

## Welcome to The Brief

Welcome to the latest issue of *The Brief*, our newsletter designed to keep you updated on what's happening at your Virginia Law Foundation.

Featured in this issue:

- The Justice Gap in Virginia
- Fellow Spotlight: The Class of 2019
- Grant Spotlight: The Virginia Legal Aid Society
- Experience Philanthropy with Virginia CLE
- Our 2018 Donors

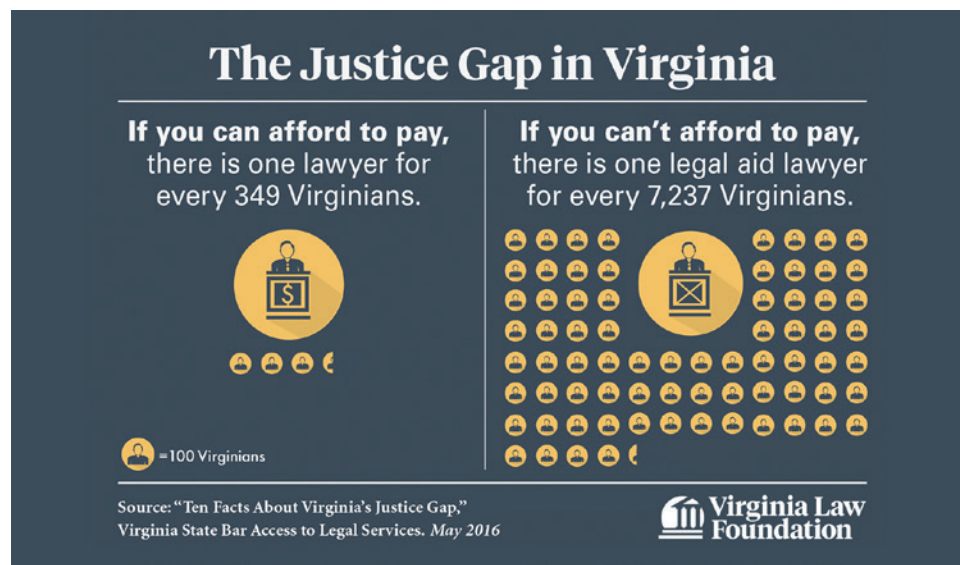
Enjoy this issue of *The Brief* and thank you for supporting your Virginia Law Foundation.

### Join us at our 2019 Annual Dinner

Keynote Address by The  
Honorable William C. Mims,  
Justice of the Supreme  
Court of Virginia

Thursday, January 24, 2019  
Colonial Williamsburg

[Learn more](#)



As the graphic above illustrates, far too many Virginians go without adequate legal representation in matters that can change the course of their lives. Through the generosity of our donors, Virginia Law Foundation grants help close that justice gap. However, there is still work to do and the Foundation is committed to making an even greater impact in 2019.

Should your budget permit, please consider investing in the good work we do in support of our mission. Your contribution, of any amount, will be greatly appreciated and will go entirely toward funding next year's grants. We hope you will join us as fierce advocates for the Rule of Law and access to justice by [donating this holiday season](#).

## Fellow Spotlight: The Class of 2019

Nominated confidentially by their peers, the Fellows of the Virginia Law Foundation are recognized for their leadership both in their practices and their communities. The new Class of Fellows joins a group of nearly 500 of the best and brightest legal practitioners in Virginia who are committed to the highest ideals of the law and to the concept of citizen lawyer. The 2019 Class will be inducted as Fellows at the Virginia Law Foundation's [Annual Dinner](#) in Colonial Williamsburg on January 24, 2019.

The members of the 2019 Class of Fellows are:

Ralph L. Axselle, Jr. (Richmond)	Lisa C. Germano (Midlothian)	Stephen D. Otero (Richmond)
Leonard A. Bennett (Newport News)	Terrence L. Graves (Richmond)	John D. Padgett (Norfolk)
Carlos M. Brown (Richmond)	Daniel L. Gray (Fairfax)	Eric M. Page (Richmond)
Thomas E. Cabaniss (Richmond)	Peter D. Greenspun (Fairfax)	Stephen P. Pfeiffer (Virginia Beach)
Tara L. Casey (Richmond)	Robert E. Hawthorne (Lunenburg)	Bruce E. Robinson (South Hill)
Polly Chong (Newport News)	Hon. Louis Robert Lerner (Hampton)	Hon. James R. Spencer (Richmond)
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Cathryn F. Evans (Alexandria)	George A. McAndrews (Vienna)	
T. Daniel Frith, III (Roanoke)	Marissa D. Mitchell (Henrico)	

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## Grant Spotlight: Virginia Legal Aid Society

Rhonda Knight, Virginia Legal Aid Society's Director of Development, describes how the Virginia Law Foundation's grant will help improve access to justice for Spanish-speaking communities throughout the Commonwealth.

