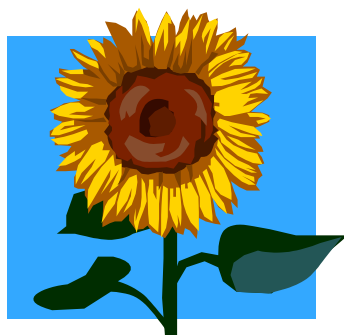




May 2004

Newsletter Sponsored by Southern Title Insurance Corp.



## LUNCHEON PROGRAM: Annual Business Luncheon

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 5, 2004  
12:30 p.m. Capital Club

Join us for the Annual Business Luncheon. This year's committee chairs will present their annual reports. We will vote on the 2004-2005 slate and install **our next president, Clair A. Harrington**. This will be our last luncheon until next fall. We look forward to seeing everyone on May 5th!

### 2004-2005 MRWBA Officers

President-Elect - R. Jill Wells  
Vice-President - Anne Marie Cushmac  
Treasurer - Lisa Taylor Hudson  
Secretary/Historian - Julie Whitlock

### 2004-2005 Judicial Endorsement Committee

Tracy H. Spencer	Ruth Nathanson
Lisa Taylor Hudson	Susan Atkinson
Ashley C. Beuttel	Kiva Pierce
Lori Rinaldi	Colleen M. Quinn

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

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

**RSVP by April 30th:** 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. 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*

“I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much.” - *Mother Teresa.*

Never did I imagine that when I assumed the role of President of the MRWBA in May of 2003 that I would be writing my final President's message while on maternity leave. With that said, my family and I were blessed with the birth of our third child, a daughter, Dakota Jean, on March 14<sup>th</sup>. She is happy, healthy and I am proud to share the news of her birth with all of you. The fact that I am able to manage the MRWBA's responsibilities from a home telephone and computer is a tribute to the current executive board and the well-established organizational structure of our association. Throughout this Bar year and especially in the past few weeks, the members of *your* executive board have fulfilled their responsibilities in amazing fashion. Much

has been accomplished this year and I encourage you to review the reports provided by each committee chair in their year-end review. My sincere thanks to Clair, Jill, Julie, Anne Marie, Karen, Kim, Renata, Vanessa, Ann, Ashley, Lisa, Kim, Andrea, Leslie, Tracy, Tara, Catherine, Mary, Kathy Hood, Carolyn and my legal assistant – Fran, for their continued time, patience and commitment to this bar association. Moreover, our year-long focus on “Women in Business” has been evident in our programs, e-mails and newsletters and, hopefully, has inspired some of you to be more aware that the legal profession is fast transforming into more of a business environment requiring attorneys to utilize marketing and networking skills.

A note of thanks to Ashley Beuttel and the Legislative Committee for all of their hard work in planning our annual legislative lunch. This luncheon was well attended by our membership. And, in spite of the fact that the General Assembly is still in session (amazingly), we were pleased to have Senator John C. Watkins and Delegates Frank D. Hargrove and Viola O. Baskerville as our special guests. Various questions of our members were raised and discussed at length.

Our final lunch program is the May business meeting and I look forward to seeing you there. Congratulations and best of luck to Clair for the 2004-2005 MRWBA bar year. I am grateful for her assistance to me this year and am confident and pleased to turn our bar association over to such capable hands!

*\* Business tip for the month – Take an active role in your local, specialty or state-wide bar association. Volunteer! There are two benefits to your greater participation. First, your time and effort will be of assistance to the bar organization. Second, you have the opportunity to network, to meet new people (or potential clients) and to take on leadership roles.*

◇ **P.S.:** Thank you to my law firm – CantorArkema, P.C – for their patience and support during my year as MRWBA President.

**The Greater Richmond Bar Foundation (GRBF) and Central Virginia Legal Aid Society (CVLAS)** will ask lawyers to donate to CVLAS during a fundraising drive through Law Week, May 3 – 7<sup>th</sup>. As in past years, direct contributions by lawyers will supplement annual contributions by area law firms through a solicitation for CVLAS by the Bar Association of the City of Richmond. In 2003, the combination of donations by law firms and individual donations by lawyers totaled over \$70,000 in contributions to CVLAS.

