# ORFOLK ORFOLK ORTSMOUTH BARASSOCIIA ASOCIA ATION

# BAR BULLETIN

Volume XLV Number 4

July – August 2020

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Preregistration required for all NPBA Events 622-3152 contact@norfolkandportsmouthbar.org

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Lamont Maddox** 

In these ever changing times, one thing remains constant: the Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association's commitment to its members. In the wake of this global pandemic, the NPBA has adapted to continue to serve the best interests of its members.

For the safety and well-belling of our members, we made the difficult decision to cancel our March luncheon and postpone our Bench Bar Conference that had been scheduled for April (now rescheduled for September). Likewise, our Annual Dinner has been rescheduled in August.

To facilitate communications with our members, we've upgraded our website and transitioned our bar bulletin to a digital format delivered by e-mail. As part of that upgrade, we also instituted a member management

system for convenient online membership renewals, credit card payments, and event registrations. Pertinent announcements from the state courts have been disseminated by e-mail to our members through the new online system and posted on our website.

A couple of NPBA programs have been hosted virtually through the Zoom video conferencing platform with much success and more of those programs are in the works. In addition, the Zoom platform enabled us to conduct a virtual installation of the new NPBA officers and executive committee members by Chief Judge Mary Jane Hall, as well as virtual announcement events for our Eggleston/ I'Anson Professionalism Award recipient and Walter E. Hoffman Community Service Award recipient (both award recipients will officially receive their awards at the Annual Dinner in August). Furthermore, we are now exploring a revamped and modernized Lawyer Referral Service to effectively connect prospective clients in our area with competent legal counsel and representation from participating members.

So, the NPBA has been hard at work meeting the challenges of the day and seizing opportunities for improvement to better serve and support its members.

I am proud to take the baton with humble appreciation from our past president, Chuck Lollar, and carry on the mission of the NPBA as its incoming president. Along with the rest of our devoted executive committee and dedicated staff, I will strive to strengthen our bar association through a focus on membership value, betterment of the legal profession, and service to our local community. More importantly, we need your help. With a vision for a diverse, inclusive, and vibrant bar, we welcome and encourage all members to get involved by joining our committees, participating in our events, contributing to our programs, and providing feedback. Together we can make the NPBA even better!

# UPCOMING EVENTS

ANNUAL DINNER MEETING CANCELLED due to health & safety concerns

Norfolk Yacht & Country Club

SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON
Thursday, September 17, 2020
Erik H. Neil, Director, Chrysler Museum of Art

#### BENCH BAR CONFERENCE

Monday, September 21, 2020, Noon Norfolk Waterside Marriott Keynote Speaker: Hon. Mark Martin, Dean, Regent University School of Law, former Chief Justice, North Carolina Supreme Court

> PRO BONO WEEK October 25-31, 2020



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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Willcox Savage is pleased to welcome Jeanne Noonan to our firm. Jeanne is an associate in the Maritime practice group where she focuses on all areas of admiralty and maritime-related disputes. Jeanne is a 2014 graduate of William and Mary Law School. She earned her B.A. degree in History from Old Dominion University. Prior to joining the firm, Jeanne practiced at a Norfolk-based boutique maritime litigation law firm, where she gained considerable experience with Jones Act and LHWCA defense, marine terminal liability defense, contract disputes, and marine insurance defense matters. Thereafter, she joined a national AmLaw 100 firm, where she handled litigation on behalf of clients in a

wide variety of industries. Jeanne has particular experience representing clients in complex civil litigation and transportation-related disputes, in both state and federal courts.

In the Portsmouth Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court: **The Honorable Diane P. Griffin** has been elected Chief Judge of the court for a term of two years commencing July 1, 2020.

In the Portsmouth General District Court: **The Honorable Roxie O. Holder** has been elected as Chief Judge for a term of two years commencing July 1, 2020.

# Young Lawyers Section

By Kerry Stolz, Chair • kstolz@pendercoward.com • 490-6277

Welcome to a new YLS year! I am very honored and excited to be serving as YLS Chair this year. I owe a huge thank you to our 2019-2020 YLS Chair, **Jamilah D. LeCruise** of Law Office Of J.D. LeCruise, for her dedicated leadership over the past year. She was instrumental in ensuring that our regular YLS programming continued throughout the year and that our programming provided us both social and philanthropic activities. Thank you for your leadership! Also, I would like to extend a warm congratulations on behalf of all of YLS for her recent Young Lawyer of the Year award from the Virginia State Bar.

While COVID-19 has certainly brought us challenges over the past few months, YLS has embraced the changes and used the NPBA's Zoom account to our advantage. We hosted our first "Virtual Breakfast with the Bench" last month with Judge Lannetti of Norfolk Circuit Court. He joined us over Zoom and spoke with us about the current state of the



Kerry Stolz

Virginia courts during COVID-19 and practice tips for young lawyers. We are very thankful for his time and preparation for our presentation. Our Breakfast with the Bench series will remain in virtual format for the time

being and will run on a monthly basis. Keep an eye out for the next YLS email invitation.

We hosted our first YLS membership meeting over Zoom last month and elected Margaret Kelly of the Norfolk City Attorney's Office as our Treasurer for 2020-2021. We also nominated Kate Lennon of Fraim & Fiorella as this year's Social Chair and Grayson Orsini of Wolcott Rivers Gates as this year's Philanthropy Chair. All of us look forward to seeing you at our next YLS Zoom meeting on July 20th and the annual August end-of-summer social!

#### **Welcome New Members**

Christopher Schreyer Fraim & Fiorella, P.C.

**Jessica A. Hayes** Wolcott Rivers Gates

Bretta Z. Lewis Wolcott Rivers Gates

Jeanne E. Noonan Willcox & Savage, P.C.

