



December 2002
Newsletter Sponsored by ANLIR

Holiday Awards Luncheon

DATE: Wednesday, December 4th
12:30 p.m. Capital Club

Recognizing the 2002 Women of Achievement Award Winners (see page 3 for bios)

Sharon England and Carolyn Lavecchia

LOCATION: Capital Club
Three James Center, Fourth Floor
1051 East Cary Street

COST: \$17 for members, \$20 for guests
Remember to invite your staff to this luncheon

RSVP: Jennifer Crossland
voice mail: 358-8000
e-mail: jcrossland@pww-law.com

PAYMENT: Mail in advance to:
MRWBA, P.O. Box 538
Richmond, Virginia 23218-0538

PARKING: James Center parking deck. Validated parking up to \$5.

Luncheon payment policies on page 2

December Food Drive

Thanks to all who brought canned goods to the food drive at last month's luncheon. We gathered over **47 pounds** of food for the Central Virginia Foodbank. Good work, but the Foodbank still needs our help.

For the December luncheon we are setting a goal of "A pound a person." No, I'm not referring to any holiday weight gain, but rather a pound of food per attendee. For example, one large jar of peanut butter or canned fruit weighs a little over a pound. Instead of putting on the pounds this December, let's give them away. (No exercise or surgery required).

So, don't forget to bring your "Pound Per Person" food donation to the December Luncheon. Together we can insure that Richmond's hungry children get fed.

For more information, contact Windy C. Venable, Community Service Projects Coordinator, at Windy_Venable@ca4.uscourts.gov. To learn more about the Central Virginia Food Bank, check out its web site at www.cvfb.org, or call Executive Director Fay Lohr at 521-2500.



*President's Column
by Carolyn A. White*

Welcome to the holiday season! As I child, I can remember feeling that the time between Halloween and Christmas was just endless. As an adult, that time now flies by far too quickly, with only isolated moments to stop and enjoy the joy and camaraderie of the season.

One such moment, however, is the MRWBA December holiday luncheon. Always well attended, and featuring live music and a celebratory program, it is a refreshing change from the seriousness of being in the legal profession. We encourage you to invite your paralegal or legal secretary to attend as your guest so that we can celebrate their importance to our continuing success in our practice.

The centerpiece of our luncheon is the presentation of the MRWBA Women of Achievement Award. This year our committee, chaired by Amy Schwab, has designated two recipients: Carolyn Lavecchia and Sharon England. Each of them has made tremendous contributions not just to our profession but to our profession's public image in their legal career. And each of them came to the legal profession after a prior career of public service: Carolyn as a nurse and Sharon as a social worker. I personally have had the honor of working with Carolyn on the board of this association, and of working with a family that Sharon has represented, and can tell you that each of them are respected and admired far beyond our insular community of lawyers. Even if you can't join us at lunch on December 4 to honor these two ladies, I hope that you will take a moment to congratulate them for this well deserved recognition.

If you do come to our luncheon (with your assistant!) I hope you'll (each!) respond to Windy Venable's challenge to donate "a pound a person" to the Central Virginia Foodbank. Their shortfall for their clientele continues at a critical level, so every can of tuna counts.

Looking ahead to 2003, Tara Casey, Tracy Spencer, and their public service committee continues to work on assembling the new version of the Understanding Your Domestic Relations Rights pamphlet. Your board has now approved the sale of advertising in this pamphlet to continue to support its statewide distribution. If you or your firm or organization is interested in advertising, please contact Tara at 819-5400 or at tara.casey@usdoj.gov for the details of arranging that advertising.

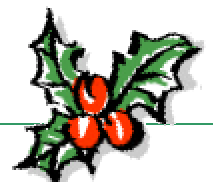
Since our next newsletter will probably be delivered after December 25, I'll close by wishing each of you a safe and happy holiday season and look forward to joining you for a prosperous 2003. Peace!

NOTICE:

All luncheon reservations must be made by Monday, December 2 at noon. Reservations may be cancelled prior to this deadline. You must make a reservation even if you mail your check. No reservations made after the deadline are guaranteed. Limited walk-in spaces are available for each luncheon on a first-come-first-served basis.

If you do not attend the luncheon after making a reservation and do not cancel prior to the deadline, you will be charged for the cost of the luncheon. If you have made a reservation and cannot attend the luncheon, you may substitute someone in your place. However, you (or your substitute) must advise Jennifer Crossland (jcrossland@pww-law.com or 358-8000) of such substitution prior to or at the luncheon.

If you have any questions about the billing process, please contact Anne Marie Cushmac, Treasurer (acushmac@oag.state.va.us or 225-3211).





