

JOURNAL

Newsletter of the Fairfax Bar Association www.fairfaxbar.org Fall 2025

FBA PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Embracing Change in the Practice of Law

By Steven D. Briglia, Esq., President



I passed the Virginia State Bar in 1988, and during my legal practice “lifetime” I have seen remarkable changes affecting the practice of law. The rise of searchable legal databases is one of the biggest advances in the practice of law. The ability to quickly, efficiently, and more accurately search for relevant statutes, case law, regulations, and treatises has revolutionized the provision of legal services. With the further advent of remote access and artificial intelligence, attorneys can literally practice from anywhere in the world, produce more comprehensive legal documents, and do so more efficiently. The corresponding increase in productivity and attorneys’ ability to generate better quality legal documents has increased exponentially in the last 40 years. Gone are the days using digests, coping cases and statutes on a copier, handwriting or dictating documents, then giving papers to a typist, editing first versions, and then having them retyped. Today, pretty much all attorneys type and edit their own pleadings. If you haven’t ever used or heard of a “dictaphone,” you are fortunate.

Technology has significantly transformed the practice of law affecting how legal professionals operate, how clients access legal services, and how lower courts function. Here is a breakdown of the major ways technology has impacted the legal field and the practice of law.

1. Automation and Efficiency

- **Document Automation:** Contracts, wills, and legal forms can now be generated quickly using templates and AI-powered tools, reducing time and cost.
- **Legal Research:** AI and advanced search tool (e.g., Westlaw, LexisNexis, Casetext) allow for faster, more accurate research, eliminating hours of manual case law review.
- **E-Filing and Case Management:** Courts and firms use digital case management systems, allowing for more efficient document filing and tracking.

2. Access to Legal Services

- **Online Legal Platforms:** Services like LegalZoom and Rocket Lawyer have made basic legal help accessible to the public without needing to hire a lawyer.
- **Virtual Law Firms:** Lawyers can now serve clients remotely via secure video call and cloud-based services, which is especially valuable in rural or underserved areas.

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3. Remote Work and Virtual Courtrooms

- **Remote Depositions & Hearings:** Especially accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual court proceedings via Zoom or similar platforms are now common.
- **Digital Evidence Presentation:** Lawyers can present evidence electronically in courtrooms, using digital exhibits, animations, and real-time document and notation.

4. Cybersecurity and Data Privacy

- **Sensitive Data Management:** Law firms must now invest heavily in cybersecurity to protect client confidentiality due to increased data digitization.
- **Compliance Obligation:** Lawyers must stay updated with evolving data protection laws like CDPR, HIPAA, and other regulatory frameworks.

5. AI and Predictive Analysis

- **Predictive Tools:** AI can help forecast litigation outcomes, judicial behaviors, and jury decisions based on historical data.
- **Due Diligence:** AI tools can quickly analyze massive volumes of documents and mergers, acquisitions, or litigation discovery.

6. Client Expectations and Communication

- **24/7 Access:** Clients expect quicker responses via email, secure portals, or chatbots.
- **Transparency:** Clients can now track the progress of their cases through online dashboards, improving trust and communication.

7. Legal Education and Training

- **Online Learning:** Legal training is increasingly supplemental with virtual courses, webinars, and simulations.
- **Tech Competency Requirements:** Many jurisdictions now require lawyers to demonstrate basic technological competence as part of their ethical obligations.

In summary, the practice of law has been transformed by technology since I passed the Bar in 1988. It has made the legal profession more efficient, accessible, and data-driven, but it also introduces new challenges in areas like cybersecurity, ethics, and workforce adaptation. Lawyers who embrace technology can better serve clients, while those who resist risk becoming obsolete. ■

FAIRFAX BAR JOURNAL

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4110 Chain Bridge Rd., Suite 216

Fairfax, VA 22030-4009

Telephone: 703-246-2740

Fax: 703-273-1274

fba@fairfaxbar.org • www.fairfaxbar.org

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Courtne L. Norris, Executive Director 703-246-2740

Executive Director/Editor

Courtne L. Norris • 703-246-2740

cnorris@fairfaxbar.org

Communications & Marketing

Genna R. Walnut • 703-246-3721

gwalnut@fairfaxbar.org

Design & Production/Space Advertising

Ann Hill Thornton • 240-252-9120

rodangraf@aol.com

Classified Advertising

Larissa Mendes • 703-246-2734

lmendes@fairfaxbar.org

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The McCammon Group

is pleased to announce our newest Neutral



Hon. Anita Josey-Herring (Ret.)

Retired Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia

The Honorable Anita Josey-Herring, the first woman to serve as Chief Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, recently retired after twenty-seven years of distinguished judicial service. As the Deputy Presiding Judge and later the Presiding Judge of the Family Division, she played a key role in reorganizing what is now known as the Family Court. Prior to her appointment to the bench, she served as the Deputy Director of the District of Columbia Public Defender Service. A respected legal, governmental, and community leader, Judge Josey-Herring has served as the 4th District Chair of the National Association of Women Judges, a Member of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges Board of Trustees, and Chair of the Judicial Council of the Washington Bar Association. She is a past recipient of Washingtonian's Most Powerful Women Award and the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia's Woman Lawyer of the Year Award. Judge Josey-Herring now brings this exemplary record of dedication and leadership to The McCammon Group to serve the mediation and arbitration needs of lawyers and litigants in D.C. and beyond.

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By Amy S. Griggs, Esq., Fairfax Law Foundation President



RENEWING THE FOUNDATION: BUILDING MOMENTUM FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

Fall is a season of renewal and our goal is clear: Renew the Foundation.

The Fairfax Law Foundation has always stood on strong pillars: equal access to justice, law-related education, and service through *pro bono* work. But just as the law evolves, so must our Foundation. Renewal means honoring our traditions while breathing fresh energy into our programs, our fund-raising, and our outreach. It means ensuring the Foundation continues to thrive for the next generation of lawyers and community members who rely on our work.

