

MAY 2006

# Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association



## Annual Business Luncheon

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Please join the MRWBA for our closeout luncheon on May 3rd, 2006. The nominating committee will present the 2006-2007 MRWBA Officers as well as the Judicial Candidate Endorsement Committee. Come join us as we install MRWBA's next president, Catherine Hill.

Remember, this is the last MRWBA luncheon of the 2005-2006 bar year. Our next luncheon will be at the start of the next bar on September 13, 2006.

### MRWBA Annual Business LUNCHEON

DATE: MAY 3RD, 2006 at 12:30p.m.

LOCATION: BULL AND BEAR CLUB, 901 EAST CARY STREET

COST: \$17.00 FOR MEMBERS; \$20.00 FOR NON-MEMBERS

RSVP: Ashley Beuttel by Friday April 28, 2006

PAYMENT: MAIL IN ADVANCE TO: MRWBA PO BOX 538, RICHMOND, VA 23218

### LUNCHEON 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. The MRWBA reserves the right to charge for the luncheon if you do not attend the luncheon after making a reservation and do not cancel prior to the deadline. If you have made a reservation and cannot attend the luncheon, you may substitute someone in your place. However, you (or your substitution) must advise Ashley Beuttel at [ABeuttel@oag.state.va.us](mailto:ABeuttel@oag.state.va.us) of such substitution prior to the luncheon.

### 2006-2007

### SLATE OF MRWBA OFFICERS

*Catherine Hill, President*

*Leslie Haley, President Elect*

*Vanessa Jones, Vice President*

*Tracy Spencer, Secretary*

### Proposed Judicial Endorsement Committee

- ~Colleen Quinn
- ~Phoebe Hall
- ~Nancy Quinn
- ~Yvonne Wellford
- ~Ashley Beuttel
- ~Tracy Spencer
- ~Vanessa Jones
- ~Debbie O'Toole
- ~Bridget Long



## *President's Message*



Dear MRWBA members:

My theme for this bar year was "Opening Doors: Past, Present and Future." I hope that the MRWBA's wide range of monthly luncheon programs and volunteer activities this year has given you a taste of my vision. Bottom line, I wanted the MRWBA to appreciate the efforts of those who have gone before us and to use that appreciation as a stepping stone into the present, as well as one for looking towards the future.

It was with great anticipation that I began my tenure as the MRWBA President almost a year ago, and it is with great sadness that I end it in a few weeks. Thank you for allowing me to serve you. It has been a year I will not soon forget.

However, I cannot leave without expressing my thanks to those who made it happen. I am extremely grateful to this year's MRWBA Board of Directors (which includes Officers and Committee Chairs). I thank all of you for your endless energy, your positive motivation and your hard work throughout this bar year. We all have a lot going on, personally and professionally, and to be able to give the time and energy needed to serve on this Board is just incredible. I'm so proud of each and every one of you—GREAT JOB!! I couldn't have done it without you!

This will be Anne Marie Cushmac's last year on the MRWBA Board. Her career has taken a turn "north"—to D.C! And while we are excited for her professional accomplishments, we will miss her service to the Board. I want to personally thank her for her dedication to the MRWBA. She has been a Board member for many, many years, and we are so grateful for her efforts. We will miss you, AMC!!

And another special thank you to Clair Harrington. As Immediate Past President this year, Clair has been a wonderful resource to me, and I thank her for lending her ear (many times!) when I needed a troubleshooter. Clair has also served on the MRWBA Board for many years, and we will miss her as well. Thank you, Clair!

I truly cannot believe that the MRWBA 2005-06 Bar year has almost ended.

May this organization continue to look to the past for role models while looking to the future for fresh ideas. As I pass the "key" of the Presidency to my successor, Catherine Crooks Hill, I wish her all the best. I know, unequivocally, that the MRWBA is in good hands. Have a great year, Catherine, and enjoy every minute!!