2002 WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS



CAROLYN LAVECCHIA

Carolyn Lavecchia is a principal in the law firm of Williamson & Lavecchia where she focuses her practice on medical malpractice as well as other types of litigation. Prior to practicing law, Ms. Lavecchia had a distinguished career as a nurse practitioner. She effectively utilized this experience to help her become a well respect leader in medical malpractice litigation and defending practitioners before professional disciplinary boards.

In addition to her law practice, Ms. Lavecchia devotes time to a number of bar, charitable and civic organizations. She is a past president of the John Marshall Inns of Court and the Metropolitan Women's Richmond Bar Association, chair of the 2000 Virginia Trial Lawyers Association (VTLA) Convention, a member of the VTLA Committee to promote diversity in the legal profession, and a prior chair of the VTLA Community and Civic Service Committee. She serves on the Fee Dispute Resolution Committee for the Virginia State Bar. Since 1993, she has volunteered her services as a member of the Advisory Council to the Virginia Treatment Center for Children, and she was the Chair of the Advisory Board from 1999 to 2001. Ms. Lavecchia also serves as the legal advisor to Lakeside Volunteer Rescue Squad.

Finally, Ms. Lavecchia has authored and co-authored a number of professional articles and has lectured extensively throughout Virginia on legal and medical issues.

SHARON ENGLAND

Sharon S. England is a sole practitioner who has devoted her career to service in child and family law as a Guardian ad litem. She is recognized as an expert in her field by the judiciary, her law professors and by her fellow practitioners.

Ms. England's leadership in her field is evidenced by her service on various boards, councils and commissions devoted to the protection of children in our legal system, including service on the Richmond Court Appointed Special Advocate (Richmond CASA) Board of Directors from 1993-1997 alternately as its president, its fundraising chair and its child advocate chair. She has also served as chair of the Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Citizen's Advisory Council from 1997-2000 and has chaired the Youth Services Advisory Committee of the Family and Children Service Board of Directors from 1996-1998. She is a member of the Richmond Department of Juvenile Justice Services Stakeholders Committee, the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services CASA Advisory Committee, the Virginia Bar Association Commission on the Needs of Children, the National Association of Counsel for Children, the Henrico Bar Association, the Virginia Women Attorney's Association and the Metropolitan Women's Bar Association.

Ms. England has also been active as a teacher, serving on the Adjunct Faculty of the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Social Work and appearing as a frequent speaker on numerous legal seminars and programs. She is also a mentor to a second year T.C. Williams Law School student whose eloquent letter in support of Ms. England was included in her award nomination package.

Ms. England graduated from T.C. Williams School of Law in January 1996. Prior to going to law school, Ms. England had a distinguished career of 15 year as a social worker in Baltimore, having received her B.S.W. from Pennsylvania State University in 1977 and her M.S.W. from the University of Maryland in 1984. She is a wife and mother of two daughters.



Committee Reports

Save the Date for a Winter CLE

When: January 16, 2003
 Time: 4:30 -5:30 p.m. with cocktail reception to follow
 Where: T.C. Williams School of Law
 Cost: FREE for members!

MRWBA and the Henrico Bar Association are putting on a joint CLE. The Honorable Catherine Hammond and The Honorable Margaret Spencer will discuss and answer questions concerning the new Drug Court in both Richmond and Henrico County.

THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO:

- Pick up a free CLE credit!
- Socialize with MRWBA members you have not seen since the last meeting!
- Network with members from the Henrico Bar Association!
- Have a drink with a few local judges!

Save the Date for the Legislative Luncheon

The Legislative Committee has been busy inviting Virginia legislators to the March 5, 2003 Legislative Luncheon. To date, we have filled our panel with positive responses from TEN (yes, 10!) senators and delegates: Stosch, Watkins, Marrs, Ware, O'Bannon, Nixon, McDougale, Bland, Lambert, and Baskerville.

We will now be shifting our efforts to the program and its contents. We will be working on follow-up hard copy invitations, brainstorming for panelist gifts, and communicating with those legislators who express an interest in speaking at the luncheon, to ensure that the topics and legislation that they discuss mirror the interests of our membership and that we are able to appropriate allocate our program time to each speaker.

All ideas, comments and suggestions are welcome! As are new volunteers to join our committee. Please contact Lisa Hudson at 783-7234 or lhudson@sandsanderson.com. Thanks!



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kkerekes@t-mlaw.com



Mark Your Calendar for Membership Programs

January 8
12:30 p.m., Capital Club
Speaker: Ben DiMuro, VSB President

January 16
4:30 p.m., T.C. Williams Law School
Joint CLE with Henrico Bar

February 5
12:30 p.m., Capital Club
Topic TBA

March 5
12:30 p.m., Capital Club
Legislative Luncheon

Newsletter Items?

Send to Chris Bostick
by fax at 697-1339 or by email
chris.bostick@troutmansanders.com

Next Deadline: December 13



P.O. Box 538
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