

JOURNAL

Newsletter of the Fairfax Bar Association www.fairfaxbar.org Fall 2026

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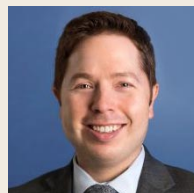
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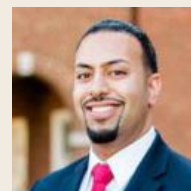
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20 YEARS OF BAR ASSOCIATION INVOLVEMENT, AND COUNTING

My journey with bar associations began while I was still in law school. I became active in the Black Law Students Association and eventually had the privilege of serving as president. That experience showed me two things early on: (1) law school is a lot easier when you have people to commiserate with, and (2) the legal profession is better when we create communities where people can connect, support one another, and occasionally remind each other that yes, everyone else is stressed too.

After becoming a lawyer, I continued my bar association involvement with the Northern Virginia Black Attorneys Association (NOVABAA), eventually serving in every office position before becoming president. What started as an opportunity to meet other attorneys became one of the most meaningful parts of my professional journey.

My involvement with NOVABAA led to my involvement with the Fairfax Bar Association. It was there that I learned of an opportunity to serve on the FBA judicial screening committee. I began as a committee member, later became chair, and eventually ran for the FBA Board of Directors. Each step gave me the opportunity to meet more members of our legal community and find new ways to contribute. I also learned that in bar associations, volunteering for one thing is a good way to end up volunteering for five more.

The practice of law can be challenging in ways that go beyond the cases we handle. The hours are long, the stakes are high, and the responsibility we carry for our clients can sometimes feel isolating. For me, one of the best ways to navigate those challenges was to become involved in and lean on the legal community around me. Through bar organizations, I found not only professional opportunities, but also something equally important: fellowship.

My time with the FBA has been one of the most rewarding parts of my legal career. The friendships I developed through bar involvement have grown with me throughout my career. The attorneys I met as a young lawyer became friends, referral sources, co-counsels, and trusted advisors. They became people I could turn to for advice, collaboration, and support. Those relationships reminded me that while practicing law is an individual profession, we do not have to practice it alone. Moreover, these relationships make our courthouse stronger. They allow us to advocate zealously for our clients while maintaining professionalism and respect outside the courtroom. A contentious case should remain contentious in the courtroom—not become a barrier to collegiality.

The FBA also provides opportunities to connect beyond our daily practice. Whether through conferences, educational programs, committees, social events, or our annual Bench Bar Dinner, these gatherings remind us that we are part of something larger than our individual practices.

If you have not yet become involved with the Fairfax Bar Association, I encourage you to take that first step. Join a committee. Attend an event. Volunteer for a project. Introduce yourself to someone new. The benefits may not always be immediate, but the relationships you build can shape your career and your experience in the profession. ■

FAIRFAX BAR JOURNAL

*Official Newsletter of the
Fairfax Bar Association*

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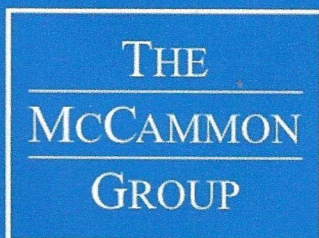
is pleased to welcome our newest Neutral



Hon. Penney S. Azcarate (Ret.)

Retired Chief Judge, 19th Judicial Circuit Court of Virginia, Fairfax County

The Honorable Penney S. Azcarate recently retired as Chief Judge of the 19th Judicial Circuit Court after eighteen years of distinguished judicial service in Fairfax County, where she made history as the first woman to serve as Chief Judge. Before her appointment to the Circuit Court, Judge Azcarate served for seven years on the Fairfax County General District Court. During her judicial tenure, she championed innovation and access to justice, establishing Virginia's first stand-alone Veteran Treatment Docket and implementing Fairfax County's Drug Court. Before joining the bench, Judge Azcarate served as a Fairfax County prosecutor and maintained a successful private practice in both civil litigation and criminal defense. A retired Major in the United States Marine Corps Reserves, she has also served as Chair of the Supreme Court of Virginia's Veteran Specialty Docket and as is a two-time recipient of the Fairfax Bar Association's President's Award. Judge Azcarate now brings her record of leadership, service, and excellence to The McCammon Group to serve the alternative dispute resolution needs of lawyers and litigants throughout the Commonwealth and beyond.



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OUR COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY CONTINUES BECAUSE OF YOUR SUPPORT

Since 1982, the Fairfax Law Foundation has operated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and as the charitable arm of the Fairfax Bar Association. The Foundation's mission is simple: provide law-related education to our youth and community; offer direct legal assistance to the indigent and those with special needs; and increase access to and improvements in the justice system.

