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# The Brief

 **Virginia Law  
Foundation**

February 2021 | Issue 28



## 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:

- **Congratulations to the Fellows Class of 2021**, inducted in a virtual ceremony on the evening of January 21st. In case you missed it, [watch the video](#) now or read about these 18 outstanding citizen lawyers in [this story](#) on our website!
- **New Online Bundle Sale Options: Our 12-Credit Online Bundle is now only \$399!** 4- and 8-credit options also available, or **try our new 16-Credit Practice-BUILDER Bundle!** Fulfill your requirements this year and beyond with [live-interactive webcasts](#) and [online CLE seminars](#). The Practice-BUILDER Bundle is eligible for our six-month interest-free payment plan and also **includes coupons for TWO books of your choice!** [Learn more.](#)
- **Virginia CLE's 2021 Seminar Calendar** is now available on our website. Browse by date and register for your favorites today! Many, many more seminars will be added throughout 2021. Check back periodically for updates.
- **Join us on March 24 for our next Encore CLE Online Benefit Concert!** Learn about Recent Developments in Ethics and then enjoy the music of hit songwriter and President of the Nashville Songwriters Association International, Steve Bogard. [Share the concert with your entire household!](#) Two Options: Encore CLE plus Concert \$65; Concert only \$10.
- **Deadline for Grant Submissions:** The Virginia Law Foundation is now accepting [2021 grant applications](#), due on March 15. This year's recipients will be announced in June.
- **Featured Story:** In observance of Black History Month, we're highlighting four of our Fellows who are trailblazers in the Commonwealth: Doris H. Causey, Clarence M. Dunnville, Jr., the Honorable Roger L. Gregory, and Cynthia E. Hudson. Learn more below ...

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



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## Fellows Spotlight:

### Introducing Two Fellows from the Class of 2021

**Alexandra Brisky Cunningham** is a partner at Hunton Andrews Kurth, LLP, in Richmond, concentrating on mass torts and product liability defense. She is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Richmond School of Law and also chaired the Domestic Violence Safety Project of the VSB Young Lawyers Committee. Heading the Charlottesville pro bono office of Hunton & Williams for five years, Alexandra also serves on the board of directors of both the YMCA of Greater Richmond and the Virginia Early Childhood Foundation.



**L. Steven Emmert** is a partner at Sykes, Bourdon, Ahern & Levy, PC, in Virginia Beach, with a focus on appellate advocacy. He has been very active in the Virginia State Bar, serving as former chair of the Appellate Practice Committee. The former faculty member of the Carrico Professionalism course is currently on the VSB's Board of Governors. He is the founder of the Virginia Bar Association's Appellate Practice Section, and is a member of the Board of Governors and VBA membership committee. Steven is also on the American Bar Association's Council of Appellate Lawyers, serving on its National Executive Board and as the ABA Virginia State Chair. We are also grateful for Steven's service on the CLE Committee of the Virginia Law Foundation.



[Learn more about the 2021 Fellows Class on our website.](#)

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- March 4, 5: [25th Annual Advanced Real Estate Seminar 2021](#)
- March 9: [Ethical Representation of Mentally Ill Defendants in Criminal Cases](#)
- March 10: [Essentials of Investor Claims](#)
- March 11: [Managing Clients and Counsel in High-Conflict Cases: Being Ethical and Effective](#)
- March 12: [Annual Bankruptcy Practice Seminar 2021](#)
- March 16: [Preparing and Trying the Dog Bite Case](#)
- March 18: [Elder Law Basics](#)

[View all upcoming seminars](#)

### **Newly Added Online Seminars, Available 24/7 On Demand**

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- [39th Annual Trusts and Estates](#) *(Individual Sessions Available)*
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Virginia CLE® Online: We Deliver.

## Featured Story: Four Fellows with Impressive Careers Leave a Mark on Virginia’s Legal Landscape

To celebrate February as Black History Month, we would like to highlight four trailblazing Fellows of the Virginia Law Foundation from the African-American legal community. Their accomplishments show their tireless dedication to ensuring access to justice for all Virginians, including recently recommending eradication of nearly 100 laws with racially discriminatory language still on the Commonwealth’s law books 57 years after the passage of the Civil Rights Act.

