

VOLUME NUMBER 23 MARCH 2014 ISSUE NUMBER 1



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jonathan L Thornton

As we all continue to endure the polar vortex of 2014, I am both honored and humbled to write my first President's Message. As a long-time member of this great organization, I have enjoyed the opportunity to serve on our Board under the steady leadership of former Presidents Bill Bischoff, Sandra Sampson and Robert Hagans.

I am pleased to report that our Association is nearly 700 members strong and one of the largest, and perhaps the only, voluntary Bar Association in the Commonwealth to have an expanding membership roll. We would like to think that our increasing numbers have been brought about by our commitment to offering quality CLE's, but freely admit that there may be another attraction.

Article II of our Bylaws cites the cultivation of "good fellowship" as one of our primary objectives. We enjoy a well-deserved, statewide reputation of setting the Bar when it comes to planning and executing social gatherings — whether it's the historic (and short-lived) Ethics cruise to nowhere, the famous Caribbean CLE's orchestrated by John Hooker, Las Vegas legal education opportunities, or our Annual Christmas Parties at 501 — there has simply been no Bar our equal. VBBA remains the undisputed champion of "fellowship," and we will continue this tradition because it promotes collegiality with our fellow lawyers and judges and makes the practice of law considerably more enjoyable.

Despite our expanding membership, we as a Board have noticed a few concerning trends. Two of our signature events, the Annual Banquet and Dick Brydges Charity Golf Tournament, have experienced declining attendance the last few years. As a Board, we have



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questioned the cause. Is it the economy? Is it that firms are no longer footing the bill for their lawyers to attend these events? Is it the event's format? Is it a sign of our digital age where a younger generation of lawyers stays connected primarily with emails, tweets and Facebook posts and therefore does not see a need to attend?

This past year, our Board has attempted to tackle these issues and keep our Association attractive to our current membership while also attempting to attract new members. For one, we have kept our dues at a very affordable \$195, which covers all of our CLE offerings, including the popular Ethics and Legislative Update seminars, not to mention admission to the Annual Christmas Party and reduced pricing for banquet tickets and golf tournament entry fees. We have also re-designed our VBBA website (www.vbbarassoc.com) and will soon implement online registration for events and payment of dues.

As a Board, we have resolved to re-energize our signature events. To that end, we have moved this year's Annual Banquet from its traditional February time slot to the Spring. This year's banquet takes place on MAY 31st at the Princess Anne Country Club-- PLEASE



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT'D)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS-- and the event will feature a more casual, beach theme with a steel drum band during the cocktail "hour-and-a-half," followed by dinner, an awards presentation, and dancing to the sounds of "Cheap Thrills" (check them out on YouTube if you haven't heard them perform). We are also exploring a different venue for our Charity Golf Tournament and new ideas for making this event more appealing.

As passionate as we remain about fellowship, our Association remains committed to serving our community by investing the time, resources and talents of our growing membership. This comes about only through the dedicated efforts of our members who give of their time and resources to serve on our Board, and also as Committee chairs and members. We currently have fourteen committees, several of which are geared solely to public service. The complete listing can be found on our website or at the back of this Newsletter.

I ask you to strongly consider volunteering for one of these committees by simply calling or emailing the Chairperson and asking how you can get involved. If you don't wish to serve on a committee, please come out and support one of our Bar-sponsored events that you can track on the VBBA website.

In 2013, our Association generously donated proceeds from our Golf Tournament to CASA and to the Legal Studies Program at First Colonial High School. We sponsored a blood drive. We helped Toys for Tots (thank you, former President Sandra Sampson for this wonderful idea) collect multiple bins of toys and considerable cash for underprivileged children. These efforts, coupled with the work of our pro bono Seatack and CLASS programs, marked another year of VBBA's giving back to our community.

This year we are committed as a Board to doing even more. But we need you to make it happen. Will you join us?



