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- Lawyers Working With Legislators, CLE registration flyer

# Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

*News from the Prince William County Bar Association*

**Volume IX Issue IV**

**May 2004**

## President's Message

*By Scott Bailey*

So.

Once again, the blank paper stares.

For those of you missed the last luncheon, you missed a dynamic talk by Chief Justice Hassell. He spoke extensively on the state and history of our bar association, as well as its many contributions. He was especially glowing in his praise of Judge Sinclair, and was open to questions about family court and his vision for the Supreme Court after his prepared remarks. Many of you have commented how much you enjoyed this program, and we hope to be able to bring you more of the same type in the future.

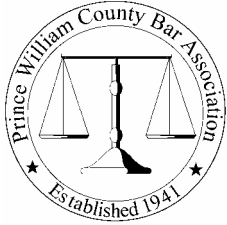
For those of you who are just cheap, let me say this: THE NEXT LUNCHEON IS FREE TO MEMBERS OF OUR BAR. That's right. Our next speaker will be a representative from American Express Financial Advisors. He will be speaking about planning for retirement, an especially important topic for those of you who are in small firms or solo practice. Also not a bad idea for those of you who are rapidly approaching the "venerable" status; you know who you are, I need not name names. And, given your age, in case you've forgotten, IT'S FREEEEEE!!!!!! So, plan to be there.

For the many who have asked, the Bailey/Whittington Chili Dog Eatoff is still a go, May 5, 7:30, Vienna Inn. Start time, 8:00. Please be aware this is not officially sponsored by the Inn, we're just showing up. So be daring, but be early. Also, for you Johnny-come-lately's, this is not an all comers event. Find your own fat guy to pick on and start your own event, like Whittington did.

OK, in case your aging memories are fading.....THE LUNCH IS FREE. FREE.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Beat the Odds Program, or, if this is past April 29 when you are reading this, I enjoyed seeing you there personally. Your presence will/did make a real difference, and I particularly enjoyed the anecdote about that old case/ex-partner/former college chum/dog. Pick what applies.

All right, folks, I'm done. See you May 5, and again on May 7 for the FREE LUNCH, where the winner will be announced. Remember, charitable wagers always encouraged.



Prince William County  
Bar Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 31  
Manassas, Virginia 20108

Offices in Judicial Center  
9311 Lee Avenue  
Manassas, Virginia 20110

TEL (703) 393-2306  
FAX (703) 331-5683  
Email: [info@pwcba.org](mailto:info@pwcba.org)  
Web site: [www.pwcba.org](http://www.pwcba.org)

#### 2004

##### **Officers and Directors**

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Craig D. Johnston  
Bar Council Rep. 2001-04  
(703) 368-9196

## Chief Justice Leroy Roundtree Hassell, Sr., visits the PWCBA at the April Luncheon Meeting



On April 2, 2004, The Honorable Leroy Roundtree Hassell, Sr, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Virginia, joined the Prince William County Bar Association at its' monthly luncheon meeting. Justice Hassell was kind enough to provide the Bar with a copy of his speech, from which the following excerpts are taken for the benefit of those members who could not attend the luncheon:

...about our bar, *"The Prince William County Bar Association has established itself as a leader among bar associations in Virginia."*

...about our public relations programs, *"I am very proud of your hard work and your contributions to both Prince William County and this Commonwealth. I commend you highly."*

...about the higher aspirations of lawyers and judges, *"As lawyers, do we have an obligation to improve the quality of life for others. Should we care about the attainment of a greater good for our communities? As Judges, do we have responsibilities to the public beyond the mere adjudication of cases? While pondering these questions in anticipation of my remarks today, my mind quickly focused on a man whose professional and personal life exemplifies many of the attributes that we, as lawyers, should seek to emulate; that man is the only living founder of the Prince William County Bar Association, Judge Arthur W. Sinclair, Jr."*

...about Judge Sinclair, *"...he personifies the best that Virginia's bar and bench have to offer. Judge Sinclair can be easily described as a man who is committed to his family, his profession, his community, and to his God."* Justice Hassell then went on to encourage all of us to focus on nurturing our families, to volunteer in our communities, and to work hard.

