

BAR BULLETIN

May - June 2023

Vol. XLVII, No. 3

NORFOLK & PORTSMOUTH
BAR ASSOCIATION



President's Message

By Kristan Burch

As the NPBA fiscal year comes to an end in May 2023, we look back on how many traditional bar activities have resumed and expanded over the last year.

The NPBA hosted monthly luncheons on the 8th floor of the Norfolk Courthouse with speakers on topics ranging from the Virginia State Bar to mental health to the arts. With the exception of one luncheon that had to be cancelled at the last minute after a bomb threat at the Norfolk Courthouse, the luncheons were well attended. Thanks to Margaret Kelly and the rest of the Program Committee for a successful luncheon season.

The NPBA returned to in-person CLEs in the training room at the Norfolk Courthouse. Some were held after the monthly luncheons, and others were stand-alone as the NPBA continued to offer a variety of CLEs to its members as part of annual dues. Thanks to Kerry Stolz, Gaela Normile, and the rest of the CLE Committee for its work this year.

The Young Lawyers Section of the NPBA hosted a variety of events that were attended by young lawyers and other members of the NPBA. Judge Hall hosted the fall reception at her house on October 16, 2022, and the Breakfast with the Bench series resumed with several breakfasts at D'Egg and The Stockpot. The YLS also hosted happy hours and a holiday gathering for its members. Thanks to Kate Lennon and the other officers of the YLS for a fun-filled schedule of events.

The NPBA offered its members pro bono opportunities that ranged from handling monthly calls to answer legal questions to helping cancer patients with their wills. Thanks to Corrynn Peters and the rest of the Pro Bono Committee for offering pro bono opportunities to NPBA members.

The NPBA hosted a successful Bench-Bar Conference on April 19, 2023 at the Waterside Marriott with over 130 attendees. From state court to federal judges to local practitioners, the Conference offered a variety of presenters and hosted a successful lunch and cocktail hour. Thanks to Kris McClellan and the rest of the Bench-Bar Conference Committee for hosting a popular event this year.

After a COVID break, the NPBA resumed hosting the Mock Trial Program with Norfolk Public Schools. On April 21, 2023, the middle school teams competed at the Norfolk Courthouse as they presented argument and evidence in a criminal trial. Thanks to Wayne Williams and Grif O'Hanlon along with the attorney volunteers that coached the middle school teams.

The NPBA returned to Hits at the Park for a holiday party on December 8, 2022, and the YLS gathered donations for Samaritan House at the event. The room was full, and people stayed long after last call to catch up with one another.

The NPBA is hosting its Annual Meeting on May 11, 2023 at the Norfolk Yacht and Country Club. This is our third year following a new format that is more cocktail party than sit down dinner. The winners of the Eggleston/Anson Professionalism Award (Ann B. Brogan), the Walter E. Hoffman Community Service Award (Rachel VanHorn), and the Liberty Bell Award (Laurie Claywell) shall be honored at the event.

The NPBA conducted two interview panels for Judge and Substitute Judge candidates for the Norfolk Courthouse. The NPBA also made presentations at three investitures – two in state court and one in federal court.

It was an active year, and the NPBA appreciates its members who paid their dues, attended events, and served on committees. Information on all of the NPBA committees is available at <https://norfolkandportsmouthbar.org/Committees> so please consider joining a committee for the coming year.

Thanks also to the other members of the Executive Committee and to the Executive Director of the NPBA for their work this year.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

NPBA Annual Meeting | 5/11/23 6:00 pm
Norfolk Yacht & Country Club

YLS Meeting, Happy Hour & Trivia | 5/4/23 6:00 pm
Elation Brewing
Will hold elections for open officer & committee positions

YLS Kayaking Event | 5/6/23 10:00 am
Norfolk Kayak Rentals

YLS Meeting, Happy Hour & Trivia | 6/8/23 6:00 pm
Elation Brewing

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Gilbert Carey,
Wolcott Rivers Gates

Colin Dale,
Wolcott Rivers Gates

Peyton Farley,
Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black

Emma McAllister,
Fraim & Fiorella

Matthew Moynihan,
Bischoff Martingayle P.C.

