



**Real People. Real Impact.**

# The Brief



March 2021 | Issue 29



## 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:

- **Online Bundle Sale!** 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!](#) Additionally, lawyers in private practice law firms of 1-5 attorneys, including solo practitioners, may use the coupon code **SMALLFIRM16** at checkout to take 25% off. **Offer ends 3/31!**
- **Save the Date!** Join the Virginia Law Foundation, the Old Dominion Bar Association, and the Virginia Bar Association for the inaugural **Civil Rights Institute at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello on September 29-30, 2021**. [Learn more or sign up for email updates here.](#)
- **Just published:** the 2021 editions of [Immigration Law Essentials for Virginia Practitioners](#) and [An Employment Law Guide: Employee Rights and Employer Responsibilities in Virginia](#).
- **In the news:** John D. McGavin, President-Elect of the Virginia Law Foundation and member of the Fellows Class of 2006, was featured in the Virginia Association of Defense Attorney's newsletter. [Learn more here.](#)
- **Invitation:** According to VLF Executive Director Ray White, the Virginia Bar Association's free Zoom program on April 28, [Reuniting America Part 2: Lawyers Building Bridges](#), is something that should not be missed. "I've been consulting with key contributors to this initiative for some time now. They have done a magnificent job bringing to light the roles educators, as well as we in the legal community, can play in helping teach future generations of Virginians to better understand and heal the societal wounds caused by polarization, incivility, and division – while also ensuring those who practice these behaviors are marginalized and rendered irrelevant within any positive discourse focused on improving the lives of our friends and neighbors." This program is part of *The VBA at Karsh Civility Project*, and registration is open to everyone. To learn more, click on the following link: [VBA Journal](#).
- **Featured Story:** It's been a year since the statewide shutdown in Virginia. Learn how the Virginia Law Foundation responded in the featured story below ...

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

## **NEW! Inaugural Hands-On Deposition Skills Academy**

### **Build Your Confidence by Learning from Some of Virginia's Best! Live Zoom, May 20-21**

"The Deposition Skills Academy provides an immersive experience in which participants are provided feedback from some of the best litigators in the state," said Deputy Program Director Kasey Hoare of Spotts Fain, PC. "It provides an opportunity for participants to truly hone their deposition skills without the normal high stakes in highly-contested litigation."



Whether you are a new lawyer or an experienced litigator still looking to improve your deposition skills, this online, interactive, hands-on program is for you! An all-star faculty will offer training and coaching in a setting featuring a 4:1 participant/faculty ratio to help give you the confidence you'll need to take on any witness or opposing counsel.

"The best way to learn is by doing," said Melissa Katz, Program Director for this exciting new program and a principal at Bancroft, McGavin, Horvath & Judkins, PC. "Hands-on instruction builds confidence and lessens anxiety since the participant gets the real experience of conducting and defending a deposition under the sage tutelage of experienced litigators."

Two days of intensive training, with 10.5 MCLE credits, for \$599—AND lawyers in private practice law firms of 1-5 attorneys may take 25% off the regular fee. **We are intentionally keeping spaces limited to provide the most individual attention possible, so register for this unique program today!**

"Similarly to the art of trial advocacy itself, deposition skills cannot be acquired adequately merely by reading and studying," said Planning Committee Chair Henry N. "Harry" Ware, Jr. of Spotts Fain, PC. "Attorneys who are recently admitted to practice, and even experienced litigators, can develop or hone already existing deposition skills by observing experienced practitioners, but an indispensable component of becoming truly proficient in taking and defending depositions is participation."

**MCLE Credit:** 10.5 (Ethics: 1.0)

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[Register now!](#)

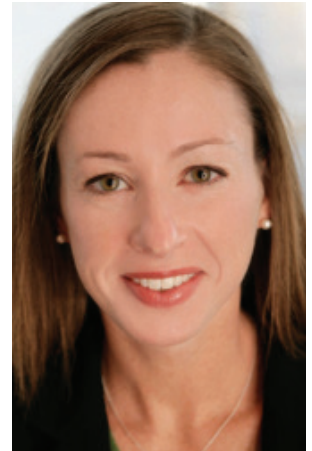
## Fellows Spotlight

### Introducing Two Fellows from the Class of 2021

**Carolyn V. Grady** is an assistant federal public defender in Richmond, who has taught advanced trial practice skills at the University of Richmond Law School since 1994. She is the current chair of the Indigent Defense Commission. Carolyn has been active in the Virginia State Bar and is first vice chair on the Disciplinary Board. In addition, she has served on the Board of Directors of the Virginia Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the Freedom House.



