



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

News from the Prince William County Bar Association

Volume XVI Issue III

April 2011

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Inserts

Beat the Odds Registration Flyer

President's Message

By Megan E. Kelly

Happy Spring to all! This is my favorite time of the year, daffodils, cherry blossoms, tulips and WARM WEATHER!!! Those of you with allergies have my condolences.....

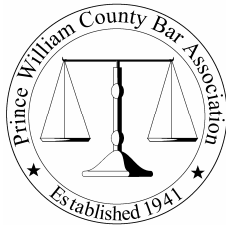
I wanted to thank the presenters for last month's luncheon from the Intensive Community Supervision Program, Dawn Oliver, Linda Pemberton and Alison Inthar. The program, operated in conjunction with the Community Services Board, provides highly structured intensive supervision for pre and post sentenced locally jailed offenders, specializing in those who are seriously mentally ill. In this age of ever disappearing mental health services, this program serves as a bright light. They provide case management to address transitional, psychological, vocational and rehabilitative services, and incorporated specialized programs to meet individualized needs. You can contact the Office of Criminal Justice Services for an eligibility screening for clients you think might qualify at 703-792-6065. I encourage you to take advantage of this wonderful program.

Our April Luncheon will be held on April 7th (yes, we know it's a Thursday) at Mackey's and we will be joined by the Chair of the Virginia State Bar's Standing Committee on Professionalism, Jean Dahnk. Besides being a personal friend of mine, which always elevates one's reputation, she is a truly engaging speaker. I'm also anticipating at least one joke at my expense...how often can you get a half ethics credit for that?? Seriously, this is a great and inexpensive opportunity for ¼ of your annual ethics requirement. RSVP to Alissa NOW!

I also want to remind you, as I'm sure Kathy Farrell is doing somewhere else in this Newsletter, of the April 25th Beat the Odds Mentoring Meeting being held at Kathy's office at 4:00 p.m. If you've never volunteered as a mentor before, this is a fairly low commitment opportunity to shepherd one of our local scholarship winners through the process and ensure that he or she is able to access any and all available monies. If you want to learn more about the Beat the Odds program, please visit the web site at www.bto-pwc.com, or contact Kathy.

We have set the Circuit Court Bench Board meeting for April 13, 2011. In order to insure sufficient bar input, we have also convened the Judicial Liaison Committee to receive input for consideration and presentation to the Bench. You can direct any suggestions, concerns or other comments to the Chair of the Judicial Liaison Committee, which also happens to be me. Please give this some serious thought as we only hold these meetings once every two years, and don't want to waste this opportunity. We will be scheduling the General District and Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court meetings for later this year.

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Highlights of the Virginia State Bar Council Meeting

By Gifford R. Hampshire, Bar Council Representative

At its meeting on February 26, 2011, in Richmond, the Virginia State Bar Council heard the following significant reports and took the final actions:

Corporate Council Pro Bono Proposal Endorsed

The council voted without dissent to recommend approval of proposed changes to the Rules of the Virginia Supreme Court 1A:5, Part I, ¶¶ (g), (h), Virginia Corporate Counsel. The changes would lift limitations and expand opportunities for corporate counsel to do pro bono work, while subjecting them to VSB regulatory authority while they do that work. The proposal was recommended by a Virginia State Bar-Virginia Bar Association task force.

Proposal to Waive In Law Professors Is Supported

By a vote of 46 to 16, the council supported a proposal by Professor A. Benjamin Spencer of Washington and Lee University School of Law to allow full-time law school professors to practice in Virginia without taking the bar exam if they have been engaged in full-time, active practice in another jurisdiction for five of the previous seven years. Professor Spencer said the waiver will allow faculty to more effectively assist students in applied law clinics and to describe recent practical examples in traditional classes. The waiver would end when the teacher no longer is employed full-time. The council's vote will be reported to the Supreme Court at the Court's request. I was one of the 16 who voted against supporting this concept because I believe that full time practice of law is necessary to learn Virginia law and procedure, and law school professors would only be dabbling in Virginia practice with most of their time spent on other pursuits. This proposal will come back to council in the form of a proposed rule change. I would be interested in hearing your views on this subject before the next council in June.