Hassell also recounted statistics related to the large case loads in the district courts in Virginia, commending our district court judges for their work, and encouraging all judges to, *"...follow Judge Sinclair's example and treat citizens and lawyers with courtesy, and respect."*

In closing, *"As lawyers, and as judges, we should always strive to provide outstanding service to our clients, outstanding service to the bar, outstanding service to the judiciary, outstanding service to our communities, outstanding service to God, and outstanding service to our families. We would do well to emulate the many examples that Judge Sinclair provided for us as we aspire to be men and women, who seek through service, to make our communities, our Commonwealth, and our nation better places to live. Thank you, and may God bless you richly."*

## Thank You

By the Honorable Frank A. Hoss

April 1, 2004

*Shirley and I want to thank the Prince William County Bar for the very enjoyable evening at the annual Bar Dinner Dance. We very much appreciate the generosity of the Bar in allowing us to invite family and friends.*

*We were extremely pleased with the portrait and want to thank the Bar for that honor as well.*

*Frank & Shirley Hoss.*

## Report from Bar Council of the VSB

By Thomas A. Edmunds

The following notice, from Bar Council for the Virginia State Bar, was sent to Angela Lemmon Horan and John D. Whittington, (and copied to the Bar.) The purpose of the notice is to provide a status report on the upcoming bar council elections.

Dear Angela and John:

We have received a petition from each of you making you eligible to run for the vacancy on Bar Council from your circuit for a three year term beginning July 1, 2004, and ending June 30, 2007. We will be mailing ballots later this month to the active members of your circuit listing each of your names and accompanied by your statements of qualifications.

The ballots will be due back here in the bar office by the close of business on April 30, and we will advise you who has prevailed shortly thereafter. Meanwhile, please let us know if you have any questions or need further information about this process.

## You and Your Business: A Quick Financial Check-up

By Marc A. Rucker

*Editors' Note: The May 7<sup>th</sup> membership luncheon will feature a brief seminar on planning for retirement, geared to the solo and small firm law practice, presented by Marc A. Rucker with American Express Financial Advisors. American Express has graciously agreed to sponsor this lunch for our members and asks that you RSVP your attendance so they may plan accordingly. The following topics will be presented:*

- Choosing the right retirement plan for you and your employees
- Improving your company's benefit package with the right retirement plan
- Understanding the difference between defined benefit and defined contribution plans
- Comparing different types of retirement plans for your business
- The value of a comprehensive plan that helps put both your business and personal financial needs in perspective

This seminar presented by:

Marc A. Rucker, Financial Advisor, Advisor Coach

American Express Financial Advisors  
IDS Insurance Company  
5870 Trinity Parkway, Suite 100  
Centreville, VA 20120  
(703) 653-8975

## 2004

### Standing Committee Chairs

Daniel G. Hayes  
Budget and Audit  
(703) 369-4738

Catherine S. Croft  
CLE  
(703) 335-9390

Kathleen Latham Farrell  
Community Outreach  
(703) 335-9390

Casey R. Stevens  
Criminal Law  
(703) 897-1777

Donna M. McIntosh  
Entertainment  
(703) 361-0776

Barbara M. Stough  
Family Law  
(703) 365-0090

Kevin P. Childers  
Judicial Evaluation  
(703) 330-6300

D. Scott Bailey  
Judicial Liaison  
(703) 792-6050

Paul F. Nichols  
Judicial Screening  
(703) 690-7800

Angela Lemmon Horan  
Legislative Affairs  
(703) 792-6620

Helen E. Marmol  
Library  
(703) 754-7474

Kristina Keech Spittler  
Membership & Mentoring  
(703) 369-4738

Amy Ashworth  
Nominations  
(703) 330-3200

Rusty von Keller  
*Pro bono*  
(703) 361-2299

D. Scott Bailey  
Professionalism  
(703) 792-6050

Wendy A. Alexander  
Public Relations  
(703) 330-7400

## **Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.**

### **Office Hours**

9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon  
Monday through Friday  
Afternoons by Appointment  
Telephone (703) 393-2306  
Fax (703) 331-5683

The PWCBA Office is located on the lower level of the Judicial Center in Circuit Court Archives.