1. Refreshing the Fellows Program

The Fellows Program has long been a cornerstone of support for the Foundation. This year, we are redesigning it to be more engaging and impactful for those who commit to being Fellows. We are doubling down on recognition and appreciation for our generous donors. If you've ever thought about joining us as a contributor, this is the year to do it.

2. Heroes v. Villains 5K

Our Heroes v. Villains 5K isn't just a race; it's a celebration of our legal community and a major driver of our fund-raising efforts. We want to see more runners, walkers, families, and volunteers than ever before. Whether you lace up or show up to cheer, your presence matters. Save the date: **APRIL 15, 2026**.

3. The First Hour Campaign

One of the simplest ways to support the Foundation is through the First Hour Campaign. The concept is simple. We ask contributors to donate the equivalent of just one billable hour. If every attorney in the Fairfax Bar Association participated, the collective impact would be extraordinary. Your one hour can help ensure access to justice for someone who otherwise might get lost in the legal system.

4. Giving Tuesday

Every Thanksgiving season, Giving Tuesday gives us the chance to come together as a community in support of our mission. This year, we aim to grow donations and expand awareness of how those dollars fuel our programs. Your gifts keep our services strong and accessible.

5. Increasing Awareness and Engagement

Renewal also means expanding awareness. If you haven't yet, please follow us on social media:

[@Fairfax Law Foundation on Facebook](#); [@fairfax-law_foundation on Instagram](#); [@FairfaxLawFndn on Twitter](#)

Sharing our posts, liking updates, and spreading the word helps us reach new volunteers, donors, and friends of the Foundation. It helps us publicly thank our generous donors, lawyer volunteers, and contributing law firms. It also helps us spread awareness of the Foundation programs and the work of the Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center. Every little action builds momentum.

The Fairfax Law Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and the charitable arm of the Fairfax Bar Association. Through programs like the Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center, the conciliation program, law school scholarship programs, and court tours, we change lives in Fairfax County. None of this is possible without your involvement.

This is the year to renew our commitment, refresh our programs, and reaffirm our impact. Please join us by donating, volunteering, participating in the 5K, or becoming a Fellow. Together, we can make the next year one of lasting renewal for the Fairfax Law Foundation. ■

FAIRFAX LAW FOUNDATION FELLOWS

Fellows are those who believe in the value of justice and the importance of the Fairfax Law Foundation's Leadership and Charitable Programs. Their support and generous donations provide a structure for ongoing philanthropy and secure the future for our law-related education and Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center programs. Interested in becoming a Fellow? Contact Courtne Norris at cnorris@fairfaxbar.org.

BUSINESS FELLOWS

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NEW FAIRFAX LAW FOUNDATION OFFICERS 2025-2026



Amy Griggs, President

Amy Griggs is the founder of Tysons Trial Law, specializing in plaintiff's personal injury and medical malpractice litigation. She's been representing plaintiffs and families in personal injury litigation for over 18 years. Amy is a graduate of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law and the University of Colorado. Amy lives in McLean, VA with her husband, fifth-grade son, and two fluffy Labradoodles.

If you could highlight one program of the FLF, what would it be?

I love being a middle school court tour guide through our program. The students are inquisitive and bright and it's important to teach the power and importance of the legal system.



Joanna L. Faust, President-Elect

Joanna Faust is an Assistant County Attorney for Fairfax County. Born and raised in Fairfax, she attended the College of William and Mary and then graduated from George Mason University Law School in 2006. Following a one-year clerkship with the Fairfax County Circuit Court, she spent ten years in private practice, specializing in commercial litigation. Joanna joined the Fairfax County Attorney's Office in 2016. Her practice is now local government law, representing Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors and advising on issues related to transportation, public works, and the environment.

What inspires you to give your time and expertise in the Fairfax Law Foundation?

As the charitable arm of the FBA, the FLF is in the unique position to help our community through Court Tours for Fairfax's children, scholarships for aspiring lawyers, and providing direct legal assistance to the indigent and those with special needs—the FLF helps people and I wanted to be a part of that.



Melissa H. Katz, Treasurer

Melissa Katz is a principal of McGavin, Boyce, Bardot, Thorsen & Katz, P.C. She primarily defends individuals, companies, and self-insureds that are sued for tort claims, often with complex injuries. In addition to her legal practice, she enjoys participating in professional organizations, serving either as a member or in a leadership role. She is a Past President of the Virginia Association of Defense Attorneys. Ms. Katz was appointed by the Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court and presently serves on the Virginia Model Jury Instructions Committee. She is a Fellow of the Virginia Law Foundation and serves on the Executive Board of Directors for the Fairfax Law Foundation. She is also a regular contributor to VADA's monthly.

What made you want to practice law?

I became a lawyer because I have always felt a strong sense of fairness and I wanted a career where I could advocate for people.



Amy L. Bradley, Secretary

Amy Bradley is passionate about seeking justice for her clients. She works closely with her clients to strategize and achieve the best possible outcomes. Her experience includes more than 100 bench and jury trials in civil and criminal cases. In personal injury matters, she represents clients who have sustained life-altering injuries from the negligence or unlawful behavior of others.

If you could highlight one program of the FLF, what would it be?

The Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center is an incredible resource which helps impoverished and low-income residents receive legal help through dedicated attorney volunteers.



Rebecca B. Kinsel, Immediate Past President

Rebecca Bricken Kinsel chairs the firm's Domestic Relations practice team and serves as co-chair of the firm's Litigation practice team. She is a trial and domestic relations attorney who leads trial teams through all stages of litigation while facilitating problem-solving and dispute resolution. She is certified by Mosten Guthrie as a collaborative attorney. A native of Fredericksburg, VA and a fifth-generation attorney, Becky is rooted in the greater Northern Virginia community. Becky led the firm's trial team to achieve the second-largest jury verdict in the Commonwealth of Virginia in 2015.