Proposed Rules 7.1-7.5 Pulled by Ethics Committee

The council was told that the VSB Standing Committee on Legal Ethics on February 24, 2011, decided to pull the proposed changes to Rules of Professional Conduct 7.1-7.5, Lawyer Advertising and Solicitation.

UPL Legislation Adopted by General Assembly

Ethics Counsel James M. McCauley reported that legislation had been adopted by the General Assembly that would extended the statute of limitations for prosecuting unauthorized practice of law to two years from the date of discovery.

Justice Hassell Remembered

The council observed a moment of silence in memory former Chief Justice Leroy Rountree Hassell Sr., who died February 9, 2011. VSB Executive Director Karen A. Gould referred members to Richard Cullen's reflections at <http://www2.timesdispatch.com/news/2011/feb/13/tdopin02-chief-justice-fought-the-good-fight-kept--ar-837657/>.

Prince William Circuit Court Conciliators Schedule

By J. Scott Krein, Program Administrator

April 1, 2011	Susan Cooke	June 3, 2011	Scott Krein
April 8, 2011	Sharon Pandak	June 10, 2011	Petula Metzler
April 15, 2011	Jim Parris	June 17, 2011	Cathy Croft
April 22, 2011	Helen Marmoll	June 24, 2011	Donna Daugherty
April 29, 2011	Steven Woodside		
May 6, 2011	Bob Zelnick		
May 20, 2011	Cassandra Chin		
May 27, 2011	Alice Rowan		

President's Message, Continued

If you happen to see Paul Walla around, please be sure to thank him for his efforts as the Chair of the Judicial Evaluation Committee. He has been distributing the evaluations to each judge and making himself available to answer any questions, all on behalf of your Bar Association. Importantly, the Board of Directors needs to appoint two new members to this committee. Please think about volunteering. If you would simply like more information, please contact Paul at jpwalla@aol.com. We need to make these appointments immediately, so consider this an urgent request!

Over the last several weeks, Petula Metzler, your president-elect, has been working on some amendments to our Association By-Laws. We will be establishing a timeline for a member vote, but I wanted to give you a heads up that they were coming. Substantively, the amendments include adding the following mission statement:

The Prince William County Bar Association and its members work to maintain the honor and dignity of the practice of law, promote the administration of justice, encourage the professionalism and collegiality of its members, and contribute to the quality of life in the community.

Additionally, we are proposing formally adding a Fundraising Committee (which is already hard at work planning activities to raise money for the Foundation), combining the Public Relations and Community Outreach Committees, and requiring that all committees present an annual report to the Board of Directors detailing the work of their committee.

Finally, on a more somber note, this last month saw the loss of two great legal minds, Virginia Supreme Court Justice Leroy R. Hassell, Sr., and our own Judge Arthur W. Sinclair.

Justice Hassell was nominated to the Virginia Supreme Court in 1989 by Governor Gerald Baliles and was the first Chief Justice to be elected by his jurist peers in 2002. He was the first African American Virginia Chief Justice. "I think it sends a pretty powerful message," Hassell told Tavis Smiley on the *Tavis Smiley Show*, "that if you work hard, if you're able to get along with your peers, if people have confidence in you and your ability, then you can be elected as the chief judge in this commonwealth." His legacy will certainly be felt for generations to come.

Judge Sinclair was both near and dear to many of us, and his loss is tremendous. You will find a summary of the many tributes that poured into the Bar office in the days after his passing elsewhere in this month's Newsletter, but I wanted to share one remembrance from Judge Michael Valentine, from the 19th District, who knew Judge Sinclair for most of his professional career. Judge Valentine shared the following:

I am glad I have lived to see the Righteous Brothers in concert, to fill my gas tank for under \$5.....But among the greatest experiences, now gone except in the collective memories of a dwindling few, was to have appeared before and to have known Arthur W. Sinclair. So many of us tried to emulate him as an icon of the judiciary, and having failed, I am no less a person for trying. He was truly a Prince of the Bench. There were no CLEs on civility in the days of Arthur Sinclair. One need only follow his lead.

Let us all continue to do so.

