



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.

Here are a few things you might have missed:

- Featured Story: [22 Fellows](#) joined the Virginia Law Foundation family at our Annual Dinner and Fellow Induction Ceremony. Read full coverage of the event below.
- Our [Pro Bono Educational Portal](#), created in collaboration with the Virginia Supreme Court's Access to Justice Commission, was named the #3 Virginia Access to Justice Achievement in 2018 by the Virginia State Bar.
- The Virginia Law Foundation and Lawyers Helping Lawyers hosted the [First Annual Virginia Law Student Wellness Summit](#) on February 5 at the University of Virginia School of Law.
- Seven Fellows and one Virginia Law Foundation Board Member were honored in the inaugural class of [Influential Women of Law](#) by Virginia Lawyers Weekly.
- Announcing the new [2019 Video-on-Site Access Pass](#). Unlimited access to Virginia CLE Video on Site seminars – all for just \$395!
- Recently published: 2019 editions of [Estate Planning in Virginia](#), [Federal Civil Practice in Virginia](#), and [Manual for Commissioners of Accounts](#)
- Just announced: [International Destination CLE: Vienna 2019](#). This November, join us for six days and nights of exploring all around Vienna – and an optional trip to Prague!

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

CLE and Washington Capitals Hockey for Charity

Live on Site in Washington, DC
(Capitol One Arena): **Limited spots left!**
Tuesday, February 26

CLE at the American Shakespeare Center

Live on Site in Staunton
(The Blackfriars Playhouse):
Thursday, March 21

CLE and Kris Kristofferson for Charity

Live on Site in Alexandria
(RT's Restaurant and the Birchmere): Thursday, April 25



International
Destination CLE

VIENNA 2019

November 8–15, 2019



Fellow Spotlight: Hon. Ralph L. “Bill” Axselle, Jr. (Class of 2019 - In Memoriam)

Hon. Ralph “Bill” Axselle, Jr. was scheduled to be made a Fellow before he sadly passed away in January. To honor his legacy, he was inducted into the Class of 2019 as a Fellow in memoriam at the Virginia Law Foundation’s Annual Dinner. Mr. Axselle was most recently a partner at Williams Mullen. He also represented Henrico County in the Virginia House of Delegates for 16 years and served on many boards, committees, and civic leagues throughout the Richmond area.

Watch the General Assembly’s tribute [here](#).



Grant Spotlight: The Virginia Poverty Law Center

Virginia Poverty Law Center Executive Director Jay Speer discusses how a Virginia Law Foundation grant helps keep the VPLC’s Annual Statewide Legal Aid Conference free every year.

“Legal aid programs have very limited budgets so it’s hard for them to send all their employees,” said Speer. “It’s important for us all to get together and learn about changes in the law and establish a nice bond between them.”

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



Featured Story: The Virginia Law Foundation Annual Dinner

On Thursday, January 24 in Colonial Williamsburg, the Virginia Law Foundation gathered to welcome its Fellows Class of 2019. The annual dinner was held in conjunction with the Virginia State Bar’s annual meeting and offered a chance to reflect on the successes of 2018 and celebrate the beginning of another great year.

Virginia Law Foundation President F. Anderson “Andy” Morse started off the evening with a warm welcome to all attendees. Recognizing the shoes he had to fill, Morse thanked his predecessor Stephen D. Busch as well as the rest of the Virginia Law Foundation Board for making last year a success. 2018 was a record-breaking giving year for the Virginia Law Foundation as donations

Continued

reached almost \$100,000. Every donation went directly toward funding grants that support law-related programs throughout the Commonwealth. After Morse concluded his opening remarks, Matthew Cheek, President-Elect of the Virginia Law Foundation, began the titular dinner with an invocation.

Virginia Law Foundation Executive Director Raymond M. White then awarded the Executive Director's Award to David P. Bobzien, who sadly passed away in late December after battling leukemia. A former Virginia State Bar President, Virginia Law Foundation President, and Fellow since 2006, Bobzien was a dedicated leader who was passionate about public service and giving back to his community. It was with a heavy heart that the Virginia Law Foundation posthumously awarded Bobzien this honor in recognition of his many contributions to the Virginia legal community.

The induction of the 2019 Class of Fellows was announced by John D. McGavin, Chair of the Fellows Committee. Fellows are recognized as leaders in the profession, not just in their practices but in their communities. The 22 new Fellows join a group of nearly 500 of Virginia's best and brightest legal practitioners, committed to the highest ideals of the law and to the concept of citizen lawyer.

The Annual Dinner's keynote speaker was the Honorable William C. Mims, Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court. After an anecdote about traveling with Morse, Justice Mims discussed the Montgomery Bus Boycott, detailing the contributions of Rosa Parks, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Judge Richard Rives.

"These three individuals played key roles in a drama that has renewed relevance today as the wheel of history turns," said Justice Mims. "They represent the courage of the individual, the strength of the community, and the power of the rule of law."

Justice Mims' remarks served as a fitting conclusion to the evening and inspired the audience to rejuvenate their efforts to upholding the rule of law in 2019.

Thank you to everyone who attended and to all who helped make the event a success.



[View the Fellows Class of 2019 here.](#)

Upcoming CLE

- February 26: [Lawyer Well-Being: Practical and Ethical Considerations for Avoiding Burnout and Maintaining a Healthy Work-Life Balance](#)
- March 1: [Annual Bankruptcy Practice Seminar](#)
- March 1-2: [23rd Annual Advanced Real Estate Seminar](#)
- March 7: [Litigation Ethics](#)

View all upcoming seminars [here](#).

Thank You, 2018 Donors!

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 in 2018!

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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® is conducted through the Foundation's Education Division, and is the recognized leader in providing continuing legal education for Virginia lawyers.



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

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