Information about many of the **Bar Association's programs and services** is available through our web site at [www.pwcba.org](http://www.pwcba.org).

### **Guidelines for Submissions to Hear Ye! Hear Ye!**

Submissions should be directed to the attention of Alissa N. Hudson, Executive Director, PWCBA via email to [info@pwcba.org](mailto:info@pwcba.org), or fax to (703) 331-5683, or may be mailed to her c/o Prince William County Bar Association, Inc., P.O. Box 31, Manassas, VA 20108. All submissions are due by 5:00 PM on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication and must include a contact name and phone number.

“**Letters to the Editor**” may be submitted for publication by members in good standing of the PWC Bar, and must not exceed 500 words in length. “Letters” may be edited for clarity or space conformity. All submissions must have a contact name and phone number, and will include the author’s name in the newsletter.

For inquiries regarding classified or display advertising, contact the PWCBA office at (703) 393-2306, to request a copy of the most recent rate card, or visit the bar on line at [www.pwcba.org](http://www.pwcba.org) under "About the Bar", "Advertising and Sponsorships".

This newsletter is printed by Battlefield Kwik Kopy.

## **PWCBA March Board Meeting Summary**

The following community service projects were presented for approval and passed: The reprinting of the "You and Your Court Appointed Attorney" public education brochure; The sponsoring of the "Character Counts!" essay contest in the fall; The printing of a new public education brochure titled "Guardian *ad litem* for Children", developed through the Family Law Committee of the Bar. Following approval by the Association, grant applications requesting the necessary funds for each of these projects will be prepared and presented to the Bar Foundation. The Association will move forward on these projects when the funding becomes available.

The following community service projects were presented for approval and put on hold: Providing financial assistance for the incentives portion of the Juvenile Drug Court program; and providing equipment for the Children's Corner in the J&DR District Court. The Juvenile Drug Court program is too new to know what its' long term needs are at present, and the needs of the Children's Corner must be more clearly defined.

Other items discussed: All annual updates to the bar's web site are now loaded, and new features to the site are being considered, (including a listserv and an emergency postings component on the home page); Board members were encouraged to attend the upcoming BTO banquet and to sell tickets; and the annual legislative luncheon will be planned as soon as the current session of the General Assembly closes.

The board then spent considerable time discussing and adopting a two year budget for the Association.

### **2004 Budget Report**

*By Daniel Hayes*

The Budget & Audit Committee has developed and presented to the board a two-year budget for the Association for the calendar years 2004 and 2005. The Executive Director, in her continuing efforts to raise grant and other outside monies for the Bar's community activities, requires an active budget on January 1 each year, and this rolling two-year budget will create that authority for her in making applications.

For the third year in a row the Budget Committee has highlighted for the board how limited are the resources of the Association. Membership income in 2003 was \$69 K and membership expenses were \$ 64 K. This left only \$ 5 K as a cushion for the program budget, which in a typical year requires an additional \$ 10 K to \$ 15 K in outside income to fund Law Day, court fliers, judicial recognition projects, and other non-budgeted community or membership support activities such as the printing of Time Saver's guidelines, or participation in joint ventures with neighboring bar associations. The cash assets (savings) for the Association are less than 20 % of a one-year budget.

While some community activities are advanced by the Association and then reimbursed from the Foundation or other grant sources, one category of principal and material expense, which the Association has undertaken in past years but had to fund from its own resources (member dues), is the judicial recognition expense(s). In 2003 alone the Association paid \$ 3.8 K in such expenses.

At the March 26 board meeting, the board adopted the budget and discussed the prospects for other revenue activities, such as a referral service or web-placement sales, without making any final determination. The current budget shows a small shortfall in 2005.