Prince William County Bar Association, Inc.**Office Hours**

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM, Mon.—Fri.
The PWCBA Office is located on third floor of the Prince William County Judicial Center, next to the elevators.

Guidelines for Submissions to Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Submissions should be directed to the attention of Alissa N. Hudson, Executive Director, PWCBA preferably via email to pwcbal@verizon.net, or fax to (703) 331-5683, or mail to Prince William County Bar Association, Inc., P.O. Box 31, Manassas, VA 20108.

All submissions must be paid in advance, and are due by 5:00 PM on the 10th of the month preceding publication and must include a contact name and phone number.

For inquiries regarding classified or display advertising, contact the PWCBA office at (703) 393-8865, to request a copy of the most recent rate card, or visit the bar on line at www.pwcb.org under "About the Bar", "Advertising and Sponsorships".

PWC Bar Listserv Guidelines

You are encouraged to sign up for the PWC Bar Listserv, which is available to ALL members in good standing of the Bar.

To subscribe, send an email to pwcbal@verizon.net and you will be added to the list.

To post a message, send an e-mail to list@pwcb.org. Your message will be sent to everyone on the list.

To reply to a message, simply hit <reply> and type your response. It will go to the person who posted the original message. This is the preferred method of replying unless the entire membership will benefit from your response.

To unsubscribe, simply send a message to pwcbal@verizon.net with the word "unsubscribe" typed in the subject line.

February 25, 2011 PWC Bar BOD Meeting Highlights

Summary taken from minutes provided by Amy N. Tobias

- ◆ Jan BOD Meeting Minutes and Treasurers Reports approved
- ◆ Circuit Court Bench Board meeting to be planned
- ◆ Need to appoint two new members to Judicial Evaluation Committee
- ◆ Discussed proposed bylaws amendments and voting timeline; commissioned Petula Metzler to draft
- ◆ Discussed new committees and committee assignments
- ◆ Heard report from new Young Lawyers Division; organization, events, goals
- ◆ Past Presidents Council to become part of bylaws
- ◆ Alissa to solicit proposals for alternative luncheon venues
- ◆ Update on Rule of Law Project
- ◆ Financial Report on Dinner Dance, discussion of sponsor packages
- ◆ Board Retreat Debriefing
- ◆ BOD approved expenditure up to \$5000 for significant graphic and navigational updates to Bar website

PWC Bar Welcomes Newest Members

Martin H. Lopez-Novillo, Esq.
 Law Office of Martin H. Lopez-Novillo
 1950 Old Gallows Road
 Suite 220
 Vienna, VA 22182
 (305) 510-5474

Tenecia Pitts Reid, Esq.
 Livesay & Myers
 9843 Business Way
 Manassas, VA 20110
 (703) 361-7735

Robert A. May, Jr. Esq.
 Livesay & Myers
 9843 Business Way
 Manassas, VA 20110
 (703) 361-7735

Susan Butler, Esq.
 Shoun, Bach, Walinsky
 & Curran, P.C.
 400 Legato Road
 Suite 400
 Fairfax, VA 22033
 703-222-3333

Hanging Out a Shingle Program Returns

By Alissa N. Hudson

The Prince William County Bar Association and the Fairfax Bar Association are co-sponsoring a program called “Hanging Out a Shingle”. The Program will take place on May 20, 2011, from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm at The Columbus Grill, located at 8349 Centreville Road, Manassas, VA 20111. Through this Program, the Bar Associations will present information that would be helpful to attorneys who are setting up a law practice. Although the target audience is newly licensed attorneys, experienced solo and small firm practitioners may also wish to attend, to learn about current trends such as social networking or the latest software for case management. Topics will include:

- ◆ Creating a Business Plan
- ◆ Law Office Marketing
- ◆ Technology: Software Tools of the Trade
- ◆ Avoiding Malpractice
- ◆ Indigent Defense Certification
- ◆ Guardian ad litem Certification
- ◆ Best Practices in the Prince William and Fairfax Courts

The cost for the event is \$120.00 for PWC Bar Members and \$150.00 for guests and includes lunch, 3.5 hours of MCLE credit including 1.0 Ethics credit and related handouts, and a reception following the event. The registration flyer is nearly completed and will be circulated as soon as it is available.