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ANNOUNCEMENTS



STERLING NAMED MANAGING PARTNER FOR VANDEVENTER BLACK LLP

NORFOLK, VA. - Vandeventer Black is pleased to announce that Michael L. Sterling has been named as the firm's Managing Partner.

Mike is a graduate of Lawrence University (B.A. Cum Laude) and William and Mary (J.D. Order of the Coif). He joined the firm in 1985 and he has served on the Executive Board, and as Chairman of the firm's Construction and Public Contracts Department, Practice Management Committee, and Dispute Resolution Services.

He concentrates his law practice in construction, public contracts, and administrative matters. Recently, Mike prevailed in a case before the United States Supreme Court. Additionally, Mike is an arbitrator and mediator with the American Arbitration Association.

Virginia Business magazine recognized Mike as one of Virginia's Legal Elite in Construction and Alternative Dispute Resolution. He has also been recognized as a Virginia Super Lawyer, a Best Lawyer in Hampton Roads, and one of the Best Lawyers in America, Construction.

STEPHEN E. NOONA INDUCTED TO VIRGINIA LAW FOUNDATION CLASS OF 2014

HAMPTON ROADS, VA - January 2014 – Kaufman & Canoles, P.C. is pleased to announce that Stephen E. Noona has been inducted into the 2014 Class of Fellows of the Virginia Law Foundation. Induction into the Foundation recognizes excellence in the practice of law and public service and is limited to one percent of the active and associate membership of the Virginia State Bar.

Mr. Noona is a partner in the firm's Norfolk office, the Chair of the firm's Litigation Section, and serves as Co-Chair of the Intellectual Property & Franchising Section. With over 27 years of experience trying complex commercial cases, Mr. Noona is recognized as a preeminent Trial Lawyer in Intellectual Property

Law disputes. Based on his trial experience and professionalism, he has been inducted as a Fellow in the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers. He is a former President of the Virginia State Bar's Intellectual Property Law Section and the Tidewater Federal Bar Association, and the current President of the I'Anson Hoffman American Inn of Court.

THOMPSON LAW GROUP, PLLC IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE:

Graham M. Stolle has joined Thompson Law Group, PLLC as an associate attorney. Graham is a 2009 graduate of Virginia Military Institute, and a 2013 graduate of Regent University School of Law. Graham will handle Traffic and Criminal Defense, Landlord/Tenant, Business Law, and Real Estate Transactions.

Thompson Law Group, PLLC 4575 Bonney Road, Suite 101 Virginia Beach, VA 23462 757-486-3333



WHAT'S NEW AT WAHAB

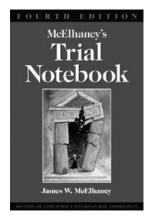
NEW RESOURCES AT WAHAB LIBRARY

- The Best Lawyers in America 2014
- Federal Personnel Guide 2014
- *LinkedIn*[®] in One Hour for Lawyers (2nd Edition)
- McElhaney's Trial Notebook (4th Edition)
- Handbook on Questioning Children: A Linguistic Perspective (3rd Edition)
- Children Held Hostage: Identifying Brainwashed Children, Presenting a Case, and Crafting Solutions
- The Little Book of Holiday Law

VIRGINIA CONTINUING LEGAL **EDUCATION MATERIALS**

- Guns: the Latest Laws Affecting Firearms in Virginia
- Juvenile Law and Practice in VA
- Trying Cases in the Western District of VA

The law library maintains a standing order subscription with VA CLE. Most seminar materials may be borrowed, please see the library staff for more information.

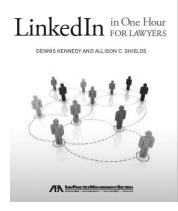


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SHORT CIRCUITS



PRACTICE TIPS FROM THE CIRCUIT COURT

Requirement of filing a notice and motion for the Duty Judge Docket and related issues

by Amy H. Jones, Staff Attorney

> Part of the purpose of the Duty Judge Docket is to allow the judges to prepare for the hearing ahead of time. However, the court has recently seen an increase in the number of matters set for hearing where either no notice or motion filed, or a notice is filed with only the title of the motion (e.g., "Motion in Limine"). Even though matters may be set on the Duty Judge Docket by telephone or email, a written notice and motion still needs to be filed with the court. First of all, as with any motion set for hearing with the court, a written notice and motion is required. Second, the court cannot rely solely upon the description provided by the person setting the matter, as that person is not always entirely clear about what is being set.

