

# BAR BULLETIN

Volume XXXVIII  
Number 5

September –  
October 2013

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

# NORFOLK & PORTSMOUTH BAR ASSOCIATION

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Virginia Van Valkenburg

One of the things I treasure most in life is quality time with family and friends. I started out writing this message on work-life balance, because I find the number one impediment to that sort of quality time is a profession that is a "jealous mistress." I would love everyone to think that I had it all together, and that I never cancel on friends and family because work spilled over into my evenings and weekends. However, in the spirit of total honesty, I have just finished a summer where more of my summer than I care to admit has been spent in the office. Don't get me wrong – I love my job and love my profession, but I am best at my job when I have occasional and regular time away from it.

I often wonder, especially when I am at the office late at night or on weekends, what am I doing wrong, that others are doing right? So – in search of answers to that question, I have gone to other attorneys and coworkers – as well as the internet (because how could THAT lead me astray?) for solutions to a more efficient and productive work life. I wanted to share some of the tips I heard, along with my commentary on what may or may not work.

1. **Create a "to do" list.** Almost everyone to whom I spoke mentioned a task list. So why even talk about it? Attorneys used everything from Microsoft Outlook to yellow legal pads, but my interest is in how we use these lists.

I live by my "Action Item" list. I have a printed list of all of the things I have to accomplish, broken down by each case. In that same document, I also have a case list with a one-line summary of the last event that happened in each case. You could walk into my office and ask "what is the status of the \_\_\_ file" and I could flip to page 3 and tell you exactly what the last event was in the file and when it happened.

Every night before I leave the office, I highlight my top 3-4 things for the next day, and number them in the order I would like to accomplish them. That way, when I come in the following morning, I can go right to highlighted item number 1, and start working on my list. I know exactly where to start first thing in the morning, even if the caffeine has not kicked in yet.

2. **Work on that thing you dread for 30 minutes.** Come on. We all have them: a task so big you hardly know where to start, so you don't, or a case you do not like to work on or even

(continued on page 2)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**NPBA Luncheon**  
Thursday, September 19, 2013, 11:45 AM  
Hits at the Park, Harbor Park  
Joint Appearance by candidates for  
Virginia Lieutenant Governor  
Sen. Ralph Northam and Bishop E.W. Jackson

**NPBA Luncheon**  
Thursday, October 17, 2013, 11:45 AM  
Hits at the Park, Harbor Park  
Speaker: Dr. Samuel T. King,  
Superintendent, Norfolk Public Schools

A complete listing of upcoming CLE seminars can be found on page 5 of this issue  
and on our Upcoming Events web page.

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### (PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED)

think about, or a phone call you do not want to make, etc. The file sits at the far corner of your desk, staring you down. You did not work on it yesterday and it is there again today, still waiting for your attention. I heard several years ago, that when faced with these tasks, you should take 30 minutes and decide to work only on that one thing that you hate. This tip has really helped me knock out some of those more challenging tasks. I often find that if I just set aside 30 minutes to focus on something I have dreaded, that it usually is not as bad as I thought it was going to be. I find that I am not afraid of a challenging task after I have simply STARTED the work on it.

3. **Keep email closed, and set a time in the morning and a time in the afternoon to respond to emails.** I don't follow this tip. I should probably try, even for a day, because we have all heard this suggestion countless times. I understand that reading and responding to email is time consuming, but if you can restrict checking email to once or twice a day, you fascinate me.

I believe that this system would be not be efficient for me personally, because I use email so much to send communications *out*, particularly with agency counsel. It helps me to have email open so I can go to it and immediately send an email at the moment the case is on my desk and on my mind. This action, in turn, probably distracts someone ELSE at the moment they are trying to go through their own task list.

4. **Let calls to go to voicemail and set aside a time to return calls.** I don't follow this tip, either. There are certain people who, when I call them, always seem to pick up the phone and answer. Others, as I am dialing the number, I already know that my call will go to voice mail. I really want to be in the first category. I wish that I was the person who everyone knew answered the phone on the first or second ring, or at least returned their calls within 10 minutes. I am trying.

However, law practices differ. My phone does not ring like it did when I was a plaintiff's attorney doing personal injury work. When I represented plaintiffs, my phone rang constantly. I mean constantly. I could step away from my desk for 5 minutes and have about 7 voicemails when I returned to my desk. I think I could have actually spent my entire day doing nothing but answering the phone. I utilized voice mail more in that type of practice, because otherwise I would not have completed any work....ever.