William Newman,
Joseph V. Sherman, P.C.

Asha Pandya,
Protogyrou Law

Erik Porcaro,
Rutter Mills

Nicholas Renninger,
Wolcott Rivers Gates

Julie Whitlock,
Virginia Commercial Space Flight Authority

Roger Whitus,
Slipow, Robusto & Kellam

Danielle Williams,
Willcox & Savage

Christy Wood,
Parks Zeigler PLLC

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MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

The March luncheon welcomed Peggy Kriha Dye, General Director and CEO of the Virginia Opera. Ms. Kriha Dye presented a fascinating behind-the-scenes look at how an opera is created and developed. She featured the Virginia Opera's in-the-works World Premier project which is based on the landmark case of *Loving v Virginia*. It was an interesting and engaging lunch program for all who were present.





YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION

By Katherine M. Lennon, Chair
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757-446-8531

It has been a wonderfully busy year for the Young Lawyers! We kicked off the year with our Summer Social at Luna Maya, enjoyed our annual Fall Reception at the beautiful home of the Honorable Mary Jane Hall and Mr. John Hall, convened for a joint happy hour with the Young Lawyers Sections of the Virginia State Bar and the Virginia Beach Bar Association, and held our first ever Yule Log Mixer at the office of Crenshaw, Ware & Martin, PLC. We also returned to our in-person Breakfast with the Bench Series and enjoyed numerous monthly meetings coupled with trivia and happy hour.

Most recently, our current and new members convened at the office of Woods Rogers Vandeventer Black PLC for a luncheon on April 27, 2023. I was thrilled to see the enthusiasm of our membership as we discussed new ideas for the next NPBA year. Stay tuned!

Speaking of the next NPBA year—YLS will be holding its monthly meeting on May 4, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at Elation Brewing. We will be holding elections for open officer and committee positions. As always, the meeting will be coupled with a happy hour and trivia. All are encouraged to attend even if you have not attended before. The beginning of a new NPBA year is the perfect time to join us!

Although this year is wrapping up, we are not done yet! Join us for our Kayaking Event on May 6, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. We will kayak for one hour and then walk to a nearby restaurant for brunch. Please see our recent event announcements for more details and to register!

We are also finalizing plans for a volunteer shift with the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore and plan to continue on with our Breakfast with the Bench Series. Additionally, we are working on plans to re-introduce our mentorship program this fall. Please keep a lookout for more information about these projects and events!

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve as the NPBA YLS Chair this past year. I know that the Young Lawyers will be in good hands under the leadership of our 2023–2024 Chair-Elect, Garry Hartlieb of the U.S. Attorney’s Office. I look forward to the events and opportunities the next year has in store. I hope to see you all there!



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NPBA FOUNDATION

By Caryn R. West

One of the primary missions of the NPBA Foundation is to enhance the image of and build trust in the legal system. One of the ways we do that is through our scholarship competition every Spring where high school seniors are invited to write an essay about a particular legal question that we present. Currently, our high school scholarship competition is underway. If you know a high school student that qualifies for our scholarship competition, materials can be found on our website.

The Foundation awards two scholarships, one in the amount of \$3,000 and one in the amount of \$2,000. There is a scholarship component along with an essay component. The awarding of the scholarships are based on the essay as well as other factors such as financial need, grades, school activities and extracurricular activities. Whether or not the student intends to pursue a career in law has no bearing on the award of the scholarships.

The scholarship application can be found on our website at <https://norfolkandportsmouthbar.org/NPBA-Foundation-High-School-Scholarship>.