In your opinion, why is the FLF important to the legal profession in Fairfax County?

The FLF is the charitable arm of the FBA. We are all members of the legal community who want to give back and serve the entire community. ■

REPORT OF THE FBA'S DELEGATE TO THE ABA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Annual Meeting 2025—Toronto

By Robert M. Worster, III, Esq., FBA Delegate to the ABA

Your Delegate of the FBA to the ABA appeared in person at the 2025 Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada and reports:

The American Bar Association House of Delegates adopted more than 50 policy matters at its Annual Meeting. Policy is set by the House of Delegates¹ via resolutions that direct the President and Board of Governors' public statements, lawsuits, and other activities.

Perhaps most notably, a late motion to open the debate calendar to permit a resolution urging the Executive Branch to rescind its executive order and memorandum to allow the Attorney General to take control of the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C. and deploy the National Guard to police Washington, D.C., was defeated. In my view the general sentiment of the House of Delegates was that this issue was deserving of debate but that the constraints of time at this particular convention did not allow proper research and reflection.

While most policies were political in nature and clearly reactive to the Executive Branch, they were framed as resolutions (policy) protective of the rule of law. Topics, as detailed below, included law firm intimidation, immigration enforcement and detention, academic freedom, and freedom of debate at universities.

The ABA's financial status is solvent, however, membership continues to decline with less than 50% of attorneys maintaining membership in the ABA. Expenses exceeded income as a result of several grants being revoked.

The outgoing president of the ABA, William R. Bay, emphasized the importance of renewing a shared commitment to the rule of law between the United States and Canada. He also highlighted the role lawyers and bar associations play in defending liberty and delivering justice.

Incoming president of the ABA, Michelle Behnke, pledged to continue advancing judicial independence, inclusivity, and the safety of legal professionals (particularly judges). Her stated priorities include:

- Advocating for judicial independence and recognizing the judiciary as a co-equal branch of government.
- Protecting the physical safety of judges and defending the legal profession from intimidation.
- Promoting a fair and inclusive justice system, with a strong focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Responding proactively to threats against the rule of law and strengthening the ABA's institutional resilience.

Summary of Passed Resolutions

The House of Delegates approved the following of note:

509. Opposed government action punishing or threatening lawyers, law firms, or other organizations for representation of clients or causes disfavored by the government.

511. Opposed the dismantling or defunding of any federal agency or independent agency created by legislation.

512. Reaffirmed the ABA's commitment to upholding the rule of law and protecting civil rights, and urged all levels of government to ensure that laws are enacted and enforced consistently with constitutional principles; preserve judicial independence; safeguard the rights of vulnerable communities; and promote civic education.

504 and 513. Urged law schools to actively promote civil debate and opposed governmental efforts to impose the government's viewpoint.

505. Urged law schools to adopt clear, specific and transparent policies governing the use of generative artificial intelligence.

¹The House is made up of 550 delegates from ABA entities and state, local, and specialty bar associations such as the Fairfax Bar Association.

THE BACKBONE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION:

Why Your Paralegals and Legal Support Staff Should Join the FBA Paralegal Section

By Jamie Montoney and Jennifer Horn, Co-Chairs

Behind every successful attorney stands a team of skilled support professionals who help to keep cases moving forward and clients supported. The dedicated work of paralegals and other legal support staff like legal assistants and firm administrators help attorneys ensure every detail of a case is covered and every deadline met. From managing schedules and preparing documents to serving as the first point of contact for clients, these professionals are the backbone of the legal profession.

Working side by side with attorneys, paralegals contribute to nearly every stage of a case. Supporting them with professional resources is not only good for their growth, but also good for your firm. When staff are connected and educated, attorneys can serve their clients more effectively and confidently.

That is where the Fairfax Bar Association Paralegal Section comes in. For nearly 25 years, the Section has empowered paralegals and legal support professionals through networking, continuing education, and philanthropic initiatives. Our programs will help your legal staff sharpen their skills, expand their professional networks, and give back to the local Fairfax County community. For attorneys, encouraging your staff to join means investing in a stronger, more capable team.

Why Memberships Matters for Your Staff and Your Firm

When your paralegals and legal support staff join the Fairfax Bar Association Paralegal Section, they gain:

- **Professional Development** through Continuing Legal/Paralegal Education sessions designed specifically for legal support staff.
- **Networking** with peers, attorneys, and leaders across Fairfax County, broadening your firm's visibility.
- **Community Service** opportunities that reflect positively on your firm's reputation.
- **Mentorship & Collaboration** with colleagues who can share knowledge and best practices.
- **Recognition** as valued members of the legal community.

This past August, in partnership with the Fairfax Law Foundation, the Section held its annual Back-to-School Supply Drive. Thanks to the generosity of donors and volunteers, \$1,575 was raised and 67 backpacks filled with essential supplies for K-6 students served by FACETS, a nonprofit helping homeless individuals and families in Fairfax County. For these students, this meant starting the year with confidence and the tools needed to succeed.

On September 16, Section members gathered at Craffthouse in Fairfax Corner for the annual Kick-Off Happy Hour, an event generously supported by Steno Court Reporting. Despite the rain, both new and seasoned members came together to unwind, play networking games, and enjoy raffle prizes ranging from Starbucks and Orner Beer Company gift cards to wine, chocolate and more. These events do more than provide an evening of fun, they help new members ease into the community, strengthen professional ties, and foster a sense of belonging.

Looking ahead, the remainder of the year promises even more opportunities to get involved. Upcoming events include Continuing Legal/Paralegal Education programs, an annual Food Drive in November, our Holiday Social, and additional activities designed to help paralegals and support staff grow professionally while giving back locally.

