



The Virginia Bar Association Community Service Program

The mission of The Virginia Bar Association's Community Service Program is to encourage, increase, support, and make more effective and efficient, the participation in nonlegal community service and pro bono publico legal service by lawyers licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Make the Commitment in 2005 — [sign up](#) for the Community Service Program today!

“I have a certified therapy dog, Bailey and I try to go to the Maryview Rehab Center in Portsmouth at least every other week but my goal is once a week. We love going and he always brings a smile to an unexpected patient. I hope it provides the patients with a few minutes of distraction from what they are experiencing. I quickly learned that there is a level of comfort that a dog can offer that no human can match. I will definitely continue to take Bailey and hope to certify one of my other dogs as well.”

Nicole Duke, Norfolk

**Frequently
Asked Questions**

Sign up today!

**Service
Programs**

(VBA service programs)

[Notice of opportunity](#)
[Links to volunteer opportunities](#)

VaLegalAid.org

[The Community Tax Law](#)

[The 2004 Annual Report of the Community Service Program is now online \(PDF\)!](#)

December 20, 2004

Dear Colleague at the bar:

After 62 years as a Virginia lawyer and judge, I am more convinced than ever that being a Virginia lawyer is a special privilege. The history and traditions established by our predecessors in the bar of Virginia are second to none. In short, I am proud to call myself a Virginia lawyer.

But I have been concerned for some time that that we may not be doing all that we should to protect and preserve the tradition of professional excellence that has been the lodestar of the practice of law in Virginia. We of this generation must remain vigilant in guarding the legacy inherited from our predecessors so that the next generation of Virginia lawyers will inherit the same legacy and feel compelled to protect it.

The Virginia Bar Association has taken seriously its role as guardian of the legacy that is ours. The VBA's Community Service Program is its most recent, and perhaps its most ambitious, effort to insure that professionalism remains alive and well in the practice of law in this great Commonwealth. I personally thank The Virginia Bar Association for undertaking this initiative and making the Program available to all Virginia lawyers.

I challenge each lawyer and judge in Virginia to show our beloved state and the nation that Virginia lawyers are a breed apart by signing up to be a VBA Community Servant or a VBA Pro Bono Servant. The details of this program are available from the VBA, but it simply requires a commitment of 50 hours per year to public service, a commitment I am sure most of you already meet in the ordinary course of your practice.

The commitment does not require you to become a member of the VBA; it does require that you stand up and be counted as a Virginia lawyer who is dedicated to meeting the highest ideals of our profession. In short, I ask you to be a part of tradition and join me and hundreds of other Virginia lawyers and judges in guarding our most precious legacy.

Sincerely,
Harry L. Carrico

[Project™](#)[VBA Young Lawyers Division Committees](#)

(note: volunteers of all ages/levels of experience are welcome to participate in VBA/YLD service activities)

[Current](#)[Training/Opportunities for VBA/YLD Volunteers](#)[Fairfax Bar Pro Bono Program](#)[Greater Richmond Bar Foundation/Pro Bono Clearinghouse](#)[Hispanic Committee of Virginia](#)

Looking for attorney to provide pro bono service to assist and prepare applications for asylum cases or to assist in administrative hearings appealing denials of asylum. Interested lawyers should contact [Gil Sanchez](#), (703) 671-5666 ext. 113.

[Lawyers Helping Lawyers](#)
(see opportunities listed below)[Legal Assistance for Military Personnel](#)[Virginia Corps](#)
(statewide)[Virginia Volunteer](#)
(statewide)[Literacy Volunteering Opportunities in Virginia](#)
(statewide)[Connect Richmond](#)[Volunteer Hampton Roads](#)

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Peninsula is looking for volunteers to donate 2 - 4 hours per month with a student in a school setting for 1 school year. We are looking for volunteers (BIGS) who will motivate and

In January 2004, The Virginia Bar Association launched a major initiative: the **VBA Community Service Program**. This program, in development since 2001, is led by The Honorable Harry L. Carrico of Richmond, Alfred M. "Ran" Randolph Jr. of Norfolk, and a Council comprised of distinguished lawyers from across the Commonwealth and all segments of the legal community. It is the direct product of the VBA's strategic plan to heighten emphasis on lawyer professionalism, not only as it relates to paid professional work, but also as it manifests itself in a balanced life of healthful activity, time for family and friends, and renewed service to others in need.

