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NEW MEMBERS Please welcome:

*Mitchell Calhoun
Harvey & Binnall, PLLC
703-888-1930*

*Clarissa Pintado
Alexandria Circuit Court Judges' Chambers
703-746-4123*

*Jeff Reid
McCormick, Barstow, Sheppard,
Wayte & Carruth
559-433-2310*

*Jonathan Vivona
Jonathan B. Vivona, PLC
703-739-1353*

PRESIDENT'S LETTER



From time to time, our Board is asked to weigh in on an issue of importance, not just to our members, but to legal issues that affect the entire state. In August of 2015, we were approached by members of other bar associations to support Justice Roush.

Personal or political feelings aside, the Board then, as it does now, believes that this issue is greater than just a partisan squabble. When the justice system of this Commonwealth, or any jurisdiction, is colored by partisan politics from either side of the aisle, it erodes the integrity of the judicial process.

For these reasons, among others, the Board thought it prudent in August 2015, as did many other bar associations, to adopt a resolution in support of Justice Roush. The August Resolution follows this letter.

Almost a half year later, the question of who will sit on the highest Court in Virginia remains as unsettled as ever. Whether decisions issued by the Court during this period are legally binding will likely be challenged for years.

I presume that the Justices, especially Justice Roush, who are seeking to carry out their duties to this Commonwealth, find this situation unsettling and disconcerting. But, more importantly, this issue is disruptive to the practice of law. Uncertainty at the highest levels of our legal community has a way of filtering down through the jurisdictions.

For these reasons, the Board has adopted a letter to provide to the members of the General Assembly. This letter follows. We hope that it will do more than add to the cacophony of voices from lawyers that seems to go largely unheeded.

Please review the following letters and resolution on pages 3 and 4.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicholas J. Gehrig".

Nicholas J. Gehrig
President



Established 1928

THE ALEXANDRIA
BAR ASSOCIATION
520 King Street
Suite 202
Alexandria, VA 22314

703.548.1106 tel
703.548.1105 lrs
703.548.4292 fax

Alexbar@alexandriabarva.org
Alexandriabarva.org

2015-2016

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Monday to Thursday

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9:00 am to 3:00 pm
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Alexandria Bar Association
520 King Street, Rm 202
Alexandria, VA 22314

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

BELL RINGING (12/17/15):



Josh Bushman, Todd Pilot, Barbara Anderson and Alan Anderson ring for donations to benefit the Alexandria Bar Foundation

Our bell ringers were not deterred this year and happily braved rain and cold temps in support of the Alexandria Bar Foundation's Beat the Odds Program. In addition, we received donated toys on that day to add to the bins which were overflowing in the Bar Office. All of the toys were donated to the 25th Annual Community Toy Drive run by Volunteer Alexandria. Next year we will take a picture of these stuffed bins as they were an impressive sight to see.

Although our bell ringers were in perfect form, sadly some of our potential donors seemed hurried that day and overall the foot traffic was less than it had been in past years. Again, this was all due to Mother Nature. Still, approximately \$550.00 was collected to benefit Beat the Odds. If you have not yet had a chance to donate, the Beat the Odds Committee still welcomes and needs your contribution. The Beat the Odds Program provides scholarship funds to local high school students so that they can attend post graduate education. These students must apply for the funds and have overcome significant misfortune and difficulty to arrive at this point in their academic careers.

We encourage you to save the date of Thursday, April 21st for our monthly membership dinner which also includes our celebration of the BTO scholarship recipients (and the scholarship money is awarded that evening).



Patrick O'Brien, Nancy Bhasin, Amanda Boddie, Lisa Bowman, Cat Evans, and Sean Sherlock





Alexandria Bar Association
established 1928

Alexandria Bar Association

520 King Street, Room 202, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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

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January 20, 2016

Dear Distinguished Members of the General Assembly,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Alexandria Bar Association, I write in support of Justice Jane Marum Roush. Although many would contend that this is a political issue, it should not be. The Rule of Law does not and should not bow under political stress.

This Association has a duty to its members, the public, and the practice of law. In the opinion of the members of the Board of Directors of this Association, it is in the best interest of these stakeholders to allow Justice Roush to hold her seat with the Supreme Court of Virginia.

