

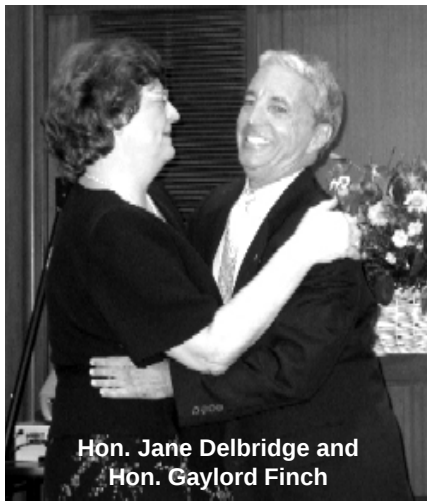
HONORABLE JANE P. DELBRIDGE RETIRES

J&DR District Court Judge Retires After 23 Years on the Bench

by Nicole McGuire and Carol Coile



Dick, Jane, Ryan, and Theodore Delbridge



Hon. Jane Delbridge and
Hon. Gaylord Finch



Judge Jane P. Delbridge was honored at a retirement ceremony at the Courthouse on February 8, 2006, which included friends (old and new), and family, including her "court family". The ceremony began with a presentation by the Sheriff's Department Color Guard and the singing of the Star Spangled Banner by 2nd Lt. Myra Kinney.

Judge Delbridge was recognized as the moving force in the court for the establishment of two specialized programs: a Court Appointed Special Advocates Program, which provides volunteer advocates for abused and neglected children; and more recently, Drug Court, which provides intensive court intervention in certain drug-related cases.

Chief Judge Carr presented Delbridge with a plaque and a Certificate of Appreciation. Judge Carr recounted in her remarks that she once told former J&DRD Court Judge Kathleen MacKay (now a Circuit Court Judge) after observing Judge Delbridge in the courtroom, "That's the kind of judge I want to be".

Judge Delbridge expressed her appreciation for having the good fortune to have such good friends and colleagues. She spent several minutes reminiscing about friends, people with whom she has worked, and groups with which she has been

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

By Steven W. Ray, FBA President-Elect

On January 26, 2006, the FBA Board of Directors held a day-long strategic planning retreat at the Country Club of Fairfax. The purpose of the retreat was two-fold: (1) develop a vision for the FBA for the next three to five years; and (2) evaluate and determine whether to continue to operate each of the current FBA events and programs. To help prepare for the retreat, we asked for input from our members via an on-line survey that was conducted between January 6 and January 20, 2006. The survey was well received in the level of participation (almost 300 respondents—a new high for any survey or voting conducted by the FBA on-line). In addition, as described below, the Board agreed to eliminate certain events and programs that no longer appeared to support our core mission and to retool others.

Vision Statement

As a result of the retreat, the Board agreed upon the following Vision Statement to help guide us through the next few years:

Vision Statement of the Fairfax Bar Association: To be an essential resource for legal professionals practicing in Northern Virginia.

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President's Column

by Richard John Ruddy, Jr.

THE JOURNEY OF A "SELF MADE" MAN

You hear from time to time about the "self made" success story, whether it be an attorney, business person, student, or some public figure. The fact is each of us has had mentors along our respective journeys, and I would like to share with you a couple of important letters I wrote and am writing now to folks that helped me along the way.

The first and most important letter was written to my parents, Edythe and Dick Ruddy, during my sophomore year at Saint Vincent College. No, I was not writing home to ask for money. Rather, in a reflective moment one day it dawned on me that these were two wonderful parents, and so I penned a letter to let them know that I truly appreciated all their personal and financial sacrifices, moral example, and quiet mentoring. As was typical of my parents, they never mentioned the letter, but some years later, shortly after the last of my parents passed away, I returned to clean out the family home with my siblings. As I was going through my dad's chest of drawers, I found tucked near the back of one of the drawers that letter I sent them over 20 years earlier. Attached to my letter were similar letters from my brother and sister. I was surely blessed with wonderful parents, and to their eternal credit they raised some good kids.

I wrote another important letter just a few years ago to one of my former law partners, Keith Putbrese. Keith was practicing law in McLean when I joined his firm in the early 80s. No one worked harder than Keith at the profession he loved, and that work ethic coupled with his legal skills, ethics, and common sense earned him a very successful law practice over 30 plus years. I subsequently became one of Keith's law partners and practiced with him for over a decade. Much of what I learned and use today as an attorney was handed down to me by that man. Keith and I parted company in 1992 when I started my own firm. A few years later, around the time Keith retired from the practice of law, I wrote him a note of thanks for the education, guidance, and support he gave me during the early years of my legal career. Like my parents, Keith never mentioned the note, but I trust he derived satisfaction in knowing that he made a difference in the career of one lawyer.