## Delinquent Dues Notices

The good news: 85% of our membership has reviewed their membership profiles and returned them to Bar along with their annual dues!!! The not so good news: we need for the remaining 15% of our membership to go please consider renewing at this time. Delinquent dues notices will be mailed the last week in April, and if everyone would take a moment to review their membership profile and return it along with their dues, (and the \$10.00 late fee), the board would have the largest source of income in place for the remainder of the year. Thank you.

## CLE Update

By Catherine S. Croft

### CALL FOR SPEAKERS FOR OCTOBER 15, 2004 MULTIJURISDICTION CLE:

Approximately two (2) years ago Prince William County participated in a multi-jurisdictional CLE focusing on the Circuit Courts of Prince William, Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax. This year we intend to do a similar CLE focusing on the General District Courts of the same jurisdictions. The CLE is scheduled to be held on October 15, 2004 from approximately 2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center; a reception will follow.

The tentative format of the CLE is as follows:

2:00 - 4:00 Plenary session including a panel of judges with a judge from each General District Court. The panel will be questioned by a moderator generally about procedures (usually docketing or use of alternate dispute resolution preferences) that are specific to that jurisdiction. The goal is to inform the attendees of what each might expect if litigating a case in your court.

4:00 - 5:30 Break out sessions in the following areas: Traffic/DUI; Landlord/Tenant; Criminal (general) and Collections.

5:30 - Reception

As the CLE chairperson I participate in a multi-jurisdiction planning committee to coordinate this CLE. We are seeking prosecutors and defense counsel to participate on a panel of speakers for the Traffic/DUI and the Criminal(general) break out sessions. We are also seeking experienced practicing lawyers familiar with the practice areas to participate as speakers on the Collections and Landlord/Tenant break out session panels.

My next planning meeting is May 18. Please fax confirmation of your interest to participate on a panel to Cathy Croft (703) 335-0799 prior to May 18. Please specify your name, address, phone number and which panel you wish to be on.

## “So, You’re 18” Project--Last Call for Volunteers

By Kathleen Latham Farrell

This is the last call for volunteers to present our *So You’re 18!* material to area high schools. The program is designed to educate seniors on the laws that await them as they turn 18. If you have not participated in any bar association project, this would be a great way to participate. We provide a suggested format for the presentation, along with booklets published by the VSB to be distributed to the students, and usually arrange for teams of two attorneys for each presentation. If you haven’t done this before, let us know and we will team you up with someone who has done this before. Sign up today. **Contact Katie at Kathy Farrell’s office at (703) 335-9390 or Kathy Farrell directly by email at [kfarrell@va-lawyers.com](mailto:kfarrell@va-lawyers.com).**



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Concerto BWV 1043*

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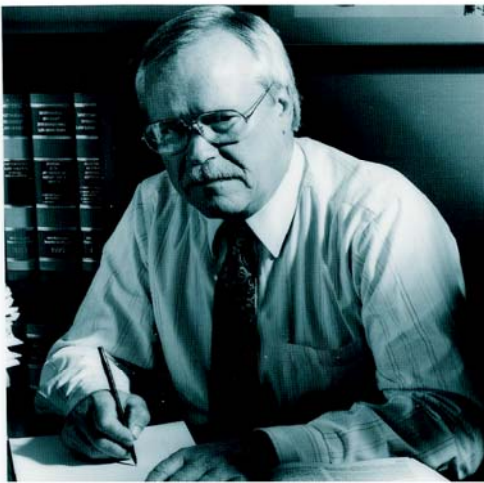
## Family Law Update

*By Barbara Murphy Stough*

The newest public education brochure, "Guardian *ad litem* for Children", should be printed by the time this newsletter is received. This brochure will be distributed primarily through the J&DR District Courts at the time GALs are appointed, and will also be available through the J&DR Clerk's Offices. The Family Law Committee wants to acknowledge and thank Amy Ashworth for all of her hard work on the GAL brochure, writing it, revising and editing it...Thanks Amy

The committee is planning two possible trainings, one on the sophisticated use of VADER and what it can do for family law attorneys. This will probably be two or three sessions. The other is the one mentioned earlier that Betty Sandler will be working on--taking a family law case from initial interview to final ED hearing. This will be done more in the form of roundtable discussions.