For the last 115 years, the governor of Virginia has appointed the Justices of the Virginia Supreme Court to interim appointments when the General Assembly is in recess. Throughout this time, until now, the General Assembly of Virginia has subsequently elected the appointed Justice. Due to a partisan disagreement between the Governor and leadership in the General Assembly, Justice Roush's appointment has been held hostage resulting in interruption and uncertainty to the highest Court of this Commonwealth.

The symbol of Lady Justice, ubiquitous throughout our judicial system, has one very important characteristic. She wears a blindfold. The blindfold represents objectivity, in that justice should be meted out without regard to money, power, identity, politics, race, or religion.

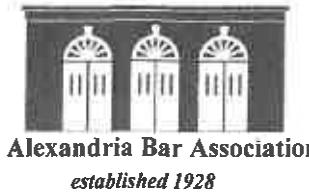
At a time where personal beliefs seem to run roughshod over integrity and fairness, we must not lose objectivity. Lady Justice's blindfold is not merely symbolic but something that we, as attorneys, strive to achieve.

We are all united in one thing, regardless of our personal or political beliefs on the matter, and that is that the law should be applied objectively, equally, and fairly. When objectivity is lost, the fundamental principles upon which the practice of law by and through the conduct of attorneys, for the benefit of the public, are weakened.

We urge the Members of the General Assembly to reconsider their positions and to allow Justice Roush to take her seat among her fellow Justices so that the interruption and uncertainty that has resulted from this disagreement may be resolved for the benefit of our members and the public that they serve.

Nicholas J. Gehrig


President



Alexandria Bar Association

520 King Street, Room 202, Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Alan S. Anderson 1997

J. Casey Forrester 1996

Michael P. Logan 1995

Ruth Lankford Chamowitz 1994

Grady C. Frank, Jr. 1993

August 14, 2015

Dear Distinguished Members of the General Assembly,

The Board of Directors of the Alexandria Bar Association has adopted the resolution attached, and further adopts and supports the resolution of the Fairfax Bar Association, in support of Justice Jane Marum Roush's appointment to the Virginia Supreme Court.

The Alexandria Bar Association is comprised of approximately 375 attorneys, most of whom practice in the state courts located in Northern Virginia. The Alexandria Bar Association, as with any local Bar Association, is committed to access to justice, and fairness and equality in the application of the law to the businesses and individuals represented by its members.

The members of local bar associations are in a unique position to engage, on a regular basis, with the judges of the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is thus prudent that the Virginia General Assembly give deference to the bar associations' selections and recommendations for any judgeship in this Commonwealth.

Legislative action that undercuts or ignores the recommendations of the lawyers that practice law before these judges cuts against the principles that local bar associations seek to protect. As a result, access to justice and fairness and equality in the application of the law to all businesses and residents of the Commonwealth of Virginia is diminished.

As reflected in the attached resolution, the Alexandria Bar Association supports Justice Roush's continued service on the Supreme Court of Virginia.

Nicholas J. Gehrig
President

**ALEXANDRIA BAR ASSOCIATION
Resolution of the Board of Directors
in Support of Justice Jane Marum Roush**

WHEREAS, on July 27, 2015, the Honorable Jane Marum Roush was appointed by Governor Terry McAuliffe to fill a vacancy on the Supreme Court of Virginia; and

WHEREAS, on August 1, 2015, Justice Roush began serving on the Supreme Court of Virginia, but that appointment will expire unless action is taken by the General Assembly electing her to a full term on the Court; and

WHEREAS, Justice Roush has impeccable legal credentials for this position, having graduated from the University of Virginia in 1981 before practicing at Boothe Pritchard & Dudley, McGuire Woods LLP, and Hogan & Hartson; and

WHEREAS, Justice Roush has excelled as a trial judge, having been appointed to the Circuit Court for Fairfax County in 1993 and being called upon multiple times by the Commonwealth of Virginia to sit as a special judge in high-profile cases throughout the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, it is critical for the administration of justice that the independence of the judiciary be maintained and that such independence is undermined when the courts are placed in the midst of political disputes between the other branches of the government; and

WHEREAS, Justice Roush has received universal acclaim as a jurist from Bar Associations, individual attorneys and newspaper editorials; and

WHEREAS, Justice Roush resigned her position as a judge for the Circuit Court for Fairfax County in order to take the appointment to the Supreme Court of Virginia and would effectively be removed from all judicial appointments if the General Assembly fails to confirm, through election, her appointment to the Supreme Court of Virginia.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Alexandria Bar Association supports Justice Roush's continued service on the Supreme Court of Virginia and encourages its members to contact their representatives in the General Assembly to express their own views on this important matter; and

BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be forwarded to the members of the Alexandria delegation to the Virginia General Assembly.

