

NORFOLK & PORTSMOUTH B A R A S S O C I A T I O N

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Preregistration required
for all NPBA Events
622-3152
npbamail@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ATTITUDE



Charles M. Lollar

The word can have multiple meanings. When someone cops an *attitude*, it's generally a bad frame of mind. Hence the need for *attitude adjustment*. According to Jimmy Buffett, a change in latitude will improve it. But what I'm learning (yes, I'm still learning), is that attitude is a *work-in-process*. It can change by the day, even by the hour or minute. It can take a lot of effort to keep attitude in the right mode. And it takes *practice*.

I admire those who can get (and keep) their minds in the right place at the beginning of each day, and keep it there throughout the day. After all, the mind is what spoils our attitude. We shouldn't blame it on our environment. Because the right attitude can completely change our view of things external.

But what is the *right attitude*? And how do we get there? My answer is to *decide* to improve attitude. That decision is the start. Attitude can make life happy or unhappy. It's a seemingly simple choice to choose the former. I think people gravitate to those with the right attitude. It's natural. Like the law of physics. Or the new age Law of Attraction.

Remember *The Right Stuff*? Tom Wolfe's subject, the hearts and minds of the first Americans in space in our race with the Russians, led some to believe that the *stuff* was courage. Sure, those men appeared more than willing, maybe thankful, to have the opportunity to take such incredible risks. But without the right *attitude*, they would have cracked during their rigorous tests, long before they earned their space wings. Like members of the Eighth Air Force flying daytime formation bombing missions over Nazi Germany while under heavy ground-to-air attack, their *attitude* got them through it.

As we engage in our daily work, the right attitude leads to professionalism. Professionalism consists of certain attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors sometimes known collectively as "virtue" or "good character." Attitudes and behaviors have two things in common. First, both are produced by our beliefs. Second, we have the power to choose our attitudes and behaviors.

The classic definition of a profession is that it is an occupation based on a specialized body of knowledge and skills, entry into which is restricted to those who prove their competence, and which is conducted in the interest of those it serves and of the public generally, and is subject to self-imposed rules of ethical conduct. However, David Maister, a former Harvard Business School Professor and expert on business management practices put it best when he observed

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON

Thursday, November 21, 2019, 11:45 AM

Hits at the Park, Harbor Park

Topic: The Opioid Crisis
and

Wellness in the Legal Profession: Becoming
a More Health Conscious Practitioner
1:00 - 2:00 PM • 1 CLE Credit

HOLIDAY PARTY

Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Hits at the Park, Harbor Park

JANUARY LUNCHEON

Thursday, January 15, 2020, 11:45 AM

Hits at the Park, Harbor Park

Hon. Kenneth C. Alexander
Mayor, City of Norfolk

NORFOLK & PORTSMOUTH BAR ASSOCIATION

City of Norfolk Courthouse
150 St. Paul's Blvd., 2d Fl.
Norfolk, Virginia 23510
(757) 622-3152
npbmail@gmail.com
www.norfolkandportsmouthbar.org

OFFICERS

Charles M. Lollar
President
735-0777
chuck@lollarlaw.com

Lamont Maddox
President-Elect
454-2045
lmaddox@guidancelaw.com

Caryn R. West
Past President
453-7744
cwest@pzlzaw.com

John F. Sawyer
Treasurer
497-6633
sawyer@wolriv.com

Kristan B. Burch
Secretary
624-3000
kbburch@kaufcan.com

Anne G. Bibeau
446-8600
abibeau@vanblacklaw.com

Kellam T. Parks
453-7744
kparks@pzlzaw.com

Cartwright R. Reilly
499-8800
creilly@williamsmullen.com

Tameeka M. Williams
627-5423
tameekaw@laseva.org

Jamilah D. LeCruise
Chair
Young Lawyers Section
627-5215
jdlecruise@lecruiselaw.com

STAFF

Donna Bausch
Executive Director
622-2910
dbauch@norfolkawlibrary.org

Michelle Herbert
Administrative Assistant
622-3152
npbmail@gmail.com

PUBLISHER

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(President's Message continued)

that professionalism is "predominantly *an attitude*, not a set of competencies. A real professional is a technician who cares." True professionalism, he says, implies *an attitude* of "pride in work, a commitment to quality, a dedication to the interests of the client, and a sincere desire to help." In short, being a competent lawyer is neither about money nor about professional fulfillment. Both of these are consequences of an unqualified dedication to excellence in serving clients and their needs."

Over the years I've been very fortunate to have the opportunity to take away some tidbit of wisdom of my mentors and other colleagues. One was, "when you first are engaged in a matter that requires advocacy, pick up the phone and call opposing counsel, just to introduce yourself." Attitudes can be contagious. That precipitous act of professionalism will likely beget a reciprocal attitude, leading to a working relationship that has a better chance of reaching the best result for clients on both sides.

