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The Brief

 **Virginia Law
Foundation**

April 2021 | Issue 30



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 are 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 SMALLFIRM12 at checkout to take an additional 25% off 12-credit Online Bundles. Limited time only!**
- **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 edition of [Virginia Civil Practice Forms](#).
- **Deadline:** Nominations for the Fellows Class of 2022 are due on June 15. Information on eligibility and nomination forms are available [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:** After the success of our first GoFundMe Charity Campaign last year, we've launched a second [Power of \\$10 Campaign](#). Learn more 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 5:1 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

Jack L. Harris is now retired, but served as executive director of the Legal Services Corporation of Virginia (LSCV), of the Virginia Poverty Law Center (VPLC), and most recently, of the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association (VTLA). He is the co-chair of the Virginia State Bar’s Lawyer Referral Service and secretary/treasurer of both the Client Protection Fund and the LSCV board. Jack is also a member of the VPLC Advisory Council, a member of the VTL Foundation, and a board member of the Center for Independent Living. In addition, he serves on the Virginia Bar Association’s Commission on the Needs of Children.



Jean M. Kelleher is the director of the Alexandria Office of Human Rights, focusing on civil and human rights, as well as employment law. The immediate past-president of the International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies, Jean has served on the Virginia State Bar Council and was a member of the VSB Professionalism Course faculty. At the Virginia Law Foundation, we are grateful for her service on the Virginia CLE® Committee. In addition, Jean is a past-president of the Alexandria Bar Association and former chair of their “Beat the Odds” scholarship program.



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

Staff Spotlight

Introducing Two New Staff Members

Katie Arata joins the Virginia Law Foundation as Director of Development and Philanthropy. Since graduating from the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University with a degree in classical voice performance, she has remained a native in her hometown of Nashville and advanced the arts and non-profit sector of the city through both her vocations and passions. Her first two positions were in event management for the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum and marketing for the Nashville Opera.



Continued

Most recently, Katie was the Director of Development at the Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) where she oversaw all fundraising efforts, sponsorships, and partnerships. Having collaborated with the Virginia Law Foundation in her role at NSAI, she joins the Foundation with familiarity and appreciation for its important mission and looks forward to championing its philanthropic efforts to promote the Rule of Law, access to justice, and legal education.

In addition to serving at the Foundation, Katie is a staff singer at St. George's Episcopal Church, and a soprano with the Nashville Symphony and other ensembles. She continues to perform and teach regularly.

John Nelson is our new Video Production Specialist, working primarily for our educational division, Virginia CLE®. John began his career in audio-visual and video in 1980, working for a firm specializing in audio-visual presentations. In 1986, he started Virginia Audio & Visual Systems to work in the rapidly growing video industry. By 1993, John was known in the Richmond area for quality video production, large audio-visual shows, and great customer service. He sums up his business philosophy like this: "Good customer service is everything. Open communication with customers is the key to future relations. There is more joy in working closely with people than there is in growing large and making money from clients you never meet."



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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

- April 27, May 18: [Ethics Update for Virginia Lawyers 2021](#)
- April 28: [Trademarks, Pictures, and Social Media](#)
- April 29-30: [The Conner-Zaritsky 42nd Annual Advanced Estate Planning and Administration Seminar](#)
- May 4: [30th Annual Employment Law Update Seminar 2021](#)
- May 5: [Piercing the Corporate Veil in Virginia](#)
- May 10: [Landlords, Tenants, and Their Available COVID-19 Choices](#)
- May 11: [Essentials of Spousal Support in Virginia](#)
- May 12: [Ethical Considerations in Outsourcing](#)
- May 13: [Essentials of Commercial Property Tax Disputes](#)
- May 14: [Annual Military Law Symposium 2021: Serving Those Who Serve](#)
- May 19: [Essentials of Intellectual Property](#)
- May 20-21: [Deposition Skills Academy](#)
- May 24: [39th Annual Real Estate Practice Seminar 2021](#)

[View all upcoming seminars.](#)

**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!

Newly Added Online Seminars, Available 24/7 On Demand

- [Elder Law Basics 2021](#)
- [Preparing and Trying the Dog Bite Case](#)
- [Challenging Eyewitness Identifications in Criminal Cases](#)
- [Essentials of Investor Claims](#)
- [Ethical Representation of Mentally Ill Defendants in Criminal Cases](#)
- [Annual Bankruptcy Practice 2021](#) (*Individual Sessions Available*)
- [Essentials of Depositions](#)
- [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?](#)

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

Featured Story: The Virginia Law Foundation Launches a Second Power of \$10 GoFundMe Charity Campaign

How a Donation of \$10 Can Change Lives

With the number of daily vaccines currently averaging three million nationwide, 40% of Virginians have now received at least one dose, and access has been opened to everyone over the age of 16. At the same time, the economic repercussions of the pandemic have caused countless Virginians to not only lose their jobs, but to also face potential eviction. While the CDC's moratorium on evictions was extended until June 30, expulsions are still taking place. According to Palmer Heenan, an attorney with the Central Virginia Legal Aid Society, "Almost 11,700 actual eviction judgments were made across Virginia just between September 2020 and December 2020."



Loss of employment and threats of evictions are just two examples of how the pandemic has affected Virginians. At the Virginia Law Foundation, we see concrete evidence of rising needs through the requests of this year's grant applicants, which amount to nearly twice our annual grant allocation. We want to do more, and we need to do more. So we invite you to contribute to our most recent fundraising initiative on the GoFundMe Charity platform, the Power of \$10.

Our new Director of Development and Philanthropy, Katie Arata, provides insight into the motivation behind this initiative. "The Power of \$10 GoFundMe Charity Campaign is a chance for us to work together to transform small acts of generosity into significant collective impact. As community needs increase, so do our opportunities to support Virginians in need of legal assistance and aid. Through collaborative fundraising, we can make a tangible difference in the lives of thousands."

Some of our grant recipients have shared how \$10 can support the critical work they do.

- According to CancerLINC, \$10 will fund the travel costs for a CancerLINC attorney to meet with a cancer patient who is in the hospital or hospice.
- And for the Center for Teaching the Rule of Law, \$10 will supply Pocket Constitutions and wristbands for students participating in Rule of Law Project events.

Continued

These are just a few examples of how this modest gift can truly impact our neighbors. Please know that **100% of all funds raised will flow back into a grants program that impacts more than 30,000 Virginians each year.**

“When you give to our Power of \$10 GoFundMe Charity Campaign, you are directly supporting Virginia’s legally underserved populations,” Ms. Arata emphasizes. “Your contribution, no matter the size, has a profound impact, and this campaign is a powerful reminder of the real difference \$10 can make.”

[Learn more or donate now!](#) We’d also like to thank all those who have donated thus far to our Power of \$10 campaign on GoFundMe Charity – your contribution makes a difference in the lives of many Virginians!

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

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

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Thank you to all who have donated to our Power of \$10 Campaign!

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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](#)[®] 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.