ADOPTED THIS 14th day of August, 2015.



Nicholas J. Gehrig, President

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MONITORS LEGISLATION OF GENERAL INTEREST—by Jeremy R. Moss*

This winter, the Alexandria Bar Association Board of Directors revived the Legislative Committee, tasking the Committee with the responsibility of monitoring legislation in the Virginia General Assembly of general interest to the membership of the Alexandria Bar Association.

The 2016 Session of the Virginia General Assembly convened on January 13, 2016 and is scheduled to adjourn on March 12, 2016. This is a “long” session of the General Assembly, lasting sixty days. The Reconvened Session (more commonly

referred to as the veto session) will be held on April 20, 2016.

As of February 2, 2016, 2,696 bills were introduced for consideration during the 2016 session. This is a decrease in the number of bills introduced during the 2015 short-session – 2,776, and the 2014 long session – 2,888.

The Legislative Committee held its first meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at the offices of MercerTrigiani LLP. On behalf of the Alexandria Bar Association, the Legislative Committee is monitoring the status of 43 bills on topics ranging from special needs

trusts to augmented estate legislation, and from priest-penitent privilege to thresholds for grand larceny. And, the Legislative Committee continues General Assembly action related to the appointment of judges to Virginia’s judiciary.

Copied below is a brief outline of the bills of interest currently being monitored by the Legislative Committee, including the General Assembly Committee to which the bill is currently assigned, a brief summary of the last action taken, and the date of the last action.

Bills	Committee	Last Action	Date
HB 132 - Marshall, R.G. - Risk management plan; coverage for injury or death on state property,	(H) Committee on General Laws	(H) Assigned to sub: Subcommittee #4	01/18/16
HB 133 - Marshall, R.G. - Risk management plan; coverage for injury/death on college property, concealed handgun prohibition.	(H) Committee on General Laws	(H) Assigned to sub: Subcommittee #4	01/18/16
HB 230 - Minchew - Trusts; a circuit court may create and establish upon petition of an interested party.	(H) Committee for Courts of Justice	(H) Printed as engrossed 16102680D-E	02/01/16
HB 231 - Leftwich - Augmented estate; elective share of surviving spouse.	(H) Committee for Courts of Justice	(H) Engrossed by House - committee substitute HB231H1	02/01/16
HB 232 - Leftwich - Medical bills; presumption of authenticity and reasonableness who may identify & provide testimony.	(H) Committee for Courts of Justice	(H) Engrossed by House - committee substitute HB232H1	02/01/16
HB 239 - O'Bannon - Physicians; division of fees.	(H) Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions (S) Committee on Education and Health	(S) Referred to Committee on Education and Health	01/28/16
HB 287 - Habeeb - Mediation; increases fee paid to mediators appointed in certain cases.	(H) Committee on Appropriations	(H) Assigned to sub: General Government & Capital Outlay	01/28/16
HB 396 - Heretick - Grand larceny; threshold.	(H) Committee for Courts of Justice	(H) Subcommittee recommends laying on the table	01/25/16
HB 437 - Loupassi - Security for appeal; clarifies difference between an appeal bond and a suspending bond, etc.	(H) Committee for Courts of Justice	(H) Read second time and engrossed	02/01/16
HB 441 - Loupassi - Nonsuits; tolling of limitations; contractual limitation periods.	(H) Committee for Courts of Justice	(H) Subcommittee recommends reporting (9-Y 1-N)	02/01/16
HB 496 - Campbell - Attorney-issued summons; proof of payment to clerk's office.	(H) Committee for Courts of Justice	(H) Read second time and engrossed	02/01/16

