



Seeking Judicial Reception Sponsors

Opportunities to contribute towards our annual event celebrating our local judiciary

Page 4



In This Issue:

Front Advancing the VWAA Mission by Lindsay Grindo

Page 2 Overview of the VWAA 2014 conference including noteworthy presentations

Page 3 Get to Know: VWAA Member Nanda Davis

Page 4 2014-2015 VWAA Lunch Schedule: locations and dates



October VWAA Conference

The 2014 conference titled "Law: The Ultimate Power Tool" will be held on October 17-19, 2014.

Page 2



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.

Advancing the VWAA Mission

Lindsay Grindo, VWAA Roanoke Chapter Treasurer

I am excited to serve as treasurer for our VWAA chapter this year. As the steward of our financial resources, I look forward to using those resources to pursue our shared goal of advancing the VWAA mission. Our chapter's funds are utilized in several important ways. They facilitate networking and mentorship through our monthly lunches and meetings. They provide an affordable CLE program for our legal community and honor the judiciary through our annual judicial reception in December.

With our funds this year, we have had the pleasure of contributing to the portrait of the Honorable Samuel G. Wilson, who retired earlier this year. Judge Wilson's legacy has been marked by an active interest in the bar and bench. We wish him the best of luck as he travels to Taipei, where he will teach American criminal justice at the National Taiwan University.



Law: The Ultimate Power Tool

“All our work, our whole life is a matter of semantics, because words are the tools with which we work, the material out of which laws are made, out of which the Constitution was written. Everything depends on our understanding of them.”

~ Justice Felix Frankfurter

2014 VWAA Conference: October 17-19 at the Tides Inn in Irvington,

We are pleased to announce this year's Virginia Women Attorneys Association's 2014 conference entitled "Law: The Ultimate Power Tool."

A power tool equalizes. You do not need brute strength to build things or tear them down. This is what law does or is supposed to do — it equalizes. With the law, we can try to achieve justice for our clients, create corporations and tear down institutionalized injustice.

As attorneys, we wield that power tool and with us rests the responsibility to learn how to use it well, whether in the courtroom, in the boardroom, or in administrative proceedings.

We recently passed the 70th anniversary of Rosie the Riveter, one of the most recognizable feminist images, whose pose has been

emulated by rock stars, movie stars, and cartoon characters.

We are reminded not only of the inspiration of the women who stepped up to serve when called upon, but of the challenging motto, "we can do it!" It is up to us to determine what it is we can do — I think we can do anything.

Some of the conference highlights will include:

Drilling Down to the Issues: Not All Conduct in the Workplace is Discriminatory. Presented by Carla Brown of Charlson Bredehoff Cohen & Brown, P.C. and Lynn Jacob of Williams Mullen.

Forging in the Foundry of Justice, The Rule of Law for We the People. Presented by the Center for Teaching the Rule of Law and the Diversity Conference of the Virginia State Bar.

Riveting Your Ethical Protective Shield: Protecting Your and Your Clients' Interests in the Event of Your Disability, Death, or Other Disaster — We Can Do It. In the recent economic turmoil, law school graduates were unable to find employment and experienced attorneys who thought they were established in firms found themselves the subject of some harsh economic decisions.

A number of our members are merging law firms or closing their firms to join other practices. We also have members who are now looking towards retirement. Life happens. How do we protect our clients' interests and ourselves when life does happen?

For more information on the conference, including how to register, see the [VWAA Conference Page](#) online.



Get to Know Nanda Davis, Esq.

A graduate of the University of Virginia in 2008, and George Mason University School of Law in 2012, Nanda was an attorney advisor at the United States Department of Labor, Office of Administrative Law Judges in Washington D.C., before moving to the Roanoke area in March of this year. She started her own solo practice immediately after moving and does criminal defense, family law, commitment hearings, guardian ad litem work with juveniles, and (almost) anything else that walks in the door.

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

A: I grew up in northern Virginia, and except for my time at UVA, I've always lived in the DC area. However, the long commutes and high cost of living were taking their toll. I always wanted to be in the courtroom and I knew the longer I waited to leave my job in the government, the harder that transition would be. My husband is a Roanoke College graduate and he has family in this area, so Roanoke felt like the natural choice.