We strongly encourage attorneys to invite their paralegals, legal assistants, and firm administrators to join. The legal field is evolving, and so is the role of support staff. By joining the Fairfax Bar Association Paralegal Section, your paralegals and legal support staff will gain the tools, community, and recognition they deserve, while your firm reaps the benefits of a stronger, more connected team. Visit the Fairfax Bar Association website or contact any of our Executive Committee members below—we'd love to welcome your staff into our community.

Jamie Montoney
Cooper Ginsberg Gray
Chair & Co-Philanthropy Coordinator
montoney@cgglawyers.com

Jennifer Horn
Cooper Ginsberg Gray
Vice Chair & Co-Philanthropy Coordinator
jhorn@cgglawyers.com

Tammy Beardsley
McCandlish Lillard
Secretary & Membership
tbeardsley@mccandlaw.com

continued on next page

Brenda Ramirez
Blankingship & Keith
Activities Coordinator &
Co-Sponsorship Coordinator
bramire2@bklawva.com

Ashley Warren
Select Law Partners
Marketing Coordinator &
Co-CPE Coordinator
aw@select.law

Viola Leslie-Foley
Greenspun Shapiro
Co-CPE Coordinator &
Sponsorship Coordinator
vlf@greenwpunlaw.com



FBA Paralegal Section at the 2025 Fall Kick-off Happy Hour at Crafthouse Fairfax



FBA Paralegal Section Lunch with Clerk of the Fairfax Circuit Court, The Hon. Chris Falcon

please see an additional Paralegal photo on page 17

FAIRFAX BAR ASSOCIATION

Circuit Court Committee

By Laura O'Brien, Esq. and Sean Roche, Esq., Co-Chairs

The FBA's Circuit Court Committee is a forum for the Circuit Court, to include the Bench and the Bar, to exchange ideas and practice tips, ask questions, make recommendations, and find ways to improve the practice of law in Fairfax. The Committee is open to Judges, Clerks of Court, County Attorneys to Commonwealth Attorneys, Public Defenders, Legal Services practitioners, members of the FBA Board of Directors, and attorneys who practice various areas of law. The Committee also consists of Subcommittees, including Domestic Relations, General Civil Litigation, Criminal Law, and the Circuit Court Manual. Anyone who wishes to join the Committee can contact the Bar office at fba@fairfaxbar.org and be added to the Committee membership.

The Committee and its Subcommittees generally meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM through Zoom. The Subcommittees routinely plan and hold CLEs on various topics relating to each Subcommittee's respective practice area. Under the leadership of Clyde Christofferson and his Subcommittee, the 2025 10th Edition *Fairfax County Circuit Court Practice Manual* was unveiled at a CLE in March 2025.

Most importantly, the Committee provides an informal setting for practitioners to share ideas, pose practice questions, and learn from one another. From questions relating to e-filing, calendar control, or the interpretation of particular *Virginia Code* sections, the Committee provides a forum for these questions to be posed and answered by the Clerk's office, judges, or other practitioners. The Committee also shares information about upcoming *pro bono* and volunteer opportunities and FBA events. The Committee exemplifies our Bar, which is one that enjoys a strong sense of community and thrives from opportunities to learn from one another. We hope that you will join us. ■



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2025 FAIRFAX BAR ASSOCIATION

25th Annual Spring Golf Tournament

By Robert S. Letnick, Esq.

On Friday, July 11, 2025, the Fairfax Bar Association held its 25th Annual Spring Golf Tournament at the Westfields Golf Club. The original date for this event of May 9, 2025 was postponed based on the forecasted adverse weather conditions. The staff at the Westfields Golf Club was most accommodating to our request. Fortunately, those who participated in this golf tournament had the benefit of comfortable temperatures and relatively low humidity. The spring golf tournament once again had a significant turnout and the staff at the Westfields Golf Club did another outstanding job in assisting us by providing all of the participants with a quality golf tournament.

The format for this tournament was a scramble (Captain's Choice). Each of the participants in their foursome would hit a tee shot and then the team would select the best tee shot from which to play their next shot. This process would continue by selecting the best shot of the group until the hole is completed. This format provides all players with the opportunity to be rewarded for the best shots in their group, while the foursome would not be negatively impacted for less than desirable golf shots.

This golf tournament was highly competitive with multiple groups shooting in the 50s. The first place team consisting of Tommy Knight, John O'Neil, Joe Gillette, and Brian Roman recorded a score of 53. The team of Ryan Tracy, Joe Bleich, Colin Moran, and Danny Penaranda shot a 16 under par 55. The team of Raj Dua, Mike Yang, Tom Carter, and Mike Cuff also shot a 16 under par 55 and based on a match of score carts, they came in third place. Several teams were in a fierce competition for the award for last place. The team that ultimately was successful clinched the spot by 3 strokes while shooting a 2 over par 73. As in all prior years, the identity of those who comprised the last place team shall remain unreported. Prior to the commencement of the tournament, the golfers were provided with a buffet lunch at the grill at Westfields, and subsequent to the round of golf, the participants were treated to a fabulous Italian buffet dinner.

The annual putting contest was held prior to the start of the event. To reach the finals of the putting competition, each of the participants had to sink a very tricky breaking 20' putt, with a limited number of players qualifying to reach the finals in this event. The annual putting contest in the Spring Golf Tournament was once again won by Chris Williams. Chris has the distinction of having won this putting competition the greatest number of times. Those who qualified for the finals of the putting competition but failed in winning the putting contest, were provided the opportunity to engage in a chipping contest. The overall winner of the chipping contest was Mike Battista.

There were many special events during this tournament which included a closest to the pin competition on all par three holes as well as on the short par 4 14th hole. As in many prior years, the Ted Britt Automotive Group sponsored a hole in one contest on the 3rd hole which is a beautiful par 3 and is considered to be the signature hole on the golf course. All participants were provided an opportunity to win a 2025 Lincoln Navigator with a hole in one. This year the closest to the pin competition was won by Mike Cuff at 15'8". The closest to the pin competition on the 12th hole was won by Joe Bleich at 7'10", and the closest to the pin competition on the par 4 14th hole was won by Stephen Marino at 7'7". The men's closest to the pin competition on the 17th hole was won by Mike Battista at 2'1" and the men's longest drive competition on hole #6 was won by Will Miller. The women's closest to the pin competition on hole 7 and the women's longest drive competition were both won by the Hon. Grace Burke Carroll. The yearly closest to the keg competition on the 1st hole was won by Sean Boyle.

