

JOURNAL

Newsletter of the Fairfax Bar Association

www.fairfaxbar.org

Spring 2025

RED CARPET CASINO BENCH BAR DINNER DANCE

By Genna R. Walnut, Communications and Marketing Coordinator for the Fairfax Bar Association

On Saturday, March 8, 2025, over 400 FBA members and their guests attended the "Red Carpet Casino" Bench Bar Dinner Dance. The FBA's Bench Bar Dinner Dance is an annual event that provides an opportunity for members of the Fairfax County legal community to gather and mingle. The event consisted of a lively cocktail reception, a formal dinner, and entertainment in the form of a photo booth provided by Photo in a Box (sponsored by Odin, Feldman & Pittleman, P.C.), live music provided by Hipshack (sponsored by Mahdavi Bacon Halfhill & Young, PLLC), and dancing!

This year, a separate casino room (sponsored by Cameron Ingersoll Roche PLLC), was a popular feature of the event. Game tables and dealers provided by *Dealer's Choice Casinos* were available for members to play for fake cash throughout the night. Gift card prizes were given to the three guests who won the most "money." First place was Matthew Allen, guest of Julia Yolles Esq. from Blankingship & Keith PC; second place was Matthew Smith, guest of Lauren Brown, Esq. of Cooper Ginsberg Gray PLLC, and in third place was Aron Benjamin, Esq. of Stein Sperling Bennett De Jong Driscoll PC.

Dinner began at 9:00 PM with wine sponsored by Tucker PLLC - Family Law and dessert sponsored by Vasseghi Law Group. During the meal, current FBA President Elanna Weinstein, Esq., spoke to the room and thanked the many generous sponsors who helped make this event a reality (see full sponsor list on page 5).

Every year, the FBA Bench Bar Dinner Dance provides an evening of valuable connection and fun for the Fairfax legal community, and this year was no exception. The FBA is appreciative of all the vendors and sponsors who made this night possible and especially, all the members and guests who attended. Until next year...



"Red Carpet Casino" Bench Bar Dinner Dance Dessert Sponsors, Vasseghi Law Group









FAIRFAX BAR JOURNAL

Official Newsletter of the

Fairfax Bar Association

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The Honorable Hiram E. Puig-Lugo recently retired after twenty-four years of distinguished service on the bench of the Superior Court of D.C., where he notably served three years as the Presiding Judge of the Family Court. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Puig-Lugo was a staff attorney with the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia and a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice Civil Rights Division Criminal Section. He is a Past President of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the 2021 recipient of their President's Award for Extraordinary Leadership. Fluent in Spanish and proficient in Portuguese, Judge Puig-Lugo has not only contributed internationally through legal education projects but also serves as an adjunct faculty member at the Georgetown University Law Center in the American Law for Foreign-Trained Lawyers LLM Program. Judge Puig-Lugo 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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FLF PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

BE A HERO (OR VILLAIN) FOR THE FAIRFAX LAW FOUNDATION

By Rebecca Bricken Kinsel, Esq., Protorae Law, PLLC, President of the Fairfax Law Foundation



Happy spring to my fellow members of the Fairfax Bar from the Fairfax Law Foundation!

As we all move our clocks forward, let's also spring into action to support the Fairfax Law Foundation by participating in the 15th Annual 5K Heroes vs. Villains race on April 6, 2025. Whether you walk, jog, volunteer, or cheer, this event is a fantastic opportunity to support a great cause, and bond with (or taunt) your fellow members of the Fairfax Bar. Just by showing up, you will be supporting vital community initiatives. Come on out, be a part of the fun and support the Fairfax Law Foundation and the entire community. Let's get moving for justice!

Even before I joined the Board of Directors of the Fairfax Law Foundation in 2019, I was participating in the annual 5K with my firm and family. It has been so much fun to watch our legal community evolve over the years. From seeing kids that once were participating in the Fun Run now run the full course or serve as course marshals, to suffering through the virtual 5K during Covid, or to hearing our own Judge Bugg crank the music, this event serves as a benchmark and fabulous bonding opportunity for the members of our legal community.

While you are there, you can also learn more about the Fairfax Law Foundation and how your support will impact the community. The Fairfax Law Foundation is responsible for financially and administratively supporting the Conciliation Program, the Court Tours Program, and the Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center. Our wonderful programs help introduce local students to the legal system. We also provide *pro bono* legal assistance to Fairfax County residents. Our members are everywhere, and our impact is strong, so our need for support is considerable. The *Heroes vs. Villains 5K* is our primary fundraiser.

