ORFOLK ORFOLK ORTSMOUTH BARASSOCIIATION

BAR BULLETIN

Volume XXXVIII Number 3

May - June 2013

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See Flyers Inside for Event Details and Registration Information

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

President's Message



Virginia Van Valkenburg

"Where were you 20 years ago?" The year was 1993 (for the mathematically challenged). Bill Clinton was President. The Late Show with David Letterman began. A battle took place between the Branch Davidians and the FBI, in Waco, Texas. Billboard's number one song was "I Will Always Love You," by Whitney Houston. (Number two for the year was "Whoomp, There it Is!" by Tag Team.) Two police officers were convicted in Los Angeles for the beating of Rodney King. Ruth Bader Ginsburg was appointed to the Supreme Court. Ty launched Beanie Babies. Some of you may have been in elementary school, or high school, and some of you.....not.

Twenty years ago, I was working as a new associate at Breit, Drescher, and Breit, P.C. Although I must confess that practicing personal injury

law was not my career goal when I went to law school, I now know it was the best first job I could have possibly had. I was able to try hundreds of jury trials by myself. I found out that I really enjoyed helping my clients. Plus, I learned that I preferred even a bad day in court, over a good day in the office. But one of the most important things I learned in my first job was a "culture of involvement in the local bar."

One of the first things I did when I became a new attorney 20 years ago, at the insistence of the partners, was fill out countless applications to join bar organizations. I joined the the Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association, along with the Virginia Beach Bar Association, the Virginia Bar Association, the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and the American Bar Association. Soon after its formation, I joined the James Kent Inn of Court. I joined the Virginia Women Attorneys Association. I am probably leaving something out, but you get the picture.

My point is that the partners at my first job, 20 years ago, not only encouraged me to be involved in the local bar, but I am fairly certain it was mandatory. They taught me that being an attorney meant not just preparing and trying my cases, but also serving in my community and my local bar. Serving in NPBA allowed me to learn from outstanding attorneys and judges. It allowed me to meet people I would never have a case with. I benefitted from their knowledge of everything from law and trial skills, to people skills. I saw how to run a meeting and how NOT to run a meeting. I learned event planning, and who you could count on when there was an unplanned emergency. (And that you can always count on an unplanned emergency.) I met many of you through the NPBA, and I am excited to see you at the luncheons and events, even though we have never had a case together.

I know we are all super busy and being asked to "do more with less." I certainly understand the financial choices that need to be made when your firm will not pay for your bar dues. I have been

(continued on page 2)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Dinner

Thursday, May 9, 2013 Norfolk Yacht & Country Club Social Hour 6:00 PM Dinner 7:00 PM

Please make your reservation by May 3, 2013

Portsmouth Courts Update 2 CLE Credits Friday, May 24, 2013 • 1:30-3:30 PM Portsmouth Judicial Center 1345 Court Street, Portsmouth

Young Lawyers Section Golf Event Thursday, June 27, 2013 • 1:00 PM Bide-A-Wee Golf Course



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(President's Message continued)

with the United States Attorney's Office for more than 10 years, and they do not pay any of my dues or fees. But thankfully my career started with an emphasis on participation in the local bar. Even though my practice is entirely in federal court now, I find it more important than ever to maintain involvement in my local law community.

If you are a member (which you probably are if you are reading this message and especially if you are STILL reading this message), but you are not active, I encourage you to be active. Look at the list of committees on the flyer in this issue, and pick one you think you may be interested in. If you are a "young lawyer," I encourage you to show up to a few of their events and meet the outstanding "young lawyers" running those events. If you are in a season of your life where you cannot serve on a committee, how about simply coming to the Annual Dinner on May 9th? Or getting some friends together for the golf tournament on June 27? Or just deciding to make one or two of the monthly luncheon meetings in the fall?

If you are a member and are involved, I thank you for all you have done to make this bar a success. Excellent events like our CLEs or the Bench Bar Conference we had last month could not happen without so many dedicated people putting in time and sponsorship for the event. I hope you will pass on the "culture of involvement in the local bar," and encourage friends and colleagues to join the Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association. I know I have received far more than I have given from my 20 plus years in the bar.

And now, as they say in the Hair Club for Men commercials, "I am not just a satisfied customer, I am also the President."