Lawyers have traditionally been community leaders, noted for our dedication to improving the public welfare. Our education affords us opportunities not always readily available to others and we should use such advantages to assist persons in need. **Giving back to the community is the sign of a true professional** and this has been a tradition for lawyers, although our efforts in this area have slipped out of the public eye of late. There is great opportunity for service in today's world. We need to reinvigorate our profession's efforts in this regard and show that lawyers are contributing to the public good.

The VBA Community Servant and Pro Bono Servant Program: What Is It?

The VBA Community Servant and Pro Bono Servant program asks for **50 hours per lawyer per year of pro bono publico legal service** (to be designated as a "VBA Pro Bono Servant"), **nonlegal community service or a mix of both** (to be designated as a "VBA Community Servant"). The Council implementing this Program will assist lawyers to make their own determination as to what constitutes community service.

There is already **clear guidance as to what constitutes pro bono publico legal service**. Rule 6.1 (a) of the Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct states that, "A lawyer should render at least two percent per year of the lawyer's professional time to pro bono publico legal services. Pro bono services include poverty law, civil rights law, public interest law and volunteer activities designed to increase availability of pro bono legal services." The commentary to this Rule of Professional Conduct provides more detail and is restated in full on the VBA Pro Bono Servant Form. The Virginia Bar Association is not able to offer interpretations of the Rule.

Nonlegal community service includes the provision of voluntary assistance undertaken without expectation of a fee, and not in the course of ordinary commercial practice, to charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental, and educational organizations or causes or for the good of the community and which does not constitute a family, religious, political or social obligation which would generally obtain. **Community service may include the provision of legal services which satisfy this definition**, regardless of whether they qualify as pro bono publico legal services as that term is defined by Rule 6.1(a) of the Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct.

This program is not designed to identify saints and superstars. Rather, it is designed to help lawyers meet the **goal set forth in the ethical rules and to encourage community service** and pro bono publico legal service generally.

The program will also help lawyers meet such goals by working to enlist the support of law firms, corporations, government agencies, and other organizations that employ lawyers. For example, **an employer may be honored as a "Community Service Sponsor"** by certifying that greater than 50 percent of its Virginia attorneys whose principal office is in Virginia have qualified as VBA Community Servants, VBA Pro Bono Servants, or both. The program will promote public recognition for such organizational involvement in the program.

This program is **for all Virginia lawyers** regardless of their age, stage of legal career, type of practice, or location of practice. The program **does not require joining the VBA** or paying any fee of any kind.

tutor children, building self-esteem and giving emotional support to help children succeed. Contact Erika Davis, (757) 827-0110.

[Volunteer Fairfax](#)

[Volunteer Roanoke Valley](#)

[Points of Light Volunteer Centers in Virginia](#)

(Arlington, Charlottesville, Fairfax, Fredericksburg, Hampton, Hanover County, Prince William County, Norfolk, Roanoke, West Point, Williamsburg)

[United Way of America](#)

[VolunteerMatch](#)

[SERVENet](#)

If you represent a program seeking volunteers and/or pro bono publico legal services, please contact the [webmaster](#) about posting your information.

Volunteer Opportunities with Lawyers Helping Lawyers

If you are interested in becoming a Lawyers Helping Lawyers volunteer, please review the following list of opportunities and contact Susan Pauley or Jim Leffler at (804) 644-3212. More information about Lawyers Helping Lawyers is available at www.valhl.org.

