

JOURNAL

Newsletter of the Fairfax Bar Association www.fairfaxbar.org Winter 2025/2026

STATE OF THE JUDICIARY LUNCHEON

NOVEMBER 20, 2025, COUNTRY CLUB OF FAIRFAX, VA



UNVEILING OF THE JUDICIAL PORTRAIT OF
THE HON. GAYL BRANUM CARR.
STEVEN BRIGLIA, ESQ. (L), AND
THE HON. THOMAS P. SOTELO (R)



THE HON. PENNEY AZCARATE,
CHIEF JUDGE OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT
SPEAKING ON THE STATE OF THE
FAIRFAX COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT



PRO BONO AWARD RECIPIENTS WITH THE HON. STEPHEN C. SHANNON



A Half-Century Serving Northern Virginia: The FBA Turns 50!

*By Steven D. Briglia, Esq.,
President of the Fairfax Bar Association*

50th Anniversary of the Fairfax Bar Association

The Fairfax Bar Association—the largest voluntary local Bar in Virginia—will mark a significant milestone: 50 years since its incorporation in 1976. For 50 years, the Fairfax Bar Association (FBA) has stood as a cornerstone of the

legal community in Fairfax County, fostering excellence in the practice of law and strengthening the relationship between the Bench, the Bar, and the public. Since its founding, the FBA has been committed to promoting professionalism, supporting continuing legal education, and improving access to justice for all residents of Northern Virginia.

Legacy: From Humble Beginnings to Northern Virginia's Largest Voluntary Bar

The FBA was formally incorporated in 1976, though its roots trace back earlier—attorneys in Fairfax County had already organized informally before incorporation. Over time it has grown to represent roughly 2,200 members, including private practitioners, corporate counsel, government lawyers, legal-aid attorneys, and even judges, and law students. The FBA's mission has long been multifaceted: To cultivate professional competence, foster collegiality and diversity, facilitate collegial interaction with the Bench, support public understanding of the judicial system, operate a public law library, and serve as a voice for the legal profession in Fairfax County and across the Commonwealth. Over the past five decades, the Association has grown into a dynamic, collaborative organization representing a diverse membership of attorneys, judges, and legal professionals. Through its sections, committees, and outreach programs, the FBA has played a vital role in shaping local legal practice, providing mentorship to new lawyers, and recognizing outstanding service within the profession.

The FBA's long-standing dedication to community service—including *pro bono* initiatives, public legal education, and partnerships with civic organizations—remains central to its mission. Its events, from judicial receptions to educational workshops, continue to strengthen collegiality within the legal community.

As the Fairfax Bar Association marks its 50th anniversary, it celebrates not only its history but also its ongoing commitment to integrity, leadership, and service. The FBA looks forward to building on this legacy for the next generation of legal professionals and the community it proudly serves.

Impact: Programs, Public Service, and Community Outreach

Over the past 50 years, the FBA has launched—and sustained—a variety of programs aimed at both its members and the broader community:

- * **Public Law Library:** What began in the 1950s as a modest one-room library in the courthouse basement has evolved into a full public law library accessible to attorneys and laypeople alike. By 2008, the library had moved into a modern facility at the new Fairfax County Courthouse and offered public-access computer terminals and legal-reference materials—serving as a crucial resource to hundreds of thousands of patrons, many of whom are not legal professionals.

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FAIRFAX BAR JOURNAL

*Official Newsletter of the
Fairfax Bar Association*

4110 Chain Bridge Rd., Suite 216

Fairfax, VA 22030-4009

Telephone: 703-246-2740

Fax: 703-273-1274

fba@fairfaxbar.org • www.fairfaxbar.org

Officers 2025-2026

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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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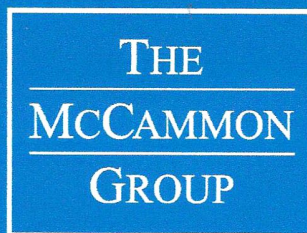
is pleased to announce our newest Neutral



Hon. Tracy C. Hudson (Ret.)