With the support of the FBA and hundreds of volunteers, the Foundation's programs have helped so many over the years. Highlights include:

- The Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center (NVPBLC) assists low-income clients with civil legal matters. All services are provided without charge. Last year, over 3,300 hours were donated to serve 1,564 clients. In July, the NVPBLC was recognized with a grant from the Virginia Law Foundation so that efforts to improve access to justice for the underserved can be continued in the coming year.
- The Conciliation Program pair-trained Conciliators with litigants to attempt to resolve disputes involving civil discovery and other procedural motions. The Conciliation Program is available to all parties before the Fairfax Circuit Court, regardless of whether the parties have counsel.
- The Court Tour Program provides 8th grade Civics students in Fairfax County the opportunity to tour the Courthouse, participate in a mock trial, speak with judges, and observe the proceedings in the Circuit and General District Courts. The tours are led by attorney volunteers, and all costs of transportation and other operational expenses are financed by the Foundation. Over the past couple years, the Foundation has renewed its commitment to reach as many young people as possible. We have expanded and opened up the Court Tour Program so that it is available not just to Fairfax County Public School students but also to private and home-school students as well.

These are only a few of the Programs that the Foundation supports. We also offer scholarships for college and law school students; participate in the Back-to-School Supply Drive and the FBA Paralegal Section's Book Drive; support the Fairfax Public Law Library; and volunteer at elementary and high schools for speaker events and mock trials. The list goes on and we want it to continue to grow, not just this year but for many years to come.

The Fairfax Law Foundation would not exist without the support of all the dedicated professionals who have volunteered their time to assist litigants and to teach our children and without the donations that have funded the Foundation's work.

On behalf of the Foundation's Board, I want to thank you. Thank you for all the thousands of hours that have been donated to NVPBLC, for giving up busy mornings to lead a Court Tour, for liking and sharing social media posts to increase the Foundation's reach, for volunteering to make our annual Heroes v. Villains 5K be bigger and more successful every single year.

And thank you for each and every monetary donation that the Foundation has received. We know that it is not always possible to give and that there are many other worthy organizations out there that need support. We are honored every single time someone chooses to support the Foundation.

Please visit our website at www.fairfaxlawfoundation.org or follow us on social media ([@FairfaxLawFoundation](https://www.facebook.com/FairfaxLawFoundation) on Facebook; [@fairfax_law_foundation](https://www.instagram.com/fairfax_law_foundation) on Instagram; and [@FairfaxLawFndn](https://twitter.com/FairfaxLawFndn) on X/Twitter) for more updates. And please feel free to reach out to me directly at joanna.faust@fairfaxcounty.gov with any questions, comments, or ideas.

Finally, I hope that you will "save the date." The Foundation's annual [Heroes v. Villains 5K](#) will be held on [April 18, 2027](#). All are welcome, and we look forward to seeing everyone there. ■

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REPORT OF FAIRFAX BAR ASSOCIATION DELEGATE TO THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

By Robert M. Worster, III, Esq., Delegate

The American Bar Association House of Delegates met in Chicago from July 29, 2026 - August 4, 2026. This was my fourth and final conference as FBA's Delegate to the House.¹ I was honored to represent the FBA and am grateful for the opportunity. I remain willing to continue my service at the Board's pleasure.

The HOD issued resolutions concerning over 40 policy matters related to the independence of the legal profession and judiciary, warrantless immigration searches and arrests, law enforcement protocols, law student recruitment, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ("DEI").

The most hotly debated issues concerned law school accreditation and Standard 206 (DEI). In short, this was a highly energized debate over how best to support DEI principles without running afoul of the executive branch and recent U.S. Supreme Court precedent concerning DEI. This is most relevant to FBA members who have most recently graduated from law school. See Exhibit 1 (Report on Standard 206).