The annual uncontested divorce CLE is set for Sept. 15<sup>th</sup>, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. McCammon Mediation group will present mediation in family law, as an ethics panel, two hour component. Julie Savage, past chairman of the VSB family law committee will also present a short administrative segment on doing uncontested divorces. The moderator will be announced. Reminder, this is a FREE CLE, 3 MCLE, including [2 ETHICS HOURS], in exchange for doing two truly uncontested divorces for legal aid.



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## Membership & Mentoring

By Kristina Keech Spitzer

Are you the "new kid on the block" in Prince William County? Are you the "friendly, neighborly type" and know your way around the system? If one of those phrases fits your description of your feelings arriving at the Courthouse, you either need a mentor or we need you to be a mentor.

Over the course of the last seven months, four new members have requested a mentor. In the last 30 days, 23 letters have been mailed out to attorneys joining the Prince William County Bar Association and inviting them to participate in our mentoring program. We would like to make sure that all those interested in having a mentor can be matched up with one of our Bar's more experienced members.

Being a mentor does not require a lot of time. A mentor and mentee are matched based primarily on practice areas. There is no reporting after meeting with the mentee, as all meetings are kept confidential. You are also given guidance by way of a packet that tells the mentor and mentee what is expected of them.

While you will not gain monetarily from volunteering as a mentor, you will gain satisfaction in knowing that you are an integral part of shaping and molding the future of a person who may someday be working beside you or on the other side of a case. It really helps the future of the legal profession and the members of this Bar to participate as a mentor for our newer members.

And, if fostering relationships is not a comfort zone for you, there are many other committees that need your help. Please give Alissa Hudson or me a call to find out where your efforts could best be utilized.

In addition to encouraging members to participate in our Mentoring Program or various bar committees, I recently had the honor to serve as a panelist at the Bar Leaders' Institute in Richmond. The many wonderful things that are accomplished by the various bar associations are remarkable. The Prince William County Bar Association stands out as one of the best.

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## PWCBF Meeting Summary

Much time was spent during the February and March meetings discussing the funding of the 2004 Beat the Odds program, and the administration of funds for prior honorees. At this time, the Foundation has appropriated \$20,000 for the 2004 BTO program. The Foundation also moved to create a new scholarship for the BTO program to be awarded to a past recipient who is continuing their education.

Funding for other Association projects such as the Character Counts! Essay contest and the "So You're 18" booklets was also discussed.

The Foundation has accepted the resignation of Craig Johnston as director and treasurer, due to his judicial appointment. Derek Poteet has been added as a new director and will serve as treasurer for the remainder of Craig Johnston's term. The Foundation also determined that the president as well as the treasurer should have check signing authority for the Foundation, and the board is checking into the availability of appropriate bonds.

## Announcement


The law firm of Nichols, Bergere, Zauzig & Sandler, P.C. would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Betty Moore Sandler on being listed again among Washingtonian Magazine's Top Divorce Lawyers.

## Classified Ads

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**DOJ Attorney Opening:** Civil Rights Division seeking experienced attorney for Deputy Chief of the Special Litigation section in Washington D.C. Open until filled. GS-905-15. To learn more about this opening go the DOJ web site at <http://www.usdoj.gov/oarm/attvacancies.html>. The reference number for this opening is 04-ATT-006.

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<http://www.senseient.com>

Principals: Sharon D. Nelson, Esq. and John W. Simek -  
EnCE, CNE, MCSE, MCP+I, NT Certified Independent  
Professional and Certified Internetwork Professional,  
Member - High Technology Crime Investigation Association

## Prince William County Bar Welcomes Newest Members

Alisa Lachow-Thurston  
2013 McNamera Court  
Woodbridge, VA 22191  
(703) 864-6171

Q. Russell Hatchl  
Legal Services of Northern Virginia  
318 Van Buren Street  
Falls Church, VA 22046  
(703) 246-4379

## 2003-2004 PWCBA Section Liaisons to the VSB

Have you recently become aware of a court decision or a change in the law arising from the current session of the Virginia General Assembly that is going to significantly alter the way you serve your clients? Do you frequently practice in multiple jurisdictions and want a convenient way to compare and contrast procedures? Offer to co-author a helpful article with one of the Bar's section liaisons, and share your wisdom with your colleagues.