Jill Wells Nunnally, President 2005-2006



*Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association*

## **Legislative Luncheon: MRWBA's April Luncheon in Review**

Thank you to April's Legislative Luncheon sponsor, My Girl-friends Kitchen. Additionally, thank you to the several local legislators spoke to the MRWBA during the luncheon. Lastly, thank you to Superior Document Services for their assistance with the literature passed out during the luncheon. The MRWBA members attended with some of highest numbers this bar season. The luncheon was certainly a success.



Danessa Knaupp, Sponsor

Mr. Hall



Ms. McClellan and Ms. Pierce



Mr. Janis



## Committee End of Year Reports

### Annual Programs Committee Report

#### Catherine Crooks Hill and Tracy H. Spencer, Programs Co-Chairs

The Programs Committee had an exciting and busy year planning the luncheon programs. In September, we started the year with a CLE titled "Ethical Advocacy in Mediation", presented by The Honorable Jean W. Cunningham of the McCammon Group.

In October, we were privileged to host a debate between the Virginia Attorney General candidates, Bob McDonnell and Creigh Deeds. Sabrina Squire of WWBT-12 moderated the event. We would like to thank the following people who helped make the debate such a success: Paige Fitzgerald, Paige Holloway, Karen Lebo, Karen Raschke, Jill Wells Nunnally, Anne Marie Cushmac, Ashley Beuttel, Vanessa Jones, Kim Daniel, Leslie Haley, Carolyn White, Alexis Mei Fishel, Ann Berkebile, Andrea Geiger, Lisa Barker, and Margaret Hardy. We could not have done it without you.

In November, we learned about the 2007 Code Project from Virginia State Senator Bill Mims and E.M. Miller of the Division of Legislative Services.

We had a fun and informative program in January by representatives from Nordstrom, including Jane Barber, Joel Leonard, and Luda Conner. We learned "What's Hot in Professional Dress Today" with help from our MRWBA models, Jill Wells Nunnally, Catherine Crooks Hill, Joni Davis Goodman, and Julie Whitlock.

The February luncheon gave us an opportunity to have lunch with the judges. The Honorable Barbara Gaden of Richmond General District Court, the Honorable Catherine Hammond of Henrico Circuit Court, the Honorable Hannah Lauck of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, the Honorable Angela Roberts of Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, and the Honorable Beverly Snukals of Richmond Circuit Court were gracious enough to answer questions about what it is like to be a judge and what tips they have for female lawyers.

The Annual Pro Bono Luncheon was held in March, and the Annual Legislative Luncheon was held in April. The year ended with our Annual Business Meeting in May.

### Annual Mentorship Committee Report Jayne Pemberton, Mentorship Chair

In its second year, the Mentorship Committee renewed its efforts to assign mentors to members of the University of Richmond's Women's Law Student Association (WLSA). I would like to thank all the members of the MRWBA that volunteered their time to act as mentors for the 2005-2006 bar year. I am happy to announce that all fourteen law students that requested mentors were paired.

Through the efforts of the WLSA Mentorship Chair, Kim Skiba, we started the year with a reception at the Capital Ale House. It gave us all opportunity to meet and get to know our new mentees.

Later in the bar year we had an opportunity to all get together again in February, when the MRWBA hosted a cocktail party for all mentors and mentees. To close out the bar year, WLSA will host a brunch at Café Gutenberg on Sunday, April 30, 2006, at 11:00 a.m. I urge all mentors to attend and celebrate yet another successful bar year.





## **PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

Submitted by Co-Chairs Ali Silva Fannon and Margaret F. Hardy

Once again, the Committee published the free booklet entitled *Understanding Your Domestic Relations Rights in Virginia*. This booklet is 40 pages of user-friendly information designed to educate the public on legal topics such as divorce and annulment, spousal and child support, custody and visitation, adoption and family violence, as well as provide an overview of court procedures in Virginia state courts, and information regarding alternative dispute resolution and legal aid assistance. Each year we subsidize the cost of printing and distribution through the sale of advertising space and generous donations. So far this year we have distributed over 15,000 of our 18,000 copies of the 2005-2006 edition of the booklet to over 100 local courts, law enforcement agencies, legal aid societies, domestic violence shelters, and nonprofit organizations throughout the Commonwealth. We continue to fill orders on a weekly basis.