> Although briefs are not automatically required for duty judge motions, counsel should at least file a notice of what is to be heard and provide some minimal identification of what is at issue and/or the basis for the motion. For example, the motion could be noticed as a motion in limine, then state that it seeks to exclude experts for failure to timely identify them.

> In a similar vein, should counsel choose to brief a matter on the Duty Judge Docket, it is hopefully obvious that briefs are best filed long before 4 p.m. the day prior to the hearing. As a matter of common sense, filing that late cuts into the time that the court has to consider your brief. At a minimum, due to processing requirements your brief is not going to be instantaneously delivered by the Clerk's Office to the Judges' Office. In fact, it may not be delivered until the next day or later if the Clerk's Office is not advised that a hearing is imminent.

> Apart from these common sense reasons, everyone is reminded of the existence of Supreme Court Rule 4:15(c). This rule provides that "if a brief in support of a motion is five or fewer pages in length, the required notice and the brief shall be filed and served at least 14 days before the hearing and any brief in opposition to the motion shall be filed and served at least seven days before the hearing." Typically, the judges leave it up to counsel to make an objection under this rule. However, depending on the nature of the motion, you may end up with a lot of different consequences for a last minute filing, including having to completely reschedule the matter. So, avoid trouble and file your brief as far in advance as possible!

RECENT VIRGINIA BEACH CIRCUIT COURT OPINIONS

Note: Copies of these opinions may be obtained from the Clerk's Office.

Michael Thompson v. Kempsville Lakes Community Association, Inc., Docket No.: CL13-3805 (Judge O'Brien, 12/16/13) — at issue was the application of res judicata, based upon a prior opinion by Judge Canada involving these same parties that held that the Association had the authority to adopt a disputed "Leasing Resolution." In this case, plaintiff was fined by the Association for violating this Resolution, and asserted that the Association did not have the power to adopt the resolution or fine him for violating it. The court found that the claim that the Association did not have the power to adopt the resolution was barred by res judicata. Likewise, since the argument that he could not be fined was essentially based upon the same lack of authority argument, it too was barred by res judicata.

Katherine Billman v. Stacey Burrows, et al., Docket No.: CL 13-3831 (Judge O'Brien, 1/27/14) – this suit involved injuries suffered when a third-floor condominium railing gave way, causing plaintiff (who was leasing the condo from the owner) to fall to the ground and suffer serious injuries. Before the court were the demurrers of various defendants. First, the condo owner and her property manager demurrered to a claim for breach of contract. The court held that the Virginia Residential Landlord Tenant Act provided a basis for this action, and that plaintiff could recover, as consequential damages, pain and suffering and other non-pecuniary damages for breach of contract. The condo owners association and the management company it used also demurred to plaintiff's claim for breach of contract against them. The court sustained this demurrer due to lack of privity between the plaintiff and these parties. Next, the condo owner and her property manager demurrer to a claim for negligence. This demurrer was overruled on the basis that plaintiff stated a claim as to whether this was a latent defect concealed by these defendants. However, the court sustained a demurrer to the same claim against the condo owners association

and the management company it used. Plaintiff failed to allege that these defendants owed her a duty of care, and the balcony did not qualify as a "common area" that would give rise to a duty of care. Finally, the demurrer of all defendants to a claim of negligence per se was sustained, as plaintiff did not plead any specific statute or ordinance that any of the defendants violated.

