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## NEW MEMBERS *Please welcome:*

*Tara Candela*  
Candela Law, PLLC  
703-691-4943

*Alex Lange*  
Law Office of Keith Hallam  
703-548-1462

*Sean Marvin*  
The Law Office of Sean A. Marvin, PLLC  
571-419-4657

*Otto Adrian Meza*  
Karp, Frosh, Wigodsky & Norwind  
703-535-8777

*Matthew White*  
RGS Title, LLC  
703-519-7600

## RETUNING MEMBER *Please welcome:*

*Karen Day*  
Karen L. Day, PLC  
703-842-7523

## MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Congratulations to the following bar members on their recent awards and accomplishments:*

***Jeanne Franklin*** was awarded the ***William B. Spong, Jr. Professionalism Award*** at the VBA Summer Meeting. This award recognizes exceptional examples of leadership in the legal profession and to the public.

***Jessica Killeen*** recently passed the Maryland Bar Exam!

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Colleagues,

So much has happened since the last Oyez, it's tough to keep up. October was jammed full of CLEs, which has helped to bring extra revenue to our association. The marathon wasn't quite as full as last year, but we definitely had some folks who needed that last-minute credit, and we were there to provide. Special thanks to all of our presenters! Senior Law Day was terrific, and had an excellent turnout. Again, thanks to Christina Brown and Chris Wright for making this a great success, and what a service to our community. I personally had several folks approach me to thank us for putting on that event along with Senior Services of Alexandria. The Little Theater of Alexandria fundraiser was excellent as well, and the actors and actresses putting on the Rocky Horror Show gave us quite an eyeful. A performance not to be forgotten. Thanks to David Lord and the entire Commonwealth's Attorney's office for putting so much effort into that fundraiser for Beat the Odds – I believe that event raised quite a bit of money for those scholarships.

Our monthly membership dinner on November 20 was one of the most well attended in my memory, at least. We had about 70 members and guests come out to hear Raighne Delaney's presentation on the Yelp! v. Hadeed Carpet Cleaning case, which he recently argued before the Virginia Supreme Court. It was a very interesting talk and we thank Raighne for taking time out of his schedule to present. As always, Charlie's Thanksgiving fare did not disappoint!

On a more somber note, I think by now we have all heard about the tragedy befalling the managing partner at Bean, Kinney & Korman, and I would encourage everyone to keep him and his wife in their thoughts; similarly, just this week I heard of Judge Ney's passing, and will be keeping his family and those close to him in my thoughts as well.

Finally, please consider donating for the toy drive; the bar office is collecting new toys for local children who are less fortunate. Put the bell-ringing and bench-bar dialogue on your calendars for December 18, the week-in-briefs will include a gentle reminder on that front as well. Please also consider signing up for a time slot to ring that bell – a few much sought after spots are still available! The bar office has that list. Don't let yourself get shown up by those merry carolers at Redmon, Peyton & Braswell again this year!

Sarah McElveen  
President



*Established 1928*

**THE ALEXANDRIA  
BAR ASSOCIATION**

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**BAR OFFICE HOURS**

9:00 am to 5:00 pm  
Monday to Thursday

**LRS OFFICE HOURS**

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Monday to Thursday

Alexandria Bar Association  
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Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703-548-1106  
Fax: 703-548-4292