### **Partnership with Thomas Jefferson High School**

For our second year (we received an Award of Merit from Virginia State Bar Conference of Local Bar Associations last June for our efforts in 2005-2006), MRWBA partnered with Richmond's Thomas Jefferson High School in an effort to educate the students about legal issues of interest, inspire them to pursue careers in the law, and deter them from criminal activity. In October for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, four speakers gave presentations to three high school classes about domestic violence. We assisted with a presentation of the CARE (Credit Abuse Resistance Education) program on March 28<sup>th</sup> for an audience of over 50 students. Before the end of the school year, we will host a forensic evidence assembly and a field trip to the Capitol area to see various legal locations.

### **Charitable Drives**

We held several successful drives to benefit the community this year. In November and December, we collected food for the Central Virginia Food Bank. Also in December, we raised over \$1000 for the Forgotten Angel Tree recipients we adopted this year, and thus, gave wish list gifts and gift cards to five young female foster care teenagers. Our Spring drive was extremely successful! Thanks to our members and Margaret Hardy's firm Sands Anderson Marks and Miller, we collected money and almost all of the wish list household items for Angela and her two children, graduates of Hilliard House, a transitional residential facility for homeless women and their children.

### **Service Projects and Charitable Walks**

On October 16, 2005, MRWBA members participated in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk at Byrd Park. **STILL TO COME:** On **May 13, 2006**, we will be hosting a **MRWBA COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY** with two main events (be on the lookout for an Evite with all the details). For additional information check out our announcement later in this newsletter.

### **Pro Bono Luncheon**

On March 1st, the Committee hosted MRWBA's annual Pro Bono Luncheon. Our panel of speakers included Maureen Petrini, Access to Legal Services Director for the Virginia State Bar, Marilyn Goss, Senior Managing Attorney for the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society, and John Oakey, retired partner from McGuire Woods, who spoke to our members about pro bono opportunities in the area. If you are interested in pro bono information, please contact us.

*We are extremely proud of our accomplishments this year and we look forward to continued success next year. If you are interested in assisting with any of the projects or comments about how to better serve you, please contact one of the 2006-2007 Public Service Committee Co-Chairs.*



## **Legislative Committee Annual Report**

### **Kiva Pierce, Chair**

This year's Legislative Committee was comprised of the following seven members: Kiva Bland Pierce (Chair), Ashley C. Beuttel, Kari Lou Frank, Andrea Jefferson Geiger, Sharon Choi Stuart, Adalyn S. Brugger, and Jennifer Jo West.

The Committee monitored the General Assembly and prepared three reports for the membership. The Committee hosted the Annual Legislative Luncheon and Panel Program on April 5, 2006. Eleven local legislators addressed the membership, including Senators McDougle, Stosch, and Watkins, and Delegates Dance, Hall, Ingram, Janis, McClellan, Nixon, Reid, and Waddell. Seventy-seven members and guests attended the luncheon. Positive feedback was received by the Committee after the program. The program was approved for one hour of CLE credit by the Virginia State Bar. The CLE form can be downloaded from the MRWBA's website at [www.mrwba.com](http://www.mrwba.com).

## **Finance Committee Annual Report**

### **Ashley Beuttel, Chair**

The Finance Committee is responsible for taking receipt and preparing a deposit record of all funds directed to the MRWBA. This primarily includes taking the member and guest reservations for the monthly luncheon programs, making the reservation arrangements with the Bull & Bear Club, collecting luncheon payments in advance and at the door. It also includes taking receipt for luncheon sponsorship and associated with donations and advertising in support of the Domestic Relations Pamphlet. The Finance Committee has also assisted in billing for luncheon payments, membership dues, and sponsorship of luncheons. It has also arranged for correction of payments submitted in the improper amount. The Treasurer is responsible for responding to reimbursement requests, paying invoices and filing tax returns.

