

Bar Year 2006-2007

May 2007



Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association

MAY 2007
VOLUME 9

Annual Business Meeting Wednesday, May 2, 2007 12:30pm

Please join the MRWBA for our closeout luncheon on May 2nd, 2007. The nominating committee will present the 2007-2008 proposed MRWBA Officers and Judicial Candidate Endorsement Committee. Come join us as we install the MRWBA's proposed next president, Leslie Haley. Remember, this is the last MRWBA luncheon of the 2006-2007 bar year. Our next luncheon will be at the start of the next bar in September.

DATE: MAY 2nd, 2007 at 12:30p.m.

LOCATION: BULL AND BEAR CLUB,
901 EAST CARY STREET

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

RSVP: Michelle Welch by Friday April
27, 2007

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

2007-2008 PROPOSED SLATE OF MRWBA OFFICERS

Leslie Haley, President

Tracy Spencer, President Elect

Vanessa Jones, Vice President

Jayne Pemberton, Secretary

Proposed Judicial Endorsement Committee

Ashley Beuttel
Ali Silva Fannon
Phoebe Hall
Margaret Hardy
Elizabeth Horsley
Colleen Quinn
Nancy Quinn
Peggy Sanner
Jackie Sharman
Tracy Spencer
Sharon Stuart
Michelle Welch

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 Mi-

chelle Welch at 786-7760 or mwelch@oag.state.va.us of such substitution prior to the luncheon.



President's Message



It is hard to believe that the 2006-2007 bar year is coming to a close in just a few short weeks. It has been an honor to serve as President of the Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association this year. It has been a year filled with great rewards and a few challenges and for all of those experiences I am truly grateful.

When I began my term almost a year ago, I knew that the MRWBA had much to be proud of, especially our hard-working and talented Board of Directors. With their help and humor, it has been a successful and productive year. And so I close out my year as President by thanking everyone who helped make this year a success.

First, my predecessor, Jill Wells Nunnally, for all her wisdom and support this year. I know you will join me in thanking Jill for her efforts on behalf of the MRWBA over the years. Although we will be sad to see her leave the Board next year, I know that she will continue to be a tremendous resource for us, as all of the past presidents have been for me this year.

I would also like to thank our Administrative Assistant, Johnell Ferrell, who is leaving us as she begins an exciting new job at the Supreme Court of Virginia. On behalf of the MRWBA, I thank Johnell for her hard work and dedication to our organization. We wish her much continued success. We will miss you, Johnell.

Finally, I must thank each and every member of our Board of Directors: **Leslie Haley**, President-Elect; **Vanessa Jones**, Vice President; **Tracy Spencer**, Secretary; **Ashley Beuttel**, Treasurer; **Jennifer Gobble**, Awards Chair; **Elizabeth Horsley**, CLE Chair; **Michelle Welch**, Finance Chair; **Colleen Quinn**, Judicial Candidate Endorsement Chair; **Sharon Stuart**, Legislative Chair; **Rondelle Herman**, Membership Chair; **Ali Silva Fannon** and **Bonnie Ashley**, Mentorship Chairs; **Sakina Paige** and **Jayne Pemberton**, Programs Co-Chairs; **Jackie Wise Sharman**, Public Relations/Newsletter Chair; and **Margaret Hardy** and **Jen McLemore**, Public Service Co-Chairs.

I can tell you that, particularly in the MRWBA, there is truly "Honor among Women." I am grateful to have been a part of it and look forward to supporting Leslie Haley and the Board next year. The MRWBA will be in good hands under Leslie's leadership. I hope that you will join me on May 2, 2007, for our annual business luncheon, to show our support for Leslie and to vote on the proposed slate of officers for 2007-2008.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the MRWBA!