**COMMISSIONER OF ACCOUNTS CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE  
CITY OF ALEXANDRIA**

**TIPS FOR NEW ATTORNEYS**—by *Gordon Peyton, Esq.*

- Emphasize the importance of reading the fiduciary instructions provided to you at time of qualification. If an attorney co-qualifies with a client, be sure that the client also obtain a copy of the fiduciary instructions so that they are also aware of what is expected of them.
- When co-qualifying with a client, be sure that the client understands what fiduciary work will be performed by whom in order to avoid confusion, lack of proper documentation, etc.
- Emphasize the importance of meeting filing deadlines to avoid penalty fees. This may not be paid from Estate funds.
- When opening as estate account, be sure that the bank provides copies/images of cancelled checks. Cancelled checks and/or receipts must be submitted as proof of payment.
- Keep good records of all montly bank statements. It will help in preparing an accounting when you have all the bank statements on hand. It will also help in filing your accounting timely.
- When in doubt whether a certain expense is a proper Estate expense, ask the staff of the Commissioner of Accounts.
- Do not pay bills too quickly. If you find that the Estate is insolvent, there is an order of priority of paymentwith regard to insolvent estates. It's in the Code!
- Advise clients/fiduciaries re commission when an attorney is assisting with the estate administration. If a fiduciary hires an attorney to perform the work of the personal representative, the attorney's fees shall be deducted from the commission due to the personal representative. Clear this issue up early!
- Be sure that all tax filing requirements are done and filed on time. Tax penalty fees may be chargeable against the fiduciary.
- For Guardianships and Conservatorships—be sure that all expenses are reasonable and that it is only for the benefit of the ward/minor.
- Where an attorney qualifies as Guardian or Conservator, **the attorney's hourly rate will not be accepted.** The The attorney/fiduciary's commission must not exceed the adopted guideline. Any fees exceeding the maximum allowable fee must be approved by the Commissioner.
- For Testament Trusts—be sure to familiarize yourself with what expenses are allocated between principal and income.



**Questions: Call (703) 746-4031!**

## ALEXANDRIA IS THE PREFERRED VENUE FOR PEGASUS SCHOLARS— by Ron Stern

Keeping with a tradition started in 2010, barristers Tom Hoskins and Colin Witcher began their Pegasus Scholarship tour in Alexandria on September 20. They visited with Judge Haddock in the General District Court, Judge Mayer at the US Bankruptcy Court, and also went to other venues around town. Tom actually had lunch with members at the Columbia Firehouse in August before the program began and may come back to see us during the rest of his stay in the area, while Colin went back to the UK. A farewell happy hour and dinner took place at TJ Stones on Montgomery Street on October 30, at which point in time President Sarah McElveen gave the barristers OFFICIAL Alexandria Bar Association lapel pins, which they proudly sported on their suit jackets. The American Inns of Court is based in Alexandria and is grateful for the warm embrace we give their scholars annually.



*Tom Hoskins, Judge Ted Essex, Cindy Dennis (of the American Inns of Court), Ron Stern, Sarah McElveen and Colin Witcher*

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## LITTLE THEATER NIGHT: ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW



On October 24th many of us did the time warp again to raise money for the Alexandria Bar Foundation's Beat the Odds Scholarships. About 111 tickets were sold, which translates to \$3,565.00. The Foundation also received \$2,000 in donations and pledges of \$1,138 from the silent auction. We greatly appreciate all of the hard work from the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney and the Beat the Odds Steering Committee!

Save the date of Thursday, April 16, 2015 for the annual Beat the Odds dinner so that we can support this very worthy cause one more time.



*The Silent Auction in action*



*Colleen Haddow and sweet baby Gwen*



*Carolyn Grimes and David Lord*



*David Lord hard at work as bartender*



*Peggy McCoy and Marguerite Crowden sell tickets and prop bags with a visit from Sarah McElveen*



*Rachel and Joe Martin*

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## MONTHLY DINNER MEETING



*Raighne Delaney addresses the dinner crowd, while E. Michael Paturis, Thomas Tousley and George Tuttle look on*

Our Thanksgiving Monthly Membership Dinner was held on Thursday, November 20th. Our Board must have picked the right speaker because a large crowd of about 70 members showed up to hear Raighne Delaney discuss the case Yelp v. Hadeed Carpet Cleaning (although I'm sure the lure of pumpkin pie also helped drive up the numbers). Thank you Raighne for an excellent talk!