This year we had a long list of sponsors and donors who helped to make this golf tournament a great success. Special recognition again goes out to **Michael H. Doherty, PLLC**, who was the exclusive premiere sponsor and sponsored the dinner for this event. The eagle sponsor for this event was **ICR Rudiger & Green**. The birdie sponsors for this event were **United Bank**; **Legal Investigations Inc.**; **The Law Offices of Charles B. Molster, III, PLLC**; and **Carr Workplaces**. This event also had a significant number of par sponsors, including **The Law Offices of David L. Marks, PLLC**; **Roeder, Cochran, Phillips, PLLC**; **BrigliaHundley, P.C.**; and **Tom Tobin, real estate appraiser with Scope Real Estate Services**. Additional special sponsors included the hole in one sponsor **Ted Britt Automotive Group**.

Raffle tickets were purchased for mulligans prior to the event and the raffle items that were available included 18 golf clubs provided by **The Fitting Studio at Westfields Golf Club**. All of those who participated in this golf tournament had an enjoyable afternoon away from work while having the opportunity to enjoy a beautiful day on the golf course while socializing with family, old friends, and new acquaintances.

continued on next page

The Annual Fall Golf Tournament of the Fairfax Bar Association has once again been scheduled at the **Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club on Friday, October 17, 2025 commencing at 1:00 PM**. Golfers of all skill levels are encouraged to participate and enjoy a beautiful day on a private golf course while enjoying the companionship of friends and family away from all of the stress related to work. Many of the raffle items that are received by those who participate in the Fairfax Bar Association golf tournaments are of greater value than the prizes awarded for placing in the event, so that all participants have the same opportunity to receive substantial prizes and golf merchandise. Court is in session on October 17, 2025 and all of those who wish to participate are encouraged to mark their calendars as soon as possible. ■



L-R: David L. Marks, Esq., John F. Carroll, Esq.,
Christopher D. Williams, Esq., Erik Jurgensen, Esq.



L-R: Brian Colbus, Sudva Villarroel,
Michael H. Doherty, Esq.



L-R: Bob Farrell, Esq., Robert S. Letnick, Esq.,
Jeremy S. Letnick, Esq., Justin Daniel, Esq.



L-R: Raj Dua, Esq., Michael Yang,
Thomas C. Carter, Esq., Michael Cuff

UPCOMING EVENTS/CLEs

FBA Annual Convention in Key West, Florida **Thursday, October 9, 2025– Sunday, October 12, 2025**

Casa Marina Key West
1500 Reynolds Street, Key West, Florida 33040
Full convention registration for the FBA Annual Bench-Bar Convention in Key West, FL includes 9.5 MCLE (2.0 Ethics *(subject to changes) Credits (*pending*); the Thursday night President's Welcome Reception,; lunch on Friday,; and three breakfasts.

Oct. 9 | Family Law Section: Divorce Basics CLE **Thursday, October 9, 2025**

12:30 PM
1.0 MCLE Credits (*Pending*)
Cisco WebEx
Please join the Family Law Section for a webcast presentation in which [Jamel Rowe](#) and [Michael Poe of Livesay and Myers](#) will explain the statutory underpinnings and best practices for proceeding in divorce cases in Fairfax Circuit Court. This program is designed for newer lawyers and/or lawyers who have been practicing primarily in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court and want to begin taking on divorce cases in Circuit Court.

Oct. 16 | 2025 10th Edition Fairfax County Circuit Court Practice Manual CLE (Abridged) **Thursday, October 16, 2025**

3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
3.0 MCLE (1.0 Ethics) Credits (*Pending*)
Fairfax County Courthouse (4th Floor Jury Assembly Room)
CLE Only: \$105 FBA Members/\$150 Non-Members
CLE & Manual: \$3:50 FBA Members/\$450 Non-Members

3:00 PM - 3:05 PM: Welcome
[The Hon. Penney S. Azcarate](#), Chief Judge

3:05 PM - 3:10 PM: History of the Manual
[The Hon. Stanley Klein](#) (Retired)

3:10 PM - 3:15 PM: Technology and Updates
[Clyde Christofferson](#), Esq.

3:15 PM - 4:10 PM: Ethics in Litigation
[The Hon. David A. Oblon](#) and [Steven D. Briglia](#), Esq.

4:10 PM - 5:05 PM: Highlights and Changes for 2025 Manual
[The Hon. Stephen C. Shannon](#) and [David J. Gogal](#), Esq.

5:05 PM - 6:00 PM: Effective Fairfax Circuit Court Practice
[The Hon. Michael F. Devine](#), [The Hon. Christie A. Leary](#),
[The Hon. Dontae L. Bugg](#) and [Sean Roche](#), Esq.

