

Metro Richmond Women's Bar Association Newsletter

December 2018

Thanks to our December Platinum Sponsor



December 5th Holiday Luncheon and Annual Women of Achievement Awards



Please invite your administrative staff and join us for our **Holiday Luncheon and Annual Women of Achievement Awards** presentation on Wednesday, December 5th from noon until 2 p.m. at Willow Oaks Country Club as we honor Julie McConnell (*pictured at left*) for all of her hard work on behalf of children.

Professor Julie McConnell is Director of the UR School of Law's Children's Defense Clinic. Prior to joining the Law School in 2011, she served as the Supervising Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney in the City of Richmond's Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, where she prosecuted cases involving juvenile delinquency, child abuse, sexual abuse, domestic violence, elder abuse, and homicide. She has also served as an Assistant Public Defender in the Richmond Public Defender's Office and is the author of an article in Virginia Lawyer Magazine on the collateral consequences of juvenile adjudications. In 2011, Professor McConnell received the Oliver Hill Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court's "Unsung Hero" Award. She was also awarded the Outstanding Woman Award for Education by the YWCA Richmond in 2017.

[Click here](#) for complete details or to register now.

Thanks to our Silver Sponsors for this event:



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MRWBA Fall Social Scheduled

Join us TODAY, Wednesday, November 28th at Travinia Italian Kitchen & Wine Bar in Willow Lawn from 6 - 8 p.m. for MRWBA's Fall Member Social. Members are encouraged to bring one friend who is not currently a member but is interested in learning more about MRWBA.

Light appetizers and one drink ticket will be provided for each registrant.

[Click here to register.](#)

This event is sponsored by Planet Depos.



November's Pro Bono CLE Presentation

Find Your Summer Hires Early

During the November luncheon's CLE presentation, Cris Gantz, from the Virginia State Bar, and John Whitfield, director of Blue Ridge Legal Services, helped us understand the pro bono gap, and the new voluntary reporting rule. The justice gap (between those who are represented in court and those who are pro se) has consequences for the vast majority of litigants in general district court, who, without a lawyer, are less likely to prevail. Helping to close the Pro Bono Gap ("the difference between the aspirational goals of Rule 6.1 and the actual performance of the bar as a whole in undertaking pro bono work each year") is the intention behind the new voluntary reporting provision of Rule 6.1. This will help gauge the amount of pro bono being done around the state, and hopefully encourage more lawyers to get involved (pro bono has been shown to improve lawyer happiness!).



The pro bono reporting rule goes into effect December first, and reporting will begin with next bar renewal statement. Since the entire bar year will count, you should look back to pro bono hours you performed beginning July 1 of this year (remember, this is voluntary, so you can choose not to report).

- [**Frequently Asked Questions**](#)
- More on [**the Justice Gap**](#)
- For those who may be willing to help a client at an initial hearing, or by drafting pleadings, the Supreme Court of Virginia also just amended [**rule 5.1 to allow limited-scope representation**](#)

For those of you interested in following up with Higher Achievement after the presentation at November's luncheon, you can [**learn more here**](#), or e-mail [**rbrock@higherachievement.org**](mailto:rbrock@higherachievement.org).

Upcoming Programs

Don't forget to register for our upcoming events:

- **Lawyers Firing on All Cylinders - Make Wellness Your New Year's Resolution**, Wednesday, January 9th, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (1 hour of CLE applied for)
- **Staying on the Right Side of the Line**, Thursday, February 7th, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m. (1 hour of ethics CLE applied for)

Details on these and all of our programs will be posted on [**the website**](#) as soon as they are available.

Join MRWBA at the First Day in Practice Seminar

The **First Day in Practice Seminar** is a CLE program from the Virginia State Bar designed for new lawyers and lawyers looking to expand their practice areas. Offering practice tips on various styles of law as well as law-office management and

Is your firm hiring summer clerks or recent graduates? Sign up for the 17th annual **Government and Public Interest Interview Program** on Friday, February 15, 2019, at University of Richmond. Co-sponsored by the law schools at UR, W&M and W&L, this free program allows you to pre-screen resumes and interview students of all years. Deadline to participate is Monday, January 7, 2019. For more info or to register, [**click here**](#).

Sponsor Opportunities Still Available

We are still seeking Gold and Silver Sponsors for some luncheons and other events, similar to the sponsorships we have offered in the past. [**Click here to view Sponsorship Levels**](#)

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Deanna Hathaway, Communications Co-Chair, by phone (804-257-9944, option 1) or email [**deanna@hathawayadair.com**](mailto:deanna@hathawayadair.com).

even courtroom expectations, the course is a wealth of information. [Click here](#) for complete details or to register.

MRWBA will have a table at the seminar with membership information available - stop by and say hello. And remember, membership is free for students and new bar admittees!

December Platinum Sponsor: Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance

Founded by lawyers in 1982, Minnesota Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company (MLM) provides risk management services, including lawyers professional liability insurance, in 15 states. A long time sponsor of the MRWBA, MLM is an efficient, accountable and permanent practice management resource, exemplified by an AM Best rating of A- (excellent), and a consistent dividend return for the past 30 years. To learn more about how MLM can protect your practice call Joyvan Malbon-Griffin, Esq. at 612.344.4364 or go to our website at www.mlmins.com.

Thanks to Our Sponsors!

Platinum:



Gold:



Understanding Your Domestic Relations Rights in Virginia

2016-2017

View an electronic copy of the pamphlet on the [MRWBA website](#). To order, please contact Public Service Co-Chairs, [Adalyn Brugger](#) & [Valerie L'Herrou](#).

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