

Henrico Bar News

April 2016

Henrico County Bar Association
P.O. Box 70147
Richmond, Virginia 23255



From the Desk of Michael Y. Feinmel, HCBA President

The Chinese adage, "May you live in interesting times", has never been more true than this past year for me and for our members. I could monopolize the entire newsletter with the events of this past year: our membership produced a new Circuit Court Clerk and two new judges, in addition to a number of other achievements for our membership. Perhaps most eventful was the elevation of our friend, colleague, and my law school classmate, Mary Malveaux, to the Virginia Court of Appeals. I can't say enough about how proud all of us are of Justice Malveaux.

We had almost record numbers of attendees at all of our events this year. Even more exciting for me was the number of younger attorneys who showed at events this year and will hopefully continue to remain involved in the Association. Membership and participation in the Association provides a great opportunity to begin playing a role in your community and to continue to develop working relationships with your contemporaries.

A number of fantastic people worked hard this year, and made me look good. Julie, Jim, Natalie, Brian, Carl, Julie, Matt, Andrew, Brooks and Ryan could not have been a better team to work with, and made this year great. There isn't enough praise or thanks I can heap on my good friend Mary Lou Wellman who was particularly challenged this year by the brand of disorganization and absent-mindedness that I brought to the table. Please at the next event (Spring Banquet and GOLF TOURNAMENT!!!) take a second to personally thank Mary Lou for her hard work. We truly would not exist as an organization without her dedication and professionalism.

To next year's President, Julie Palmer, I would like to think that I have duplicated past-Presidents' efforts by not screwing things up too badly. To the Association, I know that with Julie and with the entire new Board, I leave you in outstanding hands. To all my friends, contemporaries, and brothers and sisters of the bar, I thank you for your trust and confidence in me in this position.

Sincerely,
Michael Y. Feinmel
President



Legislative Update

On April 27, 2016, the HCBA held its annual Legislative Update along with a cocktail reception at the Westwood Club. Henrico County Delegates Jimmie Massie, Peter Farrell and John O'Bannon, and Senators Siobhan Dunnivant and Donald McEachin were kind enough to highlight for the approximately 80 attendees a number of legislative issues addressed by the 2016 General Assembly session. Among the issues covered were the appointment of judges, changes in worker's compensation laws, and the Good Samaritan defense to possession of drug charges. The legislators also entertained questions from the audience. A spirited debate broke out among the political parties regarding the Governor's recent decision to reinstate voting rights to convicted felons. We would like to thank Maria J.K. Everett, Senior Attorney for the Division of Legislative Services, for moderating the event.

Save the Date

Annual Spring Reception
Wednesday, May 18, 2016
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens

**10th Annual John Garrett
Memorial Golf Tournament to
benefit Comfort Zone Camp**
Tuesday, May 24, 2016
1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start
Sycamore Creek Golf Course

In This Issue

Legislative Update



Moderator Maria J.K. Everett, Esq., Senator Siobhan Dunnivant, Delegate Peter Ferrell and Delegate John O'Bannon



Senator Siobhan Dunnivant, Delegate Peter Ferrell, Delegate John O'Bannon, Senator Donald McEachin, Delegate James Massie and HCBA Vice President Jim Hopper



Joe Rapisarda, Marissa Mitchell and Karen Dottore-Jones

Annual Spring Luncheon

On March 10, 2016, John D. Adams of McGuire Woods Law Firm presented his perspective on the Supreme Court case of *McDonnell v. United States* pending before the US Supreme Court. Mr. Adams is the Chair of his firm's Government Investigations and White Collar Litigation Department. He also previously served as clerk to Justice Clarence Thomas, served as an Assistant US Attorney in the Eastern District, and worked as Associate Counsel to the President of the United States under George W. Bush. John outlined the history behind the federal law used to prosecute the case and past Supreme Court interpretation. For those in attendance, Mr. Adams, as a former U.S. Attorney, provided an excellent overview of what the government would argue to uphold the verdict and as an attorney who regularly advises those impacted by the law, the argument of the McDonnell attorneys to strike the law as overbroad and vague, and the slippery slope that the Supreme Court is confronted in deciding the case. His overview proved directly on point when the case was argued in late April. Thank you to Mr. Adams for his excellent talk and to our sponsor SELTEK, Inc. for once again sponsoring the luncheon at the Westwood Club.



