



October 2002
Newsletter Sponsored by Barnes & Batzli, P.C.

LUNCHEON PROGRAM: Identity Theft

DATE: Wednesday, October 2nd

Are you concerned with the accessibility of your personal information to unwanted criminals who may fraudulently assume your identity?

Do you need just one more hour of CLE credit before the new October 31, 2002 deadline?

Do you work in the West End and want to attend a delicious luncheon without the hassle of traveling downtown?

If you answered **Yes** to one of these questions, then don't miss MRWBA's October CLE luncheon!!

Mary-Ellen Kendall of the National White Collar Crime Commission will speak on recent legislation involving Identity Theft. We will hear about the common techniques used by criminals to obtain identifying information, especially through the Internet. Mary-Ellen will also provide tips on how we can protect ourselves from this unscrupulous crime.

TWO LOCATIONS!

You spoke during last spring's focus groups -- and the MRWBA listened. Our members work throughout the metro area, not just downtown.

So, try out our newest member benefit -- join the MRWBA for a video simulcast of this month's CLE program in Innsbrook.

Both locations will offer a hot-lunch buffet. Please make reservations by September 30th at 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION: Capital Club

Three James Center, Fourth Floor
1051 East Cary Street

COST: \$17 for members/\$20 for guests

RSVP: Michelle Harman
phone: 784-2900
e-mail: mchlaw@attbi.com

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

LOCATION: ANLIR

4400 Cox Road, Innsbrook
Directions on page 2

COST: \$17 for members and guests

RSVP: Susan Atkinson
phone: 967-7783
e-mail: susanatkinson@attbi.com

See page 4 for payment and reservation policies for both locations.



*President's Column
by Carolyn A. White*

How Strong Are Your Shoulders?

The 9/11 anniversary has come and gone. For me, the most lasting reverberation is the need to achieve something meaningful with and for other people. Obviously with family and friends. But we are -- by definition -- professionals, and it is equally important for your professional life to be satisfying.

Every lawyer I know cites at least one other attorney on whose shoulders they stand. Often it is a respected colleague from their firm. However, just as often, there are questions that just cannot be asked of the attorneys in your own firm. Maybe it is a question unique to your role as a female attorney. Maybe your firm is too big or too small for you to find quite the right person to talk to. In that situation, a confidential and respected outside source is invaluable. This is the role of a mentor. If your shoulders are strong enough -- or if you are in search of some reliable shoulders on which to stand -- I encourage you to call or email our committee Chair Mary Hart, of Barnes & Batzli 796-1000 or mhart@barnesbatzli.com).

The MRWBA mentorship program, on a confidential basis, matches mentors with a minimum of seven years' experience to mentees with a maximum of two years' experience. The mentor is not a source for specific case management and legal representation questions. She is a source for the questions about firm politics, practice management, and the balance of law and life over which every new attorney puzzles. The mentor commits to making herself available for approximately one to two hours a month to her mentee by phone, email, or in person. Because of the potentially sensitive questions of career development that mentors and mentees discuss, confidentiality is crucial to the relationship.

New this year is an expansion of our mentorship program to the members of the Women Law Students Association at the University of Richmond Law School. WLSA has approximately fifty members who have asked for the insight that a mentor can bring to the transition from law student to lawyer (or, in many of our cases, to a J.D. doing something completely different). While our active member-mentees will receive priority placing, Mary Hart will be working with WLSA to match as many of their members as possible with our member-mentors. The match **will not** be confidential. WLSA will coordinate at least two social events for the mentors and mentees to meet as a group and asks that the mentor commit to attending one of them with her mentee. The WLSA mentor commits to making herself available approximately one to two hours a month by phone, email, or in person to her mentee. Because of the different needs of the law student population, MRWBA members who have been practicing at least three years are eligible to serve as a mentor in this new program.

I have been on both sides of the mentoring equation. As a young lawyer floundering through a career change, knowing that there existed an experienced attorney with whom I could be completely open without risking my professional standing was priceless. As a more experienced lawyer, I was startled to realize that my knowledge about the inner workings of lawyering turned out to be pearls of wisdom as far as my mentee was concerned. Whether you want advice or are available to help - let Mary know, and we'll match you up.