It seems like 2025 is flying by. Please come out on April 6th so we can all watch you (or others) fly by as we cheer on our heroes and villains.

You can put together a team, register to run solo, or volunteer. No matter how you participate, your support will be greatly appreciated. Feel free to contact me directly at rkinsel@protoraelaw.com and I will do my best to answer any questions you may have.

Here's to an exciting spring of 2025 for the Fairfax Law Foundation!

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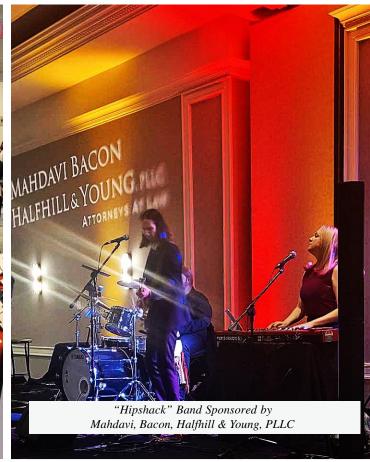
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The Government Contracts Section provides an opportunity for attorneys to meet and discuss developments and issues affecting federal and local government procurement law and litigation.

Legal Administrators Section

The Legal Administrators Section promotes the exchange of non-confidential information regarding the administration and management problems distinctive to legal organizations, including private law offices, corporate legal departments, government legal and judicial organizations and public service legal groups.

Tax Law Section

The Tax Law Section meets to discuss developments in the substantive area of tax law.



If you are a member who is interested in chairing one of these Sections, contact **fba@fairfaxbar.org**

THE ADR MINDSET SHIFTING TO SUPPORT YOUR CLIENTS' SUCCESS

By Christine Hissong, Esq., Co-Chair, ADR Section

There are many reasons that alternative dispute resolution (ADR) models have, over recent years, gained traction in the legal field. More and more, our clients are unwilling to surrender control to the court, and they are unwilling and unable to manage the costs of litigation. Regardless of the reasons, the move toward ADR models is a positive shift. If our clients are to have positive and successful ADR processes, so too must there be a shift in the mindset of the professionals representing them. It is not enough that attorneys understand the Mediation Process and the Collaborative Law Process. There must be a fundamental change in the way we approach conflict, as well as the ways we communicate with and represent our clients.

The Litigator's Mindset: The litigation process is inherently combative and operates through a lens of win-lose. It is adversarial in nature, and in order for our client to win, the opposing party must lose. The focus is on defeating the opposing party, and we take every opportunity, within the bounds of the law, to out-perform, out-think, and out-strategize our opponents in an effort to compel a decision in our favor

The ADR Mindset: Attorneys representing clients in ADR processes must adopt a new approach, prioritizing collaboration, a win-win strategy and interest-based negotiation over combativeness. Both the Mediation Process and the Collaborative Law Process are non-adversarial, cooperative, interest-based resolution processes. Of course, Mediators, especially attorney Mediators, must shift their mindsets to fulfill their ethical duties as Mediators. The focus of this article is the shift in mindset of the attorneys representing the clients. If the attorneys continue to communicate and represent their clients using their litigation mindset, there is not much hope for the clients' success. When our clients engage in an ADR process, we must embrace completely different principles in order to support them.

Empathy and Consideration for the Opposing Party's Needs. It is not often that we extol the virtues of the opposing party in litigation. In fact, it's quite the opposite. Our cases are built on the villainization of the opposing party. The ADR mindset requires us to also consider the conflict from the perspective of the opposing party. Attack the problem, not the person. How are they experiencing the situation? What would the opposing party need to be able to resolve the matter? How can we see each party as whole? How can we accept the parties as partners, co-creating the resolution?

Mindset: Be Empathetic and Curious

Interests Move Us Forward. When parties hold tight to their positions, there is no moving forward. Focusing on the interests of all involved gives us something to work with. This requires genuine curiosity. Ask questions with an eye toward understanding and learning and not for the purpose of eliciting a particular response. When we open up space to consider all interests, there are more possibilities for resolution.