Helping Persons with Problems

- Provide peer support
- Take on cases if individual is in crisis or has to go to inpatient treatment
- Help get cases rescheduled if person is in crisis or has to go to inpatient treatment
- Provide "mentoring" re: how to

How Can You Participate?

It's straightforward:

1. **Fill out and submit your pledge form** to contribute at least 50 hours a year either as a VBA Community Servant or as a VBA Pro Bono Servant;
 2. **Volunteer**;
 3. **Consider telling your colleagues how to do it** - getting a volunteer service partner might help you stick to the program;
 4. **Send in your pledge fulfillment form** in January 2006; and
 5. **Renew** for 2006.
- The VBA will do all the rest.

What volunteers say about their service experiences:

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is The Virginia Bar Association Community Service Program?

A: This is a program to encourage one of the great traditions of our profession. The VBA wants all lawyers to get involved in helping others in their communities.

Q: Is this program just for VBA members?

A: No, it is open to all Virginia lawyers and it does not require joining the VBA or paying any fee of any kind.

Q: Aren't Virginia lawyers already involved in various pro bono publico legal service and community service activities?

A: Yes. The Community Service Program seeks to build on this service and encourage more lawyer participation in volunteer activities. The goal is not to develop new projects but to identify and facilitate involvement in existing pro bono publico legal service and community service opportunities so lawyers can more readily identify meaningful ways to help those in need.

Q: Is this a mandatory VBA pro bono publico legal services program?

A: No, it is not mandatory. The VBA is asking Virginia lawyers to pledge and perform 50 hours per year of pro bono publico legal services or nonlegal community service, or a mix of both.

Q: What is the VBA's role in this program?

A: The VBA is the administrator of this program and will facilitate lawyers' participation.

Q: Why is the VBA doing this?

A: The VBA hopes to remind lawyers of their personal and professional obligation for community service; to reveal the opportunities for service so that lawyers can do the fun part — volunteer; and to publicly recognize lawyers for what they are doing.

Q: Don't the ethical rules already suggest that lawyers devote time to pro bono publico legal service?

A: Rule 6.1(a) of the Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct states that, "A lawyer should render at least two percent per year of the lawyer's professional time to pro bono publico legal services. Pro bono services include poverty law, civil rights law, public interest law, and volunteer activities designed to increase availability of pro bono legal services."

Q: What is nonlegal community service?

A: Community service includes voluntary assistance, undertaken without expectation of a fee, and not in the course of ordinary commercial practice, to charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental, and educational organizations or causes or for the good of the community.

Q: How does this program impact the standard set in the ethical rules?

A: This program is designed to help lawyers meet the goal set forth in the ethical rules and to encourage community service and pro bono publico legal service generally.

Q: Why should I do this?

A: A chance to get involved and give back to your community and those in need, a chance to promote equal access to justice, and a sense of personal fulfillment. It's the right thing to do. And your involvement will encourage other Virginia lawyers to sign up.

Q: How do I get more information and get involved?

A: Log on to www.vba.org to get more details. Sign up, using a form you can download, find links to lists of service opportunities, perform at least 50 hours of community service and/or pro

set up and manage office in ways that support the person's health

- Provide consultation to attorneys we are helping re: ethical or legal dilemmas they have created.
- Represent attorneys we are helping before disciplinary committees or in court
- Serve in the role of Monitor to attorneys who have signed Monitoring/Rehabilitation Contracts with LHL
- Assist with transporting attorney to or from treatment center
- Provide consultation to attorney's family members re: legal matters that have arisen due to the impairment
- Assist LHL staff with interventions
- Assist with establishing a local committee or "response team" in your area

General Program Services

- Update our website and/or teach us how to do this
- Be a presenter with educational programs
- Disseminate information about LHL to local bar leaders, judges, clerks of courts, etc. in your area
- Write articles for the newsletter
- Man the LHL exhibit at a conference
- Provide training to LHL volunteers re: matters that would help them help others better
- Help LHL schedule, publicize, arrange site, etc. for CLE in your area
- Help with presentations in law schools
- Help develop the new student division
- Help develop a judicial division

