

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>President's Corner</i> | 2 |
| <i>Mentor Match Program</i> | 2 |
| <i>Roanoke Law Library News and Information</i> | 3 |
| <i>2012 Mardi Gras Casino Night Gala</i> | 4 |
| <i>Announcements</i> | 7 |

COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT

BY TIMOTHY J. HEAPHY, ESQ.

In July 2010, our office began a pilot community outreach effort to promote the "front end" solutions to criminal justice problems. Gwen Mason, our Community Outreach Coordinator, began identifying successful, evidence-based crime prevention efforts in the 52 counties that make up the Western District of Virginia. Our goal is to connect the work of outstanding service providers in dozens of fields -gang prevention, substance abuse education and treatment, bullying awareness, and others - more closely with law enforcement. We are matching these programs to training and grant resources provided by the Federal government for a more holistic approach to criminal justice.



Based in part on the success of community outreach in Western Virginia, other U.S. Attorney's offices throughout the country are adopting the model and hiring community outreach professionals. I hope community outreach coordinators become the norm in every U.S. Attorney's office.

Our outreach effort has had some early success. Among the highlights:

Progressive Policing

We have supported the Roanoke Police Department as it has broadened its reach into Roanoke's communities. We have helped Chief Perkins secure federal funding to implement a Drug Market Intervention program in Roanoke's Hurt Park neighborhood. In this cutting-edge prevention program, nonviolent drug dealers are offered education and work alternatives as an alternative path to incarceration. I participated in the first "call-in" program at which offenders are confronted with the prospect of their incarceration and offered the alternative of working with a network of service providers. Though early in the process, it appears the DMI program will help improve the quality of life in Hurt Park.

Community Programs

In cities across the Western District, we are working with concerned citizens and law enforcement to counter the ill impacts of drugs and violence. In Danville, the grass roots Coalition for a Safe Danville meets monthly to develop strategies to keep the city safe. The Staunton/Augusta/Waynesboro Coalition is implementing an anti-gang protocol with its research partner, Mary Baldwin College. Martinsville and Galax have new coalitions working to provide alternatives to life in the streets for their youth at risk. Charlottesville is working to bring the issue of gang threats to the forefront of their community dialogue. These are just a few examples of collaboration and partnerships between law enforcement and crime prevention underway each day in our part of the Commonwealth.

DOJ grants

In 2009, the Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs awarded 8,200 grants totaling \$5.6 billion to help communities keep their citizens safe. Two important Roanoke area institutions received funding last fiscal year. The Jefferson College of Health Sciences was awarded additional DOJ funding for campus security measures, such as emergency telephones and lights to brighten walkways near their downtown campus. The Roanoke Regional Jail is implementing job training, including a computer installation training program which will allow select inmates to return to society as productive citizens. This collaborative work

The views expressed in the Roanoke Bar Review do not represent the policy or carry the endorsement of the Association unless specifically noted.

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY LORI D. THOMPSON, ESQ., PRESIDENT



2012 MARDI GRAS CASINO NIGHT GALA RAISES OVER \$8,000

The Roanoke Law Foundation held its 7th annual Gala on February 17 at The Shenandoah Club. Thanks to the generous support of our sponsors listed on page four, we raised over \$8,000 this year to support the good work of the Roanoke Law Foundation.

The Gala began in 2006 and has transitioned through the years as we attempt to keep the evening entertaining and enjoyable for those supporting our fundraising efforts. In 2006 through 2009, the Gala was held at the Hotel Roanoke and included a speaker and presentation of the *Frank W. "Bo" Rogers, Jr., Lifetime Achievement* and the *Young Lawyer of the Year* awards. In 2010, we added a band and a dance floor to the evening. In 2011, we moved to The Shenandoah Club and traded in the formal program for casino tables. And in 2012, we kept the casino tables but moved the event to February - and donned our purple, green and gold beads and masks to celebrate the start of Mardi Gras.

Each year the event comes off successfully thanks to a small, dedicated volunteer committee working with Cathy Caddy, our cracker-jack Executive Director who somehow always manages the finances to ensure we make a profit. This year's Gala Committee included the Chair of our Young Lawyer Committee Aaron Houchens, Leah Gissy, Cathy Caddy and me - a small group that, with support from the Board, blanketed the business community with sponsorship opportunities. I am grateful to the other committee members for the contribution of their time and talents to this worthwhile fundraiser.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, prizes awarded during the Gala included fine wine, great food, spa treatments, shopping, and fun diversions for the whole family. The Grand Prize taken home by Frank Rogers and his lovely bride included two tickets to see Bruce Springsteen & the E Street Band in concert, hotel accommodations (courtesy of Hyatt Place Hotel), and a \$100 Visa gift card. Congratulations to all the winners - and to the *real* winners who benefit from this event - the scholarship recipients, book buddies, families who get holiday memories through *Santa in the Square*, and all those touched by the good work of the Roanoke Law Foundation.