**Nicole J. Harrell** is a partner at Kaufman & Canoles, PC, in Norfolk and chair of their Data Privacy and Security Practice Group. She serves on the Virginia Access to Justice Commission Pro Bono Coordinating Consortium. Nicole co-chairs the Pro Bono Council of the Virginia Bar Association and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Barrier Islands Center. In addition, she serves on the Board of Trustees of the Nansemond-Suffolk Academy and on the Board of Directors for the Legal Aid Society of Eastern Virginia.



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

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## CLE Spotlight

By choosing Virginia CLE®, you are also supporting nonprofits that help legally underserved Virginians.

### Upcoming Seminars, Approved for Live-Interactive Credit

- March 31: [Ethical Representation of Mentally Ill Defendants in Criminal Cases](#)
- April 6: [Essentials of Commercial Property Tax Disputes](#)
- April 7: [Challenging Eyewitness Identifications in Criminal Cases](#)
- April 8: [Preparing and Trying the Dog Bite Case](#)
- April 9: [Nuts and Bolts and Ethics of Criminal Appeals: A Practical Guide to Criminal Appeals in the Virginia Appellate Courts](#)
- April 14: [Landlords, Tenants, and Their Available COVID-19 Choices](#)
- April 15: [37th Annual Advanced Family Law Seminar 2021](#)
- April 20: [Essentials of Intellectual Property](#)
- April 22: [Environmental Law Update: Solar Energy Law](#)
- April 27: [Ethics Update for Virginia Lawyers 2021](#)
- April 28: [Trademarks, Pictures, and Social Media](#)
- April 29, April 30: [The Conner-Zaritsky 42nd Annual Advanced Estate Planning and Administration Seminar](#)

[View all upcoming seminars](#)

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

- [25th Annual Advanced Real Estate 2021](#) *(Individual Sessions Available)*
- [Managing Clients and Counsel in High-Conflict Cases: Being Ethical and Effective](#)
- [Federal Government Contracts, the Year in Review: What Happened, and So What?](#)
- [Essentials of Vaccination and Immunization Law: In the Time of COVID-19](#)
- [Ethical Considerations in Commercial Litigation Funding: What Attorneys Need to Know](#)
- [51st Annual Criminal Law Seminar 2021](#) *(Individual Sessions Available)*
- [Ethical Cybersecurity in the "New Normal" for Your Law Practice](#)
- [41st Annual Construction Law Seminar](#) *(Individual Sessions Available)*
- [Essentials of FLSA Litigation and Compliance](#)
- [39th Annual Family Law 2020](#) *(Individual Sessions Available)*

[View All Online Seminars, Available 24/7 On Demand.](#)

**NEW! Inaugural  
Hands-on  
Deposition Skills  
Academy**

**Live Via Zoom  
May 20-21**

**\$599** (25% off for firms  
of 1-5 attorneys)

**MCLE Credit: 10.5**  
(Ethics: 1.0)

- Perfect for both new and experienced litigators
- All-star faculty
- 5:1 participant/faculty ratio

***Spaces are limited!***

## Featured Story: One Year Later: How the Virginia Law Foundation and Virginia CLE® Have Responded to the COVID-19 Pandemic

When the COVID-19 pandemic caused the Commonwealth to shut down a year ago, the staff of the Virginia Law Foundation packed our computers and continued our work remotely. Despite the “new normal,” we were able to proceed with our mission and distributed grants to 24 not-for-profit organizations in a virtual reception last July.

Through the generosity of our donors, high school students participated in a virtual mock trial, learning about the Rule of Law through this practical exercise. Victims of human trafficking received legal counsel, as did Virginians who lost their jobs and were facing potential evictions. And pro-bono lawyers were trained in the area of elder law. For a full list of our current grant recipients, follow [this link](#). To hear the impact of our funding on our grant recipients, please [watch our video here](#).

Our grant recipients help increase access to justice, provide legal education, and advocate for the Rule of Law in Virginia. With the help of our donors and volunteers, we have been able to help those in need throughout the Commonwealth despite the challenges thrown at us by the pandemic. It was a difficult year for many of us, but together we persevered. The Virginia Law Foundation would like to take this moment to thank the staff, volunteers, Fellows, donors, customers, and friends who have supported us as we endeavor to make a Real Impact on the lives of Real People.

The past year has been challenging indeed, but we also took the opportunity to launch three new fundraising opportunities. We joined forces with the Nashville Songwriters Association International for our Encore CLE series, which pairs an online continuing legal education seminar with an online benefit concert. This has been a wonderful way to bring some fun to the Virginia Law Foundation family and simultaneously to raise funds for our grants program, as all net proceeds flow directly into our grant funding.