Attention MRWBA members in the West End:

Can't find time to come to lunches downtown? On Wednesday, October 2, come to Innsbrook for a video simulcast (with a buffet lunch) of the MRWBA's CLE program at the Capital Club. This success of this pilot project depends on YOUR attendance. Thanks to ANLIR and the Reciprocal Group for donating their equipment and office space.

ANLIR is located at 4400 Cox Road at the corner of Cox and Waterfront Drive. Go to the multi-purpose room on the first floor. Complimentary parking available outside the building. Call Jill Wells at 565-1165 with any questions.

We're also looking for a Southside location. Call Mary Hart at 796-1000 if your Southside firm or company has video conferencing capability.

Committee Reports

Are you looking to become more involved with MRWBA and the community, but don't know where to begin? Jump on board the MRWBA **Public Service Committee!**

One of the proudest annual achievements of the P.S. Committee is the publication of the award-winning pamphlet, "Understanding Your Domestic Relations Rights in Virginia." MRWBA distributes this pamphlet across the Commonwealth to social service organizations, government agencies and law firms every year. The Committee is currently in great need of volunteers to help create the pamphlet, and raise the funds needed for its publication and distribution.

Also, the Public Service Committee manages the award-winning Flagler House Education Project. MRWBA members speak monthly to the residents of Flagler's transitional housing shelter for women and children about legal issues affecting their lives. As the Project begins its new year, it is in need of volunteers to provide these monthly presentations.

Please contact either Tracy Spencer (897-1515) or Tara Casey (819-5506) if you are interested in volunteering for the Pamphlet or Flagler, or if you have an idea of your own that you want the MRWBA to bring to life!

Greetings from the **Legislative Committee!** Preparations are already underway for our Annual Legislative Luncheon, to be held this year at the Capital Club on March 5, 2003. Please save the date! We would love to have a strong showing at this high profile program for our organization. We already have two distinguished guests, Senators Stosch and Watkins who have committed to attending, so at this point, we are working on building the honoree/distinguished guest portion of the program.

Your MRWBA **CLE Committee** wants to hear from you!! Please email Michelle Harman (mchlaw@attbi.com) with any ideas you think would be beneficial and interesting CLE topics.

Mentoring Law Students

Do you remember what it was like to be starting out? Law school provides a lot of opportunities and a lot of confusion for many of us. We have an unique opportunity to form a mentorship relationship with the University of Richmond Women Law Students Association.

We are looking for individuals who have been in practice for at least three years and are willing to spend one to two hours a month chatting, emailing, guiding a female law student for this academic year. Mentoring provides an excellent opportunity for all involved to build relationships and give to others. Need more information or you are ready to sign up, contact Mary Hart at mhart@barnesbatzli.com or 796-3278 ext. 34.

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796-1000 or mhart@barnesbatzli.com

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nerak1983@mindspring.com

2002 Women of Achievement Award

The Awards Committee is seeking nominations for the Annual Women of Achievement Award that recognizes women who exemplify legal professionalism. As we know, last year's recipient was Darrel Tillar Mason. We will be presenting the award at the annual awards luncheon on Wednesday, December 4, 2002. Please help the Awards Committee to find and recognize a lawyer who is deserving of this tribute.

The criteria for nomination and the nomination form are included in this newsletter.
The deadline for nomination is Friday, November 1, 2002 at 5:00 p.m.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Amy Hay Schwab at 786-3344 or aschwab@oag.state.va.us.



Did you miss it?

At last month's luncheon Paula Crouch (left) of Careerworks and Bonnie Miller (right) of The BrownMiller Group talked to MRWBA members about incorporating personality and legal skills into a satisfying and fulfilling career.

MRWBA --- Past Award Recipients

- 2001 Darrel Tillar Mason
- 2000 Mary R. Spain
- 1999 Barbara Ann Williams
- 1998 Virginia H. Hackney
Barbara L. Hulburt
- 1997 Virginia S. Duvall
- 1996 Patricia M. Schwarzschild
Anne Marie Whittemore
- 1995 The Honorable Jean W. Cunningham
The Honorable Anne B. Holton
Linda F. Rigsby
The Honorable Beverly W. Snukals
- 1994 Claire G. Cardwell
The Honorable Bonnie C. Davis
The Honorable Elizabeth B. Lacy
Julie D. McClellan
Sharon Maitland Moon
The Honorable Kimberly B. O'Donnell
Virginia W. Powell
Debra J. Prillaman
Karen A. Raschke

LUNCHEON POLICY:

Payment should be mailed in advance to: MRWBA, P.O. Box 538 Richmond, Virginia 23218-0538.