Commonwealth of Virginia v. Damarious Andrea Nettles, **Docket No.: CR13-60** (Judge O'Brien, 1/6/14) – at issue was a motion to suppress drugs found after a search of defendant's car. Defendant asserted lack of probable cause to search the car, that his consent to the search was invalid, and that he was subjected to custodial interrogation without any procedural safeguards. The court found that probable cause to search was lacking, as the only bases for searching the car were defendant's presence in an empty parking lot, possible difficulty rousing him, and a glimpse of a glass pipe that could be used for both legal and illegal purposes. As for the consent to search, defendant testified that he only consented because one of the officers told him that his car would be towed and searched if he refused. This statement was not supported by a claim of lawful authority, as the officers did not have sufficient probable cause to seize and tow the vehicle before it had been searched. The court found that the Commonwealth failed to carry its burden of proof on this point, because although two other officers testified that they did not threaten the defendant, they did not testify as to the words or actions of a third officer who defendant testified threatened him. That officer also did not testify. The motion to suppress was granted.

Commonwealth of Virginia v. Donte Lamont Harris, Docket No.: CR13-1016 (Judge O'Brien, 1/6/14) – defendant moved to suppress a firearm seized from the trunk of a vehicle on the basis that the police did not have reasonable articulable suspicion to stop him, or probable cause to search the vehicle. The court denied the motion, finding that the dispatch of an anonymous tip describing individuals involved in a shooting in progress, combined with the circumstances, provided specific and articulable facts sufficient for reasonable

SHORT CIRCUITS



suspicion. The officers verified that a shooting had taken place, and found the defendant two blocks from the site of the shooting wearing clothing that exactly matched the tip. Further, the defendant was by a car in the parking lot of a closed business, and the car had the driver and passenger doors open while defendant reached into the back of the trunk (where the firearm was later found). The driver noticeably reacted when he saw the police car and told defendant, who shut the trunk and ran into the vehicle as the two tried to leave. The defendant lacked standing to challenge the search of the vehicle as he did not assert a possessory interest in the vehicle or the firearm found inside.

Commonwealth of Virginia v. Robert Chianelli, Sr., Case No.: CR13-758 (Judge Lilley, 1/24/14) - defendant, operator of a "smoke shop" that sold tobacco, smoking herbs, and various pipes and smoking devices, was charged under § 18.2-265.3 with selling drug paraphernalia. He moved to dismiss on the basis that the statute was unconstitutionally vague, and that he lacked the requisite scienter to violate it. The court denied the motion, using an "as-applied" analysis to find that the statute gave sufficient notice of the prohibited activity and was sufficiently definite to avoid arbitrary and discriminatory enforcement. First, the court found that reading § 18.2-265.3 with § 18.2-265.1 provided a specific and detailed list of items encompassed by the definition of "drug paraphernalia." These items were sufficiently definite and commonly understood, and so were not unconstitutionally vague. As for scienter, the Court of Appeals had already held that the requirement is objective in this context, so that the seller only needed general knowledge that buyers were likely to use the items with illegal drugs. This was satisfied not only by defendant's sale of items that were clearly "paraphernalia per se" under Code § 18.2-265.1(12), but his admission to police that he knew his products could be used to smoke marijuana. As for an argument that the law did not account for possible legal use of marijuana, defendant lacks standing to challenge the law on this hypothetical basis. Finally, the statute does not provide limitless discretion to police and prosecutors simply because it contains an extensive list

of prohibited items, nor does that render the statute vague. Defendant also did not present any evidence of selective enforcement by the police department or that his store was targeted to the exclusion of other similar stores.