We have reached the point in my term as FBA President where I can begin to see daylight in my schedule as my FBA responsibilities diminish. It has been a treat to view the FBA from this perspective, and many members have been very generous with their time, support, and advice this year. The balance of the year will pass quickly, so I thought this an appropriate time to extend this thank you to all for helping along the way during my FBA journey.

Many years ago I very reluctantly became involved with the FBA. Frankly, you guys can be a bit intimidating to a newbie lawyer, and I was very slow to jump into FBA activities. Certainly my perspective has been different than most over the years, and my opinions were not always received with enthusiasm by the FBA leadership. Over time, however, I either wore people down, or maybe my message simply found the right audience, who can really say. Some 20 years later, I must confess that my experience has been rewarding, and I am a better person and attorney because I chose to make this journey. Thank you for letting me make my contribution to the FBA.

There remains much to do in the FBA as we head towards the Presidential terms of Steve Ray beginning this July, and then Dan Ruttenberg in July 2007. Please give them a hand in their FBA leadership journey. They are talented attorney volunteers, and with your support, the FBA, will be a better servant to you, our members.

With best wishes for a Happy Easter and a great Spring, I am

Richard



FAIRFAX BAR JOURNAL

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Fairfax Bar Association*

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STATE OF THE JUDICIARY LUNCHEON

Award Ceremony Honors Outstanding *Pro Bono* Efforts

by Arlene K. Beckerman

Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year: *Charles Tievsky*

The Fairfax Bar *Pro Bono* Program recognized the exceptional *pro bono* efforts of legal professionals serving our poverty and low income communities. At the February Bar luncheon, Judge Jane Marum Roush presented this year's awards to the following:

Pro Bono Law Firm of the Year: *Whiteford, Taylor and Preston*



The lawyers of Whiteford, Taylor and Preston have been working in Fairfax County for years through the Neighborhood Outreach Program to regularly meet with clients and provide legal advice, referral and representation. Since February 2002, they have partnered with Homestretch, a transitional housing program helping homeless families transform themselves in order to lead more productive lives. Whiteford, Taylor and Preston provides assistance in various civil areas including family, trusts and estates, tax, insurance, housing and employment law. The staff and participants of Homestretch greatly appreciate the efforts of the firm, which has included representation of individuals in courts throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Chuck Tievsky has dedicated himself to helping the low income and immigrant community in the Herndon area. After some basic training in January 2004, Chuck sensed an overwhelming need for immigration law assistance and began single-handedly staffing a clinic at the Herndon Neighborhood Resource Center. Chuck continues to meet with clients on a weekly basis without public recognition. In addition to providing individual representation, he has worked to dispel myths about the immigrant communities, lobbied on immigration reform, and provided valuable information and resources to the immigrants.

Pro Bono Paralegal of the Year: *Russ Reiff*



As an independent paralegal, Russ has structured his time to specialize in *pro bono* poverty law. He has been enthusiastic, dedicated, and creative in his efforts on behalf of the residents of Mondloch House, a homeless shelter on the Route 1 corridor. He has worked with the residents and the Neighborhood Outreach lawyers to ensure that these homeless residents receive excellent legal assistance. He has extended himself to appear an extra night at the shelter, just to explain the program to those who may need advice from a lawyer. Over the past five years, Russ has averaged over 600 clinical *pro bono* hours and almost 700 administrative *pro bono* hours to the poor in the greater Washington, D.C., area.

James Keith Public Service Award: *William L. Schmidt*



Bill Schmidt, a well known member of our legal community since 1973, was awarded the James Keith Public Service Award for his demonstrated personal and long standing dedication to public service, including both *pro bono* legal service, as well as broader contributions to the community. Bill has been committed to the improvement of our community, which has been demonstrated both through individual representation and actions on behalf of organizations. Bill has been active in both

the Fairfax Bar Association and the Fairfax Law Foundation, on which he served as president and a member of the Board of Directors. He has co-chaired the Community Outreach Committee, and served on the Fairfax Bar Truancy Project Task Force. Bill has been a volunteer Neutral Case Evaluator in Fairfax Circuit Court since 1997, as well as serving as a Motions Day Conciliator since that time. Bill's work with the Salvation Army, Fairfax District, has always been important to him. He has worked as chair of the Board of Advisors and can be found ringing the bell in front of a Giant each Christmas. Bill has worked on repairing homes for the needy for the Bar's Christmas in April program since 1997, volunteered to work on the Katrina Relief Fund, and organized the Can-U-Care Food Drive Program.

