

# Henrico Bar News

## October 2015

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



### *From the Desk of Michael Y. Feinmel, HCBA President*

We have been off to a somewhat hectic start to our year within the Henrico County Bar Association, and I would like to thank everyone for their participation and support. Both Breakfasts were well attended and these remain very popular kick offs to our year. Likewise, the Ethics CLE went well and hopefully helped those who needed the "last minute" hours.

Speaking of "kick offs," it's hard to believe that football seasons are approaching the midpoint and that we are already well into fall. It seems like each year goes by more quickly. As a parent of a high school senior, I want this school year to go by as slowly as possible, as the thought of my first son leaving the house is becoming all too real. A few years ago, I attended an awards ceremony at which the County Manager spoke. He reminded those in attendance to keep in mind what was important, to cherish those most important to us, because our experiences are but a brief moment in time. I'm writing this on a Sunday night, following a day in which I worked from the office for four hours, rushed to my younger son's soccer game, rushed around in the afternoon, and am now back working again. I actually spoke on the phone this morning with another lawyer whose children are grown and he chastised me for being at work rather than with my kids. The lesson is well-taken and is an important one. All of us are guilty of putting too many priorities before what's really important - time with our families, which is quickly getting away from us. By the time this note is published, I will have taken a five hour ride with my older son to visit the college that he will probably attend. Certainly a bittersweet trip - I can't wait for the conversations and to get away with him, but this is yet another step in his leaving our home.

As 2015 comes to an end, I would ask everyone to take some time for yourself and for your family. Remember that there are things more important than work and career. The work will always be there, your family won't.

Sincerely,  
Michael Y. Feinmel  
President



### **Breakfast with the Circuit and General District Court Judges**

On September 17, 2015, the Henrico County Bar Association hosted its annual Breakfast with the Circuit and General District Court Judges. Approximately 60 attorneys and judges enjoyed bagels, donuts, coffee and juice in the Jury Assembly Room courtesy of Cook & Wiley, which sponsored the event.

HCBA Director Matthew Morris made a welcoming announcement and encouraged all attorneys to volunteer for the Court Docent program and solicited suggestions for topics for the Bar's annual Bench Bar Conference which will be held in January. Judge Stevenson and Judge Hicks made announcements regarding General District and Circuit Court practices and policies and Judge Hicks introduced the Circuit Court's law clerks as well.

### **Save the Date**

#### **Holiday Reception**

Tuesday, December 8, 2015  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.  
Willow Oaks Country Club

#### **Bench Bar Conference (2 hours CLE)**

Thursday, January 28, 2016  
3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.  
Henrico County Board of  
Supervisors' Boardroom

We are in the process of planning the upcoming Bench Bar Conference and want your input to make it relevant, informative and successful. Please let us know what Court you practice in primarily and what topics you would like addressed by the Judges. Please send your thoughts and ideas to



Judge Hicks, Emily Bishop, Dannie Sutton and Ed Riley



Matt Morris, Julie Cillo and Nancy Cook



Jack Morgan, Amber Ford and Jeff Miller



Adam Rellick, Godfrey Pinn and Thomas Johnson

Natalie McClearn at ntmcclearn@flaor.com and Julie Cillo at jcillo@owenowens.com. We would appreciate your feedback by November 15th.

### Spring Luncheon

Thursday, March 10, 2016  
12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
Westwood Club

### Legislative Update

(1 hour CLE)

Wednesday, April 20, 2016  
4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.  
Westwood Club

### In This Issue

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### Ethics CLE

On October 14, 2015, the HCBA held our annual Ethics CLE entitled "Competence, Communications and Conflicts 2015 Update". Minnesota Lawyers Mutual (MLM) graciously provided the curriculum and speakers for the event. Thomas Auth and Tim J. Gephart, both associated with MLM claims, provided insight and real-life examples of some of the pitfalls they have seen over the years with MLM. Needless to say, the CLE was informative for both new and seasoned attorneys. We are sure that many attendees could relate to the examples provided by these knowledgeable and engaging speakers. It was also a great reminder to remain vigilant in practice. Not only did they provide examples of worst-case scenarios, but they also explained ways that the attorney may have avoided the crisis in the first place. The speakers covered topics such as conflicts avoidance, client selection, and risk prevention. MLM also included excellent literature for all attendees.

For anyone who did not attend, we want to remind you that the Ethics





Judges Harris, Marshall, Yoffy and Wallerstein



Julie Palmer, Stan Wellman and Dan Rosenthal

For more pictures from the Breakfast, please visit our website at [www.henricobar.org](http://www.henricobar.org).

### **Breakfast with the Juvenile & Domestic Relations District Court Judges**

On September 24, 2015, the Henrico County Bar Association hosted its annual Breakfast with the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court Judges in J&DR Courtroom #6. Forty attorneys and judges enjoyed bagels, donuts, coffee and juice provided by the HCBA. The event provided an opportunity for members and judges to socialize in a relaxing setting.

HCBA Treasurer, Natalie McClearn, welcomed attendees and thanked members for their support of the Court Docent Program. She also reminded members to attend the Ethics CLE on October 14, 2015.

Judge Deglau gave a welcoming announcement on behalf of the court. She notified members of Judge Soden's regret in not being able to attend the event, as he was recovering from surgery.

CLE is free for HCBA members. Remember to take advantage of this excellent benefit next year. Thank you to all who made this CLE happen.



