



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:

- Our 2019 Annual Report is now available. [Read it online.](#)
- As 2019 draws to a close, please consider making a year-end donation to the Virginia Law Foundation. Every dollar goes directly toward funding next year's grants. [Donate on our website.](#)
- The [Fellows Class of 2020](#) has been announced! View the full list below.
- Support the Virginia Law Foundation by sponsoring our Annual Dinner. Show those being honored your gratitude and support for our new Fellows' dedication to the legal profession, their communities, and the Commonwealth of Virginia. Contact Teresa Moore at tmoore@virginialawfoundation.org or 804-648-0112.
- Just published: the 2020 edition of [Contract Law in Virginia.](#)
- Featured Story: Virginia Law Foundation grants sponsor public service internships for law school students throughout the Commonwealth. In the story below, three students detail their experiences interning at the Legal Aid Justice Center, the disAbility Law Center of Virginia, and the Roanoke City Public Defender's Office.

Join us at our 2020 Annual Dinner

Keynote Address:
Chief Justice
Donald W. Lemons
January 23, 2020
Colonial Williamsburg
[Buy tickets](#)

Stay for the 130th Annual Meeting of The Virginia Bar Association

Includes two very
special programs:
"Is the Law of Virginia
Sufficient to Meet the Threat
of Sea Level Rise?"
and
"The President, The Press,
Mueller and Impeachment"
[Learn more](#)

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

The Virginia Law Foundation Fellows Class of 2020

The Virginia Law Foundation is pleased to announce its 2020 Class of Fellows. Nominated confidentially by their peers, Virginia Law Foundation Fellows are recognized for leadership in both their practices and their communities. The Class of 2020 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.

Continued

The Class of 2020 will be inducted as Fellows at the Virginia Law Foundation's Annual Dinner in Colonial Williamsburg on January 23, 2020. Register on [our website](#).

The members of the 2020 Class of Fellows are:

Pamela S. Belleman (Richmond)	Deborah G. Matthews (Alexandria)
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Donor Spotlight: Susan M. Pesner (Fellows Class of 2004)

Susan M. Pesner describes the enduring impact of the Virginia Law Foundation and Virginia CLE.

"The Virginia Law Foundation is a unique organization that has been promoted for virtually the sole purpose of allowing Virginia lawyers to have the opportunity to learn more and learn better," said Pesner.

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



Featured Story: Virginia Law Foundation Sponsors Public Service Internships

Supported by the Virginia Law Foundation since 1990, public service internships for first- and second-year law students help bring to light the importance of public interest and pro bono work. The work they complete varies widely, depending on the missions and caseloads of their host organizations. Some students gain experience working on individual client matters and others work on larger projects in an organization's service area.

Continued

Each of Virginia's eight American Bar Association-accredited law schools receives funding for public service internships during the summer. Three Washington and Lee University School of Law students shared their experiences from summer 2019 internships.

Lizzy Barbaree completed her VLF-sponsored internship at the Legal Aid Justice Center's JustChildren Program in Charlottesville. Her duties included researching parental and student rights, meeting with school officials, parents, and lawyers to discuss a child's special education, and planning workshops for minors who were incarcerated as serious offenders at Bon Air Juvenile Correction Facility.

"I had known before this summer that I was interested in working in some way to better the lives of children, and this internship cemented the commitment, and really helped me to understand more concretely what are the best areas in which I can achieve that goal," said Barbaree. "I am incredibly grateful I was given the opportunity to work with JustChildren for the summer, and know that it would not have been possible without the VLF's generous support."

Christine Ward interned at the disAbility Law Center of Virginia (dLCV) in Richmond. Ward's internship centered on the unique body of precedent for Protection and Advocacy Systems regarding justiciability, access authority, and autonomy in bringing suits on their own behalf.

"My favorite part of this internship was applying these abstract legal issues and precedent to real situations. In doing so, I gained a new perspective on the effect that lawyers and advocates have on individual lives," said Ward. "No matter what I end up doing in my legal career, I know that I will incorporate some form of public service into my professional work."

Brandon Cornejo's internship was at the Roanoke City Public Defender's Office. Cornejo's primary task was assisting with self-defense and manslaughter research for a murder trial. Additionally, he worked on reviewing police reports, client statements, and police body camera and interrogation footage for multiple cases.

"As a result of my internship I now plan on continuing into the criminal law field and would like to work as a public defender or prosecutor in the future. After my internship I realized how challenging and rewarding working on criminal cases can be," said Cornejo. "Additionally, I plan on returning to the Roanoke Public Defender's Office for another internship next summer. To help facilitate this I have joined a public interest group at my school and continue to take courses focusing on criminal law."



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.



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Upcoming CLE

By choosing Virginia CLE, you are also supporting nonprofits that help legally underserved Virginians. [View all upcoming seminars.](#)

- January 4-9: [39th Annual National Trial Advocacy College 2020](#)
- January 15: [Essentials of Political Law: Ramping Up for the 2020 Elections](#)
- January 22: [Representation of Children as a Guardian Ad Litem – Qualifying Course](#)
- January 24: [Federal Government Contracts, the Year in Review: What Happened, and So What?](#)
- January 28: [Adoption Law 101: Understanding the Nuts and Bolts of the Practice in Virginia](#)
- January 29: [Representation of Incapacitated Persons as a Guardian Ad Litem— Qualifying Course](#)
- January 30: [Virginia’s New Criminal Discovery Rules](#)
- February 20: [CLE and Washington Capitals Hockey for Charity: Multijurisdictional Practice Ethical Issues](#)
- February 24: [CLE and Milwaukee Bucks vs. Washington Wizards Basketball: Legal Writing Fast Break—30 Assists to Improve Your Writing](#)
- April 1: [CLE and Rosanne Cash for Charity: Litigation Ethics](#)

About the Virginia Law Foundation

Through the generosity of the Virginia legal community, the [Virginia Law Foundation](#) has provided **over \$26 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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