Catherine Crooks Hill
MRWBA President



Annual Legislative Luncheon: In Review

Please join the MRWBA in recognizing the Legislative Committee for organizing the Annual Legislative Luncheon and Panel Program that was not only entertaining but educational as well. The panelists included nine local legislators, Senators Martin, McDougle, Stosch, and Watkins, and Delegates Dance, Hall, Janis, O'Bannon, and Waddell. If you would like a copy of the materials prepared by Delegate Janis, please e-mail me at [sstuart@bolemanlaw.com](mailto:ssuart@bolemanlaw.com).

This year's Legislative Committee was comprised of the following ten members: Sharon Choi Stuart (Chair), Julia Adair, Mary Adams, Laura Alridge, Adalyn Brugger, Aimee Clanton, Kari Lou Frank, Andrea Geiger, Dana Parson, and Shannon Taylor. Thank you for making this year's legislative luncheon such a smooth success.

The Legislative Committee would like to extend a special thank you to IKON who expertly prepared the materials for the Legislative Luncheon!

The Panel Program was approved for one hour of CLE credit. The CLE form can be downloaded from the MRWBA's website at www.mrwba.org.



Senator Stosch



Delegate Janis



From left to right: Sharon Stuart, Shannon Taylor, Delegate Bill Janis, Leslie Haley, Laura Alridge, And Ashley Beuttel.



Public Service Committee ~ Margaret Hardy and Jennifer McLemore
Co-Chairs

Event:	Komen Race for the Cure®
Location:	Brown's Island
When:	Saturday, May 12, 2007
Web site:	www.komenrichmond.org
<p>The MRWBA would like to have a team of runners and/or walkers enter the race this year. We need eight members to make up a team. Please contact Margaret Hardy at mhardy@sandsanderson.com if you are interested in joining the team. Make sure to let Margaret know whether you are interested in being the team captain!</p>	



Committee End of Year Reports

JCE Committee Report

For the 2006-2007 MRWBA bar year, the Judicial Candidate Endorsement (JCE) Committee remained quite active once again. We had nine very considerate and involved members. Following the very simple task of presenting Judge Ashley Tunner with a MRWBA pen (after her placement on the Richmond JDR bench in the prior bar year), we were faced with the more daunting task of interviewing candidates on a somewhat unexpected basis for the vacancy left on the Richmond Circuit Court bench by the sudden death of Judge Randolph Johnson. Our committee pulled together quickly in September 2006 and, in conjunction with several other bar organizations (and nicely coordinated by the Richmond Bar Association) conducted joint interviews of seven candidates for the position. As we were on an uncertain but short deadline to furnish our recommendations to the Richmond Circuit Court judges - the recommendations were not put to a MRWBA vote but were sent directly to the Chief Judge of the Richmond Circuit Court. Also unclear during the interviews was whether the position would be a civil or criminal judicial position since the Honorable Margaret Spencer had expressed that she was interested in moving to the civil side of the docket and was taking on the civil cases previously assigned to Judge Johnson (this kept it interesting!).

Since the Honorable Clarence Jenkins, a judge on the Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, was selected by the General Assembly to fill the Richmond Circuit Court position, we then had to scramble to interview candidates for the now empty Richmond JDR Court seat. Accordingly, at the tail end of October 2006, the MRWBA JCE interviewed five candidates for the JDR position. Three interviews were held with the Richmond Bar and other bars, one was just with the MRWBA and one (Richard Campbell) was held with just one other bar organization. Again there was not time for a MRWBA vote and the recommendations were sent to the legislature and Richmond Circuit Court judiciary. Richard Campbell was appointed to the position - this demonstrated a good reflection on the MRWBA because we were willing to keep our ability to do interviews open without a cut-off date and, therefore, we did not preclude Campbell from interviewing with us and receiving our endorsement.

Finally, the JCE was busy again when the Honorable Robert Payne on the federal bench, Eastern District of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, announced his intent to move to senior status and Senator John Warner asked the primary bar groups for their endorsements. The MRWBA JCE again jumped on the bandwagon with the RBA and joined in joint judicial interviews with the RBA and several other bar organizations to interview four well-qualified candidates. Once again, there was not time to submit the recommendations to MWRBA vote and the committee recommendations were submitted to Senator Warner - who wrote a really lovely letter of appreciation in response!! We are still waiting to see who gets appointed to the position.