Annual Fall Golf Tournament **Friday, October 17, 2025** **11:30 AM – 12:30 PM: Registration** **1:00 PM: Shotgun Start**

Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club
6901 Arthur Hills Drive, Gainesville, VA 20155
\$175.00 Per Person
Sponsorships are available!
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Premier Sponsor: [Michael H. Doherty, PLLC](#)
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Oct. 20 | Next Level Dispute Resolution CLE **Monday, October 20, 2025** **4:30 PM– 6:30 PM**

2.0 MCLE Credits (*Pending*)
\$70 FBA Members/\$100 Non-Members
Distinguished Panelists:
[The Hon. David S. Schell](#) (Ret.), Fairfax County Circuit Court
[Sonya M. Duchak](#), Esq., Fairfax Bar Association
[David A. Hirsch](#), Esq., The Myerson Law Group, P.C.
[Sara Leiner Schuler](#), Esq., Law Office of Sara Leiner Schuler, PLC

Smarter Meetings with AI: Exploring AI-Powered Tools for Meetings and Notes

Presented by the Fairfax Bar Association Paralegal Section
Thursday, October 23, 2025
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Zoom
\$5 Paralegal Section Members
\$10 Non-paralegal Section Members
Presentation by: [Michael C. Maschke](#) of [Sensei Enterprises, Inc.](#)
Discover how artificial intelligence is transforming meetings for legal professionals. This session explores AI-powered tools in Microsoft Teams and Zoom that help streamline notetaking, improve documentation accuracy, and enhance collaboration while remaining mindful of confidentiality and compliance requirements. From automatic meeting summaries to real-time transcription and action item tracking, you'll learn how to leverage these technologies to save time, boost productivity, and better serve your clients. Whether you're managing internal team discussions or client-facing calls, this presentation offers practical insights into making every meeting more innovative, efficient, and valuable to your legal practice.

Investiture of the Hon. Tamika D. Jones **As Judge of the Fairfax General District Court** **Friday, October 24, 2025** **4:00 PM – 7:00 PM**

Fairfax County Courthouse (Courtroom 5J)
RSVP by October 10th.

Newly Admitted Attorney Orientation **Thursday, November 13, 2025** **1:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

Fairfax County Courthouse (Room TBD)
Whether you're a newly admitted attorney or are simply new to the Northern Virginia area, you are invited and encouraged to attend the Fairfax Bar Association (FBA) Newly Admitted Attorney Orientation on Thursday, November 13th, 2025, from 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM in the Fairfax County Courthouse (4110 Chain Bridge Rd). This program is pending approval for 2.5 MCLE credits with the Virginia State Bar.
This event is an opportunity to meet with Fairfax County Judges, Clerks of Court, and various local practicing attorneys—all of whom will help young lawyers navigate the local practice of law and familiarize them with local rules and procedures.
Immediately following the program, attendees are invited to a happy hour. Bring your business cards to the happy hour to enter for a chance to win raffle prizes.
If you know of recently admitted attorneys practicing in Fairfax County or attorneys who recently relocated to Fairfax County, please share the details of this invaluable program with them.

continued on page 16

FAIRFAX BAR ASSOCIATION

Employment Law Section

By Jane Lemley, Esq. and Daniel Masakayan, Esq., Co-Chairs

Jane Lemley (Warner PLLC) and Daniel Masakayan (McGuireWoods) are pleased to have been elected to co-chair the Fairfax Bar Employment Law Section for the 2025-2026 term. They wish to share the following news and information:

Hello! We are both honored and excited about our new leadership positions with the Fairfax Bar Association's Employment Law Section. We wish to thank Roya Vasseghi (Vasseghi Law Group) and John Thompson (McGuireWoods) for their work in these same roles these past few years. We have big shoes to fill.

Our Mission and Vision

As leaders of the Fairfax Bar Employment Law Section, we are committed to ensuring this small section continues to educate its members with respect to changes in the employment law landscape and the practice of law generally so that they can grow professionally and provide excellent legal guidance. Toward that end, we will continue to provide programming that highlights pressing legal issues with panelists who are experienced practitioners and thought leaders in this practice area.

We are equally committed to continuing to support our members' efforts to achieve work-life balance and good mental health. Toward that end, we will continue to host fun social events that foster camaraderie and collegiality. The members of the FBA Employment Law Section have always enjoyed a great sense of unity and belonging that makes the practice of employment law in Fairfax and Virginia particularly fulfilling.

We also envision new programming to facilitate opportunities for more experienced members of this section to share with newer members of the Bar not only their professional expertise but also the wisdom they have gained navigating life's challenges. We envision coordinating unique events throughout the year to introduce experienced attorneys who are willing to mentor junior bar members who welcome their advice and guidance. To achieve this goal, we encourage members of the FBA Employment Law Section interested in partaking in our recent mentoring program to contact us so that we can develop a list of potential participants and brainstorm possible events.

Hot Topics

A large contingency of FBA Employment Section members recently attended the Virginia Bar Association's 55th Annual Conference on Labor and Employment. We encourage our members to join the VBA and attend this valuable annual conference. We are taking this opportunity to share some of what was discussed.

Government Contractor DEI Compliance: Protecting Clients from False Claims Act Exposure

Panelists at the VBA conference discussed the Trump Administration's recent spate of executive orders that abolished federal contractor's affirmative action requirements and targeted "illegal DEI." These changes have created a critical challenge for employment lawyers: many of us drafted the diversity policies for government contractors that are now under federal scrutiny. Our role has shifted from policy creation to crisis management, as government contractors face potential False Claims Act violations that carry severe penalties.

The administration is reportedly considering False Claims Act violations against government contractors whose DEI policies don't comply with the new executive orders.

This transforms what seemed like routine compliance into potential criminal liability for government contractors and professional responsibility concerns for the attorneys who advised them.

For government contractors, the stakes are enormous. False Claims Act violations can result in treble damages civil penalties, and debarment from future federal contracting—potentially destroying their business model. The legal theory is straightforward: if government contractors certify compliance with federal requirements to receive payment, but their DEI policies actually violate the new executive orders, those certifications could constitute false claims.

For employment lawyers, this creates both immediate client service obligations and professional liability concerns. We must quickly assess existing government contractor clients' DEI policies, understand the evolving enforcement landscape, and provide guidance that protects government contractors from both regulatory sanctions and False Claims Act prosecution.

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Artificial Intelligence and the Attorney-Client Privilege: The New Frontier

Panelists and audience members spoke excitedly about the integration of AI tools into legal practice. AI tools create both opportunities (efficiency, research enhancement) and risks, particularly concerning attorney-client privilege.