**Clarence Dunnaville, Jr.** (Fellows Class of 2013) has earned a permanent place in the annals of civil rights proponents in Virginia, and rightly so. Not only has he received numerous accolades such as the Segal-Tweed Founders Award from the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, “Leader in the Law” by *Virginia Lawyers Weekly*, the VSB’s Lewis F. Powell Jr. Pro Bono Award, and the Old Dominion Bar Association’s Harold Marsh Award, but on March 1, 2018, the Virginia General Assembly passed a special resolution to honor him and his lifetime achievements.



An award has also been named after him; each year, the Diversity Conference of the Virginia State Bar awards the [Clarence M. Dunnaville Jr. Achievement Award](#) to honor a lawyer who exemplifies “... the conference’s goal of fostering, encouraging, and facilitating diversity and inclusion in the bar, the judiciary, and the legal profession.”

Having seen and experienced the horrors of the Jim Crow era, Mr. Dunnaville was determined to dedicate the entirety of his strength and passion to help ensure that future generations of African-Americans would never again have to suffer the indignities of his earlier years. As a college student he knew the practice of law was to be his calling after witnessing the Supreme Court arguments in *Brown v. Board of Education* in December of 1953.

A trailblazer from the time he left law school, Mr. Dunnaville was chosen to be the first African-American attorney to work for the Internal Revenue Service. As his career progressed, he shared his time and expertise as a pro bono attorney for the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law in Mississippi, a group seeking to make the hard-fought promise of the Voting Rights Act a reality.

He ultimately joined legendary civil rights veteran Oliver Hill at the Hill, Tucker & Marsh law firm, subsequently co-founding the esteemed [Oliver White Hill Foundation](#) to preserve Mr. Hill’s legacy by “fostering educational opportunities for young people interested in social justice.”

According to Mr. Dunnaville, “Virginia has changed very substantially, of course, in these last 50 plus years,” noting that pro bono services are far more available for the economically disadvantaged than ever before but emphasizing much more progress needs to be made to

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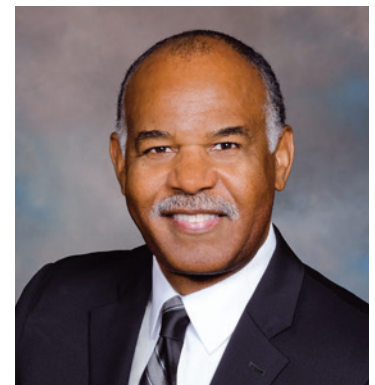
approach the goal of meaningful access to justice for all. In recent years, Mr. Dunnville has focused on reforming the judicial system, including striving to eliminate cash bail, which disadvantages lower income individuals. At the same time, he's working on reforming the criminal justice system to improve prisoners' re-entry back into society.

Others have come to appreciate Clarence Dunnville, Jr., such as the Honorable Roger L. Gregory, Chief Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit Court in Richmond, who says that Clarence Dunnville, Jr.'s civil rights advocacy forged the way for Judge Gregory to take a seat at the judicial bench. "Clarence Dunnville has seen history close up, but more importantly, it never left him with bitterness. Instead, it gave him a resolve that we can be better as a people and must be better. So he didn't curse the dark, he lit a candle. And because of that light he lit, many people see the light of justice and opportunity and access, pro bono work. And through his name's sake, promote diversity. And that's a whole lot for any human being to contribute to a profession and to a people."

[Hear more in this video interview](#) with Clarence Dunnville, Jr., and Judge Roger L. Gregory.

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**The Honorable Roger L. Gregory** (Fellows Class of 1990) is a trailblazer in his own right. Formerly a partner in the law firm of Wilder & Gregory, Roger Gregory was the first African-American to sit on the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit and its first African-American Chief Judge. Appointed by President Bill Clinton on December 27, 2000, Judge Gregory was commissioned for lifetime appointment to the Court by President George W. Bush in July 2001. It is worth noting that he is the only person in U.S. history to be appointed to a federal appellate court by two presidents of opposing political parties.



Upon announcing this judicial appointment, former President Bill Clinton said, "The people of the fourth circuit are not receiving the judicial representation they deserve ... In the last five years alone, fourth circuit caseloads have increased more than 15 percent; yet one-third of its judgeships are vacant. This has left too many citizens waiting in line for justice. It is a travesty in a nation that prides itself in the fair and expeditious rule of law."