All luncheon reservations must be made by the deadline specified. 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 Michelle Harman (mchlaw@attbi.com or 784-2900) of such substitution prior to or at the luncheon. If you have any questions about the billing process, contact Treasurer Anne Marie Cushmac (acushmac@oag.state.va.us or 225-3211).

Women of Achievement Awards

The Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association ("MRWBA") seeks each year to promote the stature of women in the community and to recognize those women who exemplify legal professionalism.

1. Awards Criteria:

Each nominee shall:

1. be a member of the Virginia State Bar. A nominee who is disabled or unable to practice or deceased will be considered as long as the nominee met the criteria prior to becoming disabled or deceased;
2. have earned the respect of the community at large for her professional and/or civic contributions;
3. have made significant contributions to the legal profession and to the community;
4. have at least five (5) years of professional experience as an attorney. If less than five years, the nominator should provide specific examples of exceptional circumstances;
5. have performed charitable work, *pro bono* legal services and/or any other activities of note that serve to promote the purposes of the MRWBA. (Purposes of the MRWBA are listed below.) However, it is not required that a recipient of the MRWBA Women of Achievement Award be involved in charitable activities;
6. have provided assistance to other women attorneys, particularly as a mentor; and
7. have demonstrated leadership skills.

2. Nomination Package Requirements:

The nomination package should include the following:

1. a completed nomination form;
2. an updated, descriptive resume;
3. at least two (2) statements or letters of support for the nominee; and
4. a nominator statement describing the nominee's contributions to the stature of women in the legal profession.

3. Deadline: All nomination packages must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 1, 2002

Amy Hay Schwab, Esquire
Chair, MRWBA Awards Committee
Office of the Attorney General
900 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 786-3344/ aschwab@oag.state.va.us

4. Purpose of the MRWBA

The purposes of the Association as set forth in the Articles of Incorporation follow:

1. To improve the professional competence of area lawyers, including its members, through educational and other means;
2. To promote understanding and appropriate reform in the law; judicial procedure and the science of jurisprudence generally;
3. To preserve and promote the honor and integrity of the legal profession;
4. To support and enhance personal satisfaction and professional advancement of women in the legal profession and in the judiciary;
5. To promote collegiality among women in the legal profession;
6. To facilitate and improve the administration of justice;
7. To promote the delivery of legal services to the entire community and to foster civic and community service;
8. To promote an increased understanding by the public of the legal system;
9. To inform and stimulate debate among the members of the Association on legal and social issues affecting the legal profession;
10. To undertake any other matters necessary or proper to the operation of a voluntary Bar Association; and
11. To do all things necessary or desirable to carry out the foregoing purposes.

9TH ANNUAL WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

NOMINATION FORM

Nominee's name: _____

Employer: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____ Years in Practice: _____

Practice Area(s): _____

Nominated by: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Affiliation with Nominee: _____

Signature: _____

Please mail your completed Nomination Form to:

Amy Hay Schwab, Chair, MRWBA Awards Committee
Office of the Attorney General, 900 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
phone: (804) 786-3344 aschwab@oag.state.va.us

Nominations must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 1, 2002 to be considered.

Please include an updated, descriptive resume for the Nominee.

Please include at least two (2) statements or letters of support for the Nominee.

1. Describe the Nominee's significant professional and civic contributions in the following areas if applicable:

- a. Professional achievements:
- b. Bar activities, committees, etc.:
- c. Articles, publications, lectures, etc.:
- d. Additional comments:

2. Describe the Nominee's service to the legal profession and the community in the following areas, as applicable:

- a. *Pro Bono* legal services:
- b. Civic Activities, volunteer work, etc.:
- c. Additional comments:

3. Describe the Nominee's contributions to the stature of women in the legal profession:

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Mark Your Calendar for Membership Luncheons

October 2 CLE
"Identity Theft"

November 6
David Baugh - "Constitutionally Independent Judiciary"

December 4 Holiday Awards Luncheon

1st Wednesdays of the month
12:30 p.m. Capital Club

Newsletter Items?

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

Next Deadline: October 11

Women of Achievement Awards

Deadline: November 1st
See inside for nomination forms and more information
or visit
www.MRWBA.org



P.O. Box 538
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