5. **Keep your desk organized.** I can see the benefit to a clear desk. However, I have also seen desks and entire offices that look like the attorney has just been robbed, and yet they have an amazing ability to know exactly where everything is! Often those who appear to be disorganized can put their hands on a document much faster than I can with a clean desk system.

Here is the way I *try* to work: I try to have only the case I am working on on my desk. I have a side table with stacks of cases awaiting my attention. On super busy weeks, I have the stacks divided in piles, and label them with the day of the week I need to address them. When I have to shift gears from one case to the next, I take the case I was working on, place it on the table, then take the next case file to my nice clean desk.

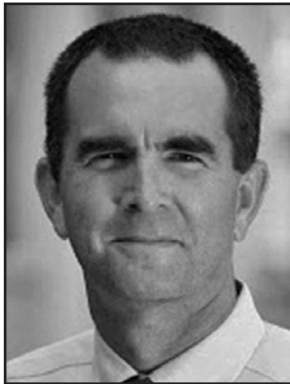
However, here is what actually happens: I am working on one case, on my nice clean desk, but then the phone rings and the person on the other end of the line has a question on a different case. I pull the file from the file drawer, open it, and end up placing it on top of the first case. Right after the phone call, someone walks into my office with a question on a third case. When I pull that file, it goes on top. Pretty soon I have layers of case files on my desk and I have to work backwards to dig to the bottom.

If any of you have suggestions for better time management, I would love to hear them. And if your call goes to my voice mail or your email is not answered until the following day, well, please know that I am trying.



## SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING

### Joint Appearance by Candidates for Virginia Lieutenant Governor



**Sen. Ralph Northam**

**Thursday,  
September 19, 2013**

**Hits at The Park,  
Harbor Park**

**11:45 AM**



**Bishop E. W. Jackson**

## OCTOBER LUNCHEON MEETING

**Thursday, October 17, 2013**

**Hits at The Park, Harbor Park**

**11:45 AM**



**Dr. Samuel T. King**

*Superintendent, Norfolk Public Schools*

Dr. Samuel T. King, a native of Georgia, has 28 years of public education experience. He was sworn in as Superintendent of Norfolk Public Schools on July 2, 2012, after seven years as Superintendent of the Rockdale County Public Schools in Georgia.

He began his career as a classroom teacher of mathematics and science at the high school, middle and elementary levels. Dr. King attended Mercer University, earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Middle Grades Education. He then earned a Masters Degree and Specialist Degree in Education Administration and Supervision from University of West Georgia. He received his Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership

from the University of Sarasota (Argosy).

As a proven leader and renowned public education advocate, Dr. King was named Georgia's 2011 Superintendent of the Year by the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA) and the Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA) after being a finalist for three consecutive years. Dr. King was awarded the first Sybil Yastrow Leading for Learning Superintendent's Grant. He was also appointed to the Advisory Committee for the Vision Project for Public Education in Georgia, a joint venture of the GSBA and the GSSA.

In 2008, Dr. King was named Outstanding Educator by the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders (GAEL). He is a graduate of the Governor's School Leadership Institute and the Superintendent Professional Development Program (SPDP) of the Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA). In addition, he has completed America's Choice Leadership Institute training, is a member of the national Horace Mann League and the Century Club 100. Century Club 100 is committed to fostering educational leadership through a nationwide idea exchange in coordination with the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) and is made up of two active superintendents from each state.

Dr. King was honored with an invitation to participate in the National Center for Education Research and Technology (NCERT), where top-performing superintendents from across the country are brought together with successful business leaders to provide advice and support for improving education. Prior to his tenure as Superintendent, Dr. King also was selected to join the Broad Foundation's National Urban Superintendent's Academy, an organization where proven leaders participated in rigorous training forums to strengthen their abilities as overseers of urban school districts.

Dr. King is a member of numerous professional organizations, including the National Education Association, the Georgia Association of Educational Leaders, the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He is a Charter Member of the Stockbridge-Jonesboro Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi, Incorporated.

Dr. King is proud that during his tenure with Rockdale County Public Schools, the system made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the past six consecutive years, saw its dropout rate reduced and posted its highest graduation rate since the beginning of the accountability era.