Volunteers are needed to make phone calls to area lawyers during Law Week from the CVLAS office. Volunteers will be briefed for a half hour and will make calls for one hour. Each volunteer will select one hour and a half period during Law Week (May 3-7): 9:00 -10:30 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.- noon; 1:00- 2:30 p.m.; or 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. To join this volunteer effort, please contact Toni Maxey, CVLAS Program Development Assistant, at (804) 648-1012, extension 3010 or [Toni@cvas.org](mailto:Toni@cvas.org).



# ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

## PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

The Programs Committee is responsible for the planning and presentation of the luncheon programs throughout the bar year. In terms of the programs presented and member attendance at the luncheons, we had a tremendously successful year.

We kicked off the bar year in September with a presentation by Prolegia on avoiding malpractice claims. This program was dedicated to our practicing private-firm attorneys and lent hands-on advice as to how lawyers can reduce the potential for malpractice claims by clients.

Our October luncheon featured our current Virginia State Bar President, Jeannie Dahnk, who spoke about current issues the bar is facing and how we, as women, can prevent burn-out when faced with so much multi-tasking in our lives.

In November, Michele Nahra, President of Upward, LLC, led us through a model to assist us in sharpening our skills and leadership potential. Her presentation entitled, "Using Your Competitive Edge" focused on leadership skills for real results.

At our January luncheon, two local financial planners, Karen Hawkins of Morgan Stanley and Tonya Kirchner of MetLife Richmond Financial Group, discussed financial management for the busy professional woman.

The March luncheon was especially fun as Denton Kump, President of Poesis, Inc., and Susie Galvez, President of Face Works Day Spa, entertained and inspired us with their success stories, as well as graced us with door prizes from their prospective successes.

- Andrea Harlow and Leslie Haley

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee has been responsible for obtaining the responses for the luncheons, making the reservations with the Capital Club, collecting the payments at the luncheons and billing for those who prefer to be billed. All money has been collected for the luncheons through February. There are some outstanding bills for March. The Finance Committee has also reviewed and reconciled each month's checking account statement. No unusual activity has been noted. The luncheons have been well attended this year and have provided some income to the organization.

- Karen Dunivan

## LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

This year's Legislative Committee was comprised of Ashley C. Beuttel (Chair), Katja Hill, Deanna Hathaway, Lisa Taylor Hudson, Jennifer Jo West, Kari Lou Frank, Kiva Bland Pierce, Sharon Choi Stuart, Adlynn Brugger, and Laura T. Alridge.

The committee produced three legislative reports which tracked developments for our members in areas of interest. We hosted the Annual Legislative Luncheon on April 7, 2004 at the Capital Club, which was again well attended by many members and guests. Local legislators in attendance were Senator Watkins, Delegate Baskerville and Delegate Hargrove. The luncheon qualified for 1.0 hours of CLE credit from the Virginia State Bar. The final legislative report is available online at [www.mrwba.org](http://www.mrwba.org).

- Ashley C. Beuttel

## PUBLIC RELATIONS/NEWSLETTER

The Public Relations/ Newsletter Committee has been busy with the monthly newsletters. All of the previous newsletters are available on MRWBA's website at [www.mrwba.org](http://www.mrwba.org).

Each month a sponsor was obtained for the newsletter and luncheon. For \$250, the sponsor received a 1/4 page ad in the newsletter and a link from MRWBA's website. The sponsor also could distribute materials at the luncheon and speak for 1-2 minutes at the beginning of each luncheon. We were fortunate to have so many great sponsors this year.

A big thank you goes out to IKON Printing Services who donated their time and money to copy and mail out the newsletters each month to those members who requested a hard copy.