The Treasurer also reviews and reconciles each month's checking account statement. No unusual activity has been noted. The audit for this bar year was concluded satisfactorily with recommendations for further improvements in expense reimbursement documentation/committee chair approval and depositing allocated funds.

## **Awards Committee Annual Report**

### **Sakina Paige, Chair**

A special thanks to the MRWBA members who graciously agreed to be on this committee: Stephanie Grana, Carolyn Lavecchia, Jacqueline McClenney, Ingrid Olson, and Carolyn White.

We were fortunate to have many qualified nominees to consider for the Women of Achievement Awards. This year we presented the award to Jacquelyn E. Stone.

Jacquelyn E. Stone is a partner at McGuireWoods LLP and is recognized for her significant contributions to the legal community and the community-at-large. She is the chair of McGuireWoods Recruiting Committee and a member of the firm's Board of Partners. She also serves on numerous boards and has been appointed by several Virginia Governors to directorships. Amongst other awards, Ms. Stone has been recognized for her achievements in Virginia Business's Legal Elite for her work in Immigration Law and Legislative/Regulatory Law. She also received the YWCA's 2000 Outstanding Women Awards.

Jacquelyn received her award at the Twelfth Annual Women of Achievement Awards luncheon, which was held on December 7, 2005.



# MRWBA Announcements

Lend a Helping Hand with the  
**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE  
COMMUNITY SERVICE DAY**

**First Opportunity**  
Consider making Saturday May 13, 2006 a day spent giving back to the community and participate in one or both of the following events. First, for those interested, in the morning, MRWBA members will participate in the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, which will begin on Brown's Island. Please contact Ali Silva Fannon at [silvaa@ci.richmond.va.us](mailto:silvaa@ci.richmond.va.us) for more information on how to join or support the team.

**Second Opportunity**  
The MRWBA Public Service Committee will participate in Hanover Habitat for Humanity's Women Build project in Hanover. **We need monetary sponsors and workers for this all-day build.** We hope to coordinate shifts so that everyone, including the Race for the Cure participants, can help with this service project. If interested contact the *project leader* **Julie Whitlock** at [JWhitlock@oag.state.va.us](mailto:JWhitlock@oag.state.va.us)

**Job Opening**  
**Where:** Office of the Appellate Defender  
**Who:** Attorney, part-time. Some work can be done from home.  
**What:** To work on criminal appeals.  
**When:** From now to August and possibly thereafter.  
The work may require occasional travel, but seldom overnight.  
The job requires Virginia Bar license, good writing skills, familiarity with criminal law, criminal procedure and evidence. Send resume and writing sample to [jchittom@idc.virginia.gov](mailto:jchittom@idc.virginia.gov).

## MRWBA Members, YOU'RE INVITED!

**The Richmond Chapter of the Virginia Women Attorneys Association invites the MRWBA!**  
*Leslie Haley*, Assistant Bar Counsel and MRWBA President Elect, will present her challenging and interactive ethics program, "Legal Jeopardy" on  
**Friday, April 28 from 12:00 noon to 1:00**  
**in the meeting room ON THE FIRST FLOOR of the Markel Plaza building in Innsbrook.**  
The charge for a non-VWAA member is \$5 for the CLE and \$10 for lunch. The lunch option begins at 11:30. CLE will begin promptly at noon in the same room. RSVP and advise if you are interested in lunch. Checks should be made payable to VWAA.  
This program carries 1 hour of ethics credit.  
The RSVP address is 4600 Cox Road, Suite 205 Glen Allen, VA. 23060.

We are on the web!

[www.mrwba.org](http://www.mrwba.org)

Metropolitan Richmond  
Women's Bar Association

Newsletter Items or Ideas?  
Jacqueline W. Sharman, Esq.  
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Sandston, Virginia 23150

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The MRWBA'S May Luncheon is

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