## MESSAGE FROM THE YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

By Courtney C. Williams, Chair

I hope that everyone has been having a fantastic summer. The YLS has hosted a variety of events for both young lawyers and NPBA as a whole. On June 27, the YLS annual Golf Tournament was held at Bide-A-Wee. I am excited to report an excellent turnout to the event that



Courtney Williams

was enjoyed by all. Thank you to all of the players and gracious sponsors for making this event such a rousing success. I would also like to thank David Crain and Johnnie Pearson of Willcox & Savage, PC who did an excellent job planning this event.

The YLS developed a new partnership with Ronald McDonald House and created a unique event for YLS members to serve the community. On July 29, YLS members made dinner for the individuals staying at the House. The mission of the Ronald McDonald House is to provide a "home away from home" for families and children facing medical challenges. The event was a success and we look forward to continuing to serve this organization. I would like to extend my gratitude to Taylor Denslow for executing this successful event.

On August 1, the Summer Social was held at Willcox & Savage, PC which so kindly opened its doors and allowed us to have such a well-attended event. The room was packed with attorneys of all ages. Thank you so much to everyone who was able to make it to the

event—it was a great time. I would like to extend a huge thank you to Bonnie Lane, past YLS Chair, for her hard work organizing this event. Of course, Willcox & Savage, PC deserves immense gratitude for providing such a beautiful space for the event.

Each summer, the YLS plans an outing at Harbor Park for NPBA members and their families. On August 22, many lawyers and their families attended an evening Tides game. The City of Norfolk was very generous in donating their large luxury box to the YLS for use at this game and we are very thankful for the City's generosity.

There are many more YLS events on the horizon. Another installment of Breakfast With the Bench and a ForKids volunteer day at Good Mojo Thrift store are being schedule for fall, so watch for details in

future Bar Bulletins and in your email. The Fall Reception is being planned for a Sunday in October at Judge Mary Jane Hall's home. Dates and times will be announced.

The Young Lawyers Section would love to welcome you to their events as well as their meetings. It is always wonderful to see new faces and have new attorneys become involved. If anyone is interested in joining the YLS Committee, has questions, or has suggestions for events, please feel free to contact me at [cwilliams@bhlegalteam.com](mailto:cwilliams@bhlegalteam.com).

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

**Christopher B. Galloway**

Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia

**Ameet I. Habib**

Wolcott Rivers Gates

**Kelley Holland**

Williams Mullen

**Julia E. Keller**

Gilbert, Albiston & Keller

**Kelsey Ott**

William & Mary law student

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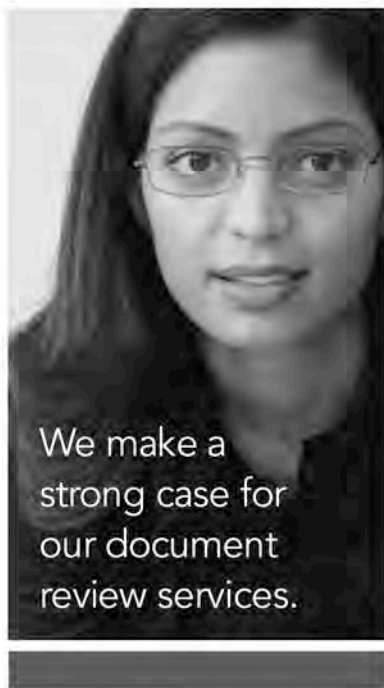
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## ***An Introduction to Collaborative Practice***

Tuesday, September 10, 2013  
1:00 - 4:00 PM  
3 CLE Credits (1 Ethics)  
Dominion Tower, Suite 400  
*flyer enclosed*

## ***Appeals: How to Take Them and Make Them Work***

Thursday, September 12, 2013  
1:00 - 4:00 PM  
3 CLE Credits (1 Ethics)  
Dominion Tower, Suite 400  
*flyer enclosed*

## ***U.S./Canada Cross-Border Litigation: Key Considerations for U.S. Lawyers***

Thursday, September 19, 2013  
(Immediately following NPBA Luncheon)  
1.5 CLE Credits  
*flyer enclosed*

## ***Litigating Abuse and Neglect Cases***

Tuesday, September 24, 2013  
1:00 - 4:00 PM  
3 CLE Credits  
Dominion Tower, Suite 400  
*flyer enclosed*

## ***Fences, Trees & Dogs: Neighborhood Law***

Tuesday, October 1, 2013  
1:00 - 4:00 PM  
3 CLE Credits  
Dominion Tower, Suite 400  
*flyer enclosed*

