ORFOLK & ORTSMOUTH B A R A S S O C I A T I O N

BAR BULLETIN

Volume XXXVI Number 3

May - June 2011

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Preregistration required for all NPBA Events. Call 622-3152.

President's Message



Nathaniel Beaman IV

It is an annual rite—the Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association's version of the changing of the guard. At the Annual Meeting on May 25th, the new officers and Executive Committee members will be sworn in and, very shortly thereafter, committees will be formed and planning for the coming year will begin in earnest. For the incoming president, this is a time for reflection—about the NPBA's past accomplishments and about its future role in a rapidly changing world. Where do we want our Association to be a year from now, five years from now? How can we better serve our members and represent their interests? What do we need to do to insure that the NPBA remains vibrant, effective, and perhaps most important, relevant? These are some of the questions that come to mind as I think about the coming year.

By any measure, this past year was a very successful one, thanks to the excellent leadership provided by Jeff Stredler and to the hard work and dedication of the Executive Committee, our various bar committees and, most importantly, our Executive Director Donna Bausch and her staff. Jeff's success as president was due in large measure to his engaging personality and his common sense approach to issues. I am very fortunate that he will remain on the Executive Committee as the immediate past president. Donna is the quintessential executive director—quietly, but firmly, in control of the Association's day to day affairs. With Donna as our navigator, the NPBA is in good hands.

But although we have enjoyed another successful year, we cannot afford to take our success for granted. Recent history teaches that in a world of incredibly rapid technological advances and severe economic volatility and uncertainty, the organizations that will prosper are those that can effectively adapt to the changing needs and desires of their constituents. For the NPBA, this means that we must constantly ask this question: How can the Association more effectively serve you—our members—so that it continues to merit your trust, your loyalty, and your support?

As we think in terms of the coming year and what we would like to accomplish, there are three things that I believe we should emphasize: First, we must be receptive to, and indeed solicitous of, new ideas that will make the Association even more meaningful and beneficial to our members. Second, we must communicate effectively, utilizing the most current technology. Third, we must plan for the future.

It has been said that boards make the worst focus groups. To be sure, your Executive Committee is hard working and extremely dedicated. But we well understand that most of the work of our Association is done by our various committees. It is within these committees that ideas sprout. And it is within these committees—open to all members—that each of you has the opportunity

(continued on page 2)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Norfolk Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judge Joan C. Skeppstrom Portrait
Ceremony
Friday, May 6, 2011, 2:00 PM
Norfolk JDR Court, Courtroom #1

Annual Dinner Meeting Wednesday, May 25, 2011 Norfolk Yacht & Country Club Social Hour 6:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM

Young Lawyers Section Golf Tournament Thursday, June 23, 2011, 1:00 PM Bide-A-Wee Golf Course



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(President's Message continued)

to help shape your Association and to make it what you want it to be. We are currently 868 strong. That's 868 of the brightest and most talented individuals in our community. Think what could be accomplished if each of you would contribute some of your time and talent, ideas and creativity for the benefit of the NPBA.

At a recent ABA conference on bar leadership, one of the principal topics of discussion was the importance of effective communication. With the extraordinary advances in technology in recent years, the means by which we communicate have been evolving at an incredible pace. We now live in a world not just of web sites and email, but of Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter—collectively referred to as "social media." Bar conferences now regularly include workshops and discussions on the benefits and drawbacks of social media and their use by bar associations. Bar members, particularly younger attorneys, increasingly embrace these new forms of communication. It has recently been reported that Facebook users now number over 600 million worldwide and over 155 million in the United States. According to the American Bar Association, well over 300 local, state, and specialty bar associations are now using Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, or some combination of these media to more effectively communicate with their members and disseminate their messages. According to Elizabeth Derrico, Associate Director of the ABA Division of Bar Services, there has been an "explosion of social media" among small bar associations. Although any decision by the NPBA regarding the use of social media will require the most careful and thorough consideration—there are definite pros and cons—this is clearly a subject that merits our attention.

Planning for the future. For any organization, it is critically important that there be a carefully constructed road map to help guide its future course. This is particularly true in times of economic distress and uncertainty. The NPBA has enjoyed remarkable success over the years due to the loyalty and dedication of its members and staff. And although we do have in place a mission statement, we do not have a strategic plan that sets forth in sufficient detail our short term and long term goals and how we intend to achieve them. Dave Lannetti recognized this deficiency and began the process of addressing it during his term as president. Jeff Stredler in turn continued the process. It is my hope that by the end of next year we will have a strategic plan in place, ready to be implemented, that will prove to be an effective guide for the Association well into the future.