Not surprisingly, attitude can work good in most other aspects of our lives: personal, spiritual, physical, they all can improve immensely with the right attitude. Meditation and yoga have proven health benefits. I've done them, but not well. I'm more of a person that benefits from interaction with others. Reaching out rather than in. Everyone is no doubt different, so one fix doesn't fix all.

Also not surprisingly, the residual benefits of the right mindset, or *attitude*, are many-fold. Its like the good feeling you get when a client expresses sincere gratitude for all you've done, which you thought would go entirely unnoticed. That feeling can trump a five-figure fee. And who are those clients that share their gratitude with their attorneys? The ones with the right *attitude*.

What can we do to maintain and enhance professionalism in the practice of law? The first thing we can do is individually to recommit to the ideals of our profession. We should talk about those ideals with others, especially young lawyers. In addition, every lawyer should:

Become a volunteer

Any number of community organizations would benefit from our services. Pick a place to volunteer that is of interest. Perhaps it is a church. Or a school board. Or an arts group. Or an animal shelter. Or a poverty center.

Become active in the work of the organized local bar association

Active involvement in the work of a local bar association gives unparalleled opportunities to meet and get to know other outstanding professionals in your local community. It enriches our professional lives. It gives us the opportunity to work together to improve the law, the profession, and the administration of justice. And it makes us better lawyers, to the benefit of our clients.

Jimmy got it wrong. Attitude is not so much influenced by latitude. It's influenced by *altitude*. High roads always lead to better attitude than low roads. And as Zig Ziglar noted, your attitude, not your aptitude, will determine your altitude. Stay on the high road.

THE PRO BONO CORNER

Caryn R. West, Chair, Pro Bono Committee

Thank you to everyone that participated in September's Pro Bono Week. On Monday, September 16, we had a successful CLE for Virginia's Campaign to Reduce Evictions (CARE), a pro bono hotline that assists tenants facing eviction. This great new pro bono program can be done on your schedule from your home or office. If you couldn't make it to the CLE, you can still participate. Contact Phil Storey at phil@vplc.org or (804) 418-3210. On Tuesday, we had a successful Wills Clinic assisting low income seniors by providing them with free will, power of attorney and health care documents. Wednesday featured a Bankruptcy Bypass Training and Clinic. Thursday we had our luncheon speaker Chief Judge Mark S. Davis join us to talk about assisting victims of domestic violence followed by a one hour training CLE for assisting victims obtain protective orders. Finally, we capped off the week with a fundraiser for legal aid. If you have ideas how to fill Pro Bono Week next year, please contact me at cwest@pzlzaw.com or 427-4411.

Pro Bono Spotlight: At our September luncheon, we had Janice Craft come speak about opportunities with Project for the Empowerment of Survivors. If you'd like to explore ways to help domestic violence survivors with their legal needs, more information can be obtained at www.vsdvalliance.org or call (804) 377-0335 or email legal@vsdvalliance.org.

LIBRARY LINES

Contact Norfolk Law Library at 622-2910 • www.norfolklawlibrary.org

Hello from Norfolk Law Library,

The next time that you contact Norfolk Law Library, you may hear an unfamiliar voice or see a new face. I am your new Law Librarian, Isaac Needell. I am originally from Maine, but I have come to Norfolk by way of Qatar. I have experience in academic, medical, law, and public libraries including the Weill-Cornell Medicine Qatar, the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library, and the Northampton Branch of Hampton Public Library. Over the last several weeks, I have had the pleasure of attending CLEs and luncheons with many of you. I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to all of you for the friendly, welcoming reception that you have shown me.

By the time that you read this, Larry Story will have begun his retirement. He has a natural skill for working with people and he provides an extraordinary level of service to patrons. I have greatly enjoyed learning from him and collaborating on research requests.



Isaac Needell

Donna Bausch will also be retiring later this year. She has been transferring the reins to Norfolk Law Library to me since I started on September 16. The sheer volume of information that she has amassed during her career is staggering and I have greatly appreciated her patience and assistance as I try to absorb everything that I can before she leaves.

I am excited to work with all patrons of Norfolk Law Library from attorneys and

judges to local educational institutions and the general public. I am particularly looking forward to fielding more questions from the members of the Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association because of the interesting and challenging nature of your research requests. There is never a question too small or obscure; if you need information, Norfolk Law Library is here to find it for you.

I appreciate the generous support that you all have provided to the library and I look forward to serving your information needs. If you ever have a research request or comments regarding the Law Library, please feel free to contact me directly at ineedell@norfolklawlibrary.org or call me at (757) 622-2910.