Mindset: Move from Positions to Interests

Let Go of the Outcome. When representing our clients through an ADR process, we still must meet the ethical duties owed to our clients. Dictating the outcome and refusing any outcome that does not meet our vision is not part of our ethical duties. We must advise our clients; we must make sure they have all the information they need to make decisions; and we must make sure they understand the consequences of their decisions. Then, we must honor their right of self-determination and let them decide.

Mindset: Honor Self-Determination

Embrace Creativity. One of the benefits of working in an ADR process is the freedom to be flexible and to create an outcome that uniquely serves the parties. There are many different reference points from which to create an outcome, and application of the law is only one of them. Not every goal may be achieved in the manner contemplated going into the process. Success needs a pragmatic outcome avoiding the costs and uncertainties of litigation. The attorneys must be adaptable and creative, and open to new options as information arises. This allows the clients to receive the full benefit of their process.

Mindset: Creative and Flexible

Be Prepared for Emotions. Conflict arises when our identities or values are threatened, whether that threat real or perceived. The inability to effectively communicate fuels the fire of conflict. Every issue has an emotional component, and nothing is purely transactional. To be most helpful to our clients, we have to acknowledge and help them navigate their emotions. This may take some exploration, as often even the clients, are unaware of the emotions blocking them. This is heavy lifting for attorneys, but it will add tremendous value to the clients' experience.

Mindset: Embrace Emotions

There always will be a place for litigation, however, as more disputes are resolved through Mediation and the Collaborative Law Process, attorneys who are able to shift their mindset will find themselves at the forefront of this transformative movement. Making the shift to an ADR mindset may not happen overnight, and it will be more difficult for some compared to others, but it can and must be done to work successfully with clients in ADR processes. Attorneys must develop necessary skills to shift our mindsets, including active listening; curious questioning; problem solving; empathy; and patience with the parties, the process, and also with ourselves.

GENERAL DISTRICT COURT (GDC) COMMITTEE UPDATES

By Bryan Kennedy, Esq., and Colleen O'Conor, Esq., Co-Chairs

The General District Court has had a busy year that will continue with a lot of change into the next few months. There have been courtrooms under construction and new judges will join the court. There also have been changes to procedures on both the civil and criminal sides of the Court, with more to come. Attending our hybrid meetings, which are on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00 PM, will keep you up to date on all of these changes!

The Court has had an opportunity to try some new procedures that may be of interest to the Bar moving forward. Early last summer, through cooperation among the Court, the Public Defender's Office, the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney, and the Court Services Unit, the Court did a pilot program for having attorneys present at the first appearance in a criminal's case. The program did not involve a full-blown first appearance; for example, the public defender was typically not permitted to argue during the hearing. The main change was the prosecutor would tell the judge at the hearing if the prosecutor was in favor of releasing the person at that time instead of waiting for a bail hearing a few days later.

There were several reasons why this pilot program was instituted. First, many judges were considering bail at first appearance, and having the attorneys weigh in could help the judge in making that decision. Second, given that the clerk's office is not at full staff, having fewer bail hearings filed meant less paperwork for the clerk's office and fewer people to be transported to court for the Sheriff's office. Next, it allowed both the defense and the prosecutors to focus on the harder cases when there was a bail hearing docket and get the people out who everyone agreed to release. This also helped private attorneys who may not be able to be in Fairfax every day to get their clients released without the delay of having to file a bond motion.

Perhaps most importantly, this pilot was started because of the research related to holding people who are low risk to reoffend for extended periods of time. Holding people who can be otherwise released into the community, even for as little as a few days, can increase their chance of being convicted as well as their chance of being sentenced to jail. Most strikingly, being held a few days can increase the chance a person commits a new crime in the future, even if they were innocent of the charge for which they were held. Releasing people sooner who will otherwise be released makes good sense for community safety, courthouse efficiency, and financial costs for everyone involved.

The pilot ran for one month, and the results of that short pilot were extremely promising. Before the pilot, almost 70% of people appearing at an in-custody arraignment were held. During the pilot, over 60% of those appearing were released. Given that on average there are 500-600 arraignments in the General District Court per month, the change in release-at-arraignment totals meant a significant reduction in the number of jail days people have to endure, especially for those we know will be released pretrial one way or the other. The jail days eliminated were all wasted time that simply increased the risk of a myriad bad results in the future for both the individual and the community. The data also suggested that the program was being underutilized and that, had it continued, the results would have been even more dramatic.

