My daughter Cara has intellectual disabilities and attends the St. Coletta Adult Day Program in Alexandria. My Russian sons, Timur and Slava, are now 25 and 26; Tim works at Red Rocks and Columbia Firehouse (serving members of the Bar regularly), and Slava works for the City and is my technology wizard! Lia, the youngest, adopted at 3 from Beijing, is a junior at VCU studying environmental science and urban planning. They all share a great work ethic, and they are caring and empathetic. Perhaps most importantly they help keep things light – they are fun and funny!

Q: Share a funny story about yourself.

A: My kids would tell you there are a million stories!

I was a bridesmaid in a friend's wedding and she chose a dress pattern that we all could sew (yes, really). I thought my dress looked a little different from those of the others in the wedding party, and I discovered that I had attached the full-length skirt to the bodice upside down! My hem was so narrow that I had to take tiny steps down the aisle!

Q: How have you been involved with the Alexandria Bar Association? Share a story about your involvement.

A: The Alexandria Bar is a special bar association. I have served as President and on the Board of Directors, and participated in pro bono and community service projects, including a collaboration with The Advancement Project and the Alexandria Human Rights Commission to assist ex-felons with the restoration of their voting rights. I Chaired Beat the Odds and continue to support fundraising efforts for scholarships. It was an honor for me to represent Alexandria on the Virginia State Bar Council and Executive Committee from 2006 -2012. I now serve on the Virginia CLE Committee.

Judge Haddock once called me the most militaristic bar president ever, because I enforced strict agenda standards for meetings and events, even ushering Judge Sheridan off the stage at Judge Swersky's retirement dinner!

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ALEXANDRIA YOUNG LAWYERS GROUP HOSTS THE BARRISTERS—by Ron Stern

Heather Oliver and Laura Gould were warmly welcomed into our legal community on October 18 at Daniel O’Connell’s Irish Restaurant. This year the Young Lawyers Division of the Alexandria Bar Association helped make the event a success with its exquisite clip-art by Brett Schultheis and his enthusiastic members. Brett also invited the Young Lawyers Division of the Arlington County Bar Association.

The highlight of the event was when our President, David Lord, in a scene reminiscent of Harry Potter, awarded the barristers the OFFICIAL Alexandria Bar Association pin, which they proudly sported. All we need to do now is to send them invoices for \$250 membership dues. Cindy Dennis was the representative of the American Inns of Court that sponsors the Project Pegasus program, as well

as Kristin Burns, the committee chair this year and wife of Alexandria’s own, Rob Burns. Our members, Jesse Binnall and Steve Bergeron, were also members of the Project Pegasus committee.

During their visit, Heather and Laura got to spend time with Judge Haddock, Judge O’Grady, Judge Anderson, Bryan Porter, Melinda Douglas and Marvin Miller, as well as attend events at the US Supreme Court and do a private tour of the White House.

Prior to their Last Supper with the Project Pegasus committee at Gadsby’s Tavern on November 17, Heather and Laura joined us at our monthly dinner meeting. It was nice

to see them wearing the OFFICIAL Alexandria Bar Association pin. They will be returning to London and Manchester with fond memories of their time here. Thanks to our members who came out to greet them.

Calendar continued from page 10

Feb 15 LRS Committee Meeting, 12:30 pm
Conf Room of Schmergel & Mersberger, 100 N. Pitt St.

Feb 16 GRIDIRON, 6 pm Save the Date!! & Stay Tuned for Details

Feb 27 CLE Committee Meeting, 4 pm
Conf Room of Babcock & Jensen

December 2016, January 2017, February 2017

DECEMBER:

Dec 1 Networking Lunch, 12:30 pm
Columbia Firehouse, 109 S. St. Asaph St.
\$15 Cash at Door

Dec 5 Personal Injury Practice Group, 5:30 pm
Sheraton Hotel Lounge, 801 N. St Asaph St.

Dec 8 Young Lawyers Happy Hour, 5:30-7:30 pm
Vola's Docksides Grill (Hi-Tide Lounge), 101 N. Union St

Dec 13 Board of Directors Meeting, 8:00 am
Conf Room – Offc of the Commonwealth's Attny

Dec 14 Beat the Odds Committee Meeting, 4:30 pm
Conference Room of Redmon, Peyton & Braswell

Dec 15 Holiday Reception hosted by the Judges,
5:30pm
City of Alexandria Courthouse, CC #2 & 4th Floor Lobby

Dec 21 Family Law Section Meeting, 8:00 am
Grenadier Room, City of Alexandria Law Library

Dec 21 T&E/Tax Section Meeting, 12:00 pm
Grenadier Room, City of Alex Courthouse

Dec 21 LRS Committee Meeting, 12:30 pm
Conf Room of Schmergel & Mersberger, 100 N. Pitt St.

JANUARY:

Jan 5 Networking Lunch, 12:30 pm
Columbia Firehouse, 109 S. St. Asaph St.
\$15 Cash at Door

Jan 9 Personal Injury Practice Group, 5:30 pm
Sheraton Hotel Lounge, 801 N. St Asaph St.

Jan 10 Board of Directors Meeting, 8:00 am
Conf Room – Offc of the Commonwealth's Attny

Jan 13 Little Theatre Event for Beat the Odds
"Anything Goes" 6:30 pm Reception, 8pm Show
Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St

Jan 18 Family Law Section Meeting, 8:00 am
Grenadier Room, City of Alexandria Law Library

Jan 18 T&E/Tax Section Meeting, 12:00 pm
Grenadier Room, City of Alex Courthouse

Jan 18 LRS Committee Meeting, 12:30 pm
Conf Room of Schmergel & Mersberger, 100 N. Pitt St.

Jan 19 Montly Membership Dinner, 6 pm
American legion Hall, 400 Cameron St

Jan 23 CLE Committee Meeting, 4 pm
Conf Room of Babcock & Jensen

FEBRUARY:

Feb 2 Networking Lunch, 12:30 pm
Columbia Firehouse, 109 S. St. Asaph St.
\$15 Cash at Door

Feb 6 Personal Injury Practice Group, 5:30 pm
Sheraton Hotel Lounge, 801 N. St Asaph St.

Feb 14 Board of Directors Meeting, 8:00 am
Conf Room – Offc of the Commonwealth's Attny

Feb 15 Family Law Section Meeting, 8:00 am
Grenadier Room, City of Alexandria Law Library

Feb 15 T&E/Tax Section Meeting, 12:00 pm
Grenadier Room, City of Alex Courthouse

Calendar continued on page 9

ALEXANDRIA BAR ASSOCIATION

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