- Tracy H. Spencer

# ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS cont.

## CLE COMMITTEE

The CLE Committee started the Bar year by coordinating a CLE for our first luncheon meeting on September 10, 2003. Prolegia presented the CLE with a focus on avoiding malpractice actions. Jill Wells, MRWBA's Vice President, was one of the presenters. MRWBA members who attended the presentation were entitled to one hour of ethics credit. The CLE Committee also co-sponsored a CLE with the Henrico Bar and Old Dominion Bar Associations which took place on November 20, 2003, at the Westwood Racquet Club. Two of MRWBA's members—the Honorable Beverly Snukals and the Honorable Barbara Gaden—participated in the presentation the topic of which was professionalism. The event was also followed by a reception. Members who attended the CLE were entitled to 1.5 hours of ethics credit. Finally, the CLE Committee assisted the Legislative Committee in obtaining CLE credit for our legislative luncheon on April 7, 2004. Thanks to the membership for a great CLE year!

- Vanessa Jones and Ann Berkebile

## VICE-PRESIDENT

As Vice-President in 2003-2004, I organized, along with the help of a great committee, the 30th Anniversary of the Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar. We celebrated at the Capital Club on Wednesday, February 4, 2004. Our guest speaker was Dr. Marcella Fierro, the Chief Medical Examiner of the Commonwealth of Virginia. All founding members and original members of the MRWBA were invited to this event, as well as all Past Presidents. While working on this project, I was reminded of the debt of gratitude we owe the group of women whose vision and perseverance made this bar association a reality. In the early 1970's when women attorneys represented roughly 2% of the total number of attorneys in Virginia, a group of these women began gathering informally "to talk about what it was like to be a woman lawyer practicing in Richmond." In 1974, these women formally organized to become the Metro Richmond Women's Bar Association. Present at the anniversary luncheon were Sally James Andrews, Virginia Hackney and Jerri Cowen, who are a part of those responsible for forming the sturdy roots from which this organization has grown. The 30th anniversary committee members were Hannah Lauck, Carolyn Lavecchia, Margee Smither, Yvonne Wellford and Carole E. Yeatts. Thanks to all who helped make this event a success. It was truly a remarkable tribute to our past.

- R. Jill Wells

## JUDICIAL CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT COMMITTEE

The Judicial Candidate Endorsement ("JCE") Committee has had an unusually busy year with three judicial vacancies popping up in Henrico County and the City of Richmond courts occasioned by the retirements of Judge Tidey, Judge Boice, and Judge Robertson.

We started off with joint interviews in December at the T.C. Williams School of Law with the Richmond Bar Association, Old Dominion Bar Association, and Richmond Criminal Bar Association for endorsements of candidates competing for the vacancies in two Henrico County judgeships, one in the Circuit Court and the other in the Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court. This first-ever utilization of a joint interview process proved more efficient and convenient for all parties involved. The feedback from the bar association members participating as interviewers, as well as from the candidates who were meeting that same night with Henrico delegation representatives, was overwhelmingly positive and participants really appreciated the time savings. The JCE Committee reported its findings for both judgeships and the Membership voted to endorse Michael HuYoung, Esq. for the Henrico County J&DR judgeship and Daniel Balfour, Esq. for the Henrico Circuit Court judgeship. The appointments that were made to those two judgeships were recently announced as Stewart Williams, Esq. and Daniel Balfour, Esq.

- Lisa Taylor Hudson

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

This year the membership committee focused on retaining our terrific group of existing members as well as welcoming new members. The MRWBA continued its practice of allowing recent bar graduates to become members of the organization free for their first year of practice. Hopefully, all of the members have had opportunities to attend lunches and CLE programs, participate in the judicial endorsement process, volunteer for pro bono opportunities, and otherwise enjoy the benefits of being a MRWBA member this year.