After the one-month pilot program, the changes were paused while system actors reviewed the data and decided whether the program could continue in the future. Unfortunately, due to a dispute between the court and the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney about when the docket would start in the future, the program has yet to be restarted. Almost all actors involved in the pilot found it valuable and would be willing to restart it if the timing issue can be resolved.

Certainly, we hope that this program will restart, as it has a clear value to the individuals the Court serves. This pilot program also proved that when everyone comes together we can make changes in our court system for the benefit of the people of Fairfax County, even if it is not customarily how we do things. If you have ideas for how the court may be improved in your area of practice, please come to the GDC Committee meetings and share your views so we can try to work together to make our court a better place for the litigants who come before it.

STATE OF THE JUDICIARY LUNCHEON Country Club of Fairfax — December 3, 2024









Hon. Thomas P. Sotelo, Chief Judge of the Fairfax County J&DR District Court



AWARD RECIPIENTS

L-R: Douglas J. Sanderson, Esq., Pro Bono Attorney of the Year Award; Raymond J. Obregon, Esq., James Keith Public Service Award; Sean "Sunny" Moe and Eric Moe, Pro Bono Paralegals of the Year Award; Hon David Bernhard, Presenter

seee luncheon sponsosrs on next page



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On February 13th, 2025, new books, journals, toiletries, and sundries were collected and assembled at Cooper Ginsberg Gray PLLC for young men and women in Fairfax County residential correctional programs. These generous donations allow the Paralegal Section of the Fairfax Bar Association, in conjunction with the Fairfax Law Foundation, to make a positive difference in the lives of our local youth.









PRO BONO ADVISORY COMMITTEE

By Mehagen McRae, Esq., Chair, FBA Pro Bono Advisory Committee

Every small, unselfish action nudges the world into a better path. An accumulation of small acts can change the world.——Robin Hobb

The Fairfax Bar Association *Pro Bono* Advisory Committee (Committee) does not seek to change the world, but it does seek to change the lives of low-income individuals within Fairfax County when it comes to legal matters. The Pro Bono Advisory Committee is a group of attorneys who are committed to promoting and facilitating *pro bono* legal services through direct representation of clients as well as providing training and mentoring to attorneys handling *pro bono* matters. The *Pro Bono* Advisory Committee collaborates with legal aid organizations, the Access to Justice Commission, the courts and other stakeholders to address unmet legal needs in Fairfax County.

For those of you who have had a client not pay your bill, you may feel that means that you have done *pro bono* work. However, true *pro bono* representation consists of free or nominal fee professional services for people who do not have the financial resources to compensate a lawyer.

An attorney can benefit from doing *pro bono* work. *Pro bono* work allows an attorney to gain experience in different areas of law. This enables an attorney to develop new skills and enhance legal knowledge, which in turn means growing one's practice areas. By doing *pro* **bono** work a lawyer's reputation within the legal community can also increase, as well as provide an attorney with new clients who have the ability to pay for legal services.

The Fairfax Bar *Pro Bono* Committee seeks to find attorneys who are willing to do *pro bono* work. Here is what we are doing to find attorneys:

We will be hosting a social on June 12th at Hamrocks where we will be showcasing opportunities that are available to attorneys who are looking for ways to help low-income individuals, while getting credit from the Virginia Supreme Court toward *pro bono* hours. Please come join us for some fun and socializing for a great purpose! Additional details will be in the Fairfax Bar Blast.

The Committee has been updating and redesigning its webpage with the goal of being more user friendly to both the public and legal community. We are hoping to launch by fall 2025. The redesigned web page will enable the public to find specific legal resources based on his or her need, as well as providing the legal community with opportunities to do *pro bono* work.

This fall will also see the return of the Uncontested Divorce CLE. This CLE trains attorneys to represent clients who are seeking to get divorced and have no other issues for the court to adjudicate. Attorneys agree to represent two clients in exchange for a no-cost CLE. Representing clients in uncontested divorce matters is an excellent way to get *pro bono* credit as well as free CLE credits. The time commitment for this type of representation is nominal and the scope of the representation is limited, which makes this an excellent opportunity to get involved!

The *Pro Bono* Committee is also involved with the selection of the James Keith Public Service Award. This award is given out each year to an attorney who has demonstrated long standing dedication to providing *pro bon*o services in Fairfax County. The 2024 recipient of the James Keith Award was Raymond Obregon.