Bills	Committee	Last Action	Date
HB 497 - Campbell - Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act; exclusive, continuing jurisdiction.	(H) Committee for Courts of Justice	(H) Read second time and engrossed	02/01/16
HB 629 - Hodges - Prescription drugs; pharmacies may participate in voluntary drug disposal programs.	(H) Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions	(S) Referred to Committee on Education and Health	02/01/16
	(S) Committee on Education and Health		
HB 637 - Habeeb - Medical malpractice actions; extends limitations period.	(H) Committee for Courts of Justice	(H) Read second time and engrossed	02/01/16
HB 641 - Leftwich - General district court; arbitration.	(H) Committee for Courts of Justice	(H) Printed as engrossed 16100263D-E	02/01/16
HB 642 - Leftwich - Divorce; submission of oral testimony or affidavits in a proceeding.	(H) Committee for Courts of Justice	(H) Printed as engrossed 16100550D-E	02/01/16
HB 906 - Minchew - Ministers; communications between persons they counsel or advise.	(H) Committee for Courts of Justice	(H) Read second time and engrossed	02/01/16
HB 963 - LaRock - Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act; created, penalty.	(H) Committee for Courts of Justice	(H) Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice	01/12/16
HB 1116 - Loupassi - Receipt of pleadings; failure to pay fees in a civil case.	(H) Committee for Courts of Justice	(H) Assigned to sub: Civil Law	01/20/16
HB 1167 - Lindsey - Grand larceny; threshold.	(H) Committee for Courts of Justice	(H) Subcommittee recommends laying on the table	01/25/16
SB 23 - Reeves - Grand larceny and certain property crimes; increases threshold amount of money taken, etc.	(S) Committee for Courts of Justice	(S) Passed Senate (26-Y 14-N)	01/28/16
SB 70 - Wexton - Pendente lite support award; source of award.	(S) Committee for Courts of Justice	(S) Reported from Courts of Justice (13-Y 0-N 2-A)	02/01/16
SB 71 - Wexton - Divorce; entry of decrees, maintenance and support of spouses.	(S) Committee for Courts of Justice	(S) Reported from Courts of Justice (12-Y 3-N)	02/01/16
SB 111 - Petersen - Punitive damages; raises cap for any action accruing on or after July 1, 2016.	(S) Committee for Courts of Justice	(S) Read second time and engrossed	02/01/16
SB 125 - Stanley - Punitive damages; persons injured by intoxicated drivers.	(S) Committee for Courts of Justice	(S) Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice	12/28/15
SB 127 - Edwards - Uniform Powers of Appointment Act; codification of Act.	(S) Committee for Courts of Justice	(S) Read second time and engrossed	02/01/16
SB 128 - Edwards - Personal injury and wrongful death actions; disclosure of physical address of insured person.	(S) Committee for Courts of Justice	(S) Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice	12/29/15
SB 170 - Surovell - Nonsuits; tolling of limitations, contractual limitation periods.	(S) Committee for Courts of Justice	(S) Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice	12/30/15
SB 177 - Surovell - Grand larceny; increases threshold amount of money taken to \$1000, etc.	(S) Committee for Courts of Justice	(S) Incorporated by Courts of Justice (SB23-Reeves) (14-Y 0-N)	01/20/16

Legislative Committee Report Continued from Page 7

Bills	Committee	Last Action	Date
SB 181 - Chafin - Augmented estate; elective share of surviving spouse.	(S) Committee for Courts of Justice	(S) Read second time and engrossed	02/01/16
SB 201 - Dunnivant - Division of fees among physicians.	(S) Committee on Education and Health	(S) Read second time and engrossed	02/01/16
SB 226 - Lucas - Grand larceny and certain property crimes; increases threshold amount of money taken, etc.	(S) Committee for Courts of Justice	(S) Incorporated by Courts of Justice (SB23-Reeves) (14-Y 0-N)	01/20/16
SB 235 - Petersen - Larceny and property crimes; threshold.	(S) Committee for Courts of Justice	(S) Incorporated by Courts of Justice (SB23-Reeves) (14-Y 0-N)	01/20/16
SB 310 - McEachin - Grand larceny; increases threshold amount of money taken to \$1500, etc.	(S) Committee for Courts of Justice	(S) Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice	01/08/16
SB 496 - Sturtevant - Judicial Candidate Evaluation Committee; codifies certain procedures.	(S) Committee for Courts of Justice	(S) Referred to Committee for Courts of Justice	01/12/16
SB 507 - Sturtevant - Judicial creation of trusts.	(S) Committee for Courts of Justice	(S) Printed as engrossed 16101835D-E	02/01/16
SB 606 - Reeves - Mediation; fees.	(S) Committee on Finance	(S) Rerferred to Finance	01/27/16