Board/Program Needs

- Provide consultation/services re: legal matters that the Board must respond to
- Review contracts that the board may be entering
- Assist with fundraising project
- Assist with marketing project
- Provide training/consultation re: HIPAA and other laws affecting confidentiality and/or records

bono publico legal service, and the VBA will do the rest. Alternatively, call Cyndy Basham at the VBA office at (804) 644-0041.

Q: What can local bar associations do to get involved?

A: Encourage member participation. Contact the VBA to have your service projects listed on the VBA's website, so that projects and volunteers may find each other. Ask us to sponsor a "Make the Commitment" drive event at your spring 2005 meeting.

Q: How can law firms, agencies and corporations participate?

A: See the VBA website for information on becoming a VBA Community Service Sponsor. You will receive special recognition. Would you like us to sponsor a "Make the Commitment" drive event at your workplace?

Q: Who is already making the commitment as a VBA Community Servant or Pro Bono Servant?

A: You can check out their names below. We want to see your name there too!

VIRGINIA LAWYERS AND JUDGES WHO PLEDGED SERVICE IN 2004

VBA Community Servants

Debra Albiston, Virginia Beach
Hon. William N. Alexander II, Rocky Mount
David Grant Altizer, Tazewell
Robert B. Altizer, Tazewell
Anne-Marie Amiel, Chesapeake
Alan S. Anderson, Alexandria
Barbara S. Anderson, Alexandria
Hon. Rosemarie Annunziata, Fairfax
David N. Anthony, Richmond
Thomas D. Applewhite, Richmond
Charles B. Arrington, Jr., Richmond
Edward Scott Austin, Roanoke
Margaret I. Bacigal, Richmond
Hon. Gerald L. Baliles, Richmond
Michael E. Barney, Virginia Beach
Stanley G. Barr Jr., Norfolk
Robin W. Baxter, Reston
Hon. William Alan Becker, Manassas
Cameron S. Bell Jr., Abingdon
Thomas G. Bell Jr., Staunton
William W. Bennett, Halifax
Darren W. Bentley, Danville
Lee E. Berner, McLean
J. Edward Betts, Richmond
Michael F. Blair, Bristol
Hon. Randall M. Blow, Virginia Beach
Valerie Brennan, McLean
William G. Broaddus, Richmond
Turner A. Broughton, Richmond
Samuel R. Brown II, Virginia Beach
Thomas C. Brown Jr., McLean
Kristan B. Burch, Norfolk
E. Andrew Burcher, Alexandria
Kathleen D. Burgess, Alexandria
Gina M. Burgin, Richmond
Monica Scales Burke, McLean
Ann T. Burks, Richmond
Hon. R. Edwin Burnette Jr., Lynchburg
Lisa R. Butler, Smithfield

Meg O'Regan, Alexandria
Daniel Ortiz, Fairfax
J. Lee E. Osborne, Roanoke
Samantha S. Otero, Richmond
Stephen D. Otero, Richmond
Richard H. Ottinger, Norfolk
G. Michael Pace Jr., Roanoke
Sakina K. Paige, Richmond
Sarah R. Palmara, Williamsburg
Sharon E. Pandak, Prince William
Lacey R. Parker, Waynesboro
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Janet P. Peyton, Richmond
Marina Liacouras Phillips, Norfolk
Delphine G. Pioffret, Norfolk
William B. Porter, Fairfax
Anita O. Poston, Norfolk
Robert H. Powell III, Norfolk
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Hon. William T. Prince, Norfolk
Jonathan E. Pruden, Norfolk
Glenn W. Pulley, Danville
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Michael J. Quinan, Richmond
Nancy Quinlan-Jaffa, Arlington
Alfred M. Randolph Jr., Norfolk
Gant Redmon, Alexandria
Erica Reed, Norfolk
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Wesley E. Rice, Newport News
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Daniel F. Rinzel, Alexandria
Cliona Mary Robb, Richmond
Hon. Joshua L. Robinson, Luray
Lynn L. Robinson, Richmond
Hon. F.G. Rockwell III, Chesterfield
John F. Rogers, Alexandria
Nancy N. Rogers, Richmond