*Daniel Burke and Gerald Ragland*



*Gwendolyn Hickman, Barbara Beach, and Richard Mendelson*



*Martin Yeager and Sarah McElveen*

## DIMURO PROFILE



*In a continuing effort to highlight members of the Alexandria Bar Association, this month we are turning the spotlight on Bernard J. ("Ben") DiMuro, longtime Alexandria Bar Association member and Managing*

*Partner at DiMuroGinsberg, P.C. Colleen Haddow sat down with Ben to discuss his impressive record of Bar service and his legal career.*

### **While you are already well known in the Alexandria Bar, could you tell us a little bit about what brought you to Alexandria?**

Sure. I am from Illinois and graduated from Northwestern University in 1976 and earned a law degree from the George Washington University National Law School three years later. I was fortunate to secure a clerkship with Phil Hirschkop during law school and then became an associate upon graduation. I worked there for 10 years and then formed what is now known as DiMuroGinsberg, P.C.

### **You have a long history of service to the Bar. What advice can you give about balancing legal work and Bar service?**

I think it is important to be able to multi-task. I was one of the first lawyers in Virginia to catch on to being "connected" either through my phone or computer. It has tremendously helped me to stay in touch with my office and clients while I am doing Bar work.

You also have to like the Bar and the law. I have served as the Virginia State Bar President and Chair of the Disciplinary Board. In both of those capacities I have dealt with not only the law, but the regulation and policy behind it. While both of these positions were extremely fulfilling, they required a commitment on my part that would have been much more difficult if I didn't love the law. Also, getting up at 5:30 a.m. helps.

### **What has been your favorite part about your service to the Bar?**

I really enjoyed serving on Bar Council. In that capacity I was able to meet people from all over the State. Virginia is the 7<sup>th</sup> largest Bar in the country and there are a wide range of needs and perspectives within. I liked being able to meet others and hear about their experiences from practicing in a different region.

I have also enjoyed learning the administration and regulatory side of the Bar. There is a tremendous amount of work that goes into a successful Bar and being a part of that was a great experience.

### **You also have an extremely successful law practice and are known as a top-notch trial attorney. What advice can you give to young lawyers on courtroom advocacy?**

It is important to always be prepared and be secure in the correctness of your position. If you aren't prepared then that can serve as a distraction to both you and your case. Stay on point as well. Effective advocacy is concise and to the point. Making accusations also doesn't strengthen your position. Stay focused on what you are there to do for your client.

### **As the Managing Partner at DiMuroGinsberg, what do you like about it?**

I like thinking about the business side of the law. One of my favorite practice areas is business litigation and working with other law firms on business issues such as dissolution of a firm. You come to understand that there is a lot that goes into running a law practice and a lot more to make it successful.

### **What do you like the least?**

I am afraid to answer this question since my Partners will likely read this. I think that trying to make decisions in a group can be difficult and I am the one in charge of herding everyone together.

### **What can the attorneys do to improve the practice of law?**

I may sound a bit contrary here because I do appreciate the business of running a law practice, but I think that sometimes we forget

that it is a law practice and that entails more than just billable hours. Lawyers seem to be forgetting that they aren't just a vendor for services. If you really invest in your practice you will not only expand your own knowledge base, but also better serve your clients. To do that you need to step away from the billable hour and do things that enrich your career such as Bar service, networking, community work, and Continuing Legal Education.

### **What is one of your most memorable experiences in your practice?**

I had a case that landed me on the Today Show. I thought it was really neat that a lawsuit, which most people outside law find little interest in, garnered national attention.

### **I keep asking you for advice for young attorneys, but given the mentorship atmosphere of the Alexandria Bar and that I have you in front of a captive reading audience, what can you tell young attorneys to help increase their participation in the Bar and to grow their practice?**

Get involved. Join the Young Lawyers Conference and the Alexandria Young Lawyers. Go to the events and offer your services. There are many regulatory committees that you can participate in that do not require experience. They need people who love the law, Bar, and are willing to work hard. You will not only grow your professional contacts, but you it will make you a better lawyer.