## ***Personal Injury Law in the 21st Century***

Thursday, October 3, 2013  
1:00 - 4:00 PM  
3 CLE Credits  
Dominion Tower, Suite 400  
*flyer enclosed*

## ***Lions and Tigers and Bears-Oh My!: An Introduction to Animal Law***

Tuesday, October 8, 2013  
1:00 - 4:00 PM  
3 CLE Credits  
Dominion Tower, Suite 400  
*flyer enclosed*

## ***USERRA & SCRA:***

### ***Protecting the Servicemember***

Thursday, October 10, 2013  
1:00 - 4:00 PM  
3 CLE Credits  
Dominion Tower, Suite 400  
*flyer enclosed*

### ***Where's the Line?***

### ***Managing Daily Risks in the Practice of Law***

Monday, October 14, 2013  
12:30 - 2:30 PM  
2 CLE Ethics Credits  
Dominion Tower, Suite 400  
*flyer enclosed*

### ***Military Retirement Benefits and Family Law Issues***

Wednesday, October 16, 2013  
1:00 - 4:00 PM  
3 CLE Credits  
Dominion Tower, Suite 400  
*flyer enclosed*

### ***Competence, Communications and Conflicts: Avoiding Malpractice and Ethical Complaints***

Thursday, October 17, 2013  
1 CLE Ethics Credit  
(Immediately following NPBA Luncheon)  
Hits at the Park, Harbor Park  
*flyer enclosed*

### ***Mediation: Tools and Tricks of the Trade***

Wednesday, October 23, 2013  
1:00 - 3:00 PM  
2 CLE Credits (1 Ethics)  
Dominion Tower, Suite 400  
*flyer enclosed*

### ***Trial Advocacy***

Thursday, October 31, 2013  
1:00 - 4:00 PM  
3 CLE Credits  
Dominion Tower, Suite 400  
*flyer enclosed*

Visit our Upcoming Events web page for additions, changes and updates.  
Flyers have details on faculty, topical content and cost.

[www.norfolkandportsmouthbar.org/UpcomingEvents.html](http://www.norfolkandportsmouthbar.org/UpcomingEvents.html)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Crenshaw, Ware & Martin, P.L.C.** is proud to announce that **Elaine Inman Hogan** and **Steven M. Stancliff**, have become partners in the firm. Ms. Hogan focuses her practice on Employment Law, primarily assisting employers and management, and serves as the practice group chair for the firm's Employment Law Group. She also handles Complex Civil Litigation and Business Disputes. Ms. Hogan received her J.D., *cum laude*, from Georgetown University Law Center and a B.A. degree, *summa cum laude*, from Old Dominion University. She was admitted to the Virginia Bar in 2002. Mr. Stancliff focuses on Admiralty & Maritime Law, Transportation Law, Complex Civil Litigation, and Marine Subrogation. He is admitted in Virginia, North Carolina and Ohio, and is rated AV® Preeminent™ by Martindale-Hubbell. He received his J. D. from Case Western Reserve University, a Master of Marine Affairs from the University of Rhode Island and a B.S. in Marine Engineering from the United States Coast Guard Academy. Mr. Stancliff served with distinction in the United States Coast Guard, retiring at the rank of Commander.

**Poole Mahoney PC** is pleased to welcome

Attorney **Walter T. Camp** as Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Camp brings over twenty years of business and financial experience. Previously, he practiced law with a private law firm, served as corporate counsel and is a professional civil mediator. He earned a Bachelor's and M.B.A. in Operations Management from Case Western Reserve University, and a J.D. with honors from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law.

**Poole Mahoney PC** is pleased to announce **Tara L. Chadbourn** has been promoted to the position of Principal with the firm. She concentrates her legal practice in construction law, commercial and general litigation. Ms. Chadbourn is a Green Building Council Institute LEED Green Associate, was appointed in 2011 by the City of Norfolk to the Norfolk Environmental Commission, has been repeatedly elected by her peers to be included in *Virginia Business* magazine's Legal Elite in the category of Construction Law and selected a Virginia Rising Star by Richmond magazine, *Virginia Super Lawyers* in the category of Construction Litigation. Ms. Chadbourn has an AV rating from Martindale-Hubbell, the leading directory of attorneys in U.S. law

firms. Lawyers are rated by their peers on their legal knowledge, analytical capabilities, judgment, communication ability and legal experience. Ms. Chadbourn earned her J.D. and Master's in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School.