- Serve on the Board of Directors

CRIBS (Caring Relationships Involving Book Sharing) is a nonprofit early literacy program designed for young children and their families. It offers preschool, kindergarten, grade 1 and 2 children and their families engaging literacy activities/experiences that would convey the importance of family bonding and involvement with reading, singing and rhyming. We need a lawyer who is willing to serve on our Advisory Board and give pro bono legal advice. Interested lawyers should contact Barbara G. Edwards, director, (703) 494-4551.

To the members of the VBA:

In July 2002, after a lifelong battle with asthma, Kitty Stone lost her life to complications from another lung disease, pneumonia. Although Kitty's life was cut too short, her never-ending spirit of giving lives on as we move toward establishing the Kitty Stone Memorial Fund. Last summer we held a golf tournament, The 1st Annual Kitty Stone Memorial Golf Classic, which raised over \$4,000 for the Fauquier Hospital Foundation in Warrenton, Va. The monies went toward the purchase of a new ventilator for the Pulmonary Rehabilitation Center at Fauquier Hospital.

We would like to **create the Kitty Stone Memorial Fund as a non-profit 501(c)(3)** in order to serve as a vehicle through which we can channel funds raised for the research and treatment of lung disease. This will enable us to broaden the reach of the golf tournament as well as allow us to expand our efforts beyond the tournament to raise funds year round. We are seeking **pro bono legal services** as the complexities of the filing requirements exceed our knowledge base.

David A. Buzard, Norfolk
Robert L. Calhoun, Alexandria
Hon. Louis K. Campbell, Fincastle
Leroy T. Canoles Jr., Norfolk
Susanne Harris Carnell, McLean
Hon. Harry L. Carrico, Richmond
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Gregory R. Davis, Williamsburg
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Robert B. Delano Jr., Richmond
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Patrick C. Devine Jr., Norfolk
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Robert L. Dewey, Norfolk
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Patricia K. Epps, Richmond
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Molly S. Evans, Washington, D.C.
H. Malloy Evans III, Washington, D.C.
H. Bradley Evans Jr., Alexandria
Robin K. Everett, McLean
Renee B. Fain, Richmond
Howard Feller, Richmond
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G. Franklin Flippin, Roanoke
Dean A. Romhilt, McLean
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D. Alan Rudlin, Richmond
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Karl L. Santone, Gordonsville
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Katharine A. Schkloven, Richmond
L. Scott Seymour, Norfolk
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Hon. William W. Sharp, Front Royal
Hon. Louis A. Sherman, Norfolk
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W. Dean Short, Newport News
Winthrop A. Short, Newport News
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Paul A. Simpson, Fredericksburg
Hon. Franklin M. Slayton, South Boston
Cheryl Watson Smith, Roanoke
David Shane Smith, Richmond
James D. Snyder, Clifton Forge
J. Douglas Sorensen, Norfolk
James W. Speer, Richmond
Mary Yancey Spencer, Richmond
Stuart P. Sperling, Norfolk
David H. Spratt, Fairfax
Gregory T. St. Ours, Harrisonburg
Gregory M. Stewart, Norton
Edward R. Stolle, Virginia Beach
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Peter T. Straub, Alexandria
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Ann K. Sullivan, Norfolk
Cecelia A. Tabois, McLean
Neil S. Talegaonkar, Richmond
Hon. Jacqueline F. Ward Talevi, Roanoke
Cullen G. Taylor, McLean
Hon. Lydia Calvert Taylor, Norfolk
James W. Theobald, Richmond
Anthony M. Thiel, Norfolk
Frank A. Thomas, Orange
Hon. George Tidey, Richmond
King F. Tower, Richmond
Timothy O. Trant II, Williamsburg
Wilson R. Trice, Richmond
George E. Tuttle, Jr., Alexandria
Ann B. Vaden, Charlottesville
Peter B. Vaden, Charlottesville
William R. Van Buren III, Norfolk
John W. Vaughan Jr., Richmond
Wilson F. Vellines Jr., Staunton
Jennifer W. Vincent, Newport News
Shawn A. Voyles, Norfolk
Suzanne E. Wade, Richmond