Watch the video on our [website](#).



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## Featured Story: Experience Philanthropy with Virginia CLE

In October, the Virginia Law Foundation's educational division Virginia CLE hosted its inaugural Experience Philanthropy program at Topgolf Loudoun in Ashburn. The event included a legal ethics seminar taught by renowned expert and McGuireWoods partner Tom Spahn (Fellows Class of 1998) along with a Topgolf competition and generous buffet that followed – all to support an important cause, as all net proceeds from the program went directly toward funding 2019 Virginia Law Foundation grants.

According to Thomas L. Appler (Fellows Class of 2011), who participated in the event, "This was a great innovation/idea for the Virginia Law Foundation to raise funds [to enhance the value of the grants we make]." We could not agree more.

*Continued*

The Topgolf seminar exceeded all expectations. Our attendees were delighted that their post-expenses tuition was all going to support the charitable purposes of the Virginia Law Foundation. We raised several thousand dollars for a wonderful cause, and the success of this first Experience Philanthropy seminar forecasts a bright future for this new initiative.

“Our Experience Philanthropy initiative was the product of enthusiastic discussions between CLE Site Coordinator Philip (Ski) Nizolski and Experience Philanthropy Manager Suzanne Stinnett,” said Executive Director Ray White. “As soon as they presented it to me, I knew this was something we had to do!”

Experience Philanthropy is the latest addition to Virginia CLE’s Experience CLE programming which combines continuing legal education with historical, sporting, and cultural events. Previous Experience CLE locations include the American Shakespeare Center, the Virginia Holocaust Museum, Nationals Park, and an annual Constitutional Institute at George Washington’s Mount Vernon.

What’s up next for Experience Philanthropy? Several programs throughout 2019, including two that recently opened for registration:

### **CLE and Washington Capitals Hockey: An Advocate’s Top Forty**

Live on Site at the Capital One Arena, Washington, D.C.:

Tuesday, February 26 (Seminar: 5:45–6:45 p.m., Game Begins: 7:00 p.m.)

**Watch from the comfort of a suite** as the Ottawa Senators take on the Stanley Cup champion Washington Capitals at the Capital One Arena. Before the game, learn forty simple, time-tested tips to help build an advocate’s skills arsenal to support them in any courtroom proceeding. In addition to receiving one live-interactive credit the day of the program, participants will get four Virginia CLE Online Bundle credits. Every dollar of your attendance fee—less the cost of the event itself—will go directly toward funding Virginia Law Foundation community-based grants. [Register here.](#)



*Experience Philanthropy*



### **CLE and Kris Kristofferson: An Advocate’s Secret Weapon**

Live on Site at the Birchmere, Alexandria: Thursday, April 25

(Seminar: 4:00–5:00 p.m., Dinner: 5:15 p.m., Show Begins: 7:30 p.m.)

Join us at the Birchmere in Alexandria to see legendary singer-songwriter Kris Kristofferson live in concert. Before the show, enjoy dinner at RT’s Restaurant and a hypothetical-driven CLE highlighting an advocate’s secret weapon—evaluating facts and evidence in terms of how to maximize its use and combat its use against us. In addition to receiving one live-interactive credit the day of the program, participants will get four Virginia CLE Online Bundle credits. Every dollar of your attendance fee—less the cost of the event itself—will go directly toward funding Virginia Law Foundation community-based grants for 2019. [Register here.](#)



Other instructive and engaging Experience Philanthropy events are in the works for 2019, so stay tuned for more announcements soon.

# Your Generous Investment in the Foundation Matters

With your help, we can go further than ever toward making sure every Virginian has meaningful access to justice. Every dollar of your donation goes directly to our annual grant allocation.

**Thank you to all who have donated January through December 7, 2018!**

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## About the Virginia Law Foundation

Through the generosity of the Virginia legal community, the [Virginia Law Foundation](#) has provided **over \$25 million in grants** to support projects throughout the Commonwealth that facilitate access to justice, promote an appreciation and understanding of the Rule of Law, and provide law-related **education in support of these ideals.**

**Our Fellows Program** encourages civic-mindedness and recognizes excellence in the practice of law and public and professional service.

[Virginia CLE](#)<sup>®</sup> is conducted through the Foundation's Education Division, and is the recognized leader in providing continuing legal education for Virginia lawyers.

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*No Virginian should be denied  
meaningful access to justice.*

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