One last word to our young lawyers. With the stress of a busy law practice and perhaps the demands of a young family, you may have concluded that you simply do not have the time to be active in the NPBA. Let me suggest this to you: Stay connected. Give us the benefit of your ideas. Let us know how the Association can be more meaningful to you as you begin your professional journey. Choose at least one NPBA event, program, or activity that may be of interest to you, mark it on your calendar, and make it a point to participate. You won't regret it.

The year ahead will no doubt present its share of challenges. But it will also present many opportunities for us to better serve our members and our profession. I am deeply honored to be serving as president of the Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association this year, ever mindful of the truly outstanding lawyers who have occupied this office since the NPBA was founded some 111 years ago. And I am very much looking forward to working with each of you as we continue the good work of the NPBA.

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Message from the Young Lawyers Section

By Wes B. Simon, Chair

I can remember the day like it was just yesterday. The sun emerged from its cumulus veil just in time to steal away the remainder of the morning's dew. The temperature quickly rose to incapacitating levels, forcing mothers to hide their children from Apollo's sweltering gaze. The electric chariots were receiving their final charge as provisions were being chilled and packed for the ensuing trials of the day. The time had come once again, as it had for so many years, and no force of nature could quell the will of the combatants who had already begun to arrive to vie for their chance at immortality.

Slowly they trickled in, filling the quiet staging area with the nervous banter of preparation and final instructions to their paralegals. Off in the background there could be heard a discordant symphony, like metal raindrops colliding in the air, mixed with shouted variations of the word for excrement, as some tested their weapons before the start of the tournament. After the matching was done and the electric mounts mounted, the contestants took up their marks and waited for the start. This day would be like none before it.

And then it hailed golf balls from the sky! Through the sweat and tears of anguish (which was probably just more sweat given the temperature) the warriors clad in Polo



Wes Simon

battled each other and the course. Were it not for the nourishment handed out from the beer cart, many would have fallen to the sun's virulent rays, for the green shows no quarter and has no mercy. I know much of personal tragedy from that day; six brave souls were lost on my team, mostly to water hazards, but a few in the rough (if anyone finds a Top Flight #2 off the 16th hole, that would be mine). As the hours lagged on and the beer cart became depleted, the tournament tested the iron (and wood) of all the brave men and women who had forsaken their cool climate controlled offices for an afternoon on the links in late June.

At the end of the day there was a win-

ner, not my team of course, though our 2nd year law student ringer at least put us on the board. But as I sat there eating my chicken from the buffet that no longer consisted solely of pork barbeque, I reaffirmed something to myself. No matter how hot the temperature, regardless how many voice mails I have to return, despite the fact that I used up an entire brand new canister of sun screen, any afternoon spent on the golf course is still better than an afternoon in the office.

Which brings me to my point, once again that time of year is almost upon us. The NPBA Young Lawyer's Golf Tournament is going to be on June 23rd at Bide-A-Wee Golf Course. Sponsorships are still available and registration is open. Sign up early and receive our undying gratitude as well as \$10 off registration if you sign up before June 15th. Come out and support the tournament; proceeds go to the Norfolk Law Library. Contact David Crain (dcrain@ wilsav.com) or John Pearson (jepearson@ wilsav.com) for more information or to register.

How will you remember your day on the course?

YLS Golf Tournament – June 23, 2011

SHALANDA FRANKLIN-VERDELL TO RECEIVE WALTER E. HOFFMAN COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Shalanda Franklin-Verdell of Vandeventer Black, L.L.P. has been selected as the recipient of the 2011 NPBA Walter E. Hoffman Community Service Award. The Hoffman Award recognizes an outstanding young attorney who has contributed significant hands-on service to the community. The award is named after the Honorable Walter E. Hoffman, who served as a United States District Judge in the Eastern District of Virginia for many years.

Shalanda concentrates her practice in creditors' rights, general litigation, business transactions, bankruptcy and estate planning and administration. Shalanda earned her J.D. from The College of William & Mary School of Law, where she

received the Gambrell Professionalism Award, was president of the Black Law Students Association and a student member of I'Anson Hoffman Inns of Court. She also studied abroad through the William & Mary Summer Law Program in Madrid. She earned her B.S. in Marketing from Pennsylvania State University.