- Kim Daniel

# ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS cont.

## PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

The Public Service Committee (PSC) is proud to look upon a year filled with many community service achievements. In September 2003, PSC began distribution of its award-winning booklet, "Understanding Your Domestic Relations Rights in Virginia." For the first time in the booklet's history, MRWBA offered advertising space in the booklet to offset costs. To date, 12,158 copies of the booklet have been mailed out, \$1,525 has been received in donations and \$3,500 has been collected in advertising fees. In addition to the booklet, PSC launched a new public service agenda, which included regular drives at MRWBA's monthly meetings and community service events. This past year, we collected over 75 pounds of food for the Central Virginia Foodbank, a large amount of household supplies and personal toiletries for Safe Harbor and two station wagon loads of books for the Massey Cancer Center. Our members participated in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk and the Jingle Bell Run. We expect even more participation in the upcoming Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure and our May 22nd Habitat for Humanity project. Finally, MRWBA is partnering with area bar associations to participate in Law Week 2004. In May 2004, MRWBA volunteers will visit local City of Richmond schools to discuss important legal issues and commemorate the 50th anniversary of Brown v. Board of Education. We would like to thank the MRWBA membership, especially our committee (Ali Silva and Jayne Pemberton), for their continued support of public service in our community.

- Tara Casey and Catherine Crooks Hill

## AWARDS COMMITTEE

A special thanks to the following MRWBA members who graciously agreed to be on this committee: Renata M. Manzo, Teri C. Miles, Carolyn C. Lavecchia, Barbara A. Williams, Elizabeth B. Stutts and Barbara J. Balogh.

We were fortunate to have many qualified nominees to consider for the Women of Achievement Awards. We voted to honor an outstanding woman attorney with the award: Phyllis C. Katz.

Phyllis C. Katz has been with Sands Anderson Marks & Miller since 1998 and a practicing attorney since 1982. While working with the Attorney General's office in 1986, The Honorable Mary Sue Terry recognized her contributions to the legal profession and specifically her efforts at expanding professional training and legal education programs. Having survived cancer twice, Phyllis was one of the founder of the Legal Information Network for Cancer (LINC).

Phyllis received her award at the Tenth Annual Women of Achievement Awards luncheon, which was held on December 3, 2003. The awards luncheon featured the piano music of Tommy Witten. The attendance at the luncheon was outstanding.

- Kimberlee Harris Ramsey



## Race for the Cure

Join MRWBA as it participates in the Seventh Annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on **Saturday, May 8, 2004**. The first Komen Greater Richmond Race for the Cure® was held on Mother's Day weekend in 1998. In its first year, it raised over \$78,000 with more than 1200 participants. Each year has seen an increase in participation and support and the race has moved to larger sites twice in order to handle the anticipated growth. In 2003, over 5200 runners and walkers participated and \$240,000 was raised.

This year's race will be held at Brown's Island on Saturday, May 8, 2004. We are looking for a great turnout and increased support as awareness continues to grow in Virginia! Please contact Tara Casey at 819-5506 if you are interested in volunteering on race day or running/walking as part of the MRWBA team!

# The Richmond Women's Business Consortium

*Where Connections Are Made & Opportunities Realized*

*Cordially invites you to attend*

## SMARTCONNECT at the Bull & Bear Club

Tuesday, May 4, 2003  
From 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

The Bull and Bear Club  
901 E Cary St., One James Center  
21st Floor

Cash Bar and Complimentary Hors D'oeuvres  
No admission charged to RWBC Members \* \$5.00 for Non-Members

*Parking is available free of charge  
underneath One James Center at 5:45 pm*

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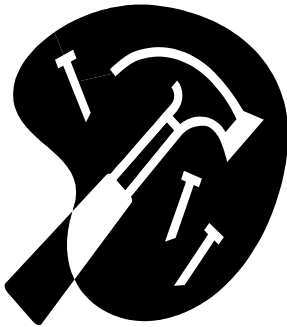
804-262-1178

\*Members of the following organizations are invited to participate in this SMARTCONNECT Event at no charge:

American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants  
American Business Women's Association  
American Society of Women Accountants  
Metropolitan Business & Professional Women  
Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association