**Daniel Shirey** 

**Jason Swango** The Firm for Men / Swango Law, P.C.

Kelsey McGee Regent University Law Student Diamond Royster Regent University Law Student

#### **Employment Opportunity**

Prince William County, VA law firm seeking experienced attorneys to join our expanding Land Use/Zoning and Civil Litigation practices. If you are interested in handling complex and sophisticated cases while enjoying a work-life balance and a great place to work, we invite you to Apply Here <a href="https://www.vfnlaw.com/careers/">https://www.vfnlaw.com/careers/</a> on our site or send your resume with professional references to the hiring partner c/o Jperdue@vfnlaw.com.

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

Dear Members of the NPBA,

As the Norfolk Law Library prepares to reopen, we have been working hard to make the library a safe environment for staff and patrons. In order to achieve this goal, we have invested in new personal protective equipment and supplies including an acrylic barrier for our reference counter. If you are able to do so, please consider making a donation to the law library to help us offset these costs and continue to develop our print and digital subscriptions. Donate here:

#### https://norfolkandportsmouthbar.org/Donate

Staff members are available to assist with all of your research and information needs. Please contact the Norfolk Law Library by phone (757.622.2910), by email <a href="mailto:staff@norfolklawlibrary.org">staff@norfolklawlibrary.org</a>, or via the Contact Us page at <a href="https://norfolklawlibrary.org/">https://norfolklawlibrary.org/</a>.

Best regards, Isaac Needell Law Librarian

The Norfolk Law Library would like to thank the following Friends for their generous support:

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Steven A. Mirman Hon. Louis A. Sherman, Ret. Cathy A. Stanley Charles E. Vogan Mark F. Williams

This list includes donors July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020.

# PRO BONO CORNER

Hon. David Lannetti and Kamala Lannetti

Carun R. West, Chair, Pro Bono Committee

Legal Aid attorneys often receive requests from clients with problems outside of their realm of expertise. One example is estate administration. Recently, I was able to counsel a legal aid attorney regarding insolvent estates so that she could better assist her client. This is one of many ways that you can help legal aid besides taking cases directly. Please consider signing up as a volunteer attorney for Legal Aid, either taking cases directly or assisting volunteers and legal aid attorneys as a subject matter expert.

Sign up at: https://laseva.kempscaseworks.com/pbi/Account/NewRegistration.aspx

If you have previously registered and need your log-in information, or have any questions about volunteering with Legal Aid, please email Tameeka Williams at <a href="mailto:pailawyers@laseva.org">pailawyers@laseva.org</a>.

Other ways to help –

Eviction Legal Helpline: https://evictionhelpline.org/potential-volunteers/

Connect with Pro Bono Opportunities in Virginia with JusticeServer: <a href="https://justiceserver.org/JusticeServer">https://justiceserver.org/JusticeServer</a>
Volunteer with the Virginia Poverty Law Center: <a href="https://vplc.org/act/volunteer/">https://vplc.org/act/volunteer/</a>

Online Training for Pro Bono Attorneys: https://www.vsb.org/site/sections/pro bono/webinar recordings

# CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP AT THE NPBA FOUNDATION

By Greg E. Summy, President, NPBA Foundation

Hello everyone! I hope you are staying well and working through the unique situation in which we find ourselves.

This will be my final column as President of your Norfolk & Portsmouth Bar Association Foundation. I retired from Norfolk Southern on April 1, and it has long been my belief that the Foundation Board should be led by someone who is actively practicing law full time.

Financially, your Foundation is sound for the activities which it is presently conducting, which are the annual scholarship competitions for the high school seniors, and the Fitzwater Memorial Scholarship for second year law students who have an interest in public service or public interest law in South Hampton Roads. Participation in the high school scholarship competition remains strong, and the applicants come from a geographically diverse cross-section of South Hampton Roads high schools. The criteria for awarding the high school scholarships are a combination of academic achievement, financial need and the quality of the essay written by the student about a topic selected by the Foundation Board, based on the consistently excellent

mendations of the Board's leader of the high school scholarship competition, Bob Powell. I particularly like that we require the writing of an essay, since it requires each student to think about a law-related



**Greg Summy** 

topic, engage in some organization and reasoning about the topic, and then translate that work into a well-structured essay. Every participant in the competition gains from that, and that participation alone helps the Foundation to achieve one of its missions, which is to educate the public about the Rule of Law.

The Fitzwater Scholarship competition is another story. Funded by a significant contribution from a law school classmate of Ms. Fitzwater, the earmarked Fitzwater scholarship fund has declined over the years. Further, the number of applicants for the scholarship has never exceeded the single digits. When the earmarked funds run out, a future Foundation Board will have to determine whether continuation of the Fitzwater scholarship competition is warranted.

Readers of this column may recall that I frequently write that the Bar Foundation is very willing to consider financial support for projects, programs and activities which enhance education and awareness about the Rule of Law. Frankly, we have seen limited interest from the community in taking us up on our offer during my term as President. I hope that will change. While the scholarship competitions do help to educate a limited public about the Rule of Law, I think there is the opportunity to reach many more in the community in other ways. I hope the Foundation Board will continue to encourage our membership and others to come forward with ideas.

Last, let me introduce our new Foundation President, selected by the NPBA Executive Committee. Caryn West has been our Foundation Treasurer since before I joined the Foundation Board, and there is no one better to lead the Foundation going forward. I look forward to continuing to serve on the Foundation Board and work with Caryn and the rest of our fine Board members to continue the Foundation's work. Thanks to the membership for entrusting me with leading the Foundation Board.

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