The work of these individuals and firm exemplify the work of many others who devote time and energy to serving the needy, and often unseen, poverty population. If you are interested in participating, contact Arlene Beckerman, Director of *Pro Bono* Activities, at abeckerman@fairfaxbar.org, or 703.246.3779.

Open Letter to the Fairfax Bar Association

by William L. "Bill" Schmidt



I am honored and extremely humbled to have received the James Keith Public Service Award. I want you to know that without the tremendous support of my staff and my family I would not have received the award. I owe a sincere debt of gratitude to my magnificent wife, Patricia, and our wonderful children. They have spent many hours alone while I pursued the practice of law and tried to do my part to help others. It was always their love that sustained me and nourished me as I tried to make a difference. The profession of law is a noble profession which requires each one of us who has been chosen to carry the lantern of justice to become involved and to do our part to reach out and help those in our community who are so less fortunate. We practice the greatest profession in the world in the greatest place in the world. Yet each one of us must realize that for all of the glitter and glamour that is Fairfax County, there are many here who are struggling and need our help.

The Fairfax Law Foundation is about to embark on a capital campaign and you will hear a lot more about that campaign in the coming months. I urge each one of you to consider what you can do individually to help in that campaign so that our legacy of service to the community will expand and continue. Once again, I thank you for this award, and my prayer is that I will live up to your praises.

*May God bless each one of you,
Bill*

PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION Elects New Officers

W. Michael Phipps, President
Chair, Judicial Liaison Comm.

Casey R. Stevens, President Elect
Chair, Criminal Law Comm.

Tracy C. Hudson,
Immediate Past President

Jeanice B. Wiethop, Secretary

Robert P. Coleman, Treasurer

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*Chocolate
Lovers' Festival
February 4-5
City of Fairfax*

ANOTHER CHOCOLATE LOVERS' FESTIVAL SUCCESS!!

*by Sonya M. Duchak
Chair, Law Related Education Committee*

On February 4, 2006, as part of the annual City of Fairfax Chocolate Lovers' Festival, members of the Law Related Education Committee, the Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court Committee, and the Community Outreach Committee joined forces at an open house at the Juvenile & Domestic Relations Courthouse. The Community Outreach Committee manned an information booth from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., answering questions from members of the community on many legal issues. Many thanks to **Neal Olesker** and **Bob Walker** of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court Committee for setting up tables for all of the organiza-

tions affiliated with the Juvenile Court to hand out information materials and souvenirs to those who visited the courthouse. Those organizations included Alcohol and Drug Services, Alcohol Safety Action Program, Department of Family Services, Foster Care and Adoption, Domestic Relations Unit, and the Probation Department/J&DR Court Services. All kinds of literature, brochures, and handouts were made available to the public. The Fairfax Public Law Library and Lawyer Referral also had information available to the public. The Sheriff's Department offered fingerprinting to kids of all ages. Thanks to all of the groups for participating in the Festival!

The Honorable Judge Gayl Carr presided over a driver's license ceremony which included 50 newly licensed students of our community along with their parents. Special guest speaker included **Mr. Steve Titunik**, a parent who lost a child 30 days after he received his license in a teenager-related driving accident. Many parents voiced their thanks to both Judge Carr and Mr. Titunik for speaking passionately and effectively to the students about the responsibilities that go along with receiving a driver's license. Special thanks to Charles Collins and Jane Schroeder for their help in setting up the driver's license ceremony, and students from Robinson High School for keeping the check-in process orderly and complete.

The Law Related Education Committee sponsored its annual "Chocolate Caper" play in the ceremonial courtroom throughout the day. **David Hirsch** authored the latest caper, Little Miss Muffet v. The Village of Treetops. The courtroom was filled for all three presentations, and was taped by Fairfax's own Channel 12. Participants included **Ed Culbertson**, **Christina Ayiotis** and her daughter **Adrianna** (who played a marvelous Little Miss Muffet), **Cindy Revesman**, **Tina Fewell**, **David Hirsch**, **Shafeek Seddiq** and his daughter, who also stepped in as a very original Little Miss Muffet, **Eric Kessel**, **Bob Walker**, **Deborah Laird**, **Gina Marine**, **Alanna Williams**, **Kelly Hite** (who will forever be addressed as Ms. Spider), **Kate Untiedt**, and **Judge Ian O'Flaherty**. Special thanks to Judge O'Flaherty for providing the historical background of the ceremonial courtroom to the attendees and for answering all of the questions from the audience.