If you are interested in doing small acts that can change the life of another, please join us on the first Thursday of the month from September to June! We meet virtually at 9:30 AM. Please e-mail Mehagen McRae at mdm@fgmfamilylaw.com for additional information or inquiries. If you cannot make our meetings, but want to learn how to be involved in *pro bono* opportunities, please reach out to Mehagen McRae.

FAMILY LAW SECTION

By Lauren Smith, Esq., and Mary C. Huff, Esq., Co-Chairs

The Family Law Section of the Fairfax Bar Association (FBA) was created by the FBA to enhance its members' knowledge of the law and court procedures. To that end, the Family Law Section holds meetings, which cover a variety of issues that impact the practice of family law, and, where appropriate, we also try to obtain CLE credit for our members for the meetings. Our meetings are largely virtual, generally on either the second Monday of the month at 6:00 PM or on a Thursday at 12:00 or 12:30 PM, and generally last for an hour.

This Bar year started with a longer CLE that was a culmination of a two-year project. During the 2024 Bar year, we surveyed our membership as to what topics the Family Law Section members felt they needed more information about, including topics that might take more than an hour to present. The two topics that got the most votes were military divorce and Qualified Domestic Relations Orders (QDROs) including those needed in military divorces. As a result, we offered a shorter program on military divorce in 2024 and then started the 2024-2025 Bar year with a longer CLE about QDROs that included models, allowing our membership to feel more confident in their ability to help clients divide a variety of government and private assets and pensions.

The Family Law Section also continues to ensure that our members are as well informed as possible about practicing before the Fairfax Courts. Every year we circulate the newest law clerk checklists. We also try to provide our membership with the opportunity to meet new Circuit Court and Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court (JDRDC) Judges and ask them about their experiences, beliefs, preferences, and insights about family law. In the past, there has been a tension between the desire to hold "Meet the Judges" events in person so everyone can put names to faces versus the ease of holding virtual meetings.

This year we held our first hybrid "Meet the Judges." As with all experiments, there were some imperfections. Luckily our presenters, Judges Razen Fayez and Michael Sprano of the Fairfax JDRDC, were not only incredibly good sports about the technical wiggles but reminded us all of the vital role their court plays in helping children and victims of domestic violence. They shared their own backgrounds and career paths in this area. Judge Fayez was motivated to go to law school after volunteering with a domestic violence victim and helping her find her voice. She has since devoted most of her professional life to helping victims of domestic violence. Judge Sprano has devoted much of his professional and personal life to working with and helping children. The hybrid model allowed approximately fifty people to attend this inspiring meeting.

In addition to keeping our membership abreast of what is happening within the Fairfax Court System, the Family Law Section ensures our members stay up-to-date on the law. Family law generally arises out of state law, so it is critically important that our members are apprised of the most recent developments in the Virginia Legislature, the Court of Appeals of Virginia, and the Supreme Court of Virginia. Therefore, we provide a legislative update every April to keep our membership informed as to recently introduced bills that impact the domestic relations practice, including the progress of the bills and whether they are enacted into law, and as to important family law decisions issued by the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court of the Commonwealth.

THE 2025 COLOR OF JUSTICE PROGRAM

By Hannah M. Littlefield, Esq., President-Elect of the Young Lawyers Section

"The truth will set you free. My girl is straight up not guilty, no cap."

On Saturday, March 22, 2025, students, judges, and attorneys gathered for the 2025 Color of Justice program at the Fairfax County Courthouse. The two-part program draws on local Fairfax County schools to educate students in 7th through 12th grade on the importance of diversity in the law. As in past years, the program started with a criminal mock trial presented to the students by local attorneys. The Hon. John M. Tran, a Fairfax County Circuit Court Judge, presided over the mock trial. After the evidence was presented, including the quote above, the student-jurors met with judges and attorneys in breakout discussion groups to deliberate, to ask questions about the evidence and burden of proof, and to deliver a verdict in the case.

Next, Judge Tran asked each student-foreperson to stand up and deliver their group's verdict and to explain the rationale behind their verdict. Out of sixteen groups, the majority rendered a "guilty" verdict. While many students, and attorneys, enjoyed the "no cap" quote delivered during the Defense's opening argument, one group of students stated that they found the Defense's opening "to be quite cheesy." On the other hand, some students rendered a "not guilty" verdict "due to lack of proof" presented by the Commonwealth. Despite the differing verdicts, one thing that was clear throughout the day was the steadfast engagement by the students. Not only did the students show up to the Courthouse on a Saturday, but they also took notes during the mock trial, they asked pertinent and thought-provoking questions, and they were excited to present their jury verdicts to the Court. The future of the legal profession looks bright if these students decide to pursue a career in the law.

