



METROPOLITAN RICHMOND WOMEN'S BAR ASSOCIATION

December 2008
Number 4

HOLIDAY AWARDS LUNCHEON December 3rd 12:30 p.m.

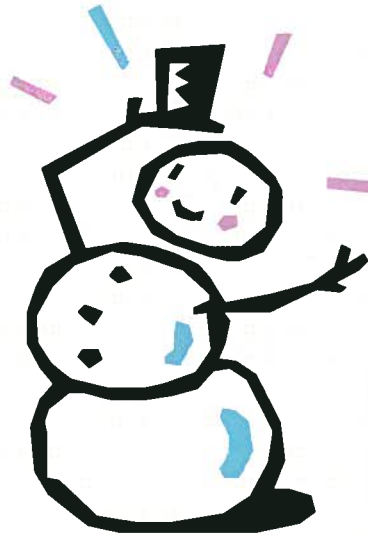
Congratulations to this year's recipients of the MRWBA Women of Achievement Award:
The Honorable Audrey J. Franks (Ret.) and Maya Eckstein!

Please join us for the Annual Holiday Awards luncheon where both recipients will be honored!

Where: Bull & Bear Club Dining Room
Cost: \$17 for Members; \$20 for Non-members
RSVP: Leas Roth:
Leas.Roth@yahoo.com

Safe Harbor Donation Item Request:

The Public Service Committee is requesting donations of GRTC "Go Pass" bus tickets which can be purchased at area Ukrop's, Kroger, and CVS stores and many other locations (for a complete listing go to <http://www.ridegrtc.com/WhereToBuy.aspx>).



Don't forget to bring your item to the December lunch!



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Luncheon Notice

All luncheon reservations must be made by the deadline specified. Reservations cannot 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 the reservation and do not cancel prior to the deadline. If you have made a reservation and cannot attend the luncheon, you may substi-

tute someone in your place. However, you (or your substitute) must advise Leas Roth at Leas.Roth@yahoo.com of such substitution prior to the luncheon. In order to validate parking, members and guests should park in the RMA lot located on Canal Street between 9th and 10th Street.

The 2008-2009 MRWBA Officers

- Tracy H. Spencer *President*
- Vanessa Jones *President-Elect*
- Leslie Haley *Past President*
- Jayne Pemberton *Vice President*
- Colleen M. Quinn *Treasurer*
- Sharon Stuart *Secretary*



President's Message

The holidays are my favorite time of the year – spending time with friends and family, the colorful decorations, the bright lights, the delicious food, and the festive music. I hope that you take a moment in this busy season to reflect on the wonder of it all.

As is tradition with the MRWBA, we will host our annual Holiday and Awards Luncheon on December 3, 2008. Each year we take the time to honor women who have excelled in public service and inspired other female attorneys to achieve. This year we have two deserving recipients of the MRWBA Women of Achievement Award. The first is Retired Judge Audrey Franks. Judge Franks has dedicated her life to serving others, especially young women and children. Before her retirement, she sat on the Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court for eleven years. I had the honor of appearing before her while she was on the bench, and I always admired her. She truly cared about each person and respected everyone who came into her courtroom. Since her retirement, Judge Franks has continued to be active in public service and the MRWBA. We are honored to award her the MRWBA Women of Achievement Award.



The second recipient of the MRWBA Women of Achievement Award is Maya Eckstein. She is a partner at Hunton & Williams and is a past president of the Virginia State Bar Young Lawyers Conference. She also has been very active in public service. Among other accomplishments, she participated in the Women's Advocacy Project to provide legal assistance to victims of domestic violence. She truly has been an inspiration to other female attorneys for her service to the community.

I hope that you will join us at the Holiday and Awards Luncheon. Please bring your assistant with you to the luncheon, so that they too can be honored for their service.

If you have not already done so, please invite a colleague to join the MRWBA. The MRWBA has so much to offer our members. Imagine the possibilities if each of us invited one person to be a member of the MRWBA.....

Happy Holidays!