National Association of Women in Construction  
Network of Enterprising Women  
Richmond Women's Network  
Commercial Real Estate Women  
National Association of Women Business Owners

# UPCOMING PROJECTS



## MRWBA Habitat for Humanity Project

On May 22nd, MRWBA will be joining Habitat for Humanity to provide a home for a needy Richmond family. Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit housing organization that builds simple, decent, affordable houses in partnership with those who lack adequate shelter. Habitat houses are purchased by the homeowner families, who are chosen according to their need, their ability to repay the no-profit, no-interest mortgage, and their willingness to work in partnership with Habitat. We need approximately 15-20 volunteers willing to help provide sweat equity so that others may realize the dream of homeownership. For more information, please contact Jayne Pemberton at [jpembeton@schaffercabell.com](mailto:jpembeton@schaffercabell.com) or 648-0064.

## Touch the future through Law Week 2004!

Celebrate Law Week 2004 with your fellow bar members as we promote public legal education in the City of Richmond public schools. During the week of May 3-6, 2004, lawyers will be visiting 4th, 7th and 12th grade classrooms to speak about the constitution and equality, following lesson plans developed by the American Bar Association (<http://www.abanet.org/publiced/lawday/>). MRWBA specifically has been asked to provide nine volunteers for this project, which will require at most a two-hour time commitment from each volunteer. If you are interested, please contact Tara Casey at 819-5506 or [tara.casey@usdoj.gov](mailto:tara.casey@usdoj.gov) for more information.

## Join Richmond's Domestic Violence Project

The Richmond Domestic Violence Project is a coalition of attorney-volunteers who provide pro bono representation to survivors of domestic violence in their attempts to secure protective orders against their abusers. The Project has recently revamped its program to encourage greater attorney involvement and increase the legal services available to potential clients. To that end, there will be a training program on May 19th from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd floor of McGuireWoods. If you are interested in donating your time to this vital service, please contact John Oakey at [jmoakey@mwbb.com](mailto:jmoakey@mwbb.com) or 775-4336.

## Advertise in MRWBA's Domestic Relations Booklet

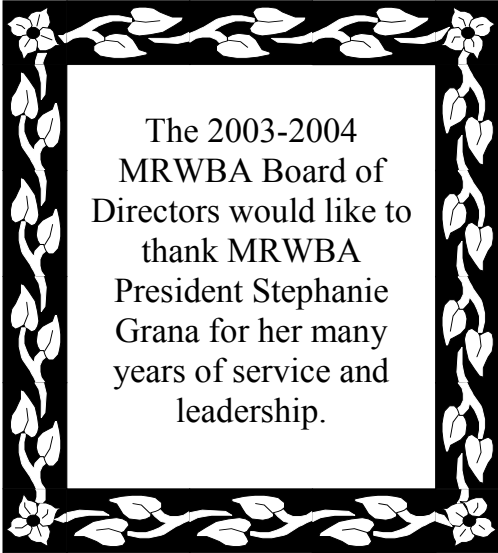
For the past decade, the MRWBA has provided its "Understanding Your Domestic Relations Rights in Virginia" booklet to organizations and agencies across the Commonwealth of Virginia, free of charge. This booklet is intended to educate the general public on legal topics, such as family violence and divorce, while also providing an overview of procedures in the circuit and juvenile & domestic relations courts of Virginia.

We are now focusing our attention on funding the 2004 booklet, so that we can continue to provide this valuable resource. To help defray mounting costs, MRWBA is selling limited advertising space in the booklet to firms and other legal resources. If you are interested in advertising in the 2004 booklet, please contact Tara Casey at 819-5506 or [Tara.Casey@usdoj.gov](mailto:Tara.Casey@usdoj.gov) or Catherine Hill at 786-8199 or [CCHill@oag.state.va.us](mailto:CCHill@oag.state.va.us) for more information.

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[www.southerntitle.com](http://www.southerntitle.com)



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thank MRWBA  
President Stephanie  
Grana for her many  
years of service and  
leadership.

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