Full versions of each bill are available through the Virginia Legislative Information System (<https://lis.virginia.gov/>). All members of the Alexandria Bar Association are welcome to join the Legislative Committee and attend

Committee meetings. Any questions about membership should be directed to the Committee Chair, Jeremy Moss, at Jeremy.Moss@MercerTrigiani.com.

**Jeremy R. Moss practices community association law as an associate at the law firm MercerTrigiani LLP in their Alexandria, Virginia office and is Chair of the Alexandria Bar Association Legislative Committee.*

THE ALEXANDRIA BAR ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER RATES

The Oyez is published six months of the year and distributed to 350 plus members, a multitude of judges, court personnel and others in the legal community throughout the Alexandria and Washington Metropolitan area. The fee schedule for placing an ad is as follows (rate per issue):

INSERT (both sides) (7 1/4" x 9") = \$400.00

FULL PAGE (7 1/4" x 9") = \$225.00

2/3 PAGE (7 1/4" x 6") = \$200.00

½ PAGE (7 1/4" x 4 1/4") = \$180.00

1/3 PAGE VERTICAL (2 1/4" x 9") = \$125.00

1/3 PAGE HORIZONTAL (7 1/4" x 3") = \$125.00

¼ PAGE (3 5/8" X 4 1/4") = \$80.00

1/6 PAGE (2 1/4" x 4 1/4") = \$70.00

(DISCOUNT PAYMENTS = 3 Month Buy is 10% off; 6 Month buy is 15% off)

(All articles or ads submitted are subject to the Editor's approval. The Editor reserves the right to reject any submissions that, in the opinion of the editor, are inappropriate for the Oyez.)

COURTHOUSE PRINTS FOR SALE!

Did you know that a print of the City of Alexandria Courthouse is available for sale in the Bar Office for just \$15? These prints make nice gifts, particularly for co-workers and colleagues. Please stop in any time to check them out.

JAZZ 4 JUSTICE

TUESDAY, APRIL 5, 2016 @ 7:30PM

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DOORS OPEN AT 6:00PM FOR CASH BAR AND JAM SESSION .

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ATTORNEY PROFILE – TRIBUTE TO ROBERT M. GANTS—*by Kathleen M. Uston*



For those of our Members who are just getting started in practice, I have one wish for you – that in the course of your career you will have the great fortune of sitting on the opposite side of the table from a lawyer like Bob Gants. Robert M. Gants, a partner with the law firm of Redmon, Peyton & Braswell, bid us adieu on November 28, 2015, and for of those of us who were lucky enough to know and practice with him, there is a hole in our community that will never be filled.

Bob's wife of 49 years, Norma, shared with me that Bob, who graduated from Valley Forge Military Academy in 1956, served his country with distinction in the Army leaving service with the rank of 1st Lieutenant. He graduated from West Point in 1961 and then began a successful career as a lobbyist on Capitol Hill. In 1965, he answered the calling of the law and enrolled in the Washington College of Law at

American University in Washington D.C. receiving his law degree in 1967. That same year, he started his own law practice with the firm of Partridge, Gants & Perkins in Washington, D.C. In 1971, he was appointed Counsel to the Interior Committee of the U. S. House of Representatives. He served in the Energy Research and Development Administration, a predecessor agency to the Department of Energy, and became a lobbyist for the heavy construction industry, the home appliance manufacturing industry, and the gas industry. As Gant Redmon noted, the yellow energy usage stickers we all see on our appliances are Bob's eternal legacy.