The second half of the program included a keynote address by the Hon. Razan J. Fayez, a Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judge. Judge Fayez is the first Arab American and Muslim American Judge in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Prior to joining the Bench, Judge Fayez focused her practice on representing low income, immigrant, and other marginalized populations, including victims of domestic violence. Judge Fayez's speech captivated the audience. As a kid, Judge Fayez used to sign her letters "Razan J. Fayez, future M.D." because she wanted to be a physician. However, through life's twists and turns, including a challenging Biology 101 course in college, Judge Fayez found her way to the legal profession.

Judge Fayez told the students that after college she worked for a non-profit organization that helped survivors of domestic violence. Through this role, Judge Fayez sat with survivors during their court hearings. During one particular hearing, Judge Fayez stated that she helped a survivor who was not able to speak for herself, and by helping amplify this survivor's voice, Judge Fayez felt "passion" for the first time. Judge Fayez subsequently applied to law school, and now, in 2025, she just completed her first year on the Bench. During her address, Judge Fayez discussed her journey to the Bench, including her children realizing that in 2024 there were no Arab American or Muslim American judges in Virginia. Judge Fayez explained that one of the reasons she put her name in the running to be a judge is because she did not want Arab and Muslim children, like her own, to feel like they did not belong in the legal profession. In a powerful closing, Judge Fayez addressed the students and stated that "we all do belong here."

The program concluded with a panel of judges discussing the importance of diversity in the law, changes they have observed over the years, and triumphs and setbacks they have encountered throughout their careers. During the panel, the Hon. Dipti Pidikiti-Smith, a Fairfax County General District Court Judge, stressed the importance of having a "Go Team" on your side. Judge Pidikiti-Smith said people will say "no" throughout your career, but your "Go Team" will be there to believe in you and to take you to the next level. The Hon. Dontaé L. Bugg, a Fairfax County Circuit Court Judge, explained that since his appointment to the Bench in 2019, the number of Black Circuit Court Judges appointed to the Bench has quadrupled in Virginia. Judge Bugg explained that there will always be detractors, but the important thing to remember is that you can only control how you respond to the negative comments. Judge Bugg encouraged the students to keep showing up and to keep proving the detractors wrong. Throughout the panel, the Judges expressed appreciation for their colleagues, and they discussed the importance of each judge bringing diverse perspectives to the Bench

A person's roots are an integral and unique part of their identity, and the legal profession flourishes when it is comprised of judges and attorneys with diversity of experience. The Hon. Maha-Rebekah Ramos Abejuela, a Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judge, reminded Color of Justice participants that there is always work to be done to create a diverse and equitable legal community. Judge Abejuela is the first Asian American woman to become a judge in Virginia, appointed in 2019. Programs like Color of Justice continue to be essential in encouraging future generations to explore a legal career. We hope the students left the program knowing that not only do they belong in the legal profession, but that their diversity of experience and perspectives are essential to having a legal system that is reflective of the people it serves.

This year's program was hosted by the Young Lawyers Section of the Fairfax Bar Association, and we would like to thank all the judges, attorneys, and volunteers who helped make this year's program a success. We look forward to next year's Color of Justice program, which will be hosted by the Northern Virginia Black Attorneys Association.

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L-R: Sogand Falahatpour, Esq.; Aimee Solano, Esq.; Kaley Duncan Ward, Esq.; Marcus Greene, Esq.; Hannah Littlefield, Esq.; and Samy Abdallah, Esq.







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 - Suite 31 3-room small suite w/2 corner offices & admin. area/waiting room in the middle - \$1,600/mo, Full Service, upper level front
- 4101 Chain Bridge Rd. Windowed prvt. offices w/shared common area conf. rm. & kitchen FOR LEASE:
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UPCOMING EVENTS/CLEs

15th Annual Heroes vs. Villains 5K and Kids' Fun Run Sunday, April 6, 2025 Kids' Fun Run | 8:30 AM

Main Race | 9:00 AM

Fairfax Corner Shopping Center | 4100 Monument Corner Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030

Investiture of The Honorable Susan J. Stoney As Judge of the Fairfax Circuit Court Friday, April 11, 2025 4:00 PM-7:00 PM

Fairfax County Courthouse, Courtroom 5J

A reception will immediately follow.