Message from the Young Lawyers Section

By Bonnie P. Lane, Chair

On April 10, 2013, several attorneys met with Magistrate Judge Lawrence R. Leonard for the latest installment of the YLS's Breakfast with the Bench. Judge Leonard gave his pointers for practicing in federal court based upon his past observations as a U.S. Attorney, as well as his recent observations as a

newly appointed Magistrate Judge. His message emphasizing preparation, civility, and professionalism in the courtroom was well-received and very much appreciated. The YLS thanks Judge Leonard greatly for taking the time to participate in the Breakfast with the Bench.

Thank you to everyone who came out and made the effort to volunteer their time with ForKids on April 13, 2013. For the past 25 years, ForKids has been working hard to break the cycle of homelessness and poverty for families and children in our community. ForKids estimates that this year, over 9,000 children in our area will slip into homelessness. The services they provide include safe shelters, educational assistance to the children and parents, as well as employment and budgeting coaching, and medical services, including mental health counseling. Please be on the lookout for more volunteer opportunities in the future as we work with For Kids to fulfill their mission.

If you have not already done so, please sign up for and plan on attending the YLS's Annual Golf Tournament, which is scheduled for June 27, 2103, at 1:00 pm at the Bide-A-Wee



Bonnie Lane

Golf Course. There are still sponsorship opportunities available and I would encourage anyone interested to contact Johnnie Pearson or David Crain at Willcox & Savage for more information.

This has been a very successful year for the YLS, with record-breaking attendance at its annual

events, as well as its community and volunteer events. I am proud and honored to have been able to serve as this past year's chair. I would like to thank the members of the YLS committee for their hard work this past year and the hours spent attending monthly meetings, as well as planning, executing, and participating in many, many wonderful events. I have truly appreciated everyone's help, hard work, and encouragement. I would like to also thank the Executive Committee for their support, as well as Donna Bausch for all that she and her staff do to help with and promote YLS events. Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of the members of the judiciary and the NPBA for participating in and attending YLS events and for encouraging young lawyers to become more involved in the NPBA. We are fortunate to have a strong and active bar association and legal community, and the continued support is greatly appreciated.

I wish Courtney Williams all the best as she takes over this next year as chair for the YLS and am confident that she will do an excellent job in leading the YLS to continued success.

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Hon. F. Bradford Stillman (Ret.)
Retired Magistrate Judge
United States District Court
Eastern District of Virginia

After twelve years of distinguished service, including over 500 successful settlement conferences, United States Magistrate Judge Brad Stillman has recently retired. Prior to his appointment to the bench, he enjoyed a successful civil litigation career in both Charlottesville and Norfolk, handling a variety of cases ranging from personal injury to general commercial matters. As a magistrate judge, his docket consisted largely of intellectual property, maritime, personal injury, employment, and complex commercial matters. Magistrate Judge Stillman now brings this diverse background and record of accomplishment to The McCammon Group to serve the mediation, arbitration, judge pro tempore, and special master needs of lawyers and litigants throughout the Commonwealth and beyond.



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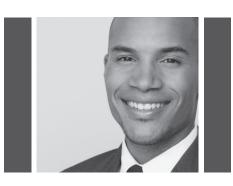
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NPBA FOUNDATION SPONSORS "LAWYERS WITHOUT RIGHTS" EVENT

By David W. Lannetti, Vandeventer Black LLP, NPBA Foundation Board Member



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specialcounsel.com 800.737.3436 Norfolk 757.548.6660 Richmond 804.418.6220 The Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Foundation recently provided financial sponsorship for a thought-provoking public forum. During the month of April 2013, Old Dominion University (ODU) displayed an extraordinary exhibit entitled "Lawyers Without Rights: Jewish Lawyers Under the Third Reich." It was created by the German Federal Bar and chronicles Jewish lawyers who were affected by, and the consequences of, Hitler's systematic steps toward destruction of the Rule of Law, including barring Jewish lawyers and judges from active participation in practicing law and protecting individual rights.

On April 11, a panel discussion featured former U.S. Congressman and World War II veteran G. William Whitehurst, Ph.D., the Honorable U.S. District Judge Mark S. Davis, and ODU German Professor Frederick Lubich and was ably moderated by NPBA member Susan Blackman of Willcox & Savage, P.C.

In attendance at ODU's Diehn Fine and Performing Arts Center, was a capacity crowd of over 200, which included judges, lawyers, professors, students, and community members. Congressman Whitehurst briefly discussed the collapse of Germany's Weimar Republic and explained his views regarding why a similar breakdown was unlikely in the United States. Professor Lubich followed with a presentation interpreting Thomas Mann's novella Das Gesetz (The Tables of the Law) as a literary model that reflects central aspects of the mass manipulation with which fascist ideologues molded Nazi Germany. Judge Davis then discussed the Rule of Law and its central tenets of neutrality, universality, and governance. Taking Congressman Whitehurst's comments to a deeper level, he analyzed whether the obliteration of the Rule of Law could happen in the United States as it did in Germany.