In 1995, Bob joined the firm of Redmon, Peyton & Braswell, eventually becoming partners with those esteemed folks. Gant called Bob the most creative attorney he had ever met and it was for this reason that Bob was put in charge of the cases that did not have obvious or easy solutions.

As a relatively young lawyer, I had the great fortune of encountering Bob as opposing counsel in a contested guardianship case. As we all know, the temptation is always there for attorneys to assume the emotional baggage of their clients, or posture for them in the presence of the opposing party and their counsel to score points. What Bob taught me, during one such meeting with our respective

clients, was the value of not doing either one of those things. I showed up with my client, young, thinking I knew what I was doing, and loaded for bear. Bob must have recognized this right away and in his wise and patient way, over the course of that meeting, made it clear to everyone in the room, most importantly me, that the only good solution to the case was one that involved the attorneys being the adults in the room. It would have been easy for him to dismiss me and proceed to kick my you-know-what in the courtroom. Instead, in great service to his client, he took the time to gently mentor a young attorney, bringing me along with patience and tolerance to recognize that the fair and proper resolution to our case, one that would best benefit our respective clients, was a negotiated one. It was a lesson that I was lucky to learn early in my career.

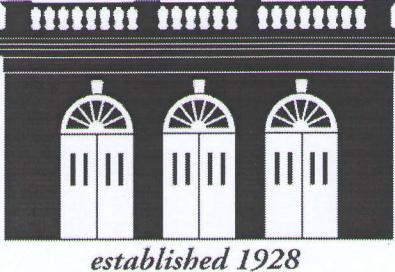
There aren't many lawyers who possess the breadth and depth of life experience that Bob brought to the practice of law. We are so fortunate that our community was the one in which he chose to practice so we could all benefit from his wit, his intellect, and his wisdom. The lawyers, young and not so young, of Redmon Peyton & Braswell will no doubt miss his regular presence at their "Cold Coffee Happy Hours" on Friday afternoon, but his seat there shall always remain reserved.

PEGASUS SCHOLAR ALUMNUS APPOINTED A RECORDER IN ENGLAND

Olivia Magennis, a member of Lincolns Inn and a visiting barrister to the Alexandria Bar Association in 2010 (when she was a Pegasus Scholar), has been appointed a recorder in England by HRH Queen Elizabeth II. That is an equivalent of a judge in the colonies.



Alexandria Bar Association



Gridiron 2016

Don't Miss Out!

February 18, 2016 (6 PM)

Patent and Trademark Office Auditorium

600 Dulany St.

Alexandria, VA 22314

Please Attend or Sponsor!

Individual Tickets, \$100

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all with an open bar)

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Office to reserve your ticket (703-548-1106 or

alexbar@alexandriabarva.org)

HOLIDAY RECEPTION WITH JUDGES - 12/17/2015





CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION IN HONOR OF S. HOWARD WOODSON

A champagne reception was held at the home of Alexis Stackhouse and husband, Ramon McMillan, for Alexandria's newest substitute judge S. Howard Woodson.

Over forty attorneys and citizens were in attendance for the champagne toast for Judge Woodson. In particular, State Bar President Weiner enthusiastically toasted Judge Woodson noting that his appointment was an example of the diversity he hoped to further usher into the Virginia State Judiciary.

Notables included: (the Judges – U.S. District Court Judge Gerald Lee, Alex Circuit Court Judge Nolan Dawkins, & Fairfax Circuit Court Judge John Tran, Alex GDC Judge Becky Moore, Alex J&DR Court Judge Connie Frogale; State Bar President Ed Wiener; Alexandria City Councilmen Tim Lovain & John Chapman, Alexandria Bar Association Treasurer, Dipti Pidikiti-Smith.

Judge Woodson wishes to thank the Bar Association, his wife Joyce and family, and all those in attendance for their support.