Former Chief Judge, 31st Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia, Prince William County

The Honorable Tracy C. Hudson recently retired after thirteen years of distinguished service for Prince William County. Judge Hudson served ten years on the Circuit Court, including one term as Chief Judge, following three years on the General District Court. Prior to his judicial service, he enjoyed a successful private practice focusing on civil litigation with an emphasis on family law, personal injury, wrongful death, product manufacturing and design liability, premises liability, construction defects, and automobile tort liability. He also served as a Commissioner in Chancery for Prince William County. Judge Hudson is a Past President of the Prince William County Bar Association and Founding Director of the Prince William Bar Foundation. He now brings this record of dedication and accomplishment to The McCammon Group to serve the alternative dispute resolution needs of lawyers and litigants throughout the Commonwealth and beyond.



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THE HON. GAYL BRANUM CARR (L) WITH HER DAUGHTER, TAYLOR CARR (R)



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PRO BONO PARALEGAL OF THE YEAR AWARD PRESENTED TO MEGAN MARZLUFF OF THE GELLER LAW GROUP. THE HON. STEPHEN C. SHANNON (L); MEGAN MARZLUFF (C); STEVEN D. BRIGLIA, ESQ. (R)



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

'Twas the holiday season and the pressure was stacking, for the people whose access to justice was lacking! For a more just society and robust education, that's the holiday wish of the Fairfax Law Foundation.

These valuable goals need support to attain. Please consider a gift to the First Hour Campaign.

In this season of giving, we at the Fairfax Law Foundation, encourage you to consider donating the value of just one billable hour in support of our annual 2025-2026 First Hour Campaign.

Since 1982, the Fairfax Law Foundation has worked tirelessly to promote a more just society through its programs in Fairfax County. A donation to this campaign will support our Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center, which has served over 400 low-income clients this past year, offering support in housing law, consumer law, family law, and estate planning. Without this work, those community members would lack this access to justice.

Additionally, law-related education is essential for promoting a more just society, as those who don't understand the role of the courts may not know their options for pursuing justice when the need arises. Through its award-winning Court Tour Program for 8th grade students in Fairfax County, as well as its support of the Fairfax Public Law Library, the Law Foundation plays a vital role in advancing legal education across the community.

While individually the value of one hour may not sound like much, collectively, with the support of each member of our Bar, it can make a tremendous difference for our community. Your donation of just one of your billable hours will help to support the Foundation's critical role in funding law-related education, *pro bono* services, and the Fairfax Public Law Library.

We appreciate your continued support of the work of the Fairfax Law Foundation!

Equal Justice to all, and to all a good night! ■

WHEN A WILL GOES MISSING: NAVIGATING THE COMPETING PRESUMPTION OF LOSS AND REVOCATION

By Linh H. Ly, Esq., Chair, Wills, Trusts & Estates Section

In today's age where nearly every document can be scanned and stored electronically, one fragile piece of paper still holds extraordinary power: the original copy of a decedent's will. In Virginia, when the original copy of a will cannot be located, a copy of the will can only be probated with a court order, which can be challenging to obtain if the matter is contested. In cases where an original copy of a will cannot be located, two legal presumptions are available: (1) the presumption of revocation or destruction of the will; or (2) the presumption of loss of the will. Johnson v. Cauley, 262 Va. 40, 43 (2001). The presumption of revocation is more widely known than the presumption of loss as only two appellate cases exist interpreting the presumption of loss.



Regarding the presumption of revocation or destruction “*if an executed will was known to be in the testator's custody but cannot be found after death, there is a presumption that it was destroyed by the testator animo revocandi, that is with the intention to revoke.*” *Id.* Under this standard, “*the proponents of a copy of the will must show by clear and convincing evidence that the will was simply lost and not revoked by the testator.*” *Id.* As for the presumption of loss, “*if the evidence shows that after execution the will was not in the possession of the testator and not accessible to her, then a presumption of loss arises.*” *Id.* “*The presumption of loss must then be rebutted by clear and convincing evidence that the will was revoked by the testator.*” *Id.* (citing Harris v. Harris, 216 Va. 716, 719 (1976); Ballard v. Cox, 191 Va. 654, 659-60 (1950)). The application of either presumption “in a specific case depends on the threshold factual determination of whether the will was in the possession of the testator at death and, if not, whether the testator nevertheless had access to it prior to death.” Johnson, 262 Va. at 43-44.