In hindsight, the breakdown in Germany resulted from a confluence of events that hopefully—would never occur in the United States: (1) limited democratic experience. unlike the American democratic system that can be traced back to the Magna Carta; (2) internal national instability, stemming from post-World War I hyperinflation and high unemployment that led to extreme nationalism: (3) the Weimar constitution. which allowed the German President to take singular control of the country as had been done by German President Hindenburg to suspend basic human rights and detain individuals without trial; and (4) little history of societal interest groups in Germany and, hence, no tradition of challenging authority, unlike U.S. groups that support, among other things, judicial independence, religious freedoms, and racial rights. Few stood up to the Nazis; in the face of injustice and the absence of the Rule of Law, many failed to act.

As pointed out, however, the United States is not immune from denying human rights and liberty, as evidenced by its history of slavery and racial discrimination. The efforts by the Nazi party to erode human rights and rather swiftly transition Germany from a free nation to a dictatorship remind us of the importance of protecting the independence of our judiciary and the legal system that preserves our rights. Judge Davis concluded his presentation with a sentiment that aptly sums up the exhibit, "We can't predict the future, but we can learn from the past."



Farideh Goldin of ODU; Dr.William Whitehurst; Knut Abraham, German Embassy Counselor; Judge Mark Davis; and Susan Blackman of Willcox & Savage

Announcements

The law firm of Bertini O'Donnell & Hammer, P.C. has changed its name to **Bertini** & **Hammer, P.C. Lisa Bertini** and **Amberley Hammer** continue to serve clients in all matters related to personal injury, employment and medical malpractice. The firm's address is: 999 Waterside Drive, Suite 1010, Norfolk, VA 23510, 670-3868, www.bhlegalteam.com.

Commander & Carlson announces that **Mary G. Commander** has been selected by Virginia Business Magazine as a member of the Legal Elite in Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Inman & Strickler, PLC is pleased to announce that member Lee A. Handford has been reelected to the Board of Directors of The Roundtable of Business Leaders, a 501(c)(6) business league devoted to the improvement of local business conditions. The Roundtable is a Virginia Beach-based organization that periodically presents speakers on the most important issues affecting Hampton Roads, offers a mentoring/scholarship program for local rising college juniors, conducts trips to local places of interest to the business community, and holds an annual holiday charity and schol-

arship fund-raising gala in cooperation with the Noblemen.

Jeanne S. Lauer, a principal of the law firm of Inman & Strickler, PLC, has been named the 2012 Distinguished Service Award recipient by the Southeastern Virginia Chapter of the Community Association Institute (SEVA CAI). The award is given to a member for a long term achievement of outstanding service to the Chapter. SEVA CAI is a non-profit organization committed to inspiring professionalism, effective leadership and responsible citizenship in community associations through education. Ms. Lauer served on the Board of Directors for SEVA CAI from 2006-2012.

Pender & Coward announces that share-holder **Richard E. Garriott, Jr.** has been appointed Vice Chair of the Virginia Bar Association's Domestic Relations Council. This council works to maintain and improve effective activity in promoting policy, legislation and awareness in the family law area, and fostering quality among the family law bar.

The personal injury law firm of **Shapiro**, **Lewis**, **Appleton & Favaloro** is pleased to

announce that **Jim Lewis** has been elected to the Board of Governors of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association. The VTLA is a statewide organization of attorneys dedicated to promoting professionalism within the trial bar and protecting the soundness of our judicial system.

TowneBank announces that Ute Heidenreich has been promoted to Executive Vice President and General Counsel for TowneBank. She also serves as President of Towne 1031 Exchange, LLC. She earned her juris doctorate from the Marshall Wythe School of Law at William and Mary.

Vandeventer Black LLP is pleased to announce that Tom Berkley has been elected to the Board of Directors for Colonna's Shipyard, Inc. Founded in 1875, Colonna's Shipyard is one of the oldest family owned full service private shipyards in the United States. Tom has litigated cases before Virginia trial courts, the Virginia Court of Appeals, the Virginia Supreme Court, federal trial courts in the Eastern and Western Districts of Virginia, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, and administrative agencies along the

(Continued on page 7)

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East Coast. He has successfully advised and defended maritime and construction clients on numerous matters, including, but not limited to marine terminal operations, maritime contracts, seaman injuries, cargo claims, oil spills, federal and state workers' compensation claims, fisheries disputes, and recreational boating accidents.

