



## Seeking Judicial Reception Sponsors

Opportunities to contribute towards our annual event celebrating our local judiciary

Front Page



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## Join Us for the Annual VWAA Judicial Reception

By Leigh Strelka

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### VWAA Mission

- To advance the interest of women attorneys in Virginia;
- To encourage their mutual improvement and social interaction;
- And to promote the interests of women under the law.

## Seeking Judicial Reception Sponsorships

Our chapter would like to invite all of our members to attend our December Judicial Reception. During the event, we will be honoring our local judiciary and their important work in our community.

We are looking for local firms and organizations to help us make this event truly special for our judges and attendees. If your firm or organization is interested in joining our effort to show our support for the local bench, please contact Jennifer Dean at [jennifer@poarchlaw.com](mailto:jennifer@poarchlaw.com).

All sponsors will be recognized for their contributions through our publicity outreach in print and online, as well as having their logo affixed to a welcome placard on the check-in table at the reception.

## Join Us for the Annual VWAA Judicial Reception By Leigh Strelka

On Thursday, December 4, 2014, from 5:30PM-7:30PM, the Virginia Women Attorneys Association, Roanoke Chapter, will host its annual holiday reception honoring the local judiciary and their staff. The event will continue to be held at the central location of Schaal's Metamorphosis, 402 North Jefferson Street, Roanoke, VA 24016, in downtown Roanoke.

We are looking forward to welcoming several new additions to our local bench while we honor the memories of several longstanding and respected judges who are no longer with us.

This event has been a tradition in our local bar for many years. Former VWAA Roanoke Chapter President, Kai Memmer, of Glenn Robinson & Cathey, PLC, shares her thoughts on the reception tradition as follows:

*"The VWAA has always valued its relationship with, and celebration of, our local judiciary."*

*The VWAA is proud of its members, both female and male, that have been appointed to the bench in the Roanoke Valley and surrounding areas.*

*The tradition of fellowship and celebration at the Judicial Reception (which usually occurs during the holiday season) has been enjoyed by many."*

Last year, more than seventy attorneys, judges, and staff mingled and enjoyed fellowship at Schaal's Metamorphosis downtown.

This year, we anticipate a continued collegial atmosphere as we honor our local judiciary and their important work in our community in a festive setting and we hope that you will be able to enjoy this event with us.

The VWAA is most appreciative of its current generous sponsors for the event which include Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore, Moss & Rocovich, The Poarch Law Firm, the VBA Young Lawyers Division, and Woods Rogers.

Should you wish attend or to sponsor this event, please contact [Rachel@poarchlaw.com](mailto:Rachel@poarchlaw.com) by November 25, 2014.

We are looking forward to seeing you then!

*2014 Judicial Reception*

Please join us for the Roanoke Chapter Virginia Women Attorneys Association's Annual Judicial Reception honoring our judiciary and their staff

Thursday, December 4, 2014 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Schaal's Metamorphosis  
402 North Jefferson Street  
Roanoke, Virginia 24016

please rsvp to [rachel@poarchlaw.com](mailto:rachel@poarchlaw.com)  
by November 30th

*2014 Judicial Reception Sponsors*

**GENTRY LOCKE**  
RAKES & MOORE<sup>LLP</sup>  
Attorneys

**MOSS & ROCOVICH**  
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**VBA**  
The Virginia Bar Association  
YOUNG LAWYERS DIVISION

**WR** WOODS ROGERS  
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## Get to Know Kathleen Pritts, Esq.

*Kathleen graduated from Washington and Lee University School of Law, where she was active in several student groups and received the Oliver Hill and Samuel W. Tucker Award for her academic achievement and commitment to civil rights work. As a law student, Kathleen worked as a law clerk for Advocates for Basic Legal Equality, Inc., in Ohio, where she assisted migrant farmworkers with immigration, fair wages, and housing issues. In 2012, Kathleen joined the Office of the Public Defender in Roanoke, Virginia. She represents indigent criminal defendants before the Roanoke City courts.*

**Q: What made you decide to practice law in the Roanoke region?**

A: I grew up in Maryland, and originally planned on practicing law in northern Virginia and/or Washington, D.C. However, the job market was less than ideal when I graduated from law school in 2011, and when I heard about an opening at the public defender's office here in Roanoke, I went for it.

Now that I'm here, I can't really imagine practicing law anywhere else. There is an air of camaraderie every time I walk into the courthouse. The people here, from the judges to the deputies, are always friendly and helpful. There is a true sense of community, and I have very much enjoyed making Roanoke my home.

**Q: What is the most challenging aspect of your practice?**

A: Meeting a client for the first time on the day of his trial. Getting more questions from my clients

about my marital status than about their felony charges. Convincing clients that public defenders are, in fact, "real lawyers." Getting the smell of the jail out of my suits.

**Q: What is the most rewarding aspect of your practice?**

A: Many of our clients come from families with a long history of poverty, violence, substance abuse, and mental health issues. They often face personal as well as systemic obstacles that keep them trapped in this cycle.

For the most part, our clients are not well-educated and do not fully understand the workings of the legal system or the rights they have. It is very rewarding to be able to help them in the midst of what is often a low point in their lives.

**Q: If you were to write a book, what would the title be and what would it about be?**

A: What Not to Do: A Legal Perspective. It would contain advice for criminal defendants

based on real-life situations I've encountered, such as: Courtroom Procedure (What Not to Do: Even though you want to kiss your girlfriend goodbye before you start serving your jail sentence, do not attempt to hurdle multiple rows of seats in the courtroom to get to her); Courtroom Attire (What Not to Do: Do not wear a t-shirt reading "If you ain't being hated on, you ain't doing s\*\*t" to your trial); and Working with the Police (What Not to Do: Do not tell federal agents that you know where a murder victim's body is buried, then lead them on a wild-goose chase through the woods that ends with you walking into your family's trailer and announcing, "Honey, I'm home!").

**Q: What is one of the bravest things you have ever done?**

A: Performing an 11-minute choreographed dance routine at a wedding reception.

We will be featuring a Q&A with different members of our local chapter in each monthly newsletter. If you are interested in being featured, please contact Jennifer Dean at [jennifer@poarchlaw.com](mailto:jennifer@poarchlaw.com).



## + Event Schedule 2014-2015

### December

Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup>  
Judicial Reception at Schaal's

### January

Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>  
Noon Luncheon at Carlos

### February

Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup>  
Noon Luncheon at 202 Market

### March

Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>  
Noon Luncheon at Blue Apron

### April

Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>  
Noon CLE Luncheon at Schaal's

### May

Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Elections at Carlos

## *2014 Judicial Reception*

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Virginia Women Attorneys Association's Annual Judicial Reception honoring our judiciary and their staff

**Thursday, December 4, 2014 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

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402 North Jefferson Street  
Roanoke, Virginia 24016