The core concern is deceptively simple: when we use AI platforms for legal research, document review, or drafting assistance, are we inadvertently compromising attorney-client privilege? But the reality is more complex than many practitioners realize. Most AI platforms log conversations, potentially store uploaded documents, and may use your queries for system training—unless you're using enterprise-grade services with specific privacy protections.

Your identity remains traceable through account logins, payment information, IP addresses, and device fingerprinting (browser configuration, screen resolution, installed fonts) even when using VPNs. This traceability is particularly concerning for attorneys using work accounts or firm devices because it directly connects privileged communications to specific lawyers and potentially their clients.

Consider the implications: hypothetical legal questions might seem safe, but they're still logged and potentially searchable. Uploading client documents with identifying details for AI review could constitute a privilege waiver. Even fact-checking memoranda through AI systems creates traceability that could surface in unexpected ways.

AI legal tools have “hallucinated” caselaw, providing fake citations that look very real, and “improved” deposition transcripts, creating questions and answers that didn't occur.

Fortunately, the Virginia State Bar's Small Firm and Solo Practice Section has developed practical guidance to help practitioners navigate some of these pitfalls. They drafted a comprehensive AI policy template that firms can adopt to establish safe usage parameters while harnessing these powerful tools. This represents the first such policy adopted by a bar association in America. Access this invaluable resource at <https://www.vba.org/?pg=ai>.

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More Trial Experience for Younger Attorneys

The Hon. Mark S. Colombell and Judge Roderick C. Young, both U.S. District Court judges in the Eastern District of Virginia, gave tips from the bench. They emphasized the importance of courtroom opportunities for junior attorneys and recommended that they participate in settlement conferences.

In Closing

Please don't hesitate to contact us to learn more about the FBA Employment Law Section and the programs and activities that it will be hosting this year. Jane Lemley can be reached at JLemley@WarnerPLLC.com and Daniel Masakayan can be reached at DMasakayan@McGuireWoods.com. ■

FAIRFAX BAR ASSOCIATION

Criminal Law Section

By The Chair Committee

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the Criminal Law Section of the Fairfax Bar Association. This year our esteemed Board consists of Negin FarahmandWood, who is continuing in her role as Chair, Katie Donoghue as Vice Chair, and Ryan Rambudhan in his role as CLE Outreach Director. The Committee as a whole looks forward over the next year to serve and further the Section's goal to improve the practice of criminal law for our Bar and membership.

The Criminal Law Section seeks each year to hold quarterly CLEs at no cost to its members. These presentations will be in-person and will aim to include both members of the Bench and Bar for discussions on the practice, procedure, and new case law in criminal law. Over the past year, there has been significant changes to the intersection of immigration law and criminal law. We were pleased to welcome Ashley Warmling, Esq. with the Indigent Defense Commission who educated us about new immigration policy updates and ethical considerations for the criminal bar. We look forward to having additional presentations focused on objections, foundation for admissibility, and preservation of issues for appeal, along with best practices and pointers from the circuit, general district, and juvenile and domestic relations benches.

As in the past, this year we also look forward to collaborating with other Bar Sections to co-sponsor continuing legal education programs, promote bench-bar relationships through other events, and provide other opportunities for professional development.

We are an exciting organization with diverse members that come from a myriad of backgrounds within the legal profession, including private attorneys, federal and state defenders, federal and state prosecutors and federal judges. That breadth of membership brings with it a richness of perspectives on the practice of criminal law informed by our respective roles, life experiences, and geography.

We welcome your thoughts for any ideas or suggestions that will help us to advance our section's mission and can be reached via email at nfarahmandwood@vadefenders.org. If you are not yet a member of the Fairfax Bar Association's Criminal Law Section, we would encourage you to become a member to shape the future of our profession. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and look forward to working with each of you. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS/CLEs

continued from page 13

State of the Judiciary Luncheon

Thursday, November 20, 2025

12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

Country Club of Fairfax

5110 Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 11030

\$50 FBA Members/\$60 Non-Members

*add \$5 if registering after November 1st

The Program Will Also Include:

The unveiling of the judicial portrait of

The Hon. Gayl Y. Branum Carr (Ret.),

Fairfax County Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court

Presentation of the James Keith Public Service Award

Presentation of *Pro Bono* Awards ■

Keynote Speakers

The Hon. Penney S. Azcarate, Chief Judge
Fairfax Circuit Court

The Hon. Michael J. Holleran, Chief Judge
Fairfax General District Court

The Hon. Thomas P. Sotelo, Chief Judge
Fairfax Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court



FBA Paralegal Section holding just a few of the 67 backpacks filled for elementary school students at their annual Back-to-School Supply Drive

OFFICES FOR SALE OR LEASE

Several sizes of private offices & small suites close to FFX Courthouse. Parking is included plus shared amenities, full service leases, 1-year minimum lease term:

- **4015 Chain Bridge Rd.** - Windowed prvt. offices **FOR LEASE:**
 - Suite 37 - \$700/mo, Full Service, upper level
 - Suite K - \$750/mo, Full Service office on main level w/ shared waiting area & conf. room.
 - Suite 31 - 3-room small suite w/2 corner offices & admin. area/waiting rm. in the middle - \$1,600/mo, Full Service, upper level front windowline.
- **4101 Chain Bridge Rd.** - Windowed prvt. offices w/shared common area conf. rm. & kitchen **FOR LEASE:**
 - Suite 103 - \$750/mo, full service - private suite on 1st floor w/windows.
 - Suite 209 - \$850/mo, full service - large private office w/ windows on Main Level, avail. 10/1.

3977 Chain Bridge Road - Private offices available in the historic Ford Building in the heart of Fairfax next to The Auld Shebeen and close to FFX Courthouse.

- **Suite 202** - \$1,800/mo, full service - 3 prvt. offices, admin/recep. area w/shared waiting room, kitchen & common area restrooms.