Best Lawyers in America has named **Willcox Savage** lawyer **Thomas C. Inglima** as the Norfolk Mergers & Acquisitions Lawyer of the Year for 2013. Inglima chairs the firm's Corporate, Securities and Finance Section. He acts as outside general counsel to a variety of national businesses with a practice focused on mergers and acquisitions, venture capital, securities and intellectual property transactions. He also advises corporations with respect to matters of corporate governance. In 2012, he represented Landmark Media Enterprises in the sale of its Nashville television station (CBS affiliate WTVF) to Journal Communications.

Williams Mullen announced that Will Hulcher was elected partner. Hulcher, who works in the Norfolk office, practices in the firm's business and corporate group with an emphasis on securities matters, corporate governance, and mergers and acquisitions.

He represents public and private corporations including banks, insurers and retail companies. Hulcher advises clients undertaking public and private offerings of debt and equity securities. He also works with clients on sophisticated business transactions, including mergers and acquisitions and corporate reorganizations.

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COURT NEWS

Norfolk Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court

May 27, 2013 Memorial Day – Closed July 4, 2013 Independence Day – Closed September 2, 2013 Labor Day – Closed

Only one court in session for overnight arrest cases and emergency cases on June 18 and September 16-18, 2013

NOTICE

On **Thursday, May 23, 2013**, the Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association will present to the Norfolk Circuit Court the portrait of **Judge Norman A. Thomas.**

You are invited to attend this ceremony, which will commence at **3:00 p.m. in Courtroom Number 1** of this Court.

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VIRGINIA JUDICIARY E-FILING SYSTEM PILOT TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN NORFOLK CIRCUIT COURT

The Office of the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia and George E. Schaefer, Clerk of the Norfolk Circuit Court, announce that the Virginia Judiciary E-Filing System (VJEFS), which allows attorneys to electronically file civil actions in circuit court, will be implemented as a pilot program in the Norfolk Circuit Court, beginning April 15, 2013.

VJEFS is a comprehensive automated system developed by the Office of the Executive Secretary to integrate with the circuit court clerks' offices' existing statewide Circuit Case Management, Case Imaging, and Financial Management Systems, thereby improving the efficiency of the clerks' offices.

The Norfolk Circuit Court pilot of VJEFS will allow filings in most civil cases. Initially, a limited number of attorneys will be registered to use the system, and expanded registration of attorneys will occur during the course of the Norfolk pilot. It is anticipated that VJEFS will be made available as a pilot program in other circuit courts within six months, and subsequently offered to all circuit courts throughout the Commonwealth.

"On behalf of the Supreme Court of Virginia, I am delighted to announce that the Virginia Judiciary E-Filing System is being launched as a pilot program in the Circuit Court for the City of Norfolk and will soon be offered statewide to all circuit courts. The Virginia Judiciary E-Filing System provides a service to attorneys, enhances efficiency in the clerks' offices of the circuit courts, and ultimately makes our courts more accessible."

Cynthia D. Kinser, Chief Justice Supreme Court of Virginia

"The Virginia Judiciary E-Filing System promises to revolutionize how court clerks do business. Using this technology will free our offices from repetitive data entry, filing and scanning."

George E. Schaefer, Clerk Norfolk Circuit Court

About the Office of the Executive Secretary: The Office of the Executive Secretary provides administrative support and technical assistance for all of the courts and magistrate offices within the Commonwealth. This includes the training and

education of all judicial branch employees, as well as legal research assistance for judges. This office also provides payroll, purchasing, accounts payable, human resources, planning, and grant services to the courts. It supplies information technology, including Internet, e-mail, case management, and video technology to the courts and magistrates.

About the Norfolk Circuit Court Clerk's Office: The Clerk of the Circuit Court is a constitutional officer elected to serve an 8-year term. The Circuit Court Clerk's Office performs multiple duties, including serving as custodian of court case records, recording deeds, providing probate services, preserving historic records, acting as record keeper of election ballots, and issuing marriage licenses.

For more information on VJEFS, please contact Katya N. Herndon, Director of Legislative and Public Relations, Office of the Executive Secretary, Supreme Court of Virginia at (804) 786-6455. For specific information about the Norfolk pilot program, please contact Thomas A. Larson, Chief Deputy Clerk, Norfolk Circuit Court Clerk's Office, at (757) 664-4392.

Dan Tannen

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