Other notable resolutions include:

- **Resolution 403.** Sought to slow down the recruiting process from the first semester of law school.
- **Resolution 500.** Urged Congress to better support the six ABA-accredited Historically Black Colleges and Universities law schools.
- **Resolution 501.** Urged Congress to cap aggregate payments applied to federal student loan debt for individuals working in qualified public service legal fields.
- **Resolution 405.** Urged transparency concerning NextGen Uniform Bar Exam adoption.
- **Resolution 515.** Encouraged practical legal school to be provided to new lawyers.
- **Resolution 511.** Urged law enforcement to prohibit the routine use of face coverings/ agency obscurement.
- **Resolution 512.** Urged an end to immigration arrests and searches in a home without a warrant issued by a neutral and detached judicial officer based upon probable cause.
- **Resolution 607.** Emphasizing the importance of the writ of *habeas corpus*.
- **Resolution 404.** Urging the adoption of firearm regulations.
- **Resolution 513.** Urging respect for the rule of law, including Articles 1 and 2 of the United Nations Charter and all applicable international humanitarian and human rights law, including treaties such as the 1949 Geneva Conventions and customary international law.
- **Resolution 610.** Urging the President of the United States to release the U.S. State Department report and underlying analysis used to justify the Presidential Memorandum entitled "Withdrawing the United States from International Organizations, Conventions and Treaties that Are Contrary to the Interests of the United States," dated January 7, 2026.
- **Resolution 605.** Urging all governments to ban child marriages. ■

¹The House of Delegates is the ABA's policy-making body for legal, judicial, and public policy issues.



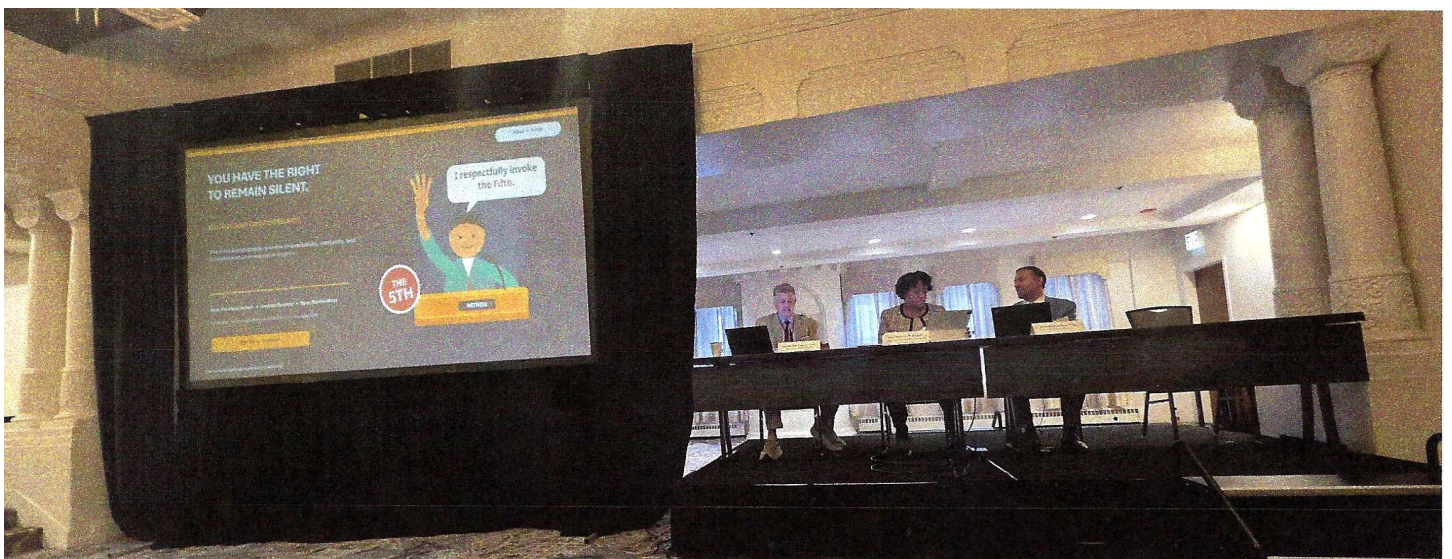
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EMPLOYMENT LAW SECTION

By Jane Lemley, Esq., Co-Chair

The Fairfax Bar Employment Law Section continues to thrive. Daniel Masakayan (Williams Mullen) and I, Jane Lemley (Warner PLLC), have thoroughly enjoyed our duties as co-chairs and will continue to do so until June 2027.

Since our last contribution to the FBA's newsletter, our Section has hosted two seminars for our members. One concerned the use of AI by lawyers (for CLE credit) and the other concerned recent employment law-related legislation passed by Virginia's legislature, most of which was signed into law by Governor Spanberger. We were pleased that Delegate Simon joined us to discuss some important (and head-scratching) legislative changes. These events were followed by happy hour events where everyone was able to kick back and hang out.

More recently, the FBA once again successfully hosted a dine-around on the first day of the VBA's 58th Annual Labor and Employment Law Conference held in Virginia Beach in mid-September. Members of the FBA Employment Law Section formed two large dinner groups where old friends and new were able to share news about their personal lives and discuss their professional goals and aspirations.