Shalanda has participated in numerous community service programs, including the NPBA Middle School Mock Trial Program as an Instructor; Coordinator for the NPBA Legal Outreach Clinic; Director and Treasurer of the Cobblestone at Lee's Mill Condominium Association Board of Directors; Secretary of the South Hampton Roads Bar Association and Volunteer for the William &

Mary 1L Mock Interview Program.

The Hoffman Award will be presented at the NPBA Annual Dinner Wednesday, May 25 at Norfolk Yacht and Country Club.



President-Elect Chip Beaman informed Shalanda Franklin-Verdell of her selection as the 2011 award recepient.

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jeffrey L. Stredler

Thank you

It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as President of our Association this year and I want to thank you for allowing me to serve in this position. I hope that you found this to be a productive and enjoyable year – I certainly did. I also hope that you were able to attend one of the many events that we sponsored, and maybe even make a few new friends and business contacts along the way.

Our success could not have been achieved without the help and hard work of our Executive Director, Donna Bausch, and her staff, David Knight, Michelle Gibson, and Bill Magee. They dedicated a tremendous amount of time preparing, organizing, and helping us present our events and programs, and on behalf of all of our members I want to thank them for helping us to accomplish what we did this year.

I would also like to thank all of the members of our Executive Committee for their time and tireless efforts in making this a successful year for our Association. Our achievements this year also would not have been possible without the leadership of our Committee Chairs and Committee

members. A special word of thanks goes out to all of our local judges, who attended many of our programs and gave us valuable guidance and words of encouragement throughout the year. Finally, I would also like to thank all of our generous sponsors, including many of you and your law firms, for your support of our events and programs during the year. The financial contributions from our sponsors enabled us to provide quality programs for our members, and I hope all of you will thank and support our event and program sponsors when you see or speak with them.

I am proud to note that all of our activities and programs this year were huge successes – the Bench Bar Conference set a record for registrations and received very positive feedback from both the judges and attorneys, our legal professionals and law firms raised enough food and funds to provide approximately 433,372 pounds of food for those in need in connection with the Legal Food Frenzy, all of our luncheons were well attended and had a variety of speakers who covered a wide range of important and interesting topics, the Golf Tournament was once again a hit, the fall reception hosted by the Postons was a great time,

the CLE season ticket was a huge success and an excellent addition to our member benefits, and all of the events sponsored by our Young Lawyers Section were well organized and a lot of fun. We also got our Pro Bono Program in the Norfolk Circuit Court up and running, and once again I would encourage all of you to register for that program – your help is needed to make this program a success.

In a very challenging economic climate, we worked hard to maintain steady membership numbers and find new sources of revenue. As we move into the next year, I could not think of a better successor than Chip Beaman. Most of you know Chip either professionally or personally and having worked with him on the Executive Committee, I can tell you without hesitation that he will be a wonderful leader for our Association.

Best wishes to all of you, and thank you once again for the opportunity to serve as NPBA President this year. I have been fortunate to have been the recipient of your dedication, support and friendship. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Annual Meeting May 25th.

Thank you to our 2011 Bench Bar Conference sponsors:

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NPBA CLE Season Ticket – Better than the Fountain of Youth?

Lauren Mehosky, CLE Committee Co-Chair

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty." - Henry Ford

If I had my way, I would have been a life-long student. There is something so exciting and empowering about knowledge, and I am a believer in Henry Ford's words. Why become old?

I was hungry for all things knowledgeand learning-related. The possibilities were truly endless. Anthropology! Meteorology! Comparative Literature! Exciting topics, but with limited use outside of the university. So with much sadness and wistful for what might have been, I bid farewell to higher education once I finished law school.

But after beginning the practice of law, I found that I didn't have to stop my education completely. As a Virginia lawyer, I am required to complete 12 hours of continuing legal education annually, with

at least two ethics hours. The possibilities again opened up before me, and I took full advantage. Needless to say, I never need any credits by the deadline.

This fall, the Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association will continue its tradition of fine and varied CLE programs. There will be a program about jury selection, landlord and tenant law, covenants not to compete, hot topics in real estate law, family law, and bankruptcy, among many others. I trust that you will find programs that not only assist you in your practice, but will broaden your view of the law in general.

Come and join us – and stay young! Purchase your CLE Season ticket today – you will find the flyer in this issue and on the NPBA website.