Delinquent Dues Notices

On behalf of Joseph W. Thelin, Treasurer

Please be advised, those members who did not pay their dues by February 4, 2011 must now include a late fee of \$10.00 with their dues payments. Delinquent dues notices have been run and will be sent in April to those members who did not renew for 2011. For those members who are two years delinquent, you will be dropped from the membership roll of the Bar if you do not bring your dues fully current within 10 days of receipt of your reminder, inclusive of applicable late fees. Partial payments of delinquent dues shall be applied first to the oldest delinquency. This is in accordance with the PWCBA bylaws, Article VIII, Section 2.



Raymond Halverson
 Residential Appraiser
 RMHAppraisals@aol.com
 www.RMH-Appraisals.com
 PWC resident - resume available on request

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 *References and Vita on request - Visit at:* 

www.economic-analysis.com

Criminal Law Committee Update

By William E. Jarvis, Chair

I have a report for the Criminal Law section. Recently there have been changes in district court and juvenile discovery procedure. Attorneys seem to be confused both as to who to ask for clarification as well as implementation issues. The membership needs to be reminded that any questions regarding discovery as well as other motions practice issues in district court should be addressed to Will Jarvis and any questions for Juvenile Court should be addressed to Mike Phipps. Also the membership should be reminded that copies of form orders for the lower courts are available by e-mail and Circuit form orders can be obtained in room 310. Thanks

Young Lawyers Meet to Consider Organization

By Patrick Foltz

On Wednesday, March 16th, a group of young lawyers from the Prince William Bar met at the Olde Towne Sports Pub. We met to plan the formation of a group for young lawyers in Prince William County.

In a spirited meeting lasting almost two hours, we discussed what kind of group we want to be, which sorts of activities and programs we can offer, and how we can mobilize the growing number of young lawyers within the Bar Association. We also broke into committees to explore projects in three major areas: Networking and Mentoring, Community Service, and Technology. Finally, we elected Jaimy Lewis, Heather Steele, and Pat Foltz as interim leaders.

A follow-up happy hour for young lawyers and all other members of the Bar Association was hosted on Friday, March 25th, also at the Olde Towne Sports Pub in Manassas, where guests socialized and learned about how to get involved in Bar programs, such as Beat the Odds® and "So You're 18". If you could not attend the happy hour, we hope you will share your ideas with us and consider getting involved in upcoming service and social events. Please contact Pat Foltz (pfoltz@szelaw.com) with your comments and look for future young lawyers event postings on the listserv.

Classified Ads

Office Space Woodbridge. 943 sq. ft. elegantly appointed ground level suite off Smoketown Road, near Home Depot, in Smoketown Crossing Condominiums. Ideal for attorney. Two offices, conference room, bathroom, kitchen area with refrigerator, microwave and maple cabinets and a reception area. Possible signage on front. \$1,150.00/month. (571) 235-3514

Office Space available for rent. Approximately 1450 sq. ft. including individual offices, separate conference room, reception area and kitchen area. Off-street parking. Terms subject to discussion. Contact Russ Wells 703-369-2005.



Pictured in Front Row, from left to right: Jess Gurzo, Brett Callahan, Jaimy Lewis, Erica Sonstroem, Kate Quinlan, and Pat Foltz. Back row: Mike Kalish, Brad Marshall, Andy Taylor, Travis McRae, Mike Hollingsworth, and Justin Hargrove. Not pictured: Heather Steele, Jennifer Epler McCarthy, Craig Max, and Carrie Frank

In Memoriam

Arthur W. Sinclair -- October 13, 1914-February 25, 2011

The Prince William County Bar Association mourned the loss of its last living founding member with the passing of Judge Arthur Williams Sinclair. Efforts to assemble a tribute to him brought into view a picture of a man whose impact on the local legal community, and community at large, were quietly profound.

◆ Arthur W. Sinclair attended Augusta Military Academy and Washington & Lee University and graduated from Georgetown University with a degree in law.

◆ In 1939 he became the fourth generation of Sinclairs to practice law in Manassas and joined his father's firm, located in the same building as the Peoples National Bank of Manassas, an institution his grandfather and name sake helped to establish.