The VBA Labor and Employment Law Conference was successful as usual. Many FBA Employment Law Section members both attended and spoke. Vice Chair Broderick Dunn (Dunn, Craig & Francuzenko) gave the presentation on annual updates on labor and employment law along with Richmond's Amanda Weaver (Williams Mullen). Eddie Isler (Isler Dare), and John Cook (Cook Legal Solutions) were two of the stars in the "Hollywood Squares" session, at which they answered questions about various aspects of employment law that sometimes implicated their own fascinating cases.

Matt Nieman (Jackson Lewis) posed questions about best practices in litigation to the Hon. Stephen Sincavage, Loudoun County Circuit Court, and the Honorable Douglas Miller, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia—Norfolk/Newport News. Judge Miller confirmed that we should not draft long sections in our briefs describing the legal standard for the motion—they already know it!

The Conference was also graced by the Hon. Jessica Looman, Virginia's new Secretary of Labor. We also heard from Kalpana Kotagal, who is a Commissioner with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. She spoke about navigating DEI in the wake of President Trump's 2025 package of executive orders aimed at eliminating unlawful DEI programs. She reiterated that DEI policies that included quotas or required affirmative action or otherwise promoted one race, gender, or other protected class have always been unlawful. She also reassured us that DEI is not dead and that the EEOC continues to champion lawfully drafted DEI policies. That was welcome news to many attorneys in the audience.

Dan and I were on a panel moderated by Roya Vasseghi (Vasseghi Law Group) in which we discussed the paths that our careers have taken us and what successful and not-so-successful marketing strategies we utilized as we changed law firms over the course of our careers and responded to other life events that required us to pivot. We agreed that there remains great marketing value in sending a personal handwritten note to a referral source and a new attorney connection.

Throughout the event, Virginia's labor and employment lawyers discussed recent changes in Virginia employment law. The hottest topic by far was the recent amendment to Virginia's Non-Compete statute, VA Code §40.1 28.7:8. A non-compete agreement is now unenforceable if the employer terminated the employee without cause and without providing severance. This requirement applies to all employees, not just those who are non-exempt or who earn below a defined salary threshold, which is currently \$78,365. The statute does not, however, define cause nor does it state how much severance must be offered and when, causing a lot of uncertainty and opportunity for litigation.

Another hot topic included the recent amendment to Virginia's wage payment statute, VA Code § 40.1-29 codifies that commissions constitute wages within the meaning of the law. Employers who withhold earned commissions will pay treble damages and attorneys' fees if they intentionally refuse to pay this compensation once it's earned and vested.

The FBA Employment Law Section will continue to keep its members apprised of recent changes in the law and important conferences and seminars. Coming up, the Employment Law Section will be hosting brown-bag lunch meetings to discuss how to conduct effective investigations and how to draft thorough reports of investigations. The Employment Law Section will also be hosting a Fall Fire Pit event in The Plains, Virginia that is now tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 7th at noon. Save the date!

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or Dan if you have any questions or suggestions or if you would like to host a seminar or CLE at your office. We can be reached at jlemley@warnerpllc.com and dmasakan@williamsullen.com. ■

CRIMINAL LAW SECTION

By Negin Farahmand Wood, Esq., Chair; Ryan Rambudhan Co-Vice Chair; Joseph “Joey” Collins, Co-Vice Chair

Criminal Law in Motion Sealing, Speed Technology, and What's Ahead

Section Leadership

The Fairfax Bar Association Criminal Law Section begins the 2026–2027 year with an expanded leadership team. Negin Farahmand Wood will continue as Chair, with Ryan Rambudhan and Joseph “Joey” Collins serving as Co-Vice Chairs. Collins is an attorney with the Fairfax County Public Defender’s Office, where he also helps coordinate the office’s intern program, and he is an alumnus of the National Criminal Defense College. The Section’s goal remains practical: identify the issues criminal practitioners are confronting in court, bring together perspectives from the bench, prosecution, defense, and related disciplines; and build CLE programming around what lawyers actually need to know.

Recent Programming

Earlier this year, the Section presented “Evaluating Allegations of Strangulation: A Medical Perspective for the Defense and Ethical Obligations for Criminal Practitioners.” The program combined a medical perspective on strangulation allegations with an ethics presentation addressing one of the recurring difficulties in domestic cases: how defense counsel can investigate a complaining witness without crossing the line into giving that witness legal advice. The practical theme was simple: facts only, advice never. The program addressed communications with unrepresented witnesses, subpoenas, recantations, recording witness interviews, lawyer-as-witness problems, and the need to document contacts carefully. It reflected the type of programming the Section hopes to continue—substantive law paired with real-world courtroom problems.