### **So I have asked you a lot of questions about the legal world, but when you are able to get away from the office and Bar what do you like to do?**

I like to golf. When I was the Virginia State Bar President in 2002-2003, the cover of the Bar magazine had me posing on the golf course. When I can spare the time I like to play a round at Belle Haven.

*Interview conducted and article written by Colleen Haddow, Principal Attorney, Colten, Cummins, Watson & Vincent, P.C., [www.coltenlaw.com](http://www.coltenlaw.com)*

## SENIOR LAW DAY



*Barbara Anderson, Deborah Matthews, Patience Alexander, and Kim Fiske address the crowd.*

*Natalie Page, Thomas West (of Signature Estate & Investments Advisors, LLC), and Patrick Killeen (AARP Volunteer)*

Senior Law Day took place on Saturday, Oct. 18th and was a great success. Approximately 150 Alexandria seniors attended to hear valuable information about 'Tools to Build Security for Your Future and Beyond'. Thank you to all of the sponsors who helped make that day possible.



*Christina Brown moderates at Senior Law Day*



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## December 2014

### December

- Dec 4** Networking Lunch, 12:30 pm  
*Columbia Firehouse, 109 S. St. Asaph St*  
\$15 cash at door
- Dec 4** Young Lawyers Holiday Happy Hour, 5:30 pm  
*Union Street Public House, 121 S. Union*
- Dec 8** CLE Committee Meeting, 4:30 pm  
*King Street Blues, 3rd Floor, N. St. Asaph St*
- Dec 9** Board Meeting, 4:30 pm, Location TBD
- Dec 16** T&E/Tax Section Meeting, 12 noon  
*Columbia Firehouse, 109 S. St. Asaph St*
- Dec 17** Family Law Section Meeting, 8:00 am  
*Bread & Chocolate, King St*
- Dec 17** LRS Committee Meeting, 4:30 pm  
*King Street Blues, 3rd Floor, N. St. Asaph St*
- Dec 18** Bell Ringing
- Dec 18** Bench/Bar Dinner, 5 pm,  
*City of Alexandria Courthouse, 520 King St*

### January

- Jan 8** Networking Lunch, 12:30 pm  
*Columbia Firehouse, 109 S. St. Asaph St*  
\$15 cash at door
- Jan 13** Board of Directors Meeting, 8:00 am  
*Grenadier Room, City of Alex. Law Library*
- Jan 15** Monthly Membership Dinner, 6:00 pm  
*American Legion, 400 Cameron St*
- Jan 20** T&E/Tax Section Meeting, 12 noon  
*Columbia Firehouse, 109 S. St. Asaph St*
- Jan 21** Family Law Section Meeting, 8:00 am  
*Bread & Chocolate, King St*
- Jan 21** LRS Committee Meeting, 4:30 pm  
*King Street Blues, 3rd Floor, N. St. Asaph St*
- Jan 26** CLE Committee Meeting, 4:30 pm  
*King Street Blues, 3rd Floor, N. St. Asaph St*

### February

- Feb 5** Networking Lunch, 12:30 pm  
*Columbia Firehouse, 109 S. St. Asaph St*  
\$15 cash at door
- Feb 10** Board of Directors Meeting, 4:30 pm  
*Location TBD*
- Feb 17** T&E/Tax Section Meeting, 12 noon  
*Columbia Firehouse, 109 S. St. Asaph St*
- Feb 18** Family Law Section Meeting, 8:00 am  
*Bread & Chocolate, King St*
- Feb 18** LRS Committee Meeting, 4:30 pm  
*King Street Blues, 3rd Floor, N. St. Asaph St*
- Feb 19** Gridiron, 6:00 pm, Location TBD
- Feb 23** CLE Committee Meeting, 4:30 pm  
*King Street Blues, 3rd Floor, N. St. Asaph St*

ALEXANDRIA BAR ASSOCIATION

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