The Law Related Education Committee will always be deeply indebted to the support and dedication to the committee by **Courtnie Norris**, and for all of the help provided throughout the day by **Neal Olesker** and **Bob Walker**. **Thanks to each and every one of you for making this another successful Chocolate Lovers' Festival and for providing an invaluable service to our community.**



Mock Trial Cast



Fingerprinting



Dan Ruttenberg
& Daughter Sarah

Judge Delbridge

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affiliated and still supports. She acknowledged her sons as having taught her the most about working with children and families. She praised the administrators of the court, both past and present, for their vision and dynamic leadership, never allowing the court to stagnate. She acknowledged the outstanding accomplishments of all the units of the court and the court clerks and concluded in praising the "whole marvelous team" for supporting the mission of the court, which is to provide justice for those who come before it, and for its judicial leadership, which remains strong.

There were many presentations, most of which featured humorous reminiscences of Judge Delbridge. Speakers included **Jim Dedes**; **Vince Picciano**, former Court Services Director; **Kathy Froyd**, representing the Department of Family Services; former Clerk of Court **Barbara Daymude**; former law partner **Jeffrey Silverstein**; **Albert Kassabian**, brother of the late Juvenile and Domestic Relations District (J&DRD) Court Judge Arnold Kassabian; **Hon. Gaylord Finch**, former J&DRD Court Judge, now on the Circuit Court bench; retired Probation Officer and fellow West Virginian **West Johnson**, who sang a special song for Judge Delbridge; **Lynne Koval**, Coordinator of Drug Court; **Hon. Thomas Fortkort**, former J&DRD Court Judge and retired Circuit Court Judge; Judge Delbridge's Clerk **Nicole McGuire**; Sheriff's Deputies **2nd Lt. Myrna Kinney**, **PCF Sommer Grasty** and **PFC Nicole Arnette**, who sang a beautiful rendition of "Amazing Grace"; another West Virginian, attorney **Gary Davis**, from the Fairfax Bar Association; **Hon. Michael J. Valentine**, **Hon. Charles J. Maxfield**, and **Hon. David S. Schell**, Judges of the J&DRD Court; and **Dick Delbridge**, husband of Judge Delbridge. ■



HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 236

Offered January 26, 2006

Commending Judge Jane Pritchard Becker Delbridge

Patrons—Watts, Albo, Amundson, Bulova, Callahan, Caputo, Hull, Marsden, Moran, Plum, Rust, Scott, J.M., Shannon and Sickles, Senators: Cuccinelli, DeVolites Davis, Howell, O'Brien, Puller, Saslaw, Ticer and Whipple

WHEREAS, Jane Pritchard Becker Delbridge, judge of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court of Fairfax County, retired after 23 years of outstanding public service to the citizens of Fairfax County, and

WHEREAS, Jane Delbridge was born and grew up in Bluefield, West Virginia, where her parents owned and operated radio station WVOW; and

WHEREAS, Jane Delbridge graduated from West Virginia University with a degree in political science and broadcasting and earned a degree in law from the Catholic University in 1973; and

WHEREAS, Jane Delbridge lived in Washington, D.C., worked for the Federal Communications Commission and later for the law firm of McKenna, Wilkinson, and Kitner, which represented the American Broadcasting Network; and

WHEREAS, Jane Delbridge moved to Virginia and for a decade worked in a private practice specializing in family law; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 1983, Judge Delbridge was elected to the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court of Fairfax County, and

WHEREAS, dedicated to improving the quality of life for all children, Judge Delbridge helped to establish Fairfax County's Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program, which trains volunteers who are appointed by the court to support and advocate for neglected and abused children; and

WHEREAS, Judge Delbridge served as the chief judge of the Fairfax Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court for four years; the court was the Family Court of Record for two years, and during that time she heard 25 percent of the county's divorce cases in addition to cases concerning families; and

WHEREAS, committed to the young people of Fairfax County, Judge Delbridge served as a member of the board of advisors of Project Opportunity, the county's first school program for pregnant and parenting teens; and

WHEREAS, since 2003, Judge Delbridge served as the judge of Fairfax County's pilot Drug Court for teenagers, which was established after a year and a half of study and planning by a multi-agency drug court task force; and

WHEREAS, Judge Delbridge is an active member of numerous civic and professional organizations, including the Soroptimist International of Woodbridge, the Fairfax Bar Association, and the Virginia, District, and National Associations of Women Judges, and is a dedicated member of all Saints Episcopal Church, Sharon Chapel; and

WHEREAS, Judge Delbridge served the Fairfax County courts with dignity, profound wisdom, and compassion, and is greatly respected for her fairness as well as her sensitivity and concern for the well-being of the families and children of the Commonwealth, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly commend Judge Jane Pritchard Becker Delbridge for her 23 years of outstanding service to the citizens of Fairfax County; and be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to Judge Jane Pritchard Becker Delbridge as an expression of the General Assembly's best wishes for a joyful and fulfilling retirement.