Hot Topics in Virginia Criminal Practice

Several developments are now generating significant discussion in Virginia criminal practice. Criminal record sealing has moved from theory to daily practice. Virginia’s new sealing framework took effect July 1, 2026. It creates both automatic and petition-based pathways for eligible records. Certain misdemeanor non-convictions may now be sealed automatically at the conclusion of the case, while the statutes also create mechanisms for sealing specified convictions and deferred dispositions. Petition sealing under Virginia Code § 19.2-392.12 reaches many misdemeanors, Class 5 and 6 felonies, and certain larceny offenses, subject to substantial eligibility requirements and statutory exclusions. The practical consequences are significant. Disposition negotiations can no longer focus only on the immediate sentence; lawyers should also consider whether the final disposition preserves or forecloses future sealing opportunities. Courts and practitioners are also working through the mechanics of a new system that requires coordination among clerks, the State Police, and other record custodians.

Virginia has also entered a new era in high-speed reckless-driving cases with the Intelligent Speed Assistance Program. Under Virginia Code § 46.2-393, a court may, for reckless driving under § 46.2-861 or 46.2-862 and for good cause shown, order enrollment in the program for 60 days to six months as an alternative to a license suspension. For a § 46.2-862 conviction involving a speed over 100 miles per hour, enrollment is mandatory unless the court instead orders a license suspension. The system is designed to limit a participating vehicle to the applicable speed limit. Because the program is new, implementation questions—including availability, installation, cost, prequalification, and how judges exercise discretion—are becoming immediate issues in traffic court.

A third development involves failure-to-appear prosecutions. The 2026 amendments to Virginia Code § 19.2-128 now define a willful failure to appear as intentional conduct undertaken for the purpose of avoiding the judicial process. The statute directs courts to consider mitigating circumstances such as illness, unexpected transportation problems, dependent-care issues, and affirmative efforts to communicate or remedy the missed appearance. The change gives practitioners a more developed statutory framework for distinguishing deliberate evasion from the ordinary emergencies and mistakes that can cause a missed court date.

What the Section Is Discussing Next

The Section is also watching changes in pretrial practice. A December CLE is being developed around the new pretrial assessment tool, with Bryan Kennedy already identified as a speaker and additional perspectives being sought. The objective will be to move beyond simply describing the tool and focus on how its information is used, challenged, and explained in actual bond and pretrial litigation.

Before then, the Section will present a two-hour CLE on October 15 addressing the Fairfax Veterans Treatment Docket and attorney well-being. The program will pair an overview of the treatment docket and available behavioral-health resources with a discussion of attorney well-being, an issue with obvious relevance in a practice area defined by high caseloads, difficult facts, and consequential outcomes.

These subjects illustrate where criminal practice is heading: technology is becoming part of sentencing, collateral consequences are increasingly intertwined with case resolution, and statutory reforms are changing what happens both during and after a criminal case. The Criminal Law Section looks forward to continuing the conversation and welcomes suggestions for future CLE topics, emerging issues, and speakers who can help Fairfax practitioners stay ahead of those changes. ■

PARALEGAL SECTION

By Jamie Montoney, Chair

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF CONNECTION AND LEADERSHIP IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

The Paralegal Section of the Fairfax Bar Association is celebrating 25 years in 2026! The Section was established on May 24, 2001 by Elizabeth "Libba" McKenzie. Now an attorney, Libba was inspired to highlight the value that paralegals bring to their cases and the firms they work for. She told us,

From the beginning of my career, I loved my role as a paralegal and had the great opportunity to work with outstanding lawyers who valued the work of paralegals and integrated me into their cases. My love of the profession, my interactions with clients and my superiors fueled my passion for the legal field. I wanted others to know the value paralegals brought to a case...managing difficult clients, preparing tedious discovery, legal research and drafting the first draft of certain pleadings. There are so many ways to use the skills of a paralegal.

I wanted to expand the knowledge of the many tasks/roles paralegals were capable of and to promote their value to the legal profession in general. That is the genesis and the reasons why I wanted to start the paralegal section. I was honored to be its first Chair and continued working on the Committee until I was accepted into law school soon after. My skills as a paralegal have carried me through my career as a lawyer and I am grateful to have had the experience!

I am so proud of the work the Paralegal [Section] has accomplished. All of the credit for its success belongs to you and the members who have worked hard to keep it going!