◆ In 1941 he, along with his father, C.A. Sinclair, became founding members of the PWC Bar Association.

◆ In 1943, during WWII, he served in the Army in the Judge Advocate General's Corps.

◆ In 1946, he returned to the practice of law in Manassas and assumed representation of the Peoples National Bank, later becoming Chairman of its Board. He also served as Town Attorney for Manassas and Commissioner of Accounts.

◆ In 1950, he was sworn in by his father, C.A. Sinclair, as the youngest Circuit Court Judge, at the age of 35, serving the 16th and later 31st judicial circuits until his retirement in 1980. He was the longest serving judge in Virginia at his retirement, and adjudicated cases as a substitute judge until he was 90 years old.

◆ Judge Sinclair was entrusted with the many condemnations for the construction of I-95 and I-66 and other difficult civil and criminal cases over his tenure on the bench. When asked to join the Virginia Supreme Court, he declined to remain in Manassas.

◆ Judge Sinclair was a founding member of the Evergreen Country Club, the first President of the Prince William County Historic Preservation Foundation, and a Lay Reader and Superintendent of Sunday School at Trinity Episcopal Church.

◆ When the University of Virginia and Virginia Polytechnic Institute opposed the expansion of George Mason University to Prince William County, it was Judge Sinclair who chaired a committee that was ultimately successful in obtaining approval from the state to allow the project to move forward.

◆ In 1992, the PWC Bar Association established the Arthur W. Sinclair Professionalism Award to annually recognize a member of the local bar association for the qualities for which Judge Sinclair was known: possessing a reputation for candor, maintaining the highest standard of professional conduct, promoting confidence in the legal system and providing service to the community.

◆ In 2001, as part of the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the PWC Bar Association, the Virginia General Assembly passed House Joint Resolution 710, Commending The Honorable Arthur W. Sinclair for his long and distinguished public service and his exemplary personal and professional conduct.



**Judge Arthur W. Sinclair, right, is sworn in by his father, County Treasurer C.A. Sinclair, left as the fourth judge to serve the then 16th Judicial Circuit, covering Alexandria and the counties of Fairfax and Prince William. Judge Paul H. Brown, background, presided. About 65 persons attended, among them, most of the lawyers of Prince William County. After the swearing in Judge Sinclair was honored at a luncheon given by the Bar Association at Stone House Inn.*

**Comments taken from the March 21, 1950 issue of the local paper*

Justice Harry Lee Carrico, Retired from the Virginia Supreme Court, and close friend of Judge Sinclair; and Sharon E. Pandak, Esq., who played a significant role in the establishment of the Arthur W. Sinclair Professionalism Award, both spoke at Judge Sinclair's Memorial Service. Justice Carrico beautifully conveyed professional and personal recollections of his encounters with Judge Sinclair over their lifelong friendship. Sharon Pandak spoke not only about Judge Sinclair's professional life, but also about his devotion to family and friends, and the community he called home.

There was an outpouring of remembrances from the local legal community concerning the passing of Judge Sinclair. Excerpts are printed here:

From Michael Valentine, Judge 19th District, Retired

Each of us has milestones in our lives that help us measure the worth of being alive. ...For a lawyer, for a Fairfax lawyer, it is, I believe, a most enviable attribute to be able to be old enough to have lived professionally during the long and productive life of Arthur Sinclair...Eloquent, gracious, witty, with a memory of exceptional depth, Arthur Sinclair was an inspiration to many lawyers, new and experienced.I never heard anything but admiration and love expressed for Judge Sinclair.



From Henry H. Whiting, Retired Virginia Supreme Court Justice

I had heard many good and amusing things about Judge Sinclair when I was a lawyer and I got to know him better when I became a judge. My association with him as a fellow jurist not only confirmed all the good things I had heard about him but this association only deepened my admiration for him as a fair and impartial judge – and as wonderful person.