Mental Health in Practice and on the Docket CLE

Presented by the Young Lawyers Section of the Fairfax Bar Association

Thursday, April 24, 2025

4:00 PM-7:00 PM

3.0 MCLE Credits (Pending)

\$75 for Young Lawyers Section members/\$105 for FBA members/\$150 for Non-members

Distinguished Panelists:

Hon. Tina L. Snee, Fairfax County General District Court

Michele Cowherd, LPC, Fairfax County Mental Health Docket

Sarah Endres, Northern Virginia Region Manager, Virginia Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program

George L. Freeman IV, Esq., Fairfax County Attorney's Office

Christopher Worthington, Esq., Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney's Office

Negin Farahmand Wood, Esq., Fairfax County Public Defender's Office

23rd Annual Law Day Weiner Roast

Thursday, May 1, 2025

4:30 PM-8:30 PM

Rain or Shine!

10605 Judicial Drive, Suite B6, Fairfax, VA 22030

GAL's Role in Civil Commitment Hearings CLE

Thursday, May 8, 2025

4:30 PM-7:00 PM

2.5 MCLE Credits (Pending)

Cisco WebEx

FBA Members: Free to attend with a volunteer commitment

Distinguished Panelists:

Hon. Maha-Rebekah Abejuela, Fairfax County J&DR District Court

Robert B. Walker, Esq., Special Justice, Law Office of Robert B. Walker

John David Gardy, Esq., Fairfax County Attorney's Office

Sameena Sabir, Esq., Law Office of Sameena Sabir

Please join our distinguished panelists in this 2.5-hour discussion covering everything you need to know to be a GAL at mental health commitments. Attend this no fee CLE to be a GAL for juveniles in mental health crises. Not only broaden your expertise, but provide a very valuable service to the Court and the community.

Defending the Vulnerable: Consumer Protection Essentials Pro Bono CLE

Presented by the Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center

Thursday, May 8, 2025

2:00 PM

3.0 MCLE Credits (Approved)

Live Webinar

Free in exchange for three sessions of pro bono work in conjunction with Legal Services of Northern Virginia.

Facing financial troubles and the resulting consumer legal issues is extremely challenging without help, especially for people with limited means. Many of our neighbors are facing great economic difficulties after years of stresses and strains on the family finances, and as pandemic assistance is ending. Consumers must face claims from both original and third-party debt collectors and are unaware of their defenses and legal rights.

This training provides an overview of common debt collection claims and defenses, as well as other related consumer legal issues. There will be practical tips on strategy and substance, as well as insights from a Fairfax County District Court Judge. The knowledge and skills acquired will be valuable and will provide the opportunity for attorneys to assist those most in need. continued next page

25th Annual Spring Golf Tournament Friday, May 9, 2025 Registration | 12:00 PM-1:00 PM Putting Contest | 12:15 PM-1:00 PM Shotgun Start | 1:30 PM

\$175 per person

Cost includes: Greens fees, cart, lunch at the grill, dinner buffet, and prizes. *Questions? Contact Bob Letnick at 703-273-4100*

Annual Meeting Luncheon Tuesday, June 3, 2025 Registration | 12:00 PM Luncheon | 12:15 PM-1:30 PM

Maggiano's Little Italy | 2001 International Dr. Mclean, Virginia 22102 \$45 FBA members/ \$55 Non-Members *add \$10 if registering after May 2

Featuring:

Presentation of the Hon. Arnold B. Kassabian Memorial Award Presentation of the President's Awards Installation of Steven D. Briglia, Esq. as the 2025-2026 FBA President Election of FBA Officers & Executive Board, 2025-2026

Lawyerpalooza Saturday, June 7, 2025 12:00 PM-3:00 PM

Eavesdrop Brewery, 7223 Centerville Road #115 Yorkshire, Virginia 20111

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

Casa Marina, Key West, Florida



NEW MEMBERS

January 2025

Michelle Chang, Esq. David Goldberg, Esq. Andrew Lindsey, Esq.

February 2025

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Thomas Dossey, Esq.
Jacob Frankson, Esq.
Suzannah Friscia, Esq.
Sonia Geib Schmidt, Esq.
James Harpold, Esq.
Mary Mullen. Esq.
Nikola Nikolov, Esq.
Erica Sergent, Esq.

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