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

A: I am learning an entirely new profession as I go. For example, no textbook prepared me for how I should react when I learned at a preliminary hearing that my client was buck naked when the officer pulled him over. Or what I should do when I'm locked in a room in juvenile detention with a teenager who has chosen to make his teeth look like vampire fangs.

Sometimes I learn by trial and error in front of judges with a full courtroom of more experienced attorneys watching me. Also, criminal defense attracts aggressive men and sometimes I struggle to find a way to be taken seriously as a younger woman with less experience. However, I believe women can often offer empathy and portray their clients in a compassionate light, without backing down.

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

A: My work is exhilarating because no two days are the same. I've talked with people accused of murder, child molestation, and arson. I no longer hesitate when I'm let into jails and psychiatric wards. Clients have trusted me with the details of their sex lives and have pulled up their shirts to show me their scars from domestic violence. I've had clients' families hug me outside of court, and other clients get so mad at me that they storm out of my office.

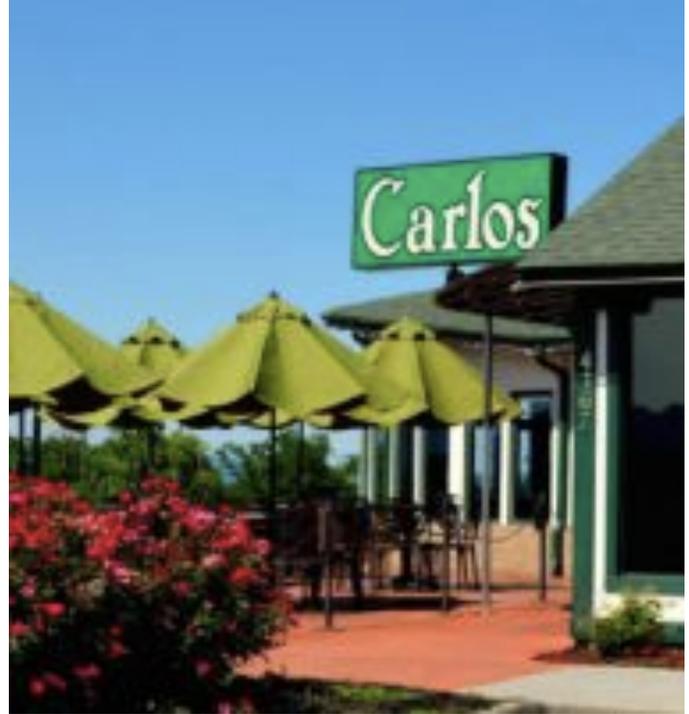
Q: If you were to write a book, what would the title be and what would it about be?

A: My book, How to Move to a Place Where You Don't Know Anyone and Start a Law Practice Without Any Experience, would discuss how to find mentors, learn local practices, and make conversations with strangers. Or I could just channel Mindy Kaling and call my book Is Everyone Hanging Out a Shingle Without Me, and talk about courtroom fashion, and setbacks in life, on the path to becoming a fabulous attorney.

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

A: Telling my bosses at the Department of Labor that I was moving over 200 miles away to start my own law practice was one of my points of no return. Amazingly, my bosses were supportive. Buying a house in Salem was the other big moment where I thought, there's no chickening out now.

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.



+ Event Schedule 2014-2015

October

Wednesday, October 1st
Noon Luncheon at the Quarter

November

Thursday, November 6th
Noon Luncheon at Blue Apron

December

Thursday, December 4th
Evening Judicial Reception at Schaal's

January

Wednesday, January 7th
Noon Luncheon at Carlos

February

Thursday, February 5th
Noon Luncheon at 202 Market

March

Wednesday, March 4th
Noon Luncheon at Blue Apron

April

Wednesday, April 16th
Noon CLE Luncheon at Schaal's

May

Thursday, May 7th
Annual Elections at Carlos

SEEKING JUDICIAL RECEPTION SPONSORS

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. 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.