We collected over
\$27.6 MILLION
for our clients in 2022

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MOCK TRIAL

After four years of not being able to conduct the program due to Covid, eight Norfolk Public School middle school teams assembled at the Norfolk Courthouse on Friday, April 21 for the final Mock Trials. The trials were put on following months of preparation after being taught by NPBA members who graciously volunteered their time to teach the students. Each school fielded a prosecution and defense team for a criminal case and competed against an opposing school. The program was also supported by the Norfolk Police Department who trained with the students and participated in the final trials. Six local attorneys and Judge Jamilah LeCruise of the Norfolk General District Court were also kind enough to sit as judges in the trials. The program is co-chaired by attorneys T. Wayne Williams and Griff O'Hanlon and is held in the late winter to early spring of each year.



LIBRARY LINES

CONTACT NORFOLK LAW LIBRARY AT (757) 622-2910
WWW.NORFOLKLAWLIBRARY.ORG



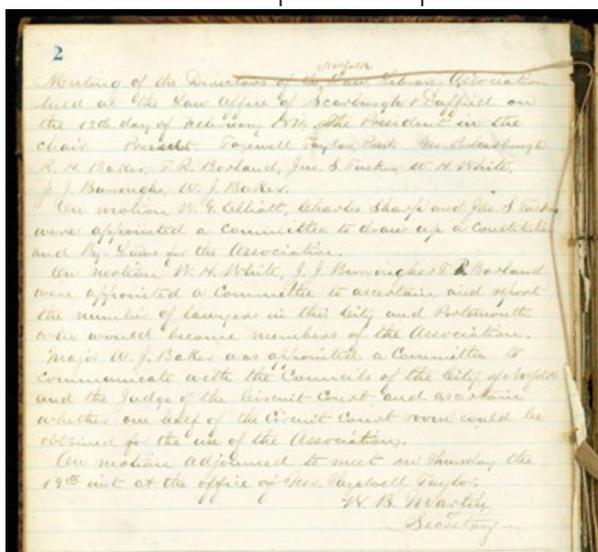
Ashley Reed,
Norfolk Library Law Librarian
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Allison Termine,
Norfolk Library Law Librarian and Archivist
atermine@norfolklawlibrary.org

Honoring Law Day 2023
Ignorantia Juris Non Excusat
Norfolk Law Library

Ashley Reed | Librarian | Outreach
Allison Termine | Librarian | Archivist



First Norfolk Law Library Association meeting minutes, 1874

In honoring Law Day 2023, the library is sharing a brief history of the emergent collaboration between the Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association and the Norfolk Law Library 123 years ago. The NPBA and NLL are among the oldest active institutions in the Tidewater legal community. This stability and longevity has been aided by their symbiotic relationship, the elevation of one contributing to the rise of the other. The American Bar Association's Law Day 2023 theme celebrates the value of collaboration, along with civility and civics, as an instrument of democracy, ensuring its wellbeing and sustainability. By the shared history of NPBA and NLL, it is clear that the willingness to collaborate historically has been our vitality as it can be in our future.

Practicing law in antebellum Virginia meant being able to reference law from colonial legal literature, church law, and English law compiled in books and publications of the first sessions of legislature from the Commonwealth of Virginia. Old law in posthaste grew as did law institutions and publications. Law books were a rare and valuable item, even for an auctioneer. Law practitioners and law libraries have an innate, symbiotic relationship and developed in Colonial America into private membership libraries and bar associations. The administrative structure of these institutions was made up of ambitious, prolific individuals that helped enforce and shape how our culture was governed.

The Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association and the Norfolk Law Library have been a primogenial collaboration. The General Assembly's edict (Acts of 1879 - 1880, p.43) formalized the Norfolk Law Library Association on February 10, 1880.¹ The Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association incorporated in 1900. The NLLA and NPBA fractions were active in the then County of Norfolk prior to 1873 in establishing a collective library of law knowledge in order to not only practice law but to also shape it.

LIBRARY LINES CONT.