Scott H. Donovan  
Bankruptcy  
(703) 257-1159

Thomas D. Duling  
Business Law  
(703) 690-6800

Daniel J. Morissette  
Criminal Law  
(703) 369-1987

Paul F. Nichols  
Family Law  
(703) 690-7800

Ronald A. Robinson  
General Practice  
(703) 490-4253

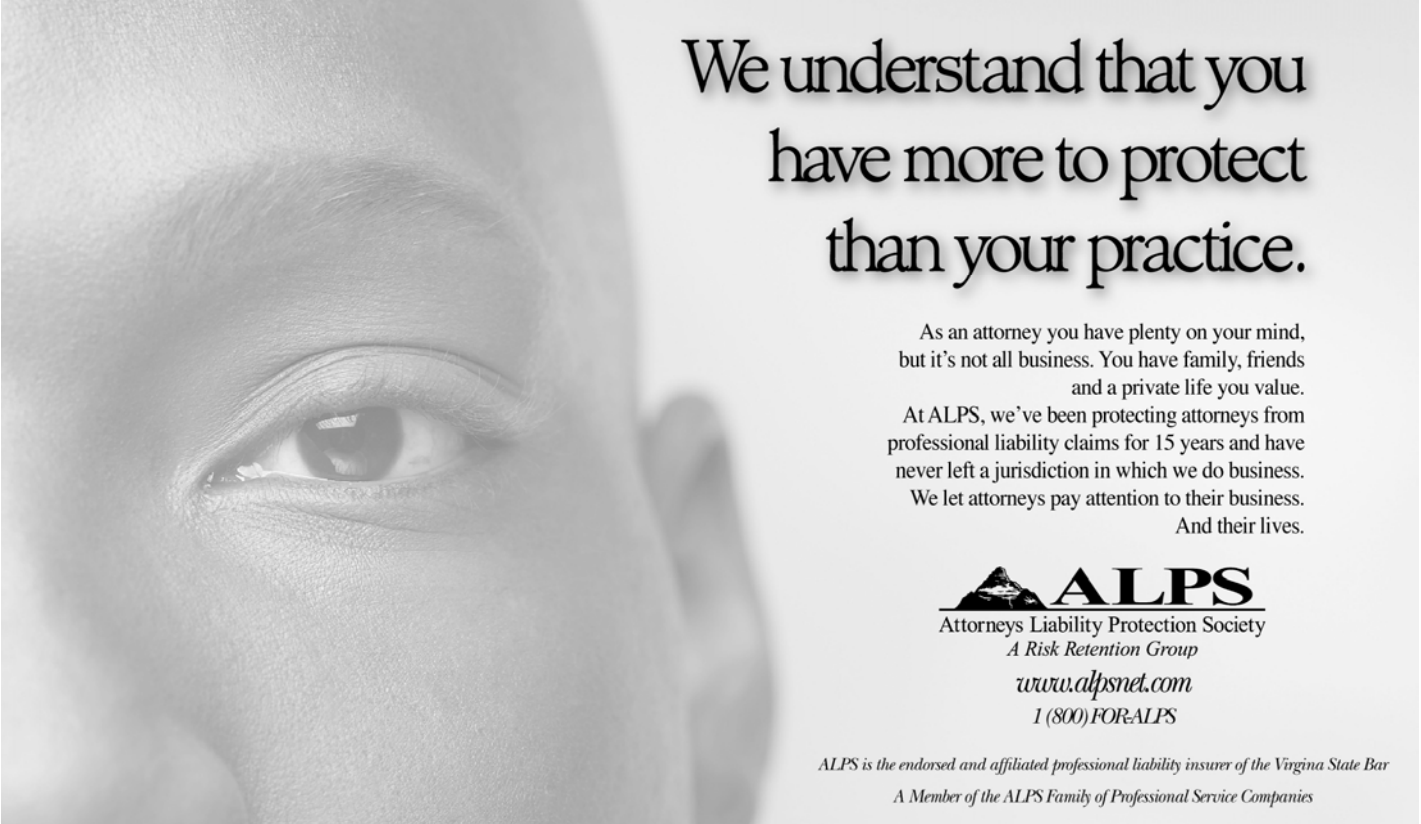
Jack A. Robbins, Jr.  
Litigation  
(703) 369-7500