Judge John Tran, Judge Becky Moore,
Judge S. Howard Woodson



Dipti Pidikiti-Smith, Esq.,
Judge S. Howard Woodson

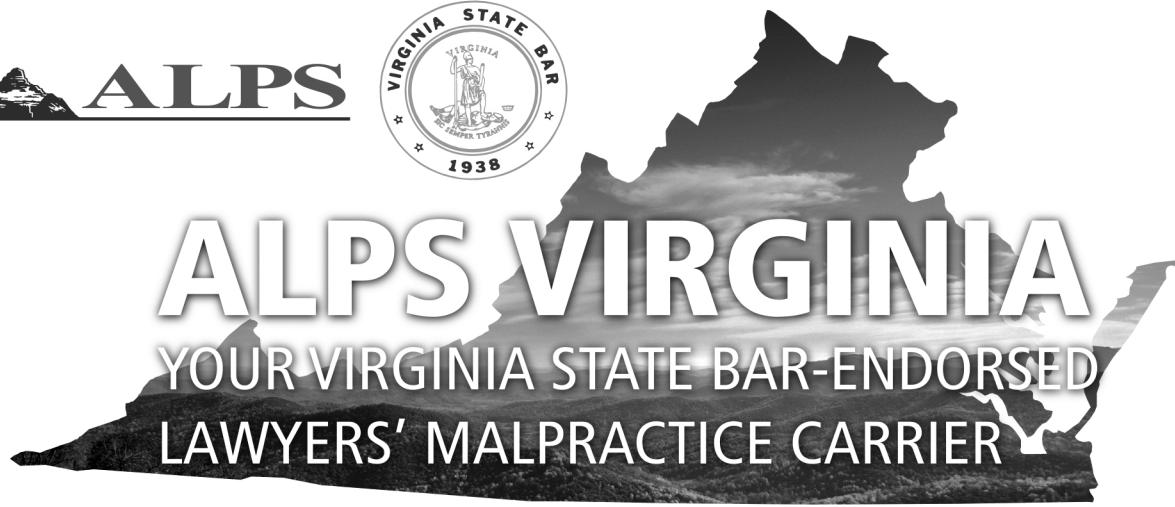


State Bar President, Ed
Weiner, Judge Constance
Frogale, Judge S. Howard
Woodson



Councilman John Chapman,
Alexis Stackhouse, Esq., Judge
Gerald Lee





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JANUARY MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP DINNER (1/21/16):

Our January dinner was a nice "last hurrah" prior to the big blizzard and we enjoyed seeing those who were able to venture out following just one inch of snow the night before. Doug Steinberg was there to encourage us to attend the Gridiron and the leaders of the newly revitalized Pro Bono Committee talked to us about the various ways that members can provide service to low income clients. Legal Services of Northern Virginia hopes to work with many of you to assist the less fortunate with resolving their legal issues. For example, there

is high demand for attorneys to assist with bankruptcy or uncontested divorce cases. Please see the write-up on this issue by Janelle Holt and Dipti Pidikiti-Smith below.

We were also very pleased to have two special guests in our midst, Henry Butler (Dean of George Mason University School of Law) and Michael Davis. Dean Butler's talk had the theme, "Lead, Challenge, Learn." He made us aware of various types of changes at the law school (both good and bad), as well as some

difficulties which it routinely faces. Dean Butler also let us know that GMU law students are regularly encouraged to challenge one another during the course of their academic endeavors and professional careers as George Mason was known to do so many years ago.

INFORMATION FROM OUR NEWLY REVITALIZED PRO BONO COMMITTEE:

The Alexandria Bar Association's Pro Bono Committee is looking for a few good lawyers! At this past Bar Dinner meeting, co-chairs, Janelle Holt and Dipti Pidikiti-Smith spoke about the bar's initiative in furthering access to justice. The pro bono committee will explore ways the bar association can give back to our community, assist our courts and help our attorneys fulfill their professional responsibility. PR Rule 6.1 states "a lawyer should render at least two percent per year of the lawyer's professional time to pro bono publico legal services."

The pro bono committee members include the judges from the Alexandria Circuit Court, General District Court and Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, and Jessica Killeen and Sean Marvin. If you would like to join the pro bono committee, please contact Janelle at jholt@lsnv.org or Dipti at dpidikiti@lsnv.org.