The Jennings Building expansion reached a milestone on February 10 when the top-most part of the structure was completed. Those who attended the traditional construction ceremony or passersby saw a flag and a tree hanging proudly from the tall construction crane.

Why a tree and a flag? The tree symbolizes that the project structure went up with no personal accidents and represents a good luck charm for the rest of the project. Scandinavians are credited with placing a Christmas tree on the top-most part of their structures though Native Americans hold similar traditions said to appease the tree spirits for using trees for lumber. The flag tradition dated back to the early 1900s when the last cable strands of the Brooklyn Bridge were decorated with the American flag by iron workers.

Planning began in 1994 for the Jennings Building expansion. Bonds financing construction and renovation projects were part of the Public Safety Bond Referendums in 1998 and 2002. The total project is estimated at \$115 million.

"The courthouse expansion is greatly needed to match the growth of the



county," said Ellen vanHully Bronson, DPWES project coordinator, who noted that the county's population has increased to more than 1.2 million people, directly affecting the number of cases, judges, and support staff required.

The project includes 316,000 square feet of new space which will be used for courtrooms, judicial chambers, office space and support space as well as allowing for after-hours access to a newly expanded public law library. Construction started in July 2004 with a celebrated groundbreaking event featuring county leaders. "The project is 40 percent complete and on schedule," said vanHully-Bronson. The Dick Corporation, the general contractor, will turn over the expansion on a floor-by-floor basis beginning in late 2006 with the lower level and ending with the fifth floor in April 2007. The total expansion and renovation project is scheduled for completion in March 2008.

When the project is completed, most of the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court staff will move to the new facility, freeing parts of the

Courthouse Expansion Update

Topping Off With a Tradition

old courthouse for historic records and associated use.

In addition to vanHully-Bronson, other DPWES members of the county Courthouse Expansion and Renovation Team are Magdi Imbabi, senior project engineer; Vish Kowdley, engineer; Frank Lentini, engineer; Nikolai Dubynin, project engineer; James Andrews, engineer technician; Ron Waldrop, senior inspector. Other team members include Cathy Spaine, space planner from Facilities Management Division and the firm of HDR Architecture, Inc.

Construction Progress as of January 2006

- Overall project is 40 percent complete;
- The last major structural concrete placement was January 27;
- Perimeter wall backfill is 95 percent complete;
- Reshores have been removed on the lower level, first floor, second floor and approximately 60 percent on the third floor;
- Mechanical ductwork, electrical cabinets, conduit installation are in progress on the lower level;
- Masonry block work is 90 percent complete on the lower level;
- Masonry block work has begun on the first floor;
- The expansion portion of the project is on schedule and on budget. ■

*Reprinted with permission of
Fairfax County*

Strategic Planning Retreat

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As you might expect, the development of the vision statement generated much lively, but thoughtful discussion. The Board had several years ago developed and agreed on a Mission Statement, however, what was missing was a clear vision that would guide us in fulfilling our mission¹—the core of which is to serve our members. The debate among the board members centered on how we are best able to serve our members, to also include judges and paralegals rather than just attorneys. Some board members felt that our focus should be limited to serving FBA members only with respect to the practice of law in Fairfax County. The majority, however, noted that many members live and/or practice law in surrounding jurisdictions and that the trend for our membership would continue to expand beyond the borders of Fairfax County and, therefore, being a resource for all legal professionals in Northern Virginia was more appropriate. Nevertheless, our core focus will continue to remain on Fairfax County and our exceptional relationship with the judges of the Fairfax courts.

Evaluation of Current Events and Programs

The next area we examined was the events and programs that we currently offer. We relied upon and received much valuable feedback from the survey responses. As the survey reflected, the FBA currently provides its members with almost 60 different events, programs, and awards throughout the year, which included community service, social events

among members and the bench, and professional opportunities. Unfortunately, due to limits on the size of the FBA budget (at least without a dues increase), and the number of FBA staff, the ability to operate these programs at a level of quality that our members deserve, has become challenging, and in many cases, unrealistic.