Lori D. Thompson is a Shareholder at LeClairRyan



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MENTOR MATCH PROGRAM

BY NANCY F. REYNOLDS, ESQ.

To christen the RBA Mentor Match Program on its maiden voyage, the RBA Newsletter Committee sought the enthusiastic and encouraging comments of **Judge Charles N. Dorsey**, Circuit Court Judge for the Twenty-third Circuit of Virginia, who has been a cheerleader for this type of program for many years. The Roanoke Bar Association Mentor Match Program is a formal program that seeks to address issues that have been discussed as long ago as 1987. Judge Dorsey indicated that courts have adopted various standardized forms and acknowledged methods of practice to help guide practitioners. The bottom-line is that attorneys who are not familiar with how to practice in the Roanoke area need more guidance. For large firms, mentoring new attorneys is often the norm. In the smaller firms or with sole practitioners, the opportunities to mentor and be mentored are infrequent, at best.



Judge Dorsey pointed out that there is so much to know about practicing law that does not come from textbooks and law school. Attorneys who have lived and breathed the practice of law in the Roanoke area have a wealth of knowledge that should be shared. He noted that new sole practitioners and new members of two and three attorney practice groups are confronted with the daunting task of being fully aware of the local practices and expectations the moment they step into a courtroom. These new lawyers need mentors to pass on the traditions of the Bar, to provide clarity on how to practice in the Roanoke courts and to help them succeed. They do not have sufficient contacts to know who to consult for guidance. Because they are not aware of the local traditions, they may not know what questions to ask.

As Judge Dorsey sees it, mentoring programs such as the RBA Mentor Match Program serve to enhance professionalism and the reputation of the profession to the public. Mentoring programs that cultivate good lawyering skills and assist new lawyers with developing good reputations will make them much more successful. While mentoring programs come with time commitments, the time investment reaps significant benefits.

Part of the cost of maintaining a license to practice law is acknowledging and accepting the responsibility it confers. Members of the Bar have a responsibility to the local Bar to preserve its high standards of professionalism and civility. Mentoring programs that include discussion of the local civility and professionalism expectations serve that purpose.

For the mentors, Judge Dorsey observed that lawyers, by and large, are frustrated teachers. They are eager to pass on and tell tales about their experiences. Every tale has a message that was learned by the story teller and that can be used to guide new lawyers. For the mentees, Judge Dorsey encourages them to be engaged and attentive participants.

Judge Dorsey offered that, as always and subject to any prohibition on *ex parte* communications, the judges of the Twenty-Third Circuit are willing to talk with members of the Bar about nuances of the practice of law, professionalism and civility in the Roanoke area courts.

For more information and to register, go to the RBA web site and click on *News*, or you may contact the Mentor Match Program coordinator Michael S. Whitlow at mwhitlow@whitlowyouell.com or 904-7835.



Nancy F. Reynolds is a Partner at LeClairRyan

COMMUNITY OUTREACH IN THE WESTERN DISTRICT

(Continued from page 1)

is being done in conjunction with TAP and Virginia Cares. Solid investments such as these by the Department of Justice improve public safety and government efficiency for every citizen of Roanoke.

Diversion and Reentry Courts

The Western District is fortunate to have forward-thinking and community-focused federal judges. Roanoke is home to the country's third federal Veterans' Court. Under U.S. Magistrate Robert Ballou, and championed by U.S. District Judge Mike Urbanski, the court offers pretrial diversion assessment, counseling and advocacy to address the core issues of substance abuse and the psychological needs of our local vets. Several participants have already graduated from the program.

Judge James Jones in Abingdon and Judge Samuel Wilson in Roanoke supervise offender reentry courts. Working with U.S. Probation and Parole, these post-conviction programs offer the prospect of reduced supervision to offenders suffering from drug and alcohol addiction. Through community service and drug and alcohol testing, and the support of their peers and drug and job counselors, defendants are given access to the skills and services needed to treat addiction.

Moving Forward

Part of the challenge of effective community outreach is the identification of successful crime prevention programs. Gwen Mason and I have travelled to virtually every corner of our expansive district, learning about drug courts, the science of effective mentoring, the positive activities offered to young people by Boys and Girls Clubs, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and other after school programs. Each day provides us another positive example of solutions to the "front end" of crime. There is always more to learn and we are always eager to learn of positive crime prevention programs throughout the Western District.

Contact: Gwen Mason at gwen.mason@usdoj.gov or 857-2915.

Timothy J. Heaphy is the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Virginia



Representatives from the U.S. Magistrate and U.S. District Court, Probation and Parole, the Salem Veterans Treatment Center, the Public Defender's Office and the U.S. Attorney's office formalize the Memorandum of Understanding for the Veterans Treatment Court, the third of its kind in the nation. The Court offers pre-trial diversion assistance for veteran offenders.