Going forward the MRWBA will need to re-evaluate the time frame set out in our by-laws for voting on judicial candidate recommendations and whether to reduce the time frames to be more responsive to the requests of the judiciary and legislature. Alternatively, the MRWBA needs to consider whether to eliminate the need for a vote at all and, instead, rely solely upon the recommendations on the JCE Committee.

Another issue that the Committee will need to consider is whether to provide detailed evaluation information to the legislature as the Virginia State Bar will start doing. If so, we will need to set forth objective criteria (e.g., years in practice, relevant experience, etc.).

Many thanks to the following members of JCE Committee this year:

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

These folks always were ready to assist on a moment's notice and I can't thank them enough.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen M. Quinn



Committee End of Year Reports

2006-2007 Annual Programs Committee Report

Sakina Paige and Jayne Pemberton, Programs Co-Chairs

The Programs Committee presented exciting and informative luncheon programs for the 2006-2007 bar year. We kicked off the bar year in September with a presentation by Lucy Meade of the Richmond Renaissance. Ms. Meade presented a slide show depicting the Richmond Renaissance's role in increasing the vitality of our city, in particularly the downtown area, through economic development. We would like to thank our committee member, Amy Marino, for making this luncheon a success. We could not have done it without you.

Our October luncheon featured Virginia State Bar President, Karen Gould, who spoke about current issues facing the bar, such as funding for indigent defense and judicial independence. She also discussed her involvement with bar activities over the years. Ms. Gould acknowledged that she was inspired to volunteer for bar work during a MRWBA luncheon that she attended more than ten years ago. Today, she is only the third woman to be President of the Virginia State Bar in 68 years.

In November, we learned how to put ourselves first with a panel discussion that was filled with tips on how to take care of ourselves. Miriam Bender, the CEO for Women's Health Virginia, talked to us about staying healthy and protecting ourselves against heart disease. Chef Maura showed us the way to enjoy delicious gourmet meals during the week without spending hours in the kitchen. Susie Galvez, beauty expert and author, gave us advice on how to pamper ourselves a little bit everyday without spending a fortune.

The MRWBA was honored to have the First Lady of Virginia, Anne Holton, speak at our January luncheon. The First Lady discussed her husband's administration and the important roles women are playing in his cabinet. She also discussed her Foster Care Initiative. As part of her initiative, the First Lady hopes to bring attention to and help children of all ages in the foster care system in Virginia. She plans to place special emphasis on older children in foster care. Her hopes are to allow all graduates of the foster care system to have families to rely on even after they reach the age of majority. She reminded us all of the importance of family and helping those who are less fortunate.

The MRWBA Ethics CLE was held in February. The Annual Pro Bono Luncheon was held in the beginning of March, and the Annual Legislative Luncheon was held on the last Wednesday in March. The year will end with our Annual Business Meeting in May.

2006-2007 Annual CLE Committee Report

Elizabeth Horsley: Chair

The 2006-2007 MRWBA CLE Committee organized and presented an Ethics CLE on February 7, 2007 at the monthly membership lunch. Prior to the CLE, the Committee identified a topic, retained a presenter, and applied for CLE credit from the Virginia State Bar.

In addition to organizing a CLE program, the Committee has reported various discount and free CLE opportunities to the MRWBA membership. This reporting was done through the MRWBA website and by announcements at meetings.

The CLE Committee also was tasked with soliciting the names of potential women and minority presenters for submission to the Virginia State Bar. The CLE Committee solicited input from its membership via the website, and circulated electronic mail requests for volunteers at Williams Mullen, Hunton & Williams, Reed Smith and McGuireWoods. This is an ongoing project and will continue to be advertised in 2007-2008.