Ballard v. Cox and Johnson v. Charley are the only appellate cases in Virginia where the presumption of loss is applied. In Ballard, after due execution of the will, Mrs. Cox, the testator, instructed her lawyer to mail the original copy to her sister, Ms. Ballard, who placed it in a safety deposit box at the bank where it remained until the testator died. Ballard, 191 Va. at 658-59. After the testator's death, Ms. Ballard testified that she gave the original copy of the will to the testator's husband, Dr. Cox, which he denied under oath. *Id.* at 659. The presumption of loss applied because “the evidence clearly and conclusively establishes the execution of the will and its delivery to Miss Ballard, and there is no evidence at all that it was ever again in the possession of Mrs. Cox.” *Id.* at 660.

In Johnson, Josephine Howell, the testator, executed a will in 1985 and three codicils in 1987, 1990, and 1992. Johnson, 262 Va. at 42. She died in 1999 and upon her death, the original copy of the 1990 codicil was found in a safe in her prior home, but only copies of the will and the other two codicils were discovered. *Id.* The trial court ruled that the evidence clearly established that the missing documents were “*last specifically known to be in the possession of Mr. Rawls at his law office.*” *Id.* Mr. Rawls, Howell's attorney, predeceased her and his staff did not know what happened to her original documents. *Id.* at 42-43. The Supreme Court of Virginia held that the record supported the trial court's decision that the missing will was not in the testator's possession and was not accessible to her. Johnson, 262 Va. at 47.

Ballard and Johnson involve situations where the testator entrusted their will to a third party, but what happens when a testator knows that their will is missing while they are still alive and does not execute another will before they die? This fact pattern applied to Eric Kreiser who executed his will in 2008 and about a year before his death, could not locate the original copies of any of his estate planning documents including his will. Eric was in the process of selling his home, which was held in his trust and his late partner's trust, when he died unexpectedly days before closing on the sale of his home. Eric relied on the copies of his and his partner's trust for the sale of his home and had a copy of his will neatly stored in a filing cabinet where he kept his important papers while he was still alive. Under Eric's pour-over will, his biological family would only receive his tangible personal property and his trust was the beneficiary of his estate. His partner's niece and nephews were the beneficiaries of his trust.

Joanne Kreiser, Eric's sister, claimed that he died intestate, which was challenged by Gary Peevely, Eric's partner's brother-in-law, who filed a petition to admit a photo copy of will to probate in the Fairfax Circuit Court. Judge Blanch ruled in his favor, applying the presumption of loss, stating, “*What more compelling evidence can there be to support the presumption of loss than those very words being spoken by the testator near the time of his death.*” R. 771-772. Judge Blanch also ruled that if the application of the presumption of loss were found in error, Mr. Peevely rebutted the presumption of revocation by clear and convincing evidence. The Court of Appeals of Virginia affirmed the trial court's ruling, but did not address the presumption of loss because there were sufficient facts to support the presumption of revocation. This case is now pending in the Supreme Court of Virginia and we will have to see whether it will make any determinations about the presumption of loss. ■

LAW RELATED EDUCATION COMMITTEE— CONNECTING FAIRFAX ATTORNEYS WITH THE FUTURE

By David Murphy, Esq., Chair and Sarah Fraenkel, Esq., Vice-Chair

The Law Related Education Committee works year-round to educate young members of the community about the legal profession and to inspire them to pursue careers in the law. While the Committee has many initiatives, our two most important annual projects are the Fairfax Chocolate Lover's Festival in early February and the Court Tour program between September-May. Neither can be successful without the support and generous donations of both time and funds from local firms and attorneys, and we thank all of our volunteers. We hope both programs continue to grow, foster the next generation of local legal talent, and just as importantly, retain such talent within Northern Virginia following their eventual graduation from law school.