FIRM ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gilbert, Albiston & Keller is pleased to announce Richard J. Serpe has become Of Counsel to the firm. Mr. Serpe is frequently associated in complex litigation, managing cases with difficult scientific and medical issues. He is included in The Best Lawyers in America, and has received an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell and has been named a "Super Lawyer" by Virginia Super Lawyers Magazine.

Gilbert, Albiston & Keller is pleased to announce **O. L. "Buzz" Gilbert** has been selected as Personal Injury Litigator of the Year, Norfolk 2010 by Best Lawyers in America.

Lamont D. Maddox has opened Guidance Law Firm, P.C., a business law firm located in Wells Fargo Center, downtown Norfolk. Mr. Maddox earned a bachelors degree in economics from the University of Virginia, a masters of business administration degree from the Mason School of Business, College of William & Mary, and a juris doctorate from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law, College of William & Mary. Mr. Maddox was previously with Williams Mullen and is the former owner of a computer consulting company.

Reeves W. Mahoney, a shareholder of the law firm of Huff, Poole & Mahoney PC, has been appointed to the Child Support Guideline Review Panel by Gov. McDonnell. Mahoney concentrates his practice on divorce and family matters with an emphasis on divorces involving substantial assets and contested custody issues.

Albert H. Poole, CEO and co-managing shareholder of **Huff, Poole & Mahoney**, **PC**, has been appointed by Governor McDonnell to the Virginia Lottery Board. Mr. Poole chairs Huff, Poole & Mahoney's Business Department, handles commercial transactions, and is active in commercial litigation, as well as asbestos defense litigation.

Inman & Strickler, PLC, a Virginia Beach law firm, is pleased to welcome Robert V. Timms, Jr. as a member of the firm. Mr. Timms is a native of Hampton Roads and focuses his practice on business, tax matters, construction law, commercial real estate, trusts and estates, probate matters, and tax exempt entities. Mr. Timms was named as a "Legal Elite" in 2008 (business law) and in 2009 (taxes/estates/trusts/elder law) by Virginia Business Magazine and

named a Virginia "Super Lawyer" (taxation/trusts and estates) in 2010.

Kaufman & Canoles, P.C. is pleased to announce that Alfred M. Randolph, Jr. was recently elected to a three year term on the Virginia Bar Association's Board of Governors. Mr. Randolph is a partner in the firm's Norfolk office. He is the Vice President for Associate Recruitment and Retention. His practice includes general business law, lender representation, corporate and commercial transactions, and intellectual property law. His civic involvement includes serving on the Board of Trustees of Norfolk Academy and serving on the Board Directors of Tidewater Scholarship Foundation (ACCESS).

Kaufman & Canoles, P.C. is pleased to announce that Ann K. Crenshaw has been named one of Virginia Lawyers Weekly's 2011 Influential Women of Virginia. The Awards recognize the outstanding efforts of women in the Commonwealth who are making notable contributions to their chosen professions, their communities, and society at large. Ms. Crenshaw is also the recipient of the 2011 YWCA Women of Distinction Award for law. The Awards celebrate outstanding women who have made significant contributions to the South Hampton Roads community by demonstrating a commitment to the YWCA's mission of eliminating racism and empowering women. Ms. Crenshaw is a partner in the firm's Virginia Beach office. She earned her A.B. from Sweet Briar College and her law degree from the College of William & Mary Marshall Wythe School of Law. Ms. Crenshaw's practice focuses on commercial real estate services in the areas of zoning, land use, development and transactions, including purchasing and leasing, as well as creditors' rights, bankruptcy, business restructuring and loan modifications.

Kaufman & Canoles, P.C. is pleased to announce that Elaina L. Blanks was recently named Chair of the Virginia Bar Association's Taxation Section. Ms. Blanks is an associate in Kaufman & Canoles' Norfolk office and is a member of the firm's Mergers, Acquisitions & Strategic Alliances, Real Estate Strategies, and Taxation Practice Groups. She focuses her practice on business taxation matters and tax controversy at the federal and state levels. Ms. Blanks serves

on the Board of Directors of the YWCA of South Hampton Roads and is a member of Dress for Success and the Community Tax Law Project.

Vandeventer Black LLP is proud to announce that partner **Arlene F. Klinedinst** has been named one of the Influential Women of Virginia for 2011. This distinguished award recognizes outstanding efforts of women in Virginia for making notable contributions to their profession, community, and society at large. Arlene concentrates her practice in all areas of Labor & Employment Law. She advises and represents a variety of organizations and businesses on a broad range of employment issues, including discrimination, wrongful discharge, wage and hour claims, VOSH/OSHA citations and covenants not to compete. Arlene received her BA in Labor Studies from Penn State University and JD from Temple University School of Law.