Since its inception, the Paralegal Section has given legal paraprofessionals living or working for firms in Fairfax and Northern Virginia a place to network, learn, and give back to the local community. Members have also served as leaders in the Fairfax legal community, developing skills which make them stand out among their peers in the industry.

Over the years, our members have been able to come together and build camaraderie through several networking opportunities. Whether unwinding at one of our happy hours or in friendly competition at our annual Spring Bowling Social, paralegals have been able to find support and friendship with those on the other side of the table in their professional lives. The Section also provides a place for members to build their legal skills through learning opportunities, including a range of topics like cybersecurity and tech for the legal office, how to better assist attorneys through the discovery and trial processes, and keeping up to date on law and legal changes. We work with leaders in the Fairfax law community to bring interesting and relevant content to our members.

We strive to find engaging ways to keep members of local firms connected through interesting activities. In addition to our social and learning events, we host several philanthropic events during the year. Together with FACETS, the Section hosts our annual Back-to-School Supply Drive and Thanksgiving Food Drive to support families in need of assistance. We have also supported the Fairfax Juvenile Detention Center's residential and after-care programs by providing books and supplies through our annual Valentine's Day Book Drive.

The Section has also provided opportunities for paralegals to serve as leaders in the local legal community. Our Executive and Leadership Committees have provided outlets for those who want to step up to be more involved in the planning and execution of all these great events. Former Chairperson, Janet Lawson, served in several positions on the Executive Committee before being elected Chair. We asked what it meant to her to be elected Chair? She stated,

It was very meaningful, and challenging. I've never considered myself as a "leader," and think of myself more as a "behind the scenes" kind of person. Speaking in front of a crowd was the challenging part, but it did help me push myself out of my comfort zone to rise to the occasion when I had to.

Still an active member of the Paralegal Section, we asked Janet what her impression of the Section was today. "I think you guys have been doing a great job, and I love coming to the events when I can, just see you all and catch up" Janet said, while also noting, "[k]eeping members is a tough job and a constant battle, because people move around in the area from law firm to law firm, and have families and other commitments to attend to."

We agreed, and at the end of last year voted to revamp our Committees for the 2026-2027 Section year. While previously we had seven positions, all of which required a one-year commitment, we also recognized that our members have busy and active lives outside of the office. We now work as a three-person Executive Committee (Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary) that is elected each year, with an active volunteer Leadership Committee that helps plan and execute our activities, philanthropic endeavors, and learning opportunities.

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This change in Leadership roles has allowed members like Julia Nelson to assist with planning our Fall activities while committing to coaching softball for Falls Church High School in the Spring. Julia previously served as the CLE Coordinator for a year before being elected Chair for the Section for four years. She is now a part of our Leadership Committee and has already helped to coordinate our Back-to-School Drive and Fall Kick-Off Happy Hour this year. Being both elected to serve the Section, and volunteering to continue in Leadership, has given Julia a unique perspective on the way the Section has evolved over the years. When asked what she thought of the Section as it is today, she told us,

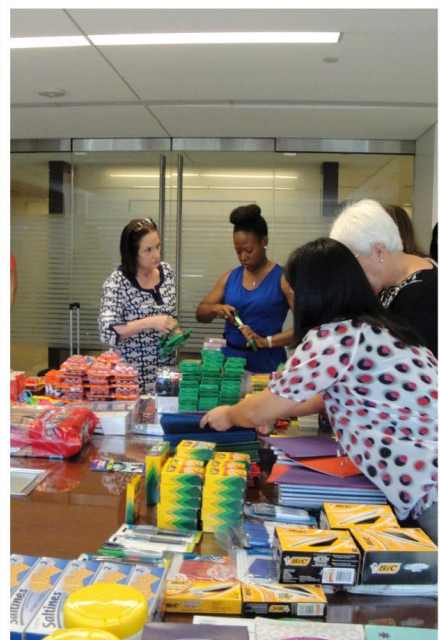
It is in a fantastic place! I love seeing new faces and fresh ideas continually circulating, all while the section preserves the long-standing traditions that members have come to love. This balance keeps the community familiar and welcoming without ever growing stale.

Providing these opportunities for the last quarter of a century has made the Fairfax paraprofessional community well-rounded and valuable employees for their firms, while also bridging the gap between their personal and professional lives. After 25 years, being open to change has allowed our members the chance to step up on their own terms and at their own pace. We are evolving and seeking to build lasting connections with our members through the next 25 years!

We are now looking to firms to encourage their support staff to join our wonderful community. Please reach out to the FBA office for more information on membership.