The FBA and the Law Related Education Committee are always in great need of more attorney volunteers to help these events run smoothly, particularly the Court Tour Program as it is ongoing for the majority of the academic year.

We also encourage all members wanting to give back to the County's children to join our Committee. Do you have any ideas for new programs? Do you want to help us do more? We want to hear it! Please contact Courtnie Norris at cnorris@fairfaxbar.org, David Murphy at dmurphy@mccandlaw.com, or Sarah Fraenkel at sfraenkel@vadefenders.org for more information, to volunteer, or to share any ideas and initiatives to inspire and support our local students interested in a legal career.

Chocolate Lover's Festival

The Education Committee sponsors events for the City of Fairfax's annual Chocolate Lovers Festival. The Festival has been an annual community event for over 30 years showcasing downtown Fairfax, and while it includes activities for the whole Fairfax community to enjoy it is especially geared towards local students of all ages. This year's **Chocolate Lovers Festival** will be held from **Friday, February 6 through Sunday, February 8, 2026**, and we are in need of FBA volunteers to assist in staffing our programming.

During the Festival, the Committee sponsors a mock trial where students assemble as a jury and deliver a verdict on infamous fairy tale conflicts such as [Goldilocks v. The Three Bears](#) or [Gaston v. The Prince](#). The Committee also runs the game show [So You Think You're Smarter Than A Lawyer?](#), which is based on the hit TV game show [Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?](#), and includes chocolate-based prizes for the students' correct answers. The Mock Trial begins at 10:00 AM and the Game Show begins at 1:00 PM on February 7. The Sheriff's Office will also offer fingerprinting and a chance to meet the Deputies from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM.

Each year, the Court generously opens the Historic Courthouse to the public and showcases a selection of historical documents from the County's Archives. The Historic Courthouse will be open from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM on Saturday, February 1 for the FBA's events. The Committee warmly invites all ages from the community to tour the Historic Courthouse and view interesting old documents forming our local history.

Court Tour Program

In 1995, the FBA began coordinating the Court Tour Program, which brings students from each FCPS middle school to the Courthouse to learn how our local Court functions from both attorney and Judicial perspectives. The students spend the morning touring the Courthouse, speaking with Sheriff's Deputies, performing a mock trial, observing Courtroom proceedings, and asking the Judges and attorneys many questions about the law. The Court Tour Program has also expanded over the years to include private and home schools. Thousands of Fairfax students have visited the Courthouse over the years, some of whom are now FBA members themselves.

The Program is cosponsored by FBA's charitable arm, the Fairfax Law Foundation, which also manages the "Adopt-A-School" program supporting the costs local schools incur for their students' participation in the program. If you are unable to volunteer time, the FBA welcomes donations to the Adopt-A-School Program to maximize the participation of the County's students. All donations are tax-deductible. Sponsorships can be made in the name of specific FCPS middle schools, and a donation of only \$500 covers the transportation cost for one class to attend the Tour.

The Court Tour Program's success would be impossible and unsustainable without the generosity of the Judges, the Sheriff's Office, and the support of our FBA attorneys. On behalf of the FBA, the Committee humbly thanks all FBA members who have volunteered to give up their busy mornings to lead a Tour; who have forwarded on a call for volunteers when your own schedule was too demanding; or who have contributed donations of any amount to help fund the Program. Thank you.

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FAIRFAX BAR ASSOCIATION FALL 2025 GOLF TOURNAMENT

OCTOBER 17, 2025, HERITAGE HUNT GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB (see article on next page)



L-R: BOBBY MAYBERRY; ROBERT MAYBERRY, III;
SUDVA VILLARROEL; MIKE DOHERTY



L-R: STEPHEN PIERCE, MEAGHAN PIERCE,
NICK BONO, JASON ZELLMAN

FAIRFAX BAR ASSOCIATION FALL 2025 GOLF TOURNAMENT

By Robert S. Letnick, Esq.