Kaufman & Canoles, P.C. is pleased to announce that Marina Liacouras Phillips was recently named Chair of the Virginia Bar Association's Environment, Natural Resources and Energy Law Section. Ms. Phillips is a partner in the Norfolk office where her practice focuses on environmental and administrative law. Phillips is active in numerous industry organizations including the Tidewater Builder's Association, the United States Green Building Council and the Hampton Roads Association for Commercial Real Estate. She serves on the Board of the Lynnhaven River Now, the Council for the Virginia State Bar Environmental Law Section and the EVMS Strelitz Clinic Fundraising Task Force.

Vandeventer Black LLP is pleased to announce that Dustin Paul has joined the Firm's Norfolk office. Paul concentrates his practice in maritime litigation and other commercial litigation. Paul has experience representing both large corporate clients and individuals in a variety of disputes. He has extensive training and experience concerning e-discovery and its impact on both litigation and business operations. He earned his J.D. from Vanderbilt University and his A.B. in Political Science from Duke University.

Willcox & Savage attorney **Neil L. Rose** was recently named Vice Chair of the Virginia Bar Association Tax Section Council. He is

(Announcements continued)

a partner practicing in the firm's Taxation and Trusts and Estates Practice Groups. Mr. Rose is a former IRS and Treasury Special Honors Attorney with over twenty-five years experience in the areas of federal and local taxation, estate planning and administration, real estate and corporate law. Mr. Rose serves on the Regional Board of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, is the President-Elect of the Virginia Beach Education Foundation, and he is a past President of Congregation Beth El. He is the former Chair, Elder Law Section Council of the Virginia Bar Association.

Williams Mullen senior associate Daniel Santos has been asked to serve as Deputy President of the Hispanic National Bar Association's Region V (DC, MD, VA and WV). In 2009, Mr. Santos was recognized by the Hispanic National Bar Association with its Top Lawyers Under Forty Award. Mr. Santos is based in the firm's Virginia Beach office and is a regulatory and corporate attorney with extensive experience representing insurance and health care clients on a multi-state basis and at the federal level. Mr. Santos received his J.D. from Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law and his B.A. from the University of Virginia.

Bench Bar Conference 2011













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Hon. Glen A. Tyler (Ret.)
Retired Judge,
Second Judicial Circuit Court

After eighteen exemplary years of service, Glen Tyler has recently retired from the bench. Previously, he enjoyed a broad civil litigation practice on the Eastern Shore of Virginia. He is a current Member of the Virginia State Bar, Virginia Bar Association, Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, and the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, to name a few. He also served as the Chair of the Virginia State Bar Continuing Legal Education Committee. Glen is now available to serve the mediation, arbitration, judge pro tempore, and special master needs of lawyers and litigants on the Eastern Shore, throughout Hampton Roads, and beyond.

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NPBA Foundation News

By Robert V. Timms, Jr. • President, NPBA Foundation

The Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association Foundation is again reviewing scholarship applications, including essays on a current topical legal issue, for the Foundation's two scholarships to be awarded at the Bar Association's Annual Meeting. This year we received a large number of applications from our local high school seniors. Our scholarships have aided local students interested in the law in attending many nationally known universities.

For those of you who are not aware of the Foundation's past endeavors, the Foundation has supported the VSB Young Lawyers Conference Minority Pre-Law Conference, the Magna Carta exhibit, the Law School for Journalists at Regent University School of Law, and the "Triumph of the Rule of Law Over Massive Resistance: A Community Forum" moderated by Juan Williams.

The Foundation needs your help to continue our support of local programs like the ones listed above. In addition to giving annually to the Foundation, I



Bob Timms

urge you to consider becoming a Fellow of the Foundation. The Fellows initiative is divided among various levels of giving. Each level requires a specific pledge that may be satisfied in annual payments. Also, the Foundation established a permanent endowment fund with the Hampton Roads Community Foundation ("HRCF"). You can now make a donation, or remember the Foundation as part of your estate plan, to the HRCF and designate the Foundation as the beneficiary of the gift. The income from the corpus of the gifts made to the HRCF will be used by the Foundation to support and expand its programs.

For more information on how you can be part of the Foundation, please contact Robert V. Timms, Jr. at 486-7055 or rtimms@inmanstrickler.com.

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