Committee End of Year Reports

MENTORSHIP 2006-2007 ANNUAL REPORT Chair: Ali Silva Fannon/ Bonnie Ashley

Each year we offer mentorship for new attorneys and for law students. My aim this year was to expand our attorney-student mentorship partnering to include William and Mary Law School. However, once our usual student group, the Women's Law Student Association of the University of Richmond, contacted us with their list of members desiring mentors (over 30), I quickly realized that we would be overreaching to actively pursue W&M student groups. With some gentle prodding of our members, we were able to match all the WLSA students with attorney mentors, for the most part, based on the noted practice interests. We matched the two attorneys desiring an attorney mentor as well.

Aside from individual efforts that go on throughout the bar year, there were two organized opportunities for mentors-mentees to get together. The WLSA hosted a Fall semester gathering at Café Mosaic. On April 11th, we will host a social at the house of Michelle Welch for all involved in the mentorship program. We hope to have a good turnout.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Rondelle Herman, Chair

2006-2007 Annual Report

176 Paid members (173 paid members for 2005- 2006)

Goals

Pre-filled applications

- utilized for the first time this year
- great feedback

Breakfast Meetings

- discussed having breakfast meetings and requested feedback in the newsletters
- low feedback in interest for breakfast meetings

Changes to membership information

- experienced problems with people not reporting changes
- experienced communications problems
- use of scanned membership applications helpful

I

Membership raffles

- good feedback
- didn't really increase membership

Old members

- compiled a list of past members who had not renewed
- saw an increase in membership when efforts were made to contact past members
- need to focus on this area in an effort to increase membership

Awards Committee Annual Report

2006 - 2007

A special thanks to the MRWBA members who graciously agreed to serve on the awards committee this year: Genevieve Dybing, Clair Harrington, Carolyn Lavecchia, Teri Miles, Amy Schwab and Margaret Smither.

This year we worked toward an ongoing goal of becoming more active in the nominations for local bar association awards and other awards consistent with the mission of the MRWBA. The awards committee would like to thank the MRWBA past presidents for their valuable suggestions throughout the nominations process.

We nominated Virginia Hackney for the **Virginia Women Attorneys Association (VWAA) Awards of Distinction**, and were pleased that she was honored as one of the award recipients. The VWAA Awards of Distinction are given to women attorneys who have distinguished themselves with the utmost professionalism and dedication to service in the legal community and who have advanced opportunities for other women attorneys. Virginia Hackney has accomplished many "firsts" in her career, paving the way for other women attorneys. In 1972, she, along with a small group of women, formed the Metropolitan Richmond Women's Bar Association and she served as its first president and has remained a member since its inception. Hunton and Williams welcomed Virginia as its first female partner in 1977, and she has been instrumental in establishing, developing and leading the practice area of health law within the firm. Virginia also has been active in Virginia State Bar activities, other voluntary bar associations, the presidency of the American Academy of Hospital Attorneys, numerous civic service commitments and the provision of professional services *pro bono*.

We were fortunate to have many qualified nominees to consider for our annual **Women of Achievement Award**. At our holiday awards luncheon on December 6, 2006, we were pleased to honor another one of our founding members, Phoebe Hall, with this award. In addition to being a founding member, Phoebe has continued her involvement with the MRWBA by serving as a mentor for female law students through the MRWBA mentorship program and serving on the Judicial Nominations Committee. Phoebe is a partner at Hall & Hall, where she focuses her practice on family law. With more than 30 years of experience, Phoebe has been influential in the continued development of family law practice and has mentored many women attorneys. Phoebe has served her community through numerous organizations, including serving as president of the MCV/VCU Women's Health Advisory Council and on the Board of Directors for Family and Children's Services.



Committee End of Year Reports

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2006 – 2007

Submitted by Co-Chairs Margaret Hardy and Jennifer McLemore

Understanding Your Domestic Relations Rights in Virginia Booklet

For over a decade, the main project of the Public Service Committee has been the annual publication and distribution of the free booklet entitled *Understanding Your Domestic Relations Rights in Virginia*. This 40-page booklet contains user-friendly information for non-lawyers on legal topics such as divorce and annulment, spousal and child support, custody and visitation, adoption and family violence, and provides an overview of court procedures in Virginia state courts and alternative dispute resolution. This year's booklet included a new section on the collaborative law process and its role in family law disputes.