If you are a member interested in joining our Executive or Leadership Committees, please reach out to us for details! ■

Jamie Montoney (Chair): jmontoney@cgglawyers.com
Jennifer Horn (Vice Chair): jhorn@cgglawyers.com
Debbie Robinson (Secretary): djkrobinson1959@gmail.com



UPCOMING EVENTS/CLEs

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2026

LITIGATING SCHOOL SELECTION DISPUTES WITH AN EDUCATIONAL EXPERT CLE
FAIRFAX COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM TBD

4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

2.0 MCLE Credits (*Pending*)

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

Distinguished Speakers:

Camille A. Crandall, Esq., *Hicks Crandall Juhl, PC*

Jake Weinfeld, *WEG Advocacy*

Rich Weinfeld, *WEG Advocacy*

Rachel Wills, *WEG Advocacy*

This seminar will explore the nuances of working with an educational expert in school selection litigation, including when to retain an expert; practices for researching and evaluating school fit; designating your expert; and effectively presenting their findings at trial.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2026

VIEW FROM THE BENCH CLE
FAIRFAX COUNTY COURTHOUSE

4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

3.0 (1.0 Ethics) MCLE Credits (*Pending*)

\$75 FBA Young Lawyers/\$105 FBA Members/\$150 Non-Members

Our goal is to help practitioners see things from the other side of the bench as much as possible—what judges like, and don't like.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 23, 2025

PARALEGAL SECTION WEBINAR:
HOW TO KEEP YOUR ATTORNEY OUT OF HOT WATER WITH THE JUDGE!

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Cisco WebEx

Paralegal Section Member/\$15 Non-Members

Distinguished Speakers:

The Hon. John M. Tran, *Fairfax County Circuit Court*

Jenna M. Hayba, Esq., *Curran Moher Weis*

Milton C. Johns, Esq., *Executive Law Partners, PLLC*

Join the FBA Paralegal Section for an insightful seminar, which will cover courtroom etiquette, professional expectations, successful trial preparation strategies, and tips for avoiding common missteps.

continued on next page

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF CHANGING MINDS: A NEW TOOL KIT FOR LAWYERS CLE

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

Nino Greene, *Zebra Communications, LLC*

Lawyers are in the business of persuasion—yet the traditional tools of logic and evidence often fall short when faced with how people actually make decisions. Drawing from cutting-edge research in psychology, behavioral economics, and neuroscience, this course bridges the gap between rational argument and human behavior. Participants will explore how biases, framing, empathy, and narrative shape belief—and learn practical strategies to communicate more effectively in court, in negotiation, and within their own organizations.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2026

2026 ANNUAL ETHICS CLE

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

2.0 (2.0 Ethics) MCLE Credits (*Pending*)

Cisco WebEx

Free for FBA Members/\$100 Non-Members

Distinguished Panelists:

Richard Johnson, Esq., *Virginia State Bar*

Elizabeth Shoenfeld, Esq., *Virginia State Bar* ■



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CIRCUIT COURT COMMITTEE

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

The Fairfax Bar Association (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; 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 *Fairfax County Circuit Court Manual*. Anyone who wishes to join the Committee can contact the Bar office at fbafairfaxbar.org and be added to the Committee membership. It is an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas, obtain information and news, and help dialogue with the practice of law in the Circuit Court. It is also unique in that it has direct access to the judges in an informal setting. It is also the FBA organization in charge of editing and updating the *Fairfax Bar's Practice Manual*, which is completed in close conjunction with the judges of the Circuit Court. Under the leadership of Clyde Hristofferson and the Subcommittee, the *2025 10th Edition Fairfax County Circuit Court Manual* was unveiled at a CLE in March 2025.

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.

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, while working to improve the practice of law. We hope that you will join us. ■

FURNISHED OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

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703-379-5303

NEW MEMBERS 2026

New Members since June 22, 2026

June 2026

Clarence Gray, Esq.
Kartar Khalsa, Esq.
Isaac B. Rosenberg, Esq.
Sebastian Safaei, Esq.
Robert Martin Wolfson, Esq.

July 2026

Alonso Cisneros, Esq.
Dylan B. Gonzalez, Esq.
Lisa Derco, Esq.
Chadwick O'Neill, Esq.
Yassamine Kamal
Ana Maria Sanchez
Eli Schlam, Esq.
Sara Slaughter
Emily St. John
Jennifer Wetzel

August 2026

Aron John Ambia, Esq.
Amy Hanlein Falcon, Esq.
Ashley Booth Kyle, Esq.
Gilead Light, Esq.
Amber Lopez-Hunter, Esq.
Sean Pico, Esq.
Toni Royse
Seth Royster, Esq.