On Friday, October 17, 2025, the Fairfax Bar Association held its annual Fall Golf Tournament at the Heritage Hunt Golf & Country Club. It is a private golf course designed by renowned golf course architect Arthur Hills. It was a beautiful fall day with abundant sunshine and temperatures in the low 70s. Those who participated in the tournament were treated to ideal weather and excellent course conditions. In 2024 the golf course was closed for a period of time in early summer to remove the bent grass on the fairways and replaced with Bermuda grass to better withstand the hot summers.

The format for the tournament was a scramble (Captains' Choice). Each of the participants had the opportunity to hit a tee shot with the team, then selecting the best ball to play from the next shot. From there, each player hits the next shot and this process continues until the hole is completed. This format provides each of the foursomes the opportunity to use their best shots. While poor shots may result in a bit of humor between the players in the group, it doesn't impact the resulting score for the hole.

The tournament was extremely competitive with a significant number of groups completing their rounds with low scores. The first place team of Ryan Tracy, Chris Chambers, Tim Gaffney, and Dave Ruble shot an 18 under par 54. The second place team of Bob Letnick, Jeremy Letnick, Justin Daniel, and Raj Dua shot a 14 under par 58. In third place was the team of Steve Cochran, Carl Van Pelt, Steve Marino, and Tom Carter with a 17 under par 59. Right behind them was the fourth place team of Mike Doherty, Suvda Villarroel, Bobby Mayberry, and Bobby Mayberry, III who shot a 12 under par 60. History continued to repeat itself this year with a significant amount of competition for the last place event. While we once again shall not identify the members of the last place team, they did card an even par 72.

There were a number of special events during the tournament which included the women's long drive competition that was won by Suvda Villarroel; the men's longest drive competition was won by Tim Gaffney. The men's closest to the pin competition on hole 18 was won by Steve Cochran who got close to holing his tee shot, ending up only two feet from the hole. The women's closest to the pin on hole 6 was won by Meaghan Pierce at a distance of 6 feet 7 inches from the hole.

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LAW PRACTICE MANAGEMENT SECTION

By Daniel McCollum, Esq. and Saba Pervaiz, Esq., Co-Chairs

The Fairfax Bar Association's Law Practice Management (LPM) Section exists as a resource for attorneys to help navigate the business side of law. Our goal is simple: provide practical tools and strategies that make running a firm easier and more effective. The Law Practice Management (LPM) section is a platform which allows like-minded business owners to exchange ideas and provide encouragement. One of the ways we achieve this is by inviting guest speakers who share their expertise on topics that matter most to our members. We greatly appreciate the lineup of professionals who offered valuable insights on everything from budgeting and leadership to marketing and accounting compliance. Here's a look back at what we learned together.

In February, Elizabeth Bookwalter, Esq. of Patterson Bookwalter PLC joined us to speak to us about budgeting practices for law firms. She walked us through how to create a sustainable budget that supports growth without sacrificing stability. Her advice on forecasting expenses and setting realistic revenue targets was especially helpful for firms looking to plan ahead and meet certain goals. Elizabeth also shared practical tips for controlling costs, which sparked a great discussion among attendees about balancing ambition with financial discipline.

March brought us a session with Ben Glass, Esq. of Ben Glass Law, who encouraged us to think beyond the traditional law firm model. His presentation focused on building a practice that aligns with your personal goals and lifestyle. Ben shared strategies for leveraging technology, outsourcing administrative tasks, and creating client-centered services. His message was clear: your firm should work for you, not the other way around. Many members left feeling inspired to rethink how they structure their practices.

In May, we had our annual social event at Hamrock's, giving members an opportunity to relax, network, and celebrate our shared successes. It was a wonderful evening filled with great conversations, good food, and a chance to strengthen connections within our legal community. Events like these remind us that professional growth is not just about learning but it's also about building relationships that support and inspire us.