**Poole Mahoney PC** announces the following lawyers were selected as 2013 Virginia Super Lawyers in the following categories: **Reeves Mahoney**, Family Law; **Jeffrey Brooke**, General Litigation. Selected as 2013 Virginia Rising Stars were: **Tara Chadbourn**, Construction Litigation; **Shantell Nashatka**, Family Law.

**The Law Offices of Richard J. Serpe** are pleased to announce our newest associate **Emily Mapp Brannon**. Emily will devote her practice to personal injury matters with a focus on mass tort litigation. Emily is a member of the American Association for Justice, Virginia Bar Association, Virginia Trial Lawyers Association, and Virginia Beach Bar Association. She has been named to the National Trial Lawyers Top 40 Under 40, and named a rising star by Virginia Super Lawyers. Emily is licensed to practice in Virginia and Florida.

(Continued on page 7)

# COOPER HURLEY

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## Announcements continued

**Vandeventer Black LLP** attorneys were recognized in the following categories: Virginia Super Lawyers Rising Stars of 2013: **Megan Caramore**, immigration; **Richard Crouch**, business/corporate; **Shalanda Franklin**, bankruptcy; **Michael Giordano**, general litigation; **Mara Mijal**, immigration; **Gretchen Ostroff**, construction litigation; **Dustin Paul**, civil litigation defense. In Virginia Super Lawyers 2013: **Dean Buckius**, employment and labor; **Deborah Casey**, real estate; **Mark Coberly**, transportation/maritime; **William Franczek**, construction/surety; **Patrick Genzler**, construction/surety; **Patrick Herman**, estate and probate; **David Lannetti**, bankruptcy; **Neil Lowenstein**, construction litigation; **Bryant McGann**, real estate; **John Ryan**, transportation/maritime; **Michael Sterling**, construction litigation.

**Willcox & Savage** is pleased to announce that **Bruce T. Bishop** is listed in "Virginia Top 10" and **Susan R. Blackman** is listed in "Virginia Top 50 Women" in 2013 *Virginia Super Lawyers*. Mr. Bishop practices in the area of Mass Torts and Ms. Blackman in the area of Employment & Labor. In

addition to Mr. Bishop, ten attorneys have been recognized in "Virginia Top 100," the largest number from any firm in Virginia. **Gary A. Bryant**, Business Litigation; **Stephen R. Davis**, Real Estate; **Robert L. Dewey**, Real Estate; **Allan G. Donn**, Business/Corporate; **William M. Furr**, Employment Litigation: Defense; **Thomas C. Inglima**, Mergers & Acquisitions; **Thomas G. Johnson, Jr.**, Real Estate; **Timothy J. Lockhart**, Intellectual Property; **Ross C. Reeves**, Bankruptcy & Creditor/Debtor Rights; **Conrad M. Shumadine**, Business Litigation. In total, Willcox & Savage has 26 attorneys recognized in *Virginia Super Lawyers*. An additional 12 attorneys are recognized as *Virginia Rising Stars*.

*Benchmark Litigation* has recognized **Susan R. Blackman** as one of the "Top 250 Women in Litigation" in the United States. She is specifically recognized for her work in the Labor & Employment and Business Immigration Law practice areas. Susan is the only lawyer in Hampton Roads, and one of only four in Virginia to receive this national recognition. Susan is a partner in the Labor & Employment Group, where her practice focuses on employment and business immigration law. She advises business managers about legal is-

sues relating to employees, and represents employers in court and administrative proceedings involving employment and immigration matters. She also helps businesses comply with U.S. employment and immigration laws.

**Wolcott Rivers Gates** is pleased to announce that **Ameet I. Habib** has joined the firm. Mr. Habib received his J. D. from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law and was admitted to practice in Virginia in 2007. He is a litigator with more than six years of experience who concentrates his practice in the areas of divorce, custody, child support and visitation. Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Habib was a staff attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Virginia. At Legal Aid, Mr. Habib successfully represented numerous clients in the General District, Juvenile and Domestic Relations and Circuit Courts in Norfolk, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, York County and Accomack County. Mr. Habib was one of two legal externs selected to work in the Office of the Clerk of the United States Supreme Court and was responsible for assisting petitioners with compliance with procedural rules and observed daily proceedings

(Continued on page 8)

# IMMIGRATION

## VANDEVENTER BLACK LLP

- Deportation Defense
- Visas
- Green Cards
- Citizenship
- Criminal Consequence

Our Immigration Law Group regularly handles the full range of immigration services — from visas and green cards to citizenship and deportation defense in immigration court.