From LeRoy F. Millette, Jr., Virginia Supreme Court Justice

I began practicing law in Prince William County in 1974 and the first circuit court judge who I appeared before was Judge Arthur W. Sinclair. While I don't remember the details of that case, what I do remember was Judge Sinclair's demeanor on the bench. He conveyed a sense of dignity, patience and seriousness that pervaded the courtroom. I felt that Judge Sinclair acted exactly how a judge should act....I have known and tried to emulate Judge Sinclair the entire time I have been a lawyer and judge. He was a great friend, an outstanding judge and a true role model. I will miss his humor, his honesty, his wisdom and, most of all, his humanity.

From John H. Foote

When I arrived in Prince William County in 1977, it was still the custom for a new lawyer to make a courtesy call on each of the local judges. I arranged a meeting with Judge Sinclair for early one morning so that I could introduce myself.I knew that he had become a circuit court judge when I was three years old, and I was, therefore, mightily prepped to be intimidated. I also got there ten minutes late, and there was no Judge Sinclair to be found. Three days later I managed to track him down to apologize, to learn that he had forgotten all about our appointment. It was the beginning, as Bogart said, of a beautiful relationship -- or such as a young lawyer could have with so distinctive and distinguished a gentleman. He treated me, as all others, with kindness and fairness, and with an occasional twinkle in his otherwise stern eye.

From William Evans

Arthur Sinclair was a consummate gentleman. He was never pretentious or condescending to anyone who appeared before him be it a lawyer, criminal defendant or civil litigant. He always remembered your name. A tall, elegant and good-looking man, he would have been the perfect person to play himself in a movie adaptation of his life. There will never be another Arthur Sinclair.

The Rule of Law Project

By Alissa N. Hudson

The Prince William County Bar Association has adopted a new law related education program called the Rule of Law Project. The Rule of Law Project was developed by The Virginia Bar Association, with financial support from the Virginia Law Foundation, and is designed to enhance the teaching of the rule of law in schools in Virginia. Through this Project, students learn about the origin, meaning and applicability of the rule of law as the basis for all of the freedoms they enjoy as American Citizens.

Since its introduction in February 2009 in middle schools in the Roanoke Valley, the Rule of Law Project has been introduced to 43 school divisions through local bar associations across Virginia. The goal of the Rule of Law Project is to be an annual program in all Virginia middle school classrooms within the next three years. The project's curriculum is free, consistent with the Virginia Standards of Learning, and has received the endorsement of Dr. Patricia I. Wright, the Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction. Information about the project is available on-line at www.ruleoflaw-vba.org

Utilizing the web based resources, the Rule of Law Project is taught via collaborative efforts between volunteer lawyers and judges, working with middle school civics teachers. These resources include training videos, reading lists, pre-visitational instructional ideas, writing/discussion prompts and lesson plans.

The Prince William County Bar Association is committed to working with teachers and administrators in all three local school jurisdictions to implement the Rule of Law project over the next two years. We will implement the program at Grace E. Metz Middle School on May 24, 2011, and are looking for two volunteers to assist in this endeavor. Please call the Bar Office at (703) 393-8865 or email pwcbal@verizon.net to volunteer.

Special thanks to Tony Kostecky for volunteering to team teach the Rule of Law Project to civics teachers who work within the PWC Public School System. He will be working with Tim Isaacs and Mike Pace, the developers and administrators of the Rule of Law Project for the VBA. The PWC Bar has received a \$1500.00 grant from the Virginia Law Foundation to cover costs associated with implementing this program locally.

Legislative Affairs Committee Update

By Anthony Kostecky, Chair

In the recently concluded session of the General Assembly, there were a number of items of interest to the Bar. According to Virginia Lawyers Weekly, a budget was approved that includes funding to fill 21 judgeships that were frozen in the 2010 session. The legislature also rejected the Governor's proposal to take \$5 million from the State Bar's reserve fund.

In other news, a proposal to redraw Virginia's judicial circuits was defeated in the state Senate. The bill's sponsors indicated that they will send a letter to the Virginia Supreme Court asking them to study the issue and report back to the legislature by this fall.



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Lawyer Referral Service – 6th Year in Review

By Alissa N. Hudson

THANK YOU! to the 67 attorneys who participated in the Lawyer Referral Service from February 2010 through January 2011. This represented an 11% increase in LRS attorneys to support the program, over the previous year. Clients continue to tell me how helpful the service is for them.