He continued, saying, "Second, it is unconscionable that the fourth circuit, with the largest African-American population of any circuit in our nation, has never had an African-American appellate judge. It is long past time to right that wrong. Justice may be blind, but we all know that diversity in the courts, as in all aspects of society, sharpens our vision and makes us a stronger nation."

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Judge Gregory's list of community and board service is long, including president of the Black History Museum and Cultural Center of Virginia, rector of Virginia Commonwealth University, president of the Friends Association for Children and the Old Dominion Bar Association, and chairman of the Industrial Development Authority of Richmond. Currently, Judge Gregory serves as trustee emeritus for the University of Richmond.

A long-time proponent of volunteer service on the part of lawyers, Judge Gregory emphatically notes, "People think of lawyers representing just their clients, or just one side, sometimes with a very narrow focus, but ... 'pro bono' means literally 'for the good of the public,' ... dedicating services and efforts for those who cannot afford a lawyer."

[Learn more in this video.](#)

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**Doris Henderson Causey** (Fellows Class of 2017), the current managing attorney of the Richmond office of the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society, has worked for most of her career as a legal aid attorney, breaking a double glass ceiling in 2017 when she became the Virginia State Bar's first African-American president, and the first president from the legal aid community.



Ms. Causey is the president-elect of the Old Dominion Bar Association (ODBA) and has served on the VSB's Executive Committee and Bar Council, on the ODBA Executive Committee, and as secretary of both ODBA and the Richmond chapter of the Hill Tucker Bar Association. She is also the first bar president from Virginia to be selected for the Executive Committee of the ABA's National Conference of Bar Presidents (NCBP). A recipient of the Richmond Bar Association Hill-Tucker Public Service Award, Ms. Causey also served on the ABA's Commission on the 19th Amendment.

"I think living in a society which is governed by the rule of law is important because the rule of law governs every man. Because I'm a legal aid attorney, I know that people feel like man judges man, but the law is there to protect ... everyone regardless of what race you are, regardless of what creed, what religion, or background, the law is there to protect you," Ms. Causey said, adding, "I feel that the rule of law and access to justice go hand in hand."

In her nomination of Ms. Causey for the Clarence M. Dunnaville, Jr. Achievement Award that recognized her work to promote the needs of the legal aid community, diversity, and inclusion, widely respected attorney Carole H. Capsalis, Esq. of Caulkins & Bruce, PC in Arlington wrote, "Doris helped raise awareness of the access to justice gap, and promoted availability of legal services to all, and especially those whose incomes fall below the poverty line."

[Watch our interview with Doris Causey here.](#)

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**Cynthia Hudson** (Fellows Class of 2015) joined the ranks of “Firsts” when she was the first African-American woman named Chief Deputy Attorney General of Virginia in 2014. In that role, Ms. Hudson also chaired the ongoing work of Governor Ralph Northam’s [Commission to Examine Racial Inequality in the Law](#), uncovering 98 Virginia laws that discriminate against African-Americans still on the books and championing their eradication.



“Everything that could be done from a public policy perspective to dehumanize black people and to separate black people from white people on the basis of their being less than, had been done,” says Ms. Hudson. “It’s one thing to know, and for many to have experienced segregation and the effects of Jim Crow and massive resistance, but to actually see the words that enshrined that into law is profoundly sobering.”

Last year, Ms. Hudson entered private practice with Sands Anderson in Richmond after six years as chief deputy attorney general of Virginia. Upon her resignation Attorney General Mark Herring proudly noted, “Cynthia is an absolutely brilliant attorney who has led the team in managing our most important cases and initiatives ... and our ongoing work to reform the criminal justice system.”

Mentoring others, Ms. Hudson teaches as an adjunct faculty member at the law schools of the College of William and Mary and the University of Richmond. In 2012 she was selected as one of the Influential Women in Virginia by *Virginia Lawyers Weekly*, in 2013 she was elected president of the Local Government Attorneys of Virginia, and in 2017 she was listed among the 2017 Virginia Women in History by the Library of Virginia.

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It is our hope that we at the Virginia Law Foundation have fittingly honored these four exceptional members of the legal community by naming them Fellows and highlighting their contributions. We are indeed honored that Doris Henderson Causey, Clarence Dunnaville, Jr., the Honorable Roger L. Gregory, and Cynthia E. Hudson have joined the Virginia Law Foundation family. In accordance with the maxim, “Give honor where honor is due,” celebrating Black History Month with such exemplary individuals has enabled us to do just that.

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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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