In June, we heard from Katie Lipp, Esq. of The Lipp Law Firm, PC. Her session focused on goal setting for law firm owners. Katie Lipp is a law firm owner and business coach. Katie shared her experiences in establishing the Lipp Law Firm and the mindset challenges she faced, emphasizing the importance of business coaching in overcoming these obstacles. She did a few exercises with the members to help them establish goals for the remainder of the year and a pathway to achieve those goals.

Finally, in October, Mary P. Harris closed out the year with a critical discussion on bookkeeping and accounting pitfalls. Mary explained the importance of trust account compliance and IOLTA rules, and walked us through common mistakes. She also showed us how to read financial statements and use them as a tool for growth. This session was a reminder that good financial practices aren't just about avoiding problems but they're about building a stronger, more resilient firm.

Looking ahead, the LPM Section will continue to bring law firm owners together with a great line up of speakers and events in the new year. We hope you'll join us next year as we explore new topics and keep building a community of support for Fairfax attorneys. ■

FBA PARALEGAL SECTION

2025 HOLIDAY PARTY



FBA PARALEGAL SECTION



PARALEGAL LEADERSHIP TEAM
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CHRISTMAS SWEATER



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RAFFLE WINNER



JOHN FOLEY AND VIOLA LESLIE-FOLEY, WINNERS OF THE
UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER COMPETITION



PARALEGAL MEMBERS ENJOYING THE FESTIVE
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UPCOMING EVENTS/CLEs

YOUNG LAWYERS SECTION BREAKFAST WITH THE J&DR & GDC JUDGES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Fairfax County Courthouse, (4th Floor Jury Assembly Room)

FREE for YLS Members; \$5 for Non-Members

Thank you to our Sponsor, **BrigliaHundley, P.C.**

VIRGINIA LANDLORD-TENANT LAW BASICS & POST-FORECLOSURE EVICTIONS CLE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Fairfax County Courthouse (Room TBD)

1.5 MCLE Credits (*Pending*)

Distinguished Speakers

The Hon. Dipti Pidikiti-Smith, *Fairfax County Circuit Court*

Mazin Elias, Esq., *Kramer Elias, PLLC*

Crystal D. Kramer, Esq., *Kramer Elias, PLLC*

Joseph J. Shannon, Esq., *Shannon Firm PLC*

CULTIVATING EFFECTIVE MEDICAL EXPERTS IN FAMILY LAW & PERSONAL INJURY CASES CLE

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

1.5 MCLE Credits (*Pending*)

Fairfax County Courthouse (4th Floor Jury Assembly Room)

\$52.50 FBA Members; \$75 Non Members

Distinguished Speakers:

The Hon. Michael F. Devine, *Fairfax County Circuit Court*

Alexander T. Lewis, Esq., *Cooper Ginsberg Gray PLLC*

Thompson Hangen, Esq., *Weiner, Spivey & Miller, PLC*

DON'T MAKE A WRONG MOVE: YOUR GUIDE TO MOTIONS PRACTICE IN THE FAIRFAX COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT CLE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2026

4:30 PM - 6:30 PM

2.0 MCLE Credits (*Pending*)

Fairfax County Courthouse (Room TBD)

\$70 FBA Members; \$100 Non-Members

Distinguished Speakers:

The Hon. Manuel A. Capsalis, *Fairfax County Circuit Court*

The Hon. Michelle Kaminsky, *Fairfax County Circuit Court*

David A. Hirsch, Esq., *Moore, Christoff & Siddiqui, PLLC*

Sara Leiner Schuler, Esq., *Law Office of Sara Leiner Schuler, PLC*

2025 ANNUAL DUI CLE - (*Save the Date*)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026

Fairfax County Courthouse (Room TBD)

"GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY GATSBY GALA"

BENCH BAR DINNER DANCE

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026

6:30 PM - OPEN BAR RECEPTION

8:00 PM - DINNER FOLLOWED BY DANCING

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Ticket prices include 2.5 hours of open bar, passed hors d'oeuvres, photo booth, 3-course dinner, and live music & entertainment provided by "Radio City."