THANK YOU! to the law firms that recruit several members within their firm to participate in the LRS. We will be updating the referral roster in the coming weeks to reflect changes in LRS membership. Thank you for your patience while we make the transition.

THANK YOU! to the lawyers who accept my call when I need help understanding what type of attorney the client needs, or when I need to know if you have the precise expertise the client is looking for. Our efforts to better assist the client before the referral is made keep re-referrals to a minimum.

2010 was a great year for the PWC Bar’s Lawyer Referral Service. We assisted 535 clients, nearly meeting the record set in 2009, despite the economic down turn. We did, however, notice a change in the type of referral we handle. There were significantly more family law and collections referrals over the previous year, but fewer civil litigation, estate planning, business law, contracts and bankruptcy referrals. We can only speculate on the reasons for the shift. Special thanks to Lynn Heller for her outstanding work as our Lawyer Referral Service Coordinator. 80% or better of the referrals we make are

handled by Ms. Heller over the telephone. The remaining referrals are walk-ins, assisted through the Bar Office.

The primary way the Bar Association markets the LRS is through the distribution of business cards which contain basic information about the service, including the all-important phone number. We distribute thousands of these business cards each year through numerous points of entry into the local justice system. The Board of Directors is interested in expanding the exposure of the LRS in the community. To that end, if you have suggestions about how we can better share information about our wonderful service with our greater community, please let me know.

A gentle reminder to those members who do support the PWC Bar LRS: Please take a moment to review the terms of your LRS agreement yourself, and with your staff, so everyone at your office will know how to respond to a client who is referred to you through service. Remember, a client confirmation letter will always be faxed to your office, to alert you and your staff that a referral has just been made. The Bar collects the referral fee prior to making the referral, so your office is not responsible for collecting and remitting fees. And, most importantly, the client is expecting to meet with an attorney for their 30 minute consultation, not a paralegal or other non-attorney staff.

Here’s a breakdown of the referrals by practice area of Law:

Family Law 219	Criminal Law 21
Landlord Tenant 54	Traffic 20
Collections 52	Consumer 17
Civil Litigation 44	Estate Planning/Wills 14
Real Estate 33	All others, under 10 total 61
Criminal Law 21	

My husband and his divorce attorney say his business is worthless, and I should not expect anything from it.

All I know is that it always provided us with a comfortable lifestyle. How can it not have any value? After all of these years, I must be entitled to something.

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Success and Mentoring go Hand-in-Hand

By Kathleen Latham Farrell, Chair BTO Mentoring Program

In 2007, the Prince William County Bar Foundation initiated a Mentoring Program to match local attorneys, one-on-one, with recipients of the annual *Beat the Odds*® (BTO) scholarship awards. The goal of the mentoring program was to establish a liaison between the BTO award recipients, the Bar Foundation, and the Bar Association for the purpose of assisting the recipient make the most of their education or vocational award and provide feedback to the sponsoring organizations.

The annual pool of potential recipients of the BTO awards are, by definition, at-risk kids. Many, if not all, have limited guidance or assistance in establishing and navigating towards viable educational or vocational goals. The mentoring program was designed to address this need while also providing valuable feedback on the progress and success of these recipients.

If you are interested in being a mentor to one of our young *Beat the Odds*® recipients, please contact Kathy Farrell at (703) 335-9390 or kfarrell@farrellandcroft.com. A few hours each year could make a difference in the life of an at-risk juvenile and would go a long way to promote the success of this very worthy project.

Modest Means Program – Year Two in Review

By Alissa N. Hudson

Twenty-one special attorneys served on the panel of Modest Means Attorneys for 2010 and assisted 19 low income clients who were pre-screened for eligibility through Legal Services of Northern Virginia. As a reminder, LSNV serves clients with a variety of civil litigation related issues, whose income falls at or below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines. Modest Means Clients have an income of between 200% and 225% of the federal poverty guidelines. The PWC Bar is exploring the possibility of increasing the eligibility for the MMP and will advise if any changes are made.