As part of the evaluation, the Board conducted a SWOT analysis (**S**trengths, **W**eaknesses, **O**pportunities, and **T**hreats). The Board noted many strengths of the FBA, which include: our relations with the bench; opportunities for networking; exceptional staff; the FBA website; our CLE programs; the judicial screening and evaluation program; the Circuit Court Manual; existing infrastructure; high-caliber of our membership; the relationship between the Fairfax Law Foundation and the FBA; the presence of the FBA in the courthouse; the LRIS program; the *pro bono* program; the law library; and the demographics of Northern Virginia.

The Board also identified several weaknesses that currently exist in the FBA, such as: limits on staff resources; lack of effective communications to members; lack of diversity within our membership that is reflective of the demographics of Northern Virginia; recent negative perception of the judicial screening process; outside competition of CLE programs; the impact of congestion in Northern Virginia; and the decline in overall member participation in FBA events.

Despite these weaknesses, many of them also present the following opportunities for the FBA: increase in

potential new members; the new courthouse and expansion of the courthouse facilities; enhancements in technology that can improve our ability to communicate with members; partnerships with other local bar associations; our relationship with the Northern Virginia legislative delegation; and our affinity partners programs.

Lastly, the biggest threats the Board foresees in the next three-five years are: increased competition for our members from other professional associations and CLE providers; increased congestion; and the ability to offer in person events; maintaining the financial viability of the FBA; and limitations on the FBA's office space in the new courthouse.

From the above SWOT analysis, the Board developed criteria for how we will evaluate our current and future events and programs. Based on our discussion, the Board agreed that the following criteria will be used going forward to evaluate all existing and any new events, programs, awards, etc.:

- How does the event/program benefit members?
- What is the cost of the event/program, including staff time and opportunity costs?
- How does the event/program fit with the FBA mission and vision statements?
- What is the impact of the event/program on the legal and local community?
- What is the expected level of participation by the members?

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¹The mission of the Fairfax Bar Association is, without limitation, to serve its members by: (1) cultivating professional competence, professional development, professional education, cooperation, collegiality, and diversity among its members; (2) facilitating interactions between its members and members of the Bench; (3) enhancing and fostering the public's understanding of the practice of law and the judicial system by providing public outreach and educational programs; (4) operating a public law library; and (5) serving as a leading voice of the profession in the Commonwealth of Virginia, all in accordance with the Association's creed.

FBA MEMBER BENEFITS: AFFINITY PARTNERS

Not the Same Old Credit Card Program!

Today's attorneys are faced with many challenges in order to allow them to focus on their case load. Whether you are practicing family law or general practice, accepting credit and check card payments are now tailored to the needs of your practice. Traditionally accepting credit cards has been a program available to larger firms for their high end clients. The credit card industry has dramatically changed over the last few years and programs are becoming more accessible to smaller firms.

One of the largest changes is the rise of debit/check cards. The number of check card transactions that are going through the network has risen over the years to account for 40-60% depending on the type of business.

FBA has authorized us to offer you a plan behalf of all members that truly answer the issues that attorneys face when accepting credit cards.

"Best Practices" Include:

- Funds generated from trust fund retainer can be deposited directly into the trust account without any fee deductions. Then, an operating account can be debited for the credit card fees in order to eliminate any commingling of funds.

- Manage collections by including the credit card logos on billing notices/invoices in order to let your clients know that they may use their credit or check card to handle out-

standing payments. You have the flexibility of accepting credit cards over the telephone to help settle an outstanding bill and the funds are transferred into the local checking account in 48 hours.

- Accept retainers on credit/check cards to help gain new business for the firm.

- Your participating supports the initiatives of the Fairfax Bar Association!

FBA has taken into consideration the unique challenges that you face and have put together a program that will help you gain new business and manage billing from existing clients.

For more information contact Janelle at 800.644.9060, x6971.

FBA Launches New Professional Liability Program

Several months ago the FBA entered into discussions with several administrators to offer our members a Professional Liability program as well as a qualified benefits consultant. Our purpose was to ensure: (1) that our program provided a quality, cost-competitive accessible product; (2) that our members were being well-served (even those with high risk areas of practice who have had difficulty getting coverage); (3) our members had access to a qualified agency for their employee and business needs; and (4) that our Bar Association itself was well-served as an institutional "client" and affinity sponsor.