At the meeting, Janelle also discussed ways for attorneys to participate in various pro bono initiatives with Legal Services of Northern Virginia (LSNV). LSNV is a non-profit law firm that assists low-income, disabled, and elderly individuals facing the loss of a critical need. Eligible

clients are assisted with various civil matters including but not limited to housing, consumer, and family laws. The highest demand pro bono cases are no-asset Chapter 7 bankruptcies, uncontested divorces, and protective orders for victims of domestic violence. While all clients are screened for financial eligibility, the first two matters are vetted by LSNV for substantive eligibility and the last goes to LSNV through direct referrals from the Alexandria Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Clerk's Office.

Volunteer attorneys may be eligible for tax-credits, as well as recognition at the annual LSNV Pro Bono Reception (which is in Alexandria this year!). For more information or to volunteer, please contact Dipti or Janelle. To learn more about LSNV, please visit <http://www.lsnv.org>.

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| April 20 | Family Law Section Meeting, 8:00am
<i>Bread & Chocolate, King St</i> |
| April 20 | T&E/Tax Section Meeting, 12 noon
<i>Grenadier Rm, City of Alexandria Courthouse</i> |
| April 20 | LRS Committee Meeting, 12:30 pm
<i>Conference Room of Schmergel & Mersberger, 100 N Pitt St</i> |
| April 21 | Monthly Membership Dinner & Beat the Odds Awards/Dinner, Exact Start Time TBD,
<i>City of Alexandria Courthouse, 4th Floor</i> |
| April 25 | CLE Committee, 4:30 pm
<i>Conference Room, Redmon, Peyton & Braswell</i> |

February, March, April 2016

February 2016

- Feb 1** Personal Injury Practice Group, 5:30 pm
King Street Blues, N. St. Asaph St.
- Feb 2** Legislative Committee Meeting, 4:00 pm
*Conference Room of Mercer Trigiani,
 112 S. Alfred St*
- Feb 4** Networking Lunch, 12:30 pm
Columbia Firehouse, 109 S. St. Asaph St
 \$15 cash at door
- Feb 9** Board of Directors Meeting, 8:00 am
Conference Room, Redmon, Peyton & Braswell
- Feb 17** Family Law Section Meeting, 8:00am
Bread & Chocolate, King St
- Feb 17** T&E/Tax Section Meeting, 12 noon
Grenadier Rm, City of Alexandria Courthouse
- Feb 18** GRIDIRON, 6:00pm Cocktail Hour
 7:15pm Dinner, 8:30pm Show
USPTO Auditorium, 600 Dulany St
- Feb 22** CLE Committee, 4:30 pm
King Street Blues, 3rd Floor, N. St. Asaph St.

Feb 24

- LRS Committee Meeting, 12:30 pm
*Conference Room of Schmergel &
 Mersberger, 100 N Pitt St*

Mar 17

- Monthly Membership Dinner, 6:00 pm
American Legion Hall, 400 Cameron St.

Mar 28

- CLE Committee, 4:30 pm
Conference Room, Redmon, Peyton & Braswell

March 2016

- Mar 3** Networking Lunch, 12:30 pm
Columbia Firehouse, 109 S. St. Asaph St
 \$15 cash at door
- Mar 7** Personal Injury Practice Group, 5:30 pm
King Street Blues, N. St. Asaph St.
- Mar 8** Board of Directors Meeting, 8:00 am
Conference Room, Redmon, Peyton & Braswell
- Mar 16** Family Law Section Meeting, 8:00am
Bread & Chocolate, King St
- Mar 16** T&E/Tax Section Meeting, 12 noon
Grenadier Rm, City of Alexandria Courthouse
- Mar 16** LRS Committee Meeting, 12:30 pm
*Conference Room of Schmergel &
 Mersberger, 100 N Pitt St*

April 2016

- April 4** Personal Injury Practice Group, 5:30 pm
King Street Blues, N. St. Asaph St.
- April 5** Jazz for Justice Concert, 6:00pm
 Doors open w/ \$ bar & Jam Session,
 7:30pm Show
*Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall & Arts
 Center, 3001 N. Beauregard St.*
- April 7** Networking Lunch, 12:30 pm
Columbia Firehouse, 109 S. St. Asaph St
 \$15 cash at door
- April 12** Board of Directors Meeting, 8:00 am
Conference Room, Redmon, Peyton & Braswell

Calendar continued on page 15

ALEXANDRIA BAR ASSOCIATION

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We're on the Web!
Alexandriabarva.org

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