The Modest Means Program is a quasi *pro bono* effort through which clients with lower incomes pay attorneys for legal services at a reduced rate. MMP hourly rates are intended to be comparable to, or above, the fees paid to court appointed counsel. An advance fee deposit (a/k/a retainer) provides an assurance of payment to the attorney, while a lower hourly rate facilitates the provision of legal services to clients who would otherwise be left to act pro se.

The benefits of the program are many. Among other things, the program ensures that lower income citizens get the legal help they need; attorneys get paid for their time; and fewer pro se cases wind up in the courts. Attorneys can charge up to \$75.00 per hour for their time. They can require deposits of up to \$750.00 each. Significantly, there is no limit to the number of deposits that can be required – just no more than \$750.00 at a time. There is no cap on the total fee that can be earned as long as time is billed at a rate not to exceed \$75.00 per hour. There is no fee to register as a Modest Means Panel (MMP) attorney, and as an added bonus, those who sign up for the MMP and the Lawyer Referral Service will have their LRS annual fee waived.

Thank you to the attorneys who continue to support the Modest Means Program. In the past few months, Legal Services has centralized their client intake procedures, which enables them to increase the number of clients screened and referred for service. As a result, we expect to see an increase in referrals to the PWC MMP program.

IN SEARCH OF BEAT THE ODDS® MENTORING VOLUNTEERS!

2011 BEAT THE ODDS® MENTORING MEETING

WHEN: MONDAY, APRIL 25 AT 4:00 PM
WHERE: FARRELL & CROFT, PC
9324 MAIN STREET, MANASSAS, VA
RSVP: 703 335 9390
kfarrell@FarrellandCroft.com



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Upcoming Dates:

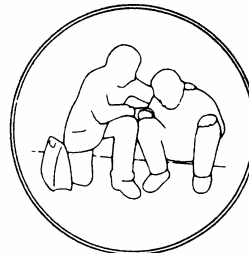
April 1, Beat the Odds® Tickets go on sale. Contact Joan Hughes or Jennifer Weiss to purchase

April 7, 12:30 pm, Mackey's American Pub, General Membership Meeting. Program: Professional Conduct and Trust Accounting CLE

April 13, 8:30 am, Circuit Court Bench Board Meeting. Please contact Megan Kelly with input.

April 25, 4:00 pm, BTO Mentoring Meeting at Farrell & Croft

April 29, PWC Bar Board Meeting, 4:00 pm, Blankingship & Keith



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April 7th, General Membership Luncheon Meeting

**Professional Conduct & Trust Accounting
CLE presented by Jeannie P. Dahnk, Esq.
Chair, VSB Professionalism Committee**

Please RSVP to the Bar Office at pwcbal@verizon.net or by calling (703) 393-8865 by Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 5:00 pm. Lunch costs \$15.00 per member and \$20.00 per guest and includes CLE handouts.

Fee can not be waived.



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!
P.O. Box 31
Manassas, VA 20108



Join Us For the Celebration!
The Prince William County Bar Association's
2011 Beat the Odds® Awards Banquet

Celebrating the Remarkable Achievements
Of Local Youth Who Have Overcome Hardship and Adversity
To Achieve Educational and Social Progress

Thursday, June 2, 2011

5:30 p.m.

Heritage Hunt Country Club

6901 Arthur Hills Drive

Gainesville, Virginia

Tickets \$75.00 per person

Reception, Dinner, Entertainment & Award Ceremony

Order Tickets by Mail Using Form on Reverse or Contact:

Joan Hughes at (703) 792-6169 or jhughes@courts.state.va.us

Jennifer Weiss at (703) 494-7171 or jweiss@szelaw.com

Tickets Go On Sale April 1, 2011

Sold Out Event in 2010-Order Early

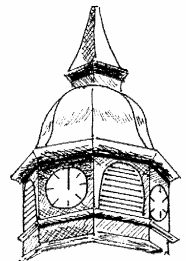
Tickets Not Available At the Door

Reserved Tables Available

For Tickets Purchased in Blocks of Ten



Beat the Odds® is a Program Sponsored by the
Prince William County Bar Association
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The Prince William County Bar Association's
2011 *Beat the Odds*® Awards Banquet

*Thursday, June 2, 2011
5:30 p.m.
Heritage Hunt County Club
6901 Arthur Hills Drive
Gainesville, Virginia*

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