In November, after much due diligence and discussion, the FBA decided to create an agreement with USI Affinity, the USI DC metro office in Falls Church, VA, and Zurich/America. USI is the nation's largest bar administrator of bar association lawyers' professional liability (LPL) programs and so brings both superior expertise and market-strength to the table. Its long-time association clients include the New York State Bar, the Pennsylvania Bar, the Federal Bar, and the Maryland Bar Associations, to name just a few. USI's DC Metro office has served customers in Northern Virginia, Maryland, and DC for nearly 50 years. They have a dedicated, experienced team and are pleased to expand their relationships with our members and your firms. Zurich/America is an "A" rated carrier by (A.M. Best) and the seventh largest US commercial lines insurer. It has been in the insurance business for over 100 years, in the LPL market for over 40 years, and serves 125,000 lawyer insureds.

*You will hear more from USI Affinity as we launch this new program, In the meantime, if you need any assistance or have any questions, please call **Todd Routzahn at 703.205.8763**; TRoutzhan@brcorp.com.*

Strategic Planning Retreat

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- Does the event/program positively promote the image of the FBA?

Using these criteria, the Board next evaluated all of our current offerings. The Board agreed that our core programs include the following:

- Judicial screening and evaluation
- Member directory
- Circuit Court and J&DR Court Manuals
- CLE programs
- Committees and sections
- Law library
- FBA Journal
- Lawyer Referral program
- Law Related Education programs and events
- Young Lawyers section
- Social/networking opportunities for members and the bench

The Board agreed that many other programs either needed to be retooled or eliminated. With regard to those to be eliminated, the Board decided that those programs that are not legally related should be discontinued. Of course, the FBA will still partner and support such programs so long as they do not utilize FBA staff or financial resources. Another long-standing event that the Board decided to suspend at this point is the out-of-town convention. The convention has been unable to attract the level of attendance that merits the time and resources required to put it on. Examples of programs that require some retooling include the live and on-line CLEs, the annual bench-bar dinner dance, luncheons and the in-town convention.

The Board has committed itself to utilize the vision statement and tools discussed above to work to improve the FBA and the services it provides to its members and the community. Of course, the Board cannot do this

alone and relies on the continued support and participation of all our members. The Board is grateful to all of those who volunteer their time to chair committees, plan and run programs and events, and participate in our activities. We hope that you will share with us your thoughts on the foregoing and any suggestions you have for improving the FBA. ■

Office Space Rent/Lease

FAIRFAX—2,000 SF ground level office space for rent (either furnished or unfurnished). Visible office, adequate parking, great for small law firm. Within walking distance to the Courthouse. Four-year lease available starting July 1, 2006. Please call 703.385.1141 with any questions.

FAIR OAKS—1,200 to 1,500 SF newly designed office suite on eighth (8th) floor. Share reception area, kitchen, conference rooms, with small law firm in Fair Oaks area specializing in Estate Planning. Strong referral potential. Please call Mary H. Lawrence at 703.818.2958.

Position Available

ATTORNEY—Growing firm seeks attorney with experience in one or more of the following: real estate/transaction/title law, business/corporate law, and/or general litigation. Portable client base a plus. Admission to Virginia and Maryland Bar is required.

Qualified applicants should submit a resumé and cover letter via facsimile 301.519.2738 or email Legal_careers@comcast.net.

Announcements

The Law Office of Jessica E. Adler, focusing on family law in the District of Columbia and Virginia, is pleased to announce the opening of its practice located at 1090 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 500, Washington, D.C. 20005. 202.898.0055; 202.898.0115 Fax; jadler@jessicaadlerlaw.com.

Colten Cummins Watson & Vincent P.C. is pleased to announce that we have relocated our offices to 3959 Pender Drive, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. Our telephone number (703.277.9700) and facsimile number (703.591.1579) will remain the same. **Colten Cummins Watson & Vincent P.C.** is also pleased to announce that **Sarah Louppe Petcher** and **Mollie C. Barton** have been Associates with the firm since March 2004.

Greenspun & Mann, P.C., congratulates **Thomas Peter Mann** on his appointment as a Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court Judge and is further pleased to announce the continuing practice of criminal and civil litigation as **Greenspun, Davis & Leary, P.C.** 10605 Judicial Drive, Building A-5, Fairfax, VA 22030; 703.352.0100; 703.591.7268 Fax; g&a@greenspunlaw.com.