Please contact Jana Schrer at jsehrer@fairfaxbar.org or 703-246-2084 if you have any questions regarding this event. ■

NEW MEMBERS 2025

SEPTEMBER 2025

Guillermo E. Cintron, Esq.

Shelby Emley, Esq.

Amelia Gilmer, Esq.

Lyanchesi Santiago, Esq.

OCTOBER 2025

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Melody de Castro Bohannan, Esq.

Paul Brown, Esq.

Patrick B. Hanafin, Esq.

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NOVEMBER 2025

Jessika R. Antinori, Esq.

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Megan A. Meissner, Esq.

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FBA PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

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- * **Youth & Education Initiatives:** The FBA and its charitable partner, the Fairfax Law Foundation (founded in 1982), have conducted school-based “court tours,” mock trials, and law-education programs for local middle and high schools—exposing young people to the judicial system and legal process.
- * ***Pro Bono* and Public Service:** Through the Fairfax Law Foundation, the bar has provided *pro bono* services, supported victims of domestic violence, offered safe-driver and youth-prevention programs, and run other educational and charity efforts aimed at promoting justice and legal awareness.
- * **Lawyer Referral Service:** For more than 30 years, the FBA's Lawyer Referral Service has helped members of the public find legal representation—a resource especially important for individuals navigating the courts without prior counsel.
- * **Continuing Legal Education (CLE) & Professional Networking:** The FBA has long provided CLE seminars, publications such as the *FBA Journal*, networking events, bench-bar dinners, and other opportunities for attorneys at all stages of their careers to learn, connect, and collaborate.

Challenges and Evolution Over Time

Over five decades, Fairfax County—and with it the FBA's membership and mission—has evolved considerably:

- * As the community and legal landscape grew more diverse, the FBA navigated generational shifts in its membership. Early concerns about how to balance the needs of longtime members with those of newer and younger attorneys were already being discussed decades ago.
- * The shift of the law library from a modest facility to a full public-access courtroom law library reflects evolving needs for public legal access—a trend mirrored in other reforms across Virginia.
- * The FBA's charitable arm, the Fairfax Law Foundation, indicates a recognition that justice isn't solely about serving lawyers—it's about serving the broader community, especially underserved populations. Maintaining and funding *pro bono* and educational services in a growing region have likely posed ongoing challenges.

Why 50 Years Matters—And What It Represents

The 50th anniversary is more than a milestone—it's a testament to the enduring value of a locally rooted, voluntary professional association dedicated not just to lawyers, but to community access, public service, and civic engagement.

- * It symbolizes stability and continuity in a region that has undergone dramatic demographic, economic, and social change.
- * Through its public-facing services (law library, referrals, *pro bono*) and educational outreach, the FBA exemplifies how professional associations can bridge the gap between the legal community and everyday residents.
- * For its members—from senior judges to newly minted attorneys—the FBA offers a sense of community, shared purpose, and opportunities for mentorship and growth.

Looking Ahead: The Next 50 Years for the FBA

As the FBA reflects on its past, it also looks forward—adapting to contemporary challenges while retaining its core mission. Among potential future priorities:

- * Expanding public services to meet the needs of an increasingly diverse population (e.g., language access, self-represented litigants, legal-aid support).
- * Enhancing access to justice through technology—for example, remote legal resources, digital law libraries, and virtual CLEs.

continued on next page

FBA PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

continued from previous page

- * Fostering greater diversity and inclusion within the Bar membership and leadership, to reflect the evolving demographics of Northern Virginia.
- * Strengthening community outreach and *pro bono* work, especially around housing, immigration, civil rights, and other critical legal needs.
- * Leading the legal community in the proper and ethical use of artificial intelligence in the practice of law. ■

LAW RELATED EDUCATION COMMITTEE— CONNECTING FAIRFAX ATTORNEYS WITH THE FUTURE

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If you volunteered as an attorney guide in the past, please consider signing up again and sharing your hopefully positive experience with other local attorneys. If you are a new potential volunteer, we would love to have you and can pair you up with a seasoned Court Tour guide for your first tour, including members of the FBA's Young Lawyers Section. The program is also a fantastic opportunity for additional facetime between our Young Lawyers Section and the Fairfax Bench. ■

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 private 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 room in the middle - \$1,600/mo, Full Service, upper level front of building windowline.

