



Old Dominion Bar Association 2015 Mid-Winter Meeting and Conference

January 31, 2015

Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Presenters' Biographies

Cynthia E. Hudson, Esq. is currently Chief Deputy Attorney General of Virginia. She was appointed to that post in January, 2014. Ms. Hudson previously served eight years as city attorney for the City of Hampton, Virginia. Prior to her appointment as city attorney, Ms. Hudson had been a Deputy City Attorney for Hampton. Ms. Hudson's spent her early law career in private practice in the labor and employment law litigation section of McGuireWoods, LLP in Richmond, Virginia. She served also as Director of Personnel Policy and Programs for the Virginia Department of Personnel and Training. A native of Nottoway County, Virginia and a product of its public school system, Ms. Hudson received her undergraduate degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and her law degree from the College of William and Mary, where has been an adjunct law faculty member teaching state and local government law.

Michael J. Coker, Sergeant (Ret.) is a 20 Year Veteran Portsmouth Police Department. After retirement Sgt. Coker fulfilled a career goal to be an international motivational speaker in the area of Leadership and Domestic Violence/Homicide Investigations. Sgt. Coker lectures in classes and at seminars all across the United States on Domestic Violence and Domestic Homicide cases. As a "Qualified Expert Witness in Domestic Violence" District and Circuit Courts of VA, he testifies to and investigates cases. He is the Director of Coker Training and Associates; and, he is a National Instructor/Consultant who trains police officers on various topics. He is a frequent guest lecturer at New York State Police Homicide Conference, Delaware State Police Conference and a past Board Member of the Help Emergency Response (HER) battered women shelter in the city of Portsmouth. Sgt. Coker is a 2009 Graduate of the Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership at the University of Virginia.

The Honorable Wilford Taylor, Jr., Judge serves as a member of Hampton's Circuit Court. He served in the General District Court after working as a Deputy City Attorney for Hampton. Prior to that, Judge Taylor was a partner in the law firm of Scott, Coles, Brown, Taylor and Melvin, P.C. He received his law degree from the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary, his Master of Commerce degree from the University of Richmond, and his undergraduate degree from Hampton University. Judge Taylor currently serves on Judicial Council of Virginia, the Chief Justice's Indigent Defense Training Initiative, and is the Chairman of the Benchbook Committee. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Law for the Trial Advocacy course at Marshall-Wythe School of Law.

MICHAEL A. BEVERLY, Esq., is a current member of the Virginia State Bar Disciplinary Board and has served on the Virginia State Bar 2nd District Disciplinary Committee. He is an Associate City Attorney with the Virginia Beach City Attorney's Office. Mr. Beverly is a litigation attorney with experience representing the city and city employees in state and federal courts in Virginia, including both trial and appellate work. In addition, he represents localities and their employees in litigation before administrative boards. He is a former member of the James Kent American Inns of Court and a current member of the Virginia Beach Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association. Mr. Beverly served as a law clerk to the Honorable James E. Bradberry, U.S. Magistrate Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia, Norfolk Division. He received his B.A. degree in sociology with high honors from the College of William & Mary and his J.D. degree from the American University, Washington College of Law. Mr. Beverly previously worked in the Office of the General Counsel for the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. and as a special investigator for the U.S. Office of Personnel Management.



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Student Sessions Presenters' Biographies

Anita O. Poston, Esq. is a member of the Virginia Board of Bar Examiner, having been appointed by the Supreme Court of Virginia in 1990. She is a partner in the Norfolk, Virginia office of Vandevanter Black LLP and serves as General Counsel for the Norfolk Airport Authority. Ms. Poston represents an international insurance and bonding company and co-chairs the law firm's Government Relations Committee. She is a member and past president of the Norfolk and Portsmouth and Virginia Bar Associations and is also a member of the Virginia State Bar, the American Bar Association and the Virginia Women Attorneys Association. She has served on the State Board of Virginia Community College System, Board of Visitors for the College of William and Mary and served on Norfolk School Board. Ms. Poston received her undergraduate degree from University of Maryland and her law degree from the College of William and Mary where she was a member of the William and Mary Law Review.

Stephen A. Isaacs (Steve), Esq. is the Director of Character and Fitness of the Virginia Board of Bar Examiners, having served since 1996. He is a sole-practitioner with the firm Stephen A. Isaacs Law Office in Richmond, VA. Prior to managing his own firm, Mr. Isaacs worked at the firm of Smith, Moncure, Blank, Isaacs and Hinton in Richmond. He has served as the Commissioner in Chancery in Chesterfield County Circuit Court. He earned his B.A. in Business from College of William and Mary and his J.D. from William and Mary.

Rhianna Shabsin, Sr., Esq., Senior Assistant Dean for Admission, works with other members of the admission team to recruit and select incoming students to the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary. She earned her B.A. in urban studies at Rhodes College in Memphis and afterward taught second grade for two years in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, as a member of Teach for America. After that, she moved to the Washington, D.C., area and worked in publishing for four years before attending William & Mary Law School. While in law school, she was a member of the *William & Mary Law Review*, volunteered with America Reads, competed on the Alternative Dispute Resolution Team, and was one of four student lawyers in the Center for Legal and Court Technology's 2010 Lab Trial.

Jefferson Kaster, Director of Admissions, at Regent University School of Law recently began his post at Regent in November of 2014. He previously served in the United States Marine Corps Forces Central Command, United States Marine Corps, CITF. He received his education at Regent University School of Law.

Jay W. Jorgensen, Esq., Associate Director of Admissions, at the University of Richmond School of Law manages the admissions process, from recruiting prospective students and evaluating applications to facilitating decision-making with the admissions committee. He has been the Associate Director since 2012 but has worked in law admissions since 2008. He earned a B.A. from Colorado College and a J.D. from South Texas College of Law. In his position, Mr. Jorgensen also administers merit-based scholarships and financial aid for the law school. From September to November of each year, Mr. Jorgensen travels the entire country and personally meets thousands of prospective students at law fairs and forums, admission panels, and one-on-one interviews.

The Honorable Dana Boente, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District, is a twenty-nine year veteran of the Department of Justice, joining the Department in 1984 at the conclusion of a clerkship with a United States District Court Judge. From 1984 to 1999, Mr. Boente was a Trial Attorney with the Department of Justice's Tax Division. In January 2000, Mr. Boente became an Assistant United States Attorney in the Fraud Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Virginia (EDVA). In August 2005, Mr. Boente was detailed back to the Tax Division to serve as the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General. He returned to the U.S. Attorney's Office in EDVA when he was selected as the First Assistant United States Attorney in May 2007. In December, 2012, Mr. Boente went to serve as the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Louisiana.