ROANOKE LAW LIBRARY NEWS AND INFORMATION

BY JOSEPH KLEIN, LAW LIB.

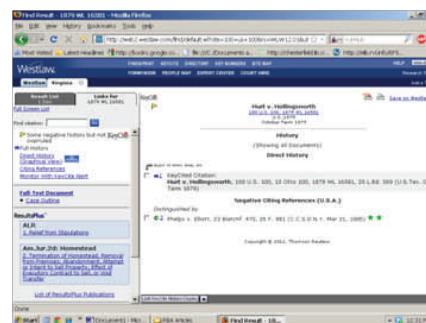
Time flies when you are having fun, and I must be having a blast, because I cannot believe 2011 is gone, and 2012 is upon us. Every new year brings new challenges, new opportunities, and change. The eight years that I have been at the Roanoke Law Library have seen many changes, and I am sure 2012 will bring more. I am always looking for ways to serve the Roanoke legal community better and to allow for better access to legal information. I am open to any suggestions for ways to better assist you, so if you have questions or suggestions, please stop by for a chat, or call me at 853-2268.



Case Law Citators

On a daily basis, I have requests to "Shepardize" cases, which I am happy to do. No one wants hard work and brilliant legal arguments to be derailed by citing "bad law." Amazingly in 2012, it is possible to do a lot of legal research using Fastcase or other resources which are freely available on the internet. It is possible to research statutes (sans annotations), and it is even possible to find many legal decisions. One important function that these free legal resources do not have, however, is the ability to check whether a case has been overturned or called into question, or to find out what other cases have cited or explained it.

Traditionally, lawyers performed such cite checking by using a set of books—Shepard's Citators. In 2012, most of us use Shepard's on Lexis or Keycite on Westlaw. You can utilize the Keycite service for free on a Law Library computer. Type in your citation, hit "go," and voilà - a full case history pops up on the



screen, with links to the full history of the case, links to all cases that have cited that case. This service also allows you to download and email that information.

If your schedule keeps you from coming to the library, call us. We can Keycite cases for you, and email you the information, as well as search for cases, statutes, and relevant legal treatises that are part of our subscription. Westlaw is a powerful resource that we provide to the public for free, so please take advantage of this service.

And in case you are feeling nostalgic for the old days of legal research, the Roanoke Law Library still has some of the old Shepard's Citators. While they are hopelessly out of date, and it would be criminal for me to suggest using them to check the validity of a case, the books still bring comfort to those of us who learned the basics of legal research using them. They are also still useful for teaching the fundamentals of legal research to the paralegal classes that regularly come through the Law Library.

If you have questions, comments or requests, please call me at 853-2268, or email me at joseph.klein@roanokeva.gov.



MARDI GRAS CASINO NIGHT - FEBRUARY 17, 2012

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MARDI GRAS CASINO NIGHT - FEBRUARY 17, 2012



Photos by Robert Dementi Photography

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

| NEW MEMBERS | UPCOMING EVENTS | OFFICERS: |
|--|--|--|
| <p>The Roanoke Bar Association welcomes the following new Active Members:</p> <p>Mark Tyson Daniel Creekmore Law Firm</p> <p>Robert E. Dean Frith and Ellerman Law Firm, PC</p> <p>Martha W. Elder LeClairRyan</p> <p>Peter G. Irot Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore</p> <p>Julie A. von Sternberg Frith Anderson & Peake, PLC</p> <p>.</p> | <p>Roanoke Bar Association Meetings 2011 - 2012</p> <p>March 13, 2012</p> <p>April 10, 2012</p> <p>June 12, 2012</p> <p>Bench Bar Conference March 30, 2012</p> <p>CLE Conference April 19, 2012</p> <p>Global Youth Service Day April 20 - 22, 2012</p> <p>Law Day May 1, 2012</p> <p>You and the Law May 10 and 17, 2012</p> <p>Go to www.roanokebar.com for more information on these and other RBA events.</p> | <p>Lori D. Thompson President 510-3011</p> <p>Thomas H. Miller President-Elect 527-3510</p> <p>Steven W. Lemon Secretary-Treasurer 982-1000</p> <p>Francis H. Casola Past President 983-7716</p> <p>Catherine L. Caddy Executive Director 342-4905</p> <p>BOARD OF DIRECTORS:</p> <p>Wade T. Anderson 725-3375</p> <p>Michael A. Cleary 345-8344</p> <p>David N. Cohan 983-9395</p> <p>Tracy A. Giles 981-9000</p> <p>Linda L. Gustad 857-5100</p> <p>Aaron B. Houchens 983-7734</p> <p>Richard C. Maxwell 983-7628</p> <p>Richard D. Scott 400-7997</p> <p>Amanda E. Shaw 224-8019</p> <p>Jennie L. M. Waering 857-2905</p> <p>Michael S. Whitlow 904-7835</p> |

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