- **4023 Chain Bridge Rd.** - Large windowed private office w/its own full BA, elegant finishes, and parking. **FOR LEASE:**
 - Suite 9 - \$995/mo, full service - partially furnished private office w/built-in bookcases, decorative fireplace, windows overlooking Chain Bridge Road.

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 windowed prvt. offices w/ their own admin/recep. area, plus shared waiting room, kitchen & common area restrooms.

3927 Blenheim Blvd., Unit 102-A - 1,150 SF - Upper end unit w/high ceilings and great window-line. Efficient layout has small waiting area, 5 private offices, kitchenette, restroom & closet.

LEASE - \$2,000/mo + elec., cleaning, phone & internet, 3 - 5 yr. lease term. Avail. immed.

10195-T Main Street - 1,150 SF - 1st floor end unit w/3 private offices, huge conference room/training room, large admin/recep. area, BA & util. **LEASE - \$1,950/mo + elec., cleaning, phone & internet, 2-yr. min. lease term. Avail. immed.**

4103 Chain Bridge Road - Location! Flexible office suite sizes! Elevated office building w/plenty parking across from Fairfax Courthouse! 2-5 yr. term. **LEASE - \$23 PSF, full service. Addtl 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 elevated 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 - 1,325 SF- Convenient space upstairs in the bank building at the corner of University Dr. & Sager Ave w/ separate entrances. Space has private corner office and huge open space/conf. rm. plus shared 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/large recep/admin. area, 3 prvt. windowed offices, kitchenette, BA & lrg. storage closets. Renovated w/ new LVP wood-finish flooring, ceiling fans, 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. end/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/sale of unit at no extra charge. **FOR SALE - \$418,275**

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

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FAIRFAX BAR ASSOCIATION FALL 2025 GOLF TOURNAMENT

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Each of the players was provided with a box lunch and an excellent Italian buffet dinner after the event. A number of sponsors helped to make this golf tournament a great success. Special recognition once again goes to **MICHAEL H. DOHERTY, PLLC**, as the exclusive dinner sponsor. The **DOMINION LAW GROUP, LLP** provided the Eagle sponsorship with Gerarda Culipher playing in the tournament. The **LETNICK LAW FIRM, PLC** provided the Birdie sponsorship. In addition to these sponsors, we were once again very fortunate to have **HERB HUNTER** of **KIRBY-HUNTER INVESTIGATIONS, INC.** photograph the event,

A substantial amount of prizes were awarded during the buffet dinner. The majority of those playing in the event received raffle items, which included 14 Titleist Vokey wedges, once again provided by **THE FITTING STUDIO AT WESTFIELDS GOLF CLUB**; along with many gift certificates for early registration. All who participated in the tournament enjoyed time away from the office and the camaraderie of fellow golfers.

The Fairfax Bar Association's 26th Annual Spring Golf Tournament at Westfields Golf Club is scheduled on Monday, May 11, 2026 with a shotgun start commencing at 1:30 PM. The Spring Golf Tournament has been played on the Friday before Mother's Day for years; however, due to scheduling issues, the 2026 Tournament will be played on the Monday following Mother's Day. Please note the date on your calendar to join us for a great day on the golf course, enjoying the companionship of friends and family, and being away from work-related stress. The 26th Annual Spring Golf Tournament is scheduled on a date when court is in session. Hopefully, you'll be able to make the Tournament a schedule priority and sign up. Participants of all skill levels are welcome to play in the Fairfax Bar Association Tournaments and all players are encouraged to participate in our future golf tournaments. ■

4110 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 216
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**26TH ANNUAL
SPRING GOLF
TOURNAMENT**

MAY 11, 2026

 **FAIRFAX BAR**
ASSOCIATION
Serving the Northern Virginia Legal Community

Register by
March 16, 2026
to qualify for additional
raffle drawings!

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