These aspiring individuals had a small collection of law books in the Columbia Building / Lowenberg Building, in a corner of D. Lowenberg's office on Main Street, from 1877-1900. The Daily State Journal from July 8, 1873 writes, "Norfolk Law Library Association, A charter granted by Judge George Blow of the Circuit Court of the City of Norfolk, deposited in the office of Secretary of the Commonwealth".² The law officers who managed the library for the first year are Tazwell Taylor, President; J.G Holliday, Vice-President, and numerous directors. Unfortunately, this charter was burned in the 1902 Columbia / Lowenberg building fire, along with other documents and the small law book collection. (Cont. page 8)

The Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association was around 40 members at 1880, dedicated to law and the creation of a law library.⁵ In a newspaper article from 1898, Robert M. Hughes "declared that he would push the work along, pertaining to the question of a library for the Bar Association".⁶ 1900 was a significant year; the NPBA was incorporated by the General Assembly and rapidly increased membership in the corporation. The next objective was to annex and relocate the library. The plan of the new Federal Building, now home to the Slover Library, was already in effect, and in 1903 the law library moved in. The *Virginian-Pilot* announced the new Renaissance-style, "modified to American ideas", Federal Building (1898-1900) would hold both the courthouse and post office. "There are electric clocks, which run for a year," noted the article. The building was constructed of a new material made of clay that is burned twice for a vitrified color. This new public building of many names held the law library on the second floor, "fitted with heavy oak bookcases with thousands of volumes. There are desks, easy chairs and that delightful quiet."³

Robert M. Hughes (1855-1940), a former president of the Norfolk Law Library Association and member of the NPBA, was the steward of the cherished library for five decades. Mr. Hughes' states... "now the library is probably inferior only to the Richmond Library of the Supreme Court of Appeals and that of the University."¹ In the archives of Old Dominion University, you can find Hughes' personal papers.⁴ Hughes Hall, the former Robert M. Hughes Memorial Library at the Norfolk Division of the College of William & Mary (est. 1930), is also named for Hughes.

The Norfolk Law Library remained in the building of many names for six years until it moved to the Law Building on Granby and Plume. By 1935, the NLL and the NPBA had grown even more substantially. In 1937, the National Bank of Commerce gave the law library a new space on the third floor for a term of five years. The library made its fourth relocation journey in 1964 to the new Virginia National Bank building on the south side of Main Street. The Young Lawyers Section of the NPBA helped to move an estimated 15,300 volumes of books across Main Street. Four years later, the library relocated again into the newest-built building in Norfolk, the Dominion Tower in downtown, and at that time had amassed a 25,000 volume collection under its new name, the Norfolk Law Library.

The trend of relocating into Norfolk's newest-built building continued with the library's most recent move into the new wing of the Norfolk Circuit Court in 2018. The library had been serving both the public as well as the legal community since 1987 and this move into the courthouse improved accessibility for both. The library's mission is to serve the community through the provision of legal research and accessible legal information, which is to be facilitated through community collaboration. The library remains committed to its mission and open to collaborating with the NPBA and our collective community to best serve the public and legal professionals.

¹ Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association. (2000). *Law Matters*, Special Centennial Edition; Celebrating 100 years 1900-2000. Palmer S. Rutherford, Jr. -Centennial Coordinator.

² The Daily State Journal & *virginiachronicle.com*. (1873, July Tuesday Evening, 8). Norfolk Law Library Association. *Evening State Journal*, 1.

³ *Virginian-Pilot* & *virginiachronicle.com*. (1900, December Sunday, 2). *New PostOffice Has Begun Business*. 15.

⁴ [Identification of item], Box [insert number], Folder [insert number and title], Robert Morton Hughes Papers, Special Collections and University Archives, Old Dominion University Libraries.