The booklet is distributed across the Commonwealth of Virginia, to courts, law enforcement/social service agencies, nonprofit organizations and to individual lawyers and firms for pro bono purposes. Our distribution list was increased this year to include the Supreme Court of Virginia Department of Judicial Services, who will be providing a copy of the booklet to each of its Judicial and Domestic Relations certified mediators, and offices of Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) across the Commonwealth.

The project begins each year with volunteer editors reviewing the changes in domestic relations laws effective on July 1 and updating the booklet information accordingly. That process will begin shortly for next year's booklet. The time commitment is minimal and the satisfaction in being a part of such a worthy project is huge! For more information, contact Jennifer McLemore at jmclmore@cblaw.com.

Partnership with Thomas Jefferson High School

For the third year, the MRWBA partnered with Thomas Jefferson High School in the City of Richmond in an effort to educate the students about legal issues of interest, inspire them to pursue careers in the law, and deter them from illegal or harmful activities.

On February 28, MRWBA members conducted a mock trial with students in the IB Social Studies Class at TJ. The students were tasked to conduct a mock assault and battery trial in front of a jury of their peers. The roles of prosecutor and defense attorney along with witnesses were assigned to various students who performed admirably. The roles of judge, court reporter, clerk, and bailiff were also filled by students. The lawyers from MRWBA mentored the students in what kind of questions to ask and how to conduct the trial. The MRWBA members also delivered a mini lecture detailing the roles of court personnel and what the law requires of a jury trial. The members of the MRWBA and the students really enjoyed the experience and it was an incredible success.

On April 16, members and friends of the MRWBA will again present the CARE (Credit Abuse Resistance Education) program to a group of TJ students. This will be the second year that we have presented this nationally developed program designed to educate students about the proper use, and potential pitfalls, of buying on credit.

Community Participation and Charitable Drives

On October 15, 2006, MRWBA members joined with friends and family to participate in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Byrd Park. On May 12, 2007, the MRWBA will be participating in the Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure. Ali Silva Fannon is the captain for our Race for the Cure team. If you are interested in participating in the walk or making a donation, please contact Margaret Hardy at mhardy@sandsanderson.com.

The Public Service Committee sponsored a holiday drive for the residents of Hilliard House, a transitional living facility located in Henrico County that provides shelter, education and support for women and children moving from abusive environments or homelessness into independent living. Because the mothers and children living at Hilliard House over the holidays receive gifts and donations from a number of sources, we chose to adopt the six single women at the facility. Through the generosity of our members, we collected over \$700 in gifts and gift cards. Our relationship with Hilliard House is ongoing, with volunteer opportunities and plans to assist a graduate of the program moving into independent living. If you would like to be involved, please contact Jennifer McLemore at jmclmore@cblaw.com.

Pro Bono Luncheon

On March 7, 2007, the Public Service Committee hosted the MRWBA's annual pro bono luncheon. We were very pleased to have as our speaker the Honorable Elizabeth B. Lacy. Justice Lacy spoke of the importance of pro bono activities and of the many opportunities available. She reminded us that pro bono service encompasses not only litigation projects, but also legal services to indigents, fledgling and established non-profit organizations, board service, and beyond. Jennifer McLemore provided information about pro bono opportunities with the Legal Information Network for Cancer, the Pro Bono Clearinghouse, Legal Aid, and The Community Tax Law Project.

We are very proud of our accomplishments this year and look forward to an active and productive coming year. If you are interested in serving on the Public Service Committee or volunteering for an activity, please contact one of the 2007-2008 Public Service Committee Co-chairs: Jennifer McLemore jmclmore@cblaw.com or Michelle Welch mwelch@oag.state.va.us.



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For Newsletter Questions or Comments Contact:

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