Thank you for your consideration,

Kelly Stone
govatech@bellsouth.net

Katie Stone
ktlstone1@yahoo.com
kittymemorialgolf@yahoo.com

**Community Service
 Program Council**

VBA Home

Site Map

**Community Service
 Program Forms (PDF*)
[VBA Community Servant
 and Pro Bono Servant
 Forms for 2005](#)**

*You will need Adobe Acrobat
 Reader to access these forms;
 visit www.adobe.com to
 download this free software.

William E. Franczek, Norfolk
Kari Lou Frank, Richmond
Jeanne F. Franklin, Alexandria
Jennifer R. Franklin, Richmond
Michael L. Freshour, Halifax
Paul W. Gerhardt, Williamsburg
John A. Gibney Jr., Richmond
Hon. Larry E. Gilman, Hanover
Emily M. Ginger, McLean
Jennifer Lee Gobble, Abingdon
Shawn Alan Gobble, Abingdon
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Livingston Haskell, Richmond
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 Richmond
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Jammie N. Jackson, Roanoke
Molly F. James, McLean
Gus J. James II, Norfolk
Kendra J. Jarrell, Norfolk
Charlie R. Jessee, Abingdon
Dana Martin Johnson, Richmond
Christopher A. Jones, Richmond
Courtney Moates Joyce, Richmond
James C. Joyce Jr., Roanoke
David Kamer, Norfolk
Robert E. Kaplan, Williamsburg
E. Andrew Keeney, Chesapeake
Kirkland M. Kelley, Norfolk
Scott Kezman, Norfolk
Donald E. King, Richmond
Hon. Stanley P. Klein, Fairfax

Thomas P. Walk, Tazewell
Lewis Webb, Norfolk
Robert A. Welp, McLean
Elizabeth L. White, Williamsburg
Kimberley Slayton White, Halifax
John E. Whitfield, Harrisonburg
Burt H. Whitt, Norfolk
Gordon A. Wilkins, Warsaw
Melvin E. Williams, Roanoke
Steven R. Williams, Richmond
Robert Lee Yancey, Danville
Steven R. Zahn, Norfolk
Richard W. Zahn Jr., Norfolk

VBA Pro Bono Servants

Amanda Beasley, Richmond
Lisa A. Bertini, Norfolk
David B. Bice, Lynchburg
Nash Bilisoly, Norfolk
Alexandra D. Bowen, Richmond
Wallace W. Brittle Jr., Waverly
Eleanor Weston Brown, Newport News
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Wiley F. Mitchell Jr., Norfolk
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Glenn R. Moore, Richmond
Andrew J. Mulcunry, Williamsburg
Anne L. Musgrove, Abingdon
E. Duffy Myrtetus, Richmond
Caroline L. Nadal, Richmond
Adam R. Nelson, Richmond
John Randolph Nelson, Lynchburg
Margaret A. Nelson, Lynchburg
Mark J. Nelson, Charlottesville
David B. Neumeyer, Lynchburg
Hon. R. Terrence Ney, Fairfax
Jean K. Niebauer, Alexandria
Christina Novak, Roanoke
Joseph B. Obenshain, Roanoke
John B. O'Grady, Richmond

James W. Thweatt, Roanoke
Gerard Treanor, Washington, D.C.
Daniel R. Warman, Norfolk
Noah D. Weisberg, Newport News
Elizabeth P. Williams, Washington, D.C.