Tim Gephart and Tom Auth from Minnesota Lawyers Mutual

### **Henrico Drug Court**

In July, the Henrico Drug Court welcomed its newest team member, Judge John Marshall. He and Judge Hicks now preside over the weekly dockets where there are presently over 50 program participants. The last several months have been full of trainings and special events.

September, being Recovery Month, was an especially busy month. In the early part of the month, the "Fired Up for Recovery" cooking team participated in the RecoveryFest BBQ cook-off. During the September 8 Board of Supervisors Meeting, September was recognized as Recovery Month and one of our 2004 graduates spoke about how his life has changed since his participation in the program. On September 18, we were also able to welcome four new members to our Alumni Group upon their graduation. Judge Hammond came back to Drug Court to offer some words of wisdom and encouragement. In collaboration with Henrico Area Mental Health and Developmental Services, a recovery services fair and the documentary, The Hungry Heart, was shown at the Henrico Theatre on September 24.

Our celebration activities did not stop in September as participants and team members were able to attend the UNITE to Face Addiction rally in Washington DC on October 4 and where Steven Tyler, Joe Walsh, Sheryl Crow and others put on a great concert. The Travis Pierce Memorial Fund also held a corn hole tournament on October 10 where they were able to raise over \$700 to support the participants of the program.



Mike Feinmel, Judge Wallerstein and Judge Deglau

We are looking forward to the holiday season with our 4th annual Turkey Tuesday event set for November 24 where we will be distributing turkeys and the "fixings" to our participants to take home and prepare for their families for Thanksgiving. We also have a Holiday Family Day event scheduled on December 8 at the Belmont Recreation Center. If you would like more information about our activities or the Drug Court program, please contact Patricia Shaw at 501-7591.



Natalie McClearn and Julie Palmer

## Members on the Move

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](mailto:admin@henricobar.org). Please include your name, firm or employer's name, new title and areas of concentration.



Nancy Oglesby and Andrew Kolp

## Welcome New Members

Robyn Ayres  
Spencer Baxter  
Erica S. Blackman  
Sarah J. Conner  
E. Brandon Ferrell  
Derek L. Gaubatz  
Alan B. Gnapp  
Michael L. Goodman  
K. Matthew Long  
Godfrey T. Pinn, Jr.  
Brittany R. Rainey  
Victor A. Shaheen  
Bryan K. Streeter  
Ian E. Vance  
Matthew Witten

## Officers and Directors

**President**  
Michael Y. Feinmel

**President-Elect**  
Julie S. Palmer





Judge Hicks and Victor Shaheen



Judge Johnson, Tammy Sossei, LaToya Croxton and Bobbi Graves



John Mizell, Marissa Mitchell and Denise Letendre

For more pictures from the Breakfast, please visit our website at [www.henricobar.org](http://www.henricobar.org).

**Vice President**  
James W. Hopper

**Secretary**  
Brian J. Schneider

**Treasurer**  
Natalie T. McClearn

**Immediate Past-President**  
Carl R. Schwartz

**Directors**  
Julie M. Cillo  
D. Brooks Hundley  
Matthew R. Morris  
Andrew R. Newby  
Ryan C. Young

**Administrators**  
Mary Lou Wellman

## Member Spotlight



Full Name: M. Scott Fisher, Jr.

Employer and Position: Harman Claytor Corrigan & Wellman - Associate

College: University of Virginia

Law School: The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law

Years in Practice: Six years

Hobbies and Interests: I love hiking with my family anywhere, but I particularly love it out West.

Favorite Movie: Pulp Fiction

Favorite Book: Breakfast of Champions

Favorite Pro and College Sports Team: My favorite professional sports team is the San Antonio Spurs. I grew up a huge Tim Duncan fan, and he and the Spurs embody everything that is right about sports in a "me first" era. As far as college sports go, Wahoowa! Enough said.

One Thing You Might Not Know About Me: My first name is Maurice; at least that is what some people call me.

Best Thing About Practicing Law in Henrico: I appreciate how well Henrico attorneys seem to get along with one another. The profession is hard enough without people arguing over things that do not matter.

Funniest Experience as an Attorney: A cell phone began to ring during my closing argument to a jury, and I was terrified the phone was mine. As luck would have it, the phone belonged to the judge!

Advice to Young Attorneys: Young attorneys should strive to be the most prepared person in the courtroom or conference room. It will be readily apparent if you are more prepared than the opposition, and preparation is the surest way to level the playing field when the other attorneys are better known and more experienced.



Full Name: Mary Wilkins Hunt

Employer and Position: Associate with Family Law Associates of Richmond, PC

College: Virginia Tech

Law School: University of Richmond, TC Williams School of Law

Years in Practice: Six years

Hobbies and Interests: Reading, boating, Virginia Tech football, spending time with friends and family

Favorite Movie: Gone With the Wind, Love Actually, Reality Bites

Favorite Book: Wuthering Heights, Wicked, The Stand

Favorite Pro and College Sports Team: Virginia Tech (GO HOKIES!)

One Thing You Might Not Know About Me: I am a pescetarian and have been for about 17 years.

Best Thing About Practicing Law in Henrico: I enjoy the cordiality and collegiality of the Henrico Bar.

Funniest Experience as an Attorney: I'm not naming names, but I'm pretty sure a judge fell asleep during a hearing...

Advice to Young Attorneys: Find someone to mentor you early on in your practice. Having someone to bounce ideas off of and introduce you to others in the legal community can be invaluable in helping you navigate your career path.