We understand the immigration consequences of criminal convictions. In addition to providing consultation services, we welcome referrals and co-counsel relationships.



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Norfolk, VA 23510  
707 East Main Street, Suite 1700  
Richmond, VA 23219

## Announcements continued

of the Court including oral arguments and announcements of opinions.

**Wolcott Rivers Gates** is pleased to announce that **Cheshire I'Anson Eveleigh** has been appointed Secretary/Treasurer of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers – Virginia Chapter. The American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (“AAML”) was founded in 1962, by highly regarded domestic relations attorneys “To provide leadership that promotes the highest degree of professionalism and excellence in the practice of family law.” AAML Fellows across the United States are generally recognized by judges and attorneys as preeminent family law practitioners with a high level of knowledge, skill and integrity.

### NPBA CLE VIP SEASON TICKET

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## CLASSIFIED

### ATTORNEY POSITION AVAILABLE:

The law firm of **Bischoff Martingayle P.C.** is interested in adding to our Virginia Beach Oceanfront practice an attorney with civil litigation experience and possibly some exposure to criminal and traffic work. An interest in developing a domestic relations practice is a plus. This is a great opportunity for a motivated, self starting lawyer who wants to develop and grow his or her own practice, handle some existing client files, and practice law in a smaller firm atmosphere. Compensation is dependent upon prior production, experience, practice areas and skills; however, a willingness to explore compensation based upon individual production is preferred. Partner status may be considered. All inquiries will be kept strictly confidential. Please email Bill Bischoff at [wcb@bischoff-martingayle.com](mailto:wcb@bischoff-martingayle.com) with your resume.

## Dan Tannen

3420 Forsythia Lane • Burtonsville, MD 20866  
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## REQUEST FOR CASH ADVANCE

I make small cash advances on automobile accident cases through lawyers with whom I have a meeting of the minds. Here's how I make it easy for you to work with me:

1. I never talk with the lawyer's client. The lawyer determines if an advance is appropriate, and further determines the amount of the advance. The only time a cash advance makes it difficult to settle is when a client borrows too much money.
2. I never do any due diligence. The case has to have clear liability, injuries related to the accident, an insurance policy, and be the type of case that the lawyer would invest in himself, if not prohibited from doing so.
3. I charge 20% every six months, with no upfront fee, no minimum, and no compounding. All I need is the information below.
4. I send the check and paperwork to your office by regular mail. Your client signs the paperwork and gets the check. If you want overnight delivery, provide your Fedex number below.

|                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Attorney Name           | Today's Date      |
| Attorney Phone          | Amount of Advance |
| Client Name             | Date of Accident  |
| Client Street           | Insurance Company |
| Client City, State, Zip | Claim Number      |
| Client Phone            | Fedex #           |



# Accidents Happen In Seconds ... Major Verdicts & Settlements Don't.

In October 2000, with co-counsel, we obtained the largest personal injury verdict in Virginia's history\* and have regularly obtained major settlements and verdicts since. Our attorneys welcome the opportunity to work with you.

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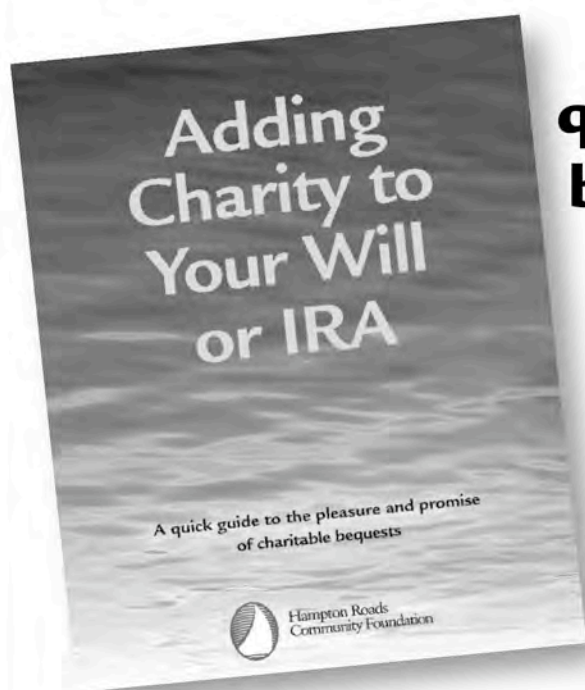


*\*60 Million Dollar record verdict as of Oct. 2000 (French v. NS). Visit our website for info.*

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