The law firm of **McCandlish and Lillard, P.C.**, is pleased to announce that **Randolph A. Sutliff, Esquire**, has been elected to serve as President of the Dulles Area Transportation Association (DATA) for 2006. 11350 Random Hills Road, Fair Oaks Plaza, Suite 500, Fairfax, VA 22030; 703.273.2288; 703.352.4300 Fax.

Odin, Feldman & Pittleman, is pleased to announce that **Donald N. Goldrosen** and **Ellen Farrell Sharpe** have joined the firm's Real Estate and Land Use Group.; 9302 Lee Highway, Suite 1100, Fairfax, VA 22031; 703.218.2100; 703.218.2160 Fax; www.ofplaw.com.

Change of Address:
Law Offices of Robert Shearer
Robert Shearer, Esq.
10509 Judicial Drive, Suite 301
Fairfax, VA 22030
703.766.5200
703.766.5202 Fax
risjr@ffaxlaw.net Email

Shoun, Bach, Walinsky & Curran, P.C., is pleased to announce that the name of the firm has changed. 12700 Fair Lakes Circle, Suite 300, Fairfax, VA 22033; 703.222.3333; 703.222.3340 Fax; www.shoun.com.

Bench Bar Dinner Dance/Silent Auction Recap

The weather outside wasn't frightful; for early March, it was merely nippy. Inside the McLean Hilton, the camaraderie was indeed delightful for the annual Bench Bar Dinner Dance and Silent Auction, aka the "Snow Ball". As in past years, the event was well attended, with over 400 guests. The band, Spectrum (new this year), was electrifying—a good combination of vocals and instrumentals, with an eclectic mix of catchy dance tunes. The Silent Auction had its usual mix of sports memorabilia, fine jewelry, and miscellaneous temptations. An eagerly anticipated component was the drawing for the raffle, which featured an opportunity to win dinner and a night's lodging at the renowned Inn at Little Washington, as well as two nights at the Tides Inn. The lucky winners, **Sharon Nelson** and **Ed Weiner**, were particularly appropriate beneficiaries after all they have done for the bar. As all the attendees saw, the fix was not in!

All who attended agreed that the food was exemplary, the setting comfortable and the company convivial. There was a good turn out by both senior and young lawyers alike, as this event was enjoyed by all. Mark

your calendars for next year's event to be held **Saturday, March 10, 2007**, no matter what the weather.



L-R: Chief Judge Gayl B. Carr, Al Lomax Carr, Judge Lorraine Nordlund, Michael H. Cantrell

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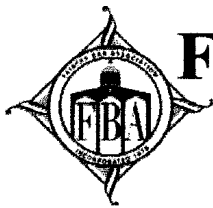
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and Judge Richard T. Horan, Ret.

The Fairfax Law Foundation Sincerely Thanks the Following for their Donations to our Silent Auction

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Uncle Julio's Corporation
Honorable Michael J. Valentine
The Warner Theatre
Washington Capitals Charities
Watermark Cruises
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FAIRFAX BAR ASSOCIATION

Bar Leadership Application

The Nominating Committee of the Fairfax Bar Association, chaired by Immediate Past-President Sharon D. Nelson, is currently considering candidates for the positions of Vice-President and Board of Directors of the Fairfax Bar Association. The deadline for submitting applications is **Friday, April 7, 2006**. The online election for Vice-President and Board of Directors will begin on Tuesday, June 6, 2006 and close on Friday, June 9, 2006.

Anyone who would like to be considered for Vice-President or for a seat on the Board of Directors is requested to fill out the application below and return it to the Bar office by **April 7, 2006**. Candidates should have a minimum of two (2) years active participation in a Bar activity, section, or other project.

☐ I would like to be considered for the office of Vice-President.

☐ I would like to be considered for the Board of Directors.

Name: _____

Firm: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

Years in Practice: _____ Years in Fairfax County: _____

Committee memberships and/or offices held in the Fairfax Bar Association:

_____	Year[s] _____
_____	Year[s] _____
_____	Year[s] _____

Please include a brief paragraph [150 words maximum] describing your reasons for wanting to be considered for an office in the Fairfax Bar Association. If you do not have a current photo on file, please submit your photo with your application.

Signature _____

Please return to:

Fairfax Bar Association
Nominating Committee
4110 Chain Bridge Road, Room 303
Fairfax, VA 22030
Fax: (703) 273-1274
E-mail: cnorris@fairfaxbar.org

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Scenes from the FBA Bench & Bar Gala

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DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS & SPONSORSHIP: MARCH 31, 2006

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Sponsorship opportunities are available for this event. Please indicate your level of sponsorship as listed below.

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