Tracy H. Spencer
MRWBA President (2008-2009)





A Closer Look at the Two 2008 MRWBA Women of Achievement Award Recipients

The Honorable Audrey J. Franks (Ret.):

Retired Judge Franks sat on the Richmond Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court from 1990 through 2001, and was Chief Judge from 1993 through 1996. During her tenure as judge, she led the Richmond Juvenile Drug Treatment Court, was one of two judges designated by the Virginia General Assembly to advise them on new statutes for the structure and funding of Virginia drug courts, worked with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, was the judicial liaison to the Family Violence Prevention Program, was a member of the Task Force on Serious Juvenile Offenders for the Virginia Commission on Youth established by the Virginia General Assembly, and was the Treasurer and an Executive Council Member of the Virginia Council of Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judges. Since retirement, Judge Franks has served as a substitute judge in J&DR courts around Virginia, works with the Judicial Performance Evaluation Commission, is a member of the Planning Committee for Richmond's annual Adoption Day (a celebration for families who have adopted foster children during the previous year from the Richmond DSS), is a member of the Pro Bono Commission created in 2002 by Chief Justice Leroy R. Hassell, is a board member of the Children's Justice Center, a member of the Advisory Committee for the Richmond Adult Drug Treatment Court, and continues to develop and promote programs designed to stimulate the positive development of low income Richmond girls. Both during her judgeship and into retirement, Judge Franks has participated on numerous panels, educational programs and CLE programs. Prior to her judicial service, Judge Franks was Executive Co-Director of the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society in Richmond (1982-1990), Executive Director of the Metropolitan Richmond Legal Aide Society (1978-1982), and a Staff Associate for the National Center for State Courts in both Williamsburg, Virginia and Denver, Colorado. Judge Franks received her B.S. (with honors) from Millsaps College (Jackson, Mississippi), attended the Tulane University Graduate School and School of Social Work (New Orleans, LA), received her M.A. (major - Sociology; minor - Political Science) from the University of Minnesota, and received her J.D. from the College of Law of the University of Denver. In the twenty-two years between receiving her undergraduate degree and her law degree, Judge Franks was applied social scientist for the City and County of Denver focusing on therapeutic intervention to enhance infant development for babies at risk of delayed development, an instructor of Sociology at Mankato State College (Mankato, Minn.) and Millsaps College (Jackson, Miss.), a research associate at Fort Logan Mental Health Center (Denver, CO), with the Urban Life Research Institute (Minneapolis, Minn.) and a social worker at Milne Boys Home (New Orleans, LA.).

Maya M. Eckstein:

Ms. Eckstein is a patent and intellectual property litigator with Hunton & Williams. Her practice includes extensive trial work, negotiation settlements and client counseling. Ms. Eckstein has also served on the Hunton & Williams Community Service Committee, which included work with the Women's Advocacy Project, a program providing legal representation to domestic violence victims (serving the Richmond YWCA Shelter, Safe Harbor Shelter, and the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society). Beyond her busy practice with Hunton & Williams, Ms. Eckstein has been heavily involved in volunteer bar work and received many awards and recognitions for her work. She served as President of the Young Lawyers Council of the Virginia State Bar in 2006-2007, during which time she coordinated with "JustChildren" - a part of the Legal Aid Justice Center to produce the Juvenile Rights Handbook. Ms. Eckstein has been a leader in the VSB's Wills for Heroes program, the Innocence Project and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's International Division. She has served as a member of the VSB's Access to Legal Services Committee and a member of the board of directors of the Legal Services Corporation of Virginia (as an appointee of the VSB). Among other positions, Ms Eckstein was a past chair of the VSB Young Lawyers Council (VSB YLC) Pro Bono Committee, a member of the Richmond Bar Association Pro Bono Committee, served on the board of directors of the Virginia League for Planned Parenthood and The Flagler home at Saint Joseph's Villa (a two-year transitional housing program for homeless women and their children), and is a member of the John Marshall Inn of Court. Ms. Eckstein currently serves on the Board of Governors for the VSB's Litigation Section. For her legal career, extensive service to volunteer bar work and pro bono work, Ms. Eckstein has received the following awards-Outstanding Young Lawyer of the Year Award from the Virginia State Bar (1999), American Inns of Court Sandra Day O'Connor Award for Professional Service (2003), listed in The Best Lawyers in America, Intellectual Property Law (2009), Chambers USA "Up and Commers" (2008), Virginia Super Lawyers Rising Star (2007, 2008), Virginia Business Magazine Legal Elite (2005, 2008) and Inside Business Top 40 under 40 (2002). Ms. Eckstein received her B.A., cum laude from Kent State University in Journalism and her J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law, magna cum laude, Order of the Coif, where she served as Associate Notes and Comments Editor of the Syracuse Law Review.