VBA Community/Pro Bono Servants

Elizabeth Atkinson, Norfolk
Elaina L. Blanks, Norfolk
Andrea Bridgeman, McLean
Erika L. Byrd, McLean
Marie D. Carter, Richmond
M. Beth Colling, Lynchburg
N. Thomas Connally, McLean
Debra J. C. Dowd, Richmond
James P. Downey, Arlington
B. Leigh Drewry Jr., Lynchburg
Robert B. Duncan, McLean
Michael P. Falzone, Richmond
Robert L. Flax, Richmond
Mahlon G. Funk Jr., Richmond
Lane R. Gabeler-Millner, McLean
Ann McGee Green, Roanoke
D. Brock Green, Charlottesville
Laura Geringer Gross, Norfolk
Susan Grover, Williamsburg
Douglas L. Guynn, Staunton
Kevin D. Holden, Richmond
J. Scott Hommer III, Vienna
C. Ryan Jones, Chesapeake
Herschel V. Keller, Lynchburg
Chandra D. Lantz, Richmond
Lisa Pierce Laughon, Roanoke
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What CSP participants say about their experiences

“One of the most meaningful community activities for me has been volunteering once a month at a group home for girls. My interactions with them are a constant reminder of how fortunate I have been in my life and the need for society to do more to help its children. Watching the transformation of some of the girls is truly amazing. When they feel secure, receive the assistance

they need to help them grow, and are valued as unique human beings, they thrive.”

Name withheld by request, Richmond

“I have found one way for a transactional lawyer who has two left feet in a courtroom to be of help to Legal Services. Our local program created a Landlord-Tenant Pro Bono Attorney program and provided an excellent training of the lawyer volunteers. As I interview the clients and learn more about their circumstances, I understand their fatigue at how one problem just compounds another. I spend a lot of time working with the client to understand how to look at documents, how to handle negotiation discussions, how to handle everyday business. Aside from the immediate issue bringing a client in for assistance, I hope the time spent with people who are struggling to make ends meet, helps them see themselves with dignity, more confidence and hope, and enables them to handle everyday choices with just a bit more know-how. I think we just have to keep on trying to lend assistance, as we would want someone to do for us.”

Name withheld by request, Northern Virginia

“While cleaning out my parents’ home, my siblings and I discovered that none of us wanted a particular item – it was too good to put out for a pickup, but it was difficult and time-consuming to find a charity that could take it. Then I had a brainstorm: why not use the Internet to make it easier? I worked with a local foundation to establish a website, www.gift-link.org, which connects charitable impulses to charitable needs in the Hampton Roads area. It has been described by the *Virginian-Pilot* as ‘sort of a reverse eBay, except no money changes hands.’ With more than 40 charities now participating, visitors to the site can search by organization or by item to find information. In addition to donating items, people can also contribute money to cover needs such as school supplies.”

Name withheld by request, Virginia Beach

“I’m still a student, but I can’t wait to sign up as a VBA Community Service partner. I volunteer at the PORT Homeless Shelter and as a CASA in Newport News. Both programs definitely make a difference in my community and in the lives of the persons they serve.”

Elizabeth Bircher, Yorktown

“My primary form of regular public service for the past four years has been in serving as an overnight volunteer at a shelter for homeless men with substance abuse problems. I stay overnight, from 11 p.m. to 8 a.m., one night a month, get to sleep about six hours, answer the phone and respond to any questions or needs that the men have (which are few because the men are pretty self-sufficient, but once in a while someone wants to talk to a lawyer). I am also helping the shelter review their lease form. The commitment does not take away significant time from my other activities, and allows me to personally help people who have been way less fortunate than I have.”

David Neumeyer, Lynchburg

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