3919 Blenheim Blvd., Unit 83-C - 1,150 SF - Upper end unit w/high ceilings and great window-line. Efficient layout has large group meeting/ admin/workspace, 4 private windowed offices, kitchenette, restroom & closets. Existing furniture & equipment is avail. to remain and convey for Tenant's use.

LEASE - \$2,000/mo + elec., cleaning, phone & internet, 2 - 5 yr. lease term. Avail. 11/1

4103 Chain Bridge Road - Location! Flexible office suite sizes! Elevator office building w/plenty parking across from Fairfax Courthouse! 2-5 yr. term. **LEASE** - \$23 PSF, full service. Add'l build-out negot.

- **Suite 400** - 1,800 - 4,400 rsf on 4th floor w/lrg. open admin/recep. area, 2 huge conf. rooms, several prvt. windowed offices and kit/breakroom.

4085 Chain Bridge Road - Great location & visibility!

Located across from FFX Courthouse in elevator office building. Plenty free unassigned surface parking.

- **Suite 401** - 1,150 rsf - Efficient corner office suite has recep/ waiting area, 3 prvt. offices, breakroom/copier rm, coffee bar, closets & built-in shelving.

LEASE - \$2,200/mo, full service, 2-yr. min. lease term

4021 University Dr., 2nd Floor - 2,000 SF - Convenient space in the bank building at the corner of University Dr. & Sager Ave. Space is divisible into 2 suites for approx. 1,320 sf OR 2,643 sf for the entire 2nd floor Space has 6 windowed prvt. offices, huge open space/conf. rm. plus a 1st floor conf. rm, storage areas, 2 BAs, and kitchenette.

LEASE - \$22/psf + phone/internet & cleaning.

FOR SALE at Judicial Court - 10615 Judicial Dr., Unit 203 -1,000 SF - Lovely upper lvl. unit w/great windowline & high ceilings for lots of natural light! Efficient layout w/recep/admin. area, 3 prvt. offices, kitchenette, BA & lrg. storage closets. Renovated w/new LVP wood-finish flooring, updated BA & kitchenette. Plenty parking & uniform ext. signage allowed. **FOR SALE** - \$250,000

FOR SALE at Old Lee Plaza - 3863 Plaza Dr. - 1,859 SF - Overlooking Blenheim Blvd., upper lvl. corner unit w/great window-line for plenty of natural light! Efficient floor plan w/7 windowed offices, 2 conf. rms, waiting/recep. area w/built-in recep. desk, admin area, kit, 2 BAs, util. rm, and storage. Plenty parking & uniform exterior signage allowed. Some existing furniture avail. to convey w/unit. **FOR SALE** - \$418,275

Call for more details, more listings,
or to schedule a showing:

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continued from page 7

510. Urged the government to protect due process in all proceedings involving denial of entry, visa revocation, rescission of lawful permanent residency or removal.

602. Urged Congress and the Department of Homeland Security to prohibit immigration enforcement operations in or around sensitive locations absent exigent circumstances.

603. Urged the government to prohibit detention of immigrants in Department of Defense facilities, such as the Naval Station Guantanamo Bay.

514. Urged the federal government to protect a reporter's privilege to protect their unpublished work product and to protect the press from retaliatory defamation cases.

517. Supported the First Amendment right of public employees without fear of retaliation.

518. Opposed criminal and civil penalties or rights deprivations based on an individual's conduct during pregnancy or its outcome.

522. Urged Congress to establish a federal Election Day in every even-numbered year as a federal holiday,

605. Urged a study of community justice worker program to expand the accessibility, affordability, and quality of *pro bono* civil legal services provided to those who cannot afford an attorney, while continuing to protect clients and the public.

607. Opposed laws, policies, and practices that punish those experiencing homelessness and/or poverty.

The next midyear meeting of the ABA is scheduled for February 9, 2026, in San Antonio, TX. ■

CLASSIFIED AD

FAIRFAX CITY—Two offices available with two additional support staff desks in waiting room/lobby. Directly across the street from Fairfax County Courthouse. Rent depends on need. Utilities included. Plenty of parking.

Contact Brendan Harold at
703-863-5990 or
email: bharold-law.com

NEW MEMBERS 2025

JUNE

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 Amy Harber, Esq.
 James Henry Hays, Esq.
 Madison D. Howell, Esq.
 Edward Y. Lin, Esq.
 Carter H. McClain, Esq.
 Natalia Micheli, Esq.
 Amanda Moellendick, Esq.
 Scharn Robinson, Esq.
 Hannah F. Supernor, Esq.
 Erin Stvan, Esq.
 John A. Touchet, Esq.
 William Benjamin Woody, Esq.

JULY

Navreet Bhutta, Esq.
 Beatriz Corn, Esq.
 Keith Patrick Corley, Esq.
 Kelly Crowe, Esq.
 Kathryn E. Gleason-Terra, Esq.
 Sean Joyner, Esq.
 Sam Q. Le, Esq.
 Sarah Mahmud, Esq.
 Tyler Prout, Esq.
 Mashal S. Shah, Esq.
 Dr. Michael Signer, Esq.
 Shawn M. Sweaney, Esq.
 Karl Warren Warcholik, Esq.
 Frances Elizabeth Wolfe, Esq.

AUGUST

Miranda Jane Bellamah, Esq.
 Renee Blocker, Esq.
 Leslie Currie, Esq.
 Benjamin Talbot Hyman, Esq.
 Karen E. Kelly, Esq.
 Deborah K. Robinson, Esq.
 Krystal Salazar, Esq.
 Amelia Tapp, Esq.
 Janell Franson Wheeler, Esq.
 Gwendolyn Will, Esq.

SEPTEMBER

Vicky A. Carey, Esq.
 Rebecca K. Dougherty, Esq.
 April Deluga, Esq..
 John G. Harnishfeger, Esq.
 Raymond D. Jackson, Esq.
 Carl L. Moore, Esq.
 Julia Ovando, Esq.
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