September 2026

Lindsay Hoffman, Esq.
Sotia M. Kyriacou, Esq.
Jerry Alexander McCargo III, Esq.
Paxton Ouellette, Esq.
Matthew Saliman, Esq.





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WELCOMING

WILL SCHAIER

We are pleased to welcome Will Schai, an associate supporting the firm's civil litigation, criminal law, and employment law practices. Will earned his J.D. from William & Mary Law School in 2025 and his B.S. in Finance from Virginia Tech in 2021. While in law school, he was Treasurer of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Team and a staff member of the Journal of Race, Gender, and Social Justice. Welcome, Will!



CONGRATULATIONS

BRIAN LUBKEMAN

We congratulate Brian Lubkeman on his election to the Board of Directors of the Local Government Attorneys of Virginia (LGA), for an initial two-year term beginning September 1, 2026. LGA represents over 300 organizational members and nearly 900 attorneys across Virginia localities, private firms, and the judiciary. Brian serves as City Attorney for both Fairfax and Manassas Park and co-leads the firm's Municipal and Governmental Practice Group. Congratulations, Brian!



To learn more or schedule an initial consultation, please call **703.883.0880** or visit **BrigliaHundley.com**.

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 D** - \$750/mo, **Full Service** office on main level w/ shared waiting area & conf. room.
 - **Suite 7/9** - \$1,450/mo, **Full Service** 2-room suite on the 1st floor, rear corner next to the parking lot entrance, both rooms have windows, adjoining door between the rooms, and each room has its own entrance from the common hallway
- **4101 Chain Bridge Rd.** - Single-room private offices w/windows available w/shared use of conf. rm, kit. & BAs **FOR LEASE**:
 - **Suite 210** - \$795/mo, **Full Service**, office on the street level from Chain Bridge Rd. entrance.
 - **Suite 301** - \$895/mo, **Full Service** upper level corner office w/windows on 2 sides.

3925 Chain Bridge Road - Enjoy two private offices for lease in an office condo in the heart of Fairfax City! 2-rm. suite w/shared amenities inc: wait/recep. area, conf. room, kit, and en suite BA.

- **Suite 403** - \$1,800/mo + phone & internet paid by tenant. 2 - 5-yr. lease term. Avail. immed.

3977 Chain Bridge Road, Suites B2 & 301 - **Suite 302** is a 2-room windowed suite w/its own BA - \$900/mo + cln, phone & internet. **Suite B2** suite has 3 prt. offices, admin/recep. area, shared BA & its own entrance from the street - \$1,650/mo + cln, phone & internet.

4103 Chain Bridge Road - Location! Flexible office suite sizes! Elevated office building w/plenty parking across from Fairfax Courthouse! **LEASE - \$23 PSF, full service.**

- **Suite 400** - 1,800 - 4,400 rsf on 4th floor w/lrg. open admin/recep. area, 2 huge conf. rooms, several prt. 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 & uniform exterior signage allowed.

- **Suite G-1** - 600 rsf - Small suite, walk-in level/ground floor is divided into 3 rooms w/window looking out to covered parking area. **LEASE - \$950/mo, full service, 1-yr. min. lease term**

4021 University Dr., 2nd Floor - 1,325 SF- Convenient space on 2nd floor at the corner of University Dr. & Sager Ave w/two separate entrances. Space has private corner office, huge open work space/conf. area plus shared 1st floor conf. rm, storage areas, 2 BAs, and kitchenette. **LEASE - \$22/psf + phone/internet & cleaning.**

3989 Chain Bridge Road, Lower Level - 800 gross sf on the ground level w/its own entrance from Chain Bridge Rd. Plenty of free parking in public garage. Layout: 2 rooms, storage + BA, side entrance w/exterior signage allowed. Move-in ready condition! **FOR LEASE - \$1,800/mo + elec, cln, phone & internet paid by tenant. Avail. immed.**

FOR SALE at 10615 Judicial Dr., Unit 302-A - Across the street from FFX Courthouse, courtyard/main lvl. unit overlooking Judicial Dr. w/ great windowline & lovely interior. Efficient layout w/ waiting area, recep. admin area, 3 prt. offices, conf. room, kit/breakroom, powder room & full BA, and storage closets. Perfect for most professional office uses. Most of the furniture is avail. to convey with the sale of the unit. **FOR SALE - \$348,000**

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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The State of the Judiciary **Luncheon**

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 16, 2026
12:00 PM – 1:30 PM

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