Robert B. Dickerson  
Local Government  
(703) 792-6620

Bryan H. Guidash  
Real Property  
(703) 680-4664

D. Alden Newland  
Trusts & Estates  
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Young Lawyers  
(703) 369-4738



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**Upcoming Dates:**

**May 1**, Law Day

**May 5**, 7:30 p.m., Vienna Inn, Bailey/Whittington Chili Dog Eatoff, see President's Message for details.

**May 7**, 12:30 p.m., general luncheon meeting at Jake's Seafood Restaurant. Program: Planning for retirement sponsored by American Express Financial Advisors. **FREE LUNCH.**

**May 10**, deadline for submittals for the June issue of *Hear Ye! Hear Ye!*

**May 20**, 12:30 p.m., PWCBF meeting, jury assembly room.

**May 21**, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., CLE, "Lawyers Working With Legislators" See flyer in this newsletter .

**May 25**, 12:30 p.m., Family Law Committee meeting. Allen Newcomb's office.

**May 28**, 4:00 p.m., PWCBA board meeting, Jake's Seafood Restaurant.

**May 31**, all three courts closed in observance of Memorial Day.



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Remember to RSVP for the Friday, May 7th General Luncheon Meeting. Program: Planning for retirement sponsored by American Express Financial advisors. **FREE LUNCH but you still need to RSVP** by calling Bev Lial at the Commonwealth's Attorneys Office at (703) 792-6250 or the Bar office at (703) 393-2306, by 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

*Lunch sponsored by American Express Financial Advisors.*

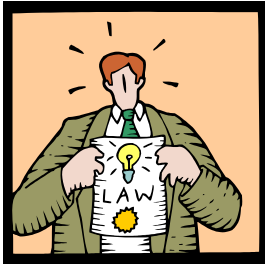


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*A Publication of the Prince William County Bar Association*

# The Prince William County Bar Association



*Presents*

## **Lawyers Working With Legislators**

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Friday, May 21, 2004  
2:00 to 4:00 PM  
Circuit Courtroom #4  
PWC Judicial Center  
9311 Lee Avenue  
Manassas, VA 20110

Advance Registration:  
\$35.00 PWCBA Members;  
\$45.00 Non-members.  
Walk in Registration:  
\$45.00 PWCBA Members;  
\$55.00 Non-members.

**Learn how the Virginia legislative process works,  
how to track legislation,  
& how to effectively communicate with local legislators.**

**Presented by: Sharon Pandak and Angela Lemmon Horan  
Special guest appearances possible by  
Senator Colgan and Delegate Parrish.**

*MCLE approval is pending for 2.0 Credits for this presentation*

Please use the form below to pre-register for the Legislators CLE.

5/21/04

ATTORNEY'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

WILL YOU VOLUNTEER TO STAFF THE REGISTRATION DESK IN EXCHANGE FOR FREE CLE CREDIT? YES \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Cathy Croft at (703) 335-9390 for details.

FIRM: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this registration form along with payment to Alissa N. Hudson, Executive Director, Prince William County Bar Association, Inc., P.O. Box 31, Manassas, VA 20108. If you are making a late decision to attend, you may fax your reservation form to (703) 331-5683 by 5:00 PM 5/20/04. Of course, we always plan for a few walk-in registrants, (faxed reservations received after 5:00 PM on 5/20/04 will be considered walk-in registrations), but we cannot guarantee the availability of materials. This form may be photocopied.