



WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION



December 2003
Newsletter Sponsored by Prolegia

Holiday Awards Luncheon

DATE: Wednesday, December 3rd
12:30 p.m. Capital Club

Recognizing the 2003 Women of Achievement Award Winner

Phyllis Katz

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

COST: \$17.00 for members
\$20.00 for non-members

RSVP by December 1st: Karen Dunivan
voice mail: 698-6232
e-mail: kdunivan@t-mlaw.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.

NOTICE:

All luncheon reservations must be made by the deadline specified above. 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 Karen Dunivan at 698-6232 or kdunivan@t-mlaw.com of such substitution prior to or at the luncheon.

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



*President's Column
by Stephanie E. Grana*

The holiday season is upon us once again. In the spirit of the season, please join us at the 10th Annual Holiday Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, December 3rd at 12:30 at the Capital Club. It is an honor for our organization to honor one of our own – Phyllis Katz. Congratulations to her and thank you to Ms. Katz for her many, many contributions to the community. I also encourage each of you to invite your legal assistant/secretary/paralegal to this event as a “thank you” for their assistance throughout the year. Our holiday luncheon is one of my personal favorites and I look forward to seeing you there.

In light of many new firm restrictions and for some reasons unknown to me, our membership numbers are not as high as in recent years. Unfortunately, this trend is echoed by many of the local bar organizations. For this reason, I ask you for your assistance. First, look within your own firm to determine who is not a MRWBA member that needs to be. Second, consider the attorneys you associate with, meet in the courthouse, or see at local bar meetings. Our membership can grow with good, word-of-mouth recommendations. So, go out and recruit new members! If you or a potential member has membership questions, please contact our membership chair – Kim Daniel – at 697-1484 or kim.daniel@troutmansanders.com. The benefits of our organization far exceed the membership fee!

Finally, do not let yourself be overwhelmed by your “to-do” list during the next month. Enjoy the holiday festivities with your friends, family, co-workers and neighbors. Do your best to plan your shopping and holiday party schedule in such a way that you are not exhausted before the year ends. And, take the time and minimal effort to remember those less fortunate than us during the holiday season.

Be Safe & Best Wishes for a Happy, Healthy Holiday Season!

P.S. – Thank you to the MRWBA award committee co-chairs Kim Ramsey and Renata Manzo and their committee members for their time and effort regarding the Women of Achievement Award. It is important to point out that our events would not be possible without the time volunteered by our members.

2003 WOMEN OF ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENT

PHYLLIS KATZ

Phyllis Katz has been practicing law since 1982. Her legal career started at the Attorney General's office, and in 1986, the Honorable Mary Sue Terry issued a certificate of recognition stating that Ms. Katz "has evidenced great humanity and dedication". Ms. Katz later became the Director of the Department of Employee Relations Counselors, where she started one of the largest mediation networks in the state. In 1998, Ms. Katz joined Sands Anderson Marks & Miller to focus on employment law and local government law.

In addition to her impressive legal experience, Ms. Katz has dedicated many hours to public service. Ms. Katz has survived cancer twice and during that time, recognized the fact that many cancer patients need legal assistance. She started her project by individually providing pro bono legal service. However, in 1998, with the assistance of Professor Ann Hodges, they formed the Legal Information Network for Cancer (LINC). LINC serves over 400 cancer patients each year and has over 80 attorneys who volunteer their time to help those in need.

Ms. Katz is also on the Massey Cancer Center's Advisory Board, the American Cancer Society's Advocacy Board, and was on the President's National Cancer Panel. She also serves on the Lipman Foundation and is a member of the Pro Bono Network for the Virginia State Bar.

EMERGENCY FOOD DRIVE

As the holidays approach, the Central Virginia Foodbank is tirelessly working to provide for the needy families in our community. To support their efforts, the Public Service Committee will be sponsoring a food drive at MRWBA's holiday luncheon on December 3, 2003. Please bring non-perishable food items, e.g., cans of fruit, vegetables or tuna fish, or, if you would like, make a financial contribution to CVF. As you may know, all CVF funding comes from local donations, not federal, state or local government grants. To learn more about CVF, check out their website, www.cvfb.org, or call Executive Director Fay G. Lohr at 804-521-2500. If you have any questions about the food drive, please contact Tara Casey at 804-819-5506.