⁵ The Norfolk Law Library. (1941). John B. Jenkins, Jr., Francis N. Crenshaw. NLL history article began by Robert M. Hughes and read before the Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association on July 13, 1936: It was revised in 1941 by John B. Jenkins, Jr. and again by Francis N. Crenshaw and again by Allison Termine, MLIS Archivist in 2023.

⁶ Norfolk Landmark & *virginiachronicle.com*. (1898, December Wednesday, 7). Bar Association Meeting, 8.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Join us at NPBA's Annual Meeting to honor the
2023 NPBA Award Winners



Rachel VanHorn is the 2023 recipient of the NPBA **Walter E. Hoffman Community Service Award**. Surprised with the announcement at her husband's law office on May 3 by members of the NPBA Executive Committee.



Laurie Claywell is the 2023 recipient of the NPBA **Liberty Bell Award**. The announcement was delivered to her by NPBA President, Kristan Burch, in the presence of her company colleagues on April 26.



Ann B. Brogan is the 2023 recipient of the **Eggleston/I'Anson Professionalism Award**. NPBA President Kristan Burch delivered the surprise announcement while Ann was surrounded by her family.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NPBA ANNUAL MEETING 2023



THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023 | 6 PM - 8 PM

**NORFOLK YACHT CLUB & COUNTRY CLUB
7001 HAMPTON BLVD
NORFOLK, VA 23505**

Reconnect with your colleagues and make new professional connections at the Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association's Annual Meeting 2023!

Join us for:

- Installation of new officers
- Presentation of NPBA awards
- Tickets are \$60 for NPBA Members and Guests (\$50 for YLS Members & Guests)
- Two drink tickets and heavy hors d'oeuvres are included with every registration.

Click here to register <https://www.norfolkandportsmouthbar.org/event-5211709>

BENCH BAR CONFERENCE 2023

The Bench Bar Conference had its largest turnout with over 130 participants. The conference included a stellar lineup of speakers and panelists including Keynote speaker, the Honorable John A. Gibney, Jr.



BENCH BAR CONFERENCE 2023 CONT.



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BENCH BAR CONFERENCE 2023 CONT.



MARCH LUNCHEON



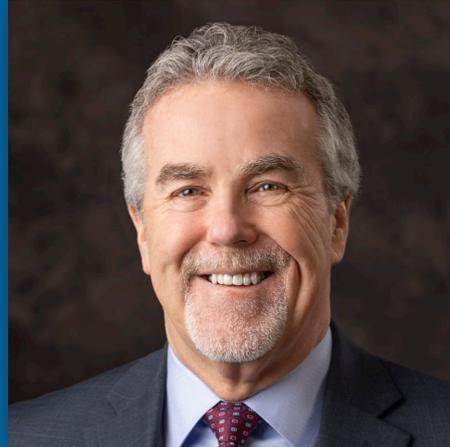
SHRBA'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY GALA



John Sawyer and Kellam Parks were honored to attend the recent South Hampton Roads Bar Association's 100th Anniversary Gala on behalf of the Norfolk and Portsmouth Bar Association.

The McCammon Group

is pleased to announce our newest Neutral



Hon. John W. Brown (Ret.)

Retired Chief Judge, 1st Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia, City of Chesapeake

The Honorable John Brown recently retired as Chief Judge of the 1st Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia after fourteen years of distinguished judicial service to the City of Chesapeake. Prior to his judicial service, Judge Brown enjoyed a successful private practice for twenty-eight years, serving as both plaintiff's and civil defense counsel. He also served the City of Chesapeake as Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney, Commissioner of Accounts, and Commissioner in Chancery for Divorce and Equity Matters. Among his many credentials, Judge Brown is a former President of the Chesapeake Bar Association, former Chairman of the Chesapeake Board of Directors for TowneBank, and a former member of the Board of Directors for the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame and Museum. He now brings this record of excellence and achievement to The McCammon Group to serve the mediation, arbitration, judge pro tempore, and special master needs of lawyers and litigants throughout the Commonwealth.

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