Harry Shaia, Nael Abouzaki and Andy Condlin



John D. Adams, Esquire



Bill Viverette, Ken Dickinson and Nancy Cook



Adalyn Brugger, Briyanna Scott, Katherine Coleman, Alexis Fisher-Rizk, Po Chau, Stacey Davenport and Shannon Taylor

Clerk's Corner

Please check out the Twitter page for the Henrico Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court @HenricoJDRct.

Members on the Move

Mary Wilkins Hunt has been named partner at **Family Law Associates of Richmond, P.C.** Mary has been with the firm, and its predecessor, since 2006 and focuses her practice on Family Law and Collaborative Law.

If you have recently changed jobs or been promoted, please share your news with the Henrico Bar. We would like to post your announcement in our newsletter and update your member profile. Announcements can be emailed to Mary Lou Wellman at admin@henricobar.org. Please include your name, firm or employer's name, new title and areas of concentration.

Welcome New Members

Nael A. Abouzaki
Robert E. Battle
Theodore Bruns
Michael F. Kaestner
Harris Leiner



Al Gnapp and Rhysa South

For more pictures from the Legislative Update, please visit our website at www.henricobar.org.

Member Spotlight



Full Name: Emily Paige Bishop

Employer and Position: Senior Associate at Harman, Claytor, Corrigan & Wellman

College: Virginia Tech

Law School: University of Richmond

Years in Practice: 7.5

Hobbies and Interests: I enjoy eating and exercise (usually not simultaneously), volunteering on the Richmond Animal League "dog crew," and watching copious amounts of Big Bang Theory reruns.

Favorite Movie: "The Wizard of Oz"

Favorite Book: "The Giving Tree"

Favorite Pro and College Sports Team: Da Bears, Virginia Tech, and the two-man team of Jordan Speith and Michael Geller.

One Thing You Might Not Know About Me: I challenged myself to run a race per month for a year, and ended up running 18 races in 12 months. After every race, I went out for doughnuts.

Best Thing About Practicing Law in Henrico: As many attorneys as there are in Henrico, it's a small community. It's great to venture beyond

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the border, but it's also really great to get to work with the same people and to see familiar faces.

Funniest Experience as an Attorney: As a prosecutor, I was standing before the court giving a factual summary when I accidentally referred to the arresting officer as "Officer Handsome." I knew the officer well and was well-aware of his name. That coupled with calling him by a name that sounds like "handsome" elicited quite a bit of laughter.

Advice to Young Attorneys: Be kind. Be courteous. Be thoughtful. Recognize that there is a difference between being an aggressive advocate for your client and being difficult. Your reputation will precede you wherever you go. Strive to be the type of attorney who is greeted with authentic smiles and handshakes.



Full Name: James Andrew Johnson

Employer and Position: Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney, Henrico

College: Randolph-Macon College

Law School: Ohio Northern University

Years in Practice: 1997-present

Hobbies and Interests: Watching live music, hanging out at the river, spending time with my family, traveling, watching sporting events.

Favorite Movie: "In the Name of the Father"

Favorite Book: "Slaughterhouse Five"

Favorite Pro and College Sports Team: Boston Red Sox, UNC basketball.

One Thing You Might Not Know About Me: I have traveled to 46 states and 17 countries.

Best Thing About Practicing Law in Henrico: The comradery.

Funniest Experience as an Attorney: During my first year of practice, I was conducting voir dire in a criminal trial. The judge asked the jurors if they knew any of the parties or attorneys. Several jurors raised their hands, and the judge inquired as to who they knew. The first juror said, "Andy dated my daughter, and he's been over to our house many times." The second juror said, "Andy dated my daughter, too." The judge said, "Has Mr. Johnson dated anyone else's daughter on the jury?" No one raised their hand. The judge continued, "I'm afraid to ask if that would bias you against the Commonwealth, but I'm hoping that Mr. Johnson was a gentleman." Both jurors agreed that I had been a gentleman. I had not dated any of the other juror's daughters, at least not on that jury.

Advice to Young Attorneys: Do not be afraid to ask for help or ask

questions.

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