MOVE YOUR FEET TO THE JINGLING BEAT!

Imagine the sounds of hundreds of thousands of bells as people throughout the United States run and walk in the Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis®. Across the country this sound will be heard as people like you tie jingle bells to their shoelaces, don festive costumes and join neighbors in support of the Arthritis Foundation's mission to prevent, control and cure arthritis and related diseases. Join MRWBA as it participates in this exciting 5K run or walk at the brand new Stony Point Fashion Park. What a perfect way to kick off the holiday season! Wear a seasonal costume and tie some jingling bells to your shoelaces to capture the best of the holiday season.

Race Day is November 22, 2003, and registration opens at 7:00 am. The 5K and 3K races start at 8 am. The registration fee is \$25. (The fee will increase to \$28 after November 8.) If you would like more information, please contact either Tara Casey at 804-819-5506 or the Arthritis Foundation at 804-359-1700 (ext. 310).





Committee Reports

Judicial Candidate Endorsement Committee

Thanks to everyone who has been forwarding nominations of judicial candidates to us. Please keep up the great work. The Judicial Candidate Endorsement Committee continues to request your cooperation in this regard, so that we can be sure to inform each interested party about our procedures and the unique opportunity for participating in a joint interview process with other local bar associations this winter. The interviews this year are tentatively going to take place December 17-19, 2003. More information will soon be provided to those candidates whose names have been referred to us. Additionally, our Committee members will be provided shortly with more details about this year's process, as well. Your questions, comments, suggestions and feedback are always welcome by calling Lisa Hudson at 783-7234 or e-mailing her at lhudson@sandsanderson.com. Thanks!

Public Service Committee

The Public Service Committee enjoyed a lovely lunch at Peking this past October and discussed its strategic plan for the next year. We are pleased to announce that Ali Silva has agreed to help organize the publication and distribution of the 2005 domestic relations booklet produced by MRWBA. The booklet is a huge undertaking for MRWBA, as it encompasses both fundraising and publishing issues. Also, Jayne Pemberton has agreed to become our Julie McCoy of community service activities. Throughout the year, charitable organizations in the greater Richmond area sponsor events to raise awareness and education on issues that affect our community (like the upcoming Jingle Bell Run/Walk on November 22). If you are interested in helping the Committee with the booklet or future ad-hoc projects, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee's co-chairs - Tara Casey at 804-819-5506 or Catherine Hill at 804-786-8199.

2004 DOMESTIC RELATIONS BOOKLET LAUNCHED

The Public Service Committee is pleased to announce that the 2004 edition of the MRWBA's award-winning booklet, "Understanding your Domestic Relations Rights in Virginia," was launched this past November and is in the process of being distributed to all orderers. Every year for the past decade, MRWBA has published this booklet and distributed it free of charge to court personnel, law enforcement officials, legal aid societies, libraries, women's advocacy groups, domestic violence agencies, and other not-for-profit organizations. This past year alone, we received orders totaling approximately 10,000 booklets. In order to offset the growing costs of publication, MRWBA for the first time had offered advertising space in the 2004 edition to attorneys across the Commonwealth. The Public Service Committee would like to thank those advertisers for their support of the publication, as well as the donors whose financial support has made this publication possible. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the booklet, or simply would like more information, please contact the co-chairs of the Public Service Committee - Tara Casey at 804-819-5506 or Catherine Hill at 804-786-8199.



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"Malpractice claims can happen to anyone"

A professional liability claim is a major disruption to your practice. It's important to insure with a program that you can count on in the event of a claim. PROLEGIA is that program.

When you call to report a claim you can expect an immediate response. PROLEGIA claim professionals will work directly with you to begin prompt evaluation of your claim and will keep you advised of claim progress every step of the way.

PROLEGIA provides top local defense counsel who are experts in defending legal malpractice claims. We hire only the best because your reputation is as important to us as it is to you.

We know that claims happen and we promise to be there for you when they do.



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Mark Your Calendar

January 7, 2004 – “Financial Management”

February 4, 2004 — 30th Anniversary Celebration

March 3, 2004 — Denton Kump of Poesis and
Susie Galvez of Face Works Day Spa

April 7, 2004 — Legislative Luncheon

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

Newsletter Items?

Send to Tracy Spencer
by fax at 804-762-9654 or by email
tspencer@barnesbatzli.com
Next Deadline: December 12

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