



October 2003
Newsletter Sponsored by Commonwealth Mediation Group

LUNCHEON PROGRAM:
Jeannie Dahnk, Virginia State Bar President
DATE: Wednesday, October 1st



Jeannie Dahnk, President of the VSB will speak on the current issues the bar is facing, how to increase the membership in voluntary bar associations and how to prevent burnout in our profession, especially for women who are faced with so much multi-tasking in their lives. Please make plans to come to this informative luncheon.

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

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

RSVP by September 29: 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

Please try to attend our October luncheon as we are expecting a special speaker – Jeannie Dahnk, President of the Virginia State Bar. Ms. Dahnk was installed as the 65th VSB President in June. Her former law partner, Frank Thomas, has described her in this way: “She is a woman for all seasons. Jeannie is a remarkable combination of intelligence and a competitive spirit coupled with a wicked sense of humor.” We look forward to her presence among our group and await her comments for us.

It was difficult to write the President’s Message this month as so many other important “events” seem to be occurring. The memories of September 11th are prominent and thought – provoking. Reports of American service men and women being killed or injured during military duty continue to be reported in the media coverage. Not to mention the very recent devastation caused by Hurricane Isabel and its continuing impact on our lives and businesses. Then, on a more personal note, we all seem to be very busy in our own jobs and personal lives. As a result, time for volunteer organizations and extracurricular activities seems to be at a low level. Consequently, I just wanted to say *THANK YOU* to the MRWBA Board members and members for their contributions to this organization. It is only when each of us reach out to others in our community that changes can occur and improvements can be made. So, to each of you – take a moment out of your day to just take a deep breath, stand and take a full body stretch and give yourself a pat on the back. You deserve it and your efforts are greatly appreciated!

MAKING STRIDES AGAINST BREAST CANCER WALK

If it hasn't already, breast cancer will likely touch you or someone you know. The disease will strike more than 200,000 times this year and claim more than 40,000 lives. Join Making Strides and help make breast cancer a thing of the past. Making Strides Against Breast Cancer is a non-competitive walk organized by the American Cancer Society and designed to raise awareness, foster camaraderie, and raise funds for breast cancer research, patient services, education, and advocacy.

MRWBA will be participating in the annual Making Strides walk on Sunday, October 19, 2003, beginning at the Carillon in Byrd Park. If you sign up to be part of the team, you will join a network of more than 400,000 people nationwide committed to combating breast cancer. Every dollar raised through Making Strides helps bring us one step closer to more effective prevention, detection, and treatment of the disease. We are moving toward a breast cancer-free future, but we can't reach our destination without your help!

Please contact Tara Casey tara.casey@usdoj.gov or 819-5506 for more information.





2003 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 you know, last year's recipient were Sharon England and Carolyn Lavecchia. We will be presenting the award at the annual awards luncheon on Wednesday, December 3, 2003. 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, October 31, 2003 at 5:00 p.m.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Kimberlee Harris Ramsey at 697-5116 or kramsey@fgb.com

MRWBA --- Past Award Recipients

*The Old Dominion Bar Association
and*

The Greater Richmond Bar Foundation

cordially invite you to attend

*The Third Annual Oliver Hill-Samuel
Tucker Scholarship Dinner*

Friday, October 3, 2003

6 o'clock p.m.

Omni Richmond Hotel

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks

Former NAACP Executive Director •
Attorney • Clergyman

Please R.S.V.P. by September 15, 2003

Individual Tickets: \$50 6:00 Reception
6:30 Dinner

*Please direct questions to: [Lori W Warren@dom.com](mailto:Lori.W.Warren@dom.com) or
The Scholarship Dinner Hotline: (804) 916-7121
Tickets will not be available at the door.*

2002 Sharon England
Carolyn Lavecchia

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



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.

I. 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 active ties;
6. have provided assistance to other women attorneys, particularly as a mentor; and
7. have demonstrated leadership skills.

II. Nomination Package Requirements:

The nomination package must 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.

III. Deadline:

All nomination packages must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 31, 2003 by:

Kimberlee Harris Ramsey, Esquire
Chair, MRWBA Awards Committee
Florance, Gordon and Brown
800 Mutual Building
909 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 697-5116, kramsey@fgb.com

IV. 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.

METROPOLITAN RICHMOND WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

**TENTH 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: _____

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:

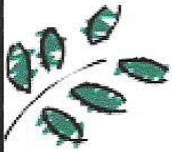
- a. *Pro Bono* legal services:
- b. Civic Activities, volunteer work, etc.:
- c. Additional comments:

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

Nominations must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 31, 2003 to be considered.

Nominations must include an updated, descriptive resume for the Nominee and at least two (2) statements or letters of support for the Nominee.

Send Completed Nomination Forms to:
Kimberlee Harris Ramsey, Esquire
Chair, MRWBA Awards Committee
Florance, Gordon and Brown
800 Mutual Building
909 East Main Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 697-5116, kramsey@fgb.com



Commonwealth Mediation Group, Inc.

8001 Franklin Farms Drive, Ste 120
Richmond, VA 23229
804 285 2780

We are pleased to announce that we are
growing and moving on to grander grounds!

New Address Effective October 1, 2003

**Interstate Center
2108 West Laburnum Ave, Ste 220
Richmond, Virginia 23227**

Phone: 804 285 2780 Toll-free 877 377 2780
Fax: 804 285 2766

Commonwealth Mediation Group provides conflict management and training for individuals, businesses, agencies and associations. Our team of professional mediators, arbitrators and trainers is committed to helping clients resolve conflict in a peaceful, cost-effective manner.

We welcome you to visit our website for further information.

www.cmgmediates.com

Mark Your Calendar

October 16, 2003 — Bench-Bar Conference

November 5, 2003 – Luncheon: “Time Management/Leadership Skills”

December 3, 2003 – Holiday Awards Luncheon

January 7, 2004 – Luncheon: “Financial Management”

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: October 10

Copying & mailing provided by
IKON Office Solutions.
(804) 644-1500



P.O. Box 538
Richmond, VA 23218-0538