Our second new initiative was our Power of \$10 Campaign on the GoFundMe Charity platform, which focused on how smaller donations also make a difference in the lives of many Virginians. More than 120 people contributed to this campaign, and 77 were first-time donors. We’ll soon be launching another Power of \$10 Campaign, so stay tuned!

The Virginia Law Foundation also launched our online store last fall. Opening in time for the holiday season, the online store offers a variety of products ranging from T-shirts, hoodies, and hats to mugs and face masks. Net proceeds from the store flow into our grant funding, just like our GoFundMe and Online Benefit Concert series. Check out our latest merchandise [here](#).



The Virginia Law Foundation Online Store

Have a **Real Impact** on **Real People**.  
All net proceeds fund grant recipients that support our mission.

[Browse All Products](#)

The advertisement features a blue t-shirt with the Virginia Law Foundation logo and the text "Giving Back". Above the t-shirt is a white face mask with the Virginia Law Foundation logo and "Giving Back" text. To the right is a black baseball cap with "VLF Giving Back" on it. Below the t-shirt is a white mug with the Virginia Law Foundation logo and "Virginia CLE" text.

*Continued*

Our educational division, Virginia CLE®, similarly has had to respond to the challenges of the past year, most notably by pausing our live-on-site programming. We continue to monitor COVID-19 precautionary guidelines recommended by the CDC with every intention to offer on-site seminars again when it is safe to do so. We appreciate our customers' and volunteers' patience and flexibility as we know you have all had to adapt your CLE needs as well. Hoping to better serve you, we take your feedback from recent surveys into careful consideration.

As we continue to participate in our day-to-day activities at a distance, we encourage customers to take a look at our pre-recorded catalog of over 500 online seminars, many of which include Ethics credit. Also, be sure to check out our [upcoming seminars calendar](#) for live-interactive webcast and telephone programs.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and professional editorial team, Virginia CLE® was able to publish [a dozen new publications in 2020 and several so far in 2021](#). These new editions are timely and include the latest updates in a variety of practice areas, many of which have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. If you're interested in accessing all of our books and staying updated as new editions are released, consider subscribing to our Online Publications Library, which is fully searchable and includes links to primary law. [Learn more or sign up for a free trial today!](#)

Providing important, high-quality legal education at an affordable price is one of our top priorities at Virginia CLE®, as enhancing legal education is a core part of the Virginia Law Foundation's mission. To support our customers during the past year, we have offered more than a few sales including our ongoing Online Bundle discount. Our 4-, 8-, and 12-credit options are currently on sale. By purchasing an online seminar or our live-interactive webcasts using Online Bundle credits, you can save up to 60%. Additionally, through March 31, lawyers in private practice law firms of 1-5 attorneys, including solo practitioners, can use the coupon code SMALLFIRM16 at checkout to save 25% on our new 16-credit Online Bundle, which includes two publications of your choice. To learn more, visit the [Virginia CLE® website](#).

We at the Virginia Law Foundation are grateful to our donors for their continued support as we seek to ensure no Virginian is denied access to justice. If you'd like to support our grants to the not-for-profit organizations that share our vision and three-pronged mission of increasing access to justice, providing legal education, and promoting the Rule of Law, please consider donating at [www.virginialawfoundation.org/donate](http://www.virginialawfoundation.org/donate). Checks may be sent to our address at 105 Whitewood Rd., Charlottesville, VA, 22901.

# 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.



Donate Online

## The 1974 Society

The Virginia Law Foundation Board of Directors established the 1974 Society to acknowledge individual donors who have given \$10,000 or more over their lifetime.

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The Virginia Law Foundation Board of Directors established the Rule of Law Society to acknowledge individual donors who have given \$5,000 or more over their lifetime.

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## In Honor of

In Honor of Jon Huddleston's leadership in the Virginia Law Foundation from Thomas C. Brown, Jr.

In Honor of Bob Sevila's Induction from Lauren Morgan Ellerman

*We make every effort to maintain accuracy in our donor listing. If you suspect an error, please email [vlf.info@virginialawfoundation.org](mailto:vlf.info@virginialawfoundation.org).*

## Thank you to our sponsors of the 2021 Virginia Law Foundation Fellows Induction Ceremony!



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## About the Virginia Law Foundation

Through the generosity of the Virginia legal community, the [Virginia Law Foundation](#) has provided more than \$26.5 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.**