Sincerely,

Isaac Needell
Law Librarian

Wills Event for Seniors

SSSEVA thanks the members of the Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association and the Hampton Roads Estate Planning Council who lent their time and expertise on September 17 to draft wills free of charge for income-qualified seniors at the Center for Aging in Norfolk.

A special thank you to **Caryn West** of Parks Zeigler, PLLC.

A few of the participating attorneys



**Leigh Cason, Caryn West, Ann Larkin
and Joe Lipscomb**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Benjamin Bowers
Law Office of Benjamin D. Bowers

Varun Chari
Willcox & Savage

Lance R. Garner
Law Office of Bruce M. Robinson & Assocs.

Garry Hartlieb
U.S. Attorney's Office

Lynn Hattery
Sykes, Bourdon, Ahern & Levy

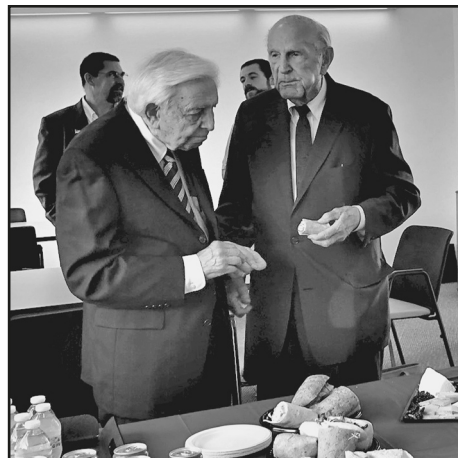
Amanda Muncy
Phillips & Peters

Micaylee A. Noreen
Kaufman & Canoles

Ingrid Watson
Willcox & Savage

Benjamin Snodgrass
Regent University law student

NPBA FOUNDATION FELLOWS RECEPTION



YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

By Jamilah D. LeCruise, Chair • jdlecruise@lecruisela.com • 627-5215

Happy Fall!

On September 16, the Young Lawyers Section met at The Main to plan our annual Fall Reception.

YLS treasurer **Kerry Stolz** (Pender & Coward) along with **Margaret Kelly** (Norfolk Office of the City Attorney) and **Rachel Van Horn** (Glasser & Glasser), and **John Wilson** (Stackhouse, Nexsen & Turrietta) made for a great team this year.

The Reception took place on October 27 from 1-4 p.m. at the home of **Judge Mary Jane Hall**.

The event was catered by Yummy Goodness Catering and featured their delicious seasonal hors d'oeuvres.

Thank you to The McCammon Group, Kalfus & Nachman, John Coggeshall, and Lollar Law for serving as Gold Level sponsors as well as Swartz, Taliaferro, Swartz & Goodove, Ramin Fatehi, and The Law Office of J. D. LeCruise for serving as Silver Level sponsors.



Jamilah LeCruise

It was especially nice to see **Judge Jerrauld Jones** (Norfolk Circuit), **Judge Randolph Carlson** (Norfolk Juvenile & Domestic Relations), **Judge William Moore** (Portsmouth Circuit), **Judge Lyn Simmons** (Norfolk Juvenile & Domestic Relations), and **Judge David Lannetti** (Norfolk Circuit) supporting the Young Lawyers Section.

We all enjoyed a wonderful autumn afternoon of networking and catching up with our favorite NPBA members and judges. Hope to see you there next year!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Willcox Savage is pleased to announce that partner **Bruce Bishop** has become a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers during the 2019 Annual Meeting of the College in Vancouver, British Columbia. Bruce graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in 1976, and since that time has defended national and international companies in asbestos, transportation, and environmental matters. He has extensive trial experience in state and federal courts throughout the United States. Bruce has considerable experience in the coordination of mass tort litigation and has a national reputation in the medical and state-of-the-art issues associated with toxic tort litigation.

Willcox Savage partner **David C. Bowen** has been named 2019 *Best Lawyers in America, Transportation Law* "Lawyer of the Year" in Norfolk. David has a wide range of litigation and trial experience and focuses on defending railroads, theme parks, resorts, asbestos defendants, automobile manufacturers and product manufacturers. He currently litigates and tries products liability cases in numerous states.



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757.244.7000 | 757.650.9818 | ssmith@BrainInjuryLawCenter.com

NPBA FOUNDATION FELLOWS RECEPTION



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Let us be part of your team as you chart a course for your charitably-inclined clients.

Since 1950 attorneys have partnered with us when crafting charitable legacies for their clients. Charitable bequests, IRA gifts, donor-advised funds, private foundation transfers, CRTs and CLTs are among the possibilities. Our expert advice is free and in total confidence.

**Contact Kay Stine, CFRE, vice president
for development, at (757) 622-7951 or
kstine@hamptonroadscf.org.**



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