THANK YOU FROM LUCY HOMILLER--AWARDS CHAIR

I would like to thank all nominators for their excellent nominations. I would also like to personally thank the Awards Voting Committee members for their valuable time and input in this process—Jennifer Gobble, Catherine Hill, Terri Miles, Mar-ge Smith, and Carole Timberlake.



Membership Chair --Ali Fannon

On Tuesday, November 11th, we hosted our second annual New Member Breakfast at Baker's Crust in Carytown. Thanks so much for all of those who attended, and sorry to those who were unable! The Board really enjoyed getting to meet our newest members in a casual setting, and we are looking forward to seeing you at future events. In addition, we want to welcome the new members who have joined since last newsletter...Tessie Barnes, Elizabeth Breen, Marion Cooper, Jane Featherston, Kimberly Fitzgerald, Dana Gay, Anne Grumbine, Ashton Harris, Sara Hendon, Sherry Hutter, Hannah Kenyon, Patti Meire, Michelle Mulligan, Whitney Pinna, Marty Rowan, Elizabeth Trende, Lakai Vinson, and Suzanne Wade. Welcome all!

The MRWBA has all its member information available via the internet. If you are looking to pass on membership registration information, then please see our home page at www.mrwba.org for links to our password-protected (and award-winning) on-line registration and member directory, as well as a link to a PDF version of our application. As mentioned last newsletter, please check out our **NEW Member to Member Referral Directory** for 2008-2009. Use this year's password to access this helpful tool: simply choose the link under the "Members Only" section of our home page at www.mrwba.org. This resource lists members (who opted into the program) by practice area (e.g. Family Law, Bankruptcy, etc.). As with our on-line directory, this listing pulls the latest information from our membership database, and thus, even if you change practice areas or locations mid-year, you will be able to update your information one time and have that information correctly reflected in both our main directory and this new Referral listing. *If you did not select this feature on your membership application, and want to be included, or if you have changes to make, or need help accessing the Members Only section, please contact please contact either Membership Chair Ali Fannon at ali.fannon@comcast.net or our fabulous Administrative Assistant Alison Roussy at asroussy@hotmail.com.*

Volunteer Needed for Audit Committee Treasurer--Colleen Quinn

Please contact MRWBA Treasurer Colleen Quinn at cquinn@cantorarkema.com or 343-4375 if you are interested in volunteering to be on the Audit Committee. We would welcome anyone with an accounting, book-keeping or tax background. The Committee will require a minimal time commitment. Thanks for your help!





Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Lunches! Sakina Paige and Jackie Sharman, Program Chairs

The MRWBA's Coming Attractions for 2009:

- **January 14**—Finding your Perfect Style. Lauren DeLoach from D&R Style Consulting, LLC will provide tips to help us find the best clothing style for our body types.
- **February 4**—A Surprise! (TBA).
- **March 4**—Legislative Luncheon.
- **April 1**—We will have a presentation from Judge Fitzpatrick about Women in Negotiation. She will tell us about the styles and techniques that women use in negotiation.
- **May 6**—MRWBA Business Luncheon.

Public Service Report Michelle Welch and Robin McVoy, Co-Chairs

Our November luncheon featured inspiring speakers on the topic of domestic violence. Diane Abato, the domestic violence prosecutor for Caroline County, and Mary Maupai, the Director of Development for Safe Harbor, along with young women whose lives have been changed forever by domestic violence, shared their stories and educated our members about the problems faced by victims, survivors, and their families. The MRWBA has partnered with Safe Harbor as our commitment to public service this year, and thanks to the amazing support of our membership, we raised almost **\$900** at the luncheon!

Fundraising update:

Current Point Total: 1,288

Annual Goal: 1,500

We're almost there!!

Pictured from left to right are:
Robin McVoy, Mary Maupai, Elona Hymer, Diane Abato, Christie Hamlin, and Michelle Welch.



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Comments Contact:

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