VBBA NEW MEMBERS

Virginia Beach Bar Association Welcomes New Members

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MICHAEL G. STULTZ 272-4540

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Onesight Legal Solutions 1244 Perimeter Pkwy Ste. 441 Virginia Beach, Virginia 23454 354-3335

JAMES B. WOOD

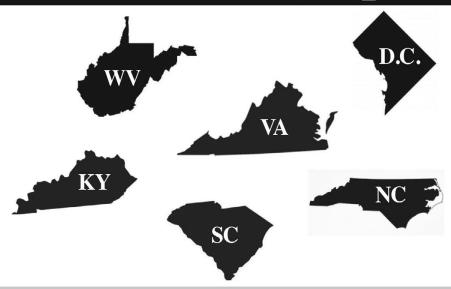
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THE VBBA BOARD NEEDS YOUR HELP

The VBBA Board needs your assistance to identify those attorneys who may be deserving of recognition for any of the following four awards. The awards will be presented at the VBBA Banquet in May and the Board is asking you to provide it with information concerning potential worthy recipients. For those of you who are active in community service, you may submit information about yourself. The individual who submits information about himself, herself or someone else will remain anonymous from the VBBA Board and its Awards Committee. Names and information should be submitted by April 15, 2014 to the attention of the Executive Director, Jean Keary by mail (2425 Nimmo Parkway, Municipal Center, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456, by fax 757-385-2156 or by email vbba@verizon.net. The four awards are as follows:

- 1. VBBA Community Service Award—An annual award presented to a member of the VBBA who has given of his or her time and talents in community service activities or who has distinguished himself or herself in probono activities that are a service to the community.
- 2. VBBA Bar Service Award—An annual award to be presented to a member of the VBBA who has distinguished himself or herself through the active participation in State and/or local bar activities whether within the VBBA or on its behalf.
- 3. Joseph L. Lyle, Jr., Professionalism Award—An annual award to be presented to a member of the VBBA who exemplifies the concept of professionalism. This is a person who can be held up to the other members of the VBBA as a role model for the way in which that attorney conducts himself or herself in their day to day practice of law.
- 4. Brydges-Russo Distinguished Service Award—An award to be given periodically to a current or past member of the VBBA who has enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a member of the bench and/or bar for a period of 25 years or more and who has demonstrated the highest character and qualities during that career.



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May 31, 2014 VBBA Annual Banquet is moving to the Spring. Details to follow......



VIRGINIA BEACH GENERAL DISTRICT 2014 INTERIM CALENDAR

HOLIDAY, NO COURT, CLERK'S OFFICE CLOSED

NO COURT CLERK'S OFFICE OPEN SMALL CLAIMS COURT DATES- CIVIL ONLY CONFLICT CASES UPDATED 03/05/2013

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On the following dates: PENDING MANDATORY JUDICIAL CONFERENCE DATES, November 25 and December 12 the arraignments will be held at 11:30 a.m. On all other dates the arraignments will be held at 2:00 p.m. in Traffic D

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Hook Law Center Quickly Emerges As Region's Elder Law Leader.

With Andy Hook as founding partner, the Hook Law Center is recognized as the region's leading specialist in elder law. The firm operates two offices in Hampton Roads – Virginia Beach and Suffolk.

Of Mr. Hook's 37 years' experience practicing law, 30 have been in the estate, trust, and elder law field. He is a national leader in this area and an active member of the Elder Law Alliance, Special Needs Alliance, and other related organizations.

The firm's team of accomplished legal professionals includes Attorneys: Shannon Laymon-Pecoraro, Jessica Hayes, and Edward H. Miller. A professional support staff adds another 50 years of combined experience in elder law.

Mr. Hook and his associates are proud to be at the forefront of protecting seniors and the disabled in Southeastern Virginia. The firm focuses on estate planning, planning for long-term care, retirement and investment advice, trust and estate administration, the unique situations associated with special needs, and personal injury consulting.

Learn more about the Hook Law Center at www.HookLawCenter.com.



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* The VBBA offers a 10% discount on half-year Advertisements (2 issues) and a 20% discount on Annual advertisements (4 issues). Classified ads and Notices are free to members. Contact Peggy Kellam, mkellam@srklawfirm.com

DEADLINE

Deadline for information and ads for the next newsletter:

May 16, 2014

Please submit all information and ads